

December 2014

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Volume 40, Number 19

Events for the months ahead...



Sunday, December 7	12:30pm	Scouts
Sunday, December 7	2:45pm	Religion Class
Saturday, December 20	10:00am	Scouts Christmas Party
Sunday, December 21	7:00pm	Yalda*
Friday, December 26	6:30pm	Zarhosht-No-Diso (F)
Sunday, January 4	11:00am	Midyaremghah Gahambar (F)**
Sunday, January 18	10:30am	New Year Khushali Jashan
Saturday, January 24	7:00pm	Jashn-E-Sadeh (F)

*This event will be held at the Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Avenue.

**Due to Darbe Mehr renovations, this event will be held at the OZCF location.

Note: All events will be held at Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr unless otherwise specified. ZSO, as publisher, is not responsible for content and support of any flyers not issued by them.

Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr Hours

Monday	4:30pm to 8:30pm
Tuesday	9:00am to 12:00pm; 4:30pm to 8:30pm
Wednesday	9:00am to 12:00pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday, Saturday, Sunday	9:00am to 12:00pm; 4:30pm to 8:30pm

MEHRABAN GUIV DARBE MEHR

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Address: 3590 Bayview Avenue
North York, Ontario M2M 3S6

www.zso.org

Executive Committee Corner

As we conclude an eventful year at the ZSO, we look forward to the new year ahead with great hope, promise, and expectations. The major kitchen and washroom renovation project is well under way, and we are on track to have the work completed by the end of February 2015. Details on project implementation and challenges that we have encountered and unforeseen expenditures are detailed further in this newsletter.

Due to the construction at the Darbe Mehr, several events have been modified and/or relocated as deemed necessary. Our religious education classes and Scouts program continue to be held at the Darbe Mehr. Jashans and other religious events both continue to be held in the main prayer room.

After completion of the renovation project, your EC will focus its attention on and address the need to upgrade the basic infrastructure at the DM, which suffered for years due to deferred maintenance, organize events that encourage increased participation from our youth, increase membership, hold fundraising events, etc.



Although significant challenges lie ahead, your EC is confident that we will generate and reflect the same spirit of enthusiasm and energy in the new year. As we have said in the past, your EC has always persevered and, indeed, risen to the occasion when faced with challenges, reaffirming for us the amazing resiliency and commitment of our community.

All of us at the EC extend our best wishes to you and your loved ones at this time of the year. Enjoy your holidays and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Renovation Project Progress

Work on the major kitchen and washroom project is well under way. Most of the demolition work has been completed in the old and new kitchen areas and the basement washrooms. The main west doors have been removed to make room for expanded 2-set sensor-activated glass sliding doors. Openings, wall removals, and installation of new steel beams and lintels are all in place. The rooftop heating unit to service the new kitchen and adjoining hall extension is also in place.

Over the past several years our Darbe Mehr has suffered adversely from delayed routine, annual maintenance, and replacement in part due to the proposed but unfortunately cancelled rebuild project. For instance, in the basement washroom areas, in order to minimize total costs, the renovation approved by the then EC called to retain existing walls and basic infrastructure. However, as demolition progressed, a significant amount of mould was discovered with rotting steel studs, brought about by decades of flooding in the basement, poor ventilation, and absence of maintenance. In addition, the exterior walls of the washroom on the north and west sides were soaking with ground water. This water was finding its way under the tiles, further spreading mould. The EC has approved additional costs and work to remedy the mould problem and many more deficiencies in order to bring the renovation areas up to the minimum requirements of the Ontario Building Code. In the basement washroom areas, we have completed the remediation work for mould removal, all drywall removal, and rusted steel stud removal. In addition, we have installed a proper drainage system complete with weeping tiles, Delta membrane, etc. along the perimeter of the inside walls for ground water to be collected and directed into a sump for automatic pumping outside. New mould-resistant drywall will be installed. We are also replacing the two existing basement windows and will leave them open for ventilation purposes.

As part of the renovation project work, the electrical wiring will be upgraded in the renovation areas. The wiring in all renovation areas are of the old knob and tube technology. The original renovation contract did not provide for removal of the old wiring, but rather for a hook up to the existing wiring. However, the City of Toronto has required us to upgrade all wiring to the extent possible to existing building code requirements. We are in the process of addressing these issues. Similar issues have arisen in the old and new kitchen areas that are being addressed. Inadequate wall insulation on the main floor will also be addressed.

It is incumbent upon us to upgrade the building now, while all areas are open and exposed, as this will reduce the ultimate costs of the required renovation work. Delaying these upgrades and the removal of mould is not an option, considering the health and well-being of ZSO members. Additionally, if wiring, plumbing, insulation, and mould removal was not addressed and rectified, the new improvements would deteriorate sooner. In this regard, the fire alarm system is also being upgraded for the entire building. A new dual heating and air conditioning unit will be installed on the roof of the main hall.

While the total cost of the kitchen renovation project has not changed significantly, the additional costs described above are required to upgrade the building and bring it to current building code requirements. These additional costs will be funded out of provisions made for repairs and maintenance over the past several years. At this time, we are unable to mention the costs of the improvements, as work is still under progress. We will keep the membership informed through the monthly newsletter on an ongoing basis.

Tender Process for the Renovation Project

We note that vicious, unsubstantiated, and incorrect rumours and allegations continue to circulate within the community and beyond regarding the award of the renovations contract. The Executive Committee refutes each one of these unsubstantiated allegations. In response to questions being raised, we set out below the salient facts addressing the misconceptions that have been brought to the EC's attention:

1. As part of the tender process, the EC retained an independent third party Architect to assist in the preparation of the renovations contract and bid process.
2. The EC followed all the steps that were required by the Architect and otherwise at law.
3. All contractors interested in submitting bids in response to the tender received the same information package from the Architect with all the required drawings, specifications, and instructions.
4. The Architect conducted all the necessary communications.
5. The scope of work for the second tender did not "increase by \$70,000" as has been incorrectly propagated by certain individuals. Rather, it was reduced for the second tender.
6. All contractors submitted references prior to or with their tender except for A&Z, despite request.
7. When arriving at the decision to award the contract to the renovation contractor, the EC relied on the Architect's recommendation.
8. The ZSO always has encouraged and, where appropriate, used the services of our local community members. However, in the current circumstances, the EC followed the terms of the tender and the Architect's recommendation. If the EC awarded the contract to A&Z on a basis other than what was set out in the tender (i.e., one of the members of A&Z was a community member), the EC may have attracted liability. In addition, we note that A&Z is made up of a community member and a construction company from British Columbia. The particulars of this arrangement were not disclosed in the A&Z bid, nor was the BC company invited. Please be advised that as a result of the issues and allegations raised by A&Z, including the receipt of a letter from a law firm in Vancouver representing A&Z, the ZSO has been forced to retain legal counsel, exposing the Society to legal fees.

We remind everyone that all your EC members are volunteers and the majority have full time jobs over and above their duties on the EC. The malicious emails that are being circulated containing unsubstantiated allegations need to stop. These emails with unsubstantiated allegations and verbal comments that are being made are slanderous, libelous, and abusive. We will not divert our attention or respond to any such emails, particularly ones emanating directly or indirectly from an individual who has singlehandedly been harmful to the community on a number of fronts over the years.

The members of the EC have a mandate to fulfill, as directed by the membership, and we will continue to concentrate on the road ahead with the best interests of the community in mind.

Driveway

The pot holes, uneven surfaces, and breakages on the driveway leading to Bayview Avenue have been fixed. As well, a significant load of stones has been spread along the edges on both the north and south sides, making it easier to drive and park.

SMS Service from ZSO

We are pleased to announce that non-members can now subscribe to receive SMS messages from the ZSO. Those who wish to receive SMS alerts, please send a message to (647) 963-4586 with the word "Subscribe" or "Add" in the body of the message. To stop receiving messages, please send a message to the same number with the word "Unsubscribe" or "Remove" and your number will be removed from the system.

NOTE: This service is currently open to any Canadian mobile number. Standard messaging rates apply for sending or receiving SMS messages on your mobile phone. ZSO is not responsible for any additional charges incurred on your phone bill for sending or receiving these messages.

Request for Donations for Street Kids in Mumbai

Having just completed her degree in Social Sciences, Tanya Bharda will be pursuing a 1-year internship with Sujaya Foundation, a non-governmental organization in Mumbai. The foundation provides education to the under-privileged by incorporating the best pedagogical practices at an elementary as well as advanced level. The foundation attempts to bridge the gap between education and employment for its students.

In the past, with the help of the ZSO community, Tanya has donated school supplies, text books, healthy meals, and raincoats for street kids in Mumbai. She is once again seeking our support and donations to make a difference in children's lives. Donations can be made in cash or by cheque to *Tanya Bharda*.

December 2014

FEZANA North American Zarathushti Community Award

Our heartiest congratulations to Sam Vesuna, recipient of the Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award. Sam is a valuable member of our community, and we appreciate his continuing support and volunteerism.

ZSO Logo Contest

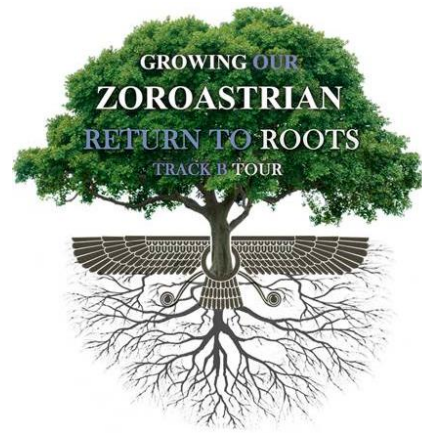
The logo design competition has been extended till February 20, 2015. We will inaugurate it during the Nouruz Jashan to celebrate the beginning of spring and bring in the New Year. We will keep you updated with the latest information as the deadline date approaches. We look forward to more ideas and designs from all. The winner of this competition will receive a monetary prize and a formal Letter of Approval and Recognition.

Toronto Hydro's Home Assistance Program

Toronto Hydro's Home Assistance Program (HAP) aims to help low/fixed income local residents make their homes more energy efficient, resulting in both electricity and cost savings. HAP provides free energy upgrades in residents' homes. For information and eligibility criteria, visit www.torontohydro.com/homeassistance.

ZSO Library

The ZSO library (in the room next to the prayer room) has been reorganized and catalogued by our volunteer librarian. Books, including children's books, are available for checkout. For more information, contact library@zso.org.



Zoroastrian Return to Roots

Zoroastrian Return to Roots (RTR) is a youth-led initiative that aims to reconnect Zoroastrian youth in the diaspora with their Indian and Iranian origins. Applications for the next RTR trip in March 2015 are now open. Roots Fellows will visit historic and cultural Zoroastrian sites in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, and Gujarat with world-renowned experts and local guides explaining the cultural, religious and economic significance of the sites being visited.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Zoroastrianism, a sense of community and identity, an expanded network of motivated and like-minded Zoroastrians, and a desire to contribute and give back to our community. This program is an essential step to maintaining our Zoroastrian values, ideas, and traditions for future generations.

The Roots program has been generously sponsored by donors from our global community. If you are interested in supporting us or in becoming a Fellow on the next trip, please visit www.zororoots.org, or contact Diana Vania, 2013 Roots Fellow, at dianakvania@gmail.com for more information.

Sandalwood

ZSO supplies of sandalwood (sukhar) sticks are at a precariously low level. We need to maintain an adequate supply on hand to meet our ongoing needs. We earnestly request our fellow Zarthushtis travelling to India to be kind enough to bring back whatever they can. Every bit will help. ZSO will gladly reimburse costs if desired.

Condolences: Aloo Furdoon Wadia, wife of late Furdoon Nadirshaw Wadia, mother of Kanizehn Vistasp Patel and late Benaifer, grandmother of Pinaz and Delna, passed away on November 25, 2014. *Our condolences to the bereaved family.*

Seniors Friendly Visitor and Drive Program

The ZSO Helping Hands Committee and the OZCF Seniors Committee are partnering together to help our seniors. The Helping Hands Committee is actively looking for new volunteers and drivers. As our community ages, we have a growing need to help support seniors to live independently in the community. Some of our community members are isolated and without family to help them. Volunteers are needed to help drive seniors to appointments and programs and to visit seniors who would benefit from some extra company. If you would like to volunteer, or if you are a senior or know of someone who would benefit from a visitor or extra assistance with drives in the GTA area, please email zenobia_homavazir@hotmail.com or call (416) 833-8769 for more information. We are also looking to offer a “buddy system” during winter months. If someone you know who lives alone could benefit from a daily phone call to check on them, please let us know.

Festival of Lights Service

The 17th annual Festival of Lights Services will take place on Sunday, December 7th at 1:30pm at Luc Sculpture, 663 Greenwood Avenue in Toronto. Representatives from Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Devine Feminine, Indigenous, Hindu, Jewish, Islam, Sufi, and Zoroastrian traditions will share their faith, passion, and creativity in sacred words, poetry, chants, songs, and music. Ervad Jehan Bagli has been invited to speak as a representative of our community. All are welcome.

Operation Eyesight at the Congress

Operation Eyesight works with organizations from around the world to provide reliable eye care to all people, especially those threatened by blindness and low vision, with clinics in many locations, including India. The North American Zoroastrian Congress will collect used eyeglasses to send to people in need. If you would like to donate your used prescription eyeglasses, there are drop boxes at the Darbe Mehr and OZCF location. Please drop off your glasses by December 22 to ensure their inclusion at the Congress.

FEZANA Information Research Education Systems (FIRES)

FIRES’ mission is to establish and provide global access to a centralized collection of materials in print and electronic form, (books, magazines, and online resources) primarily pertaining to the Zarathushti faith, culture, and history. Over the last 5 years, the FIRES Committee has been working to put together an impressive collection of materials, and we now have our own website and online catalogue at www.fires-fezana.org. A flyer with more information is also posted on the ZSO website.

100 Toronto – First Zoroastrian Scout Group

100 Toronto – First Zoroastrian Scout Group continued to be busy with Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts participating in a variety of activities. With major renovations looming at the Darbe Mehr, there was more outdoor activity, including long treks at the Garnier Park ravines. The focus of the Group's Silver Anniversary Committee has been on the two remaining celebratory events. Because of the renovations at the Darbe Mehr, we will miss our annual fundraiser – our Valentine Dance. However, this is being replaced by another fundraiser – a fantastic and delicious lagan patraa nu bhonu to be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Darbe Mehr. Stay tuned for further announcements for this mouth-watering Bhonu with exciting raffle prizes. We will host 100 Oakville at our Joint Link Camp at the Darbe Mehr on April 24-26, 2015. Our Scout Group takes this opportunity to wish all a very happy holiday season.

Halloween Party

The Halloween party at the Darbe Mehr, organized by Kanoun and the Entertainment Committee of the ZSO, was a great turnout of families of all ages. The night was enjoyed with a costume contest of which prizes were given to the top 5 Best Dressed. The evening was filled with fun, eating, and dancing to music from a great DJ, and brought the Zoroastrian community together.



Zoroastrian Calendar Observances

Deygan Celebrations: As you may know, in addition to our Gahanbars and other religious festivities, Zoroastrians have the occasion to celebrate every month when the name of the day coincides with the name of the month. In the month of "Dey" (December/January), we have the occasion of "Jashne Deygan" (December 23). In accordance with the Zoroastrian Fasli calendar, the month of "Dey" has three days that contain the name of the month: "Dey be Azar" (December 23), "Dey be Mehr" (December 30), and "Dey be Din" (January 7, 2015). In ancient times, all three days would be celebrated separately, under the banner of "Deygan" celebrations. Today, we tend to amalgamate the "Deygan" celebrations around the cultural festivities of Yalda (the longest night of the year) when we get together with family and friends, recite poetry, and enjoy fruits and nuts. Kanoun has organized a Yalda Night on December 20 at the Thornhill Community Centre at 6:30 pm. There will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of fruits and chasni.

Midyaremgah Gahanbar: The Midyaremgah Gahanbar, in accordance with the Fasli calendar, will be held on January 4, 2015 at the OZCF premises, due to our renovations. As capacity is limited (100), it is requested that participants give their names to Ervad Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461.

Zarathustra's Death Anniversary: In honour of our prophet Zarathustra, the great thinker and philosopher so ahead of his times, we will be holding a prayer ceremony on December 26 at 6:30pm, within the Atashgah room only. Let us remember a verse from his songs, the Gathas: "I pray to Thee, O Mazda with uplifted hands and to Thy Holy Spirit, first of all and hope that through truth and righteousness I would enjoy the light of wisdom and clean conscience, thus bringing solace to the Soul of (Mother Earth) Creation." (Yasna 28, Verse 1) from the translation by Mobed Firouz Azargoshab.

ZSO Sub-Committees

Below is the revised list of ZSO Sub-Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and Executive Committee liaison.

Sub-Committee	Chair/Co-Chairs	EC Liaison
Children's Religion Class	Kermin Mehta, Khurshid Engineer	Khushru Chothia
Constitution	Dhun Bhaya	Bina Behboodi
Entertainment	Zubin Sethna, Zarine Dordi	Mitra Jam
Helping Hands	Zarine Dordi	Mitra Jam
House & Garden	Khushru Chothia	Percy Surti
Interfaith	Bahram Bahrami, Sam Vesuna	Dara Panthakee
Investments	Sam Vesuna	Zarir Shroff
Iranian Cultural Kanoun	Isedvastar Farhadi	Mitra Jam
IT/Communications	Mehbad Dastur, Meherwan Wadia	Fredoon Khory
Lectures	Dr. Jehan Bagli	Meherwan Wadia
Library	Diana Katgara	Percy Surti
Membership	Jamshed Jam	Fredoon Khory
Muktdad	Putli Mirza	Khushru Chothia
Newsletter	Diana Vania Natasha Bozorgi	Dara Panthakee
Religious	Hoshang Udvardia	Dara Panthakee
Renovations	Rashnavad Rashidi	Bina Behboodi
Scholarship	Daraius Bharucha	Bina Behboodi
Scouts	Rusi Unvala, Ferozshaw Ogra	Khushru Chothia
Seniors	Roshan Rabadi, Katy Panthakee	Percy Surti
Youth & Sports	Nima Azarkeyvan, Zubin Sethna	Atoosa Javanmardian

