



Zoroastrian Association of California

July 2023

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 2023-3

2023 is an 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, we welcome you to join us in organizing our events and getting first-hand knowledge of how ZAC functions. We would love to hear from you!

Community Assistance

ZAC is seeking a band of merry Zoros, ready to unleash their superpowers for noble causes! Untether your inner hero and whenever you can, be a part of our magnificent brigade of volunteers and trail blazers. From spearheading events, helping during events to assisting senior members needing rides from LA, Orange County and San Diego, no action is too big or small. Our team on Helping Hands is constantly getting requests for rides. If you feel you are up to driving a few extra miles to pick up someone who has no transportation, it will be very much appreciated.

Of course, your monetary contributions for our Atash Kadeh, Center Maintenance, Welfare and Event subsidies will always be welcomed. Cash or kind.... *this is our community and the center is our home!* Please help in whatever way you can! 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)
- Four 32 gallons recycling bins (\$200)

Youth members who need volunteer/community service hours for school programs like CJSF/CSF, please reach out to a committee member to find out ways you can help.

Youth Show

There has been interest in reviving the Youth Show, but we have not received many participants. We have a lot of gifted and talented youth in our community! We have received interest from someone who would like to chair the show, but no show can be successful without significant acts! **Parents, please encourage your children to participate! We are waiting to hear from you!** Please send a message to committee@zacla.org or talk to any of the committee members.

Children's Religious Classes

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 (zzbhandara@gmail.com) for more information.

Hum Bandagis

Hum Bandagis 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 Hum Bandagi is also performed by our Ervad sahebs every Sunday for the benefit of all the attendees.

Muktad Days

The Muktad prayers at our ZAC Atash Kadeh/Agiary will commence this year on Saturday, August 6, 2023. This is our 32nd year of celebrating Muktad in CA and it is Ervad Zarrir's 51st (consecutive) year of performing the holy Muktad ceremony.

The Prayers will be held at 5:30 pm from Aug. 6th to 15th followed by chashni.

On August 16, Parsi New Year, prayers will be performed at 4:00 am followed by a māchi and Khusali-nu-Jashan.

If you wish to place a vase for your dear departed on the Muktad table please deliver it to Zarir Bhandara at ZAC center by July 31st.

Likewise, if you wish for your deceased family and friend's names to be recited please send them to Zerkxis at zzbhandara@gmail.com by the 31st. Even if you have sent names in previous years, please do resubmit them. Please limit your lists to 7 names at the most and be sure to include the titles of your dear departed using the following example:

Beh/Osta/Osti/Ervad/Khurd _____ [son/daughter/wife of] Beh/Osta/Ervad _____

****last names are not needed. Thank you.***

Best,

Zerkxis Z. Bhandara

Parsi New Year Celebration

Parsi New Year celebration - (Parsi-peg party!) Saturday, August 19, 2023. Let's ring in the Shehenshai New Year at our Center, together with family and friends. *Wear your best saris/garas and daglis!* It will be an evening to remember, with good Parsi food, entertainment, and dancing. We shall be honoring the winners of the Cyrus R. Fatakia scholarship. **Also, ZAC will honor all high school and college grads. Please make sure you have given your name and graduation details to ZAC.** Pricing and further details regarding this event will follow in an email blast closer to the date.

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.

Whist Drive Saturday, July 22	Ayathrem Gahambar Sunday, Oct. 15
Muktad days Sunday, Aug. 6 to Tuesday, Aug. 15	Khordad Parabh Friday, Oct. 20
Parsi New Year Jashan Wed., Aug. 16	Halloween Party Saturday, Oct. 28
Parsi New Year Function Sat., Aug. 19	ZAC Atash Kadeh salgreh Sunday, Nov. 12
Khordad Sal Jashan Monday, Aug. 21	General Body Meeting Saturday, Nov. 18
Farvardin Parabh Sunday, Sept. 3	Tirangan Sunday, Nov. 26
Dasturji Kukadaru Death Anniversary Monday, Sept. 4	Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 2
Paitishahem Gahambar Saturday, Sept. 16	Amardad Parabh Wed., Dec. 20
Ardibehesht Parabh Sunday, Sept. 17	New Year Eve Party Sunday, Dec. 31
Bingo Night Saturday, Sept., 23	New Year Maachi (12:15 a.m.) and Maidhyarem Gahambar Monday, January 1, 2024

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.



Past Events:

The **Maidhyozarem Gahambar** jashan on April 30, as well as the **Dae mah jashan** on May 13, were performed in the memory of our dear Dolly Malva. Our youngest mobed, Ervad Kyan Lali, joined Ervads Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara for the Dae Mah jashan. Delicious meals for both these important prayer days, in celebration of dear Dolla’s life, were arranged by an anonymous individual.

Picnic in the Park and Walkathon: On May 21, almost a hundred adults and children had a great fun-filled day at Mason Park in Irvine. The walk-a-thon was followed by games and a delicious lunch prepared by Reshma. The dessert competition brought in several mouth-watering, sweet entries! **We thank Katy Khambatta and Prochi Mistry**, along with their fabulous team of volunteers for spear-heading this picnic which has now become a much awaited summer event year after year.



Zarthost-no-diso, a day of great spiritual remembrance, was observed on May 23, with a jashan performed by Ervad Zerkxis. After the jashan, Zerkxis gave an interpretation of the circumstances surrounding the “death” of prophet Zarathushtra, described in the Pahlavi books as “Vihezi Zartusht”. We would like to thank the Bhandara family for the delicious dhansak dinner that was enjoyed by all.

Homaji-ni- Baj was performed by our mobeds on June 3. About 50 people attended this special jashan honoring a pious Zarthushti who lived in the late 18th century. Dinner was sponsored by Vira and Burjor Santoke.

Bahman Parabh was celebrated on June 13, with a jashan followed by a delicious dinner topped by a table full of yummy desserts. Our grateful thanks to the Bhandara mobeds and all the other volunteers who always help in different ways.

AGM was conducted on June 25. Minutes of the meeting will be sent out to all members in due course.

Maidhyoshahem Gahambar jashan was performed on July 2, with almost 60 people attending. The delicious dhansak lunch with side dishes and an array of mouth-watering desserts was enjoyed by all the attendees.

Spandarmad Parabh was celebrated on July 16. On this auspicious day, we were honored to have Ervad Jal Birdy join Ervads Zarrir and Zerkxis for the jashan in honor of Spandarmad Ameshaspand who oversees the earth. The jashan and delicious lunch thereafter were sponsored by Aloo Jijina and her family. Over 100 people attended.



Honoring Mobed Jal Birdy at Spandarmad Parabh Jashan

Thanks You to...

To the hardworking, dedicated team of 16 volunteers who sacrificed their Saturday, to **clean the Atash Kadeh** for 6 hours, making sure everything is sparkling and ready for the muktad prayers.



Atash Kadeh Cleaning Crew

Meherwan Irani, Roda Mubarakai, Rukshana and Jimmy Colabewala, Firoze Avari, Burjor and Vira Santoke, Mehernosh Pithawalla, Arnavaz, Faredun and Kerman Dungore, Cyrus Khavarian, Ketty Alamshaw, Houtoxi Contractor, Zerkxis and Zarrir Bhandara.

To the **Commissariat family** for setting up shelves for storage in the rooms behind the stage. Thank you, Xerxes, Zane and Zara!

Also our sincere gratitude to Vira & Burjor Santoke for bringing Pizza and Ketty Alamshaw for bringing Icecream for all the volunteers.

13th Annual Sports Day held on 11th June, 2023 was attended by 90 members comprising of youngsters, seniors and all young at heart!
It fills my heart that members came in big numbers, enjoyed the event and helped raise money for much needed "Maintenance Funds" (used towards keeping our facility & AK safe and clean)

Who could have asked for more when you have our two Mobeds Zarrir & Zerkxes Bhandara & Xerxes Commissariat, who not just donated their time, but even prepared food and fed everyone a sumptuous lunch! ZAC community owes these 3 gentlemen a lot. A Big Thank You to you three, from not just me, but from all our members!

This time we had Council woman Ariana Barr, to grace the occasion. She was met by all members present. She even enjoyed lunch with fellow members and was invited to give away a few prizes to our youth.

Besides Table Tennis, Carrom & Rounders, 3 races were organized for our young members viz: Lemon-n- Spoon race, Gunny bag race & a Triple-leg race. Much to the surprise of our youngsters even adults jumped in and insisted on participating in these races adding much needed fun to the races!

