



ZANC MONTHLY BUZZ



In this issue:

- Editor's Note
- Upcoming & Recent Events
- Community News
- Z Class
- ZANC AGM Summary
- Spotlight on Rusi Sorabji
- IZS and WZC Updates
- Community Showcase

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.

Editor's Note

Dear ZANC Community,

March was a busy month for our ZANC Board, as they undertook the significant task of conducting one of the most well-attended and most debated AGMs in recent years, with several proposals voted on for inclusion in the ZANC Bylaws. A heartfelt thank you to each of our Board Members and the Bylaws Committee for taking on such a time-consuming and challenging endeavor for the betterment of our community. It was also delightful to see a new generation lead the prayers at the Navroz Jashan - a truly proud moment for our community. As the weather warms up, be on the lookout for more outdoor events including our April Hike and Cherry Picking outing. Sign up early before all slots fill up! And don't forget to have your youth participate in the ever-popular Z-Camp, where they explore their heritage in a fun and engaging environment led by youth counselors and supervised by adults. The bonus: delicious food every day! 😊

As we head into Spring, the newsletter committee would love to hear from you! Share your favorite photos with your moms and dads, as well as graduation announcements, for inclusion in our subsequent newsletters. 🌸 Happy Reading!! 🌸

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Share your Family Pics and Graduation News with us**

WANTED: Precious Photos with Moms and Dads



As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June, the newsletter committee would love to feature photos of the special people who hold a place close to our hearts. Please send in photos of you with your moms and dads - or anyone who



has been like a mom or dad in your life - and let us share this heartfelt walk down memory lane with our community. Please email: newsletter@zanc.org.

Attention All 2026 Graduates!

We want to feature YOU in our newsletter



We're getting ready to feature the Class of 2026 in our upcoming edition. If you or someone you know is graduating from high school, college, or trade school this year, please send us a photograph along with your achievements and

future plans to newsletter@zanc.org so that we may celebrate this wonderful milestone. All content must be received by the 20th of the month.



YOUTH Z-CAMP (Ages 13-17)

LIMITED SPOTS - Register today before it is Sold Out!

Early Bird Registration: \$325 per camper until May 15th

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

When: July 23rd - 26th

Where: The Dar-e-Mehr

Want to Volunteer? please fill this [FORM](#)

Questions? [EMAIL](#) the Z-Camp coordinator

FUTURE EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sat, Apr 18th, 10:00 am	Hike	Livermore
Sat, May 9th, 10:30 am	Art Workshop	Dar-e-Mehr
Sat, May 30th, 10:00 am	Cherry Picking	Brentwood

VOLUNTEER



GET INVOLVED! ZANC events rely heavily on volunteer support to run smoothly, and every helping hand makes a difference. Whether it's setting up, helping during an event, or cleaning up after, your time and efforts are always appreciated.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALLING ALL HIKERS APRIL 18th at 10 am

Join us for a **leisurely, family-friendly hike**, a wonderful chance to spend time outdoors, enjoy nature, and connect with others along the way. Enjoy a morning of fresh air, beautiful views, and great company at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore. **We'll meet at the Visitors Center at 10:00 am** and hit the trails together. Bring along your lunch and a picnic blanket if you'd like to relax and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at the park. Please note there is a **\$6 parking fee**, so carpooling is encouraged. Lace up your hiking shoes and come enjoy a day outdoors with friends and family. 🌿👟



ZANC presents

APRIL HIKE

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF A
LEISURELY HIKE IN THE EAST BAY

WHAT: Leisurely Hike at Del Valle Park
WHEN: Saturday, April 18 at 10 am
WHERE: Del Valle Regional Park.
 7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore.
 Meet at the Visitor Center!

[RSVP Here!](#) *Parking is \$6.

Feel free to bring your own lunch, and a picnic blanket for afterwards!

FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL EVENTS@ZANC.ORG

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Questions? Contact board@zanc.org

GET READY FOR TWO FABULOUS EVENTS IN MAY!!

ART & CRAFT WORKSHOP

MAY 9th, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm at the Dar-E-Mehr



ZANC
ZARETHOBI ANNUUM OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Art & Craft Workshop

Open to Adults & Kids!
Learn a variety of art & craft techniques and take home projects you create! All Materials provided.

MAY 9, 2026
10:30AM - 2PM

Dar-e-Mehr
10488 Crothers Rd, San Jose, CA 95127



CROCHET / YARN ART



MOSAIC



RESIN JEWELRY



CROSS STITCH

MEMBER ADULT: \$20
MEMBER CHILD: \$15
POTLUCK ONLY: FREE (MUST REGISTER)
REGISTER AT WWW.ZANC.ORG LIMITED SPOTS!
FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK LUNCH
SIGN UP AND BRING A DISH TO SHARE. SAVOURY DISHES PREFERRED!

Questions? Contact events@zanc.org

Join us for a fun-filled day of exploring various arts and crafts, where our expert volunteers will guide you through the techniques of their art and share their creative tips. **All materials will be provided** - just bring your enthusiasm and a spirit eager to learn something new! After the activities, enjoy a potluck lunch with fellow crafters. **Please bring a savory dish to share.**

Event Pricing:

Member Adult (10+) – \$20

Member Child (5-10) – \$15

Non-Participant Attendees - Free (please register and bring a dish to share)

[CLICK HERE FOR POTLUCK SIGN UP](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

🍒 IT'S CHERRY PICKING TIME 🍒 Saturday, May 30th at 10 am

Calling all families and friends to join us for a delightful day in the sunshine, picking cherries straight from the trees, enjoying fresh air, and making sweet memories. After the orchard fun, we'll head to a local restaurant to relax, enjoy a delicious meal, and continue the good times.

Place: Three Nunns Farm

Address: 550 Walnut Blvd., Brentwood, CA

Payments: Pay with cash or card at the farm

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Questions? Email events@zanc.org



ZANC
ZARETHOBI ANNUUM OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Come enjoy sweet, juicy cherries straight from the orchard—perfect for families, friends, and outdoor fun!

CHERRY PICKING

Three Nunns Farm
550 Walnut Brentwood, CA 94513
Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 10 AM



Register at www.zanc.org
They accept cash or card to buy the cherries
After the orchard fun, let's grab a bite together at a restaurant in Brentwood!

GF

For questions email events@zanc.org

RECENT EVENTS

MARCH

NAVROZ JASHAN AND POTLUCK



On a beautiful, warm Saturday morning of March 21st, a special Navroz Jashan was performed by Farhan Panthaki and Viraf Motafram, the newest Navar on the block. The lovely ceremony took place at the Dar-e-Mehr, with a huge crowd in attendance. The smell of sandalwood and fresh flowers filled the air as the community came together to pray, meet and connect. Following the Jashan, everyone gathered for a delicious Parsi potluck consisting of dhan dal, kolmi no palav, biryani, kebabs, white chicken, bhel, akoori, sev, ravo, malido, falooda and many other scrumptious dishes in celebration of the New Year.



👉 Fresh Falooda



More pics on our FB page



Desserts to die for 👉

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hands-On Culinary Adventures with Peri Avari



A FESTIVE PARSİ FEAST! On Sunday, March 1st, Chef Peri Avari led students in cooking traditional Parsi wedding dishes at her class at the Civic Kitchen in San Francisco. Students were welcomed with Peri's Parsi Choi, and invited to snack on Mawa Cakes.

After this delicious introduction, it was time to don aprons and dive into cooking the dishes we all love being served at a Parsi wedding:

- Jardaloo Salli Boti
- Lagan Nu Stew
- Saffron Butter Rice
- Roasted Cumin Cucumber Raitu
- Lagan Nu Custard

The prepared feast was then served with selected wines, on a banana leaf, for all the students to enjoy.



Peri's Parsi Pupils 🙌

For more information, visit the Civic Kitchen [Class Calendar](#)

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



MUMMY'S SALI MARGHI with Persis Wadia

ABOUT THE CHEF


This recipe's story began with Persis's grandmother in Bharuch, traveled to her mother's kitchen in Mumbai, and finally settled in her own home in Fremont. When Persis stands at the stove, she finds herself walking in her mother's footsteps, discovering that the real joy isn't in chasing perfection, but in the freedom to experiment. Growing up, this dish was reserved for special celebrations (and good grades!) and now Persis has made it her own by weaving traditional techniques together with bold, adventurous additions like lemon pepper and vindaloo masala. Served in an antique Parsi bowl, an heirloom like the many her parents contributed to the Udvada museum, this dish with its mouth-watering aroma creates a deep sense of nostalgia. It's a delicious, multi-generational road trip on a plate, proving that the best family recipes get better with a little extra mileage and a lot of heart. History, it turns out, tastes absolutely wonderful!



INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 tbsp Oil | 2 tsp Jeeru Powder |
| 3 medium Onions diced | 1 tsp Garam Masala |
| 3 lbs Chicken, boneless | 2 tsp Red Chili Powder |
| 1 inch Cinnamon Stick | 1 Serrano Chili, sliced thick |
| 1 tsp Coriander Seeds | 2 tsp Vindaloo Masala (optional) |
| 5 Green Cardamom | 2 tbsp Ground Lemon Pepper |
| ½ tsp Peppercorns | 1 tsp Malt Vinegar (Sarko) |
| 2 tsp Ginger Garlic Paste | 1 tsp Jaggery |
| 4 Roma Tomatoes | ¼ cup Cilantro |
| 1 tsp Salt | Sali (fried potato straws) |
| 1 ½ tsp Turmeric | |

DIRECTIONS

 8 servings

1. Heat oil in large pan, add onion and sauté till brown. Add cinnamon, coriander, cardamom (pressed open), and peppercorn, stir well, and sauté. **Chef's Tip:** well browned onions are key!
2. Cut chicken (thighs preferred) into bite sized pieces and add to pan. Add ginger garlic paste, stir well, and cook on high.
3. Puree tomatoes in blender, and add to pan once chicken is seared. Use ¼ cup water to rinse out blender and add to pan.
4. Add salt, turmeric, jeeru powder, garam masala, chili powder, optional vindaloo powder, and serrano chili. Stir well and cook on medium heat for a few minutes. Add lemon pepper, cover pan and cook until meat is done (~20 mins).
5. Stir in jaggery and vinegar, and cook uncovered for 2 mins.
6. Remove from stove, and garnish with chopped cilantro. Serve with crispy Sali!

Written by Sanobar Mehta



Z-CLASS UPDATES



On Sunday, March 8th, the Z-Class held its Nowrouz Bazaar featuring handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry, homemade food, teas, decorated eggs and much more from the community members. It was a day of culture and creativity bringing people together to celebrate the upcoming Persian New Year. What a fantastic way to pass along traditions of the past to the next generation!

👉 Z-Class Nowrouz Table



Questions/Information: Email [Z-CLASS](#) or [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Z-Classes.

ZANC AGM & Special General Body Meeting (2026)



Date: March 7, 2026, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: In person at the Dar-e-Mehr & Zoom

Speakers: ZANC Board, Adil Engineer, Dianne Patel

A Day of Reflection, Progress & Important Decisions

March 7th was a big day for ZANC, with members gathering both in person at the Dar-e-Mehr and online via Zoom for not just the Annual General Meeting (AGM), but also a Special General Body Meeting (SGBM). From celebrating milestones to tackling important bylaw discussions, it was a full and meaningful agenda. The meeting was called to order by ZANC President Bomi Patel once quorum was established. The meeting began with an overview of the agenda, which included the following key topics: 2026 priorities, financials, membership, youth engagement, voting on 8 proposals to update current bylaws and the new community center.

AGM: A Strong Year Behind Us, An Exciting One Ahead

Bomi Patel kicked off the day's proceedings with the President's message. He outlined key priorities for 2026, emphasizing one simple theme: **greater participation = a stronger community**. Last year's minutes were approved, followed by a warm welcome and introduction of the Board.

Zareer Bhatena walked everyone through ZANC's financial details, highlighting: Improved financial reconciliation practices, strategic use of CD's to generate interest and the completion of a major roof replacement project funded by member donations. Overall, ZANC continues to be on strong financial footing. The 2025 financials were approved unanimously driven by increased membership and generous contributions. There was also discussion about separating ZANC and NCZC accounts, especially as NCZC evolves as its own non-profit entity. Overall, the message was clear: finances are being handled thoughtfully and responsibly.

Burzin Patel shared that **ZANC membership has grown from 186 to 216 households**, surpassing the 10% growth goal and **reaching 437 individuals**. Members were encouraged to renew early (no more last-minute August submissions!).

Dilber Mistry reflected on a successful 2025, during which 15 events were hosted, and announced plans for an impressive **17 events in 2026** - many inspired directly by member feedback. To support event logistics and coordination, she has established an **Events Subcommittee** with **Firuz Vadiwala and Sarosh D. Patel** as its newest volunteers.

Zara Minwalla announced that youth participation is growing! More regular attendees, new faces, and stronger connections with PZO are all signs of positive momentum. The plans for 2026 include launching a new youth membership category, expanding the youth directory and creating a youth subcommittee.

Dianne Patel celebrated the **first anniversary of the newsletter**, which now reaches over 500 readers. A huge shoutout went to her all-women team consisting of - Collaborators (**Delzin**

Choksey & Kathleen Chothia) and the Contributors **Sanobar Mehta** (recipes) and **Erin Press** (NCZC) - all of whom work diligently to keep the community informed and connected.

Fredy Kadva presented several plans on expanding ZANC’s reach through improved communication tools, a member registration platform, and a proposed **ZANC Ambassadors Program** to help grow engagement even further.

Adil Engineer shared exciting progress from NCZC: over \$1.5 million raised so far from 140 to 145 donors, with a long-term goal of \$5 million. He encouraged the members to keep giving and emphasized the importance of the NCZC pledge forms.

Special General Body Meeting: Bylaws in Focus

Following a Biryani lunch organized by the ZANC Board, members stayed on for an important Special General Body Meeting centered around 8 proposed updates to the current bylaws. ZANC members who were unable to attend in person were able to submit absentee ballots.

Burzin Patel led the session, walking members through the process of reviewing and voting on **eight bylaw proposals**. He emphasized that these proposals were the result of extensive member feedback and careful review by a dedicated bylaws subcommittee which consisted of **Kathleen Chothia, Percy Wadia, Burzin Patel and Afshad Mistri** and Board members **Bomi Patel, Fredy Kadva and Zara Minwalla**.

While there were questions and discussions for each of the proposals, it was a controversial Proposal 8 (define who qualifies as a Zoroastrian for membership purposes) which was the most debated topic of the afternoon. While there was much passion in the room with individual points of view, the exchanges were respectful with many members and spouses sharing their heartfelt personal stories and experiences.

In-person voting concluded at 2:15 PM, and the meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter. The Board spent the next two hours carefully counting each vote, with the following results emailed out to the community later that same evening:

Proposal	Description	option-1	option-2	option-3	option-4	Result
Proposal-1	Duties of Officers	150	9			Approved / update bylaws
Proposal-2	Addition to Board duties	104	49			Rejected / leave bylaws as-is
Proposal-3	Requirement for Office position	82	65	5		Rejected / leave bylaws as-is
Proposal-4	New Youth membership category	144	12			Approved / update bylaws
Proposal-5	Term of Office	139	13			Approved / update bylaws
Proposal-6	Effective Dates	118	31			Approved / update bylaws <i>(Board decision pending)</i>
Proposal-7	Paper Ballots	130	23			Approved / update bylaws
Proposal-8(a)	Definitions of a Zoroastrian	107	20	5	29	Leave bylaws as-is (no option secured a two-thirds majority)
Proposal-8(b)	Classes of Membership	133	26			Leave bylaws as-is (option-1)

This was one of the most highly attended AGMs in recent years and the voting process was a strong example of community engagement and democratic participation in action.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Rusi Sorabji

This month, we spotlight a long-time ZANC member whose illustrious life has been marked by remarkable achievements, unwavering dedication to community, and a spirit that continues to inspire everyone around him. From his professional accomplishments to his personal passions and contributions to ZANC, he exemplifies a life lived with grace, purpose, kindness, vitality and lots of fun!!



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. Over several decades, he shaped a remarkable professional path spanning engineering, industrial operations, petrochemicals, hydrocarbon and major infrastructure projects across India and the Middle East. His tenure with organizations including Godrej, Engineers India Ltd, Kelvinator, and GIBCA showcased his ability to lead with vision, depth, and an expertise widely recognized by industry institutions.

He was also the General Manager for Hitachi Air Conditioning, Rolls Royce Industrial & Marine Turbines, Teledyne Brown Engineering, USA. After his retirement in 1996, he came to the US to spend time with his grandchildren.

Apart from being an avid traveler, photographer, and gifted storyteller, he is also known for his wonderful sense of humor and adventurous spirit - even taking on the challenge of piloting aircrafts in his 80s. His passion for cricket led him to umpire games in the UAE, while his deep love of history inspired him to write numerous articles in Zoroastrian publications, including a recent piece on the history of Delhi Parsis in Rukshana Shroff's book [At Home in the Capital](#) and many articles in [Parsiana](#).



Rusi also enjoys experimenting in the kitchen, and his signature "khatu mithu kheema in a bread bowl" recently won first place at the ZANC cooking contest, beating out 20 other contestants!!

At 96, he truly reflects the richness of a life well lived.

IZS AND WZC UPDATES

NAMC INSTITUTE OF ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES

Zoroastrian Purification Rituals - This course explores the spiritual science behind the core Zoroastrian purification rituals and blends theology, ritual procedure, symbolism and practical application. Learn how these practices restore purity and prepare individuals for more disciplined, religious living.

April 11th to April 25th at 8 am (PST)

Registration: Click [HERE](#)

Questions? [EMAIL](#) the registrar



NAMC INSTITUTE OF ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES

For application form use QR code or link:
<https://www.zoroastrianstudies.org>
<https://www.zoroastrianstudies.org/namc-izs-course-registration.aspx>

ZOROASTRIAN PURIFICATION RITUALS

Online Course
 April 11, 2026, to April 25, 2026 - Saturdays 11 am Eastern
Presented By: Ervad Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia

Topics
April 11 - Contamination and Purification in Macrocosm and Microcosm
 - a Zoroastrian perspective
April 18 - Kusti and Nahan
April 25 - Bareshnum

This course explores the spiritual science behind the core Zoroastrian purification rituals and blends theology, ritual procedure, symbolism and practical application. Learn how these practices restore purity and prepare individuals for more disciplined, religious living. Designed for students, Mobeds, and serious learners, it goes beyond external observances to emphasize inner transformation. Strengthen your connection to ancient wisdom through structured learning and guided insight.




The 13th World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC) Monday, Dec 28th - Wednesday, Dec 30th

Sponsors and donors will enjoy special privileges, including enhanced participation, visibility, and access across the event.

[Information](#)

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

[Contact](#)

Sponsorship options and benefits				
	Youth Sponsor	Gold Sponsor	Session Sponsor	Silver Sponsor
Program being sponsored	The fun Youth Mixer on 27th Dec for 18-35 year olds	A Priority Session in the Main Congress Track	One of the Congress Sessions	-
Sponsorship Amount	USD 25,000	USD 20,000	USD 8,000	USD 5,000
Sponsorship entitlements				
Free Tickets for the Congress (28-30 Dec 2026)	4	4	2	2
Event Brochure Advertisement	Full Page	Full Page	Half Page	Half Page
Mention on Banner	Main Stage LED Display	Main Stage LED Display	Display Within Session	Banner Display at Event
Other entitlements	Name on Sponsor Page on WZC 2026 Website. Recognition in social media/ newsletters/ email marketing material. Name announcements on stage during the Congress.			

CONNECT AND CONTACT

Join ZANC WhatsApp Groups, Facebook and Instagram



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



Stay engaged with other Zs, post pictures, and strengthen our community connections.

NOTE: You will still continue to get the ZANC monthly newsletter and event notices via email.

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.

ZANC
ZAR THROUGHT AND MANS OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

2026 Executive Board

Bonni Patel
President

Fredy Kadva
Vice President

Burzin Patel
Secretary

Zareer Bhatena
Treasurer

Jamshid Kekobad
Member-At-Large

Dilber Mistry
Member-At-Large

Zara Minwalla
Member-At-Large

All feedback & suggestions are welcome & encouraged:

General questions: email the [ZANC BOARD](#)

Membership: email the [ZANC SECRETARY](#)

Volunteering: email the [EVENTS COORDINATOR](#)



THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Stay connected with the ZANC Newsletter — your source for community news, announcements, and upcoming events. Please [EMAIL](#) us your personal milestones so we can celebrate and acknowledge them with the community. **All content must be received by the 20th of the month.**

Editor: Dianne Patel (newsletter@zanc.org)

Collaborators: Delzin Choksey, Kathleen Chothia

Contributors: Recipes (Sanobar Mehta) and NCZC (Erin Press)

And Finally...

🌸 ZANC Haft-Seen Tables Showcase 🌸

As we celebrated the spirit of Navroz last month, we are pleased to showcase the creativity and rich traditions reflected in our community's Haft-Seen tables.



