



# Zoroastrian Association of California

## DECEMBER 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

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2012-2013

President: Tehmi Damania      Vice-president: Perinne Medora  
Treasurer: Rooky Fitter      Program Chair: Prochi Mistry  
Jt. Secretary: Deelnavaz Tarapore      Jt. Secretary: Parvez Erani  
Youth Coordinator: Merzi Limath

#### *President's message*

*It's hard to believe that the year is almost over and this is also the end of the present committee's term. Our center is our pride and joy and over the last year we have made good use of it. To date, in 2011, the center has been occupied for large or small gatherings on 55 different days, with more than one event on some of the days...and we still have a couple of parties to look forward to this year!*

*We had our usual Navruz and Pateti celebrations, Ladies Club Meetings, Bridge sessions, Sports Day, Halloween party, Youth events and Hindi Movie Nights. Some of the highlights this year were Valentine's Day Fundraiser, our First Anniversary celebration, the 8<sup>th</sup> Variety Youth Show, a special felicitation for our oldest mobed, Ervad Fali Kanga, a Blood Drive, Music Mobile, and lectures on Internet Safety and Ayurveda. On the religious side we had six jashans, 3 weddings and a navjote performed in the Arjani Hall this year, and also several lectures and classes on religion, Gujarati language and Art.*

*My sincere thanks to the very hard working Executive and Maintenance Committees who went over and above their call of duty and selflessly gave their time, expertise and resources to further our mission. Also, I would like to thank all the volunteers for coming forth time and again to help with the various tasks required to run the events that have been offered to our members. Finally I would like to thank the members of the community for their goodwill, encouragement and positive support over the years, that made my job not only easy, but also very fulfilling and worthwhile. Best wishes to the new Executive Board.*

*THANK YOU ALL!*

*Vira Santoke*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **HOLIDAY PARTY:** Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 6 pm

It's the MOST wonderful time of the year.....Caroling, games, prizes, food, Santa Claus and more! Join us for a joyous holiday celebration. Everyone is welcome, young and old alike!

\$10 for members \$15 for non-members and after cut-off date

\$5 for children 6-10 Kids under-5 party for FREE!

SANTA GIFT! That's right! Santa will be stopping by the ZAC Center with gifts for all the good boys and girls. HO-HO-HO! 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!

ZAC welcomes donations of 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.

***We would like each child to bring in an ornament to hang on the Christmas tree (something they made at school maybe?)***

Dinner will be catered, so please be considerate and RSVP as soon as possible, so we get an accurate count. **RSVP by December 8th: Sheila 858-675-1017**

**smadon5@sbcglobal.net.**

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 9 pm

We will be having an exciting New Year's Eve party on December 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be dinner, dancing with DJ's, and a whole bunch of fun and festivities, followed by a sleep-over (advisable) if you choose not to drive back that night. (Sleep on the pews or bring your sleeping bags, blankets, pillows and teddy bear if you like.) **LET'S BRING IN THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER WITH friends and family!!**

A Parsi breakfast will be served the next morning for those spending the night.

Members: \$20 Student members under 25: \$10 Non-members: \$25

**RSVP: by December 28<sup>th</sup> : Sheila 858-675-1017 smadon5@sbcglobal.net**

### **HUM-BUNDAGI SESSIONS** by Mobed Zarrir Bhandara

Food for the body, mind & soul.

Join us every Sunday at 11am for hum-bundagi, meditation and lunch starting 12/11/11 at the ZAC Center in Orange. Requirements: Please come with a clean body and mind bring a topi or scarf to cover your head and kindly perform your Kusti prayers at the hall before joining the Hum-Bundagi. Also, during the prayers we will be consecrating holy water for our and our loved one's health. Bring a glass bottle if you would like to take some for your loved ones at home.

**Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to: zbhandara@gmail.com or 562 331 9973**

## **PAST EVENTS**

Our successful **Senior Event** was held on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Highlight was the entertaining Phiroze Mistry from Surat who regaled us with old Parsi songs. There was good food and fun games that the older generation liked. ZAC hosted a **Blood Drive** on September 18<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the Red Cross. THANK YOU to all the members, non-members, family and friends who showed up for this noble cause. This was followed by a very informative talk on **Internet Safety**, which proved to be an eye-opener for the youth and parents alike.

October 9<sup>th</sup> was **Ladies Club**, with a lecture on the benefits of Ayurveda by Dr. Bharathi A.V., with over 50 people in attendance. This was followed by a short movie "Keepers of the Flame", on the history of the philanthropic Tata family. The **Mobed Fali Kanga felicitation** was on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. ZAC held a special function to honor and felicitate a very beloved mobed, Ervad Fali Kanga who turned 89 this year. A jashan was performed by Ervad Kanga, with other ZAC mobeds. Spanning a period of over 77 years, Ervad Kanga has served the religious needs of our community in India, Pakistan and now the USA. Members regaled us with anecdotes about Ervad Kanga and his wife Soonoo and other mobeds praised his vast knowledge of our prayers and readiness to go wherever needed. Over 120 people attended.

The much-anticipated **Halloween Party** on October 30<sup>th</sup>, had around 70 people in attendance. The kids looked adorable in their creative outfits and prizes were given out in three different categories. Later, everyone enjoyed the delicious bhel, brownies, pasta salad, chicken wings and pizza! On November 6<sup>th</sup>, **Ervad Hoshang Bhadha** gave an informative talk on Zarathosti Daena : It's meaning, structure, infrastructure and life-sustaining components.

**Jashan/Gahambar/GBM** was held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Jashan was performed by 6 mobeds. The highlight of the GBM was an animated discussion on whether ZAC should host the 17<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress in 2014. A majority of the community voted to host this event. This is a mammoth task and will require the full support and cooperation of the entire community. More details will follow later. The evening ended with an exciting new Executive Board elected, followed by a delicious dinner catered by the ladies of the committee. We wish the new committee every success.

Another great **Movie Nite** was organized by the Gundevias on November 26<sup>th</sup>. People enjoyed delicious biryani and then retired to watch a Hindi Movie. Kayleene Writer very generously sponsored and organized **Meet-and-Greet** on December 5<sup>th</sup> to encourage our neighbors in the town of Orange to drop by our hall to see what ZAC is all about. Refreshments were served while the neighbors and some of our ZAC members toured the facility. Silloo Mehta gave a brief outline about the community while Danish Bhandara entertained the crowd with a dance. Thank you to all present.

## THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!!

Dogdo & Tehemtan Arjani - Prayer books and caps  
Aloo Desai - Prayer books  
Sharmeen Cowasjee - Books on religion  
Gulu & Khushru Dubash - Speakers  
Firouz Felfeli - Computers  
Shazneen & Hanoz Gandhi - TV, laser printer with scanner, wireless routers  
Banoo & Sohrab Irani - Tea urn, sofa, chairs  
Gool & Noshir Jesung - Gift baskets, rice cooker  
Aban & Hosi Kapadia - Prayer books, paper goods, gift baskets  
Katy and Hoshang Khambatta - Gift baskets  
Noshir Khambatta (New Mexico) - Books on Zoroastrianism  
Gool Khavarian - Movie DVDs and CDs  
Rashid Lilaowala - Electrical cords  
Sanober & Roomy Raghina - Projector  
Mobed Fariborz Shahzadi - Prayer books  
Ferhiz & Farhad Sidhwa - Carpet runner, gazebo tent, computer accessories, office supplies, paper goods  
Arnavaz & Rohin Talati - Paper goods  
Deelnavaz & Daraius Tarapore - Printer, scanner, DVD Player  
Kashmira Variava – Vacuum cleaner

**A BIG THANK YOU TO KHUSHRU AND GULU DUBASH WHO DONATED ALL THE PLANTS THAT LINE THE PERIMETER OF THE PARKING LOT AND ALSO FOR DONATING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY IN THE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPING PROJECT. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THEIR WORK. A TRUE LABOR OF LOVE INDEED!!**

*Congratulations, Shehnaz!*

**Shehnaz Bhujwala**, an attorney at Beverly Hills law firm, KLB, was elected to the Board of Governors of the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC). Daughter of Maneck and Mahrukh Bhujwala, Shehnaz obtained her B.A. degree at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Juris Doctor law degree at the University of Southern California, and worked at prominent Los Angeles area law firms specializing in Civil Litigation on behalf of Plaintiffs in major consumer lawsuits.

The mission of CAOC is "to seek justice for all by preserving and protecting the constitutional right to trial by jury for all consumers and championing the cause of those who deserve redress for injury to person or property, encouraging and promoting changes to California law by legislative, initiative or court action, opposing injustice in existing or contemplated legislation, advancing the common law and promoting public good through the civil justice system, upholding the honor, integrity and dignity of the legal profession and inspiring excellence in advocacy and advancing the finest traditions of jurisprudence through training, education and scholarship."

## CASH DONATIONS FOR 2011

<p><b>\$1 - \$499 (\$2,553)</b></p> <p>Damania Tehmi &amp; Manek Deboo Manijeh &amp; Behram Dholoo Binaifer &amp; Rohinton Dordi Firoze &amp; Silloo Irani Mehernaz Jane (N. Lakdawalla friend) Jijina Aloo &amp; Minoo Jijina Aloo &amp; Minoo (specific) Karanjia Anita Kharas Hira Lakdawalla Rhoda &amp; Noshir (specific) Medora Perinne Mistry Darayus &amp; Lily Sadri Homi &amp; Hilla Surti Nergesh MD Zartoshti Mehrban &amp; Paridokht</p>	<p><b>\$1000 - \$4999 (\$11,653)</b></p> <p>Anonymous (for Sound system) Bhujwala Maneck &amp; Mahrukh - - (In memory of Navroji &amp; Meherbai Bhujwala) Billimoria Yaz &amp; Firoza Irani Shireen &amp; Dinshaw Jijina Aspi Mehta Ruzbe &amp; Kaezad Sadri Homi &amp; Hilla Unwalla Ervad Khushro &amp; Farah</p> <hr/> <p><b>Over \$20,000 (\$70,001)</b></p> <p>Coachbuilder Phiroze &amp; Dinaz 1127 Foundation Minocherhomji Arda &amp; Hootoxi (for prayer hall)</p>
<p><b>\$500- \$999 (\$6,966)</b></p> <p>Amroli Parvin &amp; Hosi Anonymous (for parking lot) Birdy Jal &amp; Soonu Dustoor Manek &amp; Meher Lakdawalla Rhoda &amp; Noshir Lilaowala Rashid &amp; Havi Rustomi Adil &amp; Reshma Sachinvala Farhad Santoke Vira and Burjor Siganporia Sarosh &amp; Shazeen WZO</p>	<p><i>Thank you to everybody who has donated this year. We need your support to maintain our beautiful center and hope you will continue to support it in 2012 and beyond.</i></p>

## CONGRATULATIONS

Baby girl born to Laila and Homi Bodhanwala. *Best wishes to the new born.*

**Ashkan Ferozepurwalla & Behnaaz Irani** married on Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 and **Arash Ferozepurwalla & Nilufer Irani** on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the ZAC hall. *We wish the newly weds all the best in life.*

## MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS/NEWS

**AVESTA CLASSES** on various aspects on Zoroastrianism are held by Zarrir Bhandara, Jehangir Dastur and Shazneen Gandhi at the CZC (Westminster) for different age groups: from 2 year olds to adults. Class schedule for 2011-2012 are: 12/04, 01/08/2012, 02/04, 03/04, 03/18, 04/01, 05/06. All are welcome. Contact Shazneen Gandhi: **rabadis@georgetown.edu**, Zarrir Bhandara: **zbhandara@gmail.com** or Jehangir Dastur: **j\_dastur@hotmail.com** for more information.

**HAMAZOORI PLAY** was staged in June by the California Zoroastrian Center teen class, depicting 3700 years of Persian Zoroastrian history. DVDs are for sale at the CZC (Westminster) for \$15 each.

**NextGenNow** is pleased to announce one of its newest initiatives-- **Zoroastrians Stepping Forward**. First Annual International Day of Service-- Zoroastrians Stepping Forward Who? Zoroastrians... What? Walk and Shoe Drop... Where? Internationally When? To Be Determined... Why? Coming together as a community, while helping those in need.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Zoroastrians are known for their humanitarian work around the world. However, there has never been a concerted effort by our community to focus on a global issue. This is our first step toward global action. Zoroastrians Stepping Forward: With this, as a community, we will take a leap toward helping others. On a selected day in 2012 Zoroastrians around the world will partake in our day of service. Many of us take our shoes for granted. They enable us to get where we are going as well as accessorize. But could you imagine going without them; working on a farm, going to school, or traveling along the hot roads? We want you to think about doing just that, but we aren't going to ask you to forgo your shoes. Instead, we ask you to join us in a walk to foster community unity around the globe while collecting both money and shoes for those who truly need it. Without shoes you are more susceptible to infection and diseases - often introduced through a small cut or scrape. Because of this, SHOES are the focus of Zoroastrians Stepping Forward: the 1st Annual Zoroastrian Day of Service.

If possible, please "Like" the Zoroastrians Stepping Forward face book page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Zoroastrians-Stepping-Forward/230954616948440>. As plans become solidified, more information will be available. **Kindly contact Behrose Taraporewalla with any questions or comments: 626.378.5564/behroset@gmail.com**

**FEZANA JOURNAL**: All are encouraged to subscribe to the quarterly journal of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America that helps to unite Zarthushtis of North America as well as the world. It covers a wide range of topics from rituals to social issues involving the community in general and to the youth in particular. Events, achievements, conferences, available scholarships, as well as births, weddings and deaths across the continent are reported which helps the community stay connected. A very well-written and researched publication, the journal is an invaluable resource for Zarthushtis of all ages, especially for those with children who are trying to teach them our ethics, values and culture.

Subscription for 1 year \$25; 2 years \$45 OR subscribe online [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org)



# Zoroastrian Association of California

## MEMBERSHIP FORM January to December 2012

Please Select Type Membership(s):

*Quantity*

( ) Life	Husband/wife & children under 18	\$1000
( ) Family	Husband/wife & children under 18	\$75
( ) Individual	Adult (over 18)	\$40
( ) Senior	Over 65 Years of Age	\$30
( ) 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](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

TITLE \_\_\_ FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: \_\_\_ life \_\_\_ family \_\_\_ individual \_\_\_ senior

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PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: \_\_\_ life \_\_\_ family \_\_\_ individual \_\_\_ senior

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

*Submitted by Silloo Mehta*



**YATHA AHU VAIRYO (How many to recite, and the thought force behind it)**

1 Yatha during Sarosh Yasht Hadokht (Kardas 3,4,5): May the divine sound of Ahura (Ahunavar) enter my ears through Sarosh.

1 Yatha during Patet Pashemani: I attune myself with Ahura Mazda

2 Yathas during Kusti prayers: 1st Yatha: Dadar Ahura Mazda is the sole Omnipotent entity; 2nd Yatha: Asho Zarathushtra is His divine messenger.

2 Yathas during Sarosh Baj, 5 Gahs, all Niyaeshs and Yashts: 1st Yatha: In this life, may I discharge all my duties according to Zarathushti Din; 2nd Yatha: After death, may my soul be relieved from the attraction of this physical world and march towards Frashogard.

4 Yathas during Ahunavad Gatha: May the evil element (druj) in my anasar be transmuted into good (gava).

5 Yathas during Sarosh Baj, Hoshbam: Sarosh Yazad is the Lord of my consciousness. He is the keeper of my righteous deeds.

5 Yathas during Patet Pashemani: May Sarosh help me in my repentance (Patet).

8 Yathas during Fravardin Yasht (Farokhshi): May the Fravashis guide me (or the deceased ravan for whom this Farokhshi is being recited) towards Frashogard.

21 Yathas during Hoshbam, Patet Pashemani: 1. The 21 Nasks (holy books) of our scriptures. 2. May the 21 forces of druj (hostile forces) be weakened.

10 Yathas during Avan Niyaesh: Nature functions in 1001 channels. May I receive their blessings and attain Ashoi.

10 Yathas during Hormazd Yasht: Ahura Mazda is perfect.

**WHEN TO RECITE YATHA AHU VAIRYO:**

- Upon entering or leaving your house
- On a joyous occasion
- When you see a pregnant woman
- Before meeting somebody important or before an important meeting
- When confronted with sudden danger
- Before sitting in a chair or seat occupied by somebody just prior to your sitting
- When you start something new
- Forming new acquaintance or friendship
- Crossing a river
- Upon hearing good news

**CHANGES TO ADDRESSES/NUMBERS/EMAILS**

please see hard copy version of newsletter





# **CELEBRATE YEAR'S EVE WITH US!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**THE FUN STARTS AT 9 PM AT THE  
ZAC CENTER... PARTY THE NIGHT  
AWAY WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.  
DINNER WILL BE SERVED, FOLLOWED  
BY A NIGHT OF DANCING AND  
CELEBRATION!!!!!!!!!! EVERYONE IS  
ENCOURAGED TO SPEND THE NIGHT  
AND STAY FOR BREAKFAST THE NEXT  
MORNING!! DJ's IN THE HOUSE!!!**



1424 E. Walnut Ave.  
Orange, CA 92867

TO:

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE PICTURES AT ZAC EVENTS.  
ANYONE WITH A KNACK FOR TAKING INTERESTING PICTURES (OR NOT ☺) PLEASE  
APPLY!!  
WE WOULD LIKE EVENTS RECORDED FOR POSTERITY....AFTER ALL, IT WOULD BE  
NICE TO SEE WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE 20 YEARS DOWN THE ROAD!!  
PLEASE CALL ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER IF INTERESTED.

BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW  
YEAR!

Visit us at [www.zacla.org](http://www.zacla.org)

DECEMBER 2011