Newsletter October 2023

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Dear Community Members,

At the Ghambar on September 30th, 2023, We had a divided opinion in the community discussion regarding ZANC’s annual donation to PZO. Though the majority were in favor of increasing the fees and donations to PZO, I am not sure if we will reach the goal.

Some suggested increasing the membership fees 3 to 4 folds, but I feel that instead of collecting more funds we will lose members and may not see much increase overall.

In my opinion maybe we can double the fees for families and individuals and a very nominal increase for seniors and students. In addition, those attending joint Sunday School and interested in increasing the donations can support by generously donating to the Dar-e-Mehr fund.

We are restricted and unable to use the NCZC and allocated funds for this purpose. PZO wants assurance in writing that ZANC will support this Dar-e-Mehr in perpetuity, which the board cannot do.

The board would like to conduct a survey as to how many members want to increase the fees and at what level of increase. We will send out a survey in the next two weeks and hopefully we will get good feedback like the healthy discussion at the ghambar.

Thanking you all in anticipation.

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

Firstly, a BIG THANK YOU to you all for the amazing participation in our summer events. We have had a great increase in the active participation for all of our events (details in the newsletter below) and we continue to look forward to more such fun-filled events this fall and winter! Look out for upcoming event information and ways you can engage with the community.

As a reminder, moving forward, our 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/mailing-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

Scholarships

Congratulations **Nysa Sarkari**, on being awarded the **Kolsawalla Scholarship** for $1000CAD for the 2023-2024 academic year towards your education in Pre-Med Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. In her own words -

“As a UC Berkeley first-year pre-medical student, I am pursuing a double major in Public Health and Molecular and Cellular Biology. Drawn to the pillars of strength, care, and healing knowledge medical professionals represent in their communities, I aspire to become a surgeon.

During my years at St. Francis Catholic High School, I was the President of my school’s largest club – “Medicine and More,” creating healthcare professional networks for members while implementing a school-wide CPR-certification program in collaboration with the Sacramento Fire Department. I tutored peers in subjects ranging from AP Chemistry to French. I’m an intern for Luv Michael, a nonprofit that provides employment opportunities for autistic adults – my efforts recognized with the President’s Volunteer Service Award. The Sheroo Darabshaw Kolsawalla Scholarship invigorates me to achieve my dreams while affirming that my community supports my vision of the change I wish to be in the world”.

Congratulations **Tanaisha Mistry** on being awarded the **FEZANA scholarship** for $2000 for the 2023-2024 academic year towards your education in Industrial Engineering and Operational Research at the University of California, Berkeley. In her own words -

“I am currently studying Industrial Engineering & Operations Research at UC Berkeley. In the future, my vision is to utilize mathematical methods for designing engineering and policy solutions that target reducing inefficiencies and improving sustainability at the intersection of interacting industries. I have been deeply involved with the Zoroastrian communities in India, Hong Kong, and Southern and Northern California. I attended Sunday Z-schools, and volunteered for community activities including the WZC 2022. I have received the UC Berkeley undergraduate scholarship, Cal Leadership Award, the President’s Award for Educational excellence in high school, and degrees of Excellence and Distinction from the National Speech and Debate Association. I am passionate about coaching & encouraging people to develop confidence and public speaking skills. I am deeply thankful for this scholarship, as it will help me devote time to professional activities, and aid me in my journey to make a positive difference in society.”

Congratulations **Leah Bharucha**, on being awarded the **Morvorid Guiv Trust Endowed Scholarship** for $1000 for the 2023-2024 academic year towards your education in Chemistry and Material Sciences at the University of California, LA.
Shahvir Bhujwala, a 13-year-old Bay Area resident Completes Climate Change & Environmental Justice Internship

This summer Shahvir Bhujwala, an 8th grade student at Black Pine Circle School, Berkeley completed an academic year-long virtual internship in Climate Change and Environmental Justice at the Content Creation Lab (CCL) at Global Nomads Group. He went through a multistage application process and pre-internship trainings to be able to be one of the youngest participants in this youth-led program consisting of a global cohort of youth between ages of 11 and 23. The 2022-2023 cohort of CCL interns led the design and production of a 7th grade climate justice curriculum for California public schools, an effort funded by the Ten Strands’ Climate Change and Environmental Justice Program. This design team of youth from 17 countries created an interdisciplinary and inquiry-based curriculum through which middle school students will explore climate change through engaging topics including geology, history, climate science, and public policy. Through training and youth-led practice, interns developed skills in curriculum development, research, writing, illustration, Universal Design, and inclusive leadership.
We had an amazing picnic on Sunday, July 16 at Central Park (Lake Elizabeth) where several of our community members, young and old, not only joined in the fun but also helped volunteer for the setup and games. We loved the community participation and would love to have more people get engaged in the future!
Bay Area Z-Camp

The Bay Area Z-Camp has returned since Covid under new leadership by the Bay Area Zoroastrian Camp Committee. This year 68 Zoroastrian youth participated in games, lectures, and prayer at the San Jose Dar-e-Mehr to connect and discuss the challenges and opportunities of this point in time of the Zoroastrian diaspora. We plan to host the camp again in 2024 and we hope more youth will participate.
Muktaad Prayers and Navroze Jashan

A special thanks to Dastoorji Kobad for diligently performing the yearly Muktaad prayers for our dear departed souls and ushering in the new year with the positive Jashan vibes!
Navroze Celebration

A few snapshots of our Navroze function at Mehran restaurant on August 19th! Thanks to Nellie and Percy Bhesania for their amazing performance and dance-alongs that the children and adults enjoyed equally!
ZYNA’s California Road Trip to the 6 Dar-e-Mehrs

ZANC and PZO jointly hosted a breakfast and prayers for the ZYNA road trip participants who stopped by at our Dar-e-Mehr on September 3rd. We thank our community members who joined us in welcoming the ZYNA group and partaking in the delicious breakfast put together by volunteers from PZO and ZANC.
Annual Gambhar

We held our annual Gambhar and Jashan at the Berryessa Community Center on September 30th. There was an overwhelming number of volunteers for cooking. This is one tradition that truly embodies our culture, *work together - celebrate together!*
UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (TBD)</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Sunday</td>
<td>Z-Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13th, 2023</td>
<td>Mehregan, Persian Autumn Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28th, 2023</td>
<td>Halloween Costume Party &amp; Bingo</td>
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<td>November TBA, 2023</td>
<td>ZANC Friendsgiving Potluck w/ Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>December TBA, 2023</td>
<td>ZANC Elections</td>
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<td>December TBA, 2023</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Function (TBA)</td>
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Z-Class: **Fall 2023 Academic Semester**

Z-Class Fall 2023 Semester began in September. A total of 76 children are registered for class ranging from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12. We look forward to another successful academic year working with the Z-Class teachers.

If you were unable to register for classes this semester, please reach out to zclasspzo@gmail.com. Wishing all students and parents an exciting year ahead!
Mehregan, Persian Autumn Festival

Join us to celebrate Mehregan festival!

October 13, 2023 6-11pm

Campbell Community Center, Orchard Banquet Hall
1 W Campbell Ave, Campbell, CA 95008

TICKETS
PZO and ZANC members $60
Non members $70
Ages 6-12 $35
Ages 3-6 $10
Prices go up $10 after Oct 10th.

HIGHLIGHTS
Catered food
Traditional performance
PZO choir
Kids arts and crafts
DJ music and dance

Purchase at: https://www.pzo.info/mehregan_2023
To become a paid member:
https://www.pzo.info/annual_support_contribution-pp
For more information: 408-889-9770
**Join Us for a Zanctastic Halloween**

Saturday, October 28th, 2023 at 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM PST  San Jose Dar-E-Mehr

**Let’s Get Spooky!**

You’re all invited to celebrate the spooky season. All attendees must register in advance.

**Activities:**
- Costume Contest (Ages up to 9 years, 10-18 years)
- Cookie Decorating (Supplies provided)
- Jack-O-Lantern Competition (Silent Voting)
- Charades (Adults)
- Pinata (Lots of CANDY!!)
- Photo Booth with a fun backdrop

We’ll be having more entertainment, fun prizes, and a delicious taco truck!

For the Jack-O-Lantern Competition, please bring a carved or decorated pumpkin to the event. There will be no decorating or carving at the Dar-E-Mehr.

If you are participating in the Costume Contest, please arrive by 11:15 AM.

**Registration** is accepted until Monday, October 23rd.

**Registration Fees:** $18/person

**Volunteering**

Volunteers are needed for various event tasks, if you’d like to assist with the event please contact Azita Patel at patel.azita@gmail.com.

**Show up and show us your best costume!**
ZANC Elections 2023 -- Call for Nominations

The ZANC Board has appointed Zarina Bhandari as the Election officer for the elections to be held from December 11 to 22, 2023.

Call for Nominations

2023 Elections will fill the following Board positions for the Jan ’24 to Dec ’25 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Incumbent Whose Term is Ending</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Sharon Pithawalla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Gev Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-Large 1</td>
<td>Zareer Bhathena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-Large 2</td>
<td>Azita Patel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Candidates should be committed individuals willing to devote substantial time and effort to the position and the community. The Bylaws provide a generic description of the roles (included below); however, every board member steps up as needed to take up responsibilities.

If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself), please fill the Nomination form (click here) and email it to ZANC2023EO@gmail.com. Alternatively, you may print the form and mail it to the address given on the form. Nominations must be received by October 31, 2023 by the Election Officer.

If more nominees are received than open positions, then an online Election will be held from December 11 to 22, 2023.

We will be using an e-voting process, and so there will not be a physical venue for the election meeting.

Please review the List of Eligible Voters (click here). If there are any updates or questions please email the 2023 Election Office and the ZANC Secretary -- Contact Election Officer and Secretary.
PZO Lightening Soccer Team

LIGHTENING SOCCER TEAM
JOIN US IN YOUR SOCCER TEAM

EVERY SUNDAY  8:00 AM - 9 AM

LOCATION:
WILLOW GLEN MIDDLE SCHOOL - SAN JOSE

AGE:  4-7
     8-14
     20$ Monthly
OTHER NEWS
AND APPEALS

Dar-eMehr Maintenance Asks

PZO has reached out to ZANC to get involved in the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful Dar-e-Mehr as a joint community effort. Currently they have Manpower and Expertise needs and would love the engagement of the broader community.

The Construction and Development Committee (CDC) is a newly established committee under the Board of Trustees of PZO (BOT). The committee’s primary objective is to review relevant matters and provide advice on building, modifying, and repairing developed areas at Dar-e Mehr including structures, gardens, parking, and playgrounds while considering technical principles.

Currently, there are several open construction issues at Dar-e Mehr that require attention. The CDC is inviting members from both communities who possess knowledge and interest in construction, landscaping, and gardening to join this committee and contribute their ideas, skills, and expertise towards the development and maintenance of Dar-e Mehr. For more information and to join, please contact CDC at cdc@pzo.info, or call 408-482-2628.

Landscape Committee

About the LC (Landscape Committee): Established in 2019, the Landscape Committee is a group of dedicated PZO members who volunteer their time to transform Dar-e-Mehr & underutilized land into functional outdoor spaces inspired by Mazdiasni concepts and cultural symbolism. Our goal is to foster community involvement and unity.

Current Projects:

Our ongoing projects include conceptual designs for various areas such as parking, an Amshapandan garden, and Gatha-themed trails. We have already made progress on our first project, a kitchen patio, where we plan to incorporate Hamazoori symbolism through community art.

Steps Ahead:

Currently in the planning phase, our next steps involve presenting our plans to the community, collecting feedback, and obtaining necessary approvals from relevant Boards. This is a long-term project, and we depend on volunteers for its success. We encourage all community members to join our meetings, share ideas, and get involved.

Please reach out to board@zanc.org if you would like to get involved.
Address Change
Please note the following updated addresses
Kersi Daruwalla - 743 Anderson Road, Davis, CA 95616

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 -- 8:00 am - 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/


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