



Zoroastrian Association of California

SEPTEMBER 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

SENIOR EVENT: Sunday, September 11th

We will be holding our annual Seniors Day to honor seniors, starting at 3.30 pm. Those who have attended in past years will remember how much fun everyone has. This event is not restricted to our seniors only; **we encourage all of you to attend with the entire family.** Tea will be served, followed by a mix-and-mingle session followed by games and a special entertainment program after which there will be a catered dinner.

This year we are very fortunate to have a very talented gentleman from Surat regaling us with hilarious Gujarati songs, as well as other entertainment.

The cost for this event will be \$10 per person for members; \$15 for non-members; \$17 for walk-ins and those responding after September 9th.

Please respond to Sheila Madon: 858-675-1017/smaddon5@sbcglobal.net with the number of people attending, by September 9th at the latest if you have not already done so.

BLOOD DRIVE: Sunday, September 18th

The need is constant. The gratification is instant. GIVE BLOOD.

ZAC is hosting a blood drive sponsored by American Red Cross at the ZAC Center. Through teamwork and community minded motivation, we at ZAC can help save the lives of many people in Southern California.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive and ZAC is inviting everyone to participate in our upcoming blood drive. (Members, non members, family friends and neighbors, everyone is welcome.) Whether you volunteer or donate blood, our teamwork effort saves lives! Come and volunteer, be a recruiter; come let's get together and save lives.

All participants enter a regional drawing for a \$1,500 Gift Card! Each Donor will receive a coupon from Mimi's Café for a free appetizer and 2 complimentary VIP tickets to the Laugh Factory!

Please mark your calendar to attend the blood drive, scheduled for September 18th, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the ZAC center. For more info, please contact: Lily Mistry: 949-502-1505 or Farhad Choksy: 949-653-2827

LADIES CLUB: Sunday, October 9th

Our fun Ladies Club meeting will once again start at 12:30 p.m. Featured speaker will be announced at a later date. As usual we will have a pot-luck lunch, so please bring your favorite dish to share. RSVP to Dogdo Arjani, 818-545-8161.

FELICITATION: Sunday, October 23rd

ZAC will be honoring Mobed Fali Kanga for his years of dedicated and selfless service to the community. A Jashan will be performed by Fali uncle along with other mobeds starting at 4 pm. sharp. This will be followed by felicitations and dinner. Everyone is welcome to join us on this happy occasion. RSVP Sheila Madon by Oct.21st. 858-675-1017/smaddon5@sbcglobal.net

HALLOWEEN PARTY: Sunday, October 30th

It's ghosts and goblins time!!! Time once again for our wee ones (and not-so-young) to participate in our Halloween funfest. Prizes will be given to the most inventive costume, as well as myriad other prizes. Bhel and pizza will be served. The cost for this event will be \$10 per person for members over 15 year of age / children under 15 are free; \$15 for non-members; \$17 for walk-ins and those responding after Oct 28th .

JASHAN / GAHAMBAR / GENERAL BODY MEETING: Saturday, November 19th

Jashan starts at 3:00 p.m. followed by chasni. Meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served after the meeting. We need volunteers for ravo, malido, fruits, nuts, etc. for the jashan and the food. We also need a team of 2-3 for kitchen duty. At GBMs the committee is involved in the meeting and we need someone to keep an eye on the food.

Agenda shall include the following: Reading and approval of the minutes of the June AGM, treasurer's report, report of the finance committee, election of the 2012-2013 executive committee, and other business.

We have been offered the honor of hosting the North American Zoroastrian Congress in 2014 which is going to be a mammoth task and will require the FULL support and cooperation of our community. In order to determine this we are looking for 70-80 volunteers to work on the various committees covering transportation, hospitality, registration, entertainment, youth coordinators, etc. If you are interested in helping or chairing any of the committees or have questions about what it entails, please call Vira Santoke.

The present Executive Committee's term will expire at the end of the year. If you are interested in serving on the board for the next term, as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary 1, Secretary 2, Program Chairperson or Youth Coordinator please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to the election officer, Kavasji Dadachanji, before Oct. 15th, 2011.

IF ANY MEMBER HAS ANYTHING RELEVANT TO BRING UP FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING, PLEASE SEND IT IN WRITING TO VIRA SANTOKE vsantoke@zacla.org BY OCT. 31, SO WE CAN ADD IT TO THE AGENDA.

The charge for the food for the GBM is \$10. It is a members only event and you must RSVP by Nov. 16th to Sheila Madon: [858-675-1017](tel:858-675-1017) or smaddon5@sbcglobal.net
Also please let Sheila know if you will be bringing food, fruits or other offerings for the jashan.

PAST EVENTS

The 1st Center Anniversary celebration held on July 23rd was a fun-filled evening for all. A Jashan started this exciting day, followed by a welcome by our President and an interesting talk by Silloo Mehta. The snacks were delicious and enjoyed by all, as were the games, face painting and cakewalk. The evening ended on a high note (literally!) with an enjoyable sing along/Karaoke hour. Our grateful thanks to all the donors, helpers and volunteers. An enjoyable **Movie Nite** was held for the screening of "Housefull" on July 30th. This was followed by a delicious biryani dinner enjoyed by all. The **Ladies Club** met on August 14th. Dr. Hilla Sadri gave a very informative talk on issues concerning teenagers and younger women. This was followed by Silloo Mehta's **Gathas and Navroze celebrations** which began with a talk on the significance of the Gathas by 5 youth members. This was followed by a delicious Parsi dinner.

Over 100 Parsis got together on Aug. 19th to celebrate the **Shehshahi New Year**. A Jashan performed by 5 Mobeds led by Zarrir Bhandara started the evening off, followed by a short presentation by Silloo Mehta and some members of the community. The evening ended with everyone enjoying a traditional Dhundar-patyo dinner. It was wonderful to see the turnout, considering the fact that this was a weeknight event.

On September 3rd, ZAC's second annual **Sports Day** turned out to be a very successful event with a very good turnout of eager table tennis and carrom players, both young and old. It was really wonderful to see everyone join in and enjoy the game of "rounders". As usual, this event could not have taken place without participants, donors and volunteers. Our grateful thanks to our volunteers and everyone who donated cash gifts and food towards the event.

FEZANA JOURNAL

All are encouraged to subscribe to the quarterly journal of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America that helps to unite Zarthustis 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 Zarathushtis 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

CHANGES TO PHONE NUMBERS/EMAILS

Please see paper version of newsletter.

YOUTH SHOW RECAP by Persis Choksy

The Eight ZAC Youth Show was held on August 27, 2011 at the Golden West College Auditorium in Huntington Beach, CA. Over 300 people attended an almost packed performance. The show was a huge success and was enjoyed by everyone in the audience. Participants ranged in age from 3 years through senior citizens.

The acts showcased the talent of our youth and were very well received. The crowd was entertained by our dynamic MC's, Zuri Erani & Mehernosh Gundevia. The show included dances from hit Bollywood films, classical and pop music performances, musicals by our youngsters and the ever-popular ZAC choir led by Pervin & Maneck Chichgar. Our very own talented Nauzad Sadry entertained everyone with a medley of songs filmed on the late Shammi Kapoor. The ever-popular ZAC natak group once again entertained the audience with an award winning natak *Hoon Khoon Kari Besas* produced and directed by Arnawaz Dungore. Several individuals spent countless hours in rehearsals, ticket sales, advertising and various other administrative and backstage tasks to make this show a success. We would like to thank Vira and Burjor Santoke for ticket sales, Tehmi and Maneck Damania for marketing, brochure printing and assembly, Aban Kapadia and Anu Dungore for getting the advertisements for the brochure and the sponsorships, Zubin Khambatta for recording the show and providing us with DVDs. In addition, a big thank you to our stage manager, Roxanne Fitter for her invaluable assistance backstage. Special thanks to Sohrab & Banoo Irani for donating pizza for the participants, as well as for the tea. We would also like to thank all the participants and all the act coordinators who put in countless hours of practice, and to their parents for religiously driving them to the rehearsals.

APPEALS

An appeal from Mrs. Coomi Daruwalla of Rustom Baug, Mumbai, was received for the **Zoroastrian Winter Relief Fund**, which provides warm clothing and supplies to impoverished Parsis in India. Dozens of volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year to alleviate, in any way, the pressures of our needy brethren. All donations will be welcome and will go a long way towards making someone's life a little brighter and happier. Please make checks payable to ZAC and mail to Rooky Fitter, with a memo mention that it is for the Zoroastrian Winter Relief Fund.

New Darbe Meher: The Zoroastrians of Pennsylvania and New Jersey are in the process of building a Darbe Meher on a two-acre piece of land in the Delaware Valley, which was purchased recently by ZAPANJ. They are seeking help from the global community to finish the project. For more information or to donate, please contact Jehan Kasad: jkasad@yahoo.com or visit their website at www.zacuce.com.

CONDOLENCES

Manek Behram Shahbadi, 53, husband of late Oumnai, father of Meher, passed away on Aug 20, 2011. Our sincere condolences to the family of the deceased.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Danish Bhandara graduated from Irvine High School and will be attending Irvine Valley College, majoring in Nursing and Theater Arts.

Anahita Bhot graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in La Palma and is going to Cal State University Long Beach, majoring in chemistry.

Rosheen Zersis Birdie graduated from Beverly Hills High School and will be going to UC Berkeley from fall.

Zarrah Zersis Birdie graduated from UC Berkeley, Haas School of business. Zarrah is presently in NYC for training and will be starting work from 1st August.

Shahnaz Fitter graduated from Ocean View High School Magna Cum Laud doing the IB program. She will start this fall at the University of Washington.

Bahman Mody graduated with a Masters in Public Health from the University of Southern California. He is currently involved in research with plans of applying to medical school.

Kaizeen Mody graduated from UCLA with a B.S. in Physiological Sciences. She is currently working in Cancer Prevention and Control Research at the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center and applying to medical schools.

Nilufer Rustomji graduated UCLA in June with a BA in Psychology. She is now gainfully employed as a research coordinator at Beverly Hills Medical Center. She plans to further her studies in the near future.

Kayan Sidhwa graduated from UC Irvine with a major in Quantitative Economics and a minor and Management. He will be a Consultant at Booz & Co. in the Aerospace and Defense practice, located in the Washington D.C office.

Jehan Taraporewala graduated from Los Osos High School and will be going to UCLA this fall. He is hoping to major in Business/Economics.

AVESTA CLASSES

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 is: 9/11, 10/02, 11/06, 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: zbandara@gmail.com or Jehangir Dastur: j_dastur@hotmail.com for more information.

Cyrus R Fatakia Memorial Scholarship Recipients for 2011

Danish Bhandara: Danish will be a freshman at the Irvine Valley College with a major in Nursing and Theatre Arts. She placed 1st in the Orange County Role-About Festival in 2010 for original monologue. She received the Irvine High School Heritage Award for achievement and dedication to Theater Arts in 2011 and was awarded the High School Jacket Letter for her contribution to the Irvine High School Choir. Danish is a talented, personable young lady with a great potential to be successful in her career.

Benaz Colabewala: Benaz is currently enrolled at the Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, is pursuing an A.S. degree in Physics this August 2011, and is hoping to transfer to Cal State Fullerton University this fall. She is on the Dean's List, and is a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society at her college. Benaz has tutored students in algebra, trigonometry and calculus at the college campus Tutoring Center. She won first place in an Intramural speech tournament held at her school. Benaz is extremely hard-working and we wish her the very best of success in all her future endeavors.

Roya Salamat: Roya is a young Zoroastrian from Iran. She has a B.S. in Math from the Alzahra University in Iran. She has been admitted into the Computer Science Master's program at the Cal State Fullerton University in California. Roya has a passion for Art and has challenged herself to move beyond the norm of the typical graphic design student. She is highly motivated and pursues the call of the creative drive within, by finding a way to combine Graphic and Web Design with Computer Science. She is on her way to becoming an artist with a professional attitude as well as having motivation for self growth.

Rosheen Birdie: Rosheen is a recent immigrant to the United States from Pakistan. She is enrolled in U.C. Berkeley and intends to pursue a career in Medicine. She worked at the Parsi General Hospital in Karachi, assisting elderly patients, organizing a musical program for them and raising funds to improve their condition. In her young life she has worked with the KARA Health Welfare Association to provide aid to flood victims in Pakistan. She has also worked at the Sindh Institute of Urology Transplantation where she has assisted patients and doctors and raised funds to improve the Urology facilities. She is an outstanding student, very self-motivated, enthusiastic and an excellent Social Worker who has rendered dedicated service to the sick, the aged and the needy. Rosheen is indeed very deserving of this Scholarship to pursue her goals in the Medical field.

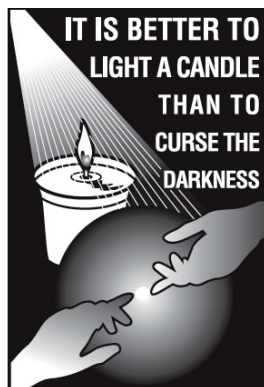
Sheena Driver: Sheena is currently enrolled in the John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, CA in the Master's program in Business Administration with a focus on leadership and strategic Business Planning. She received the Business Studies Outstanding Student Award after completing her Bachelor's Degree at this University. Sheena is hard-working, and is a stellar academic and business professional.

Rostam Zohoor: Rostam Zohoor is enrolled at the University of CA, Berkeley. He is working towards a Mechanical Engineering Degree. He has been tutoring college students in Math, Physics and Chemistry and is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). His professor, J. Karl Hendricks was very impressed with Rostam's abilities and gave him the opportunity to join his Research Group in the Fall of 2011. Rostam is a bright, hardworking, self-driven and imaginative student destined to be an outstanding Mechanical Engineer and a leader in his field.

Rohan Vilms: Rohan who has roots in India, has been admitted to the U.C. San Diego School of Medicine. He has completed his B.A. degree in Human Biology at Stanford University, CA. Most recently, he has worked as a Research Assistant in the Neonatology Department of the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford School of Medicine. Rohan also did a Summer Fellowship program for a community Health Project, with the International Humanitarian Foundation in Southern India. Rohan hopes to become a leader in engaging the Zarathushti community in support of global health services. His aim is to pursue a career of clinical service and research, focused on under-served areas in the U.S. and in the developing world. Rohan is an outstanding student and a promising scientist and clinician with great potential and promise. He hopes to use his medical skills in an international setting with a focus on Africa, South Asia and other developing nations. Rohan's willingness to take the initiative, his intelligence, interpersonal skills and motivation, all make him an excellent candidate for this Scholarship. We are proud to present him with the Cyrus R. Fatakia Memorial Scholarship and wish Rohan the very best in the pursuit of his career.

We wish all of the above candidates, as well as all those who applied for the Scholarship, Good Luck and All the Very Best in the pursuit of their respective careers!

The Cyrus R. Fatakia Memorial Scholarship Committee



MANTHRA PRAYERS (submitted by Silloo Mehta)

The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray (Leonard Havenhill)

Prayers are as essential for the mind and soul, as food for the body. They are a means of communicating with the divine. In Avesta, prayers are called Manthra Spenta. They also can be compared to a doctors' prescription to heal the illness of the soul.

Manthra prayers are structured and composed on the basis of Staota Yasna, the law of vibrations. When recited, they generate spiritual energy within us, which protects and sustains us. They also help us

resist temptations and bear the burdens of life. They alchemize the evil in us to good. In short, prayers infuse faith and devotion in us and facilitate our evolution and journey towards Ahura Mazda.

The number of Yatha and Ashem to be recited if you cannot read from the prayer book

Any Geh: 65 Yatha

Khurshed Niyaesh: 103 Yatha

Meher, Mah Bokhtar, Avan or Atash Niyaesh: 65 Yatha

Patet Pashemani: 121 Yatha, 12 Ashem

Hormazd Yasht: 103 Yatha, 12 Ashem

Ardibehest Yasht: 65 Yatha

Sarosh Yasht Hadokht: 75 Yatha

Sarosh Yasht Vadi: 103 Yatha

Afringan: 121Yatha, 12 Ashem

Avesta Manthra like a coin, has 2 facets – Manthra and Mithra. Manthra is the vibration caused by the recitation. Mithra is the thought force woven into the prayer. The recitation of the words (Manthra) produces beautiful beneficiary effects. When accompanied by the corresponding thought-force (Mithra), the effect of the manthra-recitation is increased manifold.

Zoroastrian Association of California

APPLICATION FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITION

I, _____,

residing at _____,

member of Zoroastrian Association of California

since _____, hereby agree to stand as a

candidate for the post of _____

in the Executive Committee and state that I accept the constitution and by-laws of the Zoroastrian Association of California.

I further state that the decision of the Election Officer is binding on me.

Date

Member's Signature

We the undersigned hereby propose and second the application

of Mr./Ms. _____

of _____ as a candidate for the

above position, in the Executive Committee of Zoroastrian Association of California.

Proposed by _____
(Name) (Signature)

Seconded by _____
(Name) (Signature)

Note: Please submit this form to the Election Officer only, by Oct 15, 2011

Kavasji Dadachanji
13177 Seagrove St., San Diego, CA 92130



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



1424 E. Walnut Ave.,
Orange, CA 92867

TO:

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 11 – Senior Event

September 18 – Blood Drive

October 9 – Ladies' Club

October 23 – Felicitation for Mobed Fali Kanga

October 30 – Halloween Party

November 19 – Jashan/GBM

Visit us at www.zacla.org

SEPTEMBER 2011