



Newsletter January 2022

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ZANC BOARD 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Respected Dasturji and dear community members,

On the onset of 2022, I take this privilege on behalf of the Board to wish you all a Safe, Healthy and Prosperous New Year -2022. Although the last couple of years have been dominated by Covid-19 with the latest variant creating havoc around the world, with added awareness, safety precautions and vaccines, there is a ray of hope for 2022 that this too will also pass.

According to the *Panchang* system, each year has a specific name? And that each name has a meaning? There are *60* names of years *(Samvatsars)*. Each name replays after 60 years. The year typically begins in *mid-April*.

The year 2019-20 was named *'Vikari'*, that lived up to its name by being a *'illness' year! The year 2020-21 was named *'Sharvari'*, meaning *'darkness'*, and it did push the world into a dark phase!

Now the *'Plava'* year (2021-22) is beginning. 'Plava' means, *'that - which ferries us across'*. The *'Varaha Samhita'* says: this will ferry the world across unbearable difficulties and reach us to a state of glory. And take us from *'darkness to light!'

The year 2022-23 is named *'Shubhkrut'*, meaning that which *'creates auspiciousness!'*. Hopefully, the prediction is right, and we can now look forward and expect to have a better tomorrow.

After a gap of almost two years, we had our first in person Sunday school event followed by Bingo in November 2021, and everyone attending had a positive outlook and is looking forward to more and regular in-person meetings. We will, of course, have to take all precautions and follow the CDC/state/county guidelines for future events. At all our events, for the safety of all our members, we request everyone to be vaccinated, wear masks, practice social distancing, and all other safety measures.

Being optimistic, the Board has planned various online and in-person activities in 2022 and the list is included in this newsletter.

The 12th World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC) is co-hosted by ZAGNY (Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, and FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America). The Congress will be held from Jul 1 - 4, 2022. The 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of FEZANA will be held in Sacramento, California, during the first weekend of March 2022. The AGM will be hosted by FEZANA Corresponding Member Association, Sacramento Zoroastrian Association.

We are pursuing efforts to build the new Community Center, and our efforts to raise funds are moving along. We have registered a new entity, namely, the Northern California Zoroastrian Center (NCZC) and this entity has been granted the Not-for-Profit status by the IRS. At the same time, we have to maintain our current Dare Mehr property and I sincerely request all to donate to both, the new Community Center, and also for the maintenance of the existing Dare Mehr.

Once again, wishing you all "A very Safe and Healthy New Year 2022" and looking forward to your attendance and participation in all ZANC events.

Bomi Patel

ZANC President

EDITORS'
NOTE

Dear ZANC Community,

Happy New Year! We're excited to host more in-person events this upcoming year, and look forward to seeing everyone in 2022.

Moving forward, newsletters will be strictly digital. If your email is not listed, please go to the following link, and list your email in ZANC's directory. <https://www.zanc.org/mailling-list/>

If you are an active member in our community and want to reach out regarding any community related news, please reach out to board@zanc.org , so we can ensure that your story is told.

If you are working with a company that has a matching program, please consider ZANC to be the beneficiary for the matching contribution.

Additionally, ZANC is looking for a new Member of the Board to join our team. If yourself, or someone you know is interested please contact the ZANC board at board@zanc.org.

Cheers!

ZANC Board



ZANC Board Update

The ZANC Board is very excited to announce the newest addition to our board, **Gev Khan** ! Gev, born and raised in Mumbai, moved to sunny California in 2002 to pursue his Masters in Business Administration at California State University, East Bay, and has been here ever since. He currently works as a Senior Tax Manager at a National firm. During his free time, Gev enjoys traveling, learning about different cultures and countries, especially all across Europe! He looks forward to working with ZANC board and working with the community.



Please join us in welcoming Gev on-'board'!

We would like to thank Kathleen Chothia and Ratan Mistry for all their hard work in their past terms. Our community appreciates your time, effort, and dedication to ZANC.

12th World Zoroastrian Congress 2022 in NYC



12TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS 2022

BRIDGING THE GLOBAL ZARATHUSHTI EXISTENCE

The 12th World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC) is co-hosted by **ZAGNY** (Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York), and **FEZANA** (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America).

The Congress will be held from Jul 1 – 4 2022.

The WZC returns to the United States after 22 years and is expected to attract 1500 attendees from all over the world.

Planning is under way for attendees (including teens and children) to enjoy an unparalleled WZC with engaging programs, dynamic cultural events, interesting exhibits, unique marketplace offerings, and sensational entertainment. This exceptional three-and-a-half-day event coincides with the July 4th weekend celebrations creating a one-of-a-kind New York City experience!

The WZC will be held at the New York Hilton Midtown, giving attendees the opportunity to stay in the heart of New York City for the event.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

Zoroastrian Youth Across Borders - WZC 2022 Financial Assistance

During the last several weeks, Zoroastrian Youth Across Borders (ZYAB) has been working to shortlist 25 of the 40 applications they've received for financial assistance regarding the World Zoroastrian Congress. To view full details of the ZYAB Program, please visit <https://wzc2022.nyc/zyab/>

ZYAB asks any individual to donate generously to give students from many cities in India, Iran, Pakistan, the U.A.E, the UK, and Australia a chance to experience the World Zoroastrian Congress. After attending Congress, ZYAB would like to give the students an opportunity to sightsee in NYC and visit neighboring Zoroastrian Associations ZAMWI, ZAPANJ, and ZAGBA.



Your donations big and small will go a long way in creating this unique opportunity for someone less fortunate than us and launch a global network of youth who will have a voice in the future of Zoroastrianism in the next 50 years. We need to give our youth a voice and we hope this is the beginning of an exciting dialogue. If you can reach into the CSR Budgets of your own business or match your donations through your employers, this would be greatly appreciated.

For any questions, clarifications, or sponsorship details please email ZYAB at: zyab@wzc2022.nyc

The ZYAB Team: Nerina Rustomji, Behroze Clubwala and Katayun Kapadia.

NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies

The Northern American Mobeds Council (NAMC) is hosting a set of online courses listed below:

- February 14, 2022 - March 19th, 2022 : Zoroastrianism in Zoroastrian Dynasties
- March 21, 2022 - April 23, 2022: Basic Zoroastrian Prayers - Recital and Meaning
- May 2, 2022 - June 4, 2022: Zoroastrianism in Post-Sasanian Iran
- June 6, 2022 - July 16, 2022: Shahnameh
- September 5, 2022 to October 8, 2022: An Introduction to Zoroastrianism



The first course is called “Zoroastrianism in Zoroastrian Dynasties”. This course will provide the student with the knowledge of various pre-Zoroastrian and Zoroastrian dynasties, their rulers, their battles, and how their Mazdayasni and Zoroastrian faith influenced their rule.

The course will be hosted by Mobedyar Khushroo Mirza, Darius Weil, Ervard Cawas Desai, Dr. Xerxes Kotwal, and Brigadier Ervard Behram Panthaki and take place every Saturday at 11 am PST starting February 19th, 2022 to March 19th, 2022. To register for this course, please email registrar.izs@namcmobeds.org.

To learn more information:

[READ MORE ON THE WEBSITE](#)

NAMC Discussion Group: Non-Zoroastrians’ names in Zoroastrian Prayers?

Could non-Zoroastrians’ names be recited in Zoroastrian prayers and rituals? Are there scriptural restrictions? Are Zoroastrians prohibited from offering prayers for their dearly departed non-Zoroastrian spouse or loved ones? Does the meaning of prayers make it inappropriate? Let’s discuss.

To attend:

When: **Saturday, January 23rd, 2022 at 11:00 AM PST.**

Zoom Meeting ID: **822 550 67379**

Password: **NAMCIZS**

Nidhi Prayas Entrepreneurship Program



WZCC is pleased to make budding inventors, in need of Incubation support opportunities, aware of a unique program being offered by IIT Gandhinagar Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (IIEC). Application deadline January 15, 2022.

IIEC presents a unique opportunity to innovators, makers and entrepreneurs working on deep-tech innovations under the Nidhi Prayas Program. Selected innovators/ teams under the program will get support to convert their ideas into prototypes that can lead to startups.

Benefits available under program include:

- A prototyping grant of upto INR 10 Lakhs
- Mentorship in design, development, technology and business
- Support in IP protection
- Access to IIEC Co-working space and mentors
- Help in commercialization
- Access to Tinkerer's Lab

For more details about the program and the registration link visit:

[Nidhi Prayas Program Information](#)

The applications under the current call will be accepted till January 15, 2022. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at iiec@iitgn.ac.in.

Best Regards,

Team IIEC

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Births:



Cyrus Mistree was born on October 1st in Palo Alto, CA to loving parents Dinsha and Fareeza Mistree.

Deaths:

Cawas Cooper -

After a courageous battle with Cancer, Cawas Cooper passed away on October 23rd, 2021. Cooper is survived by his wife Ruby, daughter Roshni, son-in-law Vinith, and his grandchildren Vihaan and Vishali.

Gustad Irani -

Gustad Irani passed away on December 16th, 2021 in Hong Kong. Irani was a ZANC supporter in its earliest days and was a ZANC Life Member. Irani is survived by his wife Karen Witt Irani, daughter Zara Witt Irani, and her husband Sahil. (See eulogy below)

A Eulogy for Gustad Irani:

Gustad Jehangir Irani was the eldest of four siblings who cared deeply about the well being of his family, friends and co-religionists. He was also very active in preserving and propagating Zoroastrianism.

After becoming a Chartered Accountant in India, Gustadji moved to Hong Kong where he taught himself Mandarin and spoke it fluently. While there, Gustadji got certified as a Chartered Accountant and when the opportunity arose, he moved to the USA.

Once in the USA, he earned his degree as a Certified Public Accountant. Thus Gustadji was a C.A. from India, Hong Kong and a C.P.A. in the USA. I do not know of any accountant who is/was as qualified in the field of accounting as Gustadji. However, his heart was in business and not to be, as he put it, a bean counter.

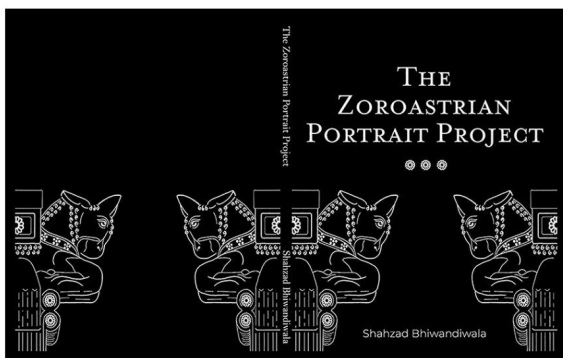
So, Gustadji gave up his well paying job and decided to risk it all and move back to Hong Kong to fulfill his passion for trading. After establishing a very successful business, Gustadji married Karen and I had the privilege of playing the role of a younger brother in the Zoroastrian marriage ceremony. Together Karen and Gustadji raised their daughter Zara who has grown to be a lovely person and now lives with her husband Sahil in San Francisco.

Gustadji was an avid sailor and entered several races in Hong Kong and eventually funded the Irani cup for sailing enthusiasts.

Gustadji used his connections in Hong Kong to fund the Shirin Dinyari High School in Dahanu Taluka which is providing excellent education to the local population. He was a strong supporter of the Zoroastrian cause and will be fondly remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know and work with him. I know that I will do so.

Bahram R. Shahmardaan

The Zoroastrian Portraits Project



The Zoroastrian Portrait Project by Shahzad Bhiwandiwalla and Natalie Kanga has won 2 awards. ZPP has achieved Bronze in the Book/People Category at the Budapest International Foto Awards, and Silver in the Book/People category at the Tokyo International Foto Awards. Congratulations to the Zoroastrian Portraits Project team!

Having this book in your home is a piece of Bay Area Zoroastrian History and a once in a lifetime opportunity. There are currently 8 copies of the book left. If you are interested in purchasing the book, please contact Shahzad Bhiwandiwalla at 650-944-9482 or shahzadbphotography@gmail.com or Natalie Kanga at njkanga@gmail.com. Each book sells for \$200 and 100% proceeds will go towards the new Zoroastrian Center of Northern California.

Future ZANC Events Calendar

Date (TBD)	Event
January 23rd, 2022	Sunday School
February TBA, 2022	Ice Skating & Pizza (Dependent on Local Covid-19 Cases)
February 20, 2022	Sunday School
March TBA, 2022	Norooz Dinner
March TBA, 2022	Sunday School
April 17th, 2022	Sunday School
May 15th, 2022	Sunday School
June TBA, 2022	Sunday School
July TBA, 2022	Annual ZANC Picnic
August 11-15, 2022	Muktad Prayers
August 16th, 2022	Navrose Jashan
August TBA, 2022	Navrose Function
September TBA, 2022	Ghambar
September 18th, 2022	Sunday School
October 16th, 2022	Sunday School
October 29th, 2022	Halloween Costume Party & Bingo
November 20th, 2022	ZANC Friendsgiving Potluck w/ Sunday School
December, TBA, 2022	Christmas Eve Function (TBA)

Visits to our Dar-E-Mehr

The Dar-e-Mehr is officially open at the following times (Appointments are no longer necessary):

- Tuesdays/Thursday/Friday -- 8:00am – 12:00 noon & 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Saturday & Sunday -- 8:00am – 7:00pm (no break)
- Monday & Wednesday – Closed all day

If you have any symptoms of sickness please **do not** come to Dar-e-Mehr. Please bring your own head covering and candles. Avesta is available to the public.

FUTURE EVENTS



Please reach out to **chairzgame2020@gmail.com** if you would like to become an ambassador for your community or volunteer for the Games. This is a great way to help the community and make everlasting friendships.

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

USEFUL LINKS

ZANC Group Facebook Page

This group on Facebook is a closed group for ZANC members, and friends of ZANC.
Facebook Group Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/zancnorcal>

Some parsi Nataks

Bawaji ka time Aayega -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lEXmLwSuXE&ab_channel=prakashstudio

Parsi Natak Madan Ni Mansik Hospital -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCJRHunSPPM&ab_channel=MehbadDastur

Gherno Gahambar: A Parsi Gujarati Play Performed by Members of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago

1. Title and Credits <https://youtu.be/p6F1FOFzdpl>
2. Act I, Scene 1 <https://youtu.be/4ljNXS7c7CY>
3. Act I, Scene 2 <https://youtu.be/kzyucmuglwU>
4. Act II, Scene 1 <https://youtu.be/nFphPlsprPA>
5. Act II, Scene 2 <https://youtu.be/7Gvgxmi43UU>

Pestonjee na parakram -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeMurWu0M6g&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=ZoroastrianAssociationofGreaterNewYork

FEZANA Resources

Fezana Talks - <https://fezana.org/category/talks/>

FIRES - FEZANA Information Research Education System - <http://fires-fezana.org/> A wealth of information at your fingertips and continuously growing.

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Membership / Renewal Form 2021

ADULT 1:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

Profession: _____

ADULT 2:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

Profession: _____

Address: _____

Apt #:

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

INFORMATION ON CHILDREN LIVING WITH THE FAMILY OR IN COLLEGE

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Child 1:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

Child 2:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

Child 3:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

Child 4:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

INFORMATION ON PARENTS LIVING WITH THE FAMILY

Parent 1:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

Parent 2:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____

Month and Year of Birth: _____

Dues:

Family	\$150
Individual	\$75
Seniors	\$35
Students	\$25
Life Membership	\$3,000

Options to pay membership:

1) PayPal -- <https://www.zanc.org/membership/>. [Go to www.zanc.org and click on the Membership tab.]

2) Check -- Make checks payable to ZANC. Please send a check to Kerman Deboo at 4357 Krause Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Please help us by updating our membership information.

Options to update membership information:

1) Online -- Fill online form available on <https://www.zanc.org/membership/>.

2) Mail Please send this filled form to Kerman Deboo at 4357 Krause Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588.