



ZANC MONTHLY BUZZ



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Editor's Note

Dear ZANC Community,

Hello! My name is Dianne Patel, and I'd like to introduce myself as the new editor of our monthly newsletter. Over the past 23 years of living in the Bay Area, ZANC has been an important part of our family's life, providing us with fun events and fostering new friendships with our local Parsi community. One thing I have always enjoyed was reading my ZANC newsletter so now that my kids are away at college, I would like to take a crack at being ZANC's bulletin editor. What got me thinking about it? While attending the recent Houston Congress, a Parsi gentleman said to me "instead of waiting for something, why don't you do something about it! If you can take some pictures and tell some stories, then you can send out the news". So here I am - nervous but excited about bringing you the latest updates to keep our community informed and connected. I would love to get more news and input from the community, so please send me an [email](#) with any ideas and content. Here is wishing everyone a very Happy Navroz and may the New Year bring peace, love and joy to all. Happy Reading!! 😊

UPCOMING EVENTS

NAVROZ FUNCTION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

2025 Jamshedi Navroz Party

Celebrate the joy of nature's renewal with us!

Experience the vibrant spirit of Navroz, a festival of happiness, hope, and new beginnings. Enjoy traditional and modern music and dance, delicious food, and immerse yourself in the rich ancient celebration with family and friends. All are welcome!



WHEN: Sunday March 23rd

TIME: 4:00PM TO 10:00PM

**WHERE: India Community Center
525 Los Coches St
Milpitas, CA 95035**

TICKETS

PZO/ZANC MEMBER	\$65
Children 6 - 12 years old	\$35
Children 3 - 5 years old	\$15
Children under 3 years old	Free
Non-Member / Guest	\$85
Volunteer Discount	\$25

- Persian - Indian Catered food
- Traditional Vocal, Music & Dance Performance
- Kids Arts & Crafts
- Haftseen
- Singing - Choir
- Amoo Nourooz and Haji Firooz
- Group Dancing Entertainment
- DJ Music and Dancing
- And Much More....

**Ticket prices increase by \$10 on March 10th.
Tickets will be NOT be sold after March 18th.
Purchase tickets before they are SOLD OUT!**

[**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**](#)

YOUTH Z-CAMP AT THE DAR-E-MEHR JULY 24 - 27th



REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 20TH

Attention Future Campers and Counselors:

Save the date for the fun filled Z-Camp which will take place at the Dar-e-Mehr in July. This is a wonderful opportunity for young Z's to learn, interact and make friends in a fun environment.

Volunteers and Counselor Forms:

[Volunteer Form](#)

[Counselor Forms](#)

Questions? [EMAIL](#) the Z-Camp coordinator

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

FUTURE EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
March 22nd, 11:30 am	Navroz Jashan and Potluck	Dar-e-Mehr
March 23rd, 4 - 10pm	Navroz Function (with PZO)	ICC, Milpitas
April 5th, 11am	AGM and Potluck	Dar-e-Mehr
April 12th	Visit to Sacramento Dar-e-Mehr	Sacramento
June 22nd, 11 - 4 pm	Picnic in the Park	Central Park, Fremont
August 2nd	Car Rally	San Ramon

GET INVOLVED! ZANC events rely greatly on volunteer help to make them successful! Every set of hands makes a big difference. Your efforts matter and the community will be richer for it. Email the [EVENTS COMMITTEE](#) to volunteer.

RECENT EVENTS



Z - BAKE OFF COMPETITION

The first event of the year kicked off with a subject close to any Parsi heart – FOOD! While most people try to recover from the food frenzy after the holidays, our community dives straight into it, in order to start the New Year off right!

The first ever ZANC Bake-off Competition took place on January 18th at the Dar-e-Mehr with 70+ in attendance. Participants consisted of 51 adults and 18 young enthusiastic bakers – each bringing in a delicious baked treat to be judged in the hopes of winning a prize. It was not an easy task, mind you, to please the palette of our esteemed judges, Kobad Jamshed, Sheena Driver and Urvaksh Bharucha, but in the end of the fun competition, 3 winners were awarded prizes for their tastiest treats.



The fun day concluded with participants and visitors enjoying chai and baked goods from the Z-bakers and a talk about Parsi cooking by our very own Nazneen Spliedt.

The Talented Bakers



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Adults:

1st: Havovie Suraliwalla - Pineapple Cupcakes
2nd: Zarina Bhandari - Chocolate Walnut Torte
3rd: Parizad Bharucha - Chicken Baked Dish

Kids:

1st: Zinaya Choksey - Chocolate Bookies
2nd: Ray Choksey - Almond Macaroons
3rd: Zahl Bharucha - 100 Hour Brownies

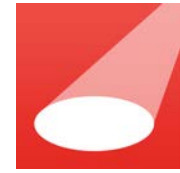


Don't miss another fun event! Become a ZANC member now and enjoy the fun filled member events!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE 2025 ZANC BOARD



The ZANC Board is made up of the following members who graciously volunteer a great deal of their time to serve our organization. They work hard to coordinate community events, govern policies, upkeep member engagement and ensure that the financial resources are properly maintained for future generations.



A warm welcome to the four NEW members on the Board!



Fredy Kadva, Vice-President

Fredy has served on the ZANC Board as a Member-At-Large for the past 2 years and has played a proactive role in Z-Class since 2021. He is excited to bring his experience to this new role. With a focus on expanding ZANC's reach and uniting Zoroastrians, he is spearheading efforts in event coordination, technology advancement, and member engagement.



Burzin Patel, Secretary

Burzin has been an active member of ZANC since moving to the Bay Area in 2001 with his family. Burzin is an engineer by profession and has worked at companies like Intel, IBM, Microsoft, & HashiCorp, and is also actively involved in the NCZC sub-committee. He is committed to fostering a vibrant Zoroastrian community here in the Bay Area, where future generations can feel a sense of belonging, stay connected to our heritage, and uphold our shared values.



Dilber Mistry, Member-At-Large

Dilber moved to the Bay Area in 2018. She has been an active part of the Zoroastrians community in every place she has lived – Mumbai, Hong Kong and CA. With a background in project management and a career in the travel industry, Dilber brings strong organizational skills and a passion for building connections. She is excited to plan events and activities that foster interaction, strengthen community bonds, and inspire greater involvement and enthusiasm in our community.



Zara Minwalla, Member-At-Large

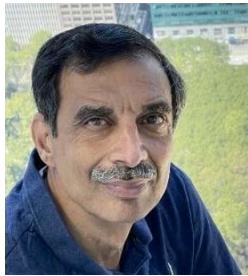
Zara has been a part of ZANC her entire life and is thrilled to be on the ZANC Board as Member-at-Large. She intends on focusing her efforts on engaging less involved Zoroastrians into the community and creating an environment where younger generations feel represented and connected to our shared identity. Professionally, she works for Gallo Winery as an IT Data Steward but in her free time, she enjoys giving tours of San Francisco, cooking Parsi food, reading, and being outdoors.

Welcome back to our returning board members!



Bomi Patel, President

Bomi has been a dedicated member of ZANC serving on the board in various roles since 1992. Beyond ZANC, Bomi has held leadership positions at FEZANA, WZCC and has vast experience in social and non-profit organizations both in India and internationally. As the current president, he is dedicated to improving his community through thoughtful leadership and action. In his personal life, Bomi cherishes his 33+ years of marriage with his supportive wife, Binaifer.



Zareer Bhathena, Treasurer

Currently serving as Treasurer on our ZANC Board, Zareer's dedication runs deep, having served ZANC since 1987 in various capacities including Member-at-Large, Treasurer, and Trustee for over a decade. He is passionate about serving ZANC and fostering camaraderie within our Zoroastrian community.



Jamshid Kekobad, Member-At-Large

Serving his 2nd term, Jamshid is passionate about making a positive impact in his community. With a commitment to service and a drive for meaningful change, he brings fresh ideas and a collaborative spirit to every initiative. His goal is to create opportunities for growth, connection, and improvement, ensuring that the community thrives for everyone.

Let's take a moment to express our gratitude to our board members for their time, effort and unwavering commitment to serving the Zoroastrian community in the Bay Area. 🙏

We wish everyone the best of luck in their job roles as they lead ZANC into a new era of community engagement, technological updates and create fun filled events for everyone. The Board implores the entire community to become more involved by attending events, becoming members and volunteering their time in order to make ZANC a successful entity in 2025!

Z-CLASS UPDATES



The 2024-25 Z-Class program marks the third consecutive year that both ZANC and PZO have come together to support grounding children in the wonderful philosophies of our religion. Through this collaboration, they help our youth connect with fellow Zarathusti's, fostering bonds of camaraderie and friendship that will last a lifetime.

Days/Time: Classes meet at the Dar-e-Mehr every 2nd & 4th Sunday from 10-11:30 am

Registration: Fall 2025 registration will open in September 2025

Deadline: The deadline for registration is the first day of classes

Contact: If you have questions or need more information email Z-CLASS.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT Z-CLASS](#)

Join Us for Nowrooz Bazaar!

Celebrate the spirit of Nowrooz at our annual Bazaar!

Date: Sunday, March 9th

Location: Dar-E-Mehr, San Jose

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Last year's event was a great success, featuring handmade crafts, artwork, homemade food, and unique services from our talented community members.

Don't miss this year's opportunity to showcase your work!

Reserve your free table now! Space is limited.

To register, send your name and product/service details via text to:

408-893-0004 Parisa

Sellers are encouraged to donate some of their profits to Dar Mehr to help cover event costs.

Join us for a day of culture, creativity, and community!



COMMUNITY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE & THE NAVJOTE FAMILY!



Wedding: Tanaz, daughter of Aban & Khushru Chhor of Fremont, to Kayan, son of Ferhiz & Farhad Sidhwa of San Diego, got married on Oct. 19th, 2024, in Carlsbad, CA. The wedding ceremony was performed by Kayan's cousin Ervad Kaivan Dadachanji and Tanaz's younger brother Ervad Rustum Chhor.



Navjote: Aafrin Sinha, the daughter of Parizad Palia and Manoj Sinha at the Dar-e-Mehr on Dec 21st, 2024. All the decorations and designing was done by fellow community member Sonal Bhujwala, catering was from Mehak of India and the ceremony was performed by Dastoorji Kobad. Attendees included immediate family, parents, older sister, Anusha, family friends, classmates and two school teachers.



We would love to hear from you!
To publish births, deaths, navjotes, weddings, or any other announcements please [email](#) the editor.

IN OTHER NEWS

FEZANA Bestows the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Dolly Dastoor and Rohinton Rivetna in Houston

[Read more about these and other winners on the FEZANA Website...](#)



WZCC Toronto Conclave April 29 – May 3, 2025



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

This is your opportunity to:

- Gain valuable insights into wellness, mindset, and achieving lasting success.
- Network with top entrepreneurs and professionals from around the globe.
- Pitch your business at the Tiger's Den and secure potential funding.

Questions? [EMAIL](#) the conclave team

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

ZYNA YOUTH RETREAT

The Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) held its annual retreat in Orange County, CA from Feb 14th -17th, to engage in community building and build lasting friendships. A total of 107 young members attended this fun filled event which included a DJ led valentine night bash, a 2 hour hike and a visit to the local Dar-e-Mehr.

BECOME A MEMBER


All youth between the ages of 18 and 35 are encouraged to become a member of this dynamic, fun filled organization!

Questions? [Email](#) Iyanah Jamula or Natasha Patel, Co-Chairs ZYNA Membership Committee




ARTS AND EDUCATION

NAMC INSTITUTE OF ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES



NAMC
INSTITUTE OF
ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES

For application form
use QR code or link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/c3eyA081x>




ONLINE COURSE
Gathas 101 (Gathas Simplified)

Saturdays at 2pm EST
March 1, 2025 to March 29, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Karishma Koka
PhD Neuroscience, University of Cambridge

In simple, understandable terms, learn the original teachings of Prophet Zarathustra in his own words. Marvel at the simplicity and profoundness of his message. Get inspired by his philosophy, wisdom, and knowledge. Explore the relevance of his teachings in your daily life. This entry-level course will be taught in an open and relaxed environment. Students will be encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussions.



The North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) offers regular zoom lectures as a part of the Institute of Zoroastrian Studies (IZS).

[CLICK HERE](#) to view their other upcoming courses:

Sunday, March 9th - Role of vultures in Zoroastrian ecology

Sunday, April 13th - Uncovering the treasures from the Vendidad

[GATHAS 101 COURSE REGISTRATION](#)

Of Mud and Honey, by Roxana Trabulsi



Roxana Trabulsi was awarded the 2024 FEZANA Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Award for her compelling new novel. Based on a true story, *Of Mud and Honey* captures the ugliness of a country torn apart by the fight for independence while exemplifying the beauty of good deeds and the bounty that hope can bestow.

[READ THE BLOG](#)

MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Active memberships are vital to ensuring the continued growth and success of our community here in Northern CA. Your membership dues help maintain our Dar-e-Mehr, sustain ZANC's operations, and fund valuable programs that benefit all members.

Your continued commitment contributes to the preservation of our Zoroastrian heritage, fosters a sense of belonging, and strengthens our community. Your involvement now will leave a lasting legacy for future generations! Please renew or apply soon. 🙏



Membership Dues Are:

- \$300 for families
- \$150 for individuals
- \$35 for seniors
- \$25 for students
- \$6000 for lifetime membership

We urge everyone to please renew their annual memberships ASAP. Thank you!

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



Your generous donations are essential for ZANC to be able to operate and benefit our community.

They largely contribute to the upkeep of our Dar-e-Mehr which includes covering monthly expenses such as insurance, utilities, property maintenance, repairs, landscape beautification and property taxes. Even the smallest contributions lead to significant changes, so please donate today.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

[DONATE TO ZANC](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Join the ZANC WhatsApp Channel

Stay connected with the latest updates, community events, and announcements at ZANC, right at your fingertips, on your phone! We look forward to engaging with you on this dynamic, informal platform.



Why Join?

- Get instant updates on what's happening
- Engage in the various group chats (foodies etc)
- Respond and register for events in time

How to Join?

- **IMPORTANT:** Make sure you view this message on your smartphone
- Have Whatsapp installed on your phone
- Simply click [HERE](#) and select JOIN

NOTE: You will still continue to get the ZANC monthly newsletter and email blasts in your email.



Follow ZANC on Social Media!

Keep up with the latest updates, events, and community news by following ZANC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Follow, like, and share to stay engaged with other Zs, post pictures, and strengthen our community connections!



All respectful feedback, suggestions and grievances are encouraged

For general questions or suggestions, please email the [ZANC BOARD](#)

For membership questions, email the [ZANC SECRETARY](#)

For volunteering opportunities, email the [EVENTS COORDINATOR](#)

And Finally...



ZANC would like to thank Kathleen Chothia for all her hard work in the recent role of election officer. ZANC would also like to thank outgoing board members Azita Patel and Benafsha Irani for their service and contributions during their tenure on the Board.



Visiting the Dar-e-Mehr

Address:

10468 Crothers Road
San Jose, CA 95127

[HOURS / DIRECTIONS](#)



Call for Content:

In order to best serve our community, please help by sending in highlights of your achievements, the good news and sad, so that we can publish all important events – births, deaths, navjotes, weddings, awards, graduations, college admissions, publications etc.

Thank you! We look forward to your input.

[EMAIL ZANC EDITOR](#)

All content must be received by the 20th of the month to be featured in next month's bulletin.