



## Executive Committee

President:  
Rooky Fitter

Vice President:  
Firouz Felfeli

Program Chair:  
Darayus Mistry

Treasurer:  
Persis Choksy

Jt. Secretaries:  
Sheila Madon  
Mehernosh Amroli

Youth Coordinator:  
Daisy Pithawalla

## ***A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT***

Dear Members,

The first few days of the new year were not what we would have liked to see, but as we step further into 2025, we should think positively and be filled with excitement for the possibilities ahead.

This year promises to be one of growth, innovation, and stronger connections. Together, we'll continue to build a community that inspires and empowers. Look forward to new initiatives, events, and resources designed just for you. Your support and engagement fuel everything we do – thank you for being part of our journey. Let's make 2025 a year of shared success and meaningful achievements. Stay tuned for exciting updates coming your way soon!

Here's to a bright and prosperous year ahead.

Yours Truly,

Rooky Fitter  
ZAC President

## ***Membership***

ZAC Annual Membership runs January through December, click here to [complete your membership for 2025](#). If your address/phone number/email has changed, please let the secretaries know so we have your accurate information. *If you registered for Family and your child has reached the age of 18, the child will need to complete a separate membership form.*

## ***Special Constitution Meeting***

A Special Constitution Meeting will be held on April 26th. This meeting will be conducted in person at the ZAC center. We wish to get a quorum for this meeting.

Date: Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Time: Tentatively around 4pm.  
Venue: ZAC Center

More details will follow in our next newsletter and event emails. Please plan to be there on time so the meeting can start and finish promptly.



# Zoroastrian Association of California

## UPCOMING ZAC EVENTS

Saturday, February 1, 2025	Jashn-e-Sadeh Jashan
Sunday, February 9, 2025	<a href="#">Superbowl LIX Watch Party</a>
Saturday, February 15, 2025	<a href="#">Valentine's Day Party</a>
Wednesday, February 26, 2025	Meher Yazad Parabh Jashan
Saturday, March 8, 2025	Youth AGM
Friday, March 21, 2025	Jamshedi Navroz Jashan
Saturday, March 22, 2025	<a href="#">Jamshedi Navroze Celebration</a>
Saturday, April 5, 2025	Bingo Night
Saturday, April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Youth Drive-In Movie Night
Saturday, April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Special Constitution Meeting
Saturday, June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Sports Day

Please note that event dates are subject to change; specific times will be confirmed as each event approaches. More dates to follow in upcoming Newsletters & event emails.

## Recognition

ZAC is proud to announce that on January 8th, 2025, our long-standing member Sam Billimoria was honored with a “Certificate of Special Recognition” by US Senator Alex Padilla, for his dedication & contributions to the Zoroastrian Association of California. He also wished him success in all his future endeavors. We wish Sam every success in all he does!

## Past Events

### A WARM & COZY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, we gathered for a delightful & heartwarming Christmas party at the ZAC Center. Despite many of our members preparing for the upcoming Congress in Houston & many vacationing in India, we were thrilled to have a great turnout of 44 adults & 16 excited children.

The event was organized by Lily Mistry, with incredible support from Persis & Mehernosh Choksy, our forever dependable president Rooky Fitter & support from the Executive Committee.

The Contractor family set up the Yalda table & donated funds for gift cards, which were used as prizes for the children. A big thank you to them for their kindness and festive spirit!

Our amazing and hilarious Santa Claus (Faram Medhora) was the shining star of the evening, captivating both kids and adults alike. Every child received a special gift from Santa, with Parzan Siganporia volunteering as Santa’s elf. Parzan did an excellent job, charming everyone with his big smile and cheerful demeanor.

We played several fun games, including musical chairs, pinning the snowman’s nose, guessing the Christmas Carol, and the ever-popular holiday bingo, which was a hit with the kids who couldn’t get enough of it. The air was filled with excitement, laughter & plenty of holiday cheer.

We also want to give a big shoutout to our fantastic youth volunteers; Nadia Mehta, Zubin Daruwalla, Shahyan & Parzan Siganporia, who entertained everyone throughout the evening, played music & hosted the bingo



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games. Little did we know, these four “munchkins” were having even more fun than the rest of us! They were DJs too and managed the sound booth independently!

The food was another highlight of the evening. Shahzeen & Shahyan Siganporia cooked delicious pasta, while Havi Liloawalla, Lily & Darayus Mistry delighted everyone with their homemade chicken rolls —absolutely scrumptious! A variety of pizzas, always a favorite, was on the menu as well.

A huge thank-you to Vira Santoke for generously making and donating all the desserts! The dessert table was overflowing with delightful treats, with contributions from many members of our community. It was truly a feast for the eyes and taste buds alike.

Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, and made this Christmas party such a memorable occasion for our ZAC Children. Here’s to more laughter, joy, and community spirit in the coming year!

## HELLO 2025

What a fantastic start we had to 2025!

ZACs first event of the New Year was a "rocking" hit (literally). We started the chilly evening off with bowls of hearty, delicious soup, generously provided by Xerxes Commissariat, while the cheese, crackers & fruit platter set up by Shahzeen Siganporia was a big hit.

With nearly 100 attendees, the lively atmosphere was set as Zane and Daisy’s friendly banter energized the crowd for a fun round of musical chairs. Participants of all ages joined in, adding to the excitement. The games were followed by a delicious Indo-Chinese and Thai dinner, thoughtfully organized by Lily and Darayus Mistry, and capped off with delectable ice cream from Saffron & Rose.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all our incredible volunteers who made this event possible. Xerxes, Zane, and Zara arrived early in the day to prepare the hall, while our reliable ZAC volunteer team, always dependable and dedicated, ensured everything ran smoothly from setup to cleanup. Your unwavering support and willingness to show up every single time are what make ZAC events such a success. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your hard work and commitment!

## DONATION DRIVE FOR FIRE VICTIMS

On January 18th, ZAC members Reanna & Roxanne Unwalla spearheaded a very successful Donation Drive for victims of the recent Los Angeles fires. We are very pleased to announce that many our ZAC members drove out to the center to drop off their donations, so THANK YOU for caring, and making a difference, however small, in the lives of those affected by the fires.

Two of our dear ZAC members lost their homes in the fires; our sincere thoughts & prayers are with those who've suffered losses in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the ZAC EC if you need help.





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### ***“Zoroastrian Youth of the year” Program:***

1. The intent of this program is to identify an all-rounded youth, who reflects true Zoroastrian spirit & is an example for other “Z” youth to emulate.
2. This program is backed/sponsored by 3 families who believe in identifying & recognizing that individual (s) during the annual ZAC Navroz function in March.
3. 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 not only multi-talented but above all are religion conscious etc. This Program Sponsors are looking for Youth who demonstrates the above virtues.
4. This program will be advertised through ZAC Newsletter/emails 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 filing out the Nomination form & returning it to Sponsors below.
5. 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 will accept the decision taken by the Sponsors below.

#### **Please return the Nomination form by March 1<sup>st</sup> to:**

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

-Mehernosh & Yashmin Pithawalla m\_pithawalla@hotmail.com (622 622 2340)

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



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## Condolences

### TAHAMTAN HORMAZD ARESH

ZAC is deeply saddened to announce the sudden passing of its founding member and president, *TAHAMTAN HORMAZD ARESH*, on November 27, 2024. A visionary, philanthropist and staunch Zarthushti, he took his community to the heart of his existence. He lived a full life, well lived, ever faithful to the traditional tenets of the religion that he always cherished and did everything in his power to preserve and protect.

Tahamtan's legacy of faith, charity and compassion will continue to inspire us all. We wish his noble soul speedy progress towards Garothman Behst!

TMZA & ZAC Committees

### RAHZIN NOSHIR IRANI

ZAC is saddened to inform everyone of the passing of *RAHZIN NOSHIR IRANI*. Rahzin was 52, and passed on to his spiritual journey on Wednesday, December 18th, in San Diego, CA.

He was the loving son of Dr. Mehernaaz Irani and the late Noshir Irani, brother of Anaheeta Kolah, brother-in-law of Zubin and uncle to Hoshedar.

Rahzin was a gentle, kind soul and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

### PARWIN ROHINTON BAMBOAT

*PARWIN ROHINTON BAMBOAT* passed on to her spiritual Journey on Wednesday, January 8th, Ruz e Aasmaan, Mah Amardad, at the age of 89.

Daughter of Bhikhamai & Fardunji Alamshaw, wife of late Rohinton Bamboat, daughter-in-law of late Kersasp and Dhunmai Bamboat, mother of Tinaaz Bhandara & Hormazd Bamboat. Sister of Rusi, late Aspi & Barjor Alamshaw. Sister-in-law of Dhun, Chandrabala Alamshaw & Daisy Rusi Siganporia. Grandmother of Danish and Ervad Zerkxis Bhandara, Mother-in-law of Vivian Bamboat and Ervad Zarrir Bhandara.

We extend our deepest, heartfelt condolences to the entire family.



*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](mailto:committee@zacla.org).*

**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.*



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## FEZANA:

### Standing Together: Support for Those Affected by the Fires in LA

Dear Zarathushtis,

We are deeply saddened by the devastating fires in Los Angeles. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been affected. In these challenging times, the entire FEZANA team is standing by your side, offering our heartfelt support, compassion, and solidarity.

If you or any Zarathushti you know has been impacted by these fires, please don't hesitate to reach out to us for help. We are here for you. You can contact the FEZANA Unity and Welfare Committee by replying to this email or writing us at [welfare@fezana.org](mailto:welfare@fezana.org) for assistance.

For those who are in a position to assist, we kindly ask for your help in supporting the relief efforts. Your contribution, no matter the size, can make a world of difference to those who are struggling in the wake of this disaster.

**Together, as one united community, we can extend love and support to those facing adversity.**

Sincerely

**Huty Contractor, Sanaya Master, Hosi Mehta**  
Co\_Chairs, FEZANA Unity & Welfare Committee



1424 E. Walnut Avenue  
Orange, CA 92867

TO: