



Zoroastrian Association of California

December 2013

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Party with Santa: Saturday, December 14 at 4:30 pm

Tis the MOST wonderful time of the year...Caroling, ZAC Christmas tree lighting, Games, Food, Santa Claus and more! Join us for a joyous holiday celebration. Everyone is welcome, young and old alike!

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 Prochi 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?)

Cost: \$10 per adult; Kids under 3 -- FREE! And \$7 for kids: 4 through 7 \$15 ALL at-the-door.
So that we get a head count, please RSVP by December 11th to Prochi Mistry @ 661-284-3055

PAST EVENTS

Ladies Club: Sunday, September 22

Thank you to Armaity Irani for taking the time to come over to teach a number of ladies jewelry making. The ladies who attended made bead bracelets and earrings. Armaity has some great ideas and is very creative and skilled.

Lecture by Malcolm Bhesania: Sunday, September 22

This was a particularly busy Sunday at the Center. Continuing in the series "**Proud to be a Zarathushti: Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future**" by Malcolm Bhesania was a lecture "**Consecrating an Atash Behram**" and "**A Tryst with Faith: Bringing the Atash from Aden to Lonavala**". This was a very interesting presentation which explained exactly what steps are actually taken to create a consecrated fire worthy of being installed in an Atash Behram. The detailed explanation made one realize just how many steps and the number of hours of prayers are required in the process. The lecture and presentation was followed by a detailed special presentation on how a special Air India flight with an honored Parsee crew flew out to Aden and safely brought back the fire from the Dadgah in Aden. Everyone was enthralled by both topics presented on the same day.

A bake sale organized by Yasmin Gundevia followed the Ladies Club and the presentation and the amount collected will be used for the Center maintenance.

Halloween Event: Sunday, October 27

Spooky, Fun, Games, Pizza, Popcorn and children all dressed up made Halloween at the ZAC Center enjoyable for all who came. Once again everything was organized by Shazneen Gandhi and her team of volunteers. We would like to acknowledge the following people for their help: Set-up and during the party: Anahita & Ruzbeh Daruwalla, Jim & Cheherazad Raetz, Navroz & Perinaaz Gandhi, Mehernosh Choksy, Lily Mistry, Homi Gandhi, Rukshana Cowasjee, Sherri Treasurywala Mistry, Shazneen & Hanoz Gandhi. For Donations: Minoos and Rukshana Cowasjee, Jim and Cheherazad Raetz, Anahita and Ruzbeh Daruwalla, Shazneen & Hanoz Gandhi. The ZAC Committee led by Prochi Mistry arranged for the Mad Scientist and the food and treats. We are particularly thankful to the families who supported this event by attending and participating. The ZAC Center is your community home, and your attendance at ZAC events makes for a stronger Zoroastrian community for all our children to inherit.

Fali Kanga Memorial: Sunday, November 3

It was a sad occasion but it was also a celebration of a life that was full and meaningful. There was an out-pouring of love as one after another speakers came to testify the life and acknowledge Faramroze Jehangirji Kanga. Mobeds who had prayed beside him at many Jashans, Zarrir Bhandara, Zerkxis Bhandara, Jal Birdy, Behram Deboo, Maneck Bhujwala. There were old friends and fellow bridge players from the Bawaji Bridge Group, Tehemtan Arjani, Parvin Avari, Maneck Chichgar, Meher Amalsad, Sohrab Irani, Perinne Medora and a message from DhunMai Dalal was read out in absentia. To close the memorial meeting, Tehmi Damania showed a presentation of his life in pictures in honor of a man who lived well and was loved by all who knew him.

Jashan/GBM: Saturday, November 16

The ZAC General Body Meeting started after Jashan and the obligatory one hour wait because there was no quorum. The Agenda covered the usual reading of the minutes of the June AGM, followed by the Executive Committee and Treasurer's reports. The Executive Committee thanked the members of the sub-committees: *Maintenance*: Khushroo Dubash, Firouz Felfeli, Noshir Irani and Burjor Santoke. *Finance*: Ruzbeh Daruwalla, Jamshed Daruwalla, Rooky Fitter, Khushroo Lakdawalla, Noshir Lakdawalla, Perinne Medora and Najoo Panthaki. *The Congress Committee Chairs*: DhunMai Dalal, Khushroo Lakdawalla and Darayus Mistry and their sub-committee volunteer team members.

In addition individual members of the community were also given a floral token of thanks for certain events: Dogdo Arjani for Ladies Club, Zarrir Bhandara for Humbandagi, Phiroze Gundevia for the Youth Show, Movie Nights and the Sports Day Fundraiser, Chisti Dadachanji and Katy Khambatta for Walk-a-thon and Valentine's Day Fundraisers, Mahnaz Erani for donating and decorating the beautiful Navroze table every year, Shazneen Gandhi for organizing the Halloween Party and other children's events and activity and Silloo Mehta and Malcolm Bhesania for their Religious Lecture series.

Also, the following people were acknowledged with flowers for consistently helping and volunteering throughout the year: Firouz Felfeli, Mitra Irani, Aban Kapadia, Sheila Madon, Lily Mistry, Vira Santoke and Dinaz Shroff.

After acknowledging the members who had willingly volunteered to help the Executive Committee, Vice President Perinne Medora addressed the members that time and again Tehmi has thanked all those who have come forward to support the efforts of the Committee without any expectations of rewards...but we are forgetting the most important people who have dedicated their time and effort 24/7 to keep the center running smoothly. She acknowledged with flowers Tehmi and Manek Damania and Rooky Fitter who have tirelessly worked over the years showing the true spirit of volunteering. This was welcomed with a rousing applause by all members present at the meeting.

The important issue, like the Appointment of an Auditor for 2014 (carried over from June) followed the Executive Committee report and the General Body approved of the firm Khan CPAs to be the new auditor.

Then the Committee requested that the increased spending limit of \$20,000 be extended for another two years for the next term. After discussion the General Body felt it would be wiser to increase it to \$30,000 to play it safe.

The next item was the distribution of profit from the Youth Show. The committee requested a proposal that 50% of the profit be transferred from the Youth Funds to the Maintenance Account. The discussion that followed had people divided on both sides to debate the issue and was settled by the youth present stating that since they used the Center also, it was only fair that they helped to raise the money. The 50% distribution was finally passed: 86 For, 3 Against and 1 Abstain.

This was followed by an update on the Prayer Room by Arda-e-Viraf Minocherhomjee and Tehmi Damania. This included explanations of the change in the restroom plans from what was shown in June. The only way that ZAC could be ADA compliant was to make the necessary changes and sacrifice the ladies powder room, the office and a portion of the Green Room. Only then could we proceed to Phase Two which is the construction of the Atash Kadeh building.

The next item was a report on the NAZC given by Khushroo Lakdawalla, one of the congress chairs. He gave a progress report on the congress and went over the dates, the venue was confirmed as the Hilton at LAX and said that after much negotiation the contract had been finalized and signed. There would be a Jashan on the first day and that the program was almost there and over the three days there would be good speakers, entertainment, youth sessions and activity and a gala on the last day which was New Year's Eve. ZAC and CZC were working together towards a great congress.

In Other Business, Cowsie Malva suggested that members should be made aware of where to turn in an emergency and assistance with medical Bills etc.

This was the end of the present committee's current term and a new committee was to be appointed for 2014-15. Zarrir Bhandara, the Election Officer confirmed that he had received only one set of nominations and so without a contest the following people were elected; Youth Coordinator – Merzi Limath, Program Chair – Prochi Mistry, Joint Secretary – Parvez Erani, Joint Secretary – Deelnavaz Tarapore, Treasurer -- Rooky Fitter, Vice President – Perinne Medora and President – Tehmi Damania.

The committee would like to thank the Mobeds, Zarrir Bhandara, Zerkxis Bhandara, Behram Deboo and Maneck Bhujwala for praying in the Jashan and the following people for volunteering to bring items for the jashan - Dolly Malva for Jashan-nu-Saman, Ravo/Malido: Dogdo Arjani, Mahrukh Bhujwala, Diana Commissariat, Firuza Karwa, Vira Santoke, Deelnavaz Tarapore and Perviz Tarapore, Fruits: Aban Commissariat, Aban Kapadia and Mitra Irani, Nuts: Pervin Amroli, Tehmi Damania and Banu Irani.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS EARLY

The 2014 Membership Form is attached and you will notice that we have NOT increased membership at all. Every member, including life members should complete a form and send it in so that we can maintain proper records.

*There are two important changes to the form this year. We have included a check box for **NEWSLETTERS by EMAIL**. We request members who have access to email to check this box and help save paper, labels and postage. The second feature is an addition to a **DONATIONS** section. You all donate to your favorite causes at this time of the year, so why not make ZAC your cause this year.*

Life members we particularly request you to donate towards the maintenance of the Center in addition to any other category to which you wish to donate. It can be monthly, quarterly or annually. If you are donating towards the Center, as some of you already do, we thank you for your generosity.

A NEW INITIATIVE TO BENEFIT ZAC MEMBERS

As you know, physicians and surgeons in many communities make themselves available to respond to questions of the members, one on one.

At Dogdo Arjani's suggestion, ZAC President, Tehmi Damania, thought it was a good idea for us to do the same starting in 2014. A few of the Doctors Dogdo has approached, have all already agreed to participate. She is in the process of sending e-mails to all the doctors so that they may confirm whether they would participate and also indicate their medical specialty.

ZAC plans to arrange these informal visits on Sundays before the Ladies Club meetings.

More details will be forthcoming from Dr. Sherri Treasurywala who has kindly agreed to coordinate this service. She will be the main contact with the Doctors and will let the community know details through ZAC newsletters and email blasts.

CONDOLENCES

Kersi Dara Kapadia, passed away on September 26, 2013 in New Jersey.

Kersi is survived by his wife, Katayun Kapadia (FEZANA President), his children: daughter Zarin, son LT Farrokh Kapadia (USN) and daughter-in-law Tralene. He was a brother to *Dogdo Tehemtan Arjani*, Bakhtavar Noshir Lam, and Diana Darius Dadachanji and brother-in-law of Bakhtawar and Rustom Dinshaw. He was a loving husband and father, a trusted friend and a beloved uncle to all that knew him. May Kersi's soul rest in eternal peace in Heaven.

Ervad Faramroze (Fali) Jehangirji Kanga, passed away on October 7, 2013.

He is survived by his wife Soonoo, his daughter Deelnavaz Daraius Tarapore and their three sons Kayan, Eric and Neville. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and as a member of the ZAC community he was loved and respected by all who knew him. His life was an exemplary testimony to our beautiful religion. May his soul have Garothman Behest.

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@zacla.org.*

APPEAL

Arzan M. Baria, aged 36, a resident of Dubai has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in an advanced stage since February 2013. Arzan has undergone 7 extensive rounds of chemotherapy along with blood and platelet transfusions till August 2013. Arzan was to return to Dubai by end October after his treatment but unfortunately the leukemia has relapsed in September 2013 which will now require 2-3 additional rounds of chemotherapy followed by stem cell (bone marrow) replacement in December 2013 or by Jan 2014.

The doctors have estimated a cost of around INR 10-15 lakhs for the 2-3 rounds of additional chemotherapy treatment, and around INR 20-25 lakhs for the stem cell (bone marrow) replacement treatment. Arzan is undergoing treatment at the Saifee Hospital in Mumbai for his additional 2-3 rounds of chemotherapy and will be undergoing stem cell (bone marrow) replacement treatment at Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai by December 2013 or January 2014.

Arzan has been in Mumbai since February 2013 and has been advised to stay for the chemotherapy and stem cell treatment till minimum June 2014. He will be on no pay basis from December 2013 till he can Resume his duty by June 2014 or else he will be asked to resign from his employment.

The FEZANA Welfare Committee has checked the validity and need for this cause and we would urge you to help donate to

FEZANA, C/o Ratan Mistry, FEZANA Treasurer, 1258 Water Lily Way, San Jose. CA 95129. USA. Please do mention the check is for welfare fund for Arzan Baria. Alternatively, you can donate online to the general fund using www.fezana.org with the comment in the memo field that the payment is for welfare fund for Arzan Baria.

As mentioned in the email blast sent out ZAC took a collection for Arzan at the GBM and the total collected including ZAC's own contribution was sent to FEZANA by check in the sum of \$850. We wish Arzan good luck and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

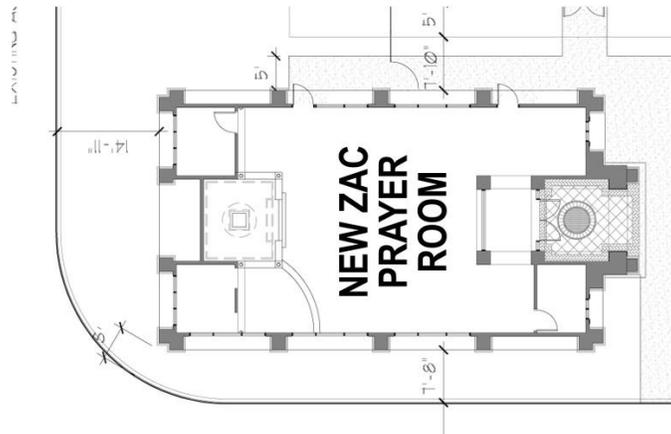
ZAC ATASH KADEH PROJECT

The members who attended the General Body Meeting on Saturday, November 16, 2013 were shown a rendering of the proposed Atash Kadeh building and its floor plan. In order to make this dream a reality we have to continue with some serious fundraising.



The cost of the project, estimated at \$400,000 may seem like a very high figure and we have collected a little over \$201,000 so far. It is not an impossible task if each and every one of us makes the effort to contact friends and family all over the world with a request to help us reach our goal. Send the pictures forwarded in the blast or download them from the website and write a letter to your favorite aunt or uncle to support our endeavor. If YOU believe, THEY will believe. Trust me it works! Feel proud about this project.

Your tools: There are pictures on the website: www.zacla.org and if they look under DONATE there is a button for Prayer Hall. Just ask them to donate ANY amount and let you know they have done it.



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- H-1B specialty occupation visas
- L-1 intra-company transferee visas and E-2 investor visas
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Attorney at Law



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Office Languages Spoken: Farsi, English, Gujrati/Dari (basic), Armenian, Arabic



Zoroastrian Association of California

Membership Form

January to December, 2014

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

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

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 are at the ZAC Center, Orange, CA

Santa at the Center: Saturday, December 14 at 4:30 pm

IMPORTANT

The ZAC Center is finally having a long-awaited upgrade. Phase One has begun.

Our restrooms will be totally demolished and replaced by additional stalls and handicapped stalls in both the Ladies and Gents restrooms. We regret any inconvenience this may cause during your visits to the Center. Sohrab Charna has done a great job designing the restrooms, he is ZAC's architect of choice and the City of Orange has approved and issued permits for the work being done. The work is being done by an approved licensed contractor in a timely manner and we urge you to refrain from making any suggestions or changes to the work in progress.