



# Zoroastrian Association of California

## April 2023

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### 2022-2023 Executive Committee

President – Rooky Fitter, Vice President – Firouz Felfeli, Treasurer – Phiroze Gundevia,  
Jt Secretaries – Mehernosh Amroli and Vira Santoke, Program Chair – Parvez Erani,  
Youth Coordinator – Daisy Pithawalla

### NEWSLETTER 2023-2

April is here and spring has arrived in full bloom! Let's make the best of our beautiful California weather and attend all the events that ZAC has in store for us!

With the rising cost of goods and services it is difficult to continue having several events every week, at very low rates, as we have been doing in the past. Please consider sponsoring or subsidizing, if you are able to do so. There are many ways in which you can help. If you would like to contribute, but are not sure how, do contact anyone from the executive committee. We will let you know where the need is most.

Cash donations are always welcome. Or you may contribute toward our WISHLIST below:

- Professional Sound Mixer for our sound system (\$800)
- Professional Audio Amplifier for sound system (\$2000)
- Wireless handheld microphone (\$900)
- Two wired handheld microphones (\$200)
- New water fountain / dispenser with installation (\$1000)
- Four 32 gallons recycling bins (\$200)
- Storage racks for the backrooms (\$500)

**2023 is election year.** A new Executive Committee will be elected at the end of the year. If you are interested in serving on the EC in any position and would like to learn the ropes, please join us in organizing the events and getting first-hand knowledge of how ZAC functions.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at the ZAC Center. Meeting will start at 2 p.m. Tea and light refreshments will be served.

Details of the meeting, Agenda, Minutes of the GBM (Nov. 2022) and the financials for 2022, will be sent out to members at least 21 days prior to the meeting.

## UPCOMING ZAC EVENTS:

*Save the dates for the following gahambars, parabhs, important religious days and social events! Watch out for email blasts giving details on all these events, as to time, place, cost, etc., or visit the ZAC website closer to the event date, under the events section.*

Maidhyozarem Gahambar: <b>Sunday, Apr. 30</b>	Asfandarmad Parabh: <b>Saturday, July 16</b>
Dae Mah Jashan: <b>Saturday, May 13</b>	Muktad Days: <b>Sunday Aug. 6 to Tuesday, Aug. 15</b>
Picnic in the park/Walk-a-thon: <b>Sunday, May 21</b> (Mason Park, Irvine)	Parsi New Year Jashan: <b>Wednesday, Aug. 16</b>
Zarthost-no-diso: <b>Tuesday, May 23</b>	Parsi New Year function: <b>Saturday, Aug. 19</b>
Homaji-ni-baj: <b>Saturday, June 3</b>	Khordadsal Jashan: <b>Monday, Aug. 21</b>
Sports Day: <b>Sunday, June 11</b>	Farvardin Parabh: <b>Sunday, Sept. 3</b>
Bahman Parabh: <b>Tuesday, June 13</b>	Dasturji Kukadaru Death Anniversary: <b>Monday, Sept. 4</b>
AGM: <b>Sunday, June 25</b>	Paitishahem Gahambar: <b>Saturday, Sept. 16</b>
Maidhyoshahem Gahambar: <b>Sunday, July 2</b>	Ardibehesht Parabh: <b>Sunday, September 17</b>

## YOUTH SHOW

Over the years, the ZAC Youth Shows have gained tremendous popularity and it's a pleasure seeing our youth as well as adults come together with a great sense of pride in our culture and identity. The bonding and friendships created has lasted for several years. We will need help in the areas of sponsorship, advertising, logistics, etc., and most of all we need gifted, talented, participants. **Parents, you need to take the initiative and encourage your children to participate! We are waiting to hear from you!** Please send a message to [committee@zacla.org](mailto:committee@zacla.org) or talk to any of the committee members.

## PAST EVENTS

### **Youth Volleyball:**

Over these past two months we have had two youth volleyball events. The first youth volleyball event was held on February 4 at University Park in Irvine from 7 to 9 pm. We had 10 youth show up, from the ages of 16 to 24, and enjoyed an evening filled with volleyball, music and pizza.

The second one took place on April 1, at University Park as well. We once again had a show of 10 people and enjoyed an evening of music along with pizza and multiple sports, such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, and frisbee. Overall, it was great to see the youth come together and engage with each other. We look forward to seeing more youth show up for the next event!



*Reported by Daisy Pithawalla (Youth Co-ordinator)*

### **SuperBowl:**



Although it was very cold outside, it was a warm and enjoyable evening at ZAC for all those who attended **Superbowl** on Feb 12. We had a turn-out of 115 members/kids.

Xerxes, the Chef, with his son (sous Chef) Zane, did a wonderful job of putting together many delicious Mexican dishes! The food was enjoyed by one and all. A big shout out to Khushroo Dubash also,

for all the help he gave Xerxes in the kitchen. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped clean up the kitchen.

Ashish Pithawala and his daughter Kyra, were very gracious in collecting funds and starting the SUPER BOWL SQUARE game. Members rallied and raised \$440 towards ZAC maintenance funds. With the gate money and the above amount, we made a decent \$550 net.

Once again, a very big THANK YOU to Xerxes for stepping up and giving the ZAC community a good time!

**Meherangan (Meher Parabh)** was celebrated on Feb. 27, with a jashan performed by Ervad Zerkxis Bhandara. This festival celebrates the victory of good and light over evil and darkness. The day concluded with dinner prepared by our volunteers.

### **Jashan & Boi:**



On Sunday, March 5, 2023, a joyous occasion took place at our Atash Kadeh in Southern California as our newest priest, Ervad Kyan Lali, performed his first celebratory Jashan and Boi ceremony under the guidance of Ervad Zerkxis Bhandara and with the support of Ervad Zarrir Bhandara and Ervad Arda-E-Viraf Minocherhomjee.



With great enthusiasm and heartfelt devotion, our young mobed skillfully conducted the Boi ceremony in the Rapithvan geh, surrounded by his family and friends. The afternoon of celebration continued with a delectable traditional Parsi Bhonu, expertly catered by Reshma Rustomi and graciously hosted by Kyan's parents, Arzan and Del Lali.

The event was a beautiful celebration, made possible through the tireless efforts of our dear mobeds and the unwavering support of the ZAC Executive

Committee. Kyan's parents would like to extend their gratitude to all friends and family who came together to make this special day possible, and we look forward to Kyan's continued contributions to our community through his mobedi for many years to come.



### **Jamshedi Nowruz:**

ZAC celebrated **Jamshedi Nowruz** on Saturday, March 18, with two events. A jashan at 5 p.m. was followed by the function soon after.

Our young Ervad Kyan Lali joined our ZAC mobeds...Ervad Zarrir Bhandara, Ervad Zerkxis Bhandara and Ervad Arda-e-viraf Minocherhomjee, in his first Nowruz Jashan at our Atash Kadeh in the presence of our ZAC community.

The evening celebration was attended by over 170 members, who were greeted in the lobby yet again by the beautiful Haft Seen table decorated with gorgeous floral arrangements and a



sumptuous spread of sweet and savory edibles of every type. Mahnaz and Parvez Erani have been arranging the Haft Seen table at their own expense for several years and the committee is truly grateful for their contribution to the festivities. Thank you to Prochi for making the wonderful Punch which everyone enjoyed.

The fun-filled evening included a game of "Name that Tune", with Zane Commissariat at the piano spinning out popular tunes for the audience to guess.

A raffle was hosted by Mehernosh Amroli. We thank Taronish and Behram Amroli, Natasha Dholoo and Shayaan Gandhi for helping with the sale of the raffle tickets. The delicious dinner was catered by Dilliwala restaurant. Our grateful thanks to the Commissariat family for helping the EC with hall set-up; Roxanne and Freddy Fitter for managing the Bar....and most of all, our sincere gratitude to Lily Dastur, Yasmin Gundevia, Xerxes Commissariat and Burjor Santoke, for always being there to help out in any area needed. If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please let us know so we can correct the error in the next newsletter.

**Avan parabh:**

In celebration of **Avan parabh**, a jashan was performed on March 23, by Ervad Zerkxis. Also, to honor this yazata dedicated to the waters, some of our members went to the **Santa Ana river**, on April 9, to offer prayers and libations. Ervad Zerkxis led the humbandagi with Avan Adavishur Niyaesh, Dooa Nam Setayashne, and Tandarosti prayers. It was heartwarming to see so many Zoroastrians up to the ripe age of 88 participating. After the prayers, scrumptious snacks of Pau Bhaji, Dahi vada, and hot tea were served at Navaz and Marzi Modi's residence.



**Ladies Club:**

**Ladies Club** meeting held on April 9, was well attended by about 50 members, including some who travelled long distances to learn more about the Spectacular Land of Iran. The delicious Sunday afternoon lunch of Dhun Dar patiyoo, prepared by Reshma, was followed by a very informative audio-visual presentation by **Malcolm Bhesania**, as he took an exuberant group of friends on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through the land of their ancestors.

Our thanks to the Ladies Club chairs, Lily Dastur, Aban Kapadia and Vira Santoke, for organizing the event.

**Birthday of Dasturji Kukadaru:**

On Monday, April 19, about 30 people attended a jashan performed by our mobed sahebs to commemorate the **birthday of Dasturji Kukadaru**, one of our religion's most revered saints. Our grateful thanks to Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara for the prayers and the scrumptious home-cooked dinner of pulav, dar and kachumbar. Also, the **Adar Parabh jashan** was performed on Friday, April 21.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of Freny Bacha for bringing the chasni fruits, Katy Alamshaw for the ravo, Dolly Malva for providing the tea, Aban Kapadia for icecream, and the Bhandaras for providing the main course for most of our jashans. Jimmy Colabewala always is very helpful, making sure our seniors get the help they need and everybody gets properly hydrated. Our silent worker, Nawaz Mody, is hardly seen, since she is either praying inside the Atash Kadeh, or helping wash pots, pans and dishes. Thank you, all, for your continuous support!

**Movie Night:**

Movie Night (Pathaan) on April 15, was a fun event for all who attended. While many were completely engrossed in this Bollywood version of a James Bond film, some others who were already familiar with the movie chatted outside and had a fun time, after dining on Reshma's delicious curry chawal. Thanks to Yasmin and Phiroze Gundevia for organizing the event.

**THANK YOU!**

**Arzan and Del Lali** for their donation of cloth napkins, which we can use in our future events, thereby reducing paper waste.

ZAC would like to thank **AT&T** for installing Fiber (Optical) cabling underground from the street to inside our building. We also thank Firouz Felfeli for working independently with them and also for personally covering all additional expenses. There was no cost to ZAC for this project.

**MATRIMONIAL**

Male, 27, MS in Civil engineering from UCLA. working as a senior structural project engineer in a reputed company in LA. Earning 6 figure salary annually. Also, an ordained priest. Currently on an H1-B visa. Enjoys playing cricket, tennis, traveling, hiking, and watching movies. 5' 11", average build, fair complexion. Looking for a Parsi girl who is well-educated, career-oriented, caring, responsible, values honesty, with a positive outlook on life. Someone who is funny and loves to travel and explore new places. If interested please contact [rashnapalia65@gmail.com](mailto:rashnapalia65@gmail.com)

Male, 35, living in India, working for International Digital Marketing Company. Loves listening to music, watching movies and playing cricket. Contact: +91-9769291873.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**



We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of our **Cub Scout Kyan Lali** who has successfully completed his Arrow of Light (AOL) bridging ceremony from Pack 681 and is now officially a member of the Boy Scouts of America. Kyan started his cub scouting journey back in 2018 as a Tiger rank. He was also awarded the "Webelos Super Achiever Award" emblem in recognition of completing all 27 adventures. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone, Kyan!

As he embarks on his journey as a Boy Scout, we encourage him to continue to embrace the values and principles of scouting. Whether camping in the great outdoors, participating in community service projects, or working on advancement requirements to become an Eagle scout, we know you will make the most of your time as a Boy Scout. This is a momentous occasion, and we hope you take pride in your accomplishments. We wish Kyan all the best as he continues to grow and succeed in his scouting journey with his Troop 1648.

**REMINDER....Don't forget to renew your membership** which runs on a calendar year from January to December. On the Home page on our website, there are two options: you can renew online or print out the form and return it by mail. (ZAC Center - 1424 E. Walnut Ave., Orange, CA 92867).

If you have difficulty getting the form, please email [committee@zacla.org](mailto:committee@zacla.org).

## **OTHER NEWS**

**Ervad Jehangir Dastur** represented our community at the Interfaith event sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. The event was graced by Mayor Karen Bass who was one of the speakers.

**The 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress** will be held in London, UK, from July 21 to 26, 2023. ZAC will be giving all eligible youth members a subsidy to attend the Congress. However, to be considered for the subsidy, you must have served ZAC as a volunteer in any capacity.

**T-Shirts:** ZAC has attractive T-shirts for sale at \$25 each. Contact Phiroze Gundevia ([phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com](mailto:phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com)).



## **OBITUARY**

**Silloo Firoze Dordi**, age 83, loving wife of 57 years of Firoze, daughter of Piroja and Minocher Darukhanawalla, devoted mother of Khushroo and Firdaus, proud grandmother of Trishta, Mateo, Santiago, and Karina, mother-in-law of Reshma and Mansi, passed away on the morning of Gosh roj, Mah Sherevar, January 26, 2023, at West Hills Hospital in Los Angeles. Her family and her faith were of primary importance to her. She was a kind and generous person, who always put the needs of others before her own. She was known for her warm smile, making everyone feel welcome, and never forgetting to wish everyone on their birthday!

**Rohinton Minocher Panthaky** passed away on February 13, 2023, Roj Hormazd, Mah Meher, at the age of 81 in Carlsbad, California. Rohinton was a charismatic individual who treated everyone with kindness and respect and made a friend wherever he went.

He is survived by his loving wife Najoo, caring daughters Anaita and Shiraz, and two adorable grand-dogs Luna and Bandit. He is also survived by his siblings, Jal Panthaky, Noshir Panthaky, Silloo Nazir, and Kety Patel.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Dolly Malva**, 83, daughter of Jerbanoo and Rustomji Malva, on April 20, 2023 (Mah Adar, Roh Daepadar), in her home in Downey, CA. Dolla, as she was lovingly called, was a very caring sister and was much loved and respected by her family and friends. She was an iconic member of ZAC for many decades. Dolla was one of the founding members of ZAC and served twice as President. During her term as president, she strived to keep the young children involved in the community and built a good rapport with the youngsters. She encouraged more jashans and prayer ceremonies in ZAC at a time when we had no Atash Kadeh or Center, often paying from her own pocket for all the related expenses. Her moonlight picnics in Long Beach were not to be missed. Old-timers in ZAC will remember how much fun they were and how members awaited this event with anticipation and joy year after year! And Dolla's "world-famous" dahi was always sought after! She would bring generous portions for attendees at all events!

Dolly is survived by her sisters: Ruby, Roshan, Zarin, Aban and brother Cowsie; Nieces: Daniela, Erica, Samanaz and Diana and Brother-in law, Hosi Kapadia. She will be greatly missed!

*Our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased!*

## NAMC INSTITUTE OF ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES

### **Online Lecture :**

**Deciphering the Time and Place of Zarathustra Using Archaeology, Linguistics, and Pre-History** by Mobedyar Pilsum Master Sunday, May 7, 2023, 2:00 PM EDT / 11:00 AM PDT

Join us on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82432181448?pwd=Mjh5dDJHOFJ2SmNBMXJqeXZqdnRTQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 3218 1448

Passcode: NAMCIZS

**Children's Religious Classes** are conducted every third Sunday of the month. There are three classes: Tiny tots, Elementary school, and Middle school and up. Please contact Zerkxis Bhandara for more information.

**Humbandagis** conducted by Ervads Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara in person and over Zoom, continue on Sunday mornings, followed by pot-luck lunch. A bui ceremony before and after the humbandagi is also performed by our Ervad sahebs every Sunday for the benefit of all the attendees.

**ZAC Recycles! Please be aware of the recycle bins kept in all the rooms, and make a conscious effort to put all recyclable materials in the right bin.**



CYRUS R. FATAKIA  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

We welcome students to apply for the Cyrus R. Fatakia Memorial Scholarship which was created to honor and cherish the loving memory of our beloved Cyrus.

The Scholarship provides students with financial assistance to study at institutions of higher learning within the United States. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, please get the latest version of the Scholarship Application Form [Revision 4] from the ZAC website:

[Forms – Zoroastrian Association of California \(zacla.org\)](http://zacla.org)

You may direct all communications to [efatakia@gmail.com](mailto:efatakia@gmail.com).

Thank You.

Good Luck & God Bless!

Sincerely,

Rohinton, Erna & Darius Fatakia



*To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die.*

*~ Thomas Campbell, Hallowed Ground*

*If you have any announcements such as weddings, nashjotes, births, deaths, graduations, etc., please let the committee know, so we can include your milestone in the next newsletter.*

We value your feedback and would appreciate any ideas, comments, suggestions you may have for the community. Just let us know how you feel and how we can help to improve on what we are doing.



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TO: