

Zoroastrian Association of Florida

Newsletter No. 4, January 2003

President's Address

Happy New Year! On the surface, it seems that we should be apprehensive about 2003. The United States seemed poised on the brink of war, the economy has been giving off mixed signals, the real estate market seems slated for a downward slide, unemployment is up, and it is cold here in Miami. None of us however, control these events. We can only react to them, and our emotions and actions to these external events pave the path for our future success and happiness. Consider that something good usually springs forth from seemingly adverse conditions and this year should be no exception. You could make money shorting the market, pick up some property that was previously too expensive, find a better job, and show off your winter clothing. Being positive about war is tough. Maybe the war will end with negligible casualties and peace will finally come to the Middle East. OK, so that's a bit optimistic.

In terms of the Zoroastrian Association of Florida, 2002 was a great year and I see 2003 being even better. We had record numbers for attendance at our functions. We seem to be getting closer as a community. Increasingly difficult times in 2003 in terms of the economy and war will drive us closer together as we recognize the need for a stable base of friends and family. People are talking more about expanding their circles as they join other organizations such as the Association of Indians in America. In general, the "Parsi" spirit seems very alive.

Besides our usual functions such as the AGM, Pateti, Navroze, and the Picnic, Nari uncle is looking into organizing some childrens' activities. This could include a trip to the Zoo (or other attraction), Religious education classes, or even just an afternoon party at a swimming pool. If you have any suggestions, or are willing to volunteer, please contact any Board Member. We would appreciate any contributions in terms of essays, articles, jokes, community news, etc. that you would like to have published in the Newsletter. In terms of our potential future Community Center, enclosed please find a questionnaire that will help us better assess how we can get this project going. Kindly try to get the form back to us by February 9 at the AGM. Perhaps we can discuss a few issues on the Community Center at the AGM.

We should all be involved in making this a great year for ZAF. Please contact any Board Member with suggestions. Perhaps there are charities that we can donate to or events that we can help sponsor. On behalf of the Board, I wish you a wonderful 2003.

Khushroo M. Daruwalla

Your Board has met several times over the last year to discuss many issues concerning our community. We are trying hard to make our functions more interesting and entertaining for all. We also discuss many other issues; a summary of the minutes of the meetings held in 2002 is given on the next page. The detailed minutes of each meeting held by the committee will be posted on the ZASF Website.

ZAF Board

Summary – Minutes of ZAF Board Meetings, 2002

First Meeting: Accounts and financial statements were read by all. The positions of each committee member was settled to everyone's approval. All dues would be collected by Arnavaz & a record maintained by her for all finances outgoing or incoming. Dates for different events were set for the coming year. Newsletter would accept advertising by anyone.

Second Meeting: A receipt book would be obtained to issue receipts for donations over \$250.00 along with a Thank-You letter. Taxes would be done by our accountant in Florida, Xerxes Minocher. Farida Major has graciously agreed to update the ZAF Directory. An Introductory letter about all committee members acknowledging positions held was sent to all ZAF members. Newsletter contents and issue dates were settled by the committee.

Third Meeting: The Bank Balance Statement was received from the previous President and read. Digital pictures can be put on web by the Web Master if anyone wishes to have them displayed. Nari Uncle is in charge of entertainment and reminders for advertisements before the newsletter deadline.

Fourth Meeting: All accounts were settled and committee members were reimbursed for expenses incurred for the previous functions. Any donations for any specified funds, such as "Building Fund" or "Education Fund" would still go into a general account fund at this time, because we have not yet set up separate funds for each category. A motion was passed for full-time college students to have reduced membership fees at \$15 instead of \$25. The refund policy for any paid-in-advance amount, will be limited to 3 calendar days before the function, if so informed to any committee member.

Fifth Meeting: It was agreed that all major functions would have a minimum per head charge of \$25. Based upon feedback from other members, the committee decided to explore setting up a building fund and buying land for a community center. Any kind of emergency fund to be started by ZAF would have to come from a paid member in writing and be passed by the Board, so that a collection may be started and donations accepted only for that particular emergency.

Sixth Meeting: The committee decided to invest in fixed deposits, such as a CD, so that the ZAF funds could earn some nominal interest instead of keeping all the money in a checking account. An amount of \$7000 for a short-term CD was agreed upon. Silent auctions would be held at major ZAF functions and all monies would go to the ZAF coffers. Fezana's VP vote was given to F. Khatabi.

Seventh Meeting: Members would be reminded to pay any pending membership or advertising dues. Perry Unwalla was contacted for the best rates on CDs. Papeti Function expenses were reimbursed to the committee members and all accounts settled. The upcoming Ghambar was discussed in detail.

Eighth Meeting: A motion was passed to donate \$101 to Fezana for their "Thousand Points of Light" charity. Donations by members would be mentioned under Anonymous if members did not want to be identified or under "Best Compliments from..." in the newsletter. Taxes had not been filed for the last few years by the previous committees. Hence, the President & Vice President will arrange with the accountant to file the returns. A proposed land deal for a community center was readdressed.

Please note that the committee almost always had discussions on an upcoming function, but the details have not been mentioned here. The above is a brief summary of the committee meetings. Any member who wishes to get printed copies of the detailed minutes of the meetings may do so in writing to the committee, and will be sent copies within 2 weeks of receiving the request by the committee. A small photocopying fee of 50 cents per page will be charged to the member. The detailed minutes will also be posted on the ZASF website.

Here's an interesting look at the traditions that we all hold so dear:

TRADITIONS

Traditions are like Heirlooms
Handed down
From Generation to another
If followed according
To His Teachings
Would take our Religion
A lot further

Traditions not grounded in
righteousness
And not promoting
human dignity
Is like a human
Without a Heart
So, why don't we
Stick to Traditions
Emanating from Him
Without altering
Or Tearing them apart.

Don't Tailor your
Religion according
To your needs
All I know about Tradition
Follow the Path of Asha
Accompany it with
Humata Hukta Harvarshata

Have Respect & Tolerance
For all fellow beings
As well as all Religions
Use your Judgement
(VOHU MANO)
By giving your hands to many
But your heart to one

Ye, White Wall of Silence &
Who hold the key
To all our Traditions
Get rid of Racism,
Discrimination &
Bigotry
Instead Preach
Tolerance, Respect
Love, Unity & Equality

We can swim or
We can sink
It's entirely
Up to you
Please Try to
Spread The Truth &
For that I can
Only Trust a Few

We are on the very
Verge of Extinction
Our Religion & Tradition et al
Do Ye even care???
If at all we sink
It's just not fair
'Cause the Excruciating pain
Will be unable to bear

He was a righteous and peaceful warrior
That's why He moved humanity
Cause He wouldn't bend
He didn't hesitate to
Speak His mind
From The path of Asha
He never veered
He cared less about His life
From His enemies He never feared.

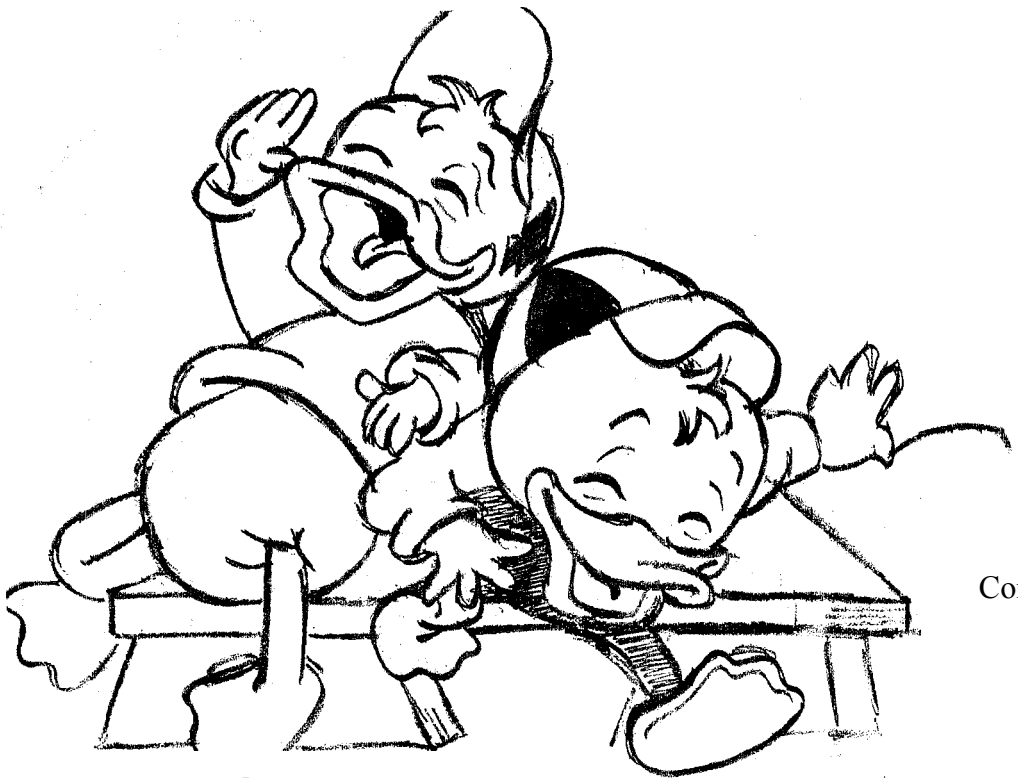
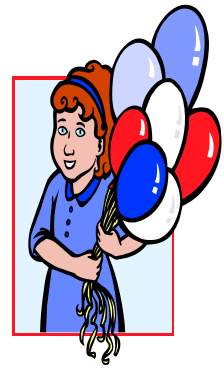
With Radiant Happiness,

Farida Bamji,
Ottawa, Canada



CHILDREN'S CORNER

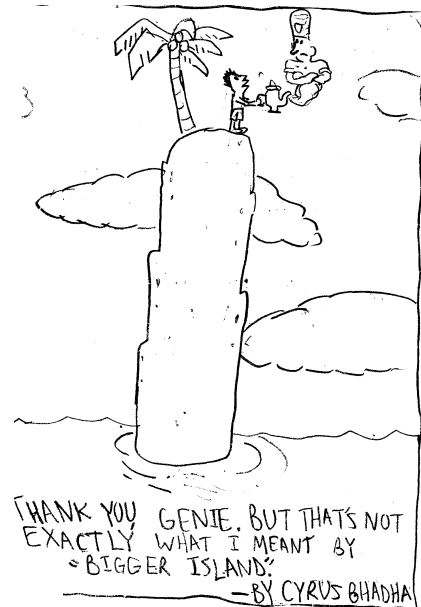
The Children's Corner, a regular feature of this newsletter, is intended for our children who are thirteen and younger. We invite everyone, including your children, to send in their contributions — puzzles, quizzes, drawings, articles, jokes, and news / items of interest — for this section.



Contributed by
Aisha Engineer



Cyrus Bhadha



January, 2003

SURVEY - Zoroastrian Association of Florida

Re: Questionnaire Concerning the Proposed Community Center

Dear Members,

Please take a moment to answer the following questions about a possible future Community Center. Feel free to add your comments.

1. Do you think that a Community Center would benefit ZAF? Y N
If the answer is no, why not?

2. Do you think that a Community Center for ZAF would benefit you directly?

3. A Community Center will be an expensive proposition. Assuming that it will provide weekly events and special activities, would you support an increase in yearly dues? If so, up to what amount per year:

\$100 \$250 \$350 \$500 \$750 \$1000
Other Amount _____.

4. A successful Community Center requires a lot of your input. How much time would you be willing to put into the upkeep and running of a Center?

5 hrs per week 10 hrs per week 20hrs per week
One weekend per month Two weekends per month Other _____

5. What kind of activities would you like to see at the Community Center?

6. Would you be willing to rent the hall yourself for special events (e.g., Birthday parties, etc.)?
7. What do you think would be the ideal location for the ZAF Community Center?

South Dade North Dade Davie South Broward
North Broward Boca Raton West Palm Beach Other _____

8. Would you be willing to make a one-time pledge to acquire land and fund the building? If yes, what amount would you consider?

\$1,000 \$2,000 \$5,000 \$7,500 \$10,000
\$15,000 Other _____

9. What special skills can you offer to help in the building and upkeep of the facility?

10. Would you be willing to serve on a committee, or be part of the Board of Trustees?

Please pick a Committee:

Land Acquisition Building Fund-Raising
Maintenance Accounting Entertainment Planning

11. Do you think a Community Center will attract more Zoroastrians down to South Florida?

Any other comments?

Thank you,
The Board of ZAF

NEWS from our Community

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES to the following individuals:

Hoshedar & Freny Mehta on their Wedding. For those of you who couldn't make it to this memorable event at the Colaba Agiary, Bombay, we want to let you know that the bride looked absolutely radiant. Prof. Darab, Nelly and Pauli Bhadha were present. Many of Hoshedar's Udwada kin were present.

Rustom & Jennifer Irani on their upcoming wedding at Colaba Agiary, on January 20, 2003.

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 \$25 donation per card. You can even post your business cards on our website, <http://zasf.org/>, at \$25 donation for 3 months.

Anyone who wishes to have an article printed in our newsletter, and we hope there will be many articles and other contributions forthcoming from our members, may submit it to Kernaaz Engineer, either by e mail: Curlykat17@zasf.org or at 17905 N.W. 21st Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029.

We would like to ask everyone to pay their dues at the AGM or to mail them to the Treasurer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE ONE AND ALL TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2003 AT 3:00 p.m. sharp at:
PAULI BHADHA'S PLACE AT 1103 SUNFISH WAY, COOPER CITY, FL 33026.

A SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD IN 2002 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER. DETAILED MINUTES OF EACH MEETING HELD BY THE COMMITTEE WILL BE POSTED ON THE ZASF WEBSITE, BY THE DATE OF THE AGM

THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS

- TO DISCUSS AND HAND OUT ALL OUR FINANCIAL RESULTS SINCE JANUARY 2002 WHEN THE NEW COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED.
- ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE FINANCES WILL BE WELCOMED AND DISCUSSED OPENLY AT THE AGM.
- THE SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTER MAY ALSO BE GIVEN IN AT THE AGM.

PLEASE INFORM ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER OF YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE AGM.

AT THIS TIME THE COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, WHO GIVE THEIR PRECIOUS TIME AND ENERGY TO BRINGING THE ZOROASTRIANS TOGETHER AND HOPE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO AID THE COMMITTEE IN THIS NEW YEAR.

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