



# Zoroastrian Association of California

## April 2017

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### 2016-2017 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 – Shirley Limath

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Adar Mahina nu Parab: Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 10:00 am

Fareshta Ceremony will be performed on Saturday, April 22 – Adar Mahino, Adar Roj – at the ZAC Atash Kadeh followed by lunch. The Fareshta ceremony will be performed by Ervads Zarrir and Zerkis Bhandara and Arda-e-Viraf Minocherhomjee and Khushro Unwalla.

*We request members to bring their choice of Malido, Ravo, Fruits and Nuts.*

RSVP by April 19 to Deelnavaz Tarapore at 909-606-0017

#### Maidhyozarem Ghambar: Sunday April 30, 2017 at 11:00 am

The Maidhyozarem (Mid Spring) Ghambar is sponsored by Parwin Bamboat in memory of the death anniversary of her Dear late husband Rohinton Bamboat.

Please RSVP to Zarrir Bhandara: [zbhandara@gmail.com](mailto:zbhandara@gmail.com) so we can get a head count for lunch.

#### Zerbanoo Gifford: Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm at CZC, Westminster

**An afternoon with Zerbanoo Gifford is an event is co-hosted by ZAC & CZC will and will be held at the California Zoroastrian Center, 8952 Hazard Avenue, Westminster, California.**

The captivating biography of Zerbanoo Gifford titled 'An Uncensored Life' is a masterfully told true story of an acclaimed human rights campaigner, author, political pioneer for British Asians and the founder of the beautiful ASHA Centre which champions the young in leadership, sustainable living and the arts. Her story inspires and empowers everyone at a deeper level, filling them up with a sense of purpose as we live in extraordinary times in human history. The biography, published by HarperCollins was received with great fanfare at the Times LitFest in India, and later in Singapore, England and New Zealand.

Now the author and her muse are on a whirlwind US book tour starting with LA, followed by Houston, Chicago, Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York.

In a joint event organised by both CZC and ZAC, the forthright UK based Zerbanoo Gifford and the author Farida Master, a senior journalist based in New Zealand will be in our midst to share stories of passion and commitment that are a communal currency of our humanity. Hear the spirited warrior who transformed lives across cultures, boundaries, class and ethnicities leading an uncensored life. Here's a chance to speak to both, the biographer and the biographee and find out what really transpires behind the pages of a paperback.

Make sure you save the date for an insightful and fun afternoon of conversations, questions and answers.

#### Annual General Body Meeting: Sunday June 25, 2017

The Annual General Body Meeting will be held on Sunday June 25, 2017 at 12:30 pm. Lunch will be served after the meeting registration and call to order for quorum. If members have anything they wish to add to the agenda or bring up for discussion, please send it in before May 31, 2017 to the committee at [committee@zacla.org](mailto:committee@zacla.org). **Details of the meeting, Agenda, Minutes of the November GBM, the financials for 2016 will be sent out to members within 21 days prior to the meeting.**

## **Picnic in Irvine Mason Park: Sunday, July 30, 2017**

The annual ZAC picnic in the park will be held in William Mason Park, Irvine on Sunday, July 30, 2017 in Shelter 1. Details and information will follow in due course.

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Interfaith Celebration:**

ZAC was proud to host an Interfaith celebration of “Renovating our World with Good Thoughts, Good words and Good Deeds”, jointly with the World Interfaith Network and the Unity-and-Diversity World Council, at the ZAC Center on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

The purpose of this special gathering was to promote the spirit of unity within diversity in humanity and this was amply portrayed by the large number of speakers, who spontaneously volunteered to be a part of this celebration. The celebration was organized by Zarrir Bhandara who initiated the whole event and Perinne Medora, ZAC Vice President presented a warm welcome to the attendees. There was a long list of very impressive speakers from all different faiths. Each of the representatives lit a candle from one main candle, thereby summarizing the thread that a candle loses nothing by lighting another candle and yet helps to light another one!

### **Navroze Celebrations: March 18**

ZAC community celebrated Navroze on March 18. with 2 events.

**A jashan** at 4:00 pm was performed by Mobeds Zarrir Bhandara, Zerksis Bhandara, and Khushro Unwalla before the main event in the Atash Kadeh. A “Big Thank You” to Dolly Malva for bring the Jashan nu Saman as always.

**The evening Celebration** at 6:30 was attended by 260 members and non-members who had all pre-paid for this event. The committee particularly appreciates the cooperation from everyone for following the pre-paid instructions and making it possible at large functions to streamline check-in, avoid delays and making it easy and enjoyable for all.

Everyone arrived to be greeted in the lobby yet again by the beautiful Haft Seen table decorated by Mahnaz & Parvez Erani. They also provided the photo booth which was a big hit with everyone who got a momento of the occasion.

A delightful show on Navroze was presented by our religion class children. They were all dressed in traditional costumes and performed and narrated with clear voice and cute actions which won the hearts of all present. A “Big Thank You” to Mobed Zarrir Bhandara and Hutouxi Contractor for their hard work in tutoring the children for this lovely presentation.

The ZAC community had the pleasure and honor to felicitate Judge Firdaus Dordi who was presented with a plaque in acknowledgement of his appointment. We also celebrated Tehemtan Arjani’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The celebrations continued with Prochi Mistry’s delicious punch and lots of appetizers followed by a delicious dinner. This was followed by a lovely show by the LOTUS GIRLS and DJ JOEL then created a great atmosphere with his music and lights for all to dance and enjoy the night away.

Thank you to Khushnum & Homayar Gandhi, Darayus Mistry, Shirley Limath, Mahfrin & Hanoz Santoke for their help during and with the clean up after the event. If we have inadvertently forgotten to mention anyone, we apologize for the omission. Please let us know so we can rectify it.

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This is YOUR Newsletter.** If you wish to "share" events in your life (Births, Deaths, Navjotes, Weddings, etc.) with the community via newsletter, please send an email to [dtarapore@hotmail.com](mailto:dtarapore@hotmail.com) or [dtarapore@zacla.org](mailto:dtarapore@zacla.org)

### **Scholarships**

FEZANA is currently accepting applications for 2017-18 scholarships. Please check out the FEZANA website for details. <https://fezana.org/scholarships>

### **Something to think about**

*This year the current ZAC Executive Committee will be finishing their term. We urge members interested in serving the community to form their team in advance. It makes it easier to work together if you plan it rather than come from the floor at the General Body Meeting in November. Having doubts or reservations? Ask a member of the committee and get the answers. Better yet join us for a test-run now!*

### **NAMC Mobeyar Program**

#### **The NAMC AGM: held at Zoroastrian Society of Ontario in May 2013**

**The following resolution was proposed, discussed, debated at length, voted on and passed:**

Be it resolved that an NAMC recognized Mobedyar:

- (1) Can perform a Jashan as a Jyoti, Afringan, Farokhshi, Satum, funeral prayers (Geh Sarna, Uthamna, Sarosh nu Patru and Chahrum) and Boi in a Dadgah, only in the absence or non-availability of a Mobed.
- (2) Can assist a Mobed by offering Atravakshi in a Jashan, sitting in a Jashan and sitting in a Navjote or Sudreh Pushi.
- (3) Cannot, under any circumstance, perform a Navjote, Sudreh Pushi, Wedding, Boi in a consecrated Atashkadeh and any inner liturgical ceremony (including Yazashne, Visparad, Vandidad and Baaj), independantly, or with, or under the supervision of an ordained Mobed(s).

Further resolved that non-observance of any of the above requirements will result in automatic forfeiture of that Mobedyar's privileges granted by NAMC.

Further resolved that this resolution supersedes any, and all resolutions previously passed with regard to Mobedyar's privileges and all such previous resolutions are considered null and void.

Resolution proposed by: Cawas Desai and seconded by Pesi Vazifdar

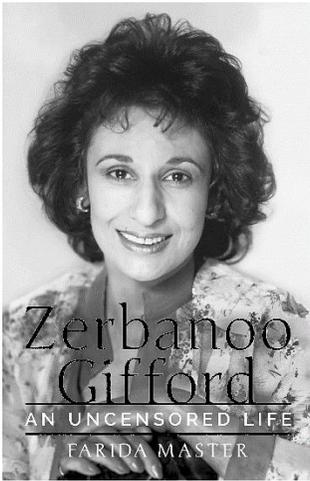
Resolution unanimously passed.

This resolution is published on the NAMC website: [namcmobeds.org](http://namcmobeds.org)

Based on the above NAMC resolution and their published guidelines, the ZAC committee has adopted the following policy with regards to Mobedyars.

*All rituals performed at ZAC will be performed by ordained Ervads only. An exception may be made by the officiating priest if he needs help for any rituals when other priests are not available.*

*This policy does not apply to private jashans.*



## Zerbanoo Gifford

'An Uncensored Life' is the biography of Zerbanoo Gifford, penned by senior journalist and biographer Farida Master.

The page-turner tells a unique yet universal story as it journeys through the incredible life of a fiery politician, a dedicated philanthropist, champion of women, a devoted wife and mother, an acclaimed author of several books and Founder of ASHA Centre in England, who speaks her mind.

Born in Pune, India, Zerbanoo moved to London at the age of four. She created British history by infiltrating the all-white male bastion of British politics as the first non-white woman to stand for parliament. It was at a time when ethnic minority women and social power were seeming contradictions and the second sex was a forgotten one in politics. She went through baptism by fire, literally, when the xenophobes threatened to burn down her home and kidnap her children.

A suburban housewife and a political virgin at that, Zerbanoo astutely masterminded her political campaign from the kitchen table. She boldly challenged self-serving politicians who didn't quite know how to deal with the British Asian firebrand activist.

Fuelled with a wicked sense of humour, Zerbanoo's forthrightness didn't always sit well in a world censored by politically correct platitudes. Undaunted, she was a catalyst for cultural change and helped transform lives. Zerbanoo was at the heart of the women's movement, relentlessly fighting for social and economic empowerment of women. Challenging the status quo, she has seen the power equation change dramatically in her lifetime. The voice for the voiceless, she passionately fought for neglected children and those subjected to bonded labour and abuse.

Being a Zoroastrian, she comes from an ancient Persian world and yet is vitally linked today's generation. Her work continues to impact lives of the young all over the globe. Through court battles and absolute determination to walk the righteous path, Zerbanoo with her husband Richard, a valiant human rights lawyer, created their legacy in the ASHA Centre. 'An Uncensored Life' also mirrors the heroic and harrowing moments when Zerbanoo single-handedly challenged the British government. And won!

This multicultural oasis in the magical Royal Forest of Dean, in England-- also known to be a source of inspiration to JK Rowling and JRR Tolkien—congregates future thought leaders from different corners of the world. In a unique environment built on the principles of justice, sustainability and community that has made international headlines, people from conflicting backgrounds and warring countries come together to work as ambassadors of world peace.

In a path-breaking experiment, the ASHA Centre, has used theatre as a springboard for Arabs and Israeli youth to come together on stage. One of the plays was later performed to mixed audiences in Israel. Groups of under privileged girls from India, students from South African townships, orphans from Ukraine, Armenia and Britain, young adults from Mongolia, countries of the European Union and Scandinavia also continue to experience the transformative human ecology of ASHA which bridges all religious and political boundaries.

This biography published by HarperCollins, enables readers to plug into the mains and get charged by Zerbanoo's energy, inner grace and passion for life without a pause. She started her professional life with 'Shelter', a charity for the homeless and has always throw open the doors of her own home to everyone from top brass industrialists, to aspiring politicians, young professionals and those desperate for a temporary roof over their head.

The thought-provoking biography launched in India and New Zealand is targeted at young adults, women and the 'selfie-generation' in a world filled with a litany of mistrust, covert racism and prejudice. It connects and pushes you to make a change in the world you live in.

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 note:** This year the Scholarship Application Form has changed slightly, so please contact the Cyrus R. Fatakia Memorial Scholarship Committee at [efatakia@gmail.com](mailto:efatakia@gmail.com) if you would like to apply for this scholarship and get the latest version of the Scholarship Application Form. The Application Form is also available on the ZAC website. Please direct all communications to [efatakia@gmail.com](mailto:efatakia@gmail.com). Thank You!

Good Luck & God Bless!

Sincerely,  
Rohinton, Erna & Darius Fatakia

*"Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart." ~ Joseph Fort Newton*



1424 E. Walnut Avenue  
Orange, CA 92867

**To**

## **ZAC Upcoming Events at a Glance**

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

**Adar Mahina nu Parab:** Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 10:00 am

**Maidhyozarem Gahambar:** Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 11:00 am

**\*\* Zerbanoo Gifford event at CZC:** Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm

**Annual General Body Meeting:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 12:30 pm

**\*\* Picnic in William Mason Park:** Sunday, July 30, 2017