



Editor's Notes

Why do we do what we do

In recent years, at each election of the PZO Anjoman, candidates often are drafted rather than volunteer. Of course those who accept this challenge already have an inclination toward accepting the candidacy. They just need that final push.

But why do we accept this enormous challenge. The position requires dedication and allocation of large amount of personal time all in addition to the existing jobs and family life that we all have. There are no salaries or other types of compensation and in fact the members must often use personal funds for various projects or events. So you may wonder why anyone would want this challenge and the apparent burden. Well, there are always those intangible benefits that if one have never volunteered for or been involved with such an activity, would be hard to imagine. The sense of helping a community come together and in a small way carry the torch that has been handed down for centuries is certainly reason enough.

But there is more. Each one of us may have other reasons. One reason at the top of the list must be the fact that what we do could have an impact on our future generation. By bringing the community together, even if is only for few times a year, our youth get a chance to interact with each other and be accustomed to our values and traditions.

Recently in a gathering I became engaged in a discussion with a friend about this very subject. At one point I asked my friend whether he cared if his kids, when grown up, decide to marry an American. Maybe someone from another country, a non Zoroastrian. His immediate answer was that "no, he wouldn't care and he would support them in their decision". Of course this was the politically correct answer. Anyone with enough sense and in tune with today's world knows that as parents we are obligated to nourish and educate our children. We are to teach them our values and traditions but at the end we shall support them in their decisions and choices, hoping that they are made with values that they have learned from us. However, providing an environment that introduces them to our values and traditions is

our obligation. They already are introduced to the western life style and values daily through interaction with friends, at schools, and by Television. If we do not provide them with the alternative set of environment and values, they will only have one choice to choose from. That is why we do what we do.

Upcoming Events

Peeti-Shaheem-Gauh Gahanbar

This Gahanbar will be sponsored by Mehraban and Shirin Gharibshahi and will be held on Saturday 9/14/02 with Aush and traditional food. Mobed Khorshidian will conduct the Avesta prayers at 3:00PM. Show up early in the day to help with preparation for this traditional public thanksgiving.

Mehregan Celebration

Join us on Saturday 10/5/02, to celebrate one of our most traditional and favorite events, Mehregan.

Mobed Khorshidian will kick off the event with Avesta prayers starting at 5:30PM. After the prayers you will be served tea and sweets. This portion of the program is open, free of charge, to the entire community.

At about 7:00PM the fun will continue with festivities including chorus singing, children dancing, traditional live Persian music and singing, DJ music and dancing to continue through the late hours of the night. Ticket prices for this portion of the program:

Adults = \$15 (\$8 cost and \$7 donations)

Children (4 to 10 years old) = \$10

Children under 4 years old = free

Family = \$45 to include parents and children of the same family

You must reserve your ticket by Monday, 9/30/02, by calling one of the following people:

Mehri Azadeganian at (510) 582-3296

Mehrbanou Goodarz at (408) 737-7966

Ticket prices will be \$5 higher, if reserved after that date, and \$10 higher at the door, if still available.

Sandwiches (including vegetarian option) will be available for purchase.



All proceeds will go toward the Dar-e-Mehr general funds to be used for operation and maintenance of the facilities.

Aya-Saram-Gauh Gahanbar and Remembrance of Arbab Rostam Guiv Passing Away

As in every year, Mr. and Mrs. Goodarzi will be sponsoring this Gahanbar and it will be held on Saturday 10/12/02 with Aush and traditional food. Mobed Khorshidian will conduct the Avesta prayers at 2:00PM. This Gahanbar has become a tradition in the Northern California, so as with all Gahanbars, show up early in the day to help with the preparations.

At 4:30PM, Mobed Khorshidian will perform special prayers in memory of the late Arbab Rostam Guiv (the actual anniversary of his death is 10/7/02). Please join us to remember this great Zoroastrian.

Thank You's

We received the following donations from the indicated well-wishers:

- Farangis Ostowari \$60
- ZANC \$2000

Khodayar Khodayari donated \$1000 and Pari Khodayari \$500 in the name of their beloved father, the late Mr. Shahryar Khodayari.

Rostam and Shahdokht Sarvian donated \$300 in the name of late Mr. Esfandiar Sarvian.

Manouchehr and Soosan Sarvian donated \$300 in the name of their mother, the late Mrs. Pari Banou Keshavarz (Sarvian).

