



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.

Editor's Note

Dear ZANC Community,

After honoring the amazing women in our lives last month, June is all about celebrating the men. *This issue is dedicated to the wonderful, hard-working men in our lives and especially those in our community.* We are also proud to celebrate our Bay Area graduates, Z-Class grads and recognize other ZANC student accomplishments, sending them our warmest wishes as they step into the next chapter of their lives. Be sure to also check out highlights from last month's FEZANA AGM held in SoCal, and encourage all college aged students to apply for the FEZANA academic scholarships - especially since previous scholarship winners are eligible to apply again this year!!

As summer rolls in, I encourage our community to come and support exciting upcoming events such as the **Fundraiser Bazaar**, which aims to raise money for ZANC initiatives, a **Senior Tea Event**, the ever popular **Picnic** and a **Major League Cricket Outing**.

And finally, a BIG shout-out to all the dads, grandads, husbands, and father figures out there - thanks for all that you do to support your families. 🍷 Happy Reading 🍷

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

APPLY NOW FOR THE FEZANA 2026 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Submissions Deadline is July 15th!!



[The FEZANA Scholarship Program](#) was started in 1998 to recognize academic excellence and provide Zarathushti students financial assistance to study at institutions in the U.S and Canada. Each year, FEZANA gives more than \$120,000 of scholarships in the areas of undergraduate and graduate studies, performing and creative arts, fine arts, culinary arts and religious studies. All scholarships are open to Zarathushti applicants who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in the United States or Canada.

Individual Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and are based on academic standing, community service. Scholarships will be awarded in September 2026.



Past winners are eligible to apply again this year and may win a scholarship if selected!!

Information: [CLICK HERE](#) for detailed information on application rules and criteria.

Questions: [Email](#) Dolly Dastoor or Dinsha Mistree, FEZANA Scholarship Committee

[APPLY ONLINE](#)

FEZANA is proud to offer the following scholarships:

UNDERGRADUATE

GRADUATE

PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS

FINE ARTS

CULINARY ARTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TRADE SCHOOL

Interested in contributing to this helpful program?

The FEZANA Scholarships are possible thanks to many generous donations! If you would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, please visit our [Scholarship Donation](#) page or reach out to the [Fundraising Committee](#) to inquire about endowments.

FUTURE EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sun, June 7th, 11 am - 2 pm	ZANC Bazaar (fundraiser)	Dar-e-Mehr
Sat, June 20th, 2 pm - 5 pm	Trivia, Tea & Treats (Seniors)	Foster City
Sat, June 27th, 2 pm	Major League Cricket Outing	Oakland Coliseum
Sun, July 12th, 11 am - 4 pm	Picnic in the Park	Foothills Park, Palo Alto
July 23rd - 26th	Youth Z Camp	Dar-e-Mehr
Aug 10th -14th, 4:30 pm	Mukhtad Prayers	Dar-e-Mehr
Sat, Aug 15th, 11 am	Navroze Jashan & Potluck	Dar-e-Mehr
Sat, Aug 15th, 6 pm - 11 pm	Navroze Dinner Party	Shubham Halls, Sunnyvale

UPCOMING EVENTS

ZANC Bazaar

11am to 2pm on Sunday June 7th, 2026 at the DAR-E-MEHR

FOOD ITEMS

- Dhansak (Chicken / Veg)
- Curry Chawal (Chicken / Egg)
- Biryani (Goat)
- Dhandar & Kolmi no Patio (Shrimp)
- Kebabs & Cutlets (Lamb / Turkey)
- Baked dishes (Chicken bake / Turkey Shepherd's pie)
- White Chicken
- Papeta Par Edu

SNACKS & TREATS

- Pani Puri stall
- Samosas
- Popcorn
- Cookies (Brown Butter, Chocolate Chip, Red Velvet, Dubai Chocolate, Thumbprint)
- Cakes (Cupcakes / Mava cakes / Brownies)
- Breads (Banana Loaf / Pumpkin Loaf)

ART, CRAFTS & SHOPPING

- Asho Farohar Magnets
- Crochet Items
- Resin Jewellery
- Books
- ...and more!

DRINKS, TEA & SPECIALTY ITEMS

- Parsi Chai / Curry / Dhansak spice, masalas, and blends
- Parsi Chai (Tea)
- Ghee
- Pickles
- Mallo
- Soft Drinks

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Ping Pong Toss
- Ring Toss
- Raffle prizes
- ...and more!

Join us for a lively afternoon of delicious food, exciting raffle prizes, music, and great company. Come to showcase your talents, help as a volunteer or simply contribute to a meaningful cause.

All proceeds will go to support our Dar-e-Mehr & ZANC's ongoing expenses.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)
[PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS.](#)
[OR MAKE A DONATION](#)**

Tickets for food, games, and shopping will also be available at the event (Cash or Zelle payments only)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Click [Here](#) to Lend a Hand

Senior Social Afternoon: Meet, Mingle & Have Fun

Saturday, June 20th 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Calling all Z Seniors (60+) to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of games, friendly competition, tea, and snacks. Visiting family members (60+) are also most welcome.

Place: Treasure Isle Clubhouse

Address: 763 Comet Drive, Foster City, CA

This is a FREE EVENT - There are Limited Spots

👉 **Register today before it's sold out** 👉

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER

Questions? Email events@zanc.org



Get Ready for the Annual ZANC Summer Picnic

Sunday, July 12th, 11 am - 4 pm

Foothills Park, Palo Alto

Bring your picnic spirit and join us for tasty BBQ, cool refreshments, fun games and a fantastic day with family and friends! 🍔🥗



Ticket Prices:

Member Adult (10+) - \$20
Member Children (5-10) - \$10
Non-Member Adult (10+) - \$40
Non-Member Children (5-10) \$15
Kids under 5 - Free

**Registration
Deadline: JULY 2nd**

[CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER](#)

Reservations Required: Please note that the entry to Foothills Park is limited to registered guests on the official guest list. Spots are limited, so do reserve early!

What to Bring: Sunscreen, Games, Lawn Chairs, Picnic Blankets, Towels, Extra Water

Questions? Email events@zanc.org

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE! GRAB YOUR SPOT BEFORE WE SELL OUT!

RECENT EVENTS



Arts and Crafts Workshop

On May 9th, ZANCsters of all ages enjoyed a fun morning of Arts & Crafts as they rotated through crochet, cross stitch, mosaic, and resin jewelry stations, learning about each craft. A huge thank you to our teachers - **Sanobar Mehta, Zia Mehta, Delzin Choksey, Binaifer Dumasia, Natasha Patel and Zara Kekobad** - for volunteering their time and hard work to make this event a success.



Many more
fun pictures
on the ZANC
Facebook
page



Beautiful
creations
by our
talented
students



👉 Happy students



COMMUNITY NEWS

🎓 CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026 🎓

The Bay Area Zoroastrian community proudly congratulates these outstanding grads and extends heartfelt wishes for a successful journey filled with endless opportunities.



Carl Patel, UC Davis, BS in Computer Science

I'm excited to graduate from the College of Engineering at UC Davis with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, along with a minor in Technology Management. My academic journey has been driven by a passion for applying technology to everyday systems, making them simpler and more efficient. Over the past four years, my coursework has provided me with a strong foundation in software development and has sparked an interest in the tools that enable systems to run, including databases, security, and networking. With this knowledge, I've built a variety of systems ranging from automated AI-driven pipelines to fully HIPAA compliant applications for the healthcare sector, reinforcing my passion

for creating meaningful, real-world solutions. This fall, I will be pursuing a **Master's in Software Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University** where I hope to deepen my understanding of building scalable and impactful systems.

Outside of school, I play on the UC Davis Men's Lacrosse team, where I also serve as the team's President, managing various logistics to ensure that everything runs smoothly. On Sundays, I enjoy watching football with my friends (Go Niners!), but any other time, I love watching movies, especially with my Mother. I'm incredibly grateful for the support of my family, friends, coaches, and community, and I'm very excited to start this next chapter of my life.



Jasmine Engineer, Graduating from Pioneer High School

Hi, I'm Jasmine Engineer. I will be graduating from Pioneer High School at the end of May and will be attending **UC Riverside as a business major**. I chose to study business because I believe businesses have the power to create positive change by addressing community needs through innovative goods and services. I also enjoy learning about different aspects of business and applying them to my everyday life.

I hope to build a successful and fulfilling career while making my parents proud, as they have always supported me along the way. While I'm sad to be leaving this chapter behind, I'm also excited to begin a new journey and see what the future holds.



Zia Dumasia, Graduating from American High School

Hi, I'm Zia from Fremont, CA. I'm graduating from American High School and will be attending **UC Riverside, where I plan to major in Cell, Molecular, and Developmental Biology on the pre-med track.** I plan to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon and hope to make meaningful contributions to the field. My passion for this path began while volunteering at my local hospital, where I assisted with patient discharges and check-ins. Over the past few years, I've also loved being part of my school's swim team, and in my free time I enjoy playing the piano and hanging out with my friends. My family has been my greatest support throughout my high school journey and the college application process. They, along with my friends, have continually encouraged me to do my best. Everything I've achieved is thanks to their support, and I hope to make them proud as I take this next step.

NAVJOTE NEWS: CONGRATULATIONS TO NIKA TARAPORE

Nine-year-old Nika, daughter of Phiroz Tarapore and Soraya Rofagha and granddaughter of Silloo and Erach Tarapore, celebrated her Navjote ceremony on May 9, 2026, in Piedmont, CA. The ceremony was officiated by Dasturji Kobad, and her 11-year-old navar cousin, Viraf Motafram.

After the Navjote, Nika thanked everyone most warmly and made the following heartfelt and meaningful remarks:



I've learned many life lessons from my Kusti prayers. "Ashem Vohu" tells us to follow the path of Truth, or Asha which will lead us to true happiness. The last part of "Yatha Ahu Vairyo" tells us that the Kshathra or Power of Ahura Mazda blesses those who give vastarem or help, to the dregubyo, to those in need. The last part of "Ahura Mazda Khodae," when we tie the kusti, puts it all together beautifully. It starts with Kshnothra Ahura Mazda which means power and glory to Ahura Mazda. Taroidite Angreh Mainyush, means I reject the devil and freshotemem staomi Ashem says, with all my will, I follow Asha or Truth. The last prayer, Jasame Avenghe Mazda has a valuable idea when it says, "freshpayokhedram nidhashnaitishim" which means, stop all quarrels and put away your swords. Khaitvadetam Ashonim means follow the spirit of union and self-sacrifice and promote Asha or Truth (Ashonim). These are the teachings that I will try to carry with me in my life.

STIRRING UP STORIES: AN OVERVIEW



Stirring Up Stories Project: An Invitation to Share Your Table

For the past few months, you've seen this space filled with the wonderful flavors and stories of our community through the Stirring Up Stories project. Today, instead of sharing someone else's kitchen journey, I want to **invite you to become a part of it!**

Food has always been the heartbeat of our traditions. Growing up in Hong Kong, I was a total foodie just like my father, and our kitchen was where our Parsi heritage came alive. Moving to California for college taught me that missing home-cooked food is really about missing the connection and memories it brings. Now, with my own kids in college, I want all our youth to inherit more than a list of ingredients. I want them to have the techniques, stories, and traditions behind them.

My goal is to continue celebrating who we are by sharing these culinary stories in our monthly newsletter, eventually weaving them all together into a beautiful **Community Cookbook**. To truly capture the full flavor of our community, my dream is to have recipes that span every corner and generation of our community. To do that, I need you!

How You Can Participate (It's Easier Than You Think!)

You don't need to be a professional chef. You just need a dish that means something to you. Here is how it works:

Step 1: Pick Your Dish. It could be a family heirloom, a recipe you're famous for at potlucks, or comfort food you make when you want to feel at home.

Step 2: Let's Cook Together. We will find a time that works for you over the next few months. I'll join you in the kitchen to cook the dish together, chat about your recipe and background, and snap a few photos.

Step 3: Keep the Tradition Alive. I will handle the writing, capturing your recipe, personal tips, and shaping whatever memories you share (no matter how big or small!) into a lovely feature.

Let's Connect!

Whether you have a dish in mind or just a rough idea, I would love to hear from you. Please reach out to sanobar3104@gmail.com with your interest and general availability, and we can set up a fun, relaxed time to cook and chat!

Stirring up stories together,
Sanobar

QUICK MITHOO DAHI (Sweet Yogurt) with Persis Wadia



INGREDIENTS

32 oz Nonfat Greek Yogurt*

14 oz Condensed Milk

2 to 3 tsp Vanilla Essence

**Costco greek yogurt,
or any thick kind*

DIRECTIONS

1. Place ingredients in microwave safe bowl and mix very well.
2. Cook in the microwave for 30 seconds. Remove from the microwave, stir mixture, and cook for 30 seconds more. Repeat mixing and cooking in increments of 30 seconds for 2 to 2.5 minutes (you will see yogurt starting to thicken, and will be ready when it is firm and moves as one piece when the bowl is tilted).
3. Cool on counter and refrigerate until cold enough to eat.

A shortcut recipe that's too good not to share! When Persis made this for me, I was blown away by her creativity and the authentic taste this recipe delivers.

Written by Sanobar Mehta

Z-CLASS UPDATES

Z-Class Graduation Day 2025 - 2026 🥳🥳

ZANC/PZO Z-Class Celebrates Another Meaningful Year!



The Z-Class community came together on **Sunday, May 3rd** to celebrate another wonderful year and to cheer on our eight bright Zarathushti graduates as they step confidently into the next chapter of their journey. The Dar-e-Mehr was filled with love, laughter, and the unmistakable warmth of a community that always shows up for one another.

Congratulations to our 2026 Z Class graduates:

Kiana Namiranian, Niloo Chavoshi, Kimia Pourdehmobed, Kiya Namiranian, Kamran Zomorodi, Jasmine Engineer, Zia Dumasia, Mim Capak



Theme for the Year: The theme for the 2025-2026 school year was **Hudānuš (Hoo-da-noosh)** from the ancient Avestan language, meaning “a person of good wisdom and intellect.” It guided the Z-class learning and conversations throughout the year as students explored what it means to live with goodness, kindness, and integrity, and how to practice Hudānuš in their daily lives.

Z-Class Students: Alongside our graduates, we honored each and every student for completing another fun and meaningful year at Z Class. Each class took the stage to present someone they believed embodied *Hudānuš*. Their choices were heartfelt and often surprising, from Cyrus the Great to Meherbai Tata, and even Khodabakash Jahanian, one of our Z Class parents who quietly models generosity and service. Watching our children learn about Zoroastrian greats while also recognizing goodness, constructive leadership, and alignment with *Asha* in the people around them was one of the most touching moments of the day.

PreK and K 📌



1st to 3rd Grade 📌

6th to 8th Grade 📌



4th and 5th Grades 📌

Teachers & Parents: Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of our teachers and parents. Week after week, our teachers give their time, creativity, and heart, shaping not only lessons but values. And our parents quietly do the heavy lifting - from organizing snacks to helping with registration, and even washing tops and scarves at the Dar-e-Mehr - truly embodying the spirit of community service. We are deeply grateful for all they do behind-the-scenes. This celebration was a beautiful reminder of what makes our community so special.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Outstanding Student Achievements by our ZANC Youth!

We congratulate two students from our community who recently received prestigious awards and recognition for work they are deeply passionate about. Their achievements were honored on a global stage, showcasing their talent, dedication, and creativity. Great job and wishing you the best in the future. 🙌🙌



Natasha Patel, a junior at Ringling College of Art and Design, recently earned the prestigious *Best of Ringling Award* - a celebration of creative excellence that highlights the top art and design projects of the year. This distinguished honor recognizes outstanding student work selected by leading industry experts and is showcased within their fields. Natasha received the award for developing her VR game, *Battington Manor*, which was recently published on Steam.

CLICK [HERE](#) to access the game on Steam

Shahvir Bhujwala, a sophomore at Lick Wilmerding High School in San Francisco, is a shark enthusiast and marine conservationist, who delivered a compelling TEDx talk on the crucial role of sharks as apex predators in ocean ecosystems. He uses sharks as a lens to illustrate the interconnectedness of all species and explores the impact of media on wildlife & human communities, advocating for education and responsible storytelling. His Zoroastrian heritage informs his message, emphasizing respect for the Earth and equality of all people in its protection.



CLICK [HERE](#) to watch the TEDx Talk

We invite you to share your child's achievements for inclusion in future newsletters.
[Email us](#) so we can celebrate these milestones together with the community.

All content must be received by the 20th of the month



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SOME FABULOUS ZANC DADS



(Top Row L to R): Shireen/Zia with dad Hector Mehta, Diana/Tanaisha with dad Percy Mistry, Anush/Jennaz with dad Sarosh Dara Patel (Middle Row L to R): Jasper/Zain with dad Viraf Patel, Jasmine with daddy Adil Engineer, twins Zahi/Zeenia with sister Leah and daddy Urvaksh Bharucha, (Bottom Row L to R): Anosh/Zia with dad Malcolm Dumasia, Natasha/Carl with dad Burzin Patel, Shahvir with dad Dazzle Bhujwala.

IN OTHER NEWS

FEZANA AGM IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) held its 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) from April 24th to 26th, 2026, hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) in Orange, California. This important meeting brought together representatives from many associations and committees across Canada and the US to reflect on the past year, discuss key initiatives, and chart a path forward. The three-day event started with a 'pre-event' visit to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, and concluded with a fun gala night featuring karaoke, dancing, and a delicious "Patra nu Bhonu" style dinner. Now who says meetings can't be fun? 😊



ZANC Secretary Burzin Patel Speaks at the FEZANA AGM

Last month, I participated in my first FEZANA AGM representing ZANC in my role as current Secretary, along with President Bomi Patel. During the event I got to share an update on ZANC over the past year, including

our growth in memberships, improved communications & technology, and stronger community involvement across a variety of ZANC cultural, and educational programs. I also highlighted our new 'youth' membership category and increased youth engagement through fun activities. A PZO representative was also present at the AGM and we both presented examples about our collaboration particularly the bi-monthly Z-Classes held at the Dar-e-Mehr, and the joint organization of the March Navroz celebration - both of which promote intergenerational cultural learning and community unity among Zoroastrians.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the ZANC update for the FEZANA AGM



ART AND EDUCATION

She Walks In Beauty | Ashdeen - Spring 2026 Collection

Ashdeen Lilaowala, the famous Parsi textile designer and revivalist, presented his new collection of classical sarees inspired by mid-century motifs and designs from the extensive Parsi Gara archive. The retroesque fashion presentation showcasing the Spring 2026 collection was held at the iconic venue, Albless Baug, and was called '*She Walks In Beauty*' after Lord Byron's poem of the same name.

In the interest of authenticity, an audience of Parsi women, also dressed in Ashdeen, were invited to the event and a cast of Parsi models showcased the collection to the seated audience in the intimate space. A



host described each garment in detail as the model twirled around and presented it from different angles, allowing the audience a good look. The sarees featured traditional Parsi Gara motifs like cranes, chrysanthemums, lotuses and peonies in ruby red, opal green, alphonso, emerald green, wine, carnation, royal blue and violet, in easy to move fabrics such as crepe, crepe jacquards and satin. Hand-embroidery that mimics the effect of lace as well as the meticulous French knot technique were also highlighted.



Visit our stores at

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N-16, Second Floor, N Block Market
Greater Kailash I, New Delhi- 110048
Sajid +91 96506 71221

Mumbai
First Floor, Vaswani House, 7, BEST Marg,
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(Source: photos and article courtesy of Ashdeen, reprinted with permission)



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.



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)

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