



# Zoroastrian Association of California

## December 2010

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### 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

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **LADIES CLUB: DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 12:15 pm (SUNDAY)**

We will be having a certified yoga teacher explaining and extolling the benefits of yoga. This will be followed by a pot-luck lunch, so please bring your favorite dish to share for around 15 people. (Note: we don't have heating facilities other than a microwave.) After lunch, there will be a talk by Kuma Deboo (daughter of Manijeh & Behram Deboo), who is currently a warden at the Federal Prison in West Virginia. Now in her 10<sup>th</sup> year as Federal Warden, Kuma will share with us her unusual, non-traditional career path, daily challenges faced as a woman and second generation Indian Zoroastrian in a male-dominated, law enforcement field. Please call Dogdoe Arjani to let her know many will be attending: 818-545-8161

#### **HOLIDAY PARTY: DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> 4 pm (SUNDAY)**

It's the MOST wonderful time of the year.....Caroling, ZAC Christmas tree lighting, Santa Claus and More! Join us for a joyous holiday celebration.

Where: ZAC Center: 1424 E. Walnut Ave., Orange CA 92867

Cost: \$7 per person; \$12 at the door. Kids under 3 party for FREE!

RSVP: By December 10<sup>th</sup>: Sheila at [858-675-1017/smaddon5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:858-675-1017/smaddon5@sbcglobal.net).

SANTA GIFT! That's right! Santa will be stopping by the ZAC Center with gifts for all the good boys and girls. To participate in the gift exchange, **please bring a small gift for your own child and drop it off in Santa's Sack by the door.** Make sure the gift is wrapped and labeled with your child's name so Santa can deliver it to the right child!

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: Please bring an ornament or two to donate to ZAC and hang on our Christmas tree. ZAC also welcomes donations of other seasonal decorations, prizes and items that will help make our holiday party more fun. If you wish to donate such items, please contact Sheila so that they may be received prior to the party.

#### **GUJARATI CLASS:**

Once again, by popular demand, we will be resuming Gujarati classes conducted by Noshir Jesung, for children (or anyone who desires to learn the language). Emphasis will be put on colloquial language and also some reading and writing skills. Classes will be conducted at our Center from Jan. 2011 at a time and day most convenient to all interested. Please call Noshir Jesung 714-842-3032 or [njesung@gmail.com](mailto:njesung@gmail.com) to register.

**TABLE TENNIS / CARROM TOURNAMENT:** Saturday, December 18, 2010

Time: 12 noon

Venue: ZAC Center, Orange

Contact information: [phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com](mailto:phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com) or **949-419-1096**

Last date for entry: December 16. Please contact **Phiroze Gundevia** before the deadline if you wish to participate in the tournament.

Draw at ZAC Center - December 18 at 11:30am

Cost: \$5 per player (member rate) / \$10 (for non-members). Spectators are free...come and cheer your favorite player!

Categories: Men's singles, Women's singles, Doubles and Rounders (open to all participants only....time permitting). *Food will be available for sale.* **Ladies, young and old, please call Dogdoe Arjani (818-545-8161) to volunteer to bring an item for the bake sale.**

**PAST EVENTS**

**HALLOWEEN**

Fall started off on a “spooktacular” note at the ZAC hall, with our well-attended Halloween party on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers had decorated the hall beautifully with spider webs, tarantulas, pumpkins and spooky lights, while little strawberry shortcakes, bananas and racecar drivers ran all over the place. Adults too, got into the Halloween spirit and we had our very own gray-haired Freddy Mercury (with a guitar no less!) and a gorilla-gone-wild in attendance. Prizes were given to 12 winners in 4 different categories. Congratulations to all the winners! It was very encouraging to see so many of our youth there too. We would love to see you all attending every ZAC function in future.

**GBM / GAMBHAR**

Our very first GBM at our new hall on November 13<sup>th</sup> started off with a Jasan and was followed by the General Body Meeting. Everyone enjoyed the chasni, malido, ravo and tea thoughtfully prepared by volunteers.

We would like to thank all our priests and also the many volunteers for helping dish out a delicious dinner of dhansak, kavabs, potatoes and kachubar (also cooked by volunteers). We honestly want you all to know that it is your help and contributions that make every function a success. We don't want to forget to thank our behind the scenes volunteers who help with the often tricky electricals and lighting, and of course, the set-up and clean-up crew.

**MATRIMONIAL:**

Parsi male, 37, Oxford graduate, well-settled and working for an American company in UK, invites matrimonial correspondence from Parsi / Irani Zoroastrian girl who is willing to settle in England .

Contact: 01908370632 / 07818097402 or [bassatt92@hotmail.com](mailto:bassatt92@hotmail.com)

**BABYSITTER NEEDED:**

Full-time babysitter needed for a newborn baby in the Long Beach area. Light housekeeping and cooking a plus. Please call Kashmira at 858-229-7078, if interested.

## CONDOLENCES

**Jehangir Dalal**, brother of Tehmi Manek Damania passed away in Mumbai on October 10, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Thrity, daughter Dehlina Cyrus Cama and grandchildren, Zaal and Zoey.

**Jal Gundevia**, father of Phiroze Gundevia passed away peacefully on Oct 20th, 2010 in Poona. He is survived by his beloved wife Perin, his three children, his daughter-in-law Yasmin and grandsons Mehernosh & Rayomand. May AHURA MAZDA rest his soul in eternal peace. He will be sadly missed by his family.

Dear Zartoshti - Would you like to learn the answers to at least the following 20 questions and more about your Zartoshti religion????

1. The Ashem Vohu Prayer – How many words/verses in the prayer + why is the first and last word the same?
2. The Ahunavar (Yatha Ahu Vaeryu) Prayer – How many words/verses in the prayer + which verse outlines ‘charity’ as a principle?
3. What is the meaning of the word Ahura + Mazda?
4. What is the meaning of the word Fra-Vahar (Farohar).
5. How many parts in the wings of the Fra-Vahar + what is the significance of the ring in the hand of the symbol?
6. Why is the Sedreh cut out of ‘one’ piece of cloth?
7. What is the significance of the two Tiri’s (stitches) on each end of the Sedreh?
8. Why does the Koshti have 72 primary strands?
9. Why is the Koshti hollow?
10. Why are there three tassles on each end of the Koshti?
11. How many chapters in each of the Gathas?
12. What is the location of these Gatha chapters in the Yasna prayers?
13. What was the family name of Asho Zartosht?
14. How many brothers/sisters/sons/daughters did he have + what were their names?
15. When/where was Asho Zartosht born + at what age did he die?
16. What are the names of the six Gahanbars?
17. What is the ancient significance of the Gahanbar and Navroz?
18. What is the meaning of the phrase “Jasa me Avanghe Mazda”?
19. What is the significance of the words “Mazdayasnu Ahmi”?
20. Why are Zartoshtis mistakenly called the “Fire worshippers”

Mobed Fariborz Shahzadi has successfully conducted seminars to teach these “basics” about our religion over the years. He has also authored several books on religion.

He will conduct two Seminars - two hours each to cover these topics:

1st Seminar - 11am to 1 pm - Sunday - February 20, 2011 followed by pot luck lunch.

2nd Seminar - 11 am to 1 pm - Sunday - March 20, 2011 followed by Jamshedi Navroz pot-luck lunch.

Please contact Mobed Fariborz if interested. Email: frank.shahzadi@yahoo.com

Home Telephone: (949) 348-2735: Cell Phone: (949) 697-4105

## SCREAMING BALL OF FIRE IN ASHO ZARATHUSHTRA'S HAND

By Silloo Mehta (Mazdayasnie Connection)

When you look upon Asho Zarathushtra's picture, you will find him holding a stick in one hand and a ball of fire in the other. What is the significance?

Our Paegambar Sahib was a Yazat who came to earth in human form. His physical atoms were composed of subtle elements of fire, which were related to the divine fire-energy in the spiritual world known as Adar-e-Burzin Meher. The current of this Adar-e-Burzin Meher was constantly circulating in his body, flowing as aura through his right hand, which gave the appearance of the Prophet holding a ball of fire in his hand.

Firdausi rightly refers to this fire-energy in his Shah Nameh as "Ke Mehr burzin hi dood bood Mumauvar na az hizamo ood bood."

This fire Mehr Burzin was without smoke and burned bright without wood and incense (fuel).



*Dear Humdins,*

Our humble efforts in the publication of *The Mazdayasnie Connection* was born out of an intense desire to explain the 'why's and the 'wherefore's of our tenets and to fan the flame of Faith and Devotion in our Daena. We have been publishing it since 29 years, free of cost, thanks to the support of our donors and well wishers.

If you wish to subscribe, do give me a call at 949-551-5252.

*Silloo Mehta*



## WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

The 5th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress will be held in Vancouver, BC, from June 30th to July 5th 2011. The theme of the Congress is United we stand Building bridges across oceans. Five all-inclusive days of fun and sun are reasonably priced at CAD \$840. This early bird price is valid until Jan 15. Registration will be limited to 500 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information please visit [www.zabc.org](http://www.zabc.org) or email [congress2011@shaw.ca](mailto:congress2011@shaw.ca).

*ZAC encourages all our youth to attend the congress. Subsidies will be offered to selected members.*

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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	\$700
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	Husband/wife & children under 18	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	Adult (over 18)	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	Over 65 Years of Age	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	Full time Student	\$15

**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](http://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

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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:

*All our functions henceforth will have a member, non-member and at-the-door rate*

The committee wishes to thank all those who donate paper goods for ZAC events. Please keep in mind that we encourage the use of biodegradable products and request members not to bring goods made from styrofoam.

*If you have any documents or old photographs of ZAC events of yesteryears, please share them with the committee. We will try and put them together on a CD for future generations to enjoy.*