




## Newsletter December 2023

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- Upcoming Events - Get Involved! 
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## ZANC BOARD 2024

PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY
Bomi Patel 408-264-4395 bbtes9@gmail.com	Azita Patel 916-990-3229 patel.azita@gmail.com	TBD - -	Kerman Deboo 925-699-1444 kdeboo@yahoo.com

### BOARD MEMBERS

Freddy Engineer 408-206-8118 freddyengineer@gmail.com	Jamshid Kekobad 408-391-0069 jimkekobad@gmail.com	Benafsha Irani 415-577-8122 birani@hotmail.com	Fredy Kadva 650-814-3665 fkadva@gmail.com
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### TRUSTEES

Nazneen Spliedt 650-624-8888 nazezler@aol.com	Yezdi Dordi 650-462-9932 yezdi@dordi.us	Erach Tarapore 925-284-2719 etarapore@gmail.com
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### OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Gev Khan 408-644-7306 kchangev123@gmail.com	Sharon Pithawalla 812-361-3603 sharon108@gmail.com	Zareer Bhathena 510-796-8139 bhathena@sbcglobal.net
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## 2024 ANNUAL FEE INCREASE

Dear Community Members,

We wish to inform you that the board in their meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2024, has unanimously agreed and voted to increase the ZANC Annual Membership fees to enable ZANC to better fulfill its community service obligations. We sincerely thank our members and the full community for supporting this long-overdue membership fee increase. This increase in membership dues will not be applied to our senior and student community.

On the issue of ZANC contributing increased funds for the maintenance of the dare-mehr, we as a community at large have not converged on a consensus position. We have heard from the community at the September Ghambar, but our survey resulted in only 70 replies out of nearly 300 members. We will continue this dialog with the whole community and hopefully, we will come to a majority decision soon.

We hope you all will appreciate the current decision of the board and oblige sending your new fees on or before January 15, 2024. The new fee structure will be sent out to the community soon.

Thank you in anticipation.

President – Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear ZANC Community,

As my term on the board concludes after three rewarding years, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. It's been an honor to serve and witness our community's vibrant spirit..

Your stories, support, and engagement have made our newsletter a true reflection of our diverse and wonderful community. Although I may be stepping down from this role, my commitment to ZANC's mission remains steadfast. I'm excited to witness the continued growth and success of our community under new leadership and fresh perspectives.

I encourage you all to continue supporting the newsletter and its incoming editor, as together, you will continue to weave the threads of our community's narrative and keep our connections strong.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful journey. I am honored to have served you.

**Wishing Happy Holidays and an Amazing New Year 2024!**

With warm regards and best wishes,  
Sharon Pithawalla



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/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](mailto: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.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# CELEBRATION of ACHIEVEMENT

### Ava Irani Rathenberg

Graduated June 2023 with AP Capstone Diploma and AP Scholar with Distinction  
Ava is currently attending Santa Clara University studying Computer Science in the College of Engineering

Besides academics, Ava has been actively engaged in the community. Below are two of her recent achievements.

#### Recent Article she wrote for the Parsiana Magazine



**Iconic influence**  
"Ancient Zoroastrian symbols adorn top US government buildings," read the headline of an email sent to Parsiana by jurist Fali Nariman. He was forwarding us an email he had received from nonagenarian Rusi Sorabji of California.

The first structure referred to in the email was the main post office in New York on which were prominently inscribed above the pillars are the words: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

**Below: statue of Zoroaster at the Court of the Appellate Division in New York; 2nd row: l. bronze base of the flagpole at the Supreme Court in Washington; r. Statue of Liberty; bottom: General Post Office in New York**

More information on Zoroastrianism and tax-deductible donations are available on their website [www.namernobeds.org](http://www.namernobeds.org)

The sentence is taken from Herodotus' *Histories* (Book 8, Ch. 98) and describes the faithful service of the Persian system of mounted postal messengers under Xerxes I of Persia. It was selected by the United States Department of the Treasury in 1912, according to Wikipedia.

This monumental facade on Eighth Avenue was conceived as a Corinthian colonnade, composed of 20 columns, 53 feet tall. Originally known as the Pennsylvania Terminal, in 1918, it was renamed the General Post Office Building. The structure was declared a New York City designated landmark in 1966 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. In 1982 the building was renamed in honor of James Farley who was the nation's 53rd Postmaster General, added Wikipedia.

In the Court of the Appellate Division (near Madison Square and East 25th Street) in New York stands a statue of Zoroaster in recognition of Zoroastrian contribution to the development of law. This statue stands alongside other law givers like Moses, Manu, Charlemagne and Alfred the Great.

The front plaza of the Supreme Court Building in Washington has two flagpoles, the bronze base of which is crested with symbolic designs of the scales and sword, the book, the mask and torch, the pen and mace. The fifth tier has four cherubs interspersed with four medallions to represent the elements: air, depicted by an eagle, water by a fish, earth by a lion's head and fire by a tripod of flame.

The seven spikes on the head of the Statue of Liberty in the New York Harbor have been variously interpreted. While commonly perceived as representing the seven seas or oceans, yet another explanation mentions it represents the rays of the sun. "Seven Zoroastrian rays stretching from her forehead" is one more new perception attributed to the figure!

**Art actualization**  
The rituals and celebrations associated with Navroz have fascinated 18-year-old Ava Irani Rathenberg of California over the years. Before her graduation from the Palo Alto High School in June 2023, she undertook an online survey this year to determine "Cultural Differences in Navroz."

Celebrations (among) Modern-Day Parsi and Zoroastrians in India, USA, Canada, Australia, UK, Singapore, Germany, Pakistan and other nations she calculated that 63% celebrate Navroz in March; nine percent in August; 28% in both March and August; 39% of respondents who celebrate Navroz in March prepare the traditional haft-seen table; six percent of those who celebrate in August; and 28% of those who celebrate twice a year have a haft-seen table. In India, 25% of the respondents organized a haft-seen table as compared to 46% in North America. Since Navroz celebration was not linked to country of residence, she felt "a need to redefine what the new Zoroastrian community is, rather than continue to accept it as the division between Parsi and Irani Zoroastrians."

Images of her paintings done in 2022 can be seen on [avarathenberg.squarespace.com/art-portfolio](http://avarathenberg.squarespace.com/art-portfolio). Explaining her creativity, Ava who is half Iranian, half German, writes, "My two-dimensional art has primarily focused on my identity... It is particularly engaging for me when I use it to explore my religion. Given that I am Zoroastrian, it was challenging for me to find my identity within the American culture. But today, I can express my relationship with Zoroastrianism by picking up a paintbrush."

Of her painting *Navroz Self Portrait* she writes, "Throughout the painting there are multiple objects such as the garlic, apple, pomegranate and hyacinth flower which are objects placed on a Navroz continued on page 28"

**Below: Navroz Self Portrait and (r) recent painting on environment by artist Ava Irani Rathenberg (below and inset)**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date (tentative)	Event
Sunday Morning Classes	Z-Class
February 4th, 2024	Ice skating
March 24th, 2024	Jamshedi Navroze Party
July TBA, 2024	Picnic in the Park
August 10th - 14th, 2024	Gatha prayers
August 15th, 2024	New Year Jashan
August 17th, 2024	New Year Function
September 28th, 2024	Gambhar
October 26th, 2024	Costume Party and Bingo
TBD	Cocktails and Card Game
TBD	High Tea and Community Fun



Here's your chance to join in on all the backstage fun!! Please email [board@zanc.org](mailto:board@zanc.org) if you would like to do any of the following in our upcoming events:

- ☐ Lead an event
- ☐ Help with general event organizing
- ☐ Volunteer as a speaker / instructor (or bring in a speaker or instructor)
- ☐ Spreading the word - Advertising and socializing information about the event
- ☐ Help improve technology - Website / MailChimp / Social Media
- ☐ Regularly share community news updates with the board for Navjotes, Weddings, Graduations, Birth, Death announcement
- ☐ Carpool University Students

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## Z-Class: New Year 2024 Academic Semester



Dear Z-Class Community, we are excited to announce the beginning of the **21st year** of Z-class at Dar-E-Mehr. Thank you all for your contributions and the gift of your presence. This is the second year in a row with ZANC and PZO joined hands to support grounding our children in the wonderful philosophies of our religion, helping them meet other Zarathustis, and nurture the bonds of camaraderie and friendship that will last them a lifetime.

The online registration for 2023-2024 Z-class school year is **now open**. Please use the link below to register your child/children: [Z- CLASS REGISTRATION](#)

For more info on classes and participation, please see [this doc](#).

Best Regards,

Z-Class Teachers

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## 2024 ZYNA Leadership Retreat in Vancouver

Join us for ZYNA's annual retreat in beautiful Vancouver during the February Long Weekend of 2024! From 6 pm PST on Friday, February 16th to 11 am Monday, February 19th, 2024, Zoroastrian Youth of North America aged 15-35\* are invited for a weekend full of community building, connection, and cultural engagement! The focus of this long weekend event is to empower and engage the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.





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**There are limited slots available and once we reach capacity, we will open up a wait-list.**

**REGISTRATION START AT USD 150**

Inclusive of 3-night hotel accommodation, transportation during the events, and most meals throughout the weekend.

- USD 150 for a Quad occupancy room
- USD 250 for a Double occupancy room
- USD 450 for Single occupancy room

Registrants will be required to provide their transportation to the hotel located in Burnaby, British Columbia. Registrants are recommended to fly into YVR by the afternoon of Friday, February 16th, as events will begin by 6 pm PST.

**Register by January 15th, 2024**

*No Partial Registrations – No Cancellations*

*\*Parental consent would be required for those under the age of 18.*

**More details about the schedule and activities coming soon.**

**Excited to see you all in Vancouver!**

**Farzin Avari, Kimiya Shahzadi & Anaheez Karbhari**

ZYNA Co-Chairs

For any questions or concerns reach out to us at [youth@fezana.org](mailto:youth@fezana.org)

**REGISTER NOW!**

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# The 24th ZAH / FIRES Lecture Series Report



The 24th Lecture Series at the ZAH library/FIRES was a resounding success, leaving an indelible impact on the attendees. The event, held November 10 and 11, was not “just a talk” but a vibrant forum that brought the Zoroastrian community together in a spirit of learning, reflection, and communal support.

The 24th Lecture Series explored Zoroastrian history, community initiatives and diverse perspectives on religious texts. The shared experiences, insights, and commitment made during the event underscored the strength and resilience of the community. As attendees departed with a renewed sense of purpose and connection, it was evident that the series not only disseminated knowledge but had sown the seeds for positive change and community building.

For more information and content, please see <https://fires-fezana.org/>



## Parinaz Dastur's *Tech Together*

The Tech Together initiative is targeted to promote learning Computer Science concepts and train students to compete in the American Computer Science League. Participants are coached to compete in the Junior Level ACSL League. Students will be trained to write Computer Science theory contests and programming contests. During meetings, students will be presented with a programming challenge from a previous year's contest and will be coached to design a programming solution on their own. Different solutions will be presented to students to improve their analytical and programming skills. There will be fun ways to learn programming by presenting solutions in an incorrect sequence where students have to figure out the correct sequence of code or they will be given a solution and have to figure out what the contest was asking by analyzing the code. Computer Science theory topics such as computer number systems, recursive functions, graph theory, digital electronics and data structures will be covered. To find out more, please visit <https://www.acsl.org/>.

To kick-off our in-person classes, we are delighted to have a motivational presentation by Dr. Dan Garcia, who is a renowned CS professor at UC Berkeley, at our first in-person class on January 7th from 2-4 pm at Newark Public Library. Come one, come all! All are welcome to join! **Register [here](#).**

The poster is for a 'Tech Together' event. It features a dark background with a large, stylized, glowing blue and purple circular graphic. At the top left, there is an icon of a computer monitor and keyboard. The main title 'tech together' is in a large, bold, white font. Below the title, it says 'Join a Middle School Team in the American Computer Science League'. To the right of the title, there is a small photo of Dr. Dan Garcia and a list of his credentials: 'Professor for 20 years @ UC Berkeley', 'ACM Distinguished Educator', 'SIGCSE Board Vice Chair', 'One of National Leaders of CS&AI', 'Invited to White House twice', and 'Co-inventor of BUC Course'. Below the photo, it says 'Learning to Think Like a Computer Scientist'. A QR code is located on the left side, with the text 'Scan QR code or use link to register' below it. To the right of the QR code, the dates and times are listed: 'Jan. 7th & 14th, 2024 2-4 pm'. Below the QR code, the location is given: 'Meet at the Newark Room, Newark Public Library, 37055 Newark Blvd, Newark, CA'. At the bottom left, there is a URL: 'https://bit.ly/TechTogetherACSL'. At the bottom center, there is a note: 'Please bring your personal laptop and charger.'

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Dan Garcia joins us on Jan. 7th for a presentation!**

**tech together**

Join a Middle School Team in the American Computer Science League

Jan. 7th & 14th, 2024 2-4 pm

Meet at the Newark Room,  
Newark Public Library  
37055 Newark Blvd,  
Newark, CA

Scan QR code or  
use link to register

<https://bit.ly/TechTogetherACSL>

Please bring your personal laptop and charger.



## PZO Lightning Soccer Team



### LIGHTNING 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**

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## OTHER NEWS AND APPEALS

### Membership Renewal (2024) and Donations

Dear ZANC Community member,

Requesting all who have not already paid their ZANC 2024 membership dues to do so. Please also provide your updated member information. Memberships and donations are key for ZANC to continue to be able to operate for the benefit of everyone in our community. As announced in a prior communication, the ZANC Board has voted to increase the ZANC annual membership dues to enable ZANC to better fulfill its community service obligations.

**The Board requests you to:**

1. Pay your Annual ZANC Membership (new/renewal) for 2024 by January 2024.
2. Provide/update member contact information. **Requested of all if there was any change since provided earlier.**
3. Please Consider donating.

**Dues are:**

- Family -- \$300
- Individual -- \$150
- Seniors -- \$35 per person
- Students -- \$25
- Life Membership -- \$6,000

**Options to pay membership:**

1. PayPal -- Follow link on [ZANC Membership page](#).
2. Check -- Make checks payable to ZANC. Mail to Kerman Deboo at 4357 Krause Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

**Providing membership information: This is requested of everybody. PLEASE!**

Get copy of form: [Microsoft Word fillable](#) form OR [PDF document](#)

Send a filled form to Kerman Deboo (ZANC Secretary).

Email: [secretary@zanc.org](mailto:secretary@zanc.org) (preferred).

USPS: 4357 Krause Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

**Options to donate:**

1. **Online** -- ZANC Donations page, or
2. **Check** -- Make checks payable to ZANC. Send a check to Kerman Deboo, ZANC Secretary, 4357 Krause St., Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Thanks a lot for your engagement and continued support.

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## Dar-e-Mehr 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](mailto: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](mailto:board@zanc.org) if you would like to get involved.

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## ZANC Treasurer Position Open

### Treasurer Search

We're seeking a dedicated individual to take on the crucial role of Treasurer on the ZANC board. The Treasurer serves as our Chief Financial Officer and plays a vital role in managing our financial affairs.

Responsibilities include overseeing funds, managing accounts, preparing budgets, and providing regular financial reports to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer's role is pivotal in ensuring transparent and accountable financial management within our organization.

If you have a passion for finance, a commitment to detail, and the desire to contribute to our community's growth and sustainability, we encourage you to consider volunteering for this role. Your dedication will help steer our financial direction and support our community initiatives.

Please reach out to us at [board@zanc.org](mailto:board@zanc.org) if you're interested or know someone who might be a suitable candidate. Your involvement will make a significant impact on the ZANC community. Together, let's continue fostering the growth and prosperity of our organization. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Warm regards,  
ZANC Board

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### **Description of the roles as per the By-Laws.**

The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer and shall:

- A. Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of ZANC in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected by the Executive Committee.
- B. Receive and give receipts for money paid to ZANC.
- C. Disburse ZANC funds as directed by the Executive Committee, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements.
- D. Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of ZANC's properties and transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses. Such accounts shall be made available to any member of the Executive committee at all reasonable times.
- E. Prepare annual budgets and provide the Executive Committee with periodic reports reflecting expenditures against these budgets.
- F. Prepare and certify the financial reports as required by the law and these Bylaws.

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## Address Change

Please note the following updated addresses

Nina Daruwalla - 20694 Celeste Circle, Cupertino, CA 95041

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## 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>

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.

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## 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.

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## 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/>

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