



Zoroastrian Association of California

APRIL 2011

2010-2011 Executive Committee

President – Vira Santoke Vice President – Tehmi Damania Treasurer – Rooky Fitter
Joint Secretaries – Persis Choksy & Sheila Madon Program Chair – Lily Mistry
Youth Coordinator – Mehernosh Gundevia

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events to be held at the ZAC Center: 1424 E. Walnut Ave., Orange, CA 92867

YOUTH SHOW Saturday, August 27th

Save the day... The date for the bi-annual youth show has been fixed for August 27, 2011 and preparations for various acts including a "Parsi Gujarati Natak" are underway.

The youth show is a popular event where the entire community comes together and works harmoniously towards putting together a grand show. We are looking for youth who can dance, sing, act, model, or play an instrument, as well as for individuals who could help out with backstage tasks. Please contact Persis: 949.653.2827/choksyp@yahoo.com if you would like to take part either as a participant or as a volunteer.

SEMINAR Sunday, April 24th

"Zoroastrianism 201 - Fundamental Knowledge" by Mobed Fariborz Shahzadi.

After a very successful first seminar on February 20th, Mobed Shahzadi will continue with a second seminar on Sunday, April 24 (11 am-1 pm) at the ZAC Center, followed by a potluck lunch.

Topics for the seminar are: Asho Zartosht's family tree, Gathas of Asho Zartosht, Amesha Spentas, Gahanbars, Zartoshti Calendars, History of Zartoshtis, Yazatas, Zartoshti languages, Religious ceremonies and festivals of Iranis & Parsees.

After completion of the seminar (if required by attendees who could not participate in the 1st Seminar) Mobed Shahzadi is willing to do a recap of the 1st seminar in 55 minutes after lunch.

Various basic prayers and their meanings, sudreh kushti, etc. will be discussed. Please contact Mobed Fariborz if interested in attending: frank.shahzadi@yahoo.com 949-348-2735 (Home) 949-697-4105 (Cell).

The seminar will be followed by a social get-together; people are encouraged to just "hang-out" or enjoy a game of table-tennis, carrom or bridge.

GUJRATI / ART CLASS

Please contact Noshir Jesung at 714-842-3032 / njesung@gmail.com if you are interested in Gujarati language and art classes for your children. Classes will be held at the center on weekends after the youth show rehearsals. We have already had two very successful classes this month.

MOVIE NIGHT Saturday, April 30th

ZAC is pleased to announce a very pleasant evening on Saturday 30th April, for all members, young and old.

6:00 pm - Get together

7:00 pm - Dinner (Authentic Chicken Pulao & Masala Dar)

Dinner will be followed by a complimentary movie by ZAC.

8:00pm – Movie "3 Idiots": This acclaimed Hindi movie with Aamir Khan as one of the idiots has wonderful songs and was a big hit last year not only in India but across the globe! Our very own Boman Irani is also starring in this movie.

Kindly book in advance, as in order to cater for food we will stop selling tickets two days prior to the date of the event. No tickets will be issued at the door on the day of the event.

Tickets for the evening:

\$10/member \$15/non-member \$8/students & children under 6-12.

Contact: Phiroze Gundevia: 949-419-1096 or email phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com

AGM / JASHAN / GAHAMBAR Sunday, June 5th

This gahambar is sponsored by Maneck and Pervin Chichgar in sacred memory of their parents Gul Godrej Chichgar, Godrej Kaikobad Chichgar and Najoo Cawasji Gonda, Cawasji Pestonji Gonda (grand-parents of Zubin and Ferzin and great-grand parents of Yashna and Milad). In May 2010 Godrej K. Chichgar passed on to the heavens exactly 22 years to the day after the passing of his wife Gul.

Jashan starts at 3 pm. sharp. AGM starts after the chasni, at 4:30 pm. Agenda includes reading and approval of the minutes of the general body meeting of Nov. 2010, approval of financial report, executive committee report, center update, youth update, and other business. Phiroz Tarapore has very kindly agreed to serve as auditor for this year. If any member has anything relevant to bring up for discussion at the AGM, please send a request in writing to Vira Santoke so that we can add it to the agenda. Items brought up from the floor will only be allowed 3 minutes per member.

Dinner will include Parsi food served after the AGM.

