



Zoroastrian Association of California

April 2015

2014-2015 Executive Committee

President – Tehmi Damania

Vice President – Perinne Medora

Treasurer – Rooky Fitter

Joint Secretaries – Parvez Erani and Deelnavaz Tarapore

Program Chair – Prochi Mistry

Youth Coordinator – Merzi Limath

At the request of some members, the ZAC executive committee has agreed to observe **ALL 6 Gahambars, and wherever possible, Parabhs which fall on weekends during this year.** *We feel certain that this will raise the level of our community spirit and together we will be able to meet our spiritual needs and knowledge.*

The first Gahambar was sponsored by the Alamshaw Family on March 16, 2015 in memory of Barjor Alamshaw.

Although a suggested donation of \$10 is recommended to cover basic costs, we invite members to sponsor these Gahambars and Parabhs whenever possible and encourage attendees to volunteer and, more importantly, make sure and **RSVP for all these events so that we may have a proper head count.** If you feel you would be able to **help out in any way** for any of these events please let a member of the ZAC committee know.

List and dates of Gahambars we will be observing:

Maidhyozarem – Saturday, May 2

Maidhyoshem – Friday, July 3

Pitishahem – Sunday, September 13

Ayathrem – Friday, October 16

Maidyarem – Sunday, January 4, 2016

For those of you who are interested, we will be following the Gahambars according to the seasons so it will be the Faslī Gahambars.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ghambhar: Saturday, May 2

Next Gahambar will be on Saturday, May 2 at the ZAC Center in Orange. Jashan will begin at 6:00pm followed by dinner. **RSVP is a MUST** for the Gahambar as we need a head count for the preparation of the food. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested.

Please RSVP to Zarrir Bhandara at zbhandara@gmail.com. We need volunteers for Malido, Ravo, Fruits, etc.

ZAC Dhansak Picnic in the Park: Sunday, May 17

Following tradition, ZAC will have the usual Dhansak Picnic in the Park on Sunday, May 17 at 12 noon in the William Mason Park, 18712 University Drive, Irvine in **SHELTER #4**. We were unable to get Shelter #6 this year but Shelter #4 is across from it, visible from the entrance and has plenty of parking.

This year instead of a walk-a-thon fundraiser we will have the old style community picnic with fun and games (suggestions welcome).

So come and join us with your family and friends for a fun filled day with your community.

Picnic Lunch – Dhansak, Kavab & Kachumbar will be served at around 1:30 pm.

Please bring a dessert (per family) to share.

Price: \$15 for Adults. Children under 10 years are FREE. Kindly please RSVP by May 12.

Sponsorship and Volunteers are the “Backbone” of a community and of any successful event. We need volunteers for Cooking and Pizza for the kids.

To RSVP, sponsor, or volunteer for any part of the event, please contact Katy Khambatta at 858-450-0190 or khambatta@sbcglobal.net OR Prochi Mistry at 661-284-3055 or mistryprochi@aol.com

Dae Mahino Daepdin Roj Parabh: Saturday June 6

ZAC first Parabh will be held at the ZAC Center on Saturday, June 6. Jashan will begin at 5:00pm. After the Chasni, Zarrir Bhandara will give a talk on “Jashan” which will be followed by dinner. **RSVP is a MUST** as we need a head count for the preparation of the food. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested. We need volunteers to cook and for Malido, Ravo, Fruits, etc.

Please RSVP to tdamania@zacla.org or call Tehmi at 949-583-9973

Annual General Body Meeting on Sunday, June 21

The Annual General Body Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 21, 2015

Check in begins at 2:30 pm. Tea and refreshments will be served before the meeting.

If any member has anything relevant to bring up for discussion please send a request in writing to Tehmi Damania, tdamania@zacla.org by June 1, so it may be added to the agenda. Items brought up from the floor will only be allowed 3 minutes per member.

Annual General Body Meeting is for **members ONLY** so please inform us if you have a guest attending.

So that we get a head count for the refreshments – RSVP is a MUST.

Please kindly RSVP to Prochi Mistry at 661-284-3055 or mistryprochi@aol.com by June 19.

Maidhyoshem Gahambar: Friday, July 3

The Jashan will begin at 6:00 pm followed by dinner. **RSVP is a MUST** for the Gahambar as we need a head count for the preparation of the food. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested.

Please RSVP to Zarrir Bhandara at zbhandara@gmail.com . We need volunteers for food, Malido, Ravo, Fruits, etc.

Annual ZAC Sports Day: Sunday, July 19

Our 6th ZAC Sports Day will be held at the ZAC Center from 11:00 am onwards. Please mark your calendar and show up in large numbers to have a fun filled day. Details to follow. Also our team of volunteers will be selling lunch for \$15

Please RSVP for lunch by July 14. Phiroze and Yasmin Gundevia @ 949-419-1096 or yasmingundevia@gmail.com

Kindly report on time to register for the events.

Shenshai New Year/ Khordad Sal Function: Sunday, August 23

Details to follow in due course.

PAST EVENTS

Ladies Club

Ladies club meeting was held on Sunday, Feb 22. Over 25 ladies and many husbands drove long distances to witness the culinary skills of Dilnavaz Shroff and Dogdo Arjani, demonstrating two of our beloved Parsi favorites....Chaapat and dar-ni-pori. After the customary pot-luck lunch, Dilnavaz shared her special Chaapat recipe with the ZAC ladies. After the participants got a taste of this delicious delicacy, Dogdo went on to make the "short-cut" dar-ni-pori, helped by several ladies who wanted to give it shot!

Both dishes were very much appreciated. Thanks to Vira Santoke for the delicious Dal for the Pori. Thanks to both ladies for a wonderful demonstration.

Thank you Dogdo Arjani and Sherri Treasurywala for arranging the presentation.

Navroze Function

The ZAC community enjoyed a very pleasant evening celebrating Navroze on March 21. Over 250 people attended the function and all – young and old – had a great time. All were greeted by the beautiful Haftseen Table decorated and contributed by Mahnaz and Parvez Erani. The Jashan was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to our Mobeds Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara, Khushro Unwalla and Mobedyars, Erik and Jimmy Colabewala, and Vistasp Shroff, for offering prayers on behalf of the community. The Arjani Hall was ready to welcome the community with beautifully decorated tables by Prochi Mistry, Dinaz Shroff, Aban Kapadia and other helpers.

The evening started with our President, Tehmi Damania welcoming the community and thanking all the volunteers who helped with the Navroze Function. She acknowledged with gratitude a generous and exquisite gift and informed everyone that they should make a point of seeing antiques armoires donated to ZAC by Avi and Jehangir Mody.

Tehmi also announced that we, the ZAC community had proudly hosted a very successful Congress and that we needed to acknowledge all the time, hard work and dedication of all the volunteers. All this was possible because of the leadership, planning and superb execution by the NAZC 2014 co-chairs Dhunmai Dalal, Darayus Mistry and Khushroo Lakdawala, along with all different committee chairs, and team of volunteers who put in so many hours of their time and effort to make the NAZC such a big success. She asked the community to give a standing ovation as she requested the chairs to step up to the stage to be acknowledged and address the community. Khushroo Lakdawala also thanked the volunteers for making the NAZC Congress such a big success. The co-chairs and the committee chairs were presented with the lovely Lladro Lithophane Votive of a Farohar and Zarathustra.

There was a delicious cold punch and lots of appetizers followed by Indian/Pakistani food and music. The ZAC Executive Committee would like to thank you, the community, for your patience and understanding despite the crowded conditions.

Cricket World Cup Final 2015, Saturday, March 28, 2015

An impromptu social event was organized by Xerxes Commissariat and Ruzbeh Daruwalla on Saturday, March 28th for the community to come together and watch the World Cup Cricket final. We all hoped that India would beat Australia in the semis and be in that final, but sadly, it was a final between Australia and New Zealand instead. Around 60 people (including children) showed up on Saturday night to enjoy a BBQ with Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chicken, salad and trimmings. There was plenty of food and drink for all and dessert was ice cream and Vira Santoke's Sev. Thank you to our BBQ chefs Xerxes and Ruzbeh for arranging getting and cooking, Vira for the sev and to all who helped out to make it a fun evening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Subsidy for World Zoroastrian Youth Congress

An email blast was sent out on March 17, 2015 to all members regarding FEZANA subsidy being offered for 40 (forty) young Zarthushti from USA and Canada to attend the sixth WZYC 2015, in Auckland New Zealand.

We are pleased to inform all our young Zarthushtis that ZAC is also offering our young members similar opportunity to get a subsidy of \$500 per youth to help the member to attend this Youth Congress.

Similar to the eligibility criteria laid down by FEZANA, ZAC has the following **criteria for eligibility** for the offered subsidy.

- \$500 offered to eligible candidates - maximum ten members from ZAC between the ages of 15 to 35 years
- Applicants should be members of ZAC for a period of a minimum of 2 consecutive years and are citizens or legal residents of USA
- Have registered for the 6th WZYC in Auckland, New Zealand and attends the same. Attach proof of registration with the application.
- Applicants are required to write an essay on any one of the following 2 subjects in less than 250 words.
 1. What Zoroastrianism means to me
 2. What service can I render to ZAC(The best written essay will be published in our next Newsletter)
- Applicants who are fortunate to receive the \$500 subsidy from FEZANA will also receive a matching subsidy from ZAC.
- ZAC's application (confirming the **required eligibility criteria** above) with the essay, must be submitted to ZAC by May 15th 2015.

<https://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/23749966/1620382025/name/6WZYC2015+FEZANA+Subsidy+Application+Form.doc>

Suggestions, Ideas, News Welcome

Remember this is your newsletter. Please let us know if you have something in your life that you would like to share with the community. We would also welcome any suggestions and feedback on the events. If don't like something about an event, share it. If you like something, share that too. We have some members who always contribute with comments after an event and we make adjustments accordingly. So if you want to be heard or make a change then let us know.

Some Housekeeping

Emergency Assistance: Since our community is so spread out, it has been suggested by members that we should have volunteers to call upon who are willing to assist members in an emergency or crisis situation and act liaison and support for the family. We are currently in the process of starting a list in different areas so please let us know if you would like to assist members in your area or neighborhood. A meeting will be held once a team is ready to be formed. Contact: Tehmi 949-583-9973 or Deelnavaz 909-606-0017.

We would also love to receive pictures from you taken at ZAC events during the year.

If you have any pictures taken at the Congress, Navroze function, or the Cricket BBQ, please send them to Tehmi at tdamania@zacla.org.

We welcome students 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*

The Scholarship provides Zoroastrian students with financial assistance to study at institutions of higher learning within the United States. Please contact the Cyrus R. Fatakia Memorial Scholarship Committee at bvhm.santoke@verizon.net if you would like to apply for this scholarship. Good Luck & God Bless!

Sincerely,
Rohinton, Erna & Darius Fatakia

“Positive thinking sees beyond the obstacles and envisions what is possible”
~ Author unknown

*Iranshah Atash Behram-Eternal Flame

Symbol of the sun that nurtures all creation,
of energy love and happiness,
of the very spirit of Ahura Mazda,*
you were born from a merging of the hearths of sixteen fires.
From a blacksmith, the home of a learned *mobed*,*
a flame struck from lightning, you were consecrated
with the prayers of eminent Dastur Nairyosang and his wise priests,
in the city of Sanjan, two thousand and two hundred years ago.

Here you reigned, inspiring Zoroastrians who
traversed from afar to gaze with devotion at your unquenched fire,
for six unbroken centuries.

But fate would not allow you a somnolent sojourn.
Enemies of the faith invaded your peaceful city.
You were carried on tired and desperate shoulders
jostled through hilly forests inhabited by marauders
and unknown animals, moved to a secure place
in the mountains of Bharot, to protect you.

Nor would time shelter you there for long.
Your weary journey took you to five further destinations until
after many years you settled
on the sacred land of the city of Udvada.
Only the mighty and the pure of spirit
could have withstood a journey such as yours.

I travel a long distance for a glimpse of you, Iranshah,
from the tumultuous shores of America
to the quiet confines of ancient India's sleepy Udvada.
I walk along narrow dusty alleys and one storey houses.
A gaggle of gossiping teenagers,
the tinkle of bicycle chimes, an occasional car pass me by.

You live in a simple unassuming structure.
A silent *kushti* prayer and then, with bare feet
I step over the threshold of the chamber
of your house.
Hesitant, I tread forward, over the whispering steps
of a hundred pilgrims preceding me over time
across the deep maroon carpet that protects your sanctuary.

* Iran Shah Atash Behram- a consecrated holy fire kindled and installed in the 9th. century, a few years after Zoroastrians settled in the city of Sanjan in India. The fire is called "Iran" in remembrance of the homeland from which they fled, and "shah" for their famed Zoroastrian kings.

*Ahura Mazda- Lord wisdom, the sole divinity of the Zoroastrian faith, the creator.

*mobed-Zoroastrian priest

The above poem has been submitted by Deenaz Coachbuilder.



Zoroastrian Association of California

Membership Form

January to December, 2015

Please Select Type Membership(s):

Quantity

<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 _____

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL _____ MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ___ life ___ family ___ individual ___ senior ___ Student

TITLE _____ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL _____ MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ___ life ___ family ___ individual ___ senior ___ Student

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TITLE _____ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL _____ MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ___ life ___ family ___ individual ___ senior ___ Student

DONATIONS

Maintenance _____ Youth _____ Education _____ ATASH KADEH _____ General Fund _____

Are you a Life Member who is NOT contributing towards the Center's maintenance?

Why not donate at least \$50 a year to help ZAC out? Choose to help.

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

Please mail this form along with your check to: Rooky Fitter, Treasurer
Zoroastrian Association of California, 1424 E. Walnut Ave, Orange, CA 92867



1424 E. Walnut Avenue
Orange, CA 92867

To

ZAC Upcoming Events at a Glance

*All functions at the ZAC Center in Orange unless marked**

Gahambar: Saturday, May 2 @ 6:00 pm

*** ZAC Picnic & Games: Sunday, May 17 @ Mason Park, Irvine**

Dae Mahino Daepdin Roj Parabh: Saturday, June 6 at 5:00 pm

ZAC Annual General Meeting: Sunday, June 21 at 2:30 pm

Gahambar: Friday, July 3 at 6:00 pm

ZAC Sports Day: Sunday, July 19 @ 11:00 am onwards

--- SAVE THE DATE ---

Khordad Sal: Sunday, August, 23 details to follow

Parabhs Observed – Details to follow

Farvadin Mahino Farvadin Roj Parabh: August, September 5

Ardibehest Mahino Ardibehest Roj Parabh: Saturday, September 19

Tir Mahino Tir Roj Parabh: Saturday, November 28