



Zoroastrian Association of California

January 2024

2024-2025 Executive Committee

President – Rooky Fitter, Vice President – Firouz Felfeli, Treasurer – Persis Choksy,
Jt Secretaries – Sheila Madon and Mehernosh Amroli, Program Chair – Darayus Mistry,
Youth Coordinator – Daisy Pithawalla

NEWSLETTER 2024-1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The ZAC Committee in the 1st newsletter of the year, takes the opportunity to wish our ZAC community a wonderfully happy 2024. May the year ahead bring happiness, great health and peace of mind to all.

Please spread the word...it's a great time to renew memberships and become a member. Your membership comes with great benefits and gives you an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones!

PAST ZAC EVENTS

New Year's Eve Party

About 124 ZAC & CZC folks ushered in the New Year at the ZAC center. The packed dance floor was testament to the fact that people were having a wonderful time, with our very own Behram Amroli ably managing the music. There were laughs galore, as around 15 left-footed couples attempted to learn dancing from deftly gyrating, award winning Swing dancer Sam Billimoria! Lily Mistry & Zubin Taraporewala got the crowd going with several fun games & lovely prizes.

A very fun evening was had by all, with dinner starting off with absolutely delicious chicken corn soup & ending with tasty custard provided by our Xerxes Commissariat.... Thank you for a delicious beginning & end to dinner, Xerxes!

We sincerely thank Zarrir and Zerksis Bhandara for performing the first "Bui" of the year. To experience the peace and quiet of the Atash Kadeh in the early hours of the morning was wonderful.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped set-up, clean up and everything in-between. No function would be possible without our hardworking volunteers.



UPCOMING ZAC EVENTS

These are subject to change, and times for all events will be sent out closer to the event.

Sun Feb 11 th Superbowl party	Sat Jun 29 th AGM
Sat Mar 23 rd Jamshedi Navroze function	Sat Jul 6 th Bonfire/BBQ
Sat Apr 20 th Move night	Sat Jul 20 th Chess tournament/Chaat party
Sun May 19 th Walkathon	Sat Aug 17 th Parsi New Year
Sun Jun 9 th Ladies Club	Sun Sep 22 nd Ladies club
Sun Jun 16 th Sports day	...And more to come.

GAHAMBARS & IMPORTANT DAYS IN 2024 (Provided by Ervad Zarrir Bhandara)

Date	Event
Saturday, January 27th	Jashn-e-Sadeh Jashan
Tuesday, February 27th	Meher Parabh Jashan
Sunday, March 17th	Pre-Navroze AK Cleaning
Wednesday, March 20th	Jamshedi Navroze Jashan
Friday, March 22nd	Avan parabh Jashan
Tuesday, April 9th	Saint Dasturji Kookadaru's birthday Jashan
Saturday, April 20th	Adar mahino nay Adar roj Jashan
Saturday, May 4th	Maidhyozarem Gahambar Jashan
Wednesday, May 22nd	Zartosht no Diso Jashan
Sunday, May 19th	Dae Mah Jashan
Sunday, June 2nd	Homaji ni baj Jashan
Wednesday, June 12th	Bahman Parabh Jashan
Sunday, June 30th	Maidhyoshahem Gahambar Jashan
Monday, July 15th	Asfandarmad Parabh Jashan
Sunday, July 28th	Pre-Muktad AK cleaning
Monday, August 5th to Wednesday, August 14th	Muktad days
Thursday, August 15th	Parsi New Year Jashan
Tuesday, August 20th	Khordadsal Jashan
Monday, September 2nd	Farvardin Parabh Jashan
Tuesday, September 3rd	Dasturji Kookadaru's death Anniversary Jashn
Sunday, September 15th	Paitishahem Gahambar Jashan
Monday, September 16th	Ardibehesht Parabh Jashan
Sunday, October 13th	Ayathrem Gahambar Jashan
Saturday, October 19th	Khordad Parabh Jashan
Monday, November 11th	ZAC Atashkadeh's 8th Salgreh Jashan
Monday, November 25th	Tirangan Jashan
Thursday, December 19th	Amardad Parabh Jashan



Join us at ZAC

February 11th, 2024 at 3pm

Drinks: Margaritas Appetizer: Nachos

Chicken & Steak Tacos

Veggie Tacos & Cheese Quesadillas

Mexican Rice, Pinto Beans, and Chana Daar

Dessert: Ice Cream

Food cooked by our very own Xerxes & Zane Commissariat

Members:

Early Bird: \$10 per person by Jan 31st

\$15 per person Feb 1st - Feb 9th

Non Members:

Early Bird: \$15 per person by Jan 31st

\$20 per person Feb 1st - Feb 9th

Kids 10 & under free

RSVP to Xerxes Commissariat

Call or Text 949-278-2344



HUMBANDAGIS

Humbadagis are conducted by Ervads Zarrir & Zerksis Bhandara at the ZAC center every Sunday morning, and those unable to attend in person, are encouraged to participate via Zoom. This is followed by a pot-luck lunch. A bui ceremony is also performed before & after the Humbandagi.

CHILDRENS RELIGIOUS CLASS

Children religious classes are held every 3rd Sunday of the month. Please contact Zerksis Bhandara at zrbhandara@gmail.com for more information.

WISHLIST

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, 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 the list below:

- Professional Audio Amplifier for sound system (\$2000)
- Wireless handheld microphone (\$900)
- Two wired handheld microphones (\$200)
- Event Sponsorship
- Event Assistance

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Baby Jahan Dadachanji: Kaveh, Kiyaan & Ava welcomed their baby brother **Jahan Dadachanji** into this world, on January 15th. Proud parents Janaz & Cyrus and grandparents Chisti & Kavasji couldn't be happier! Welcome to our world baby Jahan, and congratulations to the Dadachanji families!



Ervad Zarrir Bhandara: On Jan 9th, in a groundbreaking moment of interfaith understanding, the City of Orange invited Ervad Zarrir Bhandara to deliver the invocation for their Epiphany meeting. This historic gesture not only celebrated the diverse tapestry of religious beliefs in the city but also resonated with the Zoroastrian faiths core principles of "Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds."

Ervad Bhandaras captivating speech transported the audience, which included city officials, residents & members of the medical & social work communities, on a journey through Zoroastrianisms rich history and its emphasis on environmental respect, inclusivity & universal human rights. He drew parallels to the legacy of Emperor Cyrus the Great: a pioneer of human rights, whose decrees inspired the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and influenced the American Constitution. ***"Our city thrives on the unique contributions of all its citizens. Let this council be a crucible where differences become ingredients for progress, and where compromises strengthen our bonds. Let us be co-creators of a brighter future for all."*** Ervad Bhandara said.

Beyond showcasing the Zoroastrian faiths wisdom, Ervad Bhandara was also recognized for his own exemplary acts of service. He has donated platelets and plasma over 550 times, saving the lives of over 1600 individuals. This selfless dedication resonated with the city, leading Mayor Pro Tem, Ms. Barrios and Mayor Dan Slater to present him with a plaque in appreciation.

This momentous occasion served as a powerful testament to the City of Orange's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive community where diverse voices are heard and celebrated. It demonstrates the importance of building bridges between faiths and recognizing the shared values that bind us together.

As we move forward, let us embrace the spirit of unity and understanding embodied by Ervad Bhandara and the City of Orange. Let us learn from each other's traditions, appreciate our differences, and work together to create a brighter future for all.



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.



“ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH OF THE YEAR” PROGRAM

The intent of this program is to identify an all-rounded youth who reflects true Zoroastrian spirit and is an example for other “Z” youth to emulate.

This program is backed/sponsored by 3 families who believe in identifying and recognizing that individual during the ZAC Navroz function in March.

We at ZAC regularly recognize youth who excel in studies at school/university, but fail to recognize youth who demonstrate the true Zoroastrian spirit, viz: helping others, respecting elders, show leadership skills, are multi-talented and above all, are religion conscious etc. The program sponsors are looking for youth who demonstrate the above virtues.

This program will be advertised through ZAC Newsletter/email blasts to our community. The community/parents are urged to identify such an individual, who they think is worthy of being nominated as “Zoroastrian Youth of the year” by filling out the nomination form & returning it to the sponsors below.

If members feel that they need to be part of this worthy program, they can reach out to the sponsors below.

Thank you for supporting this program.

Sincerely,

Phiroze & Yasmin Gundevia & family, Mehernosh & Yashmin Pithawalla & family, Khushroo & Rooky Fitter & family

Nomination Form for “Zoroastrian Youth of the Year”

I, _____, nominate _____
for “**Zoroastrian Youth of the year**”.

I have attached the **Evaluation form** filled out by the nominee for consideration and will accept the decision taken by the Sponsors below.

Please return the **Evaluation form** to one of the following:

Phiroze & Yasmin Gundevia &
family
phiroze.gundevia@gmail.com
(949 506 8721)

Mehernosh & Yashmin
Pithawalla & family
m_pithawalla@hotmail.com
(626 22 2340)

Kushroo & Rooky Fitter &
family
Khush@kpfitter.com (310
990 3273)

Evaluation Form.

Name: _____

Are you a member of ZAC? YES _____ NO _____

Name School/College/University you are attending?

What are your areas of Interest?

Besides English which languages can you converse in?

Do you attend or have you attended any of ZAC religious classes?

Do you participate in any extracurricular activities?

Have you volunteered for any recent activities at ZAC? Please provide details.

What profession do you intend to take up in the future?

Who is the person/hero you look up to for inspiration and why?

Please tell us a little more about you.

Lastly, does our religion play an important part in your day-to-day life?



Zoroastrian Association of California

Membership Form January to December, 2024

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 Sr St
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ DOB ____/____/____

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

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

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ *TYPE: L F I Sr 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

Please mark if we can share your email with FEZANA Yes No

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/membership/

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

End of NL



1424 E. Walnut Avenue
Orange, CA 92867

TO: