

## ZANC Board 2015

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Newsletter Date Oct - Dec 2015

## COMMUNITY CENTER MEETING UPDATE:

A ZANC community meeting was held on Aug 30, 2015 to discuss updates to the situation at the existing Dar-e Mehr and to launch a Capital Campaign for a new **Bay Area Zarathushti Community Center**. The event was well attended with over 50 people in attendance. The formal presentation focused on why a new Center had become necessary and what it would take to make the vision a reality.

"If you build it, they will come" was the general tone of the presentation. Examples of other Zoroastrian Centers in North America were presented, where youth and adult participation increased dramatically after a new center was founded. The attendees at the meeting were urged to look to the future, to a sense of community and identity.

We need a community center where we can meet for events, classes and other youth activities and host educational & religious programs. We can get there by buying a church or commercial unit (like the India Community Center) with the appropriate zoning. Alternatively, we can buy land that is appropriately zoned and design a new building.

We have looked at a few properties in the last few months and have found that we will need an approximate budget of \$3 million to be serious buyers in the Bay Area market. We have so far collected about \$55,000 from our initial fund raising effort a year ago. The capital campaign committee is working on ideas for fund raising events and is actively looking for ideas and volunteers. They have also proposed donation levels and ways in which donors will be recognized. *All donations made for a new community center are kept in a separate account and will not be co-mingled with ZANC general funds.*

A lively question and answer session followed the formal presentation. Several questions focused on our options with the existing Dar-e Mehr. The Committee had consulted a real estate lawyer and the definitive conclusion was that there is no way to stay at the present location. Firstly, the zoning is only for a single family home and the County will not change that. Secondly, a large part of our existing structures are not to code, including the Atash Kadeh which would have to be brought into compliance. Thirdly, we would have to re-grade the road and fourthly, arrange for water and sewage compliance. After all these prohibitively expensive changes, the County could still refuse to let us operate as a community center because they do not plan to change the rural residential zoning.

People had many questions about ways in which they could donate money. Several options are listed on the pledge form that was passed out (and is included with this newsletter)\*. If anyone wishes to donate using a different option, the committee will try to make it happen. The meeting closed on an optimistic note with many pledge forms being filled out and returned.

\* See pages 2 – 3 for a description of our needs and a copy of the Pledge Form.

# **New Bay Area Zarathushti Community Center**

As many of you know, use of the current Dar-e Mehr is restricted to small groups for the foreseeable future. We continue to hold Sunday school classes there and we can have small meetings there. However, large gatherings can no longer be held there due to permit, access and zoning issues.

Faced with this reality, we need to raise funds to buy another property that can serve as a new Bay Area Zarathushti Community Center. After considerable evaluation we have established that the property would need to accommodate:

1. A Community Center of the size we currently rent to hold our large meetings, with a capacity of (say) 350-400 persons.
  2. The property would have to be zoned Commercial.
  3. A Sanctuary, preferably adjacent to the main room.
  4. 3-4 classrooms.
  5. Library.
  6. Game room.
  7. Kitchen.
  8. Bathrooms.
  9. Parking for 150-200 cars.
- If the property is located in a neighborhood zoned 'Commercial' we may be able to avail of overflow parking in adjacent properties on weekends.
  - It would be desirable to be located close to mass transit.
  - It would be desirable for the property to be rentable for weddings or other functions to community members or outsiders. This would provide some ongoing income for the maintenance of the facility.

A preliminary estimate of the funds needed for such a property is in the range \$2-3 million. This is a considerable challenge, but not insurmountable with consistent fund raising efforts. All money raised will be set aside in a separate Community Center fund for this specified purpose until we have enough money to move on a purchase. We feel we will need to collect at least \$1 million before we can seriously start to search for a suitable property. We will recognize all donors of \$1000 or more on a contribution wall in the new facility.

The approximate geographical location of the property is an important consideration. Given the size of the Bay Area and the scattered nature of the Zoroastrian population it is difficult to identify a location convenient to all. Also to be considered is the relative cost of Real Estate in different parts of the Bay Area. Broadly speaking, a location in the East Bay from the current Dar-e Mehr north to Hayward might be most convenient to the greatest number at the most reasonable price.

Nazneen & Ehler Spliedt, Erach Tarapore, Adil Engineer and Bomi Patel are heading efforts to develop an infrastructure and lay a foundation so we can achieve this goal

Darayush Mistry (darayush@gmail.com), Shahzad Contractor, and Yezdi Guzdar are heading the fundraising efforts to make this possible and need your help.

You can find more details on <http://ZANC.org/ncc.html>

# New Zarathushti Community Center Pledge Form



## 1. Personal Information:

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. I would like to show my support with a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$100,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000 / \$10,000 / \$5,000**

(Note that gifts of \$100,000 or more will be recognized by permanent naming of rooms in the new Community Center)

## 3. Gift Options (Multiple gifts will be added and acknowledged as a total for those opting to give in installments)

- ☐ PayPal
- ☐ PayPal in installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month / per year
- ☐ Check (Payable to ZANC – enter New Community Center Fund on the Memo line)
- ☐ ACH direct transfer in installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month / per year
- ☐ Securities (Please contact Capital Campaign committee for transfer instructions and other details. We suggest that you review your tax position related to the donation of securities, prior to making the transfer)
- ☐ Other (please give details) \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Please designate how you would like your donation to appear on the donor list:

- ☐ Anonymous

## 5. Donor List

- ☐ I CONSENT to disclosing the names listed above on the Donor List on a website or newsletter within the set donation ranges
- ☐ I do NOT wish to disclose the names listed above on the Donor List on a website or newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date – MM / DD / YYYY**

Please return completed form to: ZANC, 12 Skypark Circle, South San Francisco, CA 94080

## October Costume and Bingo Party



Come and join us for a fun-filled evening  
On Saturday, October 24, 2015  
At 5:30 PM for our annual costume party

Location: Dar-e-Mehr

Dinner and Bingo will follow the Costume Parade which will  
start at 6:00 PM sharp

Parents: to avoid disappointment, please bring your children before 6:00 PM

Prizes (Yay!) will be awarded for the best costumes:

Children under 4 years

Kids 4 - 7 years

Children 8 – 14 years

Young adults

Adults



Cost : Adults: \$ 15.00  
Children 3y-12y: \$ 8.00  
Children under 3y: Free



Please mail Checks (no PayPal) payable to ZANC to

Adil Engineer ([adileng@gmail.com](mailto:adileng@gmail.com))  
6124 Oak Forrest Way, San Jose CA 95120

**Deadline for reservations: October 18, 2015**

*Please provide children's names and ages when making your reservations*





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## Notice of Annual Election Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual Election Meeting** of the members and trustees of the Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California will be held on:

**Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 1.30 p.m.**

At the Arbab Rustom Guiv Dar-e-Mehr for the purpose of electing Office Bearers whose terms are expiring.

### **Nomination Form for December 20, 2015 Election**

I, as a 2015 member of the Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC), hereby nominate the following person(s) for the Executive Committee for the 2016 – 2017 term.

**The nominees have agreed to serve.**

<b><u>Office</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Nominee (Please print)</u></b>	<b><u>Nominee e-mail/ Tel No:</u></b>
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<b>Vice - President:</b>	<hr/>	
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	<hr/>	
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<b>Board Member: 1)</b>	<hr/>	
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**Your Signature**

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**Your Name (Please Print)**

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**Your Phone Number/email**

**Please mail by: November 10, 2015 to Election Officers:**

**Mary Jane and Percy Kanga  
ZANC 2014 Election Officer  
6588 Northridge Drive  
San Jose CA 95120**

## Sunday School Teacher Needed



ZANC is looking for a replacement for our beloved Annahita Jasavala, starting from the school term September 2016. Annahita has made her decision to 'retire' starting from summer 2016.

Prospective candidates, should be able to make time commitments for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month from September to June. Classes are to be conducted in a fun setting, for children ages 5y – 10y

(approximately).

This job can also be shared between two teachers who agree to co-teach.

Training can be provided, ideally by "shadowing" our current teacher and helping with class preparations.

It is recommended that candidates follow the Curriculum for Zarathushti Studies, prepared by FEZANA's Religious Education Committee for use by North American Associations, as a guideline (available on request).

Interested candidates should please send a short summary of their ideas and teaching philosophy as well as an agreement to the required time commitment, to the ZANC Board.



## **ZANC Annual Ghambar on Sept. 26, 2015**

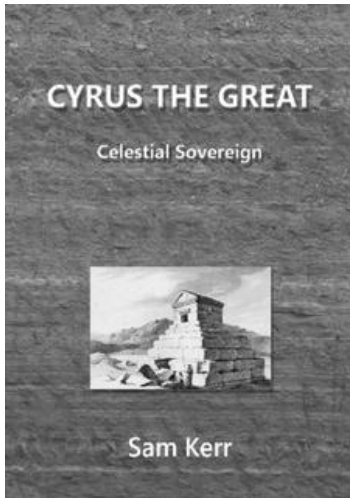
*A **Jashan** will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 4:45 pm at the Dar-e-Mehr in San Jose followed by our traditional Ghambar feast at the Berryessa Community Center in San Jose. Doors opens at 6:00 PM*

*To make Ghambar donations contact Nazneen or go to [ZANC.org](http://ZANC.org)*

*Reservations: Email Ehler Spliedt, ([nazehler@aol.com](mailto:nazehler@aol.com)) before Sept. 18, 2015*

*Volunteers are needed to help with set-up at the Center  
Contact Nazneen at [nazehler@aol.com](mailto:nazehler@aol.com)*





**Dr Sam Kerr**, a long-time friend and supporter of FEZANA from Sydney Australia has written a book

## **Cyrus the Great - Celestial Sovereign.**

### **Background:**

Cyrus the Great lived 599-529 BCE and ruled 559-529 BCE. The book is a fictionalized historical biography in a chronological order, inferring from the Old Testament and other legitimate sources in the search for valid clues, including a study into the nature of a wide variety of peoples, their cultures, habits, inclinations, manner of speaking and way of life of ancient times. The original Avestan, Old Iranian, Hebrew and Semitic names, assisted by Greek, Latin and Vedic equivalents in the foot-notes

have been retained. The addition of fictional material was done with a hope to place emphasis on his humanitarian facets, which changed the prevailing chaotic way of life to a new 'World Order' in the, then, known Classical World. He was the first in documented history to be titled 'The Great'.

This book promises to be very interesting reading for us all, especially since the visit of the Cylinder to North America is so fresh in our minds

This paperback edition of 334 Pages is priced at US \$19.95 and is available for purchase at [the www.Lulu.com](http://www.Lulu.com) bookstore.

## **Community News:**

**Births:** A boy EZAAD BASTANI to Naheed and Danesh Bastani, brother to Zarek on Feb 18, 2015 in San Francisco CA.

A boy KAIAN DASTOOR to Jennifer & Homyar Dastoor, brother to Nazhwan, grandson to Bapsy & Hoshang Vaid on June 29, 2015

### **MUKTAD Prayers**

Our youngest Mobed Rustom Chhor learning from his Grandfather



## Parsee General Hospital: the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Drive

By: Homai Kasad

Dear respected members of the community,

We invite you once again to join us in helping the poor and the sick members of our community. The Parsee General Hospital provides medical service to the Parsee community, including those who lack sufficient funds for healthcare.

Currently the hospital has 220 beds, out of which 91 beds are for the free patients, and 25 beds are highly subsidized. A free patient receives 100% of free medical care, including medicine, surgery, and diagnostics. The hospital is able to provide such a large volume of free care to the poor only because of continuing support from kind and concerned members of our community.

We would be grateful if you, if you would join our efforts by donating generously for this cause. Our donation makes a huge impact on the lives of several less fortunate patients. 100% of the donation will be applied towards the hospital's corpus fund, the interest from which is used to provide medicines and medical supplies to the deserving free patients of the hospital.

If you are interested in donating, please make your checks to Z.A.N.C., and mail to:  
Dr. Homai Kasad, 6 Somerset Ct, Belmont, CA 94002

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With gratitude,

Homai & Arvand Kasad (Tel: 1-650-591 2813, [homaikas@gmail.com](mailto:homaikas@gmail.com))



## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
<b><i>Local:</i></b>		
Ghambar	Sept 26, 2015	Berryessa Comm. Ctr., San Jose
ZANC Halloween Party	Oct 24, 2015	@ DM
ZANC Annual Election Meeting	Dec 20, 2015	@ DM
ZANC Ice Skating Party	Jan TBD, 2016	Winter Lodge Palo Alto
2016 Jamshed -i- Navroze Dinner	Mar 26, 2016	TBD
<b><i>National/International</i></b>		
World Youth Congress	Dec 2015	Auckland, New Zealand <a href="http://www.6wzyc.co.nz/">www.6wzyc.co.nz/</a>





**Kainaz Amaria** photographer and producer was in White House last August and produced this video when NPR interviewed the President

Here is the story

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/08/09/430760774/a-year-after-ferguson-obama-tells-npr-he-feels-great-urgency>

Full video:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/08/11/431548819/obamas-iran-deal-argument-in-1-video-clip>

**More info:** [www.kainazamaria.com](http://www.kainazamaria.com)

Blog: [www.kainazamaria.com/blog](http://www.kainazamaria.com/blog)

## June Sunday School:



The June class was led by the older kids who read stories to their younger "reading buddies". The older kids -- Jamsheed Mistri, Carl Patel, Natasha Patel and Zain Patel -- took turns reading several short stories with simple Zarthoshti morals and engaged the younger children by asking questions and pointing out key elements of the story.

Dear ZANC 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, info 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 the ZANC Board.

Thank you and looking forward to your input.

**Want to see it in color?? Check out the ZANC newsletter in color at [www.zanc.org](http://www.zanc.org). There you can also find Dar-e-mehr hours, the Parsi calendar and the link for Dar-e-Mehr donations.**