



Executive Committee

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NATIONAL ZOROASTRIAN DAY

“Resolved that the House of Representatives supports the designation of ‘National Zoroastrian Day’.”

Congratulations and collective thanks go out to ZAC member Sam Billimoria, who was instrumental in US Congress passing [H. RS.1008](#), designating “National Zoroastrian Day” on the Vernal Equinox of each year; March 21st.

As written by Lou Correa, Member of Congress:

“Madam Speaker, I rise today to issue this recognition of ‘timeless Zoroastrian Legacy’ to all Zoroastrians for their extraordinary contributions to history and civilization, in pioneering first universal human rights, world democracy, abolishment of slavery, and freedom of religion. The Zoroastrian legacy has greatly influenced the American founding fathers, the American Constitution, and the design of the statue of liberty.

Please join me in recognizing the remarkable contributions of the Zoroastrian community in the United States and throughout the world.”

This is a great achievement, Sam Billimoria, and we are so grateful for your perseverance in getting this resolution passed.

UPCOMING ZAC EVENTS

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

Sat, Apr 20 th Move night	Sat, Jul 20 th Chess tournament/Chaata party
Sun, June 2 nd Walkathon	Sat, Aug 17 th Parsi New Year
Sun, Jun 9 th Ladies Club	Sun, Sept 1 st Sports Day
Sat, Jun 29 th General Body Meeting	Sun, Sep 22 nd Ladies club
Sat, Jul 6 th Bonfire/BBQ	Sat, Oct 12 th ZAC 50 th Anniversary
<i>...And more to come.</i>	

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



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 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

IT IS OUR GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY!!!

Those who lived in Southern California in 1974, will remember the time when a small group of individuals got together at the home of Naju and Furrokh Dastur and consequently other homes & halls, and decided to start a group...thus, ZAC was born!

ZAC didn't have a center till 2010 but our members always got together at CZC and other rental halls to celebrate fun times and now in 2024, we can all get together to celebrate this milestone of 50 glorious years together.

We encourage every one of you to celebrate this momentous day with us on **Saturday, October 12th 2024** and would love sponsorship to make this a grand event.

Sponsorships start as follows:

PLATINUM: \$25,000

DIAMOND: \$15,000

GOLD: \$10,000

SILVER: \$5,000

BRONZE: \$1,000

Please save the date. We'd love to see all of you there to celebrate with us!

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.

Humbandagis

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.



Super Bowl LVII



On Sunday, February 11th a group of enthusiastic football lovers (and others who came just to enjoy Xerxes Commissariat's delicious spread) got together at ZAC to watch the nail-biting (literally) Kansas City Chiefs beat San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in overtime.

Xerxes and family had put together a wonderful spread of drinks, appetizers, tacos, Mexican rice and plenty of sides, ending with ice-cream, for all to enjoy and roll back to the hall, replete. It was a riveting and exciting game, so thank you to the enthusiastic crowd & volunteers who made sure everything went smoothly, despite a few glitches at half-time.



Youth of the Year Award

Well-deservedly, the Youth of the year award: the brainchild of the Gundevia, Fitter & Pithawalla families, went to Zane Commissariat and Zerksis Bhandara.

This award was sponsored by the 3 families to recognize youth who “Demonstrate the true Zoroastrian spirit; viz: helping others, respecting elders, show leadership skills and above all, are multi-talented and religion conscious.”

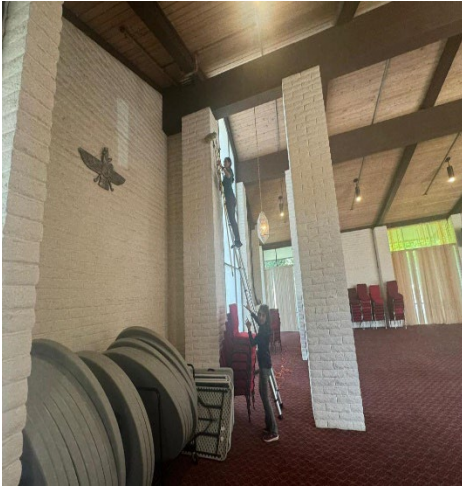
We are so proud of all they have contributed, all they have achieved and their contributions in making ZAC such a warm, welcoming place for all to enjoy.

Zane & Zerksis, may you continue to make us proud in all you do. Thank you so much for your dedication!

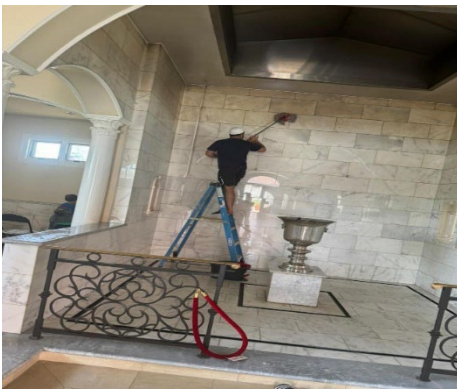




ATASH KADEH & CENTER CLEAN-UP



It was so heartening to see our ZAC members come out in large numbers (40+ to be exact) for the Atash Kadeh clean-up on Sunday, March 17th. The project, thought-up and encouraged by Ervad Zarrir Bhandara, had our enthusiastic band of volunteers scrub the walls, wash down chairs in the Atash Kadeh, power wash the awning and clean up years of mess in the ZAC hall back rooms.



Our sincere thanks to everyone who came out to do this back-breaking job, just in time for our Navroze celebration. We are so grateful for your time and continued dedication.





Jamshedi Navroze Celebration March 23rd

The night before ZAC Navroze celebrations, a group of dedicated volunteers showed up to help some of our EC members set-up for the function the next day. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Behroze Irani, Shirin & Farrokh Engineer, Lily Dastur, Spenta & Kyra Pithawalla & the Commissariat family for setting up the tables, cleaning over 1000 shrimp, (yes, really) cooking & setting up food & drink stations and everything else it takes to prepare for a smoothly functioning event.



Our sincere thanks go out to Xerxes Commissariat and family for the mouth-watering mori dal, shrimp patyo & fabulous falooda, without which Navroze dinner would have been incomplete. Thank you also to Hatam & Mantra for the delicious, generous portions of Persian & Indian appetizers & dinner.



Parvez & Manaz Irani who, despite having a family emergency, drove down from Bakersfield the previous night, to organize the gorgeous Haft-Seen table as they have been doing for the past several years. They continued the set-up the next morning, well into the day. Year after year, upon entering ZAC, we've been greeted by this gorgeous display of beautiful flower and tables laden with fruits, nuts, vegetables, and delicious pastries. We thank you both, for creating this labor of love for us all to enjoy.

We had over 210 people attending our Navroze Nite; the night was abuzz with laughter & chatter as old friends animatedly caught up with each other. The highlight of the evening was Danish Bhandaras riveting Persian dance which had the crowd cheering, and the evening ended with the ZAC youth enthusiastically dancing past midnight.



Once again, without our dedicated band of volunteers, the herculean task of setting-up before and clearing/cleaning up after the function would have been impossible. Thank you so much for always stepping up and helping.



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.



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 \(zacla.org\)](https://www.zacla.org)

You may direct all communications to efatakia@gmail.com.

Thank You.

Good Luck & God Bless!

Sincerely,

Erna & Darius Fatakia

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

~ Thomas Campbell, Hallowed Ground

This year, we would like to honor and remember fondly, the father of our two sons Cyrus & Darius, my generous and loving husband, Rohinton Fatakia, who passed away on November 29th, 2023.

Rohinton, along with our son Darius and myself, founded this Scholarship in 2008 and it has helped Zoroastrian youth achieve their educational goals ever since. Rohinton and Cyrus are missed beyond measure and loved beyond words. This Scholarship is their Legacy.



“What greater thing is there for human souls, than to feel that they are joined for life and beyond, to be with each other in silent, unspeakable memories”



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Community Volunteers

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! 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.



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TO: