



# Zoroastrian Association of California

## May 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

### **AGM/JASHAN/GAHAMBAR:**

At the CZC hall , 8952 Hazard Ave., Westminster on Sunday, June 6, 2010.

Jashan starts at 3 pm sharp. AGM starts after the chasni, at 4:30 pm. Agenda will include reading and approval of the minutes of the general body meeting of Nov. 2009 and the Extraordinary General Body Meeting held on May 16, 2010, reports from the executive committee and finance committee, property update, youth update, and other business. Phiroz Tarapore has very kindly agreed to serve as auditor for a second term. Per the request of several members, we have also attached the audited financial statements for the year 2009. If any member has anything relevant to bring up for discussion at the AGM, please send in a request in writing to Vira Santoke so that we can add it to the agenda. Items brought up from the floor will only be allowed 3 minutes per member.

Dinner will include Parsi food served after the AGM.

Suggested donation - \$10 per person

We need volunteers for ravo, malido, fruits, nuts, etc. Also, if you would like to help in the preparation of dinner (rice, curry, side dish, dessert), please call Sheila. RSVP: **Sheila at (858)675-1017** if you will be attending.

### **E-MAIL BROADCASTS**

We have been sending out e-mail broadcasts to members and non-members regularly. If you have not been receiving them and would like to go on the list, or if you are receiving duplicate e-mails, please contact Vira at [vsantoke@zaca.org](mailto:vsantoke@zaca.org)

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Extraordinary General Meeting of APRIL 18, 2010**

A special General Body meeting was held at the proposed property: 1424 E. Walnut Avenue in Orange. 83 members attended the meeting. After inspecting the building, there was a discussion and question/answer session. Tehemtan Arjani gave a report on the suitability of the property and ZAC's financial position for the acquisition. Taking into account pledges and money collected to date, it was announced that ZAC would be some short of the purchase price of \$2,650,000 (including closing and misc. charges). We had made our request to Hong Kong Trust and were awaiting their response. After the meeting, members cast their votes on the prepared ballots. Votes were collected and counted by Drs. Cyrus Mody and Firdaus Udwadia.

**Votes for YES were 77    Votes for NO were 4    1 vote was not marked**

So, by a majority, members present at the meeting voted to approve the purchase of the property. While votes were being collected and counted, an appeal was made to the members present to donate or pledge something at the meeting, as one donor had very magnanimously announced that they would match the collection on that day up to \$50,000. Thanks to the generosity of all present, we brought in \$50,817: \$32,913 in cash and \$17,904 in pledges. 83 members present spontaneously rallied around that afternoon to show their support for ZAC and the community. We were proud to be a part of this rally. A prayer was requested and the 5 mobeds present at the meeting led us into a Humbandagi to commemorate the occasion.

### **Extraordinary General Meeting of May 16, 2010**

The general body met for a second time to vote on the resolutions concerning the bridge loan and the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) issues. There were 68 members present. Both resolutions were passed by an overwhelming majority.

**Bridge Loan: Votes for YES were 67**

**Votes for NO was 1**

**CUP:                Votes for YES was 68**

**Votes for NO was 0**

The deal should be closed on May 20.

Our grateful thanks to Tehemtan Arjani, Sohrab Charna, Noshir Lakdawalla, Tehmi & Manek Damania and all those who have donated their time, expertise and money to make this possible.

We are very proud and honored to be part of a community that stands for all that is good in this world. It is very important to give our youth a center where they can go to on a regular basis to learn more about their religion, their culture and their heritage, or just to meet friends and have fun. Having a central place to go to on a weekly basis will promote a sense of well-being for our seniors and other community members who could gather there to

play games, or just to relax and be part of a social group that fosters camaraderie. **WATCH OUT FOR A GRAND OPENING!!!**

**Thank you to ALL who have shown their solidarity and generously donated to make this dream happen. Ideally we would like 100% participation from our community at whatever level you are comfortable. Please mail in your pledges NOW if you have not already done so.**

### **WALK-A-THON**

We had a wonderful response to our annual walkathon/Pora-pau picnic at Mason Park, Irvine on May 2. Thanks go out to our co-chairs Chisti Dadachanji and Sheila Madon, who made the afternoon lively and entertaining for all who turned up, despite the windy weather. A big thanks to all our helpers and donors: from our onion 'choppers' to the pora 'flippers', side dish, tea, snacks and dessert donors; MC & games coordinator; our walkathon and gift card/certificate donors and of course, our 'walkers' and all who contributed in any way to make this day fun and memorable. WE THANK YOU for coming and supporting ZAC.

### **MATRIMONIAL**

A 24-year old Parsi Zoroastrian man is seeking a Zoroastrian lady life partner. The gentleman is in the US, has a Bachelor's degree in Communications and a full time job. He is pursuing his Masters Degree at present. The young lady must be willing to live in United States and has to be educated. For further correspondence please email [Zarvanp@aol.com](mailto:Zarvanp@aol.com) or call 313-882-6444 after 7 pm.

### **APPEALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Navsari Atash Behram**

Sorab Vazifdar, Hon. Secretary of the Navsari Atashbehram and Vadi Daremeher Trust Fund, appeals for financial assistance for maintenance and upkeep of the holy Atashbehram. The existing grand majestic structure requires a lot of funds to maintain its upkeep and magnificence and also to financially sustain the mobeds and supporting staff. Donations marked 'Navsari Atashbehram' may be sent to Rooky Fitter, 4611 Stellrecht, Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

**Pakzad Tata**-- We have received an appeal from Mrs. Queenie Tata of Surat, India, for son Pakzad's medical expenses. 5 yr old Pakzad was born with 90% profound deafness, so is unable to hear or speak. Hearing aids have not helped and doctors have recommended a cochlear implant, which is out of reach for this family with a modest income. If you would like to help Pakzad, please send your checks marked *Pakzad Tata* to Rooky Fitter, 4611 Stellrecht, Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

### **SEEKING RESEARCH MATERIALS**

--I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Dept. of History at Harvard University and the grand-nephew of Dasturji Hormazdyar Mirza. I have been studying the history of the Parsis and Zoroastrianism for the past three years and am currently beginning my dissertation on Dadabhai Naoroji the "Grand Old Man of India." I am trying to locate an extremely important collection of personal papers of Sir Dinshaw Wacha which appear to have gone missing: Wacha was a prominent early nationalist and a close ally of both Dadabhai Naoroji & Pherozeshah Mehta. Last located in the 1970s when they were researched by two scholars, the papers were kept in the collection of the Western Indian National Liberal Federation, an organization which Wacha led after he left Congress, in a Parsi law firm in Fort, Bombay. I would greatly appreciate any assistance in locating these papers. In addition, please do let me know if you have any old letters, papers, or artifacts relating to Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozeshah Mehta, Dinshaw Wacha, or other early Parsi nationalists. I would be extremely interested in seeing this material for my research. You may contact me at [dpatel@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dpatel@fas.harvard.edu) Dept. of History, Harvard University, Robinson Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> fl. Cambridge, MA 02138. Many thanks for your assistance, *Dinyar Patel: (650) 796-2486.*

#### **SAREES FOR SALE:**

2 Very Beautiful brand new (never worn) Saris for sale

A white heavy lace sari: hand beaded with petticoat and bodice.

A fuschia pink sari: with white border embroidery with petticoat and bodice.

Interested parties please contact (858)248-6355. Prices can be negotiated, if fair.

### **RIDES NEEDED:**

Many of our seniors cannot attend ZAC functions due to lack of transportation. Some areas where we have had requests in the past are: San Pedro, Irvine, Anaheim, Laguna Woods and San Diego. If you need a ride or can help give someone a ride, please let any committee member know.

## **CYRUS R. FATAKIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

It is time again to apply for the Cyrus R. Fatakia Memorial Scholarship which was created to honor and cherish the loving memory of our beloved Cyrus.



*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 in California. Please contact the ZAC committee if you would like to apply for this scholarship.

Good Luck & God Bless!

Sincerely,

Rohinton, Erna & Darius Fatakia

### ***Remembering You, Cyrus ~***

*At the rising of the sun and its going down, we remember you.*

*In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember you.*

*In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember you.*

*At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer, we remember you.*

*At the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember you.*

*As long as we live, you too, shall live, for you are always a part of us, as we remember you.*

*When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember you.*

*When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember you.*

*When we have joy we crave to share, we remember you.*

*When we have decisions that are difficult to make, we remember you.*

*When we have achievements that we want to share, we remember you.*

*As long as we live, you too shall live, for you are always a part of us, as we remember you.*

*We love you, our precious Cy and we will always, remember you.*

**CONGRATULATIONS – IT’S A BOY!**

**Jedd Pese Gandhi:** born April 23, 2010, son to Hanoz & Shazneen Gandhi, little brother to Shayaan; grandson to Homi Gandhi of Glen Rock, New Jersey and Roshan & Nadir Rabadi of Oakville, Canada.

**Kiyan:** born May 13, 2010, son to Michelle & Feroz Commissariat, brother to Sharmaine & Cyrus and grandson to Parvez & Aban Commissariat and Nadir & Zarine Camay.

**2010 FEZANA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President: Bomi Patel      Vice-Pres.: Rashid Mehin      Treasurer: Ratan Mistry

Secretary: Firuzi Poonevalla      Asst. Secretary: Nahid Dashtaki

If you are interested in the proceedings of the FEZANA AGM held in Oakville, Canada, in April 2010, please contact Vira Santoke: [vsantoke@zacla.org](mailto:vsantoke@zacla.org)

**Congratulations to Meher and Katayoon Amalsad** for being awarded the 2010 University of California, Riverside, parents of the year award from more than 20,000+ parents. The nomination and selection by UCR judges was based on the essay that their daughter Anahita, wrote in their honor.

**CHENNAI DAR-E-MEHER:**

We have received an appeal from the Jal Phiroj Clubwala Dar-e-Meher in Chennai, India, for donations towards the fire temple’s upkeep and also for helping poor Parsis in need.

Please send your checks marked *Chennai Dar-e-Meher*, to Rooky Fitter, 4611 Stellrecht, Huntington Beach, CA 92649

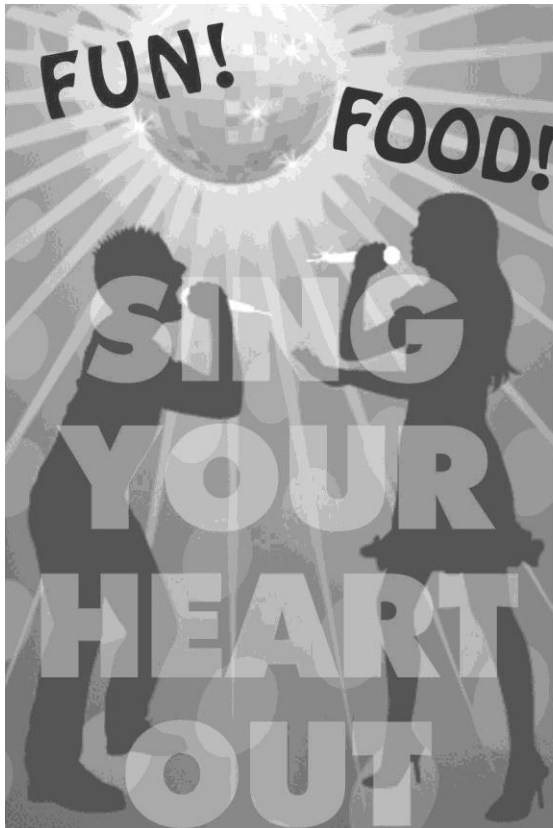
**CONDOLENCES:**

Rohinton Bamboat, husband of Parwin, father of Hormazd Bamboat and Tinaaz Bhandara, grandfather of Danish and Zerksis, father in law of Zarrir Bhandara, and brother of Daisy Rusi Sigantoria, passed away on April 30, 2010. Rohinton was a much loved member of our community, always willing to give a helping hand. Our sincere condolences to the family of the bereaved.



4611 Stellrecht  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

TO:



*Sunday, July 25, 2010*

*Fun starts at 3:00 pm*

*Woodlands Restaurant, Banquet Hall*

*Tickets \$25 (tax deductible donation)*

*Price includes Parsi Dhansakh Dinner*

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*For Tickets and info Call:*

*Farida - 661-298-8554 • Hilla - 760-494-3045*

*Rooky - 714-840-7398 • Woodlands - 562-860-6500*