



Newsletter June 2023

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ZANC BOARD 2023

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LETTER TO THE ZANC COMMUNITY

Dear Community Members,

As you know we have worked for the last ten years towards our goal to purchase a new Community Centre for Northern California. Towards that end in 2021, a new non-profit association was formed called Northern California Zoroastrian Centre (NCZC) for ZANC and PZO to raise funds towards this goal. As many of you are aware we have been fund-raising since 2014.

While we continue to pursue this plan, we were informed in January 2023 by PZO that they plan to keep and continue to manage the current Dar-e-Mehr and that their objective was to look primarily for an event/banquet hall to complement the existing Dar-e-Mehr. This space could also be used for other purposes and may have a prayer space inside as well.

The ZANC Board has some major concerns. As many of you are aware, the property is zoned as a single-family home and the maximum capacity is 49 people. The property has been issued notices of code violation from the County, including a zoning code violation. The gradient of the road leading to the property is one of the violations and needs to be upgraded for emergency services to be able to access the property.

PZO has conveyed to us that for them to officially sign the joint NCZC Agreement with ZANC for a future property, they would need ZANC to commit to contributing additional funds toward the cost of maintaining the current Dar-e-Mehr including any capital improvements costs.

ZANC has been donating \$15,000. - to \$ 25,000. - annually towards the Dar-e-Mehr's maintenance cost since 1991. However, PZO wants ZANC to cover 50% of their regular maintenance costs such as utilities, salaries, insurance, property taxes and repairs, and future capital expense costs. In 2022 PZO's expenses at the property were \$104,000.

Some of you may not be aware that the cost to ZANC for the Dare-Mehr upkeep in the past few years has amounted to nearly all the Membership Income of ZANC plus what people have been donating specifically to the Dare-Mehr Donation Fund. Last year's contribution to PZO from ZANC was \$ 26,000.

The ZANC Board with input from the NCZC Committee is negotiating with PZO's Board of Trustees (Zenhadaran) to arrive at an equitable conclusion which is fair to both associations and affordable for ZANC, so that all members of the Zoroastrian community in Northern California can continue to make use of the current property as well as any future facility. We intend to continue working with PZO through these issues, we are committed to the long-term future of the joint community in the Bay area.

We look forward to your input and help by sharing your expertise with us. You will also have the opportunity to give your verbal feedback to us at one of the upcoming in-person events where we are planning to set up a special forum for member's suggestions.

Please send your suggestions/comments/concerns to: Board@zanc.org

Bomi Patel
President – Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC)

EDITORS' NOTE

Dear ZANC Community,

We have a fun-filled summer and fall planned ahead. Look out for upcoming event information and ways you can engage with the community.

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 mailing list. <https://www.zanc.org/mailling-list/>

If you are an active member of 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.

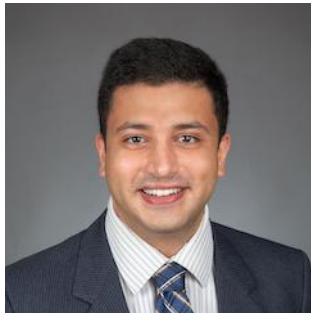
If you are working with a company that has a matching program, please consider ZANC to be the beneficiary of the matching contribution.

Cheers!

ZANC Board



COMMUNITY NEWS



Zehan Mistry graduated in March 2023 with a Doctor of Medicine diploma with honors from St. George's University, Grenada. He will begin a four-year Psychiatry Residency Program in July 2023 at Rutgers Health, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth, New Jersey.



Azita Patel graduated in May 2023 with her Masters of Science in Medical Product Development Management. She currently works at Stryker Neurovascular in Fremont, CA and will continue to grow her career in the medical device industry.



Natalie Kanga graduated from Arizona State University with a Masters in Psychology Research. During her time there, she worked as the lab manager for the Emotion, Culture, and Psychophysiology Lab, as well as a consultant for the Statistics and Methods Lab. She received a grant to conduct her own research, examining exercise as an alternative treatment method for patients with psychologically induced seizures.



Zenaz Sarkari completed her Bachelors of Science in Psychobiology with a minor in Global Health from UCLA. She graduated with Departmental Honors for her research thesis on the topic of multisensory integration and behavioral neuroscience.

Deaths:

Sapur (Sam) Engineer -

Sapur (Sam) Engineer, son of Katie Engineer & Dhun Engineer (Ex-President of ZANC), passed away on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 3:00 am at his home in Carmichael, CA. He left this world at the young age of 57; leaving behind his wife (Vanessa) & sisters (Tina & Nina).

Sam was a deeply religious person. Though he's now left this Earth & his corporeal body, he'll soon join the eternal world of Lord Ahura Mazda & Lord Jesus Christ.

“Ginu” Soli Jal Bulsara -

Soli grew up in Calcutta and was a proud member of the La Martiniere Old Boys Rugby XV during his college days. He lived in Tehran, Toronto and finally settled in San Francisco.

Soli leaves behind his Jaan Aijen as he fondly calls her, daughter Tina, son Zubin and nieces and nephews in Australia and India.

A Celebration of Life was held on Friday, September 2, 2022, at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, 695 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94306, United States.

PAST EVENTS

ZANC Annual Ice-Skating Social



We had a blast at ZANC's annual ice-skating social! The Winter Lodge in Palo Alto transformed into a winter wonderland on February 19, 2023. Skating on the glistening ice brought joy and laughter to all. Hot cocoa, tea, and a scrumptious dinner warmed us up and filled our hearts. Thank you for joining us and stay tuned for more exciting community events in the future!

Joint ZANC and PZO Navroze Celebration

We are delighted to reminisce about the incredible Joint Navroze Celebration that took place in the past, bringing together ZANC (Zarthosti Anjuman of Northern California) and PZO (Persian Zoroastrian Organization) for an extraordinary evening!

The function was held on Saturday, March 25th, 2023 at the Starlite Banquet Hall. The atmosphere was electrifying as the live DJ set the stage for an unforgettable night of dancing and merriment. Talented dance performers



mesmerized the audience with their graceful moves, showcasing the beauty of our rich cultural heritage.



The Haft Sin table, adorned with vibrant symbols of abundance, became the center of attention. Attendees had the opportunity to capture their joyous moments with professional photos against this exquisite backdrop, creating cherished memories.



Appetizers and sweets tantalized taste buds, offering a delightful mix of flavors and textures. The Persian Food Buffet took everyone on a culinary journey, featuring a delectable array of traditional dishes that delighted the senses. To satisfy the craving for something sweet, a selection of mouthwatering ice cream was available, providing a cool treat for all attendees.

Adding an extra touch of whimsy, a talented face painter transformed faces into works of art, bringing smiles and laughter to both young and old alike.

The highlight of the evening was a joint speech delivered by esteemed priests representing both the Parsi and Irani communities. Their words of wisdom and blessings resonated deeply, setting the tone for a prosperous and fulfilling New Year.



The Joint Navroze Celebration was a resounding success, fostering unity, joy, and cultural appreciation within our community. We look forward to future events that will continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship and tradition.



In 2023, the Board reinstated the Z-Discussion sessions where we meet every 3rd Sunday of the month at Dar-e-Mehr to socialize, have a discussion on religious or non-religious topic(s), and share a potluck lunch.

The first discussion was held on Sunday, April 16, 2023. There was a brief discussion session led by Dr. Homai Kasad followed by a session to get input from individuals on how to evolve the Z-Discussion sessions. This was followed by a delicious potluck lunch.

The topic of the discussion was “Is Zarthushti Religion a universal religion? Can anyone who wishes to be a Zarthoshti, be converted into the Zarthushti religion?” There was a lively discussion and debate and everyone left feeling more enlightened and in sync.

The second discussion was held on Sunday, May 21st, 2023. The topic of the discussion was “Is there a difference between humata, hukata, hvarshta and manasni, gavasni, kunasni?”

The Board board@zanc.org would love to hear your ideas and suggestions for activities for events and activities.

ZANC Annual General Meeting - AGM - 2023

Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 11:00 am to noon PST

Meeting Minutes

- 11:00 am – START of meeting.
 - Quorum was established.
- President’s introduction – Bomi Patel (ZANC President).
- The agenda was approved.
 - Proposed by: Homi Jamshed; Seconded by Nazneen Spliedt
- The minutes of the AGM held on 6/11/2022 (Minutes) were approved.
 - Proposed by: Erach Tarapore; Seconded by Nina Bahisa
- The minutes of the Special AGM held to approve ByLaws on 12/4/2022 (Minutes) were approved.
 - Proposed by: Erach Tarapore; Seconded by Nina Bahisa

- Review and approval of 2022 Financials
 - Presentation of ZANC's financials for 2022 – Gev Khan (ZANC Treasurer)
 - The presented financials were amended (the note for the balance sheet was extended) version ([Amended 2022 Financials](#)) of the published financials ([2022 Financials](#)).
 - Questions & Answers
 - There were several questions, mainly related to donations to PZO and the ZANC funds, that were answered.
 - ZANC's Financials for 2022 were approved.
- Any other topic with the permission of the chair
 - There were several topics that were discussed with input given to the Board.
The key topics were:
 - NCZC going forward
 - Community engagement
 - Enhanced communications
 - Soliciting and engaging volunteers
 - Engaging youth
- END of meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date (TBD)	Event
July 16, 2023	Annual ZANC Picnic at Lake Elizabeth
August 11-15, 2023	Gatha Prayers
August 16, 2023	Navroze Jashan
August 3-6, 2023	Bay Area Z-Camp
August 19, 2023	Navroze Function
September 30, 2023	Ghambar
October 28th, 2023	Halloween Costume Party & Bingo
November TBA, 2023	ZANC Friendsgiving Potluck w/ Sunday School
December TBA, 2023	Christmas Eve Function (TBA)

ZANC Annual Picnic in the Park



When: Sunday, July 16, 2023 11.00 a.m. onwards

Where: Central Park (Lake Elizabeth), 40000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538 – Picnic Area C -- [Map](#)

Enjoy delicious barbeque, cool drinks, fun, and games.

We will have fun activities for all ages! Please bring sunscreen, lawn chairs, picnic blankets, towels, and extra water to combat the heat.

Green suggestion:

Get your reusable plates, mugs, and utensils instead of using the disposable versions that will be provided.

Fees are as follows:

Member Adult (Over the age of 10) -- \$20.00

Member Children (Ages 5-10) -- \$10

Non-Member Adult (Over the age of 10) -- \$30

Non-Member Children (Ages 5-10) -- \$15

Children (Below Age 5) -- Free

Online Payments encouraged.

The **registration deadline is July 10th, 2023.**

If you have any questions regarding the picnic, please contact **Jamshid Kekobad** at jimkekobad@gmail.com.

For further event details and registration click on the link below.

>>ZANC PICNIC REGISTRATION<<



We need volunteers for the following:

1. Helping with games
2. Cooking
3. Helping with setup
4. Clearing the site at the end of the day

If you would like to volunteer either by yourself or with a friend, please reach out to board@zanc.org and let us know!

Bay Area Z-Camp

**Bay Area Z-Camp
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

August 3rd – 6th, 2023

To register please visit:
www.zcamp.info

For scholarships, donations, or volunteering
contact: contact@zcamp.info

*For Zoroastrian Youth between ages 13-17

A large group of young people, mostly teenagers, are posing for a group photo in front of a two-story building with a gabled roof and a small balcony. The group is arranged in several rows, with some people sitting on the ground in front. The building has a warm, orange-toned facade and a small balcony with a railing.

Z-Camp 2023 is Reinstated! - August 3rd - 6th 2023 - For ages 13 to 17

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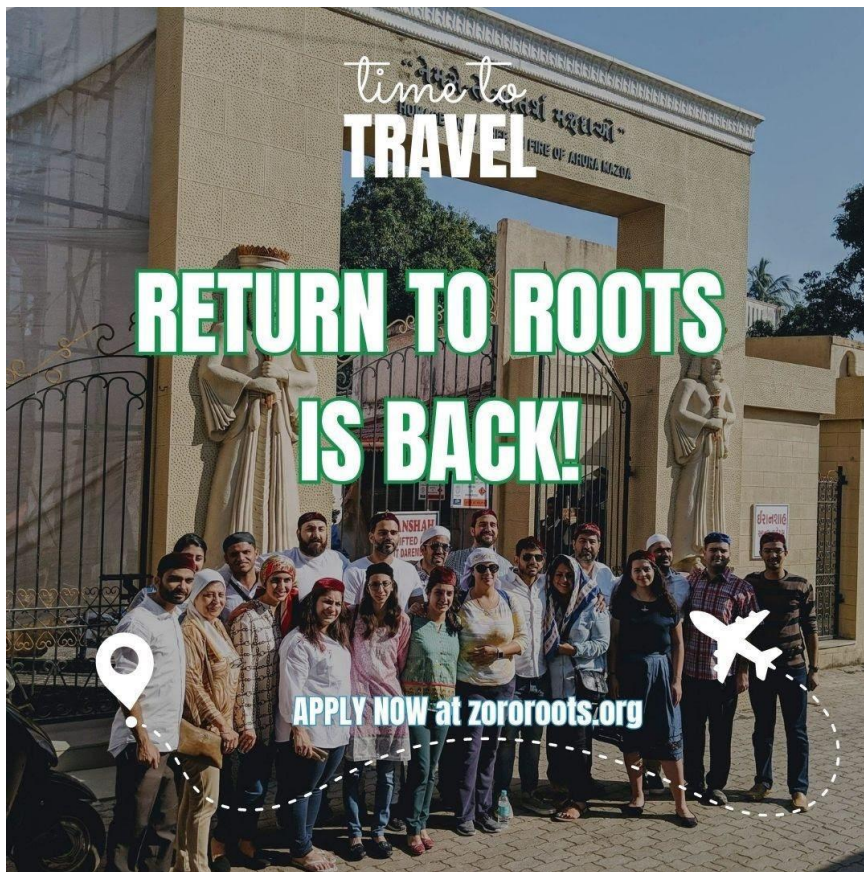
We are excited to announce that Z-Camp is reinstated and now organized by the Bay Area Zoroastrian Camp Committee that is separate from, but in coordination with, PZO and ZANC.

[Registration](#) is now open!

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Fezana's Zoroastrian Return To Roots Program

After a three year pandemic-induced hiatus, we are happy to announce that the 7th Edition of Return To Roots shall take place this December in India.



Tentatively scheduled from December 22nd 2023 to January 4th, 2024, this trip will bring 20+ youth aged 22-35 years of age on a two week trip to India.

About Return To Roots

Established in 2012, Return to Roots is a youth-initiated program designed to strengthen community identity amongst Zoroastrian youth around the world. The program is held over two weeks in India. The idea of a Zoroastrian Return to Roots

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Program was born out of the increasing disconnect between those Zoroastrians in the diaspora with their ancestral communities in Iran and India. It is a unique means of fostering community links and identity by taking small groups of youth on trips to explore their religious, social and cultural heritage.

Eligibility

All applicants need to fulfill all three of the following conditions. These terms are non-negotiable.

- Applicants to be between the ages of 22 and 35 years old as of Dec 15, 2023.
- Applicant must be a practising Zarathushti
- At least one parent of the applicant is a Zarathushti
- All applicants have had their Navjote/Sudreh Pushi ceremony performed

Application All prospective applicants need to fill out a detailed application form. Applications are considered on a rolling basis, and once we fill out all the slots, we will put others on a waiting list.

Questions

If you have questions and want to know more before applying, do check out the Application and FAQ pages on our website. If you have more questions **get in touch with Fezana.**

[Apply Now](#)

OTHER NEWS AND APPEALS

Dar-E-Mehr Beautification

During the past couple years caring members of our community specifically from PZO have beautified our Dare-Mehr property. This labor of love has transformed our beloved Dare-Mehr's looks and added to the peaceful serene, calmness and beauty that the location provides. If you have not visited the Dare-Mehr recently we strongly urge you to visit soon with your family to say prayers, experience and enjoy the inviting and beautiful landscape of the property. It is now truly a place where you and your family and especially our youth can visit on weekends and hang out and discuss your favorite topics in a clean, peaceful and safe environment. A few pictures are attached below.



Community Engagement Survey

The ZANC Board would love to improve the engagement with our community across all age groups. We would like to get your input on how you prefer our communications, what kind of events and activities you would like to see, and how you can engage and assist. Please take a minute to provide your feedback. By answering questions, you'll help us improve and better serve you.

You can find the survey here:

<https://zanc.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f4cce6aeed5d9ed4314ee678c&id=4d3ef2e41d&e=c50af89b92>

Virtual Directory

We wanted to inform you that we are currently exploring options for a digital community directory to enhance communication and connectivity within our community.

As part of our commitment to staying up-to-date with technology and embracing more sustainable practices, we are considering transitioning from a printed directory to a convenient and user-friendly online platform. This transition will provide you with an efficient and accessible way to connect and network with fellow community members.

By adopting a digital directory, we aim to streamline communication, ensure accuracy of contact information, and reduce our environmental impact. We are excited about the possibilities this change can bring.

We are diligently working to find the best solution that meets the needs of our community. Rest assured, we will keep you updated on our progress and provide clear instructions on how to access and utilize the new digital community directory once it becomes available.

Thank you for your support and patience as we explore these options. Your input and feedback are highly valued during this process. Together, we can create a stronger and more connected ZANC community.

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.

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>

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.

Fezana publications - <https://fezana.org/publication/>

MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL

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.