



Zor & More

Issue #2, July 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 •

In this Issue

Page

- Message from your Board & June-4th meeting highlights 2
- Pateti celebration August 29th (register early & save) 2
- Donations 3
- Recognition of High school & College Graduates (cash award & certificate) 3
- Highlights from FEZANA annual AGM in Orlando
 - Highlights, by Dr. Burjis Shroff, (V.P. ZAF) 3
 - Z Club presentation by Prof. Aban Kavasmaneck 4
- Youth Corner:
 - Calling All ZAF Youth . August-1 Get together (Dustyn Shroff & Nina Deboo) 5
 - Highlights from NAZYC California meeting (by Sharon Dubash) 5
- Community Events:
 - Achievements & Graduations 5
 - Birthday 5
 - Navjote 6
 - Ghambaar 6
- Directory changes & New Comers to ZAF Area 6
- ZAF Cook book (collection of recipes project: by Nina Deboo) 6
- Muktaad Ceremony during Gathaa days (Aug 14 – 18) 7
- Articles of Interest
 - Understanding the Three Zarathushti Calendars (*Ervad Soli Dastur*) 8
 - Unforgettable Trip to Iran (Nellie & Darab Unwalla) 9
 - Health & Beauty: Tips for ZAF Ladies (Forwarded by Freni Deboo) 10
 - Ghosts of Doongarwadi: (Article in Harpers Magazine; by Sherally Munshi) 10
- **Reservation FORM for Pateti function 11**
- **Registration FORM for Muktaad ceremony (voluntary participation) 11**
- Job Search & Career Counseling: Public Service from WZCC and FEZANA 13
- Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card: A Gov't of India Requirement for NRI, OCI & POIs.... 13
- Calendar of Events Last Page

We acknowledge with gratitude

This issue of *Zor & More* is sponsored by

Mrs. Sheroo Vazir, Franah & Gerry Marino and Sara

In memory of

Dear Dick Vazir

A loving husband, father and grandfather

MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD & June 4th meeting highlights

- **Youth initiative** was placed on top of the agenda. A youth directory is being prepared. See details of August-1 gathering under “Youth Corner” section
- **A joint celebration of Pateti - Saal Mubarak** is planned for August 29th with many persons of Orlando and Tampa Bay area Zarathushtis.
- As a public service to the ZAF community, the traditional **Muktaad prayers** are planned during the five Gathaa days in August. The community will be invited to participate on a strictly voluntary basis. The flower vases/karasiyaas will be set up in a private home starting with the Vazir's home this year. (We thank Mrs. Sheroo Vazir and Marino families for their kind gesture to share their home for this purpose). More details will be announced in a separate communication from *Ervad Soli Dastur*.
- A subcommittee was formed to address the **tax-exemption application** with a charge to present a first draft to the Board in the next meeting on July 9th.
- Preparation of the **newsletter** was made more contributive: Board and non-Board members
- **Fiscal reporting** of the total balances as well as prompt closure of accounts after each major function is made a standard practice. As of 6/30, Checking & CD balances are \$ 9,546 and \$ 14,712 respectively.
- **Annual graduation recognition awards** for high school and college graduate sons and daughters from ZAF Member families were formalized and will be awarded at the next Pateti - Saal Mubarak function.

SAAL MUBARAK !!! Happy New Year (Pateti Celebration)



The ZAF Board takes great pleasure in announcing the program and date for the New Year/Pateti celebration. This function will be a very special occasion. Many of our Zarathushti neighbors from Orlando and Tampa Bay areas will be joining us for a joint celebration. This marks a very first in the history of our area. We are very excited about this development and hope that as many of you as possible will attend and celebrate together. We are also very enthusiastic about the beautiful arrangements, the program of entertainment, great food and dancing planned for you.

Date & Place: Saturday AUGUST 29, at the Banquet Hall of the Quality Inn Sawgrass Conference Center, 1711 N. University Drive, Plantation, FL 33322. Center phone # 954-556-8200. Catering will be by India House Restaurant located at the same place. (*Separate instructions for Motel reservation for out of town guests are sent from Soli Dastur to Orlando & ZATAMBAY coordinators*).

Program:

- **Registration & Social Hour: 6:45 pm – 7:40 pm (Cash bar & music)**
- **Benediction: Z Club children**
- **President's Welcome: 7:45 – 7:50**
- **Entertainment**
 - **ZAF Singers: 7:55 – 8:00**
 - **Magic Show: by Mystery magician from far away: 8:05 – 8:20**
- **Naatak: “ www.Lagan.com” by ZAF Cast of Characters: 8:25 – 9:10**
- **Buffet Dinner: 9:10 → (APPETIZERS Aloo Tikki, Cholley, Chicken Tikka, MAIN COURSE: Fish Goa, Rogan Josh, Chicken Makhani, Aloo Gobi, Surti Dal, Veg Pulov Rice and Naan, Salad, Papadum and Chutney, DESSERT: Kulfi / Falooda & cake)**
- **Presentation of Graduation Awards to ZAF Graduates from ZAF member families**
- **Community Dance**
- **Dessert, DJ music & dancing**
- **Adjourn**

PLEASE FILL OUT THE RESERVATION FORM ON PAGE 11 IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND MAIL BY AUGUST- 20 FOR EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT!!!

Donations

At the time of our picnic and Navroze celebration, we had received a total of \$ 1,718 in donations. Since then, we have received additional donations from anonymous donors amounting to \$ 4,704. The YTD total now stands at \$ 6,422. We are proud and humbled by their generosity and kindness.

We salute you who live in the true spirit of the words: *PARSEE THY SECOND NAME IS CHARITY!*

Recognition of High school & College Graduates

As per ZAF Board resolution announced in the April newsletter *Zor & More* (pg-1), the high school and college graduates (bachelor or equivalent) from ZAF Member families (2009 dues paid) will be awarded a recognition certificate and a cash gift at the upcoming Pateti function. **Congrats!!! in advance from the Board.**

Highlights of FEZANA AGM held in Orlando

Presentation by Dr. Burjis Shroff, V.P- ZAF

Editorial: Burjis represented the ZAF Board at the last AGM of FEZANA leadership in Orlando during May 23-24. We wish to share his impressions and experiences with you.

Hovi and I were fortunate to attend the FEZANA AGM on behalf of ZAF last month in Orlando. We were graciously received by the Orlando/ Tampa Bay Group of Zoroastrians who were extremely kind and generous hosts to the member associations that participated over the three-day weekend. Besides meeting some very intellectual, hard working and action oriented individuals at the meeting, it was heartening to know and acknowledge that there are some very energetic Zoroastrian folks within our midst who truly want what is best for our community and for our future generations.

The topics up for discussion over the three days ran a gamut from the Zoroastrian Library of Commerce and the preservation of ancient books and literature to the organization and hosting of a major Congress or even an annual AGM. Organizations voiced their concerns in various areas and suggestions were made by member delegates and by the presiding officials of FEZANA such as the President Bomi Patel, past President Rustom Kevala and Editor of the FEZANA Journal Dolly Dastur. Stalwarts of the Zoroastrian community Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna were present to advise and assist and share the wealth of their knowledge and experiences of their long-standing association with FEZANA.

All the participating sister organizations of ZAF were given a chance to showcase their respective groups and it was truly heartening to hear how all the different associations function and operate by providing religious/prayer classes for adults and the youth, celebrating the Zoroastrian New Year and the conducting of the Muktaad prayers.

Besides attending the different work sessions, the Orlando group provided us with some delicious lunches and dinners along with the proverbial afternoon Parsee Chai, which was complete with Bhakras, Nankhatais and Batasas, thanks to some gourmet chefs in the community! Entertainment was provided by Iranian and Indian students from the University of Central Florida where the musicians performed ethnic Iranian tunes on a Santoor (Stringed instrument) and a Dafli (Percussion instrument) followed by some Bollywood dances. Kids were entertained by an in-house Zoroastrian Magician who came complete with a lovely Assistant!!!

All in all I have to say that the experience was well worth it and I would most definitely recommend attendance at future AGM's just to acquaint oneself to the issues that we as a minority group not only in North America but also as a world population face and how these important issues are approached and addressed by the leaders of our community. Like our motto says together we can move mountains with incorporating *Humata, Hukhta, Hvarshata* (Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds) into our daily lives and in the lives of the paths of those we cross.



FEZANA AGM Welcoming Flag



Burjis presenting ZAF Activities



Hovi, Burjis, Kevyn enjoying dinner

Z-Club: Childrens' Corner: Presentation at FEZANA AGM

By Prof. Aban Kavasmaneck

The 2009 Fezana AGM in Orlando on May 23-24, was extremely interesting and successful! I was invited to present a report on the activities of our Z-Club and focused on the aim, philosophy, instruction, curriculum, activities, and success of our Z-Club. The positive response from and interest expressed by all those present were amazing. It was gratifying and rewarding to see the representatives of other FEZANA Associations approach us with questions about the instruction and success of our classes and how they could benefit from or duplicate some of our strategies. The report included our Z-Club charter to provide religious, cultural and historical education to our children. Our aim was to foster a spirit of true Zarathusti fellowship by traditional, creative, and intellectual methods of instruction. Our goal was to provide activities which promoted religious, cultural, and philosophical inquiry enriched by play acting and live performances, talent shows, hands-on activities, virtual scenarios, learning about famous Parsis, simple Gujarati, and participating in outings and community events. Our curriculum followed the FEZANA guidelines and covered all three categories: Religion and Ethics, Culture, and History.

This is the first time in the history of our association that we have a successful organization dedicated to our children and is the result of a team effort by the children, their parents, and past and present ZAF boards. Also, our Z-club is special because it is tailored for the needs, interest, and requests from the parents and their children. If we inculcate in our children the importance of our religion, and our culture, if we make them realize that they are special and unique, and can yet assimilate in our American society, then we have succeeded in educating them.



Aban presenting ZAF Z-Club



Santoor and Dafli players



Sari clad Beauties, Dagli clad Hunks?!

Youth Corner

Calling All ZAF Youth!
Calling All ZAF Youth!

IF YOU ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 – 35, WE WANT YOU! THE NEWLY FORMED ZAF YOUTH GROUP IS GOING TO BE HOLDING THEIR FIRST GET TOGETHER DINNER ON AUGUST 1, 2009.

THIS GROUP IS SEEKING TO:

- CREATE AWARENESS OF ZARATHUSHTI YOUTH IN THE AREA
- PROMOTE SOCIAL NETWORKS
- PLAN SEPARATE EVENING EVENTS FOR THE YOUTH ONLY.
- SEEK AND IMPLEMENT IDEAS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

PLEASE CONTACT EITHER NINA DEBOO AT NINERDEBOO@GMAIL.COM OR DUSTYN SHROFF AT DUSTYNS@GMAIL.COM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE DINNER ON AUGUST 1ST!

Community News & Events

• Achievers & Graduates:

- **Zane & Stefan Todywala:** Zane graduated from Elementary School, with the Principal Honor Roll Award, (which means he received straight A's all year in every subject) he scored extremely high on the FCAT Science, and very high on the FCAT Reading and Math. He also received the Technology Award for the best technology student in all of 5th Grade. Stefan got the Principal Honor Roll for this academic year, the Presidential Sports Award, and the Spanish Award for best non-speaking Spanish student in all of 2nd Grade. We are incredibly proud of **both**. They have really worked extremely hard and it is them, all on their own who have achieved this. Congratulations Zane & Stefan!
- **Sharon Dubash:** Sharon Dubash, daughter of Shahnaz and Darius Dubash, is one of 729 young men and women graduating from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Coral Springs on May 30th. The ceremony was held at Nova Southeastern University.
-



Multi-Medalist Zane Todywalla at Graduation Stefan Todywalla at Graduation Newly Graduate Sharon Dubash with parents

- **Aiesha Engineer:** Graduated from the University of Central Florida (UCF), Orlando in May 2009. She is an Art major and is looking for opportunities in the field of Art/Photography. Congratulations and best wishes to Aiesha and the proud parents Kernaaz & Kersi.
- **Birthday: Dustyn Shroff:** The 21st birthday of Dustyn, a member of your ZAF Board and son of Hovi and Burjis Shroff, was celebrated at his parents' home in Boca Raton. **Happy Birthday – Dustyn**



Hovi and Burjis with infant Dustyn?! And he is now 21 years old! Shiroiy, Shimera, Meher and Kyra at Navjote

- **Navjote:** Meher and Shiroiy Cama had their daughters Shimera and Kyra's navjote at 800 South Douglas Road, a beautifully architected yet serene urban structure, in Coral Gables, on Sunday, the 3rd of May. The decoration was eye-catching and the weather wonderful. Congratulations and best wishes to the young Zarathushti ladies and the proud parents Meher & Shiroiy.
- **Ghambaar:** Please note that there has been a change in plans. In the first newsletter we announced that this year's ghambaar will be held on November 22, sponsored by Furrokh and Khushnam Irani at their home. Subsequently, by mutual consent it has been decided that it will be sponsored by Mrs. Sheroo Vazir in loving memory of her beloved husband Dick Vazir. New date and place are yet to be determined and will be announced well in advance.

Directory: New Comers & Address changes

- **New Arrivals:**
 - **Huferesh Darbari:** We are very pleased to welcome Huferesh Darbari, Ph.D. She is originally from Pune, India and recently moved from Buffalo, NY to Miami. Huferesh works as a Post Doctoral Associate at the Miami Institute of Human Genomics. The cell phone and e-mail are: 716-510-2428; huferesh.darbary@gmail.com.
 - **Mr. and Mrs. Mina and Gulshan Dubash:** It is with great pleasure that we extend a warm Florida welcome to Mina and Gulshan Dubash. They are originally from Karachi, lived in Elkhart, Indiana and are now retired. They have two sons who are living in Cincinnati and Indianapolis. The address and phone number are: 1819 SE 17th Street, Unit 712, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316, Cell: 574-707-6045, e-mail: gmdubash@yahoo.com.
 - **Mr. Neville Wadia:** The ZAF Board takes great pleasure in welcoming Mr. Neville Wadia to our warm and sunny south Florida. Neville has a degree in finance from University of Houston. His address, e-mail and phone # are: 9192-Nugent Trail, Royal Palm, FL 3341, lexburg@aol.com, 561-531-2028. Neville's parents are originally from Mumbai and are living in Norwood, NJ.

ZAF Cook book: (A project coordinated by Nina Deboo)

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a collection of recipes from the talented cooks in our community? This cookbook would be a wonderful resource for our younger generation as they learn how to make Parsi & Iranian dishes! Many of our members are also interested in trying out new recipes and this cookbook would be very useful to them as well. Please send one or two recipes to Nina Deboo at ninerdeboo@gmail.com by **July 25th**. She will arrange the recipes into a book that we will be able to pass down from one generation to another! Please include accurate measurements (i.e. 1 tbsp. or 3/4 cup). Feel free to send all types of recipes, including entrees, snacks, and desserts. Considering our hectic lives, quick and easy recipes are always appreciated! Since this project is in the preliminary stages of planning, the cost of the book has not been decided upon yet. We look forward to sharing this special cookbook for all of us and for the future generations to come! Here is one of them. The recipe was picked out of a bag at random.

SHRIMP AND POTATOES (Contributed by Daisy Mehta, Hialeah, FL)

Part-A: Preparation of Shrimp

Ingredients:

- *1/2 lb. extra large shrimp (about 15 – 16 shrimps)
- *1/2 tsp. red chilly powder
- *1/4 tsp. turmeric powder
- *1 tbs. oil
- *1/4 tsp. cumin powder
- *salt to taste

Preparation: (1) Remove the tails off of shrimp (already peeled and deveined). (2) Wash the shrimp thoroughly. (3) Use a paper towel to dry the shrimp. (4) Add the shrimp to a bowl. (5) Add all of the other ingredients except the oil. Mix well.

Directions: (1) In a non-stick frying pan add oil and turn the stove on medium heat. (2) Add shrimp to the frying pan. (3) After 3-4 minutes turn the shrimp to the other side and let cook for another 3-4 minutes. (4) Remove the shrimp from the frying pan and set aside.

Tips: (1) Do not cook shrimp for too long (2) As soon as the color of the shrimp changes to pink or red, it is done. (3) Use the same frying pan to cook potatoes.

Part-B: Preparation of Potatoes

Ingredients:

- *4 medium sized potatoes
- *1 tbs. chopped jalapeno
- *1 tsp. minced garlic
- *1/4 tsp. turmeric
- *1 to 1 1/2 tbs. oil
- *1/4 cup chopped cilantro (kothmir)
- *Salt to taste

Preparation: (1) Peel and cut potatoes into 1/2" cubes (2) Wash the potatoes and towel dry.

Directions: (1) Add oil to the same frying pan in which the shrimp were cooked. (2) Turn the stove on medium heat. (3) Add all of the ingredients except potatoes and kothmir and stir for one minute. (4) Now add potatoes and mix it with all of the spices. (5) Close the lid and keep the heat on medium to low (do not add any water). (6) Stir the potatoes occasionally until they are fork tender. Turn the heat off. (7) Now add cooked shrimps in the potatoes and mix it together (8) Sprinkle the cilantro (kothmir) on the top of the shrimp and the potatoes. (9) Serve hot with naan or pita bread.

Tips: (1) You can buy minced garlic in any grocery store (2) Wash and dry the cilantro before you chop it.

Muktaad prayers:



Invitation to participate on a voluntary basis

Background: For the benefit of those who may not be as familiar, Muktaad is a Zarathushti tradition and practice to remember the loved ones who have departed us by reciting their names in a solemn ceremony of Jashan and prayer. These prayers are held each day during the five holy days known as Gathaas. The last of these five days is Pateti, which is followed by the celebration of NEW YEAR (Saal Mubarak) on the next day.

Ceremony: Most major associations in North America perform Muktaad each year. Clean tables (with marble top or table cloth) are set up in a clean room of an Agiyari or a private home (in absence of an Agiyari). Families that choose to participate give a crystal or a metal vase (aka *Karasyaa*) in memory of their departed dear ones. On the first day, the vases are washed, tables arranged, and the vases are placed in some order determined by the Mobed (priest) in charge. The vases are then filled with water and fresh flowers. A person or more from each participating family attends the ceremony each day (if they wish) and each family brings a bouquet of flowers to place in the vases on the first day. The flowers may need to be replenished after 2-3 days. Each day, Jashan prayers are recited with names of the departed given to the Mobed. Each name is recited separately during the Jashan. A nominal donation per name is made by the family for the prayers and replenished flowers etc. Also each day, a Satum prayer is recited after the Jashan. Simple food and fruits are placed in the prayer. After the prayers, the food and fruits are distributed (aka *Chaashni*) to the attendees.

What is the arrangement this year? Mrs. Sheroo Vazir has asked our Mobed Soli Dastur to lead the Muktaad prayers and ceremony to be set up in her home in honor of her beloved late husband Mr. Dick Vazir. This is a personal request. At the same time, Sheroo has graciously offered that if any of the Zarathushti families in the area wishes to set up a vase (one per family) in the name of their departed ones, they are most welcome to do so. ZAF Board has agreed to send this offer to the community as a public service on a strictly voluntary basis. **The prayers will be held during August 14 through 18 at the home of Mrs. Sheroo Vazir, 215 South 12th Avenue, Hollywood FL, 33019. The timing SST (Soli's Standard Time and NOT IPT (Indian Parsi Time) is: August 14th Friday 7 PM - 8:30 PM, 15th Saturday and 16th Sunday 11:30 AM – 1 PM, 17th Monday and 18th Tuesday 7 PM – 8:30 PM. There will also be a celebration Jashan on Saal Mubarak (New Year) Day August 19th Tuesday 7 PM – 8:30 PM to celebrate our Shehenshahi New Year Navroze 1379 YZ!**

If you wish to participate, please fill out and mail the Muktaad registration form from this newsletter on Page 11 before August 7th Friday.

Articles of Interest

Understanding of three Zarathushti Calendars, (compiled by *Ervad Soli Dastur*)

Editorial comment: In our tiny Zarathushti community of anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 around the world, we have three calendars: Shahenshahi, Kadmi and Fasli. For example, this year, the Shahenshahi New Year will be 1379 commencing on the English calendar day August 19 2009, while on the same day, the Kadmi and Fasli dates and years will be different. Their New Years will be on July 20 2009 (Kadmi Year 1379 YZ) and March 21 2009 (Fasli Year 1379) respectively. There is almost a general consensus that a single calendar is the proper thing to do; however, there is an intense debate amongst the community leaders, clergy (Mobeds) and laity alike, as to which is the right calendar and what are the criteria to be the "right" one. Emotions of traditions play an important part in these discussions even when the factual "astrophysical science" part indicates otherwise. In any case, it is first necessary to understand how we got to where we are.

It is also noteworthy that the nation of Iran and the Zoroastrian community celebrate Nouruz (Navroze) in March to coincide with the vernal equinox and advent of spring. However, this is also the Iranian and Fasli New Year! It is probable that the ancient Zoroastrians had their new year at this time also but due to the lack of correction for the leap year, there has been a slippage over the centuries of one day for every four years and we find ourselves celebrating Navroze festival in March but the Zoroastrian Kadmi New Year in July and Shahenshahi in August.

Introduction: Ancient Zoroastrians observed a 360 days Calendar of 12 months with each month comprising of 30 days. The months were named after seasonal festivals but the days of each month (*Maah*) were merely numbered from one to thirty. In the middle of the fifth century BCE, during the Achaemenian era, a distinctive 360 days Calendar was created. Each day (*Roj* or *Roz*) of the twelve months was assigned. However, the Egyptians of that era had a Calendar based upon a 365 days solar cycle. In 46 CE the Romans adopted the Egyptian Calendar but the Persians kept on following the 360 days Calendar until the middle of the third century CE.

The Shahenshahi Calendar: In the Shahenshahi calendar, a year consists of 12 months or *Maahs*, and each month has 30 days. Each of these days is known as a *Roj*, and each *Roj* has a distinct name of a Zoroastrian Yazata (Angel). However, the 12th month is followed by five additional Gatha or Gah days. A major revival of the Zoroastrian religion took place in 226 CE when the Sassanian King Ardashir I came to the Persian throne. He changed the old 360 days Calendar to 365 days by adding five extra days, which were piously dedicated to the five Gathas of Zarathushtra. The Zoroastrian calendar uses the Y.Z. suffix (Yazdezerdi Era) for its calendar era (year numbering system), indicating the number of years since the coronation in 632 CE of Yazdezerd III, the last monarch of the Sassanian dynasty.

A solar calendar, however, is around 365 ¼ days, which the Gregorian calendar accommodates by adding a day every four years (leap day). Because of this difference, the Zoroastrian calendar and solar year began to diverge. In 1006 CE, the roaming New Year's day once again coincided with the day of the vernal equinox, and (according to legend) it was resolved that the Zoroastrian calendar henceforth intercalate an additional month every 120 years as prescribed in Dinkard (III.419). (*). At the time of the decision to intercalate every 120 years, the calendar was called the Shahenshahi "imperial" calendar. At some point between 1125 CE and 1250 CE, the Parsi-Zoroastrians of the Indian subcontinent inserted such an embolismic month, named Aspadarmad vahizak (the month of Aspadarmad but with a vahizak suffix). The Zoroastrians in India last remembered to add this extra month in 1129 CE. Consequently, New Year, which originally correlated with the vernal equinox on March 21st, has since fallen earlier in the Gregorian calendar year such that it now occurs in August. The Parsis,

not aware that they were not intercalating correctly, continued to call their calendar Shahenshahi. This practice has survived to this day, and adherents of other variants of the Zoroastrian calendar denigrate the Shahenshahi as "royalist".

The Kadmi Calendar: The Zoroastrians in India intercalated an extra month to the calendar around 1129 CE. Meanwhile, the Zoroastrians who remained in Iran never once intercalated a thirteenth month. Around 1720 CE, an Irani-Zoroastrian priest named Jamasp Peshotan Velati traveled from Iran to India. Upon his arrival, he discovered that there was a difference of a month between the Parsi calendar and his own calendar. Around 1740 CE, some influential priests argued that since their visitor had been from the ancient 'homeland', his version of the calendar must be correct, and their own must be wrong.

On June 6th, 1745, a number of Parsis in and around Surat adjusted their calendars according to the recommendation of their priests, believing it to be more authentic. This calendar became known as the Kadimi calendar in both India and Iran, which in due course became contracted to Kadmi or Quadmi.

The Fasli Calendar: The word "Fasal" means season. In 1906, Khurshedji Cama, a Bombay Parsi, founded the "Zarthosti Fasili Sal Mandal", or Zoroastrian Seasonal-Year Society. The Fasili or Fasli calendar, as it became known, was based on an older model, introduced in 1079 CE. This calendar had two salient points. It was in harmony with the seasons and New Year's Day coincided with vernal equinox. Similar to Shahenshahi and Kadmi calendars, it followed the model (12 months of 30 days each plus 5 extra days), but also had an auto-regulatory leap day every four years - the leap day, called Avardad-sal-Gah (Pahlavi: Ruz-e-vahizak), followed the five existing Gah days at the end of the year. The Fasli society also claimed that their calendar was an accurate religious calendar, as opposed to the other two calendars, which they asserted were only political.

The new calendar received little support from the Indian Zoroastrian community since it was considered to contradict the injunctions expressed in the Dinkard (III.419). In Iran, however, the Fasli calendar gained momentum following a campaign in 1930. In Yazd, however, the Zoroastrian community resisted, and to this day follow the Kadmi calendar.

(* Dinkard (meaning Knowledge of the Religion) - is a voluminous and encyclopedic work in Pahlavi language on Zoroastrian religious, philosophical, historical, and a number of other subjects, originally compiled by a number of learned Dastooors in Iran in 9th century AD, in 9 volumes, first two and a part of three have now been lost. Its e-Book is available on the web site:

<http://www.avesta.org/denkard/dk3s.html>

Our unforgettable trip to Iran (Nellie & Darab Unwalla)

Last May, we took a conducted three weeks tour to Iran—the land of our ancestors. Our parents had always dreamt of taking such a trip but were never able to do so. Hence we felt like we were fulfilling their dream. We were 19 of us in our group—most of them from the U.S. and some from Australia.

We visited places like Tehran, Mt. Demavand, Shiraz—the city of poets, roses and nightingales. Here we visited the beautiful Narenjestan museum with exquisite tile and mirror work. Then to Firuzabad where we drove past a settlement of the Kashgari tribe and distributed sweets and pens to the children who met us at the bus beautifully dressed in their fancy clothes. We visited Persepolis which was very interesting with its many ruins, city of Esfahan with its beautiful parks. On the way we stopped to see the famous 4500 years old Cypress tree! In Yazd, which is 675 km. from Tehran, with a population of about 3500 Zoroastrians we visited an Atash Behram, which is 1500 years old and the fire burning there even older. We visited many such Atash Kadehs and were fortunate enough to be able to go in and pay our respects. We saw some old clay brick style houses and even experienced the hospitality of the local Iranians. We also were brave enough to climb a very steep pir called 'Pir e Sabz' or 'chak chak'. Legend has it that a princess was fleeing from the Arabs and was swallowed up alive in this mountain. A spring burst forth which still flows all through the year and makes the noise 'chak chak'.

Unlike all the bad publicity they often get, we found the Iranians very warm and friendly and hospitable. We consider ourselves very lucky to have experienced all this.



Nellie & Darab Unwalla Iran Tour Group Sassanian King investiture at Taq-e-Boston Yazd Atash Behram having 1500+ Years Atash

FOR ZAF LADIES WHO WANT TO STAY YOUNG AND HEALTHY!

Hope this change starts with you, beginning with the coming Zarathushti New Year! (Article forwarded by Freney Deboo)

Take a look at **THE BEAUTY PRESCRIPTION** an inspirational guide to “getting gorgeous, inside and out”. This is a *Complete Formula for Looking and Feeling Beautiful* by Dr. Debra, a Beverly Hills dermatologist and Dr. Eva, a South Beach psychiatrist. This will help you discover how to bring out your maximum potential as you blossom into a more charismatic, self-assured, and multidimensional woman!

“Inner beauty starts with good health. You **MUST** eat properly, you **MUST** sleep properly, you **MUST** exercise, and you must stay fit if you want to be beautiful as you get older. Women who stay healthy can look sexy, beautiful and hot for a long time.” “Inner beauty is something that comes to us in childhood when we have positive experiences as we’re growing. For many people it’s not that simple. As they reach adulthood, they may find there are holes in their inner beauty, that they don’t feel as confident as they should. Yes, it’s great to have Botox, fix your wrinkles, hide your greys and look fabulous. But if you don’t have that inner beauty, that inner confidence, and that inner strength going with it, your life’s not going to go anywhere. Inner beauty can come to you by giving yourself positive feedback, and that is when you recognize your own inner strengths and weaknesses.”

“It is very hard to have that inner beauty. When women are getting older and the outer beauty frays, here is the good news: inner beauty soars! Women who are older, who have done more, who have confidence, who know who they are, they are the most beautiful women because their inner beauty is soaring!”

Ghosts of Doongerwadi (Excerpt from an article by Sherally Munshi)

Editorial: *This article of considerable interest and controversy was written by Sherally Munshi, (daughter of Dolly and Kersi Munshi) and recently published in July 2009 issue of the Harper’s magazine (<http://www.harpers.org>). Sherally has a law degree from Harvard and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Law and English literature at Columbia University, New York. The essence of the article is given below.*

The declining vulture population in Mumbai, a great cause for concern to the Mumbai’s Parsi community *vis-à-vis* the disposal of the dead at Doongarwadi. The article, *The Ghosts of Doongerwadi*, published by Harper’s magazine, a current-event and general-interest publication, discusses the vulture/Doongerwadi matter based on material collected during Sherally’s month-long research trip in the summer of 2007. During the trip, Sherally visited *agiyaris*, Doongerwadi itself, and interviewed several individuals with views spanning the whole spectrum of the vulture issue in particular and the state of the Parsi community in general. Among those interviewed were Dhun Baria, Dasturji Firoze Kotwal, Ervad Framroze Mirza, Khojeste Mistree, and Ervad Dr. Rooyintan Peer. The article also includes a short history of Mumbai and its Parsis.

Advance Reservation Form: Your payment envelope must be postmarked no later than August 20.

Entrance fees:

- ZAF paid 2009 Members and guests from Orlando & ZATAMBAY areas: **\$ 19 pp.** Non-Members: **\$ 29 pp.**
- Children: (5-12 yrs): **\$ 10 pp.** After Aug 20 by mail or calls and 'At the Gate': **\$ 35 pp.**
- Full time Student living alone: **\$ 10 pp.**

• Name: _____

• Number of adults _____ x fee \$ _____ pp = total \$ _____ for adults

• Number of children (5-12yrs) _____ x fee \$ _____ pp = total \$ _____ for children

• I/ we wish to become ZAF members for 2009 (*). Membership fee = \$ _____

Please make check payable to **ZAF Inc.** Grand Total \$ _____ check enclosed

Please mail to: **Jahanbux Daruwala, 21050 Point Place, Apt # 1205, Aventura, FL 33180.**

(* Membership fees: \$ 50 per household, \$ 25 Adult living alone, \$ 10 Full time student living alone

.....Cut here

Submission of Names for Muktaad Prayers Registration Form (Mail before August 7th).

Your full name: _____

Phone number: _____, E-mail: _____

First names of the departed ones for Muktaad prayers: (please write in block letters for easy legibility)

(1) _____, (2) _____, (3) _____, (4) _____

(5) _____, (6) _____ (maximum 6).

I am enclosing a donation check payable to **"ZAF Inc."** in the amount of \$ _____. This is based on _____ (state the number of names submitted) X \$ 10 per name.

Please mail the form and the check to: **Jahanbux Daruwala, 21050-Point Place, Apt # 1205, Aventura, FL 33180.**

If there are any questions about the ceremony, please contact *Ervad* Soli Dastur at 941-351-2240 or e-mail: dastur@comcast.net

As a courtesy, you are urged not to contact the Vazir family for this ceremony. Upon receipt of the form, you will be contacted by phone or e-mail to confirm the arrangements.



Private Job Search & Career Counseling Service

Looking for a job or contract work? Thinking about starting your own business? Seeking career guidance?

FEZANA and the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) are excited to offer this free, private Job Search, Career Counseling, and Entrepreneur Mentoring service to the community.

>> Visit <http://tinyurl.com/zorostimulus> to register for this service

We will work with Zoroastrian associations across North America to help connect you with other Zoroastrians who can be of assistance in finding job opportunities, career counseling, starting a business, etc. The service is designed to protect your privacy, so your name and contact info will not be shared broadly.

>> Visit <http://tinyurl.com/zorostimulus-listings> to see the latest job and mentor listings

Know of a job opening you'd like to share with the community? Want to help out as a Career or Entrepreneurship Mentor?

>> Visit <http://tinyurl.com/zorostimulus-help> to post a job opening or to sign-up as a mentor

>> Visit <http://tinyurl.com/zorostimulus-listings> for profiles of Zoroastrians seeking jobs / guidance

More details are available at <http://tinyurl.com/zorostimulus>. If you have additional questions, feel free to email zorostimulus@fezana.org. This effort is being organized as part of the WZCC's Youth Leadership Enhancement Program by:

- Jasmine Dadachanji (Victoria, BC), - jazi@shaw.ca
- Eric Engineer (Dallas, TX), and – erice_79@hotmail.com
- Carl Irani (Orlando, FL). crirani@gmail.com

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Why NRIs need an Income Tax Number? PAN Number is now compulsory for everyone. It serves as an Indian ID proof & its needed to carry any kind of financial transaction in India like: investment in stocks, open Demat account, buy real estate, opening bank account, get loan, apply visa/passport, rental income, foreign remittance, etc.

For more information, see web sites: www.PanCardNRI.com OR www.NriInvestIndia.com



Calendar of Events

- July 12: **Z Club** (tentatively at Khushnam and Furrokh Irani's home)
- August 2: **Z Club** (at Kashmira and Pauli Bhadha's home)
- August 14-18, **Muktaad Prayers** (voluntary participation) at the home of Mrs. Sheroo Vazir (contact Soli Dastur for details: # 941-351-2240 or dastur@comcast.net).
- **August 29, 2009 (Saturday), ZAF, Orlando & Tampa Bay joint Pateti Saal Mubarak function**
- September 13: **Z Club** (at Katya and Kaizad Hansotia's home)
- October 4: **Z Club** (at Lyla and Sam Todywala's home);
- November 1: **Z Club** (at Anahita and Nash Patel's home).
- Ghambaar: Time & Place to be announced
- December 28-31, **9th World Zoroastrian Congress**, Dubai, UAE (hosted by Dubai Zarathushti community)

<p><i>President</i> Jahanbux Daruwala <i>V.P.</i> Burjis Shroff <i>Secretary</i> Kersi Munshi <i>Treasurer</i> Zersis Minocher <i>Member- at-Large</i> Soli Dastur Nina Deboo Arnavaz Irani Jimmy Major Dustyn Shroff</p>

Kersi Munshi, Secretary
The Zoroastrian Association of Florida
9830-Bay Leaf Court, Parkland, FL 33076-4445

Stamp

Address label
