

ZASF 2002
Newsletter No.1

President's Address

We have a wonderful and unique Parsi community here in South Florida. In fact, I don't think that the word "community" really does us justice. I've been exposed to several "communities" here in South Florida, and we have something very special going for us. We seem to all be members of an extended family. We are supportive of each other, care for each other, and we like each other's company. In a way, considering our heritage, this is hardly surprising. Our history together spans thousands of years, and we all subconsciously carry a piece of it. It links us together in a very familiar, comfortable manner reminiscent of good, old friends.

This makes it easier for all of us on the Board of ZAF. I'm thrilled to see people stepping forward and volunteering their time, efforts, talent and money. That's what it takes to make any function a success. However, ZAF needs to start looking beyond itself. Most of the Asian Communities have started to become very active. They are organizing their own festivals, bringing in cultural shows from their native lands, building community centers and places of worship, and getting involved in the political arena. All of these activities are required not just to thrive, but to simply survive. America is very receptive to that which is familiar. Our first task will be to educate America in terms of the Zarathushti faith. There are several up-coming venues through which this can be accomplished. May is Asian-Pacific Heritage Month and a series of events have been planned in libraries and schools. All we need is a large display board with articles, pictures and objects (and if possible, somebody to man it). We couldn't ask for better first stepping-stones than schools and libraries.

The Iranian Association will be hosting its Annual Festival at Bayfront Park in Miami on March 3, 2002. I highly recommend you attend. Besides informational booths, food, and artwork they will also have traditional cultural shows. They know that ZAF is active, and they are looking forward to our participation in the future.

It is imperative that we become knowledgeable of the political process and the opportunities afforded by the government. There is a Community Small Business Enterprise program offered by Miami Dade for small and minority businesses to procure all types of goods including uniforms, stationery, construction services, etc. It takes a small effort to sign up and follow through, but the rewards will be worth it. In the not distant future we should be hosting fundraisers for political candidates and hopefully some of those will be from our own families.

Almost a thousand years ago, Zarathushtis reached the coast of Sanjan seeking a new home. What we have accomplished in India since then has been admirable. Now we have landed in America. With the opportunities afforded by this great country, we should easily scale to greater heights.

Zoroastrians celebrate move to Pomona



Morris J. Kennedy/The Journal News

Zoroastrian priests perform the Jashan yesterday to remember the dead of their community and invite them to participate in the ceremony. It was the first official celebration in the new temple in Pomona.

Small religious group purchased site for \$1.2 million

Andrea Rubin
The Journal News

POMONA — One of the world's oldest — and smallest — religions has made Rockland its home after purchasing a vacated temple.

An organization of Zoroastrians, an ancient religion founded in what was originally Persia, was to hold its first official, full-scale celebration in its new temple yesterday.

The Zoroastrian Association had been using what was originally a private house in New Rochelle for worship and classes, said Gev Nentin, president of the group. But the facility wasn't large enough for the roughly 350 families from around the tristate area served by the congregation.

"There was a lot of sentimental attachment, but as the community has grown here the physical structure was not large enough to accommodate us," Nentin said. "We had to make the move."

Deciding to leave the New Rochelle site was

difficult because the Westchester facility was the first Zoroastrian temple in North America.

"For a lot of people it was a very emotional decision," said Anahaita Kotval, a Tarrytown resident who was involved with the purchase of the Pomona temple.

Zoroastrianism was founded in the sixth century B.C. by the prophet Zoroaster. Members worship a supreme god, Ahura Mazda, and read from the Avesta, the holy book. The faith's motto is "Good thoughts, good works, good deeds."

The money for the New Rochelle location was donated by an Iranian Zoroastrian, she said, who "hand-picked the building."

Local worshippers searched for nearly 10 years for the right place to move from Westchester. They had a difficult time finding a site that had personality but was affordable. They also wanted to find a place already zoned for religious use.

On March 16 the group closed on the

Please see ZOROASTRIAN, 6A

Some facts about Zoroastrianism

- Zoroastrianism, believed to have been founded in the sixth century B.C. in what was then Persia, may have been the first monotheistic religion.

- They regard fire as a symbol of their god and conduct rituals before it. Despite what some believe, they do not worship fire.

- Most Zoroastrians do not accept converts and say one must be born into the religion, which has fewer than 150,000 members worldwide.

- Zoroastrians believe the universe will go through three eras: creation; the present, where good and evil coexist; and a final stage, when good and evil will be separated.

- The conductor Zubin Mehta is considered the most famous Zoroastrian.

Zoroastrians open temple in Pomona

ZOROASTRIAN, from 1A

Pomona Jewish Center, which it purchased for \$1.2 million that had been raised by member contributions.

"We thought it would be a great home for us," said Zubeen Shroff, Kotval's husband. "We just felt it was a natural fit."

While the group only used the temple for the first time yesterday, members said they were pleased to call Pomona home.

"I think this is a great community," Nentin said. "We are happy with the reception that we have received so far."

Pomona Mayor Herb Marshall said village residents shouldn't notice much of a change with the temple's change of ownership.

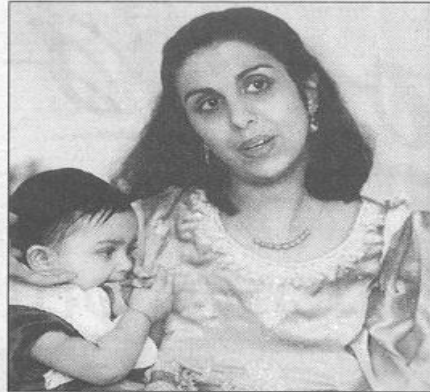
"Their use of the facility will be pretty much the same as the Pomona Jewish Center," he said.

The congregation typically meets one Sunday a month, Nentin said. During that time, there are lessons for children while their parents socialize with one another.

"It is for the children to have some continuity with the religion," Shroff said.

Shroff said he hoped members eventually would take advantage of the temple's physical beauty for weddings and other celebrations such as the Nav Jote, when a young adult officially enters the religion.

"It's a beautiful piece of property," he said. "It's just a beautiful location."



Yasmin Kothari holds her daughter, Lila, 7 months, at the celebration yesterday at the Zoroastrian temple in Pomona.

Morris J. Kennedy/
The Journal News

Congregants thankful to celebrate in own temple

300 Zoroastrians from tri-state area attend first service

Suzan Clarke
Special to The Journal News

POMONA — The scent of burning sandalwood hung heavy in the air as priest Rohinton Madon led the first major religious celebration of the Zoroastrian community yesterday at its recently inaugurated temple.

About 300 members of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York were present at the ceremony, one of two major events marking the Zoroastrian New Year.

The Zoroastrian community in North America is small. Membership numbers about 5,000, said Jimmy Dholoo, trustee at large of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Inc. About 1,000 live in New York state.

Members of the state's 35-year-old association came from New York City, New Jersey and Connecticut to participate in the event.

Their heads were covered during the hourlong ceremony, in reverence for the presence of the devotional fire that in their religion "represents the presence of God," said Lovji Cama, a founding member of the organization and its dean of religious instruction.

Gev Nentin, the current president of the organization, was proud the group now had a home in which to conduct its special affairs. The temple was formerly the Pomona Jewish Center.

"This is a great occasion. It has been a long time in coming," Nentin said.

The organization had met at a home in New Rochelle, which served the organization well until the community started to grow, said Spenta Cama, member at large and a relative of Lovji Cama.

"There was a lot of sentiment attached to that place," said the former New City resident who now lives on Staten Island. "But we needed a place to expand."

"It's a great positive step in the right direction — especially for people who are getting married and having kids."

Mayyar Irani, a Pearl River resident for almost 30 years, agreed.

During his childhood, he would watch as members of other ethnic and religious communities celebrated in their own special places of meeting and worship. He is proud that he now has such a place.

"This is one of the best things that could have happened to the Zoroastrian community," Irani said. "This is an opportunity to meet people of my own kind, and this kind of brings me to my roots."

Hormaz Dalal of LaGrange, N.Y., said the temple represented a great achievement for the organization.

He remembers that meetings were very different during the organization's infancy in the early 1960s.

"At that time, there were only 50 of us between Hartford and Philadelphia," he said.

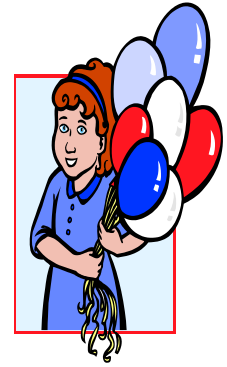
Erach Munschi of Manhattan, the organization's first president, said the struggle had paid off.

"It was a long journey, a rough one, but a fruitful one," he said.

The group plans to meet in the Pomona temple once a month for fellowship and religious instruction.



CHILDREN'S CORNER



The Children's Corner, which will be a regular feature of this newsletter, is intended for our children who are thirteen and younger. We invite everyone, including your children, to send in their contributions — puzzles, quizzes, drawings, articles, jokes & news / items of interest — for this section.

CHILDREN

You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk.
Then you spend the next 16 telling them to sit down and shut-up.

Grandchildren are God's reward for not getting rid of your children, while you had the chance.

Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.

One final thought . . .
Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home!



The Committee sends a 2002 New Year wish for all:

May there always be work for you to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

We are looking for our readers to participate by sending us an occasional column or article. Please give us feedback on what you would like to see in our subsequent newsletters so that we may tailor this publication to your interest. We value everyone's input. Remember this is *your* newsletter and we want to hear from you.



News from our Community

Arzaan, son of Cyrus and Diana Bharucha, grandson of Homai and Porus Khajautia celebrated first birthday, November 13, 2001.

Baby boy, Brennan, born to proud parents Katya & Kaizad Hansotia, grandchild of Hutoxi & Dinshaw Hansotia, December 21, 2001.

Afshad Irani finished his certifications and degree requirements . He is now certified as:

MS-MIS (Masters in Management Information Systems)
MCSE (2000/XP) (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer)
MCDBA (Microsoft Certified Database Administrator)
MCSD (Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer)

Jehangir Shroff was certified **MCP** (Microsoft Certified Professional)

Feroze Munshi, son of Kersi & Dolly Munshi, was awarded a **Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering**.

Rumi Major, son of Farida and Jimmy Major, obtained his **High School Diploma**.

Diana Bharucha earned her **Phd in Molecular Cell Biology – Dissertation HIV Research** was approved for publishing in the Science Journal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to mention that we welcome anyone who wishes to advertise his or her business card in our quarterly newsletter for a \$20.00 donation per card. The business card will be scanned and published in the next newsletter.

You can even post your business cards on our website at \$25 donation for 3 months. For information on posting business cards on our website please contact our Webmaster, Afshad Irani, either by email: afshadirani@hotmail.com or by telephone at (954) 986-9855.

Our new Website is ready and we now have our own domain name. Please check it out at <http://zasf.org/> or at <http://zafatash.tripod.com> and sign in at our member site for discussion/chat. This is all courtesy of Afshad Irani who has worked very hard for many months to bring this to you.

Anyone who wishes to have something printed in our newsletter and we hope there will be many articles and events forthcoming from our members may submit it to the Editor, Kernaaz Engineer, either by e mail: Curlykat17@aol.com or at her address: 17905 N.W. 21st Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029.

ZASF & THE NEW COMMITTEE
invites one and all to our
NAVROZE FUNCTION 2002

Date & Time: March 23rd 2002, 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

Venue: Cooper City Pool & Tennis Center,
11600, Stonebridge Parkway,
Cooper City, Florida 33026
Ph: (954) 436-7300

Menu: Delicious Indian cuisine, topped off with
our famous Falooda.

Cost for members: \$15.00 per head

Cost for non members: \$20.00 per head

Children 10 & under: Free

At the door: \$20.00 per head for members

At the door: \$25.00 per head for non- members

Please send your checks by March 15th to Arnavaz Irani at
her address:

799 Bailey St., Boca Raton, FL 33487

All membership dues may be sent by separate checks at
the same time if desired. All membership dues must be
received by March 23rd. Any of our committee members
may be contacted with your replies for the function so that
we may get a head count.

A table will be done by Arnavaz Irani to show our traditional
festivity.

Come one, come all, and show us your support for this first function of the New Year 2002. There will be entertainment and a children's program. Watch some of our talented adults and children perform while we sing and dance the night away. Karaoke provided by Pauli Bhadha. Please bring any special music you would like to listen to.

RSVP TO ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER.

DIRECTIONS to Clubhouse for Navroze Celebration:



Directions:

From I-95 in Broward County - I-95 to Stirling Road. Go west approx. 7 miles (past 441, University Dr., Hiatus road) After Hiatus road, make a left turn onto North Lake Blvd., **Follow directions below.

From 595 in Broward County - 595 to Flamingo Road. Go south on Flamingo to Stirling Road. Take a left on Stirling. Take the first right onto North Lake Blvd. **Follow directions below.

From I-75 in Broward County - I-75 to Sheridan Road East. Go east to Flamingo Road. Turn left on Flamingo. Go to Stirling Road take a right. Take the first right onto North Lake Blvd. **Follow directions below.

****North Lake Blvd.** - go to stop sign and make a left onto Stonebridge Parkway. Take first driveway on your right. Follow driveway to building on lake.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our picnic is on April 21st at Markham Park, Pavilion 3, South Shelter.
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Further information will be provided on
March 23rd at the Navroze Function. Adults - \$7.00 per head,
Children - \$5.00 per head. Children, 6 years and under, free.

OUR SPONSORS



First Property Realty Advisors
SALES - LEASING - MANAGEMENT

Hoshedar Mehta

Manager, Commercial Division

1975 E. Sunrise Blvd.
Suite 626
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

Office: (954) 525-2777
Fax: (954) 523-2393
Cellular: 849-0994



• **BEACH CIGAR GROUP** •

KAIZAD HANSOTIA
CEO

2335 N.W. 107 AVE. SUITE 2 M 2
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33172 USA Box #12
TEL: (305) 593-2254 • FAX: (305) 593-2256

GLOBAL
Restaurant Equipment & Supplies Inc.

NEW & USED HOTEL RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Casey Raja

Office: (305) 688-8700 • Fax: (305) 688-9455
650 N.W. 123rd Street • North Miami, Florida 33168
www.globalrestaurantequip.com • E-mail: casey@globalrestaurantequip.com

Hooty Enterprises, Inc.

Dinshaw Hansotia
President

3705 NW 115 Avenue, Unit # 5
Miami, FL 33178
Office: (305) 593-2254
Fax: (305) 593-2256
E-mail: hootyent@aol.com

XYNYX
Technology Solutions

Shahveer Dhatigara
CEO

Xynyx, Inc.
561.304.0007 Fax: 866.545.5374
Mobile: 561.704.8711
e-mail: shahveerd@xynyx.com
web: www.xynyx.com