



Zoroastrian Association of California

December 2012

2012-2013 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

GREAT NEWS ABOUT THE PRAYER ROOM!

It is with great pleasure that the Committee wishes to announce that the Trustees of the Jalna Agiary (India) have agreed to "gift" ZAC their Afarganyu which was in their Fire Temple established in 1841. The Committee extends ZAC's sincere thanks and gratitude to the Jalnawalla Family for considering ZAC worthy of this gift. The gift comes with all the necessary implements for the "Kebla".

*We are also particularly grateful to Arda-E-Viraf Minocherhomji, Firdosh Mehta and Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly for their help to acquire such a valuable, heritage Afarganyu for our Prayer Room. We would like the community to join us and help raise the funds as soon as possible so that when the Afarganyu arrives (hopefully May/June) the Prayer Room is ready for us to establish our Afarganyu. Please make your donation as soon as possible so you get the tax benefit for 2012. We need your help now so that we can approach other associations also showing them a solid foundation of our own collection. There is now a great urgency and this project needs your generous support. **Remember our collection goal is approximately \$450,000.***

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Good Health, Happiness and Prosperity in 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRE-CONGRESS NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH:

BRING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS on Dec. 31st. We will be having an exciting New Year's Eve. There will be dinner, dancing with DJ's, Champagne Toast, Raffle/Entertainment and a whole bunch of fun and festivities.

When: 31st December 2012 - 8 P.M TO 1 A.M.

Where: THE HILTON HOTEL, IRVINE/OC AIRPORT

18800 MACARTHUR BOULEVARD, IRVINE, CA.92612

Tickets after Dec. 15 -- \$90/- per person

RSVP: Rhoda Lakdawalla 661-753-9868 or Pay online www.zacla.org (leave Tel. No.)

Send checks payable to:

ZAC (memo – New Year)

1424 E. Walnut Avenue, Orange, CA 92867

Special room rates for overnight stay at Hotel code HOL12. Call Hilton for reservations 800-445-8667

Ladies Club: Sunday, January 13, 2013

Our fun Ladies Club meeting will once again be on Jan. 13th 2013. It will begin at 1:00 pm.

As usual we will have a pot-luck lunch, so please bring your favorite dish to share – **6 to 8 servings please**. The special guest will be a dietician – Ms. Aditi Shah. If you have any particular question which you would like her to answer please contact Dogdo Arjani with your question so that Ms. Shah can answer it for you at the meeting. RSVP or questions please call Dogdo Arjani at 818-545-8161.

PAST EVENTS

Jashan/Gahambar and GBM:

Held on November 18th, the meeting was well attended by members. Around 120 members and non-members were present. Prior to the meeting a Jashan was performed, followed by lunch. The meeting started with the Executive Committee Report by our President Tehmi Damania followed by the Treasurer's report by Rooky Fitter. Then the Congress Co-chairs, Dhunmai Dalal, Khushroo Lakdawalla and Darayus Mistry presented to the General Body their report and progress on the NAZC 2014. Dhunmai Dalal gave a brief outline about the Congress followed by Khushroo Lakdawalla's PowerPoint presentation showing the congress Logo and the website. This was followed by Q & A session from the General Body. A quick tea and snack break was followed by the Prayer Hall Update, which was presented to the General Body by Sohrab Charna and Arda-e-Viraf Minocherhomjee. The Prayer room project was discussed and after their questions were answered the General Body unanimously approved the Prayer Room, (1500+ sq.ft.) to be built on the lawn and extended area outside the Hong Kong Room. The Donor Policy for the Prayer Room was read by Deelnavaz Tarapore and approved by the General Body. Tehmi requested that since the project had been approved, members should come forward with donations to meet the cost of the project. Pledges were also taken from the members.

During the open discussion from the floor Noshir Lakdawalla suggested that a sub-committee should be formed for religious events and lectures etc. Some members felt that the youth were not getting involved and these religious discourses would attract them to participate. There was a discussion on this and members suggested that it was not clear what this committee was supposed to do or why it was necessary. In order to clarify the issue it was suggested the mandate and guidelines for this committee be presented at the next General Body. Noshir Lakdawalla agreed and withdrew the motion.

The Committee would like to thank the Mobeds Zarrir Bhandara, Zerkxis Bhandara, Maneck Bhujwala, Arda-e-Viraf Minocherhomjee, Zerkxes Bhadha and Behram Deboo for performing the jashan.

A big "Thank you" also to the following volunteers for Ravo, Malido, Fruits, Nuts and Cucumber: Havovi Birdie, Mahrukh Bhujwala, Diana Commissariat, Banoo Irani, Mitra Irani, Aban Kapadia, Rhoda Lakdawalla, Hootoxi Minocherhomjee, Prochi Mistry, Arnavaaz Talati, Deelnavaz Tarapore and Perviz Tarapore. The Committee would like to especially thank Mitra Irani and Aban Kapadia for all the help they so generously give during the AGM/GBM's.

If we have inadvertently forgotten to mention anyone we apologize for the omission.

Holiday Party:

Held on December 16, attended by 57 adults and 15 children, was a treat for all. Lily Mistry helped a lot and made the children play all the games and sing. Little Freddy Fitter was the MC for the evening with Merzi helping at the DJ stand with him. The adults also enjoyed by playing games and then Santa came and distributed gifts to all the kids. The dinner of hot and tasty Chinese food was enjoyed by all to the full.

Thanks to Vira for bringing in a very tasty X'mas cake for desert and to Zarrir Bhandara for donating all the gifts for the children and Prochi for arranging all the food and making the brownies for everybody. A big thank you to Lily for lending her Xmas tree and decorations that made the hall look very festive.

Lot so fun was had by young and old alike

HUMBANDAGI

Sunday, December 9, 2012, marked the first anniversary of the humbandagi / Meditation sessions started by Mobed Zarrir Bhandara at the ZAC center, for the benefit of our members. Over 30 people attended, some

dressed specially for the occasion. After the recitation of the prayers, the group walked over to the recently acquired plot of land next door, for another short prayer, thanking Ahura Mazda for His blessings on our community. This was followed by a delicious pot-luck lunch of biryani, lagan-nu-stew, sev, dahi and several other Parsi favorites.

The humbandagi group would like to thank Mobeds Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara for their dedication and service to the community. Not only do they conduct the prayers, but they also bring delicious Dhansak every week for all.

It will be nice to have more members attend this very worthy prayer session, which revitalizes us and prepares us for the week to follow. We meet at 11 a.m. every Sunday at the ZAC Center. After the prayers we have another short session of meditation, yoga, and singing of some favorite monajats, followed by a yummy pot-luck lunch.

Submitted by members of the humbandagi group.

Announcements and Appeals

Following Religious services are being provided for the benefit of the ZAC community

Avesta classes for ages 4 and up; Every month since the last 12 years, by Zarrir Bhandara and Shazneen Gandhi at CZC in Westminster, CA.

Humbundagi every Sunday, since 1 year at the ZAC Center in Orange, CA

For more information contact Zarrir Bhandara 562 331 9973 or zbhandara@gmail.com

Navjote Mubarak

Congratulations to Hoshedar son of Anaheeta and Zubin Kolah, grandson of late Noshir and Dr. Mehernaz Irani, Coomi and Eruch Kolah, nephew of Rahzin Irani, had his Navjote performed in Mumbai, on 7th December morning at Banaji Atash Behram, on Roj Govad, Mah Tir. The officiating Dastoorji was vada Dastoorji Peshotan Mirza.

Membership RENEWALS are due January 1st for the 2013 Calendar Year. Please complete a form even if you are a "Life Member" so that we can update your information on file. Membership in ZAC has certain privileges. The most important of these is a sense that you belong to the ZAC community. Parents please make your 18yr+ children members also so they can avail of subsidies for all youth outings and events during the year. There is a youth congress in 2013 don't let your kids miss out.

FROM ZAGNY: An Appeal from a Zarathushti:

ZAGNY has received an appeal for financial aid from one of our community members in the tri-state area who wishes to remain anonymous.

The member has been trying to make ends meet for many months but is now in dire need of financial help. Due to the down turn in the economy during the past few years, his small business suffered a financial set back resulting in many months of unpaid office rent and forcing him to vacate the small office space he was doing business from. With no source of income, he now owes utilities and back rent for over five months on his office space, and is struggling to keep his apartment and manage his daily expenses. To add to his plight, he has been burdened with being the sole provider and care giver for his 86 years old mother who has been completely bed-ridden for many years due to severe arthritis all over her body. Having gone through 12 surgeries during the last several years on her upper and lower limbs, she is in a nursing home for the past eight years. She was also recently

diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and since last few months has also been suffering from dementia and cannot recognize even her own son. All this has not only put a tremendous financial strain on him, but also mental, physical and emotional one.

With nowhere else to turn to, he is reluctantly appealing to the community and hopes that kind hearted Zarathushtis will assist him in his desperate hour of need and help him get back on his feet again. Any amount would be greatly appreciated and will go directly to ease his burden at this time.

If you would like to contribute and help out our fellow Zarathushti, please make a check payable to "ZAGNY" and mail it to ZAGNY Treasurer, Mr. Kerman Dukandar, at 96 Bernard Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837, with a remark in the memo: "Member In Need".

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

Please check the ZAC website and print the page and take it to Ralph's the next time you go there. Ask the cashier to scan the bar code at the bottom along with your Rewards card. From that point on, every time you use your Ralphs card, ZAC will receive a contribution.

Thank you for helping ZAC.

IMPORTANT -- Please Help ZAC Save Money

The costs of printing and mailing newsletters keeps going up and in this day and age we have so many ways to transmit information speedily and efficiently. We do not want to scrap newsletters, but we would like to cut costs. We would like to send members a blast saying "Newsletter Attached". There are a few who do not have email accounts or are simply not online and we will continue to send them newsletters by mail.

We are requesting you to help ZAC by sending an email to tdamania@zacla.org and put "Do Not Mail Newsletter" in the subject line. We will stop sending you newsletters and check that we have your correct email address at the same time. Thank you for helping ZAC cut costs and save paper.

Mobedyar/ Para Mobed Course

Starting Date: January 20th, 2013

Duration: 1-2yrs.

When: Every 3rd Sunday of the month 3pm to 5pm

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

Background:

Considering the fact that our Zoroastrian population is growing in California and with that the demand to perform the religious ceremonies is also growing and in the near future the demand will be much greater. Hence, this course is formulated so that our community will have trained people to assist the priests and/or perform the rituals and ceremonies in lieu of priests and further to guide our community in religious matters.

Course objectives and program:

The course adopts a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach and is designed to create a well informed and knowledgeable clergy, who would serve the community with humility. The primary goal of the course is to enhance the practice of priestly duties by providing participants with a holistic understanding of theology, methodologies of religious practices, philosophy, social work and ensuring a practical understanding of appropriate ceremonies with the significance and explanation of the same.

Participants will learn both the fundamental theories and gain practical hands-on training. During the course, they will be expected to play an active role by contributing to discussions, exercises, and presentations reflecting their own professional experience, which will help to deal with different socio-religious issues.

Participants:

The course is designed for a maximum of 12 participants on a first come first serve basis. The course is open to any Zoroastrian interested in religious studies who aspires to perform ceremonies for one's family and or community. Minimum age requirement is 12 years for male and post-menopausal women are welcomed too.

Certificate:

A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants who satisfactorily complete the course and have attended at least 90% of all course activities.

For more information and RSVP please contact Zarrir Bhandara at zbhandara@gmail.com or call 562 331 9973.

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 or dtarapore@zacta.org.*

Condolences

Our dear ZAC member, Hosi Amroli passed away on November 6, 2012. Hosi is survived by his wife, Pervin, his son Mehernosh, daughter-in-law, Anahita, grandchildren, Taronish and Behram, his sister Behroze and brother-in-law Nosh Vadoli, his brother-in-law Hoshang and sister-in-law Firuza Karwa. Our sincere condolences to all the family. May Ahura Mazda grant Hosi's soul eternal peace.

Dr. Nergish Ruzbeh Mehta - wife of Dr. Ruzbeh M. Mehta, mother of Dr. Joy Mehta and Farida Mahava. mother-in-law of Dan Steinbrocker and Mickey Mahava, grandmother of Farah Jeejeebhoy and Delna Mahava passed away on December 3, 201 in Los Angeles, California. The ZAC community extends our sincere condolences to the family. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

IMMIGRATION LAW

FREE INITIAL CASE EVALUATION

- Family Based Petitions/ Visas
- H-1B specialty occupation visas
- L-1 intra-company transferee visas
- E-2 investor visas
- O-1 extraordinary ability; P visa for artist, athletes, and entertainers
- EB-5 immigrant investor based visas for Permanent Residency
- Business plan consultation and incorporation services for E/L applicants
- Deportation and Removal Hearings

Hormuzd Henry Ezzati
Ezzati Law, P.C.

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www.ezzatilaw.com



Zoroastrian Association of California

Contributions Towards Center Improvements / Maintenance

I, We _____, wish to make voluntary contributions towards the ZAC Center Improvements and Maintenance in the amount of \$_____ Monthly / Quarterly / Annually starting from _____ and until further notice.

Payment Options:

1. By Check or PayPal on ZAC Website

___ I/We will make regular payments of \$_____ by check /PayPal sent in on the _____ day monthly.

___ I/We will make regular payments of \$_____ by check /PayPal sent in on the _____ day quarterly.

___ I/We will make regular payments of \$_____ by check /PayPal sent in on the ___/___ day annually.

Signature _____

2) Monthly By Credit Card Through ZAC

I, _____, hereby authorize the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) to charge my credit card in the amount of \$_____ the ___ day of each month.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ___/___ CVV Security Code: ___

Credit Card Billing Address:

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Street: _____ City _____ State ___ Zip _____

As the credit card holder, I hereby authorize the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) to charge my credit card account for the amount indicated above. I promise to pay such amount noted above subject to and in accordance with the agreement governing the use of such card. I acknowledge that any credit card processing fees related to this transaction will be charged directly to ZAC.

Cardholder Signature: _____ Date ___ / ___ / _____

Your completion of this authorization form helps us to protect you, our member, from credit card fraud. ZAC will keep all information entered on this form strictly confidential.

Please mail completed form to:

**ZAC
1424 E. Walnut Ave, Orange, Ca 92867**



Zoroastrian Association of California

Membership Form

January to December, 2013

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

TITLE _____ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

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

TITLE _____ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

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

TITLE _____ FIRST _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

NEWSLETTER BY 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: 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 are at the ZAC Center, Orange, CA

Ladies Club: Sunday, January 13, 2013 1:00 pm

Navroze Function: Saturday, March 23, 2013 – Details to follow

ZAC Walk-a-thon: Sunday, April 28, 2013 – Details to follow

Jashan/AGM: Saturday June 1, 2013 – Save the date

A Book For Every Zarthusti Household – The History of Zoroastrianism

ZAC is extremely grateful for the donation of 22 books from the family of our late member **Mobed Mehraban Jamshid Zartoshty**. The History of Zoroastrianism is a hard bound 1985 edition of the book written by Maneckji Nusservanji Dhalla and published by the K R Cama Oriental Institute, Bombay. The books are offered by ZAC for a donation of \$20 each plus \$5 for shipping in the US and the proceeds will go towards the ZAC Center Prayer Room project.

This book will be a great gift for someone who is interested in our religion.