



Zoroastrian Association of California

January 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 2023-1

Happy New Year! With a spirit of optimism we bid adieu to 2022 and welcome the new year with a fresh beginning!

ZAC has been very active throughout the past year in spite of some setbacks caused by the pandemic and we have kept up with all the events that were previously marked on our calendar. This year we have even more exciting events scheduled for our members and we look forward to your participation and support.

We are very fortunate to have extremely dedicated mobeds in our community and our hard-working volunteers with their unwavering support make it possible for us to host events at very low rates so that all can take part. For some of our events we do run in a loss. **Please consider sponsoring an event...fully or in part, if you are able to do so.** Perhaps you might want to sponsor a gahambar, subsidize the noruz function or donate some gift cards that we can use as prizes? There are umpteen ways in which you can contribute. Any donation is appreciated and will go a long way in helping the Executive Committee continue to provide religious and social events, at least once a week as we have been doing, if not more.

WELFARE FUND: From time to time, we receive appeals from individuals in need, both here as well as in India. Thanks to the efforts of Yasmin and Phiroze Gundevia who work tirelessly to collect funds for Welfare by organizing the annual sports day, we have been able to help several individuals in the past. However, need always surpasses funds received, so if you would like to donate towards this noble cause, any amount will be greatly appreciated.

YOUTH SHOW

Do you remember the Youth Variety Shows we have had over the past three decades? Would you like to have another one this year? If so, we would love to hear from you! 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. Please send a message to committee@zacla.org with your feedback or talk to any of the committee members.



In celebration of our Newest Mobed: Ervad Kyan Lali



Following the footsteps of many mobeds before him, a new 'navario', 11-year-old Kyan Lali completed his Navar ceremony and proudly entered his first stage of Zoroastrian priesthood on 20th December 2022 (Roj Amardad, Mah Amardad, 1392 YZ) The Yazashne ceremony was performed in memory of Kyan's great-grandmother Late Najamai Kaikhushroo Lali at the Vatcha Gandhi Agiary (Mumbai, India) by Er. Khushroo Kanga and Er. Karl Sidhwa and also under the able guidance of Er. Hormuz Aspandiar Dadachanji. "We couldn't be more proud of our son!" felicitated his parents, Arzan & Del Lali. Kyan was trained under the tutelage and able hands, dedication, encouragement, and countless hours of Zoom call training sessions of Er. Jal Noshirvan Panthaky (Toronto, Canada) along with encouragement and guidance from his own father, Arzan, over the past 4 years. Kyan devoted many hours to learning and persevered through challenging moments. The family truly appreciates the efforts of Er. Jal Panthanky and advice from our community mobed leaders Er. Arda-e-viraf Minocherhomjee and Er. Zarrir Bhandara with the Navar

preparation process. "One newly initiated into the work of offering prayers, rites, and sacred things to Ahura Mazda is called Navar". In his very first ceremony as a mobed, Ervad Kyan Arzan Lali joined the other 18 mobed sahebs at the celebratory Jashan for the 166th anniversary of Vatcha Gandhi Agiary. We are proud to add a new young mobed to our ZAC fold. And, with blessings of Pak Dadar Ahura Mazda, his grandparents, and all his loved ones we hope Er. Kyan proudly serves our SoCal Zarathushti community for many years to come.



Thank you to Rukshana and Minoow Cowasjee for their generous donation which enabled us to buy a commercial dishwasher and to Xerxes and Diana Commissariat for donating 250 plates and silverware which we have already started using at our events this month. Also, thanks to Lily Dastur and Yasmin Gundevia for taking the dirty dishes and silverware to wash at home, since the dishwasher will take some time to be hooked up.

PAST EVENTS

On December 18, 2022, ZAC celebrated the **11th Anniversary of Humbandagi**. After lunch on this special day, attendees celebrated the birthdays of the month with cake and icecream. Started in Dec. 2011 by Ervad Zarrir Bhandara, who believed that prayer has greater power when chanted collectively as a group, the humbandagi has grown from a handful of local attendees, to people coming from different cities every Sunday morning to take part in this beautiful ritual. Several people living in other states also join in over Zoom. On this special day, Ervad Zarrir shared illuminating insights into the power and significance of the “sound of prayers”. The sound of our mathravani connects with the universal sound which transforms us and our environment into a positive field.

Amardad Parabh jashan was performed by Ervads Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Zarrir talked about the important role played by the seventh Amesha spenta, Amardad, who protects the plant kingdom. Amardad stands for immortality and bestows the triumph of undyingness in order to maintain the well-being and continuity of God’s creations.

The ZAC **New Year Eve party** on Dec 31, was an evening thoroughly enjoyed by about 70 people who dared to drive long distances late night and attend despite the inclement weather. Young and old had a great time starting off the bash with a dance instruction in Rumba, ably conducted by our ballroom dance expert, Sam Billimoria. This was followed by a fun game organized by Lily Mistry. Everyone enjoyed taking pictures in the photo booth, and dining on delicious Persian food, topped by Rooky’s yummy curry-chawal. The highlight was bringing in the new year with a champagne toast and the children leading the countdown, dancing away to lively music provided by our talented young DJ, Behram Amroli. Many thanks to all the folks who helped make this party a big success!



There was no better way to start the New Year than with the resonance of our mathravani prayers and the sonorous sounding of the bells during the **bui/maachi ceremony in Ushain gah, soon after midnight**. The beautiful prayers recited by Ervad Zerkxis Bhandara, with no light in the room except for the commanding glow of the fire, is indeed an uplifting experience not to be missed!

January 1, 2023, over 70 people (some who drove again in the rain after the previous night) were present for the **Maidyarem gahambar** that celebrates mid-winter. After chasni fruits and ravo, a delicious lunch of dhun dar patiyu, appetizers and yummy desserts prepared by our volunteers in the true gahambar fashion, was enjoyed by all.

After the fun and frolic of the previous night, followed by the devotional prayers awakening our souls the next morning, our members felt truly blessed and thankful for the camaraderie and the wonderful spiritual experience we are able to enjoy as a community, here in Southern California.

Sherevar Parabh was celebrated on Jan 16, with a beautiful jashan performed by Ervad Zerkxis Bhandara, followed by dhansak lunch along with other yummy items prepared by several volunteers.

OTHER NEWS:

The 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress will be held in London, UK, from July 21 to 26, 2023. Congress Registration is now closed as they reached maximum capacity in just a few hours after opening! We hope many of our young members managed to register on time. **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).

NAMC institute of Zoroastrian Studies

Online Lecture : Celebrating the Philosophy of Zarathushtra on UNESCO World Philosophy Day

by Firdosh Mehta

- February 12, 2023, 2:00 pm EST

(See the attachment for details)

Join us on Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 824 3218 1448

Passcode: NAMCIZS

Fundraising Sale of Tumblers: As part of our fundraising and Green initiative, ZAC is selling tumblers with the ZAC logo on one side and name on the other.

The cost is \$15 per tumbler. These Tumblers are great for HOT drinks or COLD drinks. You can use your cup to fill up at the local 7-11 or Starbucks. You can take it with you in the car, at work, on a walk, or to the ZAC Center.

Product Description:

- Double wall insulation
- Stainless steel with plastic liner material
- All of our drinkware is measured to the brim
- Hand-wash only
- 7"H | 16 oz. capacity



Reserve your tumbler today! Email: jt-secretaries@zacla.org, they will be available at the Navroze Function.

Support ZAC as you shop! We have signed up with AMAZON. Go to [Amazon Smile](#) and select Zoroastrian Association of California as your charity of choice.

Help needed: An elderly lady, 84 years, with minor physical disabilities, needs assistance with activities of daily living. Help is needed 3 times a week, in San Dimas, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. If interested, call Banu (626-348-3765).

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.



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. For your convenience, print-and-mail form is attached to this newsletter.

ZAC relies on donations. Life members please do contribute!

UPCOMING ZAC EVENTS:

Save the dates for the following gahambars, parabhs, important religious days and social events! More will be added later and broadcast in email blasts...watch out for further announcements and visit our ZAC Website at www.zacla.org under the events section.

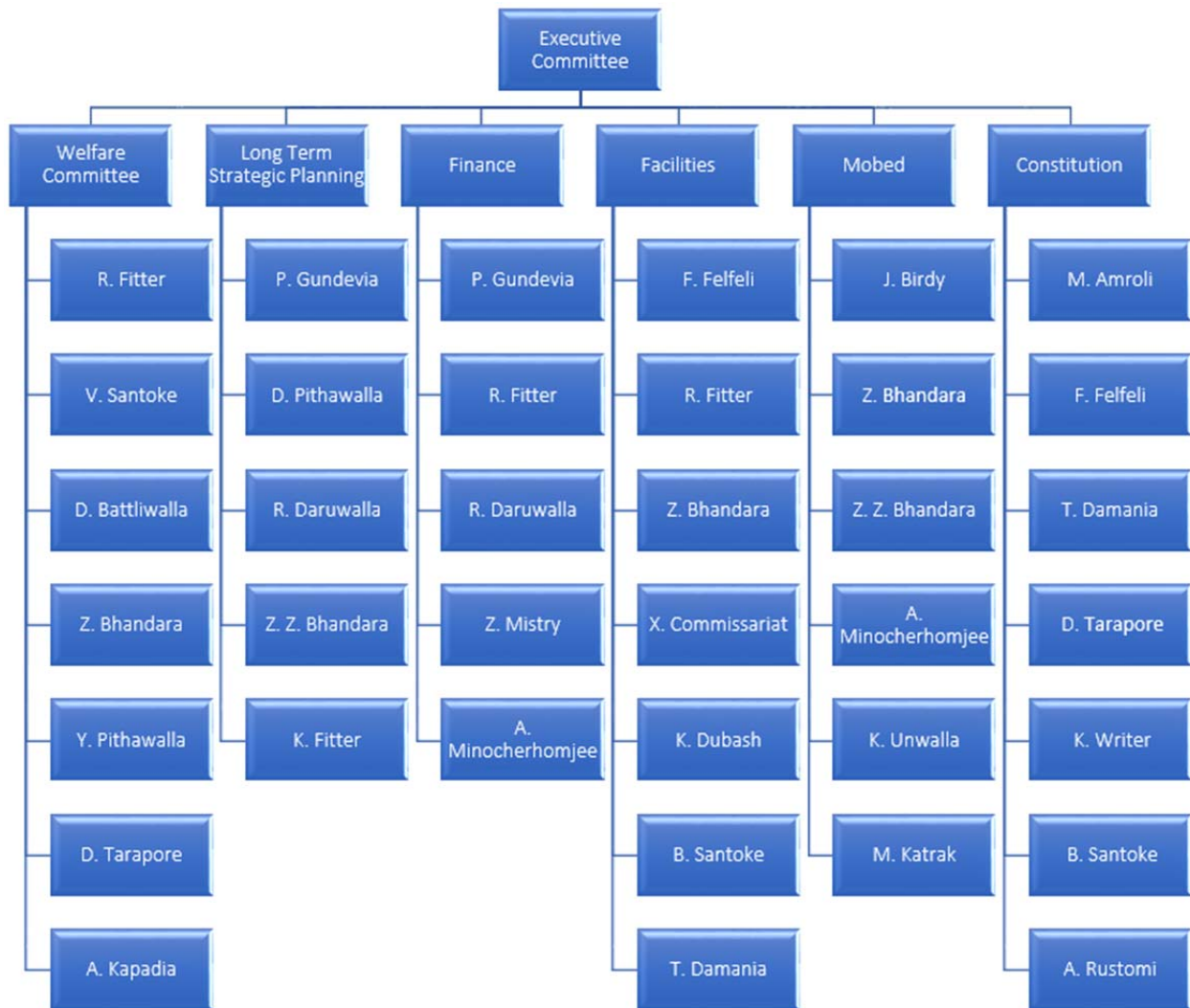
Jashn-e-sadeh: Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023	Saint Dasturji Kookadaru's birthday jashan: Monday, Apr. 10
Youth Volleyball: Saturday, Feb. 4	Adar parabh jashan: Friday, Apr. 21
Super Bowl party: Sunday, Feb. 12	Maidhyozarem Gahambar: Sunday, Apr. 30
Meher Parabh: Monday, Feb. 27	Dae Mah Jashan: Saturday, May 13
Jamshedi Noruz Celebration: Saturday, Mar. 18	Picnic in the park: Sunday, May 21
	Zarthost-no-diso: Tuesday, May 23
Jamshedi Navroze jashan: Saturday, Mar. 18	Homaji-ni-baj: Saturday, June 3
Avan parabh Jashan: Thursday, Mar. 23	Bahman Parabh: Tuesday, June 13
Ladies Club: Sunday, Apr. 9	Sports Day: Sunday, June 18
Movie Night: Saturday, Apr. 15	AGM: Sunday, June 25

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 Zarrir or Zerkxis Bhandara for more information.

Humbandagis conducted by Ervad Zarrir 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.

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.

ZAC SUB-COMMITTEES



As we start off the new year, it is traditional for Americans to support their favorite charities and non-profit organizations. We hope that this year you will include ZAC in your considerations when you decide to contribute. The committee hopes to count on your generosity!

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)



Zoroastrian Association of California

Membership Form

January to December, 2023

Type*	Description	Cost	No.	Sub Total
Life	Husband/wife & children under 18 (DOB Req'd for child)	\$3000		\$
Family	Husband/wife & children under 18 (DOB Req'd for child)	\$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 \$ _____ Welfare \$ _____ Youth \$ _____ Education \$ _____ Religious \$ _____

ZAC relies on donations. Life members please do contribute

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)



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

VOLLEYBALL SOCIAL

University Park Sand Volleyball Courts
1 Beech Tree Ln, Irvine, CA 92612

SCAN TO RSVP



FEBRUARY 4
7:00PM-9:00PM

ENJOY A FUN-FILLED NIGHT OF PIZZA AND VOLLEYBALL WHILE BEING
ABLE TO CONNECT WITH OTHER ZOROASTRIANS AROUND SOCAL!

AGES 16-30

January 2023
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

March 2023
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 1 2 3 4
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30 31

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



1424 E. Walnut Avenue
 Orange, CA 92867

TO: