



Month: Tir (S), Year YZ 1379

Zor & More

Issue # 4, December 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

We really do believe that, if we work together as one, following the simple yet priceless tenets of our faith- Humata, Hukhta, Hvarshta, we can move mountains.

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**HAPPY
15TH
ANNIVERSARY
Z.A.F.**



We acknowledge with gratitude
This issue of Zor & More sponsored by
Mrs. Sheroo Vazir, Franah & Gerry Marino and Sara
In memory of
Dear Dick Vazir
A loving husband, father and grandfather

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD



Dear ZAF: The year has flown by fast with winds of change everywhere in the country and in our microcosm of the ZAF world. Since the beginning of the term this year, we have strived to remain at the service of the community by making ZAF relevant, albeit in some small way, to its present and the future. While successfully managing the traditional activities of congregating for Navroze, the annual picnic, Pateti-New Year, Ghambaar, and an AGM, some new or renewed initiatives have been taken or are underway to make ZAF into an organization that is on par for best practices with other Zoroastrian

associations on the North American continent in the evolution of our faith and culture. In this light, we examine the year 2009 as follows:

THE YEAR IN REVIEW - 2009

- **15th Anniversary & Pateti:** For the first time, the community celebrated Pateti-New Year and the 15th anniversary of the founding of ZAF with Orlando & Tampa Bay communities. A special vote of thanks to the **Z Club children** (organized by **Aban Kavasmaneck, Anahita Patel**) the **ZAF Singers** (named below), **Burjorji Tata, Burjis & Hovi Shroff, Kevyn Shroff, Jo Ann Dastur, Freny Deboo** and our **guests from Orlando and Tampa Bay** for making it a memorable event.
- **At the FEZANA – AGM in Orlando** in May, ZAF was eloquently represented by our Board V.P. – **Burjis Shroff**, who presented highlights of ZAF's activities and progress to the leadership of our Zarathusti sister organizations from North America. Also, by a special invitation from the meeting organizing committee, Prof. **Aban Kavasmaneck** presented the audience with the program and accomplishments of the **Z-Club**. These were indeed very proud moments for ZAF in front of the distinguished national audience. On behalf of ZAF we take this opportunity to congratulate the Orlando Group for successfully hosting the event and many of the Zatambay area's volunteers, including our members **Soli & JoAnn Dastur**, for their dedicated assistance. As a bonus, many a friendships and contacts were initiated or rejuvenated.
- **Muktaad:** Our thanks to the generosity of Mrs. **Sheroo Vazir and Franah, Gerry & Sara Marino**, services were held in August with vases/*karasyaas* from 22 families. Traditional services for the six days were preformed by **Ervad Soli Dastur**, assisted by **Ervad Zubin Panthaki, Nancy and Jahan Daruwala, Jo Ann Dastur and Arnavaz Irani**.
- **Z-Club:** Thanks to the untiring efforts and dedication of Prof. **Aban Kavasmeneck**, supported by **Percy Kavasmaneck** and **the parents**, the Z-Club activities for the 15 to 20 children continue to do well. The Board shall remain fully supportive of their drive and dedication.
- **Newsletter:** The quarterly publication of our newsletter (*Zor & More*) has been re-initiated.
- **Web Site:** The revised ZAF Web Site is under development by a dedicated project team (consisting of **Kersi Munshi**-the lead, **Soli Dastur, Rustom Deboo & Rita Engineer**), with a target re-launch in 1Q-2010.
- **By-Laws:** A ZAF by-laws revision subcommittee is appointed (consisting of **Kersi Munshi, Burjis Shroff & Jahanbux Daruwala**) to recommend changes to the Board and then to the General body.
- **Tax Exemption Application:** Approval is obtained. Please see the write up below this section.
- **Creation & Management of Specific Purpose Funds:** A separate team (consisting of **Zersis Minocher**-the lead, **Jimmy Major, Arnavaz Irani**) is appointed to make recommendations to the Board concerning the formation and management of targeted specific-purpose funds for receiving and disbursing donations. We expect to add other non-Board members to the team early next year.
- **ZAF-Good Citizens Initiative:** --please see the separate write up under ZAF - Good Citizens Initiative.
- **AIA Booth/Exhibit:** ZAF continues to have a booth/exhibit of our Zoroastrian community in the annual AIA (Association of Indians in America) event. **Jimmy Major & Arnavaz Irani** organized this year's booth.
- **Recognition of Educational Achievement:** For the first time, in keeping with our dearly held value of education, small but symbolic cash awards were given to four high school and college graduates from ZAF families. The four recipients were: **Cyrus Bhadha, Sharon Dubash, Aiesha Engineer and Rayomand Engineer**.
- **Publications:** Our association has received publicity/recognition about our activities in the latest issues of both, Parsiana and FEZANA magazines.
- **CookBook Project:** In keeping with our well-known passion for good food, a ZAF Recipe book project has been initiated under the leadership of **Nina Deboo**.
- **Maidhyoshem Ghambaar:** Please see the details below.
- **Membership, Attendance & Donations:** While we embark on a process and undertake the well-intended initiatives, it is ultimately the results that count. **Thanks to your interest and help, our membership for 2009 stands at a record 58 households out of the total of 73 in ZAF area.** The attendance at various congregations and functions, including Z-Club classes, also continues to be high. The measurement of zeal and enthusiasm is most evident in the donations. To date, the sum exceeds by more than double that of the prior record in the last 15 years (please see the details in the **Donations** article below).
- **Wish list:** Yes – there is also a wish that needs to be fulfilled. ZAF needs more involvement of our youth – the leaders of tomorrow. Their ideas and direction must be integrated into the plans and actions of ZAF to make the association more relevant to the future of the community. You are urged to contact our Board members **Dustyn Shroff** or **Nina Deboo** for details.

Our efforts are rewarded if the purpose is served. Again, thank you for your support. We will work hard to continue to earn it.

Sincerely, The ZAF Board

\$.....TAX EXEMPTION FOR ZAF.....\$ By Jahanbux Daruwala

On behalf of your Board, it is my pleasure to report that IRS approval for the tax exemption application of ZAF, under section 501(c) (3), was received on December 3, 2009.

At this point I would like to thank the community and the Board for supporting the initiative. My special thanks to our Board members Zersis Minocher and Soli Dastur for the required documentation on financial and cultural/religious aspects respectively. A very special vote of thanks to Framroze Patel (Ex-President-FEZANA) who is the ever-present friend of ZAF for the strategic guidance and suggestions based on his similar experience with many other FAZANA associations.

While this process took about six months, the real challenge begins now with respect to funding and the use thereof; while complying with the IRS requirements as well as nurturing and enhancing the objectives and actions of ZAF that are consistent with the Zarathushtri values of *Humata, Hukhta, Hvarshata*. This is an historic moment in the life of our association and with your help and grace of Ahura Mazda we shall succeed.

This is only an initial notification. Much work remains to be done for drafting the creation of specific targeted-purpose funds and the governing ground-rules thereof. This will be worked on during the coming months. You will be kept apprised and involved as we make progress.

As a quick but necessary note: the E.I.Number for the tax exemption is: 65-0786849. The approval letter from the IRS is on file; however please let us know if you would like to have a copy.

MAIDHYOSHEM: JASHAN AND GHAMBAAR



At the request of the Vazir and Marino families, a Jashan was performed by our own Ervads Zubin Panthaky and Soli P. Dastur at the office of Franah Marino. The following photos capture this occasion:



Through the generous sponsorship of Mrs. Sheroo Vazir, in the loving memory of her dear husband Dick, a total of 93 adults and children congregated at the Palace Restaurant hall in Davie, on November 22nd, to observe the Maidhyoshem Ghambaar. After the traditional lighting of the lamp by Sara Marino, all joined in the *Humbandagee* (prayer together) followed by a traditional luncheon. The occasion was augmented and enriched by an eloquent explanation of its significance by *Ervad Soli P. Dastur*. Our heartfelt thanks to:



Sheroomai, her friend Banu and Prochi Sara lighting the Deevo with Ervad Soli Gustad "Patrawalla" (A big surprise!)

- **Mrs. Vazir and the Marino family** who helped to bring the community together. **God Bless you.**
- **Soli** - for the inspiring prayers with translation - that made it very meaningful for all of us and for a glimpse of a Ghambaar in Iran by the slide show, and we thank you and **Jo Ann** for making the special trip for ZAF.
- **Gustad Irani** – for helping us with the Banana leaves -- what a pleasant surprise to make the occasion all the more authentic!!



Paheli Pangat (First seating) on the left. Hard working Casey and President. Hovi "Collectionwalla" with the Pangat

- **Casey Raja** for coming early in the morning and being so dedicated to assure the cuisine was a real authentic treat ---- Parsee style.



The wonderful volunteers all around: Kaizad, Khushroo, The Z Club Mentors, Arnavaz and Franah! Thank You!

- **Many enthusiastic volunteers of the Z Club and adults** who wholeheartedly served meals.
- **Hovi Shroff** for helping with the collection.

This Ghambaar has certainly been a big highlight of this year and we hope that we in ZAF continue this traditional celebration every year in the future. *Atha Jamiyaat, Yatha Aafrinaami!* (May it come true that we wish!)



And there is always one with the plate! Arnavaz and Gustad in the Beejee (second) Pangat with Casey & Anahita



DONATIONS



Our hats off and heartfelt thanks to the generosity of our donors: Following is the Year-to-Date summary of donations as of December 9.

Purpose	\$	Purpose	\$
Picnic & AGM congregation support	50	Navroze hall rental & other support	1,668 (a)
Naatak DVD project	37	Pateti hall rental & other support	4,881
Muktad prayers, flowers, ceremony support	274	Newsletter sponsorship	618
ZAF as Good Citizens	400 (b)	General support	251
Contributions collected at Ghambaar	784	Ghambaar sponsorship	1,350 (c)
TOTAL Ytd December 6 = \$10,313			
(a) This sum is in addition to the children's gift packs that were donated by Percy & Aban Kavasmaneck and \$156 from raffle of articles donated by: Jimmy & Freny Deboo, Nash & Anahita Patel, Casey Raja, Sam & Lyla Todywala and an Anonymous family.			
(b) Donated by three families for this specific purpose ("Feed the Hungry Program" at Miami Rescue Mission)			
(c) Courtesy of Mrs. Sheroo Vazir			

Our donors: An anonymous family, Aspy & Anita Canteenwalla, Homi Cooper, Soli & Jo Ann Dastur, Jahanbux & Nancy Daruwala, Jimmy & Freny Deboo, Shahvir Dhatigara, Ranjan & Shahnaz Duara, Mina & Gulshan Dubash, Kersi & Kernaz Engineer, Gustad & Arnavaz Irani, Rustom & Yasmin Kevala, Dinyar & Nahida Mehta, Zersis & Anahita Minocher, Danny & Goher Mobed, Claude & Roshan Moraes, Kersi & Dolly Munshi, Zubin & Dimple Panthaki, Casey Raja, Burjis & Hovi Shroff, Sam & Lyla Todywala, Sheroo Vazir.

THANKS... You light the flame of charity and sharing in all of us!



ZAF DEMOGRAPHICS



About 25 years ago, we were a tiny community of about 25 to 30 addresses. We are now more than double that size. From time to time it is necessary to take a look around as to where we are, and what are the current dimensions and composition of the community. It is in this light that we believe you would find the following estimates of interest:

- Number of active addresses in ZAF area = 73 (Note: Areas of ZATAMBAY has 27, Orlando has 32)
- Adults in our area = 130
- Children living with parents = 47
- Married (# of addresses) = 57 (Note: Interfaith marriages = 16 = 28%)
- Single and/or living alone (# of addresses) = 15
- Paid member addresses = 58 **(79%) (Members: Thank you for your support!)**
- Non-member addresses = 17



OUR MEMBERS



Dear Members: We must constantly remind ourselves that nothing is possible without your dedication and support. Month after month and year after year, you – the backbone of the ZAF, through your show of endorsement of the board’s efforts via the modest membership fees and generating a sense of belonging, are to be recognized and saluted. We are very pleased and proud to report that 79 % of the total addresses have paid the membership dues and is the highest percentage in the last decade or more. It is in this spirit that we list the current membership households:

ANTIA, Billy, Phil & Viola	AVARI, Zeus & Diana	BALSARA, Nariman & Dolly
BHADHA, Pauli & Kashmira	CAMA, Shoroiy & Meher	CAPTAIN, Jaloo & ENGINEER, Rita
DARUWALA, Jahanbux & Nancy	DARUWALLA, Khushroo	DASTUR, Soli & Jo Ann
DEBOO, Jimmy & Freny	DEBOO, Nina	DEBOO, Rustom & Jasmin
DHATIGARA, Shahveer	DOTIWALA, Firdaus & Azita	DRIVER, Rohinton & Jinobia
DUARA, Ranjan & Shahnaz	DUBASH, Darius & Shahnaz	DUBASH, Mina & Gulshan
ENGINEER, Kersi & Kernaaz	HANSOTIA, Dinshaw & Hootokshi	HANSOTIA, Kaizad & Katya
IRANI, Farhad & Nina	IRANI, Firdaush & Keshmira	IRANI, Furrokh & Khushnam
IRANI, Gustad, Amy & Mrs. T.Gundevia	IRANI, Rustam & Jennifer	IRANI, Soli & Jeroo
KAIKOBAD, James, J.	KAVASMANECK, Cyrus	KAVASMANECK, Percy & Aban
KAVASMANECK, Darien & Gulshan	KAVASMANECK, Zubin	KHERADI, Jehangir & Celeste
MAJOR, Jimmy & Farida	MARINO, Gerrard & Franah	MEHTA, Mehar & Daisy
MEHTA, Zersis & Jennifer	MINOCHER, Zersis & anahita	MOBED, Danny & Goher
MORAES, Claude & Roshan	MUNSHI, Kersi & Dolly	PANTHAKI, Zubin & Dimple
PATEL, Homi & Daisy	PATEL, Nash & Anahita	RAGABY, Khodadad & Parvana
RAJA, Casey	SAMSON, Nancy Kessler	SHETH, Manish & Prochi
SHROFF, Burjis & Hovi	SHROFF, Dustyn	SHROFF, Homzee
SHROFF, Jehangir & Shireen	TATA, Burjor & Pervin	TODYWALA, Sam & Lyla
UNWALLA, Darab, Nellie & Nariman	UNWALLA, Perry & Sasha	VAZIR, Sheroo
WADIA, Neville		

Note: Rohinton & Maharukh Deputy and Hufresh Darbary are members but have now relocated.

All who are receiving this newsletter are urged to continue to support your community association by mailing a membership check payable to **“ZAF, Inc.”** to the attention of: Jahanbux Daruwala, 21050-Point Place, Apt # 1205, Aventura, FL 33180. The fee schedule is as follows:

Family Household = \$ 50, Single living alone = \$ 25, Full time student living alone = \$ 10.



Z-CLUB CHILDREN'S CORNER, by Aban Kavasmaneck



The Z-Club participated in a thoroughly enjoyable outing to the Miami Seaquarium on November 15, 2009. We had a great turnout, with 18 children and 11 adults attending, and we all had a great time. We saw four amazing shows featuring dolphins, sea lions and whales. Then we had a great picnic by the ocean. Our total cost for the tickets was \$748.20. The ZAF Board graciously contributed \$150 towards the children's tickets, and I donated my free ticket (as the Group organizer) to the children as well. We are grateful to the Board for their support. We have included some pictures, which capture the camaraderie, and fun that the outing exemplified.

Our Z-Club has made tremendous strides in these last six years. Now, our older children, who are mentors to the younger ones, are taking on added responsibility and leadership roles in order to live our Z-Club motto of "Good Thoughts, Good Words, and Good Deeds". Therefore, we have formed a Z-Club Board so that our children can take pride in their leadership and civic roles. The Board includes:

- President: Persis Bhadha**
- Vice-President: Jessica Patel**
- Treasurer: Sara Marino**
- Director of Fund Raising and Special Projects: Zane Todywala**
- Joint Secretaries: Alexis Bhadha and Shanaya Patel**

In keeping with our Zarathusti heritage of doing charity, **our first project is a fund raising drive for toys for needy children**, with the proceeds going to the Salvation Army. Zane, our Director of Fund raising and Special Projects will be contacting you very shortly. This is a very worthy project since it not only brings Holiday cheer to needy children, but also inculcates leadership, community service, and charity to our children. So, please contribute/donate toys or money to this effort. Subsequent Z-Club projects will be a food drive for the homeless and a visit to a nursing home for the elderly and the infirm. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement for our children.

Upcoming Z-Club meeting dates in 2010 are announced at the end of the newsletter.



Z Club Children with Aban



Z Club Mentors



Z Club Parents and Supporters

YOUTH ACTIVITIES, by Nina Deboo & Dustyn Shroff

We are seeking your help/input in putting together our first Dinner/Gathering! We have tried twice now but are finding it difficult to get all of you together in one place on the same date. If you have any constructive ideas or suggestions that may help us in making our hopes for a successful youth group into a reality, or if you have any comments that you feel we should hear, please contact either Nina Deboo at Ninerdeboo@gmail.com or Dustyn Shroff at dustyns@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future!



Double Mobed Weddings

Have you ever heard of two weddings, not one, taking place on a platform right at the land's edge in South Sea Island Resort, Captiva Island on Gulf of Mexico? Well, Goher and Darayes (Danny) Mobed accomplished this amazing feat for their daughter Cyra married to Oscar Duran and their son Darius married to Jamie Rumpf on Saturday November 7th, 2009. The double weddings took place on a platform right on the lawn and sand in open air with a 40+ mph gusting wind! Ervad Soli P. Dastur and Ervad Zubin Panthaky performed the weddings. The festivities started with a traditional Parsi Maadav Sarav Ceremony on Thursday, planting a mango sapling for each couple in their Clewiston home backyard, followed by a Jashan and dinner. The wedding party and guests then moved to Sanibel Island for the wedding. The wedding took place on the lawns under a setting sun with a picturesque surrounding. It was followed by a beautiful dinner in which the two newlywed couples showed off with a beautiful rendition of different dances! Cyra and Oscar met on the dance floor and are accomplished Salsa dancers and have agreed to perform at our next ZAF function! We all at ZAF wish them a very happy and healthy married life!



Maadav Sarav Supraa Ceremony

Planting of Mango Sapling

Jashan Ceremony



Ervad Soli blesses Oscar & Cyra

Ervad Zubin blesses Darius & Jamie Goher & Danny Mobed at the Reception

Mehta Wedding



On November 8th, 2009, Zersis, son of Daisy & Mehar Mehta married Jennifer Bachman at the Signature Grand, Fort Lauderdale. At first, an American wedding ceremony was performed on the beautifully decorated stage. This was followed by a traditional Parsi wedding ceremony performed by our own Ervad Soli P. Dastur. A reception and dinner followed these ceremonies ending up in dancing. The newlyweds then went on a Mediterranean Cruise for their honeymoon. We all at ZAF wish them a very happy and healthy married life!



Jennifer & Zersis Mehta in their American & Parsi Wedding Dresses



Happy Birthday

Hvovi R. Irani, daughter of Jennifer & Rustam celebrated her first Birthday on October 2, 2009. Her Puglaaroo ceremony was performed on October 4, 2009. Happy first birthday to Hvovi & many many happy returns!!

*Editorial: For those who are not familiar with the Paglaroo Ceremony: Literally, **Pug** = foot, **Laaroo** = a sweet ball shaped dessert. It is performed for children when they first start walking. It is a form of a blessing, a good omen and a celebration to bless them and ensure that their adventures are safe and happy. Laaroos are placed on the floor and the child is encouraged to walk on them, which are then shared with the family and friends.*



Hvovi in her Crown



Hvovi with her sister Meher



Step on those Laaroos!

New Business opening:



Rustom Deboo: Rustom is happy to announce that he has recently been appointed an Allstate Agent in Deerfield Beach. Rustom's agency offers insurance and financial services and would like to extend a welcoming hand to the community. Also, Rustom wishes to extend many thanks to his family who has helped him achieve this great opportunity, and looks forward to earning the business of the ZAF community. His contact no.: 954-426-4411.



Rustom welcoming you to his new office with Mom Freny the receptionist with Allstate Good Hands Symbol!

Chhamsee (six months) prayer ceremony for Dick Vazir

The six months prayer ceremony to commemorate the passing of Mr. **Dick Vazir** was performed at the home of Mrs. **Sheroo Vazir** by **Ervad Jal Panthaki** (Father of our member **Ervad Dr. Zubin Panthaki**) of Montreal. He happened to be visiting from Canada and performed the ceremony in spite of the fact that he was still recovering from a major heart surgery one month ago. Many thanks to **Jalbhai** and his wife **Nergis** from all of us and the Vazir family.

Event Photography at reasonable price: For a free lance photographer ready to cover your events, weddings or take portraits, at a very reasonable price, contact our member **Aiesha Engineer** (AENGINEE@gmail.com). We wish you much success in your venture, **Aiesha**.

NAATAK DVD'S ARE HERE



Thanks to **Aiesha Engineer's** help, the Board has been able to produce a DVD of the Pateti function and is pleased to offer them for a donation of \$6 per copy, including mailing in an insulated cover. It includes the fond memories of:

- The *Humbandagee*, opening prayer by the **Z-Club children**.
- Melodious singing by the ZAF Singers (**Jaloo Captain, Feny Deboo, Tehmina Gundevia, Arnavaz Irani, Daisy Patel, Hovi Shroff**).
- The magic of **Sarosh & Kim Mistry** of Orlando.
- www.LAGAN.org; a hilarious master creation *Naatak* (play) by **Burjorji Tata** directing the ZAF cast of characters (**Pauli Bhadha, Jahanbux Daruwala, Khushroo Daruwalla, Freny Deboo, Arnavaz Irani, Gulshan Kavasmaneck, Jimmy Major, Hovi Shroff**).

Please make your checks payable to ZAF Inc. and mail to **Jahanbux Daruwala, 21050-Point Place, Apt # 1205, Aventura, FL 33180**. We would appreciate whatever you may wish to donate above this amount.

ZAF – GOOD CITIZENS INITIATIVE

For the first time, we have also elected to look and act beyond the immediate ZAF sphere to the broader community around us. We wish to recognize and have a responsibility to our neighbors and be recognized by them as to who we are. As a “Pilot program” a special-purpose “*Good Citizens*” fund was initiated to help with the “Feed The Hungry” program of Miami Rescue Mission. **Only the sum (\$400) that was donated by three families for this specific purpose was disbursed.** In the coming year, we plan to explain this initiative to the broader ZAF audience.

Our President received the following Thank You notes from the President and the Administrator of the Miami Rescue Mission:

Dear Mr. Daruwala,

Please find attached pictures requested for your newsletter. Please give thanks to all involved with the donation to Miami Rescue Mission, it was an absolute blessing.

I hope that you and/or anyone from your organization would be able to come and visit in the near future so you can see first hand the transformation of lives that happens because of donor like yourself.

Regards,



Daisy Diaz

Grants & Donor Resources Administrator
Miami Rescue Mission, Inc. / Broward Outreach Centers

Dear Friend of the Friendless ,

Thank you for your generosity and recent gift for our Great Thanksgiving Banquet. Our Centers in Miami, Hollywood, and Pompano Beach served over 2,000 meals to men, women, and children (more if you count breakfast and dinner). Nearly 500 volunteers participated and helped make this sit down delicious dinner such a grand success. There was showers, haircuts, clothing, entertainment, health screenings, and the children (nearly 300) had special events like face painting, jump houses, and so much more. I heard so many needy and homeless people express their gratitude and thanks.

The **Very Best Part** was that 60 homeless people decided to come off the street and enter one of our residential programs. Hope often begins with a hot meal and thanks to you, we had a tremendous day. (Even the rain stopped for a few hours and our street activities went on as planned.)

There was plenty of news coverage which always helps us tell our story of serving the community and seeing people's lives changed every day. Here is a couple of links of news stations that covered us: [Channel 4](#) [Channel 6](#)

Again, thank you for your compassion and generosity. Without you and all of our wonderful supporters, we would not be able to do what we do for the hurting and homeless.

Blessings to you and your loved ones this holiday season.

Ron Brummitt, President
Miami Rescue Mission
Broward Outreach Centers

NEWS FROM ZATAMBAY & ORLANDO GROUPS, by Soli Dastur

- Rustom and Sarvar Demehri of Orlando, announced the upcoming wedding of their son, Farokh Demehri, to Angela Canoy, daughter of Chet and Theresa Canoy on May 30th 2010 in Port St. Lucie. Our own Ervad Soli P. Dastur will perform the Parsi/Irani wedding of the couple.
- On November 12, 2009, Phiroze (Phil) Kateli of Orlando was recognized by the International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce, Orlando. He was nominated by the Orange County Convention Center, his primary job. Phil is the only individual who has received this award twice, the first time a few years ago as a nominee of his second job, Fun-Spot. This unique achievement was well recognized by a standing ovation. Quite an achievement for someone so simple in mind and heart as our own "Philoo"!



Phil, the Ambassador of the Year Jennifer, Evelyn, Greg, Phil, Mirtas Phil receiving a standing ovation!

Phil's wife Evelyn: "Phil was diagnosed with Colon, rectal and liver cancer at stage 4, on Jan 20, 2009. He has not been to work since. It has been a battle since then, but all along the road we had the prayers, support and comfort of friends, family and well-wishers. Jennifer, our daughter-in-law, moved the military wheels to get Danesh home through the Red Cross for a 2-week period. It helped Piloo recover." He treasures his family: wife Evelyn, sons Mirtas and Danesh and his wife Jennifer and grandson Taj. Danesh is currently a U.S. Army officer serving in Iraq. On behalf of ZAF and the whole of Zoroastrian community, we wish Piloo and his family all the best during these difficult times.

- Last September, Zerksis Boga of Jacksonville was diagnosed with a dissecting aneurysm of the ascending aorta and was in a critical condition! With the help of good doctors and the prayers of all the good friends and families, he slowly recovered and is in a good condition. He had to take early retirement due to this. A Jashan was performed on December 5th at his home by Ervad Soli P. Dastur and the family **has donated \$501 to ZAF** for the projects related to our children and youths. We at ZAF want to thank them for their very generous donation to ZAF and the whole Zoroastrian community of Florida wish the Boga Family (wife Niloufer, sister Dinaz, sons Sorab and Cyrus) a very happy and healthy future!.



Sorab, Niloufer, Zerksis, Dinaz, Cyrus

Ervad Soli performing Jashan

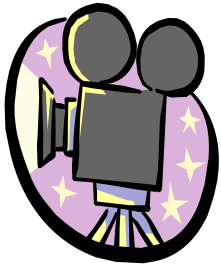
Jashan Participants

DIRECTORY & ADDRESS CHANGES

- **Maharukh & Rohinton Deputy**: After a brief stay in the ZAF area, Maharukh and Rohinton have moved to Houston. We miss them and wish them well.
- **Dr. Hufereh Darbary**: Due to a job change, Hufereh has relocated to New York City. Good luck and all the best in your new ventures at Columbia University in New York.
- **Noshir & Franak Dhalla**: Have relocated to California
- **Cherag & Parinaz Irani**: Have relocated from ZAF area.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- **Movie LITTLE ZIZOU: Indian filmmaker SOONI TARAPOREVALA unveils her own minuscule Parsi Minority, By [arzan sam wadia](http://www.parsikhabar.net) (www.parsikhabar.net) Parsi Khabar, November 6, 2009**



Sooni Taraporewala Sooni talking to Mobed Soli at the Dastoorji Khurshed home

(Editorial: While Sooni was shooting her film in front of Iranshah Atash Behram in Udwarda, she saw yours truly and requested me to be in one of the scenes with a small part. I agreed and I was on my way to Bollywood!? Few months later, I got an email from Sooni that entire Iranshah episode together with my part had to be cut and she was very sorry for the same. However, as a memento, she sends me the above photo talking to me.)

Men in PLO T-shirts march through noisy, chaotic streets; their leader, all in white, stands before the wrought iron gate of a Zoroastrian fire temple urging followers to pledge purity and denounce outsiders. Welcome to the fictitious world of the Parsi Liberation Organisation led by a buffoon character in a zany movie that looks at India's Parsis — both their excesses and endearments — as a minuscule minority of some 70,000 in a country of more than one billion people.

Veteran screenwriter-turned-director Sooni Taraporewala has put the spotlight on the Parsis, an ethnic-religious group whose name derives from their Persian origins, in a film and in a book of photography because, for starters, she's one of them. "When you're a Parsi you're just used to nobody knowing who you are — and always having to explain yourself," she said before a screening of her film at the Quai Branly museum in Paris, where her Parsi photographs also are part of an international exhibition. "I think I got tired of that and I just wanted people to know who Parsis were," added Taraporewala, whose screen writing credits include such hits as "Mississippi Masala", "The Namesake" and "Salaam Bombay!"

The Parsis arrived in India more than 1,000 years ago, fleeing the Arab invasion of Persia to preserve their religion, Zoroastrianism. Today Taraporevala says they still seem to be living at once in many centuries, "from our religious rituals which are so many thousands of years old to being so modern and at the same time being so conservative and exclusive." This "amalgam of contradictions" in the Parsi community is what she tackles in her comedy "Little Zizou", narrated by a Parsi boy in contemporary Mumbai, who is mad about soccer and French football star Zinedine "Zizou" Zidane. The boy is also the younger son of a Parsi fundamentalist leader who is pitted against his arch rival, a reformist newspaper editor.

"In my film there are two warring families, one is a fundamentalist lunatic and one is a reforming journalist, a very particular subject but it also can be seen universally. That's the battle being fought in the world today; in every religion you find the same thing," says Taraporevala. But rather than take a heavy-handed approach to extremism, she said she chose to treat the Parsi ultra-conservatives in an exaggerated, mocking way in a light-hearted comedy.

India's Parsis, mainly living in Mumbai, have been known down the centuries for maintaining their ethnic identity, marrying among themselves, and keeping to their ancient religion based on the teachings of one of the oldest monotheistic prophets, Zarathustra. Even as their numbers dwindle, some Parsis still insist on exclusivity, making outcasts of those who take a non-Parsi spouse. These "ridiculous policies" in Taraporevala's view include religious membership, "that if a Parsi woman marries a non-Parsi their kids cannot be Zoroastrians," but she adds that other movements are now forming to make the religion more inclusive. "Fundamentalist Parsis want to make laws that nobody can be Zoroastrian, but I think Zarathustra was a universal prophet, I don't think we can lay such exclusive claims to him."

Taraporevala, 52, grew up surrounded by Parsis in Bombay — as she still calls her hometown — where Parsi families from the shipbuilding Wadias to the giant industrialist Tatas have helped grow India's economic capital, right back from British colonial times. And many a Parsi home, like those in her film, have on the wall a photograph of a favourite son — world-renowned symphony conductor Zubin Mehta. Parsis with other musical tastes can point to Freddie Mercury of Queen.

After studying film at Harvard and New York University and spending 20 years adapting other people's work for the screen, she said she sat down and wrote "Little Zizou" in 10 days, her first spec script and her directorial debut.

"I think that when you make your first film sometimes you choose a subject that is very personal and close to you," she said of the movie, which has won awards at Indian film fests in Los Angeles and New York and the Asian-Pacific First Film festival in Singapore. The film was also well-received by the Parsis back home, she says, adding that "those Parsis who didn't like it, just didn't say anything."

Her happy-ending comedy lets the forces of tolerance and tender-heartedness win the day in the Parsi community, although the fundamentalist charlatan goes on to prosper with new followers on a cruise ship gig.

The film production does not stray far from the fold — most of the cast is Parsis and the leading child roles are played by brother and sister Jahan and Iyanah Bativala, who are literally family. "They're my kids," Taraporevala says with a big grin and laughs. "But I promised my husband (a Parsi dentist) only one film until they grow up."

- **Last Will of a Parsee (author unknown)**



(Editorial: In these rough times, one can certainly use a shot or a Parsee peg of good humor.....ENJOY!)

I, **Sohrabji Sodawaterbottletopsopenerwalla**, being of sound mind and body, do not wish to be kept alive indefinitely by artificial means.

Under no circumstances should my fate be put in the hands of pinhead politicians who couldn't pass ninth grade biology if

their lives depended on it, or lawyers/doctors interested in simply running up the bills. If a reasonable amount of time passes and I fail to ask for at least one of the following:

- Glass of Scotch
- Swiss Chocolate
- Daar-ni-Pori (Special bread stuffed with delicious sweet daar)
- A dozen taajah boomla (fresh Bombay ducks; a kind of small translucent fish)
- Black Magic Chocolate
- Akoori on toast
- Fresh Tadee (Tody)

- Dhaansak & Kachubar
- Kolmi no Paatio (Parsee style shrimp in tomato-onion sauce)
- Chai with leely Chai & Fudhino (Regular good tea with lemon grass & mint)
- Sali-ma-gosh and fresh chokha ni rotli (Fried potato sticks with goat meat, with fresh rice flat-bread)
- Kera-per-Eedu (Banana dish with cooked eggs on it)
- Langree nu custard (Custard baked in langree – a special flat metal vessel)
- Ice cream from Parsee Dairy Farm
- Alphonso Mangoes
- Belgian Chocolate
- It should be presumed that I won't ever get better. When such a determination is reached, I hereby instruct my appointed person and attending physicians to pull the plug, reel in the tubes, and call it a day. I have lived a good life, and am looking forward to meet my maker.
- And Julie Andrews will sing me my lullaby.

- Have a Parsi peg - IT'S 7 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE!

• Do You Know?

(Editorial: From this Issue, we will include this column to test your knowledge about our Religion, Community, etc. Hope you enjoy it. If you have some subjects you want to include in this column, please email it to: dastur@comcast.net)

Today, we deal with some statistics about **Atash Behrams**.

- Atash Behrams are the highest grade consecrated Zoroastrian Fires, the other two are Dadgah and Adaran Fires.
- These are consecrated Holy Fires enthroned after elaborate purifying ceremonies. We in NA do not have proper facilities to install any one of these three grades of fires. We just have non-consecrated fires in our Dar-e-Mehers.
- There are eight **Atash Behrams** in India and two in Iran in **Yazd** and in **Sharifabad**.
- The **Sharifabad** Atash Behram is believed to be the oldest existing Atash Behram in the world, probably 2000 years old. It is even older than the Iranshah sacred fire.
- The eight Atash Behrams in India are: Iranshah in Udwada, Bagarsath Anjuman in Navsari, Modi Shehenshahi and Vakil Kadmi in Surat, Dadiseth Kadmi, Wadiaji, Banaji Kadmi, and Anjuman Atash Behrams in Mumbai.
- The oldest Atash Behram in India is Iranshah, enthroned by Mobed Nairyosang Dhaval in Sanjan around 721 AC after our forefathers landed there. The next one is Navsari Atash Behram.
- The Iranshah Atash Behram has been moved a number of times: after the fall of Sanjan to the Muslims, it was carried to the Bahrot Caves for 12 years, then to Vandsa for 14 years, then to Navsari for 313 years, moved for 3 years to Surat due to the threat of invasion, and then brought back to Navsari for 3 years, then moved to Balsar for 1 year and then finally to Udwada in 1742 till the present day, 267 years.
- Navsari Vadi Dar-e-Meher is the oldest Agiyari in India.
- Marzban J. Giara has written an excellent book: Global Directory Of Zoroastrian Fire Temples, 2nd Edition, December 2002. The price: IRE. 2,000. Can be obtained from Parsiana website: www.parsiana.com



2010 Calendar of Events

- **Z Club: Childrens' activities**

- **Sunday January 10:** Katya and Kaizad's home
- **Sunday February 7:** Franah and Gerry Marino's home
- **Sunday March 7:** Khushroo Daruwala's home

- **Next ZAF Board Meeting:** January 28, 2010
- **Navroze function & AGM:** March 20, (Miramar hall – same as last yr.)
- **ZAF Annual Picnic:** April – Date to be announced
- **9th World Zoroastrian Congress:** Dubai, Dec. 28 to 31, 2009 (www.FEZANA.org for details)
- **23rd FEZANA AGM:** Toronto (OZCF) April 2-4, 2010 (www.FEZANA.org for details)
- **XV North American Zoroastrian Congress:** Houston Dec. 2010 (www.FEZANA.org for details)
- **5th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress,** Vancouver, July 2011 (www.FEZANA.org for details)

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Stamp