



Zoroastrian Association of California

May 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

Jashan/AGM: Saturday June 1st

Jashan starts at 3:30 pm. sharp. AGM starts after the chasni, at 6:00 pm. Agenda includes reading and approval of the minutes of the general body meeting of Nov. 2012, approval of financial report, executive committee report, center update, and other business. Phiroz Tarapore has very kindly agreed to serve as auditor for this year. If any member has anything relevant to bring up for discussion at the AGM, please send a request in writing to Tehmi Damania 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 be served after the AGM. Suggested donation \$10 per person (children under 5 – free)

We need volunteers for ravo, malido, fruits, nuts, etc. **RSVP: Prochi Mistry at 661-284-3055 by Wednesday May 29** if you will be attending. Walk-ins/calls/emails on or after May 29th will be \$15 per person, regardless of age.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL: Thursday July 4

ZAC goes to the Hollywood Bowl!

Concert with **Fireworks** featuring Josh Groban with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West.

Cost is \$17 per person which includes a reserved picnic spot. Tickets are limited.

Please call Burjor Santoke at 714-963-1301 or email bvbm.santoke@verizon.net if you are interested and send check made out to ZAC to ZAC Center, 1424 E. Walnut Ave, Orange, CA 92867.

As usual, we will picnic before the show with our usual pora-pau, cutlets and other Parsi favorites.

ZAC ANNUAL SPORTS DAY: Saturday July 13

ZAC annual sports day will be held on **Saturday July 13 at 11:00 am**. This annual event which is being hosted for the 4th time generates a lot of interest both with young and old, so please mark your calendar and show up in large numbers to have a fun filled day.

Events taking place will be: Open Table Tennis Singles, Open Carrom Singles, & Open Table Tennis Rounders singles (again by popular demand). Lots of prizes will be given away. Also our team of volunteers will be selling snacks at reasonable rates – all proceeds go towards the ZAC center.

Sponsors are needed for prizes and food/snacks so do contact Phiroze Gundevia @ 949 419 1096 or phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com for more information on this event.

Kindly report on time to register for the events.

PAST EVENTS

Navroze Function held on Saturday, March 23, 2013.

Once again the Navroze function started when we walked into the lobby and were greeted by the exquisite Haft-seen table contributed by Mahnaz and Parvez Erani who had spent hours early in the morning decorating and setting up the goodies and beautiful flowers with their helpers. The jashan was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to our Mobeds, Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara, Zerkxes Bhadha, Maneck Bhujwala and Arda-e-Viraf

Minocherhomjee for offering the prayers on behalf of the community. The jashan-no-saman was taken care of by Dolly Malva and other contributions were Fruits: Nina Edulji, Mithra Irani and Aban Kapadia; Malido: Hootoxi Minocherhomjee, Meher Rustomji and Perviz Tarapore and the Ravo: Rhoda Lakdawalla, Lily Mistry and Vira Santoke. Following the Chasni, the main hall was ready to welcome everyone to beautifully decorated tables by Prochi Mistry and Dinaz Shroff and other helpers. There was a welcoming punch and lots of appetizers followed by Persian food and cheesecake for dessert. We would like to thank Katy and Hoshang Khambatta for volunteering to order and organize the appetizers and dessert. Thank you also to Darayus Mistry and his team of young volunteers to manage crowd control and keep the food lines moving smoothly. The entertainment that followed was a Bollywood dance performance by a pair of young dancers who got everyone on their feet and the DJ Kurush Italia, kept the party going for the rest of the evening. A raffle of an embroidered Gara-type sari (donated by an anonymous donor) and 2 decorative commemorative plates fetched \$1101 for the Prayer Room fund. Thank you everyone for your support. We apologize to members who may have been inconvenienced by the large crowd or loud music but we did have other rooms available to sit comfortably and chat if you wish. We had a crowd in excess of 275 people and we try our best to accommodate everyone as best we can. There is a reason why we make these functions "PRE-PAID" with a cut-off date but it does not always work.

Movie Nights : April 20th As usual ZAC MOVIE NITE was enjoyed by one and all on 20th April. After having a delicious Chinese dinner, DON 2 was all the more enjoyable. A big thank you to everyone pitching in to make every DINNER/MOVIE NITE an occasion to look forward to. Stay tuned for the news on next DINNER/MOVIE NITE.

ZAC Annual Walk-a-thon: April 28th

This Annual Fundraiser was enjoyed by 140 members who opened their hearts and collected around \$10,500.

Food Sponsors - Cooking: Dal – Dinshaw Fanibanda, Yasmin Gundevia, Lily Mistry and Vira Santoke,

Rice -- Chisty Dadachanji, Rhoda Lakdawalla, Hilla Machhi, Najoo Panthaky and Sanober Raghina,

Kabab -- Dogdo Arjani (Veg.), Katy Khambatta, Prochi Mistry, Zenobia Master

Kachumbar: Rukshana Cowasjee, Benaifer Limath and Prochi Mistry.

Water, Pizza and Prizes Sponsors: Farhad and Houtoxi Contractor, Firoze and Parvin Avari, Hoshi and Aban Kapadia, Jal and Soonu Birdy, Kavasji and Chisti Dadachanji, Kayleene Writer

Volunteers for Sale Items: Dogdo Arjani, Persis Choksy, Sheila Madon, and Zenobia Master, Hootoxi Minocherhomjee, Dilnavaz Shroff and Ferhiz Sidhwa,

Donors: \$250 -- Neville Khambatta and Hootoxi & Arda Minocherhomjee; **\$500** -- Behram & Rena Baxter, Noshir & Nurgez Dabhoiwala, Godrej & Arnaz Khambatta, Yazdi Pithawala and one Anonymous donor;

\$2000 -- Chisti & Kavasji Dadachanji and Ferhiz & Farhad Sidhwa.

Volunteers: Perin Bhagalia, Chisti & Kavasji Dadachanji, Gulu & Khushru Dubash, Mitra & Noshir Irani, Shirin & Dinyar Irani, Anita Karanjia, Hoshang Khambatta, Sheila Madon, Dolly Malva, Hoshang & Zenobia Master, Darayus & Lily Mistry, Vira & Burjor Santoke, and last but not least, the ZAC Committee.

Corporate Sponsors: Jamba Juice, Lazy Dog Café, MacDonalds, Olive Garden, Rubio's, Stater Bros., StoneFire Grill and Trader Joe's.

Prize Winners: Iyanna Bodhanwalla, Mehli Bhagalia, Xerxis Commissariat, Zane Commissariat, Zara Commissariat, Sanaya Cowasjee, & Zubin Daruwalla, Freddy Fitter, Perin Irani, Porus Karwa, Rayan Morena, Perzan Siganporia and Shayan Siganporia,

Dessert Competition Winners: Xerxes Commissariat, Firoza Billimoria and Arnaz Khambatta.

The committee would like to thank the walk-a-thon organizers, Chisty Dadachanji, Katy Khambatta and Prochi Mistry for their hard work and dedication which made this event a success. Finally, thanks to a wonderful community who always comes together whenever there is a great cause and makes the outcome -- SIMPLY SENSATIONAL!

Jashan with explanation by Zarir Bhandara & Ladies Club:

Held on **Sunday May 5** was attended by around 100 members. The Jashan was solely performed by the young priests – Zerkxis Bhandara, Darius Bhadha & Zerkxes Bhadha. A brief explanation of Jashan etiquette & its significance was given by Zarir Bhandara. This was followed by the delicious lunch prepared by the Bhandara family and a variety of desserts provided by different members. The guest speaker at the Ladies Club meeting was Behram Goshtasbi, a Chiropractor who gave a very interesting and informative talk and power-point presentation on "How to create healthy living, pain-free and stress-free- the chiropractic way.

Lecture Series and Presentation by Silloo Mehta and Malcolm Bhesania

The new series of informal presentations titled "Proud to be a Zarathushti: Learning From the Past, Looking to the Future" was started at the Center with the help of Silloo Mehta and Malcolm Bhesania. The talks aim to educate and inspire our youth and adults about the invaluable legacy of our ancestors. . About 25-30 members attended the sessions together with many of our young members. The first presentation, "Terror and Triumph: The persecution of the Irani Zarathushtis" traced the cruelest and the longest sustained persecution (for over 13 centuries) perpetrated by the Arab conquerors on the Z's of Iran. This was followed by The Shahnameh of Ferdowsi" - the story of how the Shahnameh, considered by many to be the finest piece of literature of all time, came to be written by Ferdowsi, 1000 years ago. The presentations were attended by many of our youth who showed great interest in the history and culture of our ancestry. The "Stories from the Shahnameh: The Lesser Known Episodes" were relayed very interestingly by Malcolm with special emphasis on the youth who showed keen interest in the in the legends narrated by him. We hope to continue these series with greater participation from our members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention All Grads and Grad Families!

We will be honoring all our young high school and college grads. We do not wish to leave out anyone so please send in your grad's details ASAP to **Tehmi Damania at 949-583-9973 or email tdamania@zacla.org**.

OBITUARY FOR SHIRIN DINSHAW IRANI

We mourn the passing away of Mrs. Shirin Dinshaw Irani on Thursday, March 7th, 2013 (Kadmi Mah Ava, Roj Govad) in Orange, California.

Shirin is survived in California by her husband Dinshaw (Dalu), older daughter Moti, son-in-law Ian, grand-daughter Soraya and younger daughter Piroja and son - in- law Richard. In India she is survived by her older sister Homai and family, younger sister Frengis and family, sister-in-law Prochi and family and sister-in-law Roshan and family.

The prayers for Shirin were performed at the ZAC Hall by Mobeds Zarir Bhandara, Zerkxes Bhandara and Maneck Bhujwala. We sincerely thank them and our family and friends for their support and guidance. May our most beloved Shirin's Soul rest in eternal peace in her New Heavenly Abode.

The ZAC Community offers sincere condolences to Dinshaw and his family.

The Committee regrets an error of omission in the Birth Announcement in the last newsletter.

The personal announcement of the birth of baby RIAA DOLLY MORENA was inserted by ZAC.

We would like to correct the announcement to: RIAA DOLLY Contractor Morena daughter of Cyra and Farzin Morena and granddaughter of late Dolly and Sam Morena and Houtoxi and Farhad Contractor was born on 9th Jan 2013 at 3:37 am at Mission Hospital in Orange County, California. Big brother Ryaan gave a warm welcome to his sister. *Congratulations to the Morenas and the Contractors and welcome to the community Baby Riaa!*

Congratulations to Homyar Gandhi, ZAC's newest entrepreneur.

Homyar has just started a new business selling cell phone accessories online.

HAGZ Screen Barrier - #1 Scratch Protection for your Mobile Device

The screen protector is manufactured from an exclusive, ultra-clear tough Japanese film. It's designed to precisely fit the contours of your device, providing unbeatable scratch protection. Comes in Clear and Anti-Glare finishes, 3 Year warranty and bundled with iKlear (wet / dry) anti-microbial cleaning wipes. HAGZ products are created in Southern California and they work with local students to design products and packaging. Please visit www.hagzinc.com for more details and product offerings. Also available on Amazon.com, Sears.com and Etsy.com. Please "Like" us on Facebook - "HAGZ"

Contact information - Homayar Gandhi / Email: info@hagzinc.com / Phone: 1-855-888-HAGZ (4249)

Good Luck Homyar. We wish you every success in the new venture.

Congress News & Update

Please mark your calendars' May 18th "NAZC Volunteer Kick-Off Meeting" @ 2:30 pm at the ZAC Center in Orange. Please RSVP to Sheila Madon madon5@att.net or (858) 675 – 1017.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, 20TH JULY, 2013, BOLLYWOOD NIGHT SPECTACULAR, DINE AND DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY at the CALIFORNIA ZOROASTRIAN CENTER, ORANGE COUNTY.

Details to follow.

E-mail change for the Madons: New email: madon5@att.net

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.

We just received a check for \$160 from them thanks to members doing their shopping and using their card.

Thank you for helping ZAC.

Pledges for Prayer Room

Pledges made for the prayer room need to be sent in now. **They are due and payable NOW.** If anyone wishes to make a donation or contribute towards the Prayer Room construction or knows anyone who can help get us discounts on any of the items needed in construction should get in touch with us **NOW.** We will be starting Phase One of the construction as soon as the plans are approved and we could use all the help we can get. It's a good time to approach all friends and family and explain how important this project is to our community and every little donation will help to get us there.

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@zacla.org.*

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

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To

ZAC Upcoming Events at a Glance

Congress Kick-off Meeting: Saturday, May 18, at 2:30 pm

Jashan/AGM: Saturday, June 1, 2013 at 3:30 pm

Hollywood Bowl: Thursday, July 4, 2013

Sports Day: Saturday, July 13, 2013 at 11:00 am

Bollywood Night: Saturday, July 20, 2013 – Save the date

Youth Show: Saturday August 24, 2013 – Save the date

The AGM Agenda will be sent by email blast in the next few days.