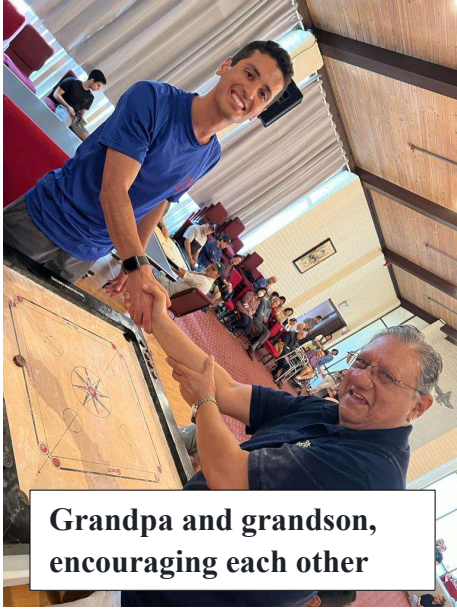
This time the funds raised was to bring awareness to our members that we had an operating fund deficit last year and that the \$11.6k amount raised will help bridge the gap between our yearly income and expenses.

I want to thank all the sponsors, volunteers, and members and my family without whose help I would not be able to organize and host this successful yearly event.

Please enjoy the photos attached - one can see the members enjoying the event. USHTA TE.

(As submitted by Phiroze Gundevia)

We would like to thank the entire Gundevia family for all their hard work and diligence in making the Sports Day a big hit!



Grandpa and grandson, encouraging each other



Lemon and Spoon races



Gunny bag race



Lemon and Spoon races



Members enjoying the moment



CONGRATULATIONS, Grads!

(ZAC will be honoring all our grads at the New Year function on August 19. If you have graduated from high school or college this year, but have not given us your name yet, it is still not too late. Send an email to committee@zacla.org before August 15.)



Soraya Xenia Irani Corydon graduated from Ruben S. Ayala High School in Chino Hills, CA. She is attending Fordham University Lincoln Center in New York this fall as a Psychology, pre-med major. She is the granddaughter of Dinshaw Rustom and Shirin Dinshaw Irani.

Amy Farrokh Engineer graduated with a Master of Science degree in Information, from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Hoshedar Zubin Kolah graduated from Cathedral Catholic high school in San Diego. He will be attending University of San Diego this fall.

Spenta Pithawala graduated from Northwood High School in Irvine. He will be attending Orange Coast College.

Bezon Rustomi graduated from Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, CA, where he earned the degree of Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.). For his next step, he is excited to be continuing his medical residency training in Orthopedic Surgery at Community Memorial Health System in Ventura, CA.

Shiraz Shahukar graduated from the University of Washington with a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Biomechanics. Shiraz is looking forward to making our Zoroastrian community proud through her future work and volunteering.

Avamehr Vaghaiwalla graduated from Marymount High School, Los Angeles, and will be attending UCLA in the fall.

Other News

Shehnaz Bhujwala, daughter of Maneck Bhujwala and the late Mahrukh Bhujwala, was recently recognized by the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) as a bar leader in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Shehnaz is a partner of Boucher LLP, a boutique civil litigation firm in Woodland Hills, California that focuses on high-impact civil litigation. Through her cases, she helps people harmed by the bad practices of corporations, employers, and governmental entities obtain justice. Shehnaz is also very active in the legal community. She advocates for consumer rights, adequate court funding, and other matters impacting California courts to California Legislators through LACBA and the Consumer Attorneys of California committee appointments. Beginning Fall 2023, Shehnaz will also serve the Los Angeles legal community as the Chair of LACBA's Litigation Section.

Congratulations, Shehnaz!

Shanaya Grant, a young author from Chicago, has recently published a book entitled “**Human Kind**”, which is a collection of compelling, true stories that will restore one’s faith in humanity. It’s an urgent call to reexamine the quiet marvel of human progress. The book serves as a profound reminder that there is light in every corner of the world and our individual choices can ripple through society. Shanaya’s book is available on Amazon.

National Day of Prayer: On May 4, 2023, a Prayer Breakfast event was held by the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council, with its president, **Maneck Bhujwala**, welcoming the attendees. In his welcome speech, Maneck included some of the advice given by Prophet Zarathushtra over 5,000 years ago, to address the challenges we face in our local, national and world communities today. Representatives of other religions also recited brief prayers from their faiths.

ZYNA (Zoroastrian Youth of North America, a branch of FEZANA) is hosting **a road trip to the 6 California Dar-E-Mehrs** over Labor Weekend 2023 (Thursday Aug 31 to Monday Sep 4, 2023) for Zoroastrian Youth age 21-35.

We have a fun weekend planned for 45 Zoroastrian youth to share their faith and culture; bonding with old friends and new!

The road trip will begin with a party at the CZC Dar-E-Mehr in San Diego at 5pm on Thursday, August 31, 2023. We will continue to travel through California stopping at the CZC Dar-e-Mehr in Westminster & ZAC Atash kadeh in Orange on Friday, followed by CZC LA Valley Dar-E-Mehr on Saturday. Sunday we will visit the ZANC and PZO San Jose Dar-E-Mehr and have a final party at the SZA Dar-E-Mehr in Sacramento. Everyone will depart from Sacramento on Monday morning.

The cost of the trip will be structured based on the hotel accommodation you prefer.

- Option 1: The cost of the trip if 4 people are sharing a hotel room is \$399.
- Option 2: The cost of the trip if 2 people are sharing a hotel room is \$549.
- Option 3: The cost of the trip if you like a hotel room to yourself is \$699.

The price includes a bus, hotel stays (Thursday night to Monday morning), and most of your meals for the weekend.

You will need to provide your own transportation to the hotel where we will begin the trip in San Diego and transportation home from Sacramento as well as a few meals along the way. Can’t wait to see you there for unforgettable memories!

Submitted by Farzin Avari, Kimiya Shahzadi & Parshan Khosravi

ZYNA Co-Chairs zyna@fezana.org

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

Letter from Roshan Malva

We have received the following letter from Roshan Malva, sister of our dear Dolly Malva, who passed away on April 20, 2023.

To,

Rooky Fitter, President, and members of the ZAC Executive Committee,

First, I would like to say a Big Thank You to Ervad Zarrir Bhandara for assisting us and for his dedication and devotion in guiding us through this difficult time. We sincerely thank Zarrir and Zerxis for all the prayers they performed for Dolla.

Secondly, thanks to the members of the Executive Committee for their loving support and help to the Malva and Kapadia families. Also, a Big Thank You to each and every member of our community for attending the four day and funeral prayers and for all their generosity, love and support. We were very touched!

At this time, I would also like to thank the two anonymous donors for providing the lunch in Dolla's memory, at the two jashans. Many people came up to us and remembered the fun times they had with Dolla, her moonlight picnic, and the parties at her house.

Our grateful thanks to the many people who sent us cards of sympathy. The love, support and generosity of the community members is greatly appreciated by our entire family.

Sincerely,

Roshan Malva

Passing of Loved Ones...

Avan Cyrus Shroff, 60, passed away in California on May 4, 2023. Ava was the daughter of Cavas and Goolu Shroff of Karachi. She is survived by her sister, Yasmin Ronny Kharas of Toronto, niece- Vira, and nephew- Zane.

Tehmasp Kelawala, passed away in Columbus, Ohio, on May 11, at the age of 90. The Kelawala family was very active in ZAC several years ago, before they moved to Hawaii. He is survived by his wife, Katy; sons, Abad and Adil; daughters-in-law, Meenu and Pauline and grandchildren, Arianna, Priyanka and Cyrus.

Nazanin Barkhordar, daughter of Mitra Zartoshty and late Farbod Barkhordar, grand-daughter of late Paridokht and Mehraban Zartoshty, passed away on May 14. She was 39 years old. Her memories will forever live in the hearts of those who loved her.

Roshan Hadulla, 84, passed away on June 7, 2023, in Los Angeles, CA. Roshan was born in Karachi, Pakistan, to Jehangir and Dhunmai Mistry. She was the wife of late Klaus Joachim Martin Hadulla; mother of Anna Maria and Craig Girnby and Anita Hadulla; grandmother of Nicklaus, Drew and Brooke Dunn; sister of Keki and late Nerges Mistry, and Zarin and late Hoshang Shroff. During her life, Roshan had the privilege to live all over the world. She enjoyed life to its fullest by travelling, spending time with loved ones, staying active and playing bridge.

Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased!



The Executive Committee values your feedback and would appreciate any ideas, comments, or suggestions you may have for the community. Let us know how you feel and how we can improve. Please email us at committee@zacla.org.

Mobeds/Mobedyars

Upon the request of several members, we have enclosed in this newsletter an updated list of Mobeds/Mobedyars in Southern California. Call them directly if you need their services.



LIST OF MOBEDS AND MOBEDYARS

First Name	Last Name	City	Email	Telephone
Ervad Zarrir	Bhandara	Irvine, CA 92604	zbhandara@gmail.com	562-331-9973
Ervad Zerkxis	Bhandara	Irvine, CA 92604	zzbhandara@gmail.com	949-502-1474 949-551 1936
Ervad Farhad	Bhadha	La Crescenta, CA 91214	fahadha@aol.com	818-957-1320
Ervad Darius	Bhadha	La Crescenta, CA 91214		818-957-1320
Ervad Jehanbux S.	Bhadha	Montrose, CA 91020	Jhadha@hotmail.com	818-957-1320
Ervad Hoshang J.	Bhadha	Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694	aathra1@hotmail.com	949-429-3121 949-280-7541
Mobedyar Maneck	Bhujwala	Huntington Beach, CA 92646	mnbhujwala@gmail.com	714-374-7078 714-369-9854
Ervad Jal N.	Birdy		jalnbirdy@gmail.com	909-241-9084
Ervad Jehangir	Dastur	Los Angeles, CA 90066	dasturjehangir@gmail.com	310-915-1065 310-994-3071 - text
Ervad Yazad	Dastur	Los Angeles, CA 90066		
Mobedyar Behram	Deboo	Laguna Woods, CA 92637	bsmndeboo@aol.com	949-951-4489
Ervad Minoo	Katrack	Santa Clarita, CA 91350	pkatrack@socal.rr.com	661-309-9539 661-964-8203
Ervad Kyan Arzan	Lali	San Diego, CA 92128	arzan@outlook.com	574-485-8587
Ervad Arda-e-viraf	Minocherhomjee	La Jolla, CA 92037	minocherhomjee@yahoo.com	312-961-5628
Ervad Adil	Minocherhomjee	La Jolla, CA 92037		858-459-0676
Ervad Farhad	Minocherhomjee	La Jolla, CA 92037		858-459-0676
Ervad Fariborz	Shahzadi	Mission Viejo, CA 92692	frank.shahzadi@yahoo.com	949-348-2735 949-697-4105
Ervad Khushro B.	Unwalla	Highland, CA 92346	unwallak@gmail.com	909-553-5288



Zoroastrian Association of California

Membership Form

January to December, 2022

Type*	Description	Cost	No.	Sub Total
Life	Husband/wife & children under 18 (DOB Req'd for children)	\$3000		\$
Family	Husband/wife & children under 18 (DOB Req'd for children)	\$125		\$
Individual	Adult over 18 (DOB Optional)	\$60		\$
Senior	Over 65 years of age (DOB Req'd)	\$40		\$
Student	Full-time student under 25 years of age (DOB Req'd)	\$40		\$
TOTAL:				\$

DOB: Date of Birth format mo/day/year **THE DOB INFORMATION WILL NOT BE SHARED OR MADE PUBLIC.**

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ *TYPE: L F I Se St
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ DOB ____/____/____

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ *TYPE: L F I Se St
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ DOB ____/____/____

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ *TYPE: L F I Se St
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ DOB ____/____/____

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ *TYPE: L F I Se St
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ DOB ____/____/____

DONATIONS are IMPORTANT

Maintenance \$ _____ General \$ _____ Youth \$ _____ Education \$ _____ Religious \$ _____

Life Members please contribute towards the Center's maintenance

Mail this form along with your check payable to ZAC:

Attn: Treasurer. 1424 E. Walnut Ave, Orange, CA 92867

OR complete this form online and pay with credit card at www.zacla.org

(If additional space is needed, please use another form)

HAPPY PARSI NEW YEAR
WISHING YOU ALL A

Navroze Mubarak



1424 E. Walnut Avenue
Orange, CA 92867

TO: