



Newsletter Date Apr – Jun 2013

ZANC Board 2012

President:

Nazneen Spliedt
650-624-8888
nazehler@aol.com

Vice-President:

Pervin Mistry
408-642-1201
pervinmistry@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Perin Maravala
510-886-4191
xcheqr@aol.com

Secretary:

Ehler Spliedt
650-624-8888
nazehler@aol.com

Board Members:

Khurshid Gandhi
650-813-1895
khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com

Sharmin Ghyara
408-893-2229
sghyara@gmail.com

Meher Mistry
650-948-1660
tame_two@yahoo.com

Trustees:

Mino Italia
408-360-9600
minooitalia@yahoo.com

Persi Kanga
408-997-7854
pkanga@pacbell.com

Bomi Patel
408-264-4395
bomip@yahoo.com

Greetings

We wish all of you a wonderful spring season. Our spring started off with our very successful Navroze/Nourooz celebration. It was a full house and we thank our children for showcasing their talents. We were so happy to see so many of our members there, including the new crop of babies.

We are aware that all of you are deeply concerned about the situation we are facing with the Dare-mehr issues, especially all those who were deeply involved in the early days with setting up the site.

As was explained in meetings and elsewhere, it is time to look ahead especially to the future and towards our future growth, as both the ZANC & PZO communities have grown; we need to look for a more suitable place for community gatherings.

For the time being, the Dare-mehr will be open for individual worship and for religious ceremonies accommodating a maximum of 47 persons.

We will be holding our Muktrad prayers in August, as usual.

Come join us and give us your support, as it is important for the community to be united at this time.

We thank all the families who have so willingly opened their homes, so we can continue to hold our children's religious classes.

With many thanks for your support,

Nazneen & the ZANC Board





Join in Celebrating & Participating in “The Cyrus Cylinder Tour of USA”



The Cyrus Cylinder is a 2600-year old object of modern importance, and a symbol of multi-culturalism, tolerance, diversity, and human rights. The Cylinder, a replica of which is enshrined at the United Nations as the first charter of human rights, is on permanent exhibit at the British Museum.

This year, it will be on exhibit, along with several other significant objects of Persian antiquity, including one depicting a Zarathushti priest, for the first time at five major museums across the U.S.: Washington D.C. (March 9 - April 28, 2013); Houston (May 3 - June 14, 2013); New York (June 20 - August 4, 2013); San Francisco (August 9 - September 22, 2013); and Los Angeles (October 2 - December 2, 2013).

This US national tour is officially sponsored by the Iran Heritage Foundation of America (IHF), working in collaboration with the British Museum. We Zarathushtis are especially attuned to the significance of the Cyrus Cylinder; and as the organization representing Zarathushti interests in North America; FEZANA has received a special invitation to partner with IHF in this effort.

The Cyrus Cylinder exhibition will be at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco August 9, 2013 to September 20, 2013. There will be several lectures organized by the Asian Art Museum and the Zoroastrian Community will be informed about these lectures.

The Asian Art museum is located at: 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 (<http://www.asianart.org/>)



Message from Dolly Dastoor, PhD, Chair FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program

FEZANA Academic Scholarships for 2013

Please find the announcement and application form for 2013 FEZANA Academic Scholarships Program

The Scholarship Announcement including the, rules for eligibility, and award criteria can be found at: <http://fezana.org/node/294>.

The application form is at http://fezana.org/files/drupalfiles/FEZANA_Scholarship_2013_Application.pdf

Applications are invited for the following FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

- MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI (MMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR.
- FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
- MORVORID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
- PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
- BANOUBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA (BMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

All scholarships are open to Zarathushti applicants who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA or Canada.

Scholarships for the academic year 2013-2014 will be awarded in September 2013.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

| EVENT                                       | DATE                        | LOCATION                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Local:</b>                               |                             |                                                                        |
| Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit                      | Aug 9 - Sept 20, 2013       | Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA                                    |
| ZANC Summer Picnic                          | 14 July, 2013               | Foothills Park, Palo Alto, CA                                          |
| Muktad Prayers                              | Aug 13 - Aug 17, 2013       |                                                                        |
| Navroz Lunch                                | Aug 18 <sup>th</sup> @ Noon | TBA                                                                    |
| North American Zoroastrian Congress         | Dec 28, 2014 - Jan 1, 2015  | Los Angeles, CA                                                        |
| <b>National/International</b>               |                             |                                                                        |
| The Everlasting Flame Exhibit               | Oct 9 - Dec 14, 2013        | Brunei Gallery, University of London, UK                               |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress | Dec27 - Dec 30, 2013        | Mumbai, India <a href="http://www.wzcmumbai.com">www.wzcmumbai.com</a> |
| World Youth Congress                        | Dec 2015                    | Auckland, New Zealand                                                  |



## Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California Annual Report 2012

An active year was planned for the community by the ZANC Board during 2012

### Activities

During the year the Board members organized varied activities for the Community.  
A Pizza/ Bingo and Karaoke evening

In February was enjoyed by everyone especially the kids who made it a noisy and lively evening with community karaoke singing.

We celebrated Nowruz /Navroze on March 24th with a dinner at the Chandni Restaurant in Newark. This year Annahita Jasavala and Pareezad Birje organized a Talent show by our children- titled “Shining Stars”. Nearly 15 children showcased their musical talents as well as their skills in Karate and poetry as well as a comedy skit. This was enjoyed by everyone participating as well as the audience. A pre-show audition was also held to select and approve the contents. Many thanks to the parents for encouraging their children.  
Our Annual Meeting was also held at this time.

We had our annual picnic on July 15th with nearly a 100 people attending. It was held at the Foothill Park in Palo Alto, a venue we also used last year. It was very private but easily accessible with plenty of open space around. Kerman took charge of the main organization. Hamburgers, marinated chicken and hotdogs for kids were on the menu with games organized by Meher, Pervin & Khurshid, which the adults and children had great fun playing.

In August we held our 5 days of Mukta prayers from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. Parsi New Year was celebrated on August 18th at the Dare-mehr with catering by our own Dinyar Anklesaria and his team from Kinara restaurant. A jashan performed by Er. Kobad Jamshed preceded the dinner.

The annual ghambhar and jashan was held on Sept 22nd and nearly 300 people attended. As always the lead organizer for the cooking was Bomi with pre-prep help from Kersi, Zareer, and Adil.  
Over 15 volunteers came to help with the chopping, frying and making the kebabs.

A Costume party and Bingo night on October 27th attracted about 60 persons and everyone enjoyed the different cuisine- Mexican home-cooked tacos and fixings as well as the costumes of the children and adults. The Bingo game attracted everyone with lots of noise and commotion.

Every third Sunday of the month, children’s classes are held as well as an adult discussion group where we hear speakers on various topics. Potluck and socializing usually follows .

The President and Secretary attended the annual FEZANA AGM in New York Aug 2nd-5th 2012 representing ZANC during the 16<sup>th</sup> North American Zarathushti Congress.  
Six ZANC members attended the 16<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress in Rye, New York in August 2012. As always the congress was well organized and a lot of fun and gave everyone an opportunity to interact with other Zarathushtis from around the North American Continent, as well as other parts of the world which were represented.



## **Memberships**

As at the end of 2012 and for FEZANA's count we have 576 adult paid up members.

Our data base has 422 units-(families & individuals) whose addresses and names we have on record. Out of those 51 are Life members and 255 are paid-up members.

We are trying hard each year to encourage everyone to send in their dues on time.

Fezana has conducted a census of Zarathushtis in North America, which was presented at the New York Congress. ZANC reported 848 Adults and 258 children under 18, bringing up the total to 1106 Parsis and 77 non-parsi spouses.

We know that there are lots of Zarathushtis living in North America who have not been counted as associations don't know of their existence or they do not want to come forward to be counted.

## **Dare-mehr**

Our Dare-mehr has been having many zoning problems and as such at the end of this year we were not able to hold any events there, including religious classes, due to complaints by the neighbors as well as other issues with the County.

A group of trustees from the PZO have been negotiating with the neighbors as well as the County and various meetings were held between them.

It was decided temporarily to hold our religious classes elsewhere and also not hold any large functions, over 47 people at the premises anymore until things were sorted out.

To that end a community meeting was to be called in the New Year (which took place on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 )

PZO is in charge of the maintenance and supervision of the care-takers, and you may have noticed many small changes inside the main building. They have tried to keep it maintained with whatever funds are available and through donations .

In 2012 ZANC paid \$15,000.00 as our share towards the maintenance costs.

## **Many Thanks**

Each year Er. Kobad Jamshed performs prayers for our dear departed during the 5 Mukhad days as well as performing jashans for navroze and during ghambar, sometimes assisted by other priests. We specially commend our youngest navar- Rustom Chhor for taking part in the ceremonies with Kobad.

We thank our Sunday school teachers- Annahita Jasavala and Homai Kasad, who have been loyally and painstakingly conducting classes for our children for the last 3 decades, we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

To the 2012 Board members- Perin Marawala, Ehler Spliedt, Pervin Mistry, Meher Mistri, Khurshid Gandhi, and Sharmin Ghyara my sincere thanks for the help and support they are always ready to give. To our trustees,- Bomi Patel, Persi Kanga and Minoo Italia, many thanks for their support and advice.

And to all of our Community, your participation, support and trust means a lot to us.

Nazneen Spliedt

President

March 23, 2013



## Community News:

- Birth** Anaya Ahunawar Chhappar, born on Jan 17, weighing 6 pounds 13 ounces. Daughter of Ahunawar Phiroze Chhappar and Nitila Suresh Patel.
- Death:** Mr. Pesi Dumasia (84) in Pune on January 20, 2013. Father of Freddy, Marazban and Sanober (Sunny), grandfather of Joshua, Sherry, Mehrab & Rayan
- Mrs. Thrity Firoz Master of San Mateo, CA on February 6, 2013. Wife of Firoz, mother of Pearly, Lilian, Shehrever, and daughter-in-law Farida.
- Mr. Soli Bamji, (93) in Mumbai on Feb 28th. Father of Cyrus Bamji of Fremont, beloved grandfather of Dinaz



### ZANC Picnic:

Foothills Park Palo Alto on July 14, 2013 at 11:00 AM

Cost: \$13:00 per person, Children 5-12 \$7.00, Kids under 5yrs: free

Stay tuned, details to follow!!

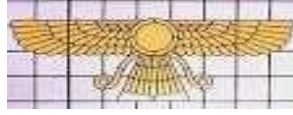
### Dear Community Members:

We would like to make this a true community newsletter and so we invite input from you. Please feel free to share what you think would be interesting to our community. Examples would be beloved (and hopefully easy) recipes, art/drawings made by children, photographs, accomplishments, information on graduations, awards, navjotes, births, deaths, weddings etc.

Please email Nazneen/Ehler or Khurshid with this information. Submissions may be edited for clarity, space etc. Final decision to publish content lies with newsletter editors.

Thank you and looking forward to your input.





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