



ZANC MONTHLY BUZZ



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We invite you to share your life updates for inclusion in future newsletters. [Email us](#) your news so we can celebrate these milestones together with the community. **All content must be received by the 20th of the month to be included in next month’s edition. Thank you! We look forward to hearing from you.**



CONGRATS TO THE 2026 ZANC BOARD

Vice President: Fredy Kadva
Treasurer: Zareer Bhathena
Member-at-Large: Dilber Mistry
Member-at-Large: Zara Minwalla



The ZANC election cycle commenced in October 2025 with a call for nominations. As no new candidates were nominated, the incumbents retained their positions without the need for voting. We extend our gratitude to all members who submitted nominations and to **Adil Engineer for serving as the 2025 Election Officer.** This Board has taken ZANC to new heights in events, engagement, and technology, and the community looks forward with excitement to even greater accomplishments in 2026! Hurrah for another great year ahead!! 🙌🙌

Editor's Note

Dear ZANC Community,

Well, I made it to the end of my first year as newsletter editor—pew! What started as a simple idea turned out to be a much bigger project than I ever imagined. Over the past year, the newsletter has become a meaningful way for me to reconnect with our community, meet many interesting members to spotlight, and explore inspiring Z happenings from around the world. I've gained a deep appreciation for the many ways Zoroastrians enrich the fields of art, education, sports, charity, and beyond, and I've truly enjoyed bringing those stories and updates to you each month.



One thing that has made this experience truly rewarding is the appreciation and encouragement from the community. Your kind words and feedback kept me going through those late nights of editing and layout tweaks! But, most importantly, I couldn't have done it without my wonderful friends and teammates, **Kathleen and Delzin**, whose creativity and insights have made this journey fun. Kathleen painstakingly proofreads every page, while Delzin serves as our liaison to Z-Class and FEZANA, all of which helps us keep the newsletter on track.

A special shout-out to my daughter, **Natasha**, who always lends her artistic eye to the newsletter layout whenever I need it! Our heartfelt thanks also go to our community members who submit stories, share their milestones, and allow me to feature their journeys in the *In the Spotlight* section. We're also excited to keep things fresh by adding new ideas, like monthly recipes from **Sanobar Mehta** in the *Stirring Up Stories* section. And thank you **Erin Press**, for keeping us informed about NCZC happenings.

Hats off to our wonderful **ZANC Board**, who poured their time and energy into organizing 16 amazing [events](#) this year! Their enthusiasm and technical expertise has brought fresh momentum to our community, along with new ways to stay connected via email updates, group chats and social media. I also appreciate them for trusting us with the creative freedom to shape each issue of the newsletter as we see fit. Here's marching on to another year of stories that celebrate our vibrant community!!

With best wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead,

Dianne Patel

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2026 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sun, Dec 7th, 11 am	Anything-Par-Eedu Contest	Dar-e-Mehr
Sun, Feb 1st, 5:30 - 7:30 pm	Ice-Skating	Winter Lodge, Palo Alto
Sat, Mar 28th, Time TBA	Navroz Function (with PZO)	ICC, Milpitas

To volunteer, please contact Events Coordinator at events@zanc.org



BIG THANKS TO ALL OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS! ZANC events rely heavily on volunteer support, and every effort truly makes a difference. Our gatherings wouldn't be the same without your time and energy. Whether it's setting up, cooking, cleaning, driving others, or helping wherever needed, you have made it all possible. From organizing community gatherings to coordinating educational sessions and creative programs, your enthusiasm and generosity brought people together and kept our spirit strong throughout 2025.

A special thanks to Shiraz Kanga for presenting an engaging and informative Zoom session on AI, and to Gool Jokhi for leading a lively, joy-filled cooking class. Your talent, passion, and careful planning turned these events into meaningful experiences to educate and enrich everyone who attended.

The Board and our entire community are deeply grateful for the dedication and teamwork of all our volunteers. Your efforts continue to inspire and strengthen the ZANC community while ensuring our events run smoothly. Thank you for lending your helping hands and making a lasting difference!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LET'S GET COOKING: Anything Par Eedu Contest

Come show off your best *Eeda-nu creation* and join the fun as we celebrate everyone's culinary creativity. Make it savory or sweet and bring your delicious masterpieces. If attending but not participating, then please bring a dish to share.

🏆 **TOP 3 ENTRIES WILL WIN A PRIZE** 🏆

Date: Sunday, December 7th

Time: 11 AM

Location: Dar-e-Mehr

Contest Rules:

- 👤 Only ONE entry per person
- 👤 The Egg must be on top
- 👤 Bring enough for 6-10 people



ANYTHING PAR EEDU CONTEST

- ✓ Only 1 entry per participant
- ✓ The egg (eedu) has to be on top
- ✓ Bring sufficient quantity for 6-10 people.

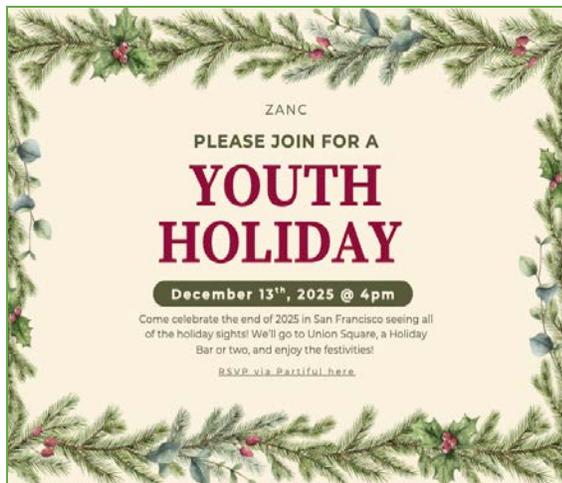
📅 Dec 7, 2025 at 11 AM
📍 Dar-e-Mehr, 10468 Crothers Rd, San Jose, CA
📄 Register at zanc.org by Dec 1st
📧 Questions? events@zanc.org

Crack your best recipe! The top 3 egg creations will win prizes

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

Registration Deadline: December 1st

YOUTH EVENT – HOLIDAY Z HANG (ages 18-35)



ZANC
PLEASE JOIN FOR A
YOUTH HOLIDAY
December 13th, 2025 @ 4pm
Come celebrate the end of 2025 in San Francisco seeing all of the holiday sights! We'll go to Union Square, a Holiday Bar or two, and enjoy the festivities!
[RSVP via Partiful here](#)

Happy Holidayze, friends! Let's close out 2025 with a full-on city holiday adventure - starting with the Union Square tree sighting, a sunset drink at Top of the Mark, festive holiday bars, and maybe even dinner along the way. Come decked out in your best holiday gear and get ready for a seriously festive night filled with laughs and city magic!

📍 **Where: San Francisco**

📅 **When: Sat, December 13th @ 4 PM**



RSVP via the Partiful Link [HERE](#)

Questions? Contact Zara at 925-984-0243

RECENT EVENTS



ZANC BINGO & BIRYANI NIGHT

ZANC's Bingo Night was an absolute hit, filled with laughter, excitement, and plenty of winners! Everyone was in great spirits, cheering each other on throughout the evening. The night was made even better with delicious, flavorful biryani — the perfect recipe for fun, food, and great company!



More pics on ZANC FB



COMMUNITY NEWS



Navjote Congratulations to Navaz Tarapore Motafram

Navaz, the daughter of Pirzad Motafram and Shenaya Tarapore, celebrated her Navjote on October 11th, 2025, at the Saratoga Foothills Club. The ceremony was performed by Dasturji Kobad and her older brother, Viraf Motafram. Navaz had asked Viraf, both as he prepared for his Navar and again after completing his vestiture, if he would perform her Navjote. He graciously agreed, and Dasturji Kobad guided him through the sequence of the Navjote prayers. Upon the completion of the ceremony, Navaz gave a short speech explaining the significance of



the Navjote ceremony, and what embracing a Zoroastrian life means to her. She concluded her remarks with a couplet inviting all the kids in attendance to play: *I got my sudra, I got my kusti, and now it's time to do some must!* The happy occasion was blessed by family and close friends in attendance. In honor of the joyous event, the family has made a contribution to NCZC to commemorate the celebration. Heartiest Congratulations Navaz!! 🎉

Rusi Sorabji: 96 years of Purpose, Poise and Perseverance



Longtime ZANC member, Rusi Sorabji celebrated an incredible 96 year birthday on November 2nd, 2025. Born nearly a century ago, Rusi has witnessed a world in transformation, from the days of handwritten letters and radio broadcasts to the digital era of smartphones and space exploration. Through every change, he has adapted with grace and curiosity, never losing his zest for learning or his deep respect for tradition.

His professional life was nothing short of illustrious. His tenure with organizations such as Godrej, Engineers India Ltd, Kelvinator, and GIBCA showcased his ability to lead with vision and depth.

At 96 he remains as dignified and spirited as ever, a storyteller, a thinker, and above all, a gentleman. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor not only his years but the richness of a life beautifully lived.

We wish you a very Happy 96th Birthday Rusi! May your days continue to be filled with happiness and the respect and admiration of all who are fortunate to know you.

Submitted by Kathleen Chothia

🎉🍹 ZANCsters Out & About: Friendship, Fun & Festivities 🎉👯

Apart from meeting up for the rocking ZANC events, our members definitely know how to get together and celebrate as a community. From bumping into each other at the ABBA concert in Saratoga, to kids & youth feasting at home, or a Sunday lunch outing at Zarine's restaurant in Palo Alto, ZANCsters find ways to come together, hang out, and have fun. And let's be real – food is always the surest way to lure in a happy crowd! Let's continue to keep the Bay Area Z spirit alive and encourage each other to plan and parkake in fun meetups. Cheers to many more such gatherings in 2026! 🍷🥂



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



DAR NI PORI with Gool Jokhi

INGREDIENTS

Pori Dough

250g Fine Sooji
¼ tsp Baking powder
⅛ to ¼ tsp Nutmeg and
Cardamom (ground)
Pinch of Salt
1 tbsp Ghee (from dar
amount)
125ml Rose water
25ml Water
Vanilla essence

Maan

75g Ghee
75g Rice flour
Pinch of Salt

🍴 Makes 4

Dar Filling

250g Toovar Dar
250g Sugar
125g Ghee
⅛ to ¼ tsp Nutmeg and
Cardamom (ground)
Vanilla essence
Optional: Almonds,
other nuts, etc



ABOUT THE CHEF

Gool's most requested recipe among friends and family is her Dar Ni Pori. She says she's no expert, but her daughters (including this author) disagree. Ever since her grandchildren were toddlers, every trip to CA included a full day of making large batches of Dar Ni Pori with her late husband Fakir. 3 generations in the kitchen, following a recipe that is equally based on feeling as it is on measurements. It brings Gool a lot of joy to see her family request and enjoy eating her food, but also keeping alive the tradition of making it together. Her biggest tip is to not focus on measurements and use your judgement! For more tips and the full recipe with alternate method, contact sanobar3104@gmail.com!



DIRECTIONS

Dar Filling: Soak dar for 3 hours. Cook with minimal water. Transfer to pot with some ghee, bring to boil. Add sugar, rest of ghee, continue to boil, stirring often. Cook until thick enough to make balls. Remove from stove, stir in nutmeg, cardamom, vanilla essence, optional nuts / dried fruits. Cool down dar.

Dough: While dar soaks, make dough by mixing dry ingredients. Bind dough with wet ingredients. Gently knead, only add enough water to make dough soft and sticky. Cover with damp towel touching dough. Let rest for 4 hours.

Maan: To make poris, gently whip ghee by hand and slowly incorporate sifted rice flour. Hand whip till fluffy and smooth, do not overbeat. Place in bowl of cold water (maan will float).

Pori Pastry: Divide dough into 2. Take 1 portion, roll into circle (9" to 10"). Spread thin layer of maan and gently dust sifted rice flour on top. Fold all 4 sides to middle, roll out, repeat again with maan, dust of flour and folding. Gently roll dough into a log and twist dough until twisted long roll. Cut into 2 pieces, make each piece round by holding vertically and twist while pressing down. Cover with wet towel, repeat for other portion of dough, to get 4 total rounds. May be extra maan leftover.

Prepare Pori: Portion dar into 4 equal balls. Take pastry round, roll to approx. 6" circle. Place in palm, add dar ball on top, and slowly pull up dough while turning. Pinch top to seal. Place on flat surface, gently pat with palm on both sides to make ½ inch thick, and gently press down with a plate to smooth both sides.

Cook Pori: In hot pan brush little ghee, cook pori sealed side down, gently on low flame until lightly browned. Brush little ghee as needed. Cook edges against pan. Hold pori with cloth sideways to finish cooking sides. Place on cooling rack and cool completely (do not cut when hot). Refrigerate or freeze.

Written by Sanobar Mehta

Z-CLASS UPDATES

Wrapping up the Fall Semester

[Z-Class](#) will wrap up another wonderful semester on December 14th, 2025. Kudos to the parents and students for their continued commitment to this meaningful program where our children continue to grow in knowledge and community spirit, guided by their dedicated teachers and volunteers.

Deepest gratitude to all our incredible teachers who generously volunteer their time and energy to nurture our children's understanding of faith and culture and bring warmth, creativity, and purpose to every class. Thank you 🙏

**Spring Semester
(Jan to May 2026)**

**January 11th & 25th
February 8th & 22nd
March 8th & 22nd
April 12th & 26th
May 3rd (graduation)**

Pre-K and Kindergarten: Sima Zomorodi, Parisa Jahanian

1st, 2nd and 3rd Grades: Alysha Kadva, Sharmin Ghyara, Mehrnaz Namiri

4th and 5th Grades: Homa Jahanian, Zinaida Engineer, Pantea Gheibi

Middle School: Azita Patel, Nahid Varjavand

High School: Behrouz Farsi, Ray Irani,
Parinaz Kianian (community support), Delzin Choksey (art support)



NCZC (Northern CA Zoroastrian Center) UPDATE



2025: A Year of Growth, Gratitude and Momentum for the NCZC

As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for the generosity, energy, and spirit of our community. **Together, we raised \$300,000 in 2025, bringing our total funds to \$1.5 million!** This is an incredible milestone that demonstrates just how deeply our members believe in building a Zoroastrian center for current and future generations.

This year, we also took important steps to engage and listen to our community. Through a survey sent to all members, over 80% shared that they strongly believe we should move forward with establishing a new community center. In addition, our well-attended town hall provided a valuable opportunity to discuss next steps, answer questions, and ensure transparency as we move into the next phase of planning and fundraising.

A Great Time to Give:

As the year comes to a close, we encourage families to take advantage of the end-of-year giving window, which can be an excellent opportunity for tax-deductible contributions. Your support during this season ensures we start the new year strong and allows us to continue planning boldly for the future.

Looking Ahead:

We are excited to share that 2026 will bring even more programs, improved processes, and new fundraising initiatives to advance our long-term vision for a permanent home. We look forward to unveiling these new steps early in the new year.

From the entire NCZC team, thank you for your unwavering support, trust, and commitment. The progress we've made this year truly reflects the strength of our community, and what we accomplish together is nothing short of extraordinary.

Here's to an inspiring year ahead - May 2026 bring even more meaningful support!

Pledge or Donate Today for our New Community Center

PERSONAL DONATIONS: Donate Online, Send in a Check, Direct Bank Transfer

COMPANY PROGRAMS: Corporate Matching, Stock Donations, RMDs

Have questions about bank or stock transfers, pledge forms, or anything else?

Simply email us at nczc@googlegroups.com

Specific donation details can be found on the [ZANC website](#).

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



The Zoroastrian Youth of North America Annual Retreat is heading to Chicago! Your sponsorship helps make this event possible for our youth by supporting transportation, programming, and meals, ensuring every young Zoroastrian can share in this experience. Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

 [CLICK HERE](#) to become a Retreat Sponsor 

A promotional graphic for "Z Wealth Talks" Episode 08. The background is maroon. The text reads: "Z Wealth Talks" in large yellow letters, "Negotiating Job Offers" in white, "EPISODE 08" in white on a yellow circle, "Zenobia Godschalk CEO OF ZAG COMMUNICATIONS" in white next to a microphone icon, "Wednesday, December 3 4 PM PST / 7 PM EST" in yellow, and "ZOOM ID: 969 5327 5673" in yellow. A circular portrait of Zenobia Godschalk is on the left. The ZYNA logo is in the top right.

Zenobia Godschalk has over 25 years of experience growing tech companies into multi-billion-dollar global brands. She is the founder and CEO of ZAG Communications, a multi-million-dollar PR, marketing, and investor relations firm specializing in crisis and cybersecurity communications.

 [CLICK HERE](#) to join the Zoom session 

IN OTHER NEWS

Dar-e-Mehr Maintenance and PZO Volunteer Activities Overview

The San Jose Dar-E-Mehr is in need of several major maintenance projects, including a new roof, plumbing updates, driveway repairs, and electrical system improvements. The Persian Zoroastrian Organization (PZO) is committed to protecting and preserving the property and these important ongoing projects will ensure that our facilities remain safe, welcoming, and functional for everyone for years to come.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the Dar-e-Mehr building, grounds, and equipment, Shahram Bolandi, coordinator of the Construction and Development Committee (CDC), presented some key maintenance issues to the PZO Board. Volunteers from the CDC and the community have contributed about 35 hours toward the maintenance and upkeep of our Dar-E-Mehr, including the following tasks:

Cleanup and Seasonal Preparation: On September 28th, coinciding with the Z-Class session, community volunteers conducted a thorough cleanup of the Dar-e-Mehr premises in preparation for the rainy season. The work included cleaning surface water channels and basins, clearing green areas and the children's playground, improving access to the Atashkadeh wash area, cleaning and repairing detached sections of the gutter behind the Atashkadeh and clearing drains.



Lighting and Equipment Maintenance: Thanks to the generosity of the ZANC family, who donated LED candle bulbs for the Atashkadeh, all lamps were replaced and the glass covers thoroughly cleaned. Additionally, two gardening machines were repaired using replacement parts.

Ongoing and Upcoming Projects: The CDC and Gardening Group, together with dedicated volunteers continue to carry out small maintenance projects to help reduce expenses. These include painting classroom walls, filling cracks in the wall and walkway behind the Atashkadeh, cleaning gutters and trimming tree branches close to the roofs to prevent damage during windy conditions and many more.



To see how you can help or contribute to the CDC, please **CLICK [HERE](#)**

Source: PZO CDC news - Oct 2025 issue

ARTS AND EDUCATION

NAMC INSTITUTE OF ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES

Presents a Discussion Group

Topic: An exploration of Zoroastrian Prayer Practices: Names, Directions, and Symbolic Meanings with reflections on Scripture and the spirit of inclusivity.

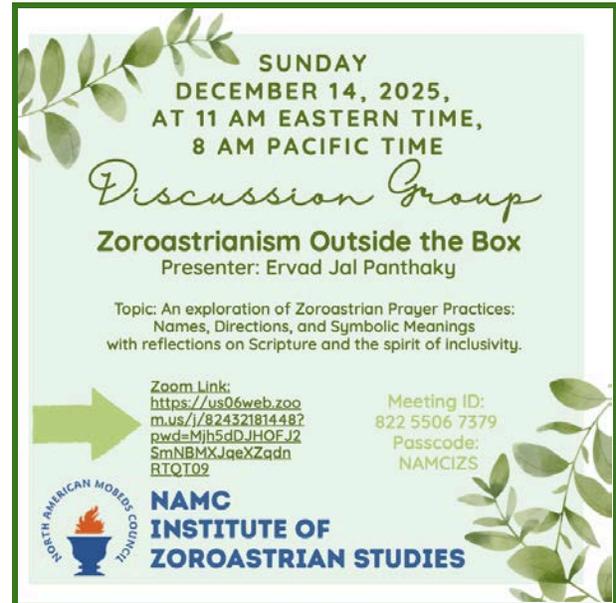
Date/Time: Sun, Dec 14th, 8 am (PST)

Zoom Information:

Meeting ID - 822 5506 7379

Passcode - NAMCIZS

Click [HERE](#) for the Zoom Link



Zoroastrianism 101: An Educational Video Series

This is an introductory series designed to provide an understanding of one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions. Through engaging sessions, the series explores the core beliefs, rituals, history, and cultural significance of the Zoroastrian faith. Whether you're new to the religion or looking to deepen your knowledge, Zoroastrianism 101 offers a thoughtful and informative foundation for learners of all backgrounds.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the latest YouTube video (part 5 - Zoroastrian Literature)

Previous Videos:

[Part 1](#) - Origins: explores the attested historical and mythological origins of the religion

[Part 2](#) - Zarathushtra: explores of one of the most important figures in history

[Part 3](#) - Theology of the First Zoroastrians: explores the first beliefs and ideas

[Part 4](#) - History After Zarathushtra: explores Zoroastrian history after Zarathushtra

CONNECT, CONTACT AND DONATE

Donate to ZANC:

Ring in the New Year with purpose by making a meaningful contribution to ZANC!

Your generous donations are essential for ZANC to continue operating and supporting our community. They directly contribute to the upkeep of our Dar-e-Mehr, helping cover monthly expenses such as insurance, utilities, maintenance, repairs, landscape beautification, and property taxes. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a meaningful difference, so please consider donating today. Together, we can ensure ZANC continues serving and supporting our community.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make a donation. Thank you for your continued support! 🙏

Stay Connected with Social Media:

Join the ZANC WhatsApp Groups, Facebook, and follow the ZANC Instagram page to stay engaged with other Zs, post pictures, organize gatherings, and strengthen our community connections, all while staying in the loop on the latest events.



- **WhatsApp:** [CLICK HERE](#) to join
- **Facebook:** [CLICK HERE](#) to join
- **Instagram:** [CLICK HERE](#) to follow



Maintain Active Membership:

Active memberships are vital to ensuring the continued growth and success of our community here in Northern CA. Your membership dues go toward maintaining our Dar-e-Mehr, sustaining ZANC's operations, and funding valuable programs that benefit all members. [CLICK HERE](#) to join or renew your membership.

Tell Us What You Think:

We'd love to hear from you! All feedback and suggestions are welcome. If you have ideas, comments, or anything that could help strengthen our programs and community experience, please send your thoughts to the Board. Your voice makes a difference!

- **General questions:** email the [ZANC BOARD](#)
- **Membership:** email the [ZANC SECRETARY](#)
- **Volunteering:** email the [EVENTS COORDINATOR](#)

And Finally...



PZO SEEKS TO RAISE \$25,000 TO PURCHASE A NEW WATER TANK

Support Our Community This Giving Tuesday!

On **December 2nd**, our community will participate in **#GivingTuesday**, a global day dedicated to generosity and unity.

This year, we are seeking to raise **\$25,000** to **purchase one new water tank** to replace an aging one, and we invite you to support this important initiative. Your contribution will help create a lasting impact on our community's resources.

Please check with your employer about **matching gift programs**, which can significantly increase the impact of your donation and note that some companies require contributions to be submitted through their platform to qualify.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

- 1) **Online:** Click [HERE](#) to contribute online
- 2) **Write a Check:**
 - a) Make check payable to PZO
 - b) Indicate "CDC" in the check description line
 - c) Email zenhardaran@pzo.info for delivery instructions
- 3) **Venmo or Zelle:**
 - a) Venmo Username is [@PZO-Donation](#)
 - b) Zelle Email is give@pzo.info



Username: [@PZO-Donation](#)



Important: Always provide your name, contact information and the purpose of the donation.



Email: give@pzo.info



Important: Always provide your name, contact information and the purpose of the donation.

Source: [PZO](#) (Zenhardaran Newsletter, Nov 21, 2025)