



Zoroastrian Association of California

October 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 2023-4

GENERAL BODY MEETING:

Notice is hereby given for the General Body Meeting to be held November 18, 2023 at 4 p.m., at the ZAC Center. This is an election year. The [nomination form](#) for the positions on the Executive Committee has already been sent to the members by email and is also attached to this newsletter.

All members of the present Executive Committee have completed their current term but are eligible to run for another term. Members interested in serving on the ZAC Executive Committee for the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Joint Secretary (2 Positions), Program Chairperson or Youth coordinator may complete [attached Nomination Form](#) and mail or email the duly signed form, to the Election officer, Homayar Gandhi. The Election Officer will confirm your application, once received, via email.

The General Body Meeting is for members only. If any member has anything relevant to bring up for discussion at the meeting, please send a request in writing to Rooky Fitter by November 13, so it can be included in the Agenda. Items brought up from the floor will be allowed 3 minutes per member – time permitting. More information, along with the Minutes of the June AGM, will be mailed out to all members 21 days prior to the meeting. Dinner will be served after the meeting. (Details to follow).

Children's Religious Classes

Children's Religious Classes are conducted *every third Sunday of the month*. 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.

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.

Ladies Club Sunday, Oct. 1	General Body Meeting Saturday, Nov. 18
Ayathrem Gahambar Sunday, Oct. 15	Tirangan Sunday, Nov. 26
Khordad Parabh Friday, Oct. 20	Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 2
Halloween Party Saturday, Oct. 28	Amardad Parabh Wed., Dec. 20
ZAC Atash Kadeh salgreh Sunday, Nov. 12	New Year Eve Party Sunday, Dec. 31
<i>New Year Maachi (12:15 a.m.) and Maidhyarem Gahambar Monday, January 1, 2024</i>	

Past Events:

On July 22nd, 2023, ZAC held its second annual **Bingo & Whist Drive event**. It was a fun evening attended by over 60 members. During registration, members were treated to “patrel” and a variety of cookies courtesy of Annu Talati and Behnaz Toorkey.

The evening started with 2 games of bingo. The big winner of the evening was Rumi Raghina who won several prizes. Way to go, Rumi!! After bingo, members and guests were treated to delicious “chaat” food provided by RT Kitchen (www.rtkitchen.com), which included bhel puri, dahi vada, samosas and vada pao. Rooky Fitter donated chicken wings and nuggets to round out the menu. We also had a variety for dessert which included - mango ice cream (donated by Xerxes Commissariat), pendas (donated by Annu Talati), and baklava (donated by Katy Khambatta). After this sumptuous treat, members were ready and eager to play Whist Drive. It was extremely heartening to see the young and old take part and enjoy this card game. Congratulations to the winners: Phiroze Gundevia, Zubin Daruwalla, Deelnavaz Tarapore and Yasmin Gundevia. The evening concluded with a birthday celebration for Mehernosh Pithawala’s father, which included two delicious cakes.

This event would not have been the success that it was, were it not for the tireless volunteers who, in addition to donating various food items, selflessly gave of their time and efforts as well. They include, in no particular order - Hanoz Kateli, Annu Talati, Behnaz Toorkey, Gulu Dubash, Rooky Fitter, Parvez Erani, Katy Khambatta, Yashmin Pithawalla, Xerxes Commissariat, Zane Commissariat, Shireen Dastur and Vira and Burjor Santoke. The entire

ZAC family appreciates you and your commitment to helping the community. A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers.....keep up the good work!!!

Submitted by co-chairs Lily Dastur and Meherengiz Kateli

ZAC would like to thank Lily and Meherengiz for a job very well done!

Youth Activities:

On July 16th, we had a beach bonfire potluck with 10 youth. We gathered at Balboa beach and over the course of the evening, we enjoyed some yummy chicken sandwiches, pasta salad, pastries from Portos, s'mores, and cream puffs. We watched the sunset while playing some music and football and ended the night by roasting some s'mores over the fire pit. Thank you to everyone that brought something and we are very grateful for all who showed up!

On September 1st, we had a Youth BBQ and Game Night where we hosted people from the ZYNA road trip to 6 Dar-e-mehrs across California. The night started around 8pm with a total of 50 people in attendance. The evening was filled with mingling and playing table tennis while we had music playing in the background. We also had some yum snacks, such as chips and salsa and a fruit and veggie platter. We were lucky enough to have our very own Xerxes Commissariat grill up some hot dog and burgers for all in attendance. We continued the night with dancing and ended with a midnight boi done by our very own, youngest mobed, Ervad Kyan Lali. Everyone was super happy with the outcome of this event and are eagerly looking forward to the next one! Thank you to everyone that contributed to making this event amazing! We couldn't have done it without you!



Contributed by youth co-ordinator, Daisy Pithawalla



On the religious side, ZAC is probably the only organization in all of North America to celebrate all 6 gahambar, 12 parabhs, 10-day muktads and all other important religious days in our Zoroastrian calendar, with appropriate prayers.

Shenshai New Year was celebrated the Parsi way on August 19, with lively entertainment and delicious Parsi bhonu prepared by our own member chefs. This was the first time we had an event of over 200 people, that was put together entirely by volunteers from within our community! Our grateful thanks to our talented youngsters... Danish Bhandara for the dance number, Zane Commissariat for entertaining us on the piano and DJ Daisy Pithawalla for providing lively music throughout the evening, keeping many of us glued to the dance floor. The scrumptious meal was prepared by volunteers from within the community. A round of applause for our master chefs...Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara for the biryani and eStew, Xerxes Commissariat for the chicken and dessert, and Yashmin Pithawalla for the shrimp dish. We got a pleasant surprise from Burzin Engineer who donated chicken kababs and Binaifer Dholoo got delicious coffee for that extra perk!

We would also like to thank all those who donated the drinks, making our “Parsi Peg Party” a day to remember!



Parsi New Year on Aug 16, was ushered in with a khushali-nu-jashan, followed by **jashans on Khordad Sal** (Aug. 21), **Farvardin Parabh** (Sept. 3) and **Remembering Dasturji Kukadaru on his death anniversary** (Sept. 4). **Paitishahem Gahambar** (Sept 16) was arranged by the Vaghaiwalla, Mody and Godrej families, in memory of their mother, Aloo Burjorji Vaghaiwalla. On the following day (Sept. 17), **Ardibehesht Parabh jashan** was arranged by the Malva and Kapadia families, in honor of their sister, late Dolly Malva. All prayers ended with a short talk, followed by Chasni and a delicious meal. With an average attendance of fifty people, with numbers sometimes even exceeding a hundred at our jashans, we, at ZAC are truly blessed! Our grateful thanks to our mobeds for their dedication and selfless service to our community.

On September, 23, ZAC had a community event, **High Tea and Bingo**, that was enjoyed by young and old alike. It was by all means a success, with the entire community contributing. We would like to thank our cash donors...Zarrir and Tinaaz Bhandara (\$6001), Hosi and Aban Kapadia (\$501), Roshan Malwa (\$200), Tehemtan and Dogdo Arjani (\$150) and Freny Bacha (\$100). Bingo prizes were contributed by Nadia Mehta (cakes), Ferhiz Sidhwa (batasa), Annoo Talati (mithai), and the grand prize of dar-ni-pori was from ZAC! The menu was bhakhra, chicken rolls, chutney sandwiches and garma-garam chai. A big shout-out to Parveen Amroli, Ruzbeh Mehta, Shirin and Farrokh Engineer, and Gulcher Rustomi for helping in the kitchen. It was truly a labor of love. Thank you for coming early and staying late to help.



Can't have a successful bingo event, without our bingo callers...Adil Rustomi, Annoo Talati, Samanaz Kapadia and Lily Dastur. Last night was a true bawa event... "Badha e khadhu, pidhu neh majah kari"! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve!

Contributed by Reshma Rustomi

ZAC would like to thank Reshma and Adil Rustomi for hosting this very successful fundraiser and making it a fun day for all!

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Mark your calendars for our ZAC Christmas party on Saturday, December 2, 2023. It will be a fun evening of games, music, dance, prizes and good food. For the big game, we are looking for talented, young (and young-at-heart) people to participate. **If you can play an instrument or just love to sing, contact Vira at bvhm.santoke@verizon.net.** More details to follow closer to the date.

My dear friends,

We sincerely thank you all for your participation in the solemn Muktabad ceremony thus making our efforts more worthwhile, and for giving us the opportunity to advance spiritually by satisfying your spiritual needs. We would also like to thank you for your contributions to the **32nd** Muktabad ceremony in Southern California, and the seventh at our ZAC Atash kadeh. The previous **25** years the Muktabad ceremonies were conducted at our home, it was also my **51st** year in a row of doing the Muktabad prayers.



During these holy days of Muktabad, we performed the following prayers:

41 satums, 4 satums/day for 10 days plus a farewell Satum on the night of the 5th Gatha, 16 Jashans/ Afringans, 1 Afargan on Ashishwangh ruz, 11 Jashan/Afringan per day for 10 days. The Hamaspathmaedhem Gahambar Jashan in the morning on the 4th Gatha. A New Year's Jashan on Navroze morning. The Rapithwin Jashan on Ardibehest ruz and the Khordadsal Jashan on ruz e Khordad. 10 Farokhsis - 1 Farokshi/day for 10 days.

This year again Zerkxis performed 22 Baaj ceremonies (Baaj is one of the inner liturgies, a Pav Mehel Kriya within the family of the Yajashne, Vendidad, and Nirangdin). We are the only community outside India/Pakistan to have this ceremony performed regularly.

The Bui was offered to our Atash Padshah 4 times a day.

I am sure you must be wondering how many names of our dear departed loved ones we were remembering in the prayers, any guess? Well, there were about 525 names, with 52 vases plus the Hama Anjuman vase.

Submitted by Ervad Zarrir Bhandara

ZAC would like to sincerely thank Ervads Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara for doing the 10-day muktabad ceremony with utmost dedication, sticking to our religious traditions and customs as much as possible. They were joined by ervads Arda-e-viraf

Minocherhomjee and Kyan Lali on Ushtavad gatha. Ervad Kyan also prayed on Spentomad gatha and performed the Aiwishuthrem gah boi ceremony that evening.

Congratulations

To Kaivan Dadachanji (son of Chisti and Kavasji Dadachanji) and Natasha Bala (daughter of Kashmira and Sarosh Bala) on their wedding on September 4, 2023.

We wish the newlyweds all the very best in life!

Cyrus R Fatakia Scholarship Recipients Year 2023- 2024

This year we are pleased to announce the following outstanding recipients of the Cyrus R Fatakia Scholarship for the year 2023-2024.

Soraya Xenia Irani Corydon: Soraya Xenia Irani Corydon will be a Freshman at Fordham University, Fortham College - at Lincoln Center, New York with a major in Psychology, Pre-med track.

Zoran Kateli: Zoran Kateli is a Sophomore at Cal Poly Pomona majoring in Business Administration.

Zane Kateli: Zane Kateli is a Sophomore at Cal State Dominguez Hills majoring in Business Administration.

Daisy Pithawalla: Daisy Pithawalla will be a Senior at UCSD majoring in Psychology with a Minor in Biology/Pre-Dental.

We wish our Scholarship recipients all the very best of luck and much success in their future careers!

The Cyrus R Fatakia Scholarship Committee
Rohinton, Erna & Darius Fatakia

Thank You!

To Bakhtavar Italia for sponsoring the four recycling bins in memory of her dear husband, Cyrus Faramroze Italia.

Other News

Presidential greetings are available for select birthday and anniversary celebrations. They are also available for births, weddings, retirement, etc. If you would like to self-request a Presidential Greeting, go to whitehouse.gov/contact/ for more details.

FEZANA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lived Zoroastrianism: A Conversation with Paulina Niechciat
Time: Oct 28, 2023 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89435487277?pwd=c2RxRGVnYvbG5CMWxHanluSkcyUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 3548 7277

Passcode: FEZANA

Condolences:

Zerin Homi Khambatta passed away on August 9, 2023, Mah Asfandarmad, Roj Maraspand.

She is survived by her husband Homi D. Khambatta, her son Zubin, daughter-in-law Lily, daughter Anita, son-in-law Mark Isola, and grandchildren Mira, Julian & Jasper.

Gool Noshir Jesung, 74, passed on August 15, at home surrounded by her loved ones. She was wife of Noshir Framroze Jesung and devoted mother to Kaivan and Tanaz as well as mother-in-law to Pam and Chris. She was sister-in-law to Nariman Jesung and a beloved daughter of Minoos and Baimai Pochkhanavala.

Daisy Homi Shroff passed away on August 10, in Mumbai, from a sudden cardiac arrest. She was 79 years old. She was the wife of late Dr. Homi Shroff. She is survived by her daughter Jasmine Shroff Frost, and son Marzban Homi Shroff, granddaughter Ava and grandson Henry.

Farida Khushroo Lakdawala, a cherished daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, left this world on September 2, 2023, Ruz Rashne, Mah Farvardin. She was born to Kersy and Minnie Chinoy on September 19, 1961, and exemplified love, dedication, and selflessness throughout her life. For 40 years, Farida was the devoted wife of Khushroo Lakdawala. Together, they built a life filled with love and cherished memories. Farida was a doting mother to her children, Jamshir, Malcolm, and Kanesh, and a nurturing mother-in-law to Pooja, Zenia, and Zara. She adored her two precious grandchildren, Samaya and Viaan, bringing joy to their lives with her boundless love and care. Farida was a loyal and loving sister to Shernaz Lakdawala and Merzi Chinoy, and her presence in their lives was a constant source of support and affection. Her love for her family, friends, and strangers alike knew no bounds, and her bold spirit touched the hearts of all who knew her.

Farida Khushroo Lakdawala will be remembered as an extremely dedicated wife and mother; a selfless individual, and a beacon of love and warmth in the lives of those fortunate enough to know her. Her memory will forever live on in our hearts.

Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased!



Zoroastrian Association of California

APPLICATION FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2024-25

I, _____,
residing at _____,
member of the Zoroastrian Association of California since _____,
hereby agree to stand as a candidate for the position 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.

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

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 _____

(Member's Name) (Signature)

Seconded by _____

(Member's Name) (Signature)

Please submit this form on/before October 18, 2023 to the Election Officer

ONLY By Mail:

Homayar Gandhi, Election Officer, ZAC

3685 S. Bear St. #J. Santa Ana. CA 92704

By Email: eo@zacla.org

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.



1424 E. Walnut Avenue
Orange, CA 92867

TO: