

# Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc

# History & Background

- Organized as a 501(c)(3) religious charity in 1978
- Serves the religious, cultural and educational needs of the local Zarathushti population for Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia
- Parsi & Irani Zarathushtis have and continue to work together to meet the needs of both cultures
- Exact number of Zarathushtis not known, but active membership of about 200 families/individuals

# Activities

- Avesta Class has educated hundreds of Zarathushti children; approximately 80 enrolled this year
- Avesta class hosts many activities throughout the year including a cooking contest, talent show, and bowling night
- Main functions are Norooz, Tirgan, Mehrgan, Muktad prayers, Sadeh and Parsi New Year
- Other activities held on an occasional basis are Yalda and Sizdah Behdar, as well as adult discussion groups, and ski Saturdays
- On average, ZAMWI functions have drawn crowds of 100-125 individuals with Norooz and Muktad prayers exceeding 250-300 individuals

# Key 2014 Events

- In May 2014, received occupancy permit from Montgomery County for the Kamran Dar-e Mehr
- In September 2014, had a formal opening ceremony for the Kamran Dar-e Mehr
  - Almost 400 attendees in 2 programs due to occupancy limits
  - Interfaith and local community leaders in attendance

# Dar-e-Mehr Facts

- Approximately 10,000 square feet situated on 5 acres of land
- Occupancy limit of 200 individuals in the main hall, and approximately 100 in the other rooms
- 58 parking spaces
- Warming kitchen with a separate bar area





# To-do list for KDM

- Modify kitchen from residential to commercial
- Finish prayer room
- Sign outside
- Install sound system
- Finalize landscaping outside





# ZAMWI Challenges

- Make the association more than an event-driven organization
- More religious activities (Gahambars, adult education, etc.)

   balanced out due to having only 1 priest and 1 Mobediyar who is in middle school to serve the entire community
- Getting more youth involved due to traffic / lack of public transportation and transitory nature of youth and young-adults studying or starting careers in the area
- Weaving a common North American Zarathushti culture among all members which preserves their own cultural heritage and contains a baseline of religious knowledge
- Community cohesion that leads to increased volunteer activity

# ZAMWI Board of Trustees

### • For more information, contact:

- President: Navroz Gandhi (zamwi\_president@yahoo.com)
- Vice President: Zarir Khademian (zarirkhademian@gmail.com)
- Secretary: Parmis Khosravi (zamwi\_secretary@yahoo.com)
- Treasurer: Mahzarine Chinoy (zamwi\_treasurer@yahoo.com)
- Joint Secretary: Bahram Soroosh (bsoroosh@yahoo.com)
- Trustee at Large: Sima Sekhavat (sima934@yahoo.com)

## ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTH TEXAS





# **ZANT Activities**

- Monthly Children's Religious Classes
- Adult Religious Discussion Sessions (Vohu Manoh Group)
- ZANT Teen Group Activities
- Community Support Activities

#### Yearly Events/Activities

- Jashne-Sadeh
- Norouz
- Tirgan
- Muktad Prayers
- Gahambar Panjeh
- Yalda Celebration
- Graduation Celebration
- Fund Raisers
  - Anand Bazaar
  - Divali Fund Raiser

- Sports Day
- Zarthost-no-Diso
- Shahenshahi New Year
- Mehergan
- Gahanbars
- ZLC (ZANT Ladies Club)

- ZANT Yard Sale
- Carnival





# 2015 ZANT Membership

Our current membership for 2015 is :

Life Members	45
Annual Members	137
Honorary Members	7

Total: 189





# ZANT Is Now 26 Years Old

Our Association was formally registered on April 23, 1989

And

In April 2011 the ZANT Center was opened

In 2014 ZANT celebrated 25 years with a Gala & Norouz Celebration along with a Anniversary Jashan





# ZANT Activities 2014-2015











### **Community Support**







### Place of Worship Advisory Committee

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

In 2011, the Place of Worship Advisory Committee (PWAC) on authority of the Board of Directors and membership of OZCF, commenced its mandate to:

a. Investigate the feasibility of developing a consecrated place of worship with consecrated Adaran Fire in Ontario

b. Investigate the community's views around building such a consecrated place of worship with consecrated Adaran Fire.

#### Focus Group Meetings were held on:

Mobeds: Saturday February 23rd, 10:00am – 12:00pm Youth (18 – 34): Sunday February 24th, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Seniors 60 +: Saturday March 2nd, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Adult (35 – 60): Saturday March 2nd, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Open Meeting: Sunday April 7th, 10:00am – 12:00pm ZSO Meeting: July 2013, 11am – 1pm

The committee has completed all the town hall meetings with the six groups. A summary report of findings has been compiled together with all questions asked in each group. It is available on the OZCF website at www.ozcf.com. The committee has met twice again with Mobeds in open forums to verify the internal site plan (Nov 2013 and April 2014), which was approved.

# At the EGM of July 2013 – it was unanimously resolved that:

The OZCF proceed to build a consecrated Place of Worship (consecrated Adaran) subject to the Place of Worship Advisory Committee preparing a financial plan to be approved by the membership including development of preliminary drawings, costing and revenue sources to support such a facility.

The Place of Worship Advisory Committee at their discretion be allowed to bring in professional and other collaborators from within and outside the community and form sub-committees as necessary to assist in the development of a preliminary Building Plan of a consecrated Place of Worship and determine more accurate costing for such a facility. Such a preliminary building plan be developed at a cost not exceeding \$35,000 for professional fees and other expenses as deemed necessary. Expenditure exceeding \$35,000 will require a pre-approval.

The Place of Worship Advisory Committee will continue until the facility is constructed and operational.

### RFP Framework and Requirements Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation OAKVILLE

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** 

FOR

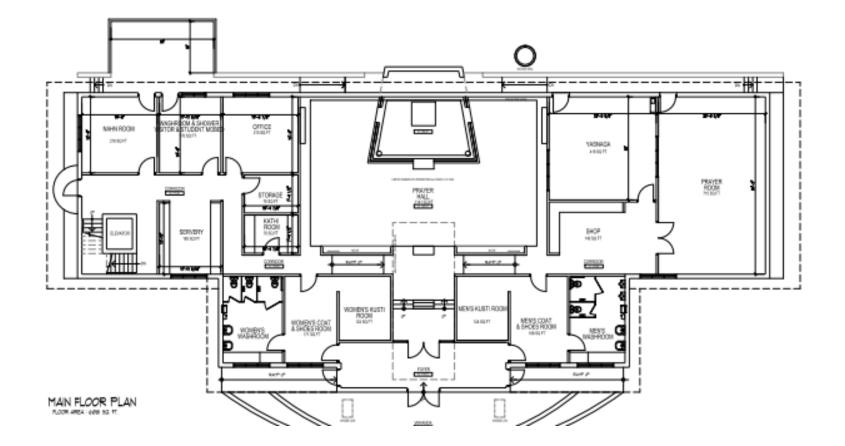
ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

#### FOR

Project: OZCF Place of Worship

Date of Issuance: February 3, 2014

1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville, Ontario



### **PWAC Sub-Committees**

- Finance and Accounting
- Construction and Engineering
- Planning and Gov't Affairs
- Architect
- Governance and Bylaws
- Communications/Public Relations/IT
- Fundraising
- 50 volunteers; committee related background; committee mandates; committees will engage at staged timelines as required.

### **Current Status**

- 1. Continue discussions with Town and consultants relating to planning and services installation
- 2. Engage sub-committees as and when required Finance and Governance/Bylaws working on plans.
- Master plan and land use Ongoing and long-term planning: Includes senior's home; commercial/retail; professional offices; large banquet hall; children's classrooms; library/museum. Complete.
- 4. Internal site plan confirmed to meet all religious requirements.
- 5. Heritage study if demolition required
- 6. Obtain pricing from cost consultant. Complete engineering analysis
- 7. Report to board and community on financial plan and status at the Next AGM and get final approval to move forward



### **Fund Raising Strategies to consider**

- Develop a professional formal presentation targeted to personal donors
- Committee members and volunteers to meet personally with global Zoroastrian Philanthropists.
- Approach members of the North American Zoroastrian community with special emphasis on Greater Toronto Area (GTA) residents, to commit to one time donation or funding over 3 years, e.g. monthly donation commitment.
- POW Gala in all Canadian/American cities simultaneously where we have associations, tied in electronically on the screen.
- FEZANA could leverage from their contacts to raise funds as a mutual objective to establish a consecrated POW with consecrated Adaran Fire in GTA.
- There is some potential for government funding. e.g. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, The Cultural Strategic Investment Fund. Restructured for 2013, Heritage Organization Development Grant Program.
- Rentals from commercial professional buildings on-site e.g. Hongkong model

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CUSTOMS**

#### WELCOME TO OUR ZOROASTRIAN PLACE OF WORSHIP

Thank you for visiting this Zoroastrian Place of Worship. This is a house of God, a place to feel God's presence, to experience spiritual peace, worship and join a community in prayer. It is expected that conduct in this Place of Worship is appropriately respectful. It is customary that when we attend such Places of Worship we respect certain customs, practices and policies. Anyone is allowed to enter this Place of Worship subject to following these:

#### CUSTOMS, CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE regarding usage of this Place of Worship:

- 1. The inner sanctum sanctorum (Kebla) that holds the fire is restricted to ordained Zoroastrian priests only.
- 2. The area in which the inner liturgical ceremonies are conducted is restricted to ordained Zoroastrian Priests who have undergone the Bareshnum ceremony.
- 3. The Fire that is enthroned in a consecrated area will be attended to using formal rituals by ordained Zoroastrian priests.
- 4. The consecrated Place of Worship will be designed and used to ordain future Zoroastrian priests
- 5. The Place of Worship will serve as a nucleus to enhance the development and teaching of Persian and Zoroastrian history to children, youth and adults and act as a repository of information for use by Zoroastrians and non-Zoroastrians.
- 6. It is expected for Zoroastrian and non-Zoroastrian men and women to cover their heads when entering the Place of Worship.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CUSTOMS**

#### CUSTOMS, CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE regarding usage of this Place of Worship:

- 7. It is necessary that you take your shoes off before entering.
- 8. To maintain laws of ritual purity, it is a practice for people entering the Place of Worship to wash their hands and face with water.
- 9. In the interest of preserving the Sanctity of consecrated Places of Worship, women in their menstrual cycle must refrain from entering the building.
- 10. Please do not use your cellular phone in the prayer room.
- 11. Please remain silent and join in worship while the prayers are in progress.

Thank you for attending this Place of Worship. We hope you have a spiritually fulfilling experience.

### Place of Worship Advisory Committee Interim Report

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.

- Abraham Lincoln

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

- Robert F. Kennedy

### Place of Worship Advisory Committee Thank you Where There is a Will There is a Way





# Traditional Mazdayasni Zoroastrian Anjuman (TMZA)

**FEZANA AGM Presentation 2015** 



- Incorporated in Southern California in 1988
- Serving the religious needs of the community with jashans, muktad prayers and religious classes in people's homes.
- Supporting philanthropic causes.
- Supported entirely by voluntary donations.
- "Family" style events with youth pitching in to do set up and clear.

# **Our Respected Mobed Sahebs**



Ervad Hoshang Bhada and Ervad Jal Birdy



# Silloo Mehta addressing the members after the Mukhtad Prayers





# Refreshments







# Enjoying a game of bingo

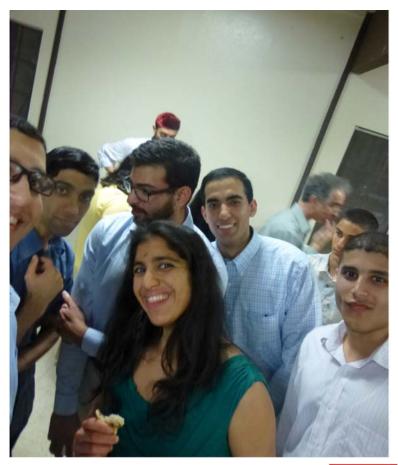






# Young members













# Treasurer at work!





# Jamva chaloji





# Enjoying delicious Parsi "bhonu", partly prepared by our volunteers







## Vote of thanks





# Socializing after dinner, outdoors and indoors





# Time up, let's clean up!





# ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



### **ANNUAL REPORT – 2014-15**

## ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA 1424 E. WALNUT AVE., ORANGE, CA



## Activities at ZAC-LA

**Weekly Humbandagi** every Sunday morning followed by yoga and community pot luck lunch. There are usually about 30-35 people there. This year ZAC is going to observe **ALL the Ghambhars** (we previously had 2) irrespective of the day of the week and whenever possible the Parabs which fall at weekends. This year that would be **5 Parabs** which will be observed with a jashan. Monthly religion classes for children and adults. The religion class for children, previously held at CZC and has been moved to the ZAC Center since January.

We have special mobedyar classes at ZAC conducted by our mobed Zarrir Bhandara. We had 4 Mobedyars and 2 Mobedyaris graduate last year. The Southern California community is so spread out that although we have 19 ordained mobeds it is not always possible for them to attend when the need arises.

### Social Activities at ZAC

#### Annual Walk-a-thon picnic in May

Every year in May we have an organized walk-a-thon and Dhansak picnic attended by the very old (90+) to the very young (1+) of our community. It started many years ago as a fundraiser for a ZAC Center. The community would actively seek out donors to sponsor the event and many members would volunteer to do the cooking. Dhansak, Kavab, Kachuber was a treat for everyone after they did their walking. Funds raised \$10,700 out of which \$3,200 was collected by 2 children getting donations from their own sponsors.





**The Ladies Club** meetings follow Humbandagi on some Sundays many more members (not all ladies). The Ladies Club meetings are usually held every two months.

Cooking demonstrations, health related lectures by Guest Speakers, Bake Sales, etc. are the topics on these occasions. We recently started to have our community doctors do one-on-one clinics and give advice on health related issues. The ZAC membership has several doctors and a few of them are specialists who we have been turning to for advice over the years.

Making Chapats: Demonstration by Dilnavaz Shroff with Dogdo Arjani, and their young assistants Zane and Zara Commissariat



#### ZAC Annual Sports Day and Fundraiser

Normally held in July, it is a day of fun with Table Tennis and Carom Tournaments for adults and children. The most fun is had by all during the rounders when everyone joins in. Food and baked goods are sold and the proceeds go towards our Center's Maintenance. We get a very high attendance for this event. Michelle Zhou, Women's Table Tennis Doubles Champion in China, who recently immigrated to USA, also gave an exhibition match and played against our own champion Rohinton Fatakia. Funds raised approx. \$2600.

#### Halloween 2014

We tried a different approach and decided to give the kids more of a "Treat" and no "Tricks". We had a Southern California style BBQ with the dads doing the honors at the GRILL. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads and Cup Cakes. Their biggest treat was the visit by Prof. Bubblemania, who kept kids and adults absorbed in an array of bubbles of different shapes and sizes. He taught them how to make a bubble and step inside and the magic of making the solution so the bubbles would not burst.

Activities in 2015

## Navroze Celebration at ZAC

Saturday, March 21, 2015





#### We hosted the North American Congress



The Hilton, Los Angeles, CA • December 29-31, 2014

We opened with a traditional Jashan to bless our event.

Our sessions covered a wide variety of topics and there was something of interest for everyone. There was a separate Teen Track and a Mini Congress for the little kids. There were many speakers from across North America and from abroad. We even had a Shahname exhibition.

The Entertainment theme was the Zoroastrian transition from Iran to India (Bollywood) and the US (Hollywood). The performers were local talent, semi professional and professional performers from all over the world.

We had the World Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra with almost 50% musicians being Zoroastrian. We had the vocal talent of Tina Siganporia, Meher Pavri, Ardavan Taraporewalla and young Neville Bharucha who is an exceptional pianist.

The pre and post congress events were a great hit with the Z youth who really enjoyed themselves and we hope made lasting friendships.

We thank the FEZANA Board, the various committee chairs and all the MemberAssociations for their support, guidance and participation in NAZC2014.

#### NAZC 2014 SESSIONS



Khushali nu Jashan



Nadir Godrej Keynote Address



Parisa Khosravi Keynote Address



Zoroastrianism 101



Young Mobeds

Navigating Zoroastrian Parenthood

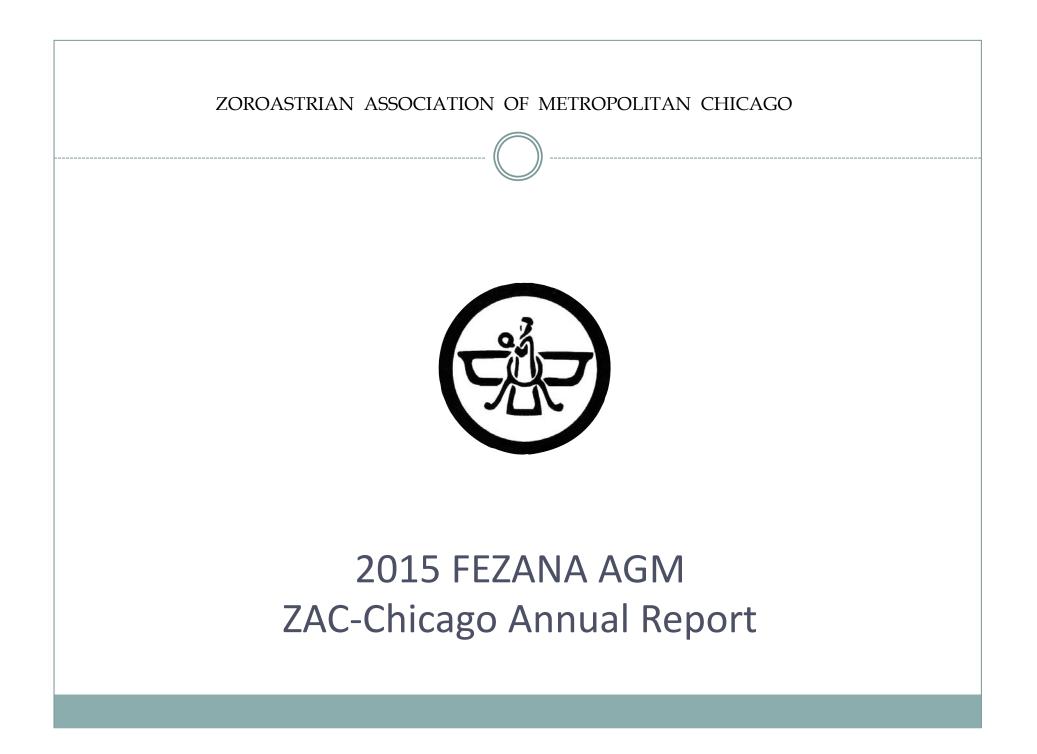




FEZANA SESSION

# COMING SOON ZAC ATASH KADEH





#### ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO



#### **Sampling of Community Activities**

2014Darbe Mehr is now open every weeknight with aMobed present

- May 2014 ZAC-Chicago Hosted the NAMC AGM
- May 2014 Mother's Day Brunch with Laughter Yoga Session
- June 2014 Annual Father's Day Picnic
- July 2014 Annual ZAC Youth Camp
- Sept 2014 SSZ Conference with guest Kersee Kabraji
- Nov 2014 NAMC Seminar and Dinner

#### ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO



Work Day for the Vegetable Garden



Annual Chicago Nowruz Parade



Annual ZAC Youth Camp



Nowruz Function - March





Sports and Games Day - Feb





#### **ZAGNY REPORT**

At The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of **FEZANA** 

May 02, 2015



















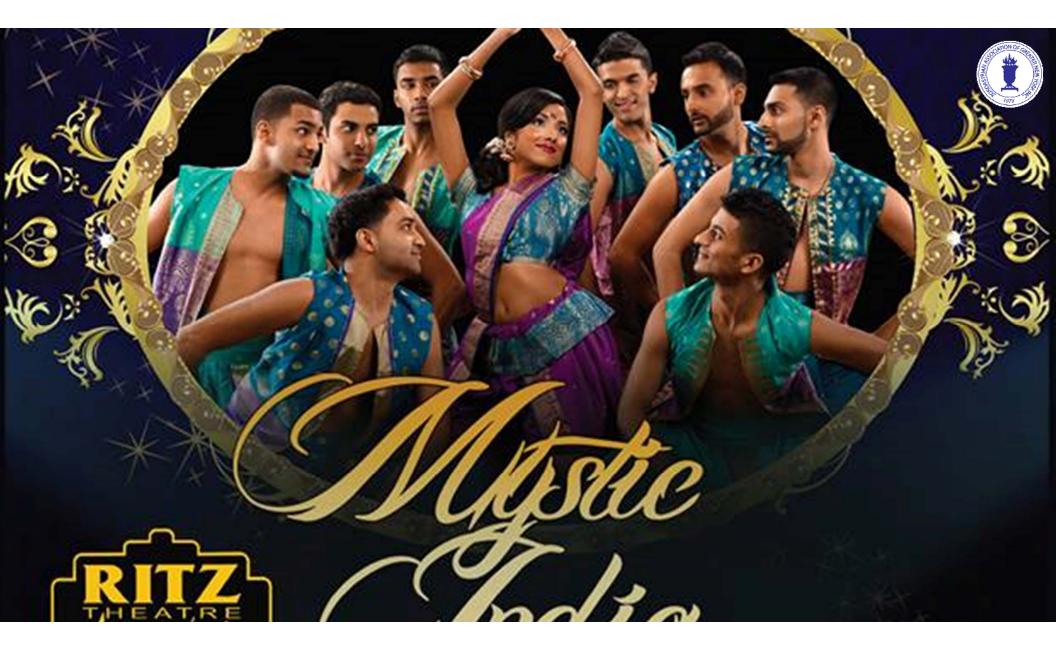








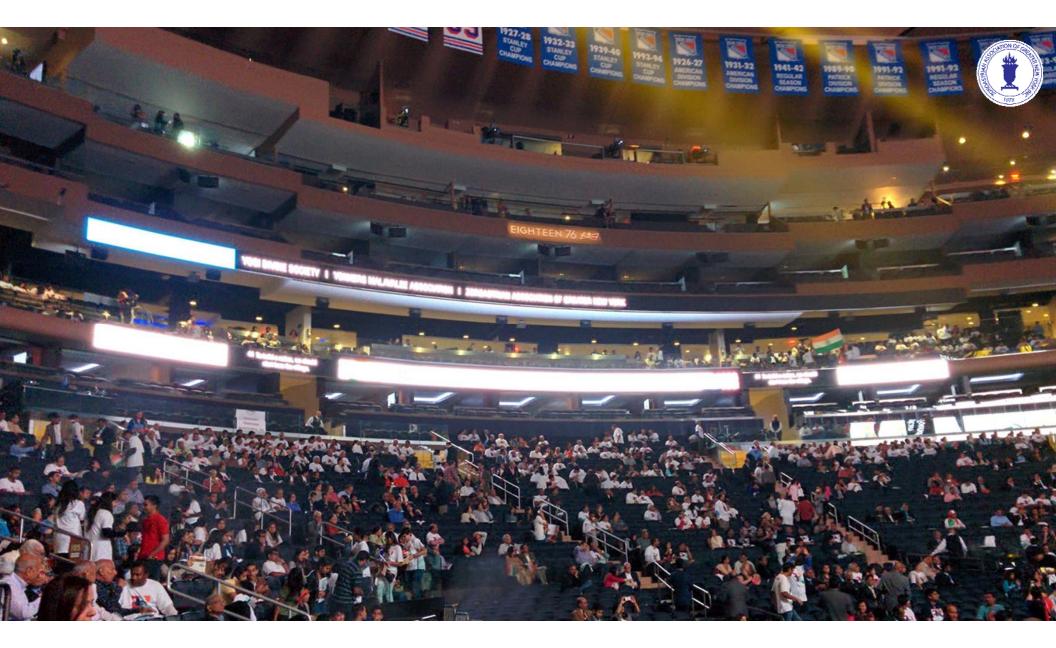




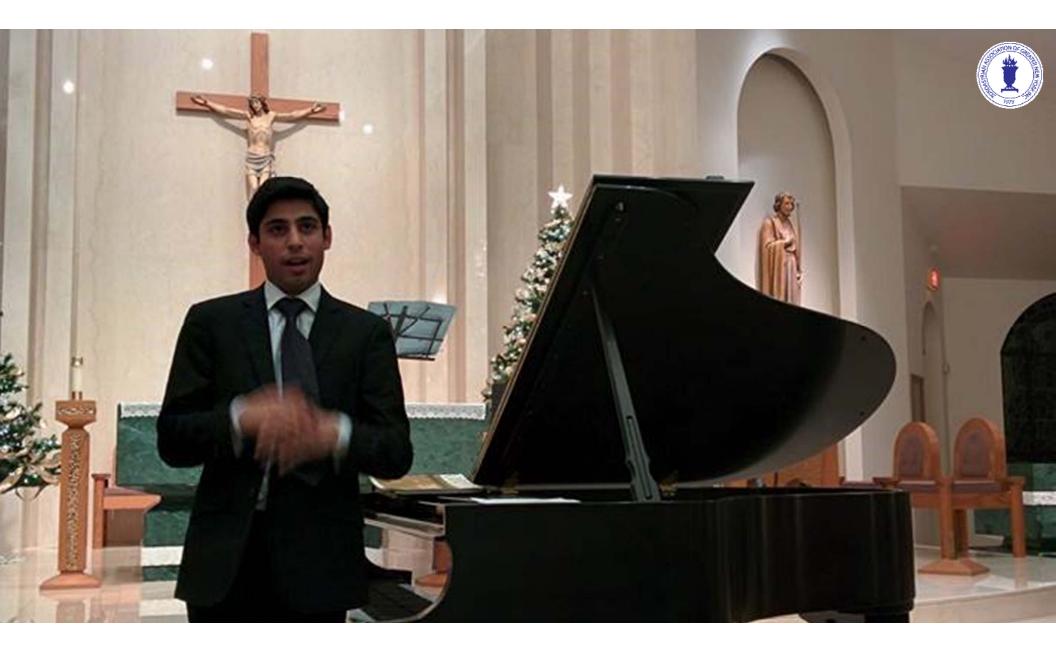


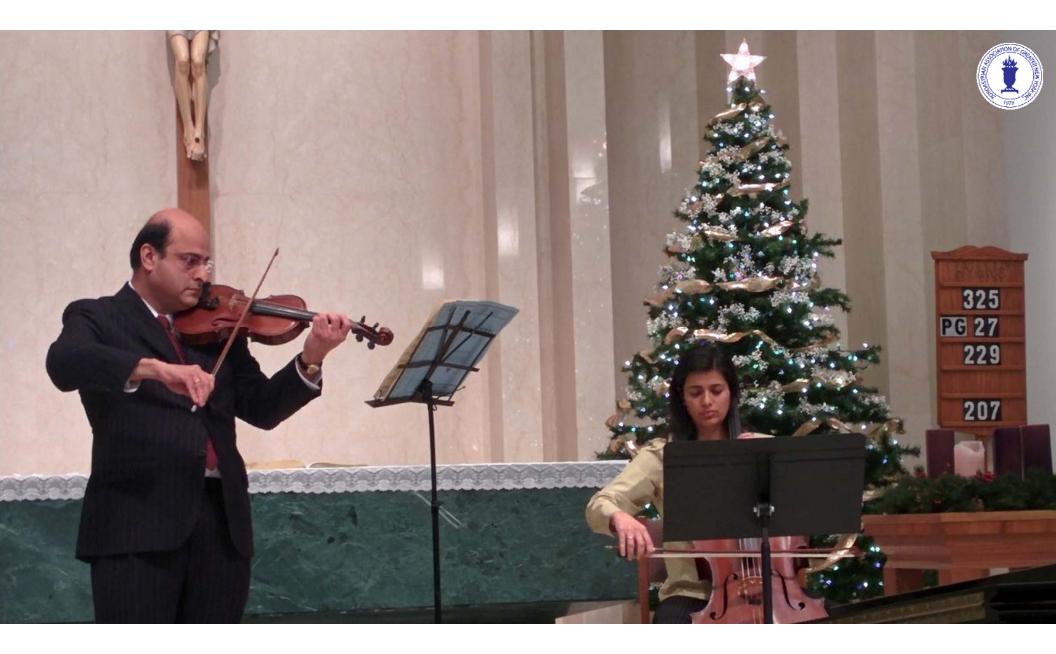




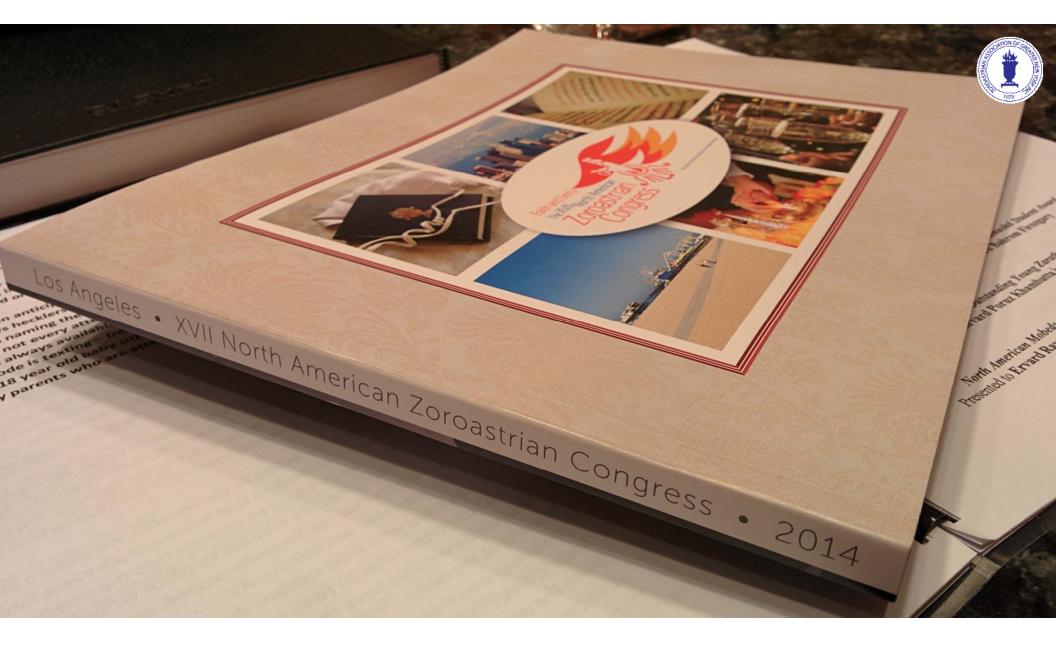




























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## ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

### FEZANA AGM 2015



## ZAH BY THE NUMBERS

- •425 + Adult Members
- •100 + Active Volunteers
- •17 Sub-Committees & Teams
- •1 Vibrant, Dynamic Community

## ANNUAL EVENTS

- Over 25 Annual Events:
  - Jashne Sadeh
  - Navroze Celebrations
  - 2 Ghambars
  - Mukhtad Prayers
  - Sunday School
  - Carnival....Good Food and lots of it <sup>(2)</sup>, with games for kids of all ages...
  - Dar Ni Pori Bake-a-thon
  - Z-Camp
  - Tirgan festival
  - Library Events
  - Sports Indoor & Outdoor
  - College Bound Seminar



# 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Did we do anything?



## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Participated in Rice University Oral History Project
- Kersee Kabraji : Gathic View of Zoroastrianism
- Library Gala Event featuring Sarah Stewart : Pictures at an exhibition—Voices of the people
- Qissa e Parsi Movie screening
- Celebrated our love for food at every opportunity.

## Z-CAMP 2014

- 78 Campers from Houston, Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, Cincinnati & Boston
- 4 teams, each team had kids ages 3 18 + 2 College Age Mentors
- Overnight camping at ZHCC for ages 10-18
- Friendly competition and learning new skills
- Sports, Dancing, Iron Chef, Improv theater, Treasure hunt, Arts and Craft, Web Design, Cyber Security, Trivia and sleepover.....

## JOIN US FOR Z-Camp 2015 June 26 – June 28



Zoro's Finest



The Ragin Super Sexy Kolmi No Patio

# THE TEAMS



The Wet Gotlas



Oh Really that's what your Mama told me last night

## THE BALLAD OF RUDY & ZAL YOUTH FUNDRAISER











# COMING SOON.... New & Improved ZHCC 3.0



## ATASH KADEH

- ZAH members Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara are donating entire construction cost
- Fully functional standalone Atash Kadeh
  - 120 + person Prayer Hall
  - 120 + person Mukhtad/Jashan Hall
  - Urvishgah
  - Navar Training facilities
  - Facilities for living whilst training for Navar and undergoing Navar ceremony.
- Design in process construction start 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2015
- Need to raise additional funds for Furnishings, Equipment, Operations and Maintenance

## ATASH KADEH



## ZHCC PHASE 3

- Purvez Shiavax Rustomji Room:
  - Theater style seating for 150+
  - Wired for Multi-media A/V and recording
  - Multi-purpose: may be used for religious, educational, entertainment or other use
  - May be rented out for events and parties
  - Proposal to FEZANA as an enhancement to FIRES
- Additional Classroom





#### Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California Z A N C

2014

### ZANC Annual Report 2014

An active year was planned for the community by the ZANC Board during 2014 with good participation.

- Pizza, Bingo and Ice skating evening in February
- Navroze on March 23rd with an Afghan dinner at the Berryessa Community Centre in San Jose. Our Annual Meeting was also held at this time.
- Picnic on July 13 held at the Foothill Park in Palo Alto
- Five days of Muktad prayers were held from August 13 to August 17. Parsi New Year was celebrated on August 24<sup>th</sup> with lunch at the Golden Peacock restaurant
- Annual ghambhar and jashan was held on Oct 4
- •Costume party and Bingo night on October 25

### ZANC Annual Report 2014

- Every third Sunday of the month, children's classes are held . There are 2 groups of various ages.
- •Potluck and socializing usually follows.
- The President and Secretary attended the annual FEZANA AGM in Seattle
- 60 ZANC members attended the 17<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress in Los Angeles in December .
- The congress was well organized and a lot of fun and gave everyone an opportunity to interact with other Zarathushtis from around the North American Continent, as well as meet up with old friends.
- For some of our first time attendees, it was an eye-opening experience, specially families with children & teens.

## • Memberships:

As at the end of 2014 and for FEZANA's count we have 580 adult paid up members. Our data base has 422 units (families & individuals) whose addresses and names we have on record; 51 are life members and 255 are paid-up members.

### ZANC Annual Report 2014

#### Dare-mehr:

Negotiations and discussions have been ongoing about the future of the Dare-mehr. We are able to hold only religious classes there and a few small gatherings. Community members can freely go there for individual worship.

A joint committee of PZO & ZANC members have met regularly the past year and came to the decision to consult with a specialized land use attorney's firm, to allay all questions and do due diligence.

A retainer was paid to the attorneys and their opinion was sought.

Members received a letter from ZANC & PZO with the opinion of the attorney. They felt it would not be cost effective to make any improvements or additions to the property while it was still red-tagged. Bringing up to code would require in excess of \$ 700,000.- ( a conservative estimated figure ) and it wasn't guaranteed that the proper use permit would be forthcoming from the County, even after such improvements, as the space was zoned Rural Residential and county codes have been strengthened since the early 1990's.



#### ZANC Annual Report 2014

#### Many Thanks

Each year, Er. Kobad Jamshed performs prayers for our dear departed during the 5 Muktad days as well as performing jashans for navroze and ghambar, sometimes assisted by other priests. We specially commend our youngest navar, Rustom Chhor for taking part in the ceremonies with Kobad. We thank our Sunday school teachers- Annahita Jasavala and Homai Kasad, as well as Delnavaz Dastur & the parents, for being there each month. To the 2014 Board members- Adil Engineer, Ehler Spliedt, Delnavaz Dastur, Meher Mistri, Khurshid Gandhi, Dianne Patel & Parizad Patel many thanks for their help and support. To our trustees- Bomi Patel, Zareer Bhathena, and Erach Tarapore, many thanks for their help and advice.

And to all of our Community, your participation, support and trust means a lot to us.

Nazneen Spliedt,

President



# Photos taken during some of our community events during 2014





#### **ZANC PICNIC 2014** (Foothills Park, Palo Alto, CA)

zanc



#### **ZANC PICNIC 2014** (Foothills Park, Palo Alto, CA)



#### **ZANC PICNIC 2014** (Foothills Park, Palo Alto, CA)

zanc



DWIG







#### Volunteers - Ghambhar 2014

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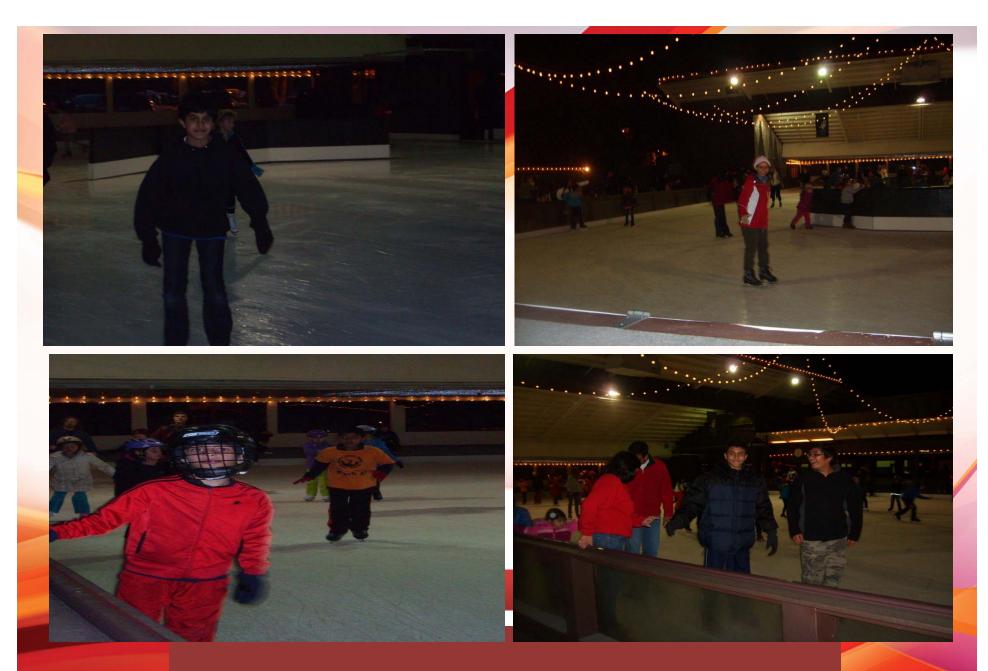


ZANC Fun Day and Sleepover

zanc



#### ZANC Fun Day and Sleepover



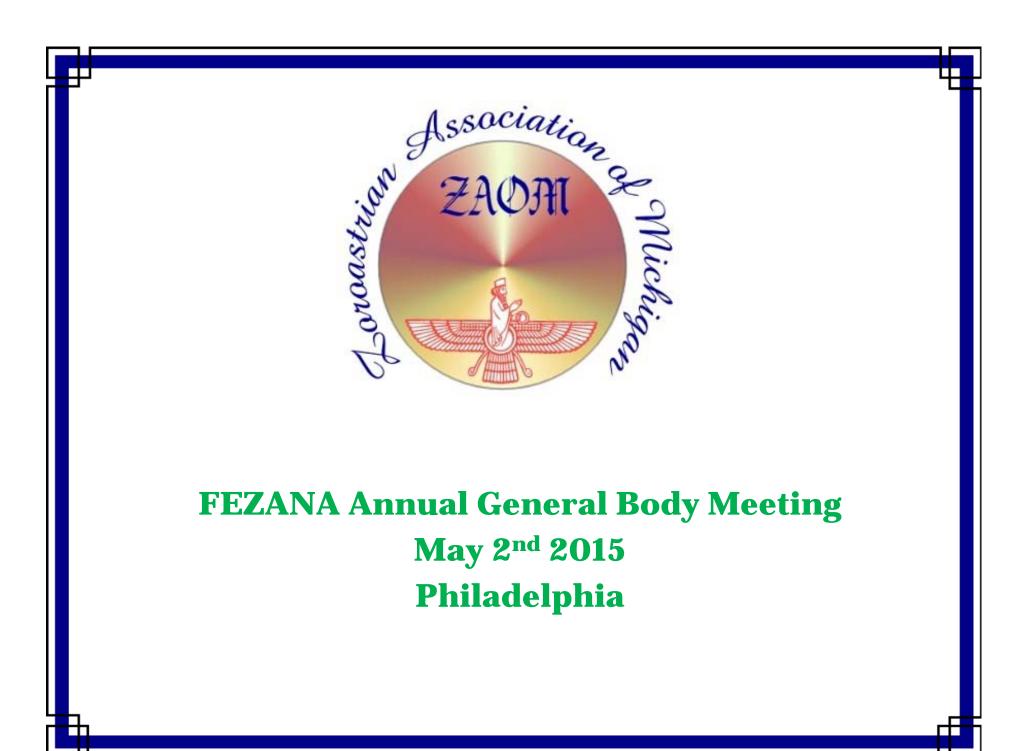
#### Ice Skating at Winter Lodge

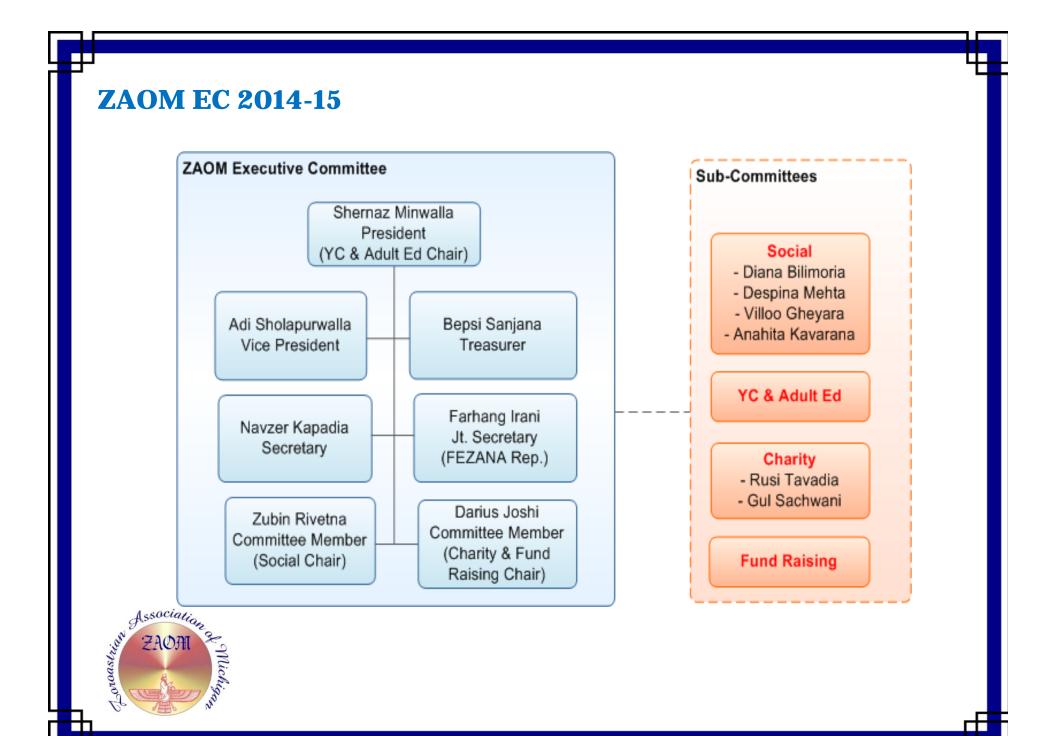


#### **Costume Party and Bingo Night**

## Thank You!







#### **Executive Committee at Work**

- Improved amenities at events
  - Event venues
  - Catering & service
- Seniors Club
  - Planned outings & events
- Sponsor members for Conferences & Congress
  - ZAOM being represented at FEZANA AGM – May 2015
- Field Trips
  - Darbe-Meher
- Adult Education
  - Inviting speakers and planning events

- Charity
  - Contributing to FEZANA
- Recognition of Students
  - > High school graduates
  - Graduate students meeting certain academic criteria (under consideration)
- Lease / Own a Facility
  - Explore opportunities and present to members
- Audio / Visual Equipment
  - Compatibility with storage facility retrieval system



### **Youth Connection**

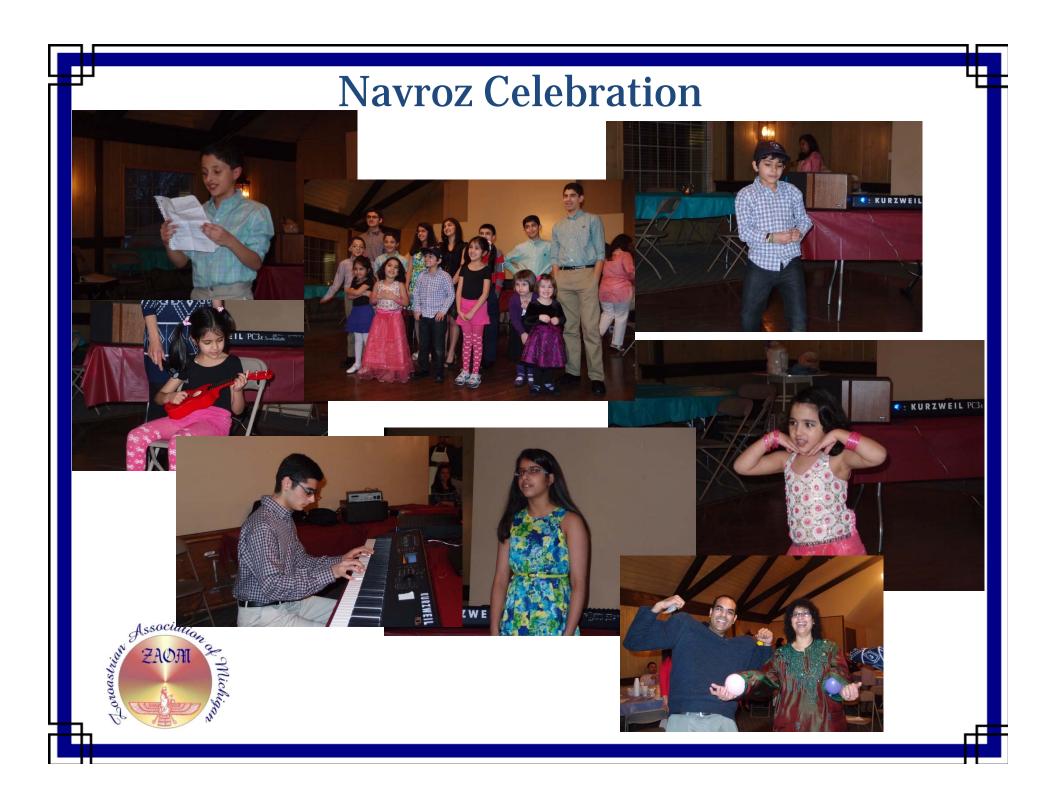












### Tiger's Game in July





### Ghambar in November



### ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY

0

ZAPANJ

• The ZAPANJ community would like to thank the FEZANA Executive and all the other Association members for giving us this opportunity to host the FEZANA AGM 2015.

#### ANNUAL ZAPANJ PICNIC JUNE 14, 2014

- We had a good turnout at the **Annual ZAPANJ** picnic at the Marsh Creek State Park in Pennsylvania.
- About 50 adults and children enjoyed an amazing array of snacks, gorgeous weather and lots of fun games and prizes.
- The afternoon BBQ'ed chai refreshed everyone and the delicious s'mores were enjoyed by the young and small!!





ZAPANJ

### HERSHEY PARK PICNIC JULY 20, 2014

- Our kids picnic to Hershey Park was a rollicking event where some of the ZAPANJ families enjoyed a fun day at the park on the various rides.
- Good food... Great company... Fun rides... and ice cream to end it all!!







ZAPANJ

### MUKTAD PRAYERS

AUGUST 15, 2014

- **Muktad prayers** were held for our dear departed at the residence of Shirin Jahanian & Ardeshir Kiamensh.
- Flowers, sandalwood and candles were offered at the ceremony.



#### ZAPANJ NAVROZ AUGUST 22, 2014

- The ZAPANJ Navroz function was held on August 22, 2014 at the Palace of Asia in New Jersey.
- Over 100 members came together to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of ZAPANJ, where games like Zarthosti Bingo was played, and music and delicious food was enjoyed by all.
- Some of the senior members of the community were then invited to cut the 35th anniversary cake and wish the ZAPANJ community many more years of togetherness!!
- Our members got a chance to take back photographic mementoes of the good memories of a lovely evening through the photo booth organized by ZAPANJ



ZAPANJ

### REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

- Our religion Classes started in September 2014 with the **Remembrance Day ceremony** with prayers for our dear departed souls.
- Mithra Sarkari and Yezad Nakra assisted the families who had brought in the photos of their dear departed ones and lit tea light candles and offered prayers.
- Gift cards were also handed out to several of our young members who had recently been initiated into the Zoroastrian faith.

### ANNUAL GHAMBAR

- The Annual ZAPANJ Ghambar took place on September 28, 2014 at the Palace of Asia, in the presence of almost 100 members.
- The Jashan was conducted by Ervad Adi Unwalla, Ervad Noshir Karanjia, Ervad Cawas Desai & Ervad Minocher

Dadachanji.





ZAPANJ

### **GIVING THANKS**

- During the **November Prayer class**, Freny Ranji and Nergis Karanjia collected non - perishable thanksgivingtime food items like tins of cranberry jelly, stuffing etc for a food pantry in their area. They have been collecting these since the past 8 years and this year the ZAPANJ community joined them in their efforts to spread goodwill and cheer amongst the less fortunate, during this time of giving!!
- At our December prayer class, our members Rupina and PK Prabhakaran collected gently used warm winter apparel to donate towards a cause they have been involved in for years.

### TEACHER APPRECIATION NOVEMBER 2014

- We are grateful to our teachers, Anoo Sukhia, Freny Ranji, Marazban Sarkari, Cyrus Toorkey, Adi Unwalla, Cawas Desai and Noshir Karanjia, who help us and our children learn about our culture and tradition.
- At the November religion class, these class teachers were felicitated by the children with gift cards as appreciation for all the efforts made by them to inculcate a love for the teachings of our religion and sense of community pride in our children.

### MARCH HAFT SEEN TABLE

- Our Haft seen Table was set up at the March Religion Class and was ably organized by Aban Kermani, one of our young members.
- She coordinated with the families of young children and asked them to bring in items for the table and then got the older kids involved by having them explain the significance of each item on the table to all the members who were present.

#### M&RCH H&FT SEEN T&BLE





### MEMBER GUEST SPEAKERS

At the November religion class, we had a short presentation on human trafficking and modern-day slavery by Ava Lala and Carol Metzker. Subsequently Ava Lala collected over \$1,000 from the members and ZAPANJ contributed an additional \$500 towards this worthy cause.

- In December Zarnosh Maneckshaw from Maneck Law, P.C held an informative session on how his services could benefit the Zoroastrian community in general and ZAPANJ members in particular. This was followed by a Q&A /discussion.
- At the recent March religion class, we had a presentation by Rustom Bhote, who had suggested a Z Revival Committee under FEZANA which would research ideas to inculcate the concepts and wisdom of Zarathustra in our digitally influenced youth.

### ZAPANJ NAVROZ MARCH 21, 2015

- The ZAPANJ Navroz function was held on March 21, 2015 and was attended by over 120 people.
- After the ZAPANJ AGM, and the new board election, all the children participated in fun games and won several gift-cards.
- Later the adults converged on the dance floor to shake a leg to foot-tapping music.











ZAPANJ

### **ZAPANJ AGM & NEW BOARD** 2015-2017

- After the ZAPANJ AGM at the Navroz function, a new board was elected as follows
  - President Havovi Jokhi
  - Vice-President Marazban Sarkari
  - Treasurer Meenaish Damania
  - Secretary Tanaz Daruwalla
  - Jt. Secretary Dinaz Italia
- The new board thanks the outgoing board members and looks forward to their continued support and guidance.

- Lastly, we would like to thank FEZANA for all their efforts to bring our Zoroastrian community together.
- We would also like to wish all the other member Association the very best in all their activities and endeavors!!

# Atha Zamyad...Yatha Afrinami

(May it be so as I pray)



### ANNUAL REPORT 2015 FEZANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**PHILADELPHIA MAY 2015** 

## **ZAQ executive committee**



President: Dr. Dolly Dastoor



Vice President: Vida Fereydoonzad



Secretary: Firooza Aubry



**Co-Secretary:** Zabrina Kadkhodayan



**Treasurer:** Rohinton Marolia



Board Member: Aazeen Irani



Board Member: Zareen Austin



Board Member: Abtin Jahanbakhshzadeh



**Board Member:** Dr Faranak Firoozi



Board Member: Moobed [Ervad] Jal M. Pantthaki

Elections for new committee members: May 2015!

# Sports – Z-games LA 2014



# Sports – Z-games LA 2014



## Sports – badminton & basketball



Basketball and Badminton are offered on alternate Saturdays at a community gym. The participation is very encouraging.

# Ghambar – August 2014



We presented the kids with certificates marking their great accomplishment having attended Zarathushti classes throughout the year. We also provided a token of congratulations to our ZAQ basketball team returning from the Z-Games in Los Angeles.

# Nowruz – March 2015







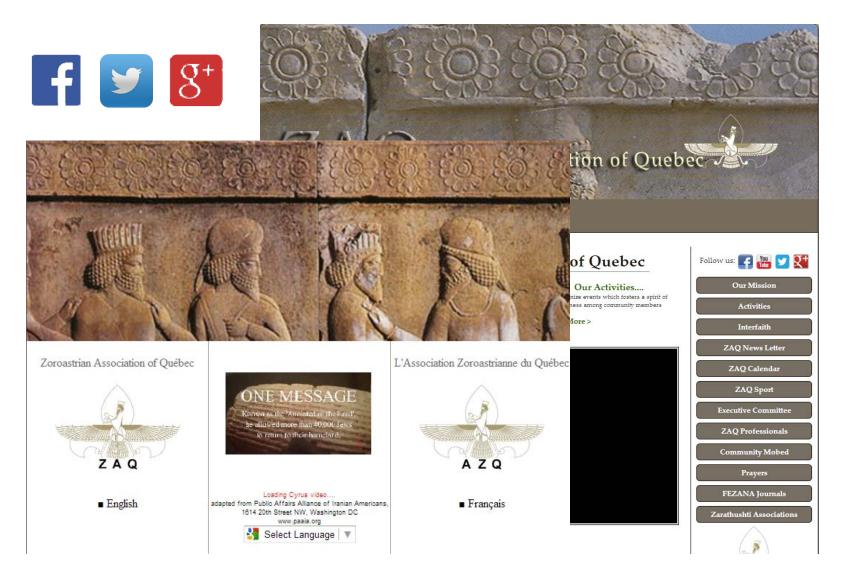
## **Other celebrations and activities**



### We also celebrate

- Yalda
- Tirgan and annual picnic
- Mehergan
- Sadeh

# www.zaq.org & social media



## **ZAQ newsletter**



contributions from the community.

# Recognition



On February 21st 2015, Sebastien and Jasmine Boucley, accompanied by their Quebec Squash team mates, left Montreal for participation in the Canada 2015 Winter Games in Prince George, BC. The Quebec **Boys Squash team which** Sebastien is part of, won the bronze medal and the Girls **Team including Jasmine took** the 7th position.

# **THANK YOU**



#### ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) held its last Annual General Meeting in July 2014. The ZSO is in its 45th year of activities, providing religious and socio-cultural activities and programs.

#### RELIGIOUS.

Representing a major emphasis on activities at ZSO which brings all Zoroastrians together are the religious ceremonies and traditions that we continue to follow. They are observed in both the Shahanshahi and Fasli calendars. Jashans for Norouz, Mehrgan and Sadeh, Parsi New Year represent full turnouts with standing room only events. Families come out in large numbers to our various Jashans, Ghambars, Parabs, birth and death anniversaries of our prophet Zarathushtra. The 5 days of Muktad/Panjeh are observed with huge turnouts by our members. We provide lunch and dinner to all that attend the ceremonies. Our volunteer Mobeds perform all religious ceremonies followed by interesting and thought provoking lectures. Most religious ceremonies are followed by lunch/dinner prepared by our team of volunteer chefs.

We continue to hold our popular and well attended Religious Education classes for our children in both English and Farsi.

Avesta and Gatha studies are held for adults in Farsi.

#### SOCIO CULTURAL EVENTS.

Our Seniors continue to remain vibrant and meet up at the Darbe Mehr (DM) every other Friday. Activities include lectures, cooking classes, yoga sessions, discussions on health issues, videos, bingo. In the summer outdoor activities are also planned, enjoyed and well attended.

Many of our activities and events are targeted to young children. Events are planned during winter and spring breaks, all organized and run by parent volunteers.

The Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanoun Committee of the ZSO together with the ZSO Entertainment sub committee held a joint Norouz celebration on March 21st with the event sold out and enjoyed by all.

On Norouz the morning Jashan performed by 9 volunteer Mobeds with a full house and spill over to adjourning rooms was followed by a delicious Parsi lunch. In the evening celebrations continued at a Banquet hall.

#### EDUCATION.

Last year, ZSO awarded its very first education scholarship award for students towards their first year at university or community college. There are plans to expand the scholarship program for our students.

Avestan and Middle-Iranian language course, co sponsored by ZSO, OZCF and FEZANA is in its second year at the University of Toronto. It is a 12 week course and individuals over 65 who are not students at the university can attend the classes for free.

#### REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS.

The ZSO has recently completed a major renovation initiative. The kitchen was relocated into a larger area, and washrooms were expanded and fully renovated. The ZSO now has a fully functional non residential kitchen. Most meals provided at Jashans, Ghambhars, Muktad are all prepared at the DM. The total cost was fully funded by donations. Earlier in the year, 2 additional washrooms for use by volunteers, Mobeds were also gutted and renovated.

#### SCOUTS.

Our Scouts program continues to remain a very popular program well attended by our children. Related activities for our Cubs, Scouts and Venturers are organized throughout the year some in collaboration with our OZCF Scouts group.

#### OTHER.

During the year, the Board of the ZSO invited the full Board of the OZCF for a working dinner and to explore ways and means where we could work together for the benefit of all our members. More similar meetings are planned.

During the past year, ZSO initiated and completed a fully computerized system to maintain its date base of members, upgraded its website. Announcements by ZSO for members are initiated simultaneously via email, voice mail and sms/text. We are also on Facebook.



# Zoroastrian Society of WA State (ZSWS)

May 2015

### Notable Events in last 12 months

- Community has come together since FEZANA 2014.
  - United Association with joint members on the board & trustees.
  - Unified calendar of events.
- Z-School in English and in Farsi for children 4-12.
- Community is slowly starting to come together.



## Religious Functions

### Khushali nu Jashan





Sadeh

Nowruz





Yalda



### Our Growing Community

- Seattle is the fastest growing Community (by percent) in North America
- ~15% of families have had or are expecting a baby in 2015.





### Halloween parties for kids and adults



### Celebrations for Nowruz 2015



### Summary Slide

- Jamshid Pouresbandary is training to be a mobedyar with Ervad Soli Dastur
- Z Talent show, May 16 showcasing our young talent
- August 8, at the Iranian Cultural Festival held each year in Seattle; this year featuring "Shahnameh"; Silloo Mehta's exhibit to be displayed at the event
- WA state would like to host the Z Olympics
- WA state Z's are showing outstanding support to the Hathiram family from Mumbai, India; Behzad, 10 years old is undergoing treatment for a rare genetic blood disorder at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

## THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

6900 Halifax Street Burnaby, BC V3B 2R5 604-420-3500 www.ZsbC.org

13144







## NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS COSTUME PARTY



# Porseh for all departed within last year





# **Nourooz 3753**





### **THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**