Suggested donation - \$8 per person (children under 5 – free)

We need volunteers for ravo, malido, fruits, nuts, etc. **RSVP: Sheila at 858-675-1017 by Thursday June 2nd** if you will be attending. Walk-ins/calls/emails on or after June 3rd will be \$15 per person, regardless of age.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL Sunday, July 3rd

By popular demand ZAC is once again planning a trip to the Hollywood Bowl on Sunday evening, July 3, 2011. The program includes traditional music for 4th of July celebrations. Tickets are \$15 each. As usual we will picnic before the show with our usual pora-pau, cutlets and other Parsi favorites. Please call Burjor Santoke at 714-963-1301 or email bvhm.santoke@verizon.net if you are interested. We have very few tickets remaining.

AVESTA LANGUAGE CLASS

Behram Deboo will be conducting classes on how to read and write the Avesta language. Classes will be held at a time most convenient to the majority. If you are interested in attending, please contact Behram at mnbdboo@yahoo.com

PAST EVENTS

Now that we have our own place, we have been busy meeting almost every weekend!

VALENTINE'S FUNDRAISER (report by *Katy Khambatta*)

In November 2010, a roomful of San Diego ladies brainstorming after a luncheon, came up with ideas for a ZAC fundraiser. These ideas snowballed into a very successful Valentine's Day "Jamva Chalo Ji" dinner on Saturday 12th February 2011 at the ZAC center. With 90 guests, the hall and dining room tastefully decorated and our brand new kitchen abundant with food and aromatic flavors, the event began with a social hour, snacks, soup and drinks. This was followed by raffle, then a belly dancer entertained until dinnertime when everyone sat down for the "Patra nu Bhonu". Servers wearing chefs coats and aprons, provided 'service with a smile' and served achar, rotli, stew, sali chicken, patra-ni-macchi, pulau-dar, Parsi custard and cheesecake.

The following families generously donated to offset expenses.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Birdy	\$200	Dr. and Mrs. R. Talati	\$51
Mr. and Mrs. B. Sethna	\$200	Mr. Bomi Ghadiali	\$50
Mr. and Mrs. P. Coachbuilder	\$101	Mobed and Mrs. Z. Bhandara	\$50
Mr. and Mrs. T. Arjani	\$100	Mr. and Mrs. D. Irani	\$30
Mr. and Mrs. F. Morena	\$100	Mr. and Mrs. P. Avari	\$25
Mr. Yazdi Pthawalla	\$100	Mr. and Mrs. M. Jijina	\$20
Mrs. Perinne Medora	\$ 51		

THANKS to all the excellent chefs, their families, volunteers and donors

Snacks	Irani/Kolah families/Bombay Coast, San Diego
Achar	Hootoxi Minocherhomjee
Stew	Pervin Chichgar/Rhoda Lakdawalla/Sanober Raghina
Chicken	Hilla Machhi/Prochi Mistry/Hutoxi Parabia
Sali	Chisti Dadachanji/Nergesh Surti
Dar	Vira Santoke
Vegetarian Dishes	Roshni Parabia/Pervin Chichgar
Patra-ni-macchi	Chisti Dadachanji/Katy Khambatta
Parsi Custard	Katy Khambatta
Cheesecake	Dogdoe Arjani/Rhoda Lakdawalla
Decoration	Prochi and Jamshed Mistry
Raffle prizes	Kapadias/Baxter/ Mistrys/Kay Writer/ Dolly Malva Ashoka Restaurant (thru Sheila Madon)

Warming Chef Maneck Chichgar

Servers Ava Master/Kayan Sidhwa/Hilla Machhi/Roomy Raghina/

Firouz Felfeli/Chisti & Kavasji Dadachanji/Hoshang & Neville Khambatta/

Prochi & Jamshed Mistry/Roomy Raghina and our very own Tehemtan Arjani in his "bawaji" attire, plus all servers who willingly pitched in.

Raffle Team Kavasji Dadachanji and Roomy Raghina

Tickets/Accounting Hoshang Khambatta

Vira, Tehmi and Lily - thanks for all the help and guidance

So, as you can see, IT DOES TAKE A VILLAGE to undertake an event. We are glad to report a net income of \$6,000. Now that our center is a reality let us use it to the max by volunteering and participating to make such events successful.

The committee would like to thank Katy Khambatta, Chisti Dadachanji and Prochi Mistry for organizing the event and for making it a day to remember. People are already asking for an encore!

Feb 20th was another busy day at the center. **MOBED FARIBORZ SHAHZADI'S SEMINAR** on Zoroastrianism 101 was followed by the **MUSIC MOBILE** conducted by Vira Santoke, where children and adults got an introduction to the instruments of a symphony orchestra through exciting hands-on experiences.

On Feb 27th we had another interesting and **INFORMATIVE LECTURE BY DR. HILLA SADRI** on Osteoporosis, this time organized by the Ladies' Club. Dr. Sadri was our very first speaker when the ladies' club was started years ago at the Arjani residence.

March 5th was a fun evening for some ZAC members who came to watch a **HINDI MOVIE (Bride and Prejudice)** after a nice pot-luck meal organized by Phiroze and Yasmin Gundevia. By popular demand, we will be having many such movie nights in the future. If you have a good movie that you think the members will enjoy, please give your feedback to Phiroze at phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com

NAVROZE DINNER AND DANCE

On March 19th, the ZAC community enjoyed a very pleasant, balmy California evening celebrating Navroze in the company of friends and family in our (relatively) new ZAC hall in Orange. The evening started off with the crowd of 200+ entertained by stand-up comic Sami Rustomji, who regaled us with entertaining anecdotes. This was followed by our very talented Danish Bhandara, dancing in true Bollywood style. As always, the star of the evening was the delicious food, provided by Shan restaurant. The evening ended with energetic ZAC youngsters dancing the night away. All in all, a very positive start to a wonderful New Year for all!

March 20th being the actual **NAVROZE DAY**, a Jashan was performed by 8 mobeds led by Zarrir Bhandara. There was also a very interesting presentation of the Haft-seen table by 20 children, ages 3-13, planned and implemented by Shazneen Gandhi. The event was organized by Dolly Malva, Zarrir Bhandara, Jehangir Dastur and Shazneen Gandhi.

March 26th was the day for a "double" celebration, it being the **FASLI KHORDAD SAL AND AVAN PARAB** according to the Senshahi Calendar. An informative talk by Silloo Mehta was followed by a delicious Dhan-dar and kolmi-no-patiyo dinner prepared by Sheila Madon.

The committee would like to thank the following members for donating various gifts that we used as prizes for games and raffles at our events.

Katy Alamshaw, Gulshan Bhada, Persis Choksy, Gool Jesung, Aban Kapadia, Havi Lilaoowala, Dolly Malva, Silloo Patel, and three anonymous donors.

MATRIMONY

39 years young, beautiful, well educated and working Zoroastrian girl invites matrimonial correspondence from suitable Zoroastrian boys in California.

If you are interested please send your picture along with your particulars to kbadhas@gmail.com

BIRTHS

Yashna Z. Chichgar would like to welcome her little brother into the family. Milad Z. Chichgar was born on Nov 1, 2010 to his loving sister & proud parents Ferzin & Zubin Chichgar. May Ahura Mazda shower His blessings upon this little bundle of joy. Congratulations to both the Chichgar and Avari families.

CONGRATULATIONS, ZUBIN!

Zubin Mehta received the 2,434th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on March 1st 2011, coinciding with his 50th anniversary as a conductor. Actor Kirk Douglas joined Mehta at the ceremony near the northeast corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street. "What would the world do without music?" Douglas said. "Zubin has entertained millions of people all over the world." At the ceremony, members of the Los Angeles, Israel and Vienna philharmonic orchestras performed in a tribute to the conductor.

***The Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC)** invites you to the 7th Zoroastrian Unity Cup Soccer Tournament, scheduled for this Labor Day weekend in beautiful Southern California. Get your teams ready, get your fans hyped up and join us for a weekend of soccer, friends, and as always, more lasting memories.*

What: 7th Zoroastrian Unity Cup Soccer Tournament

When: September 3 - 4, 2011

Where: Redondo Beach, Sunny Southern California

Mark your calendars, spread the word and watch out for applications, available soon on www.zathletics.com. We hope to see you soon and thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

ZSC

The 2011 FEZANA Academic Scholarship forms are ready for distribution. The closing date is August 1st 2011. All students are encouraged to apply. Please go on the FEZANA Website www.fezana.org or contact Vira: vsantoke@zacla.org for more info.

As was evident at the last function, we need a good sound system in our main hall. If you would like to sponsor this project, please contact the committee.

APPEALS:

ZAC has received an appeal for financial assistance for **Jasmine Shroff**, a young Parsi lady who has met with an unfortunate road accident in Mumbai. She has to undergo several surgeries and her family is not in any condition to pay the high medical bills.

We have also received an appeal from Mr. Jehangir Noshirwan Katrak for his wife **Nilufer Katrak**, who is 47 years of age. Nilufer was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010, and was operated for modified Radical Mastectomy. Jehangir is a part-time mobed at Patel Agiary in Andheri, Mumbai, and his meager earnings of approx. Rs.200/- per day (depending only on availability of prayers to be done), are insufficient to pay the massive cost of the operation, radiation, chemotherapy, medication, etc. Nilufer is a housewife who used to cook and supply meals from home.

If you would like to help, please send your check made out to ZAC, (earmarked Jasmine Shroff / Nilufer Katrak) to Rooky Fitter, at 4611 Stellrecht, Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

EARTHQUAKE READINESS

EXTRACT FROM DOUG COPP'S ARTICLE ON 'THE TRIANGLE OF LIFE'

(contributed by a member)

When buildings collapse, the weight of ceilings falling upon objects or furniture inside crushes these objects, leaving a space or void next to them, NOT under them. This space is what I call the 'triangle of life'. The larger the object, the stronger, the less it will compact. The less the object compacts, the larger the void, the greater the probability that the person who is using this void for safety will not be injured. The next time you watch collapsed buildings, count the 'triangles' you see formed. They are everywhere. It is the most common shape you will see in a collapsed building.

TIPS FOR EARTHQUAKE SAFETY:

- 1) Most everyone who simply 'ducks and covers' when buildings collapse are crushed to death. People who get under objects, like desks or cars, are crushed.
- 2) Cats, dogs and babies often naturally curl up in the fetal position. You should too, in an earthquake. It is a natural safety/survival instinct. You can survive in a smaller void. Get next to an object, next to a sofa, next to a bed, next to a large bulky object that will compress slightly but leave a void next to it.
- 3) If you are in bed during the night and an earthquake occurs, simply roll off the bed. A safe void will exist around the bed.
- 4) If an earthquake happens and you cannot easily escape by getting out the door or window, then lie down and curl up in the fetal position next to a sofa, or large chair.
- 5) Most everyone who gets under a doorway when buildings collapse is killed. How? If you stand under a doorway and the doorjamb falls forward or backward you will be crushed by the ceiling above. If the door jam falls sideways you will be cut in half by the doorway. In either case, you will be killed!
- 6) Never go to the stairs. Stairs have a different 'moment of frequency' (they swing separately from the main part of the building). Stairs and remainder of the building continuously bump into each other until structural failure of the stairs takes place. People who get on stairs are chopped up by the stair treads - horribly mutilated. Even if the building doesn't collapse, stay away from the stairs. The stairs are a likely part of the building to be damaged. Even if the stairs are not collapsed by the earthquake, they may collapse later when overloaded by fleeing people.
- 7) Get near the outer walls of buildings or outside of them if possible - It is much better to be near the outside of the building rather than the interior. The farther inside you are from the outside perimeter of the building the greater the probability that your escape route will be blocked.
- 8) People inside of their vehicles are crushed when the road above falls in an earthquake and crushes their vehicles. The victims of the San Francisco earthquake all stayed inside of their vehicles. They were all killed. They could have easily survived by getting out and sitting or lying next to their vehicles. Everyone killed would have survived if they had been able to get out of their cars and sit or lie next to them. All the crushed cars had voids 3 feet high next to them, except for the cars that had columns fall directly across them.
- 9) I discovered, while crawling inside of collapsed newspaper offices and other offices with a lot of paper, that paper does not compact. Large voids are found surrounding stacks of paper. Spread the word and save someone's life...

SOLI KAPADIA CDs FOR SALE: (\$11 each) We still have a few CDs left. Soli Kapadia is a renowned singer from India and the CD will be a good addition to your collection of gazals and old Hindi songs.

Our grateful thanks to Parvin and Hosi Amroli for donating the CDs and all proceeds therefrom to ZAC.

It is time again to apply for the Cyrus R. Fatakia Memorial Scholarship which was created to honor and cherish the loving memory of our beloved Cyrus.

CYRUS R. FATAKIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



*To Live in Hearts we leave behind is not to die.
~ Thomas Campbell, Hallowed Ground*

This year, we would like to expand the criteria for the Scholarship to students seeking higher education within the United States. The Scholarship provides Zoroastrian students with financial assistance to study at institutions of their choice. Please contact the ZAC committee if you would like to apply for this scholarship.

Good Luck & God Bless!

Sincerely,
Rohinton, Erna & Darius Fatakia

*"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

FEZANA Critical Assistance Committee has approved to send \$1000.00 to Shelter Box USA for Japan earthquake relief.

You can send your contributions to FEZANA Welfare/Critical assistance fund, earmarked Japan earthquake to FEZANA Treasurer or on line at www.fezana.org. Funds collected will be sent to Shelter Box as was done for Haiti and Pakistan.

Donate online to the Parsi General Hospital

<http://www.bdpetitparseegeneralhospital.org/> The B D Petit Parsee General Hospital has come up with a new website. Detailing the activities and departments of the stellar community institution, the website offers a rich source of information about the hospital and its facilities. If you have any questions, contact Sherina H. Petit at:

India Mobile - (00 91) 98 210 87135 (00 91) 98 210 87135

UK Mobile - (00 44) 77 85 340 548 (00 44) 77 85 340 548

sherina.petit@gmail.com

CZC Teen class presents the "**Hamazoori**" play (in English) on Saturday June 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The play brings 3700 years history of our ancestors to life. Tickets are \$10 and will benefit the Amoozesh group "Adopt a Student" program. For tickets please contact CZC office in Westminster. Sandwiches will be available for sale. Ticket price at the door is \$15

Healing & Self-Empowerment - The Reiki Way

Vera & Pesi Shroff, Traditional Usui Reiki Masters/Teachers from Ottawa, Canada are committed to empowering individuals who commit themselves to healing and personal growth. They will be in Irvine CA from June 2 to 22 and available for consultation. They will hold a Reiki follow-up session with 2010 students on June 11-12 and Reiki 1 & 2 Classes.

Energy Exchange:

Reiki I: US \$ 150/-

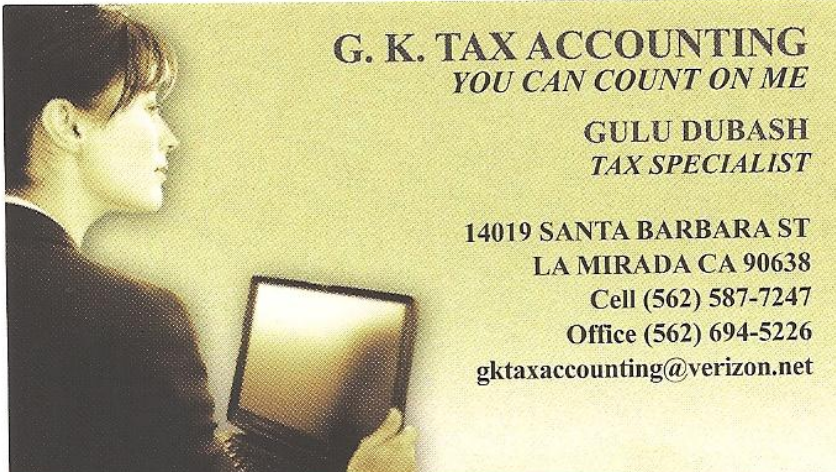
Reiki II: US \$ 550/-

Reiki is used for: Pain, Stress & Chronic Medical Condition Management; Anti-aging & Health Maintenance; Improving Immunity; Increasing Vitality to bring peace, harmony, balance, love, joy in one's life.

For more information:

Pesi or Vera Shroff: (613) 829-0224 and leave your name & phone number or by email:
divinelight21@hotmail.com

Bacchi Writer: (949) 733-8186



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Zoroastrian Association of California

Membership Form January to December 2011

Please Select Type Membership(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> Life	Husband/wife & children under 18	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	Husband/wife & children under 18	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	Adult (over 18)	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	Over 65 Years of Age	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	Full time Student	\$25

Make check payable to “Zoroastrian Association of California” and mail to address below, or complete this form online and pay with credit card at www.zacla.org

TITLE ___ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE ___ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ - _____ DOB ____/____/____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ___ life ___ family ___ individual ___ senior

TITLE ___ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE ___ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ - _____ DOB ____/____/____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ___ life ___ family ___ individual ___ senior

TITLE ___ FIRST _____ LAST _____

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MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ___ life ___ family ___ individual ___ senior

TITLE ___ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE ___ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ - _____ DOB ____/____/____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ___ life ___ family ___ individual ___ senior

(If additional space is needed, please use another form)

Please mail this form along with your check to:

Zoroastrian Association of California, c/o Sheila Madon, 18721-145 Caminito Pasadero, San Diego, CA 92128



1424 E. Walnut Ave.,
Orange, CA 92867

TO:

SAVE THE DATES!

Seminar (Zoroastrianism 201) – April 24
Movie Night – April 30
Jashan / Gahambar / AGM – June 5
Hollywood Bowl – July 3
Center Anniversary Celebration – July 16
Youth Show – Aug. 27

Mark your calendars for these important dates. In addition we will be having several more functions throughout the year; we will keep you posted either through the newsletters or email broadcasts. Please let Vira know (vsantoke@zacla.org) if you are not receiving ZAC emails and would like to be on the list.

*We thank all those who donate paper goods to ZAC. Please note that we encourage the use of paper or biodegradable products rather than plastic. **No styrofoam please.** Two recycling bins are also provided at the Center and we encourage members to use them.*

Visit us at www.zacla.org

APRIL 2011