Please note that the deadline for receiving submissions for the ZSO newsletter is the 15th of each preceding month. Any materials received after this date will be published in the following newsletter.

Publisher: Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Associate Editors:

Diana Vania (dianakvania@gmail.com)

Natasha Bozorgi (nbozorgi@hotmail.com)

ZSO Darbe Mehr 2015 Calendar

Below is a listing of events that will be held at the Darbe Mehr during the 2015 calendar year. Please note that these are subject to change; dates will be advertised in the monthly newsletters closer to each event.

MONTH	DATE/TIME	EVENT
January	Sunday 4 th , 11:00am	Maidyarem Gahambar (F)
	Sunday 18 th , 10:30am	2015 New Year Khushali Jashan
	Saturday 24 th , 7:00pm	Jashn-E-Sadeh (F)
February	Friday 13 th , 7:00pm	Paitishahem Gahambar (S)
March	Sunday 15 th , 3:00-7:00pm	Bazaar-Noroozy (F)
	Sunday 15 th , 10:30am	Ayathrem Gahambar (S)
	Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th	Muktad (Panjeh) Days (F)
	Tuesday 17 th , 5:00pm	Hamaspathmaidian Gahambar (F)
	Saturday 21 st , 7:00pm	Norouz (F)
	Thursday 26 th , 7:00pm	Khordad Sal (Zayesh-E-Zarthosht) (F)
April	Wednesday 8 th , 7:00pm	Fravardegan (F)
	Thursday 23 rd , 7:00pm	Adargan (Atash-Nu-Parabh) (S)
May	Sunday 3 rd , 11:00am	Maidyozarem Gahambar (F)
	Monday 25 th , 7:00pm	Zarthosht-No-Diso (S)
	Sunday 31 st , 10:30am	Maidyarem Gahambar (S)
June	Friday 5 th , 7:00pm	Homaji-Ni-Baj (S)
	Tuesday 16 th , 7:00pm	Meherban Guiv Death Anniversary
July	Wednesday 1 st , 11:00am	Tirgan (F)
	Wednesday 1 st , 11:00am	Maidyoshem Gahambar (F)
August	Thursday 13 th to Monday 17 th	Muktad Days (S)
	Saturday 15 th , 2:00pm	Hamaspathmaidian Gahambar (S)
	Tuesday 18 th , 6:30pm	Norouz (S)
	Sunday 23 rd , 10:30am	Khordad Sal (S)
September	Saturday 5 th , 10:30am	Fravardegan (S)
	Sunday 6 th , 10:30am	Dastoorji Kookadaroo Baj (S)
	Sunday 13 th , 11:00am	Paitishahem Gahambar (F)
	Sunday 27 th , 10:30am	Maidyozarem Gahambar (S)
October	Saturday 3 rd , 7:00pm	Mehergan (F)
	Wednesday 7 th , 7:00pm	Arbab Guiv Death Anniversary
	Sunday 11 th , 7:00pm	Ayathrem Gahambar (F)
November	Sunday 29 th , 10:30am	Maidyoshem Gahambar (S)
December	Saturday 19 st , 7:00pm onwards	Yalda
	Saturday 26 th , 6:00pm	Zarthosht Death Anniversary (F)

F = FASLI; S = SHAHENSHAI-1383/1384YZ

Note:

- For all Shahenshai Gahambars, including Homaji and Kookadaroo Baj, the primary contact is Ervad Hoshang Udwadia.
- For all Fasli Jashans, Kanoun to arrange for the priests and the Jashans.
- For Meherban Guiv & Arbab Guiv Death Anniversaries, the primary contact is Ervad Noshir Mirza; the alternative contact is Ervad Hoshang Udwadia.
- In the event that the primary contact Ervad is unable to perform the Jashan, he must ensure that an alternative Ervad is made available.
- All Jashans will be followed by lunch or dinner, unless mentioned otherwise.
- Kitchen facilities and counters in the main hall to be available one day prior to the Jashans and functions except in case of a previously booked event, then the cooking will be on the day of the Jashan.
- Sunday March 8th is the Fasli Muktad cleanup and Sunday August 9th is the Shahenshai Muktad cleanup. ZSO-EC to request the Scouts, Youths, and Religious class members to assist with the cleanup.
- Yalda night and Norouz bazaar are socio-cultural events and not religious events. Dates and times for these events to be determined by Kanoun.

Miscellaneous

- In an attempt to save postage and paper, the ZSO requests those who do not wish to receive the newsletter by mail and who are prepared to accept the same online only, to please email your full name to secretary@zso.org.

Contacts

Emergency situations: Khushru Chothia (416) 677-7555 or evp@zso.org

Messages on the auto-dialer: Mehbab Dastur (416) 235-2627 or admin@zso.org

Renting the MGDH hall (for post-funeral prayers and rituals or for private functions): Meherwan Wadia (416) 455-5614 or execofficer2@zso.org

Newsletter advertising rates

Inserts: \$200

Quarter page/Business card: \$55

Half page: \$75

Full page: \$125

Miscellaneous two-liners: \$15

10% discount for 12 consecutive months of advertising

- Traditional wood *paatlaas* (made without nails) and German silver *ses* polishing services are available for a nominal fee right here in the GTA. Please contact Pervez Masani at (416) 282-2615.
- Customized *Kustis* are available in different sizes for all occasions. Some are currently in stock. *Kustis* can also be made to order. Please contact Banoo Dordi at (416) 491-7389 or (416) 491-3214.
- Craving for delicious Parsee snacks, meals, and desserts? Call (416) 826-3298 or email darascooking@gmail.com and register to receive a menu of weekly selections and specials. Meals for the full month can be provided.



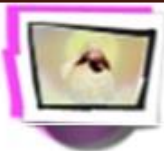
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www.zstudies.com

اهنودگات - یسن ۲۸ - بند ۱

اینک با دستهای برافراشته، تورا نماز برده، خوشبختی کامل را خواستارم. پیش از هر چیز، ای دانای بزرگ ناپیدای نیکی افزای، بشود که با کارهای راست و درست از سراسر خرد اندیشه پاک برخوردار گردم و بدینگونه روان آفرینش را خشنود سازم.



سالروز گذشت اشوزرتشت کرامی باد

اشو زرتشت پیام آور آریایی، نخستین اندیشمند و فیلسوفی است که یکتا گرایی را به مردم پیشنهاد کرد تا هر مرد و زن، از روی اختیار، راه راستی را برگزیند و به رستگاری برسد.

روز خور از ماه دی برابر با پنجم دی ماه گاه‌شمار ایرانی، سالروز درگذشت این پیامبر بزرگ می باشد. به رسم دیرین در این روز زرتشتیان و پیروان او در سراسر دنیا برای پاسداشت از پیام جاودانه اشوزرتشت گرد هم می آیند و با آیین هایی سنتی به روان و فروهر درگذشتگان به ویژه اشوزرتشت درود می فرستند.

این رسم همچنان پابرجاست. زرتشتیان از بزرگ پیامبرشان آموخته‌اند که مرگ، پایان زندگی نیست؛ پس زرتشتیان را سوگواری، اشک و آه، معنایی ندارد. آنچه در این هنگامه‌ها معنا می‌یابد، یادکرد از درگذشتگان می باشد.

به روایت برخی از نوشته‌های اوستایی، زرتشت، پیامبر ایرانی پس از پایان رسالت خود که بخشی از آن آموزش راستی و رستگاری و آرامش به انسانها بود، در شهر بلخ به سر می‌برد. او هفتاد و هفت سال از عمرش می‌گذشت و درآتشکده شهر بلخ به آموزش و راهنمایی انسانها می‌پرداخت. این هنگامی بود که گشتاسب کیانی، فرمانروایی آن سامان را به عهده داشت. گشتاسب و پسرش اسفندیار از بلخ که پایتخت آن زمان بود خارج شده بودند و فرمانروای تورانی ارجاسب، که دشمن دیرینه ایرانیان بود از موقعیت استفاده کرد و توربراتور فرمانده سپاه خود را با لشکری بسیار به ایران فرستاد. لشکر تورانی، دروازه‌های شهر بلخ را با همه دلاوریهای ایرانیان در هم شکستند و هنگامی که اشو زرتشت پیامبر ایرانی با لهراسب و گروهی از پیروانش در آتشکده بلخ به نیایش مشغول بودند حمله کردند و وی را کشتند. زرتشتیان در روز خورایزد و دیمه به آدریان و معابد روی می‌آورند و نیایش پروردگار یکتا را به جا می‌آورند.

برای آگاهی شما هموندان گرامی، به شوند (دلیل) بازسازی سالن مهربان گئو، گرامیداشت درگذشت اشو زرتشت ساده تر از هر سال برگزار می گردد. این مراسم جشن خوانی در روز جمعه ۲۶ دسامبر (۲۶th Dec) از ساعت ۶:۳۰ بعد ازظهر در داخل درب مهر (آتشگاه) برگزار می گردد و از باشندگان با لُرک و میوه پذیرایی خواهد شد.

جشن هالوین

کانون زرتشتیان ایرانی اوتاریو با همیاری ZSO، شبی شاد را به بهانه جشن هالوین در روز شنبه اول نوامبر در سالن مهربان گئو با باشندگی زرتشتیان ایرانی و پارسی برگزار نمود. باشندگان با لباسهای مبدل و جالب خود لحظاتی شاد و به یاد ماندنی را برای خود و دیگران بوجود آوردند. این مراسم پس از یک پذیرایی ساده از مهمانان با آهنگهای شاد و متنوع دی جی تا انتهای شب ادامه داشت.

گهنبار چهره میدیارم گاه

گهنبار چهره میدیارم گاه امسال نیز به شوند (دلیل) بازسازی سالن مهربان گئو، دستخوش جابجایی مکانی شده است. برگزار کنندگان و میزبانان این دوره اراده کرده اند، تا این مراسم در مجتمع فرهنگی پارسیان می سی ساگا (Mississauga) در تاریخ یک شنبه ۴ ژانویه برگزار گردد. به شوند محدود بودن جا (۱۰۰ نفر)، تقاضا شده است تا با شماره تلفن ۹۰۵-۸۲۰۰۰۴۶۱ آقای (Ervad Nozer Kotwal) تماس گرفته و باشندگی خود را به آگاهی مجریان برنامه برسانید. همچنین برای آگاهی شما، بنا بر رسوم آن مجتمع فرهنگی، از باشندگان بالای ۲۰ سال مبلغ ۵ دلار برای کمک خیریه جمع آوری خواهد شد.

دهشمندان

نام بردن از خیراندیشان گرامی، کوچکترین پاسداشتی است که می توان از این هموندان گرامی داشت. به این منظور دهشمندان و خیر اندیشان را به کانون kanoun@zso.org معرفی نمایید تا بدین وسیله از آنها تشکر و قدردانی شود.

پاداش نیک خیراندیشان را از اهورامزدا خواستاریم.

تماس با ما

انتقادات، نظرات و پیشنهادات سازنده خود را با ما با آدرس kanoun@zso.org در میان بگذارید.

جشن دیگان برهنگان خجسته باد

جشن دیگان

واژه "دَدوش" در اوستا، "داتار" در پهلوی و "دادار" یا "دی" در فارسی امروز، یکی از صفت های اهورامزدا و به چم (معنی) آفریدن و آفریدگار می باشد. در گاهشمار زرتشتی، روزهای هشتم (دی بآذر)، پانزدهم (دی بمهر) و بیست و سوم (دی بدین) هر ماه زرتشتی این صفت اهورامزدا را به یاد می آوریم.

در شمار جشن های ماهیانه زرتشتیان که برابری روز ماه با نام ماه می باشد، جشن دیگان سه بار برگزار می گردد. روزهای دوم دی (دی بآذر و دی ماه)، نهم دی (دی بمهر و دی ماه) و هفدهم دی (دی بدین و دی ماه) برابر با جشن دیگان می باشد.

در دوران باستان چهار جشن اصلی در دی ماه برگزار می شد: جشن **خرم روز**، جشن **دیگان یکم**، جشن **دیگان دوم** و جشن **دیگان سوم**.

جشن خرم روز: نخستین جشن در روز اورمزد (دادار/ دی) یا یکمین روز از دی ماه (/خورماه) یعنی نخستین روز پس از جشن یلدا برگزار می شد، «دی دادار جشن» یا «جشن خرم روز» یا خور روز (روز خورشید)، و یا نود روز (۹۰ روز تا نوروز) نام داشت. **جشن دیگان اول**: روز هشتم از دی ماه یا روز «دی به آذر»، اولین جشن دیگان برگزار می شد. **جشن دیگان دوم**: در روز پانزدهم از دی ماه یا روز «دی به مهر» جشن دیگان دوم (/دیگان/بتیکان) برگزار می شد که موسوم به «جشن دی دوم» نیز بود. **جشن دیگان سوم**: در روز بیست و سوم از دی ماه یا روز «دی به دین»، سومین جشن دیگان برگزار می شد.

شب یلداستان شادباد

شب یلدا، شبی که ریشه در فرهنگ کهن ایرانی دارد، یلداستان خجسته باد

دیر زمانی است که مردمان ایرانی و بسیاری از جوامع دیگر، در آغاز فصل زمستان مراسمی را جشن می گیرند که در میان اقوام گوناگون، نامها و انگیزه های متفاوتی دارد. در ایران و سرزمین های هم فرهنگ مجاور، از شب آغاز زمستان با نام «شب چله» یا «شب یلدا» نام می برند که همزمان با شب انقلاب زمستانی است. به علت دقت گاه شماری ایرانی و برابری کامل آن با گاهشمار طبیعی، همواره و در همه سالها، انقلاب زمستانی برابر با شامگاه سی ام آذر و بامداد یکم دی است.



بسیاری از ادیان نیز به شب چله مفهومی دینی داده اند. در آیین میترا (و بعدها با نام کیش مهر)، نخستین روز زمستان به نام «خوره روز» (خورشید روز)، روز تولد مهر و نخستین روز سال نو بشمار می آمده است و امروزه کارکرد خود را در تقویم میلادی که ادامه گاهشماری میتراپی است و حدود چهارصد سال پس از مبدأ میلادی به وجود آمده؛ ادامه می دهد. فرقه های گوناگون عیسوی، با تفاوت هایی، زادروز مسیح را در یکی از روزهای نزدیک به انقلاب زمستانی می دانند و همچنین جشن سال نو و کریسمس را همچون تقویم کهن سیستانی در همین هنگام برگزار می کنند.

در گاهشمار زرتشتیان شب چله، شب قبل اورمزد و دی ماه برابر با شامگاه ۲۴ آذرماه گاهشمار خورشیدی می شود. جشن یلدا در ایران امروز نیز با گرد هم آمدن و شب نشینی اعضای خانواده و اقوام در کنار یکدیگر برگزار می شود. آیین شب یلدا یا شب چله، خوردن آجیل مخصوص، هندوانه، انار و شیرینی و میوه های گوناگون است که همه جنبه نمادی دارند و نشانه برکت، تندرستی، فراوانی و شادکامی هستند. در این شب هم مثل جشن تیرگان، فال گرفتن از کتاب حافظ مرسوم است.

کانون زرتشتیان اوتاریو، جشن شب یلدا را در روز شنبه ۲۰ دسامبر از ساعت ۶:۳۰ بعد از ظهر در مجتمع فرهنگی (John Community center) برگزار می کند. ورودی برای هر نفر ۵ دلار و برای هر خانواده (۴ نفری) ۱۵ دلار می باشد. از باشندگان گرامی با چای و قهوه، میوه های مرسوم شب یلدا و سمبوسه و نوشابه پذیرایی خواهد شد.



NOROUZ DINNER & DANCE PARTY!

Date: Saturday, March 21st, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Location: Le Parc Banquet Hall
8432 Leslie St, Thornhill, ON L3T 7M6

Tickets: ZSO/ OZCF Members \$60 PP Non – ZSO / OZCF Members \$75 PP
Kids under 2 Free

Prices go up after March 1, 2015

ZSO/ OZCF Members \$70 PP Non – ZSO / OZCF Members \$90 PP

Dinner: Persian Cuisine with Cash Bar

Music: Live Persian music with professional DJ

For more information and to purchase tickets (by Cash or Cheque) contact:

Mitra Jam Tel: 905-889-9224 Kanoun@ZSO.org

Or by mail: Make a cheque payable to “Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanoun” and mailed to
Mitra Jam 44 Sea Island Path, Thornhill, ON L3T 3A4

Upon availability you may also purchase tickets in person at:
Jashn-e-Sadeh (January. 24th) Kids Norouz Party (March 15th)

Please write **FULL NAMES** of all attendees and indicating if they are members or non-members

Tickets are LIMITED and available upon payment
Tickets are NON-REFUNDABLE

Sponsors are welcome. Advertisement Rates: \$25 Business Cards, \$50 Half page.
\$100 Full Page, \$200 (Front & Back Covers) For Program Booklet & Advertisements:
Contact: Rostam Khosraviani Kanoun@ZSO.org



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