Goodarz Yazdani donated \$1000 in the name of his late brother, Dr. Iraj Mehraban Ardeshir Yazdani.

Esfandiar Bahmani donated \$50 in the name of the late Mr. Mhraban Bahmani.

Esfandiar Bandari donated \$101 in the name of his late father, Mr. Bahman Ardeshir Bandari.

We extend our sincere thanks to these and all of our sponsors and supporters without whom none of our efforts would be possible.

Updates

Anjoman has a new member

In July, one of our members who were also our elected secretary, Yasbanou Khosravi, was forced to resign due to some long term travel plans. Subsequently we unanimously elected Mr. Esfandiar Bandari as our new and seventh member. Since our election in October, Esfandiar had volunteered as an alternate and unofficial member and had helped us in many occasions. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Yasbanou for her help in the last few months and for her diligent record keeping at our meetings. She has offered to be the maintainer of our archives, which we have accepted. We have designated her as our new alternate and unofficial member and will always cherish her help when she returns to the Bay Area. Also, Esfandiar has graciously accepted to hold the position of the secretary.

Atashkadeh looks cleaner and brighter

If you have been to Dar-e-Mehr lately you have noticed that Atashkadeh looks cleaner and brighter. That is because a group of well-wishers, both Zoroastrians and non Zoroastrians, spent their entire weekend of 7/27/02 to paint the Atashkadeh. Mr. Ahmad Sanatkar initiated the project by approaching Keikhosrow Behziz and offering to spearhead the painting project. Mr. Behziz became the main coordinator of the project and enlisted a number of volunteers. On the indicated weekend this group, many of them from the Sacramento area, arrived at Dar-e-Mehr to perform this difficult project. Mr. Sanatkar and his son, Payam, brought the heavy equipment and worked very hard to perform the most difficult tasks. The rest of the team consisted of Keikhosrow and Arian Behziz, Hooshang and Mehri Azadeganian, Kasra and Noushin Kasravi, Hooshang and Farokh Mehrshahi, Mehraban and Shirin Gharibshahi, Manouchehr, Zubin, and Ojan Mobedshahi. Also, Shahvir Elabadi who did not know about the project showed up for prayers prior to a trip that he was about to undertake but decided to delay his trip to help work on the project. As is apparent most of the volunteers made this into a family affair. Mr. Jamshid Varza sponsored the paint for this project.



We must also thank Mrs. Manijeh Behziz, who had an operation just the day before, and Mrs. Aimie Sanatkar for their unselfish encouragement. This was a difficult project and this team was able to only paint the outside of the Atashkadeh. The painting of the inside will be planned for a later date. We hope to be able to add more names to the list of volunteers that we need to thank, during that phase of the project. These people exemplify the best of our community.

Where did all the water go?

Our Dar-e-Mehr is aging and we are determined to keep it maintained and operational at all times. However, it looks like that we had more than a fair share of water problems lately. The problems started in May when our secondary water tank developed a leak and had to be replaced. That problem was followed with the pump motor burning up. We had the motor replaced and in early July our main water tanks appeared to be running empty. After a lot of consultation and inspection a low water protection system was installed. Experts told us that such a system would have possibly saved our motor. We also installed a water flow meter to determine the amount of flow out of the well. After all this and the tanks still not filling up, it was determined that there was a leak in the main pipe feeding the water tank. The irony of this problem was that the water that was being wasted had found its way down the slope and was bubbling out of the ground as a spring. Finally, with the help of experts, the leak was found and Mehraban Gharibshahi with his usual determination dug the ground around the broken water pipe, the problem was fixed, and the tanks filled up. Thousands of dollars was spent fixing all of these problems. We now think that the infrastructure is sound and barring any more unforeseen problems, should last a long time. There is one more issue though, in this process we have learned that the mountain that Dar-e-Mehr is located on is mostly clay with very poor drainage capability. This means that the water table that feeds the well is not being replenished from the rain water. Our well water level has gone down. How long will we be able to draw from the existing well, is not well known. However, we think that in a few years we will have to have a new well dug. We must start

putting funds aside to be ready for expenses associated with the new well.

Zoroastrian immigrants in Vienna

A group of Zoroastrian immigrants have been in Vienna awaiting their immigration process for over a year. Their case was well in process last year until the unfortunate events of September 11 occurred. After that a series of laws and rules were put in place as measures for national security precautions. Although some immigrants who started their process after this group have been processed and have since arrived in the United States, the case of this group somehow got fowled up and they are still waiting in Vienna. A while back they sent an all out appeal for help. We received this appeal via an email and have since been in contact with them. There is not much that we can do other than giving them encouragement and following their case through the normal Government channels. We have contacted the States Department and were told that they are well aware of the situation and their case is in process. Lately there has been some encouraging rumors that some within this group have started to receive their clearances. We are in the process of verifying this pleasant rumor. Few months ago, PZO created an Immigrant Assistance fund. Recently we used some of the funds to help a well deserving Zoroastrian with medical expenses. This well educated young man with wife and kids had worked very hard supporting his family as well as his parents abroad until recently when he fell down a flight of stairs and broke his ankle. Our immigrant assistance funds are very limited. Please identify your donations as "Immigrant Assistance", if you would like to contribute toward this cause.

Send us your email address and phone number

PZO has a mailing alias which we use to inform the community of important information and last minute event changes. Also, during our public forum in July, a couple of volunteers signed up to create a phone tree where they call members of the community prior to events such as Gahanbars, as a reminder. Apparently in the past some have forgotten the date of these events which if they had remembered would have attended. For these reasons, we need your email address and phone number. If you do not want to be part of the call tree at least provide us with



your email address, if you have one. Look at the address label on the back of this issue. If you don't see an "*" next to your name that means that we do not have your email address and/or phone number. Please send an email with this information to president@pzo.info or if you don't have access to email provide us with this information at one of the upcoming events.

A successful summer youth camp

This year's summer youth camp was conducted from August 15 through 18 and from the look of the participants and by talking to them it was obvious that it was one of the most successful camps, ever. This camp as in the past few years was conducted by Bahram and Giti Hormozvari but this time it was completely planned and operated by these two well-doers. The end of the camp festivities was held on Saturday, August 18th with participation of a large crowd consisting of parents and other Zoroastrians from Northern California as well as other parts of the country. Some scholar Zoroastrians also enlightened the event by attending and presenting at the camp. Everyone enjoyed the camp and learned from it. These youths represent the future generation of our community and if that is what we are to look forward to, we are very encouraged and comforted in knowing that the torch will be handed down to such a capable group when the time comes.

Special Advertising Section

This fall Vohuman.org Sunday Class program will start its sixth year. Our expanded program will have class for children of all ages. Enroll your children in classes for Zarathushti Religion, Farsi, Persian Heritage or Edu-Fun.

For enrollment, visit our Web Site (www.Vohuman.Org) under Education section; for questions call Jamshid Varza at (650)855-9900 or by email Vohuman@Vohuman.Org.

How does matching funds work

On our election day in October of 2001, Mr. Guiv and Mrs. Manijeh Parineh made a pledge of \$10,000 donation if met by matching funds. What that means is for each dollar that we receive as donation from the community, when designated toward this cause, they will match

the equal amount up to a maximum of \$10,000. So there is the potential that we can raise a total of \$20,000 through this campaign. Mr. and Mrs. Parineh have also designated this fund to be used toward the building of a two story barn type building that will be used for housing of a permanent Mobed as well as other purposes. To date we have not received any funds designated as such. Please mark your donation as "Parineh Matching Fund" if you would like it to be matched by their generous pledge. We have set a goal of completing the collection of the funds by the end of this year and to complete the building of this structure by the end of 2005, once all of our permits are in order.

Help a helpless Child

We received a message from FEZANA about a young Zoroastrian girl of fewer than 3 years in age, Nazneen Kolah, who is in a hospital in Finland, waiting for the removal of a cancer tumor inside her. Although the mass is reported to be dead after mega chemotherapy tests, it is to be removed before the end of September 2002, the absolute deadline date. The surgery can only be performed in the U.S. and will cost upwards of \$250,000. The family has sold all they have but have been able to gather only \$40,000. The Kolah family is working with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York to set up an account for this surgery. However, until then you may send your tax deductible contribution toward this cause to Rashid Mehin, Treasurer of FEZANA, at 583 Beverly Place, San Marcos, CA 92069. Checks for the donations should be made payable to "FEZANA" with "CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NAZNEEN KOLAH" in the memo column.

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Kourosh

email your comments to president@pzo.info
PZO's web site: www.pzo.info

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