



Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Newsletter - December 2019
Volume 46, Number 6

DECEMBER

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| Sunday, Dec. 1 | 12:30pm | Scout's Meeting |
| Friday, Dec. 6 | 6:30pm | Adult Avesta Classes |
| Sunday, Dec. 8 | 3:00pm | Children's Religion Class |
| Monday, Dec. 9 | 9:30am | Kanoun Seniors |
| Friday, Dec. 13 | 11:00am | Seniors Event |
| Saturday, Dec. 21 | 6:00pm | Yalda and Daygan (F) |
| Thursday, Dec. 26 | 5:00pm | Zarathustra Death Anniversary (F) |
| Friday, Dec. 27 | 11:00am | Seniors Event |
| Tuesday, Dec. 31 | 8:00pm | ZSO/Kanoun New Year's Event (<i>see flyer</i>) |

JANUARY

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Saturday, Jan. 4 | 10:30am | Khushali Jashan |
| Sunday, Jan. 5 | 11:00am | Maidyarem Gahambar (F) |
| Monday, Jan. 7 | 11:00am | Kanoun Seniors Event |
| Friday, Jan. 10 | 11:00am | Seniors Event |
| Saturday, Jan. 11 | 6:00pm | Jashn-e-Bahmangan (F) |
| Sunday, Jan. 12 | 2:45pm | Children's Religion Class |

Darbe Mehr will be closed from January 13th to January 26th inclusive to complete tiling of the main hall.

**Please provide names for meals to Ervad Hoshang Udwadia at 416-499-4957.*

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 it has not issued.

MEHRABAN GUIV DARBE MEHR

Telephone: (416) 225-7771

Address: 3590 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M2M 3S6

www.zso.org



"Zoroastrian Society of Ontario – ZSO"



zoroastrian_society_ontario

| <u>Days</u> | <u>Morning Hours</u> | <u>Evening Hours</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Monday | CLOSED | 4:30PM - 8:30PM |
| Tuesday | 9:00AM - 12:00PM | 4:30PM - 8:30PM |
| Wednesday | CLOSED | 4:30PM - 8:30PM |
| Thursday | CLOSED ALL DAY | |
| Friday | 9:00AM - 12:00PM | 4:30PM - 8:30PM |
| Saturday | 9:00AM - 12:00PM | 4:30PM - 8:30PM |
| Sunday | 9:00AM - 12:00PM | 4:30PM - 8:30PM |

WHAT'S NEW PRES?

What better way to close out the year than a big, fat New Year's Eve Bash! On December 31st, ZSO and Kanoun will co-host the chic "Black & White" themed party at our very own Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, aka MGDM! Book online by the 20th to get 'early-bird' prices; details in flyers and online. Let's bring in 2020 together, with family, friends and non-stop fun, fun, fun!

We are always looking for volunteers – especially GenX, Millennials and Gen Z (Z for Zoroastrian of course!) – to share their amazing ideas and expertise! Contact asstsecretary@zso.org to see how you can contribute.

Speaking of volunteers, on Saturday, November 2nd your Board hosted the ZSO's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. ZSO exists thanks to dedicated volunteers who serve the Zoroastrian community in Ontario. We are thankful to Canada and the province of Ontario where we have the freedom to practice our ancient religion and live harmoniously with all faiths. We are thankful indeed to the amazing individuals who make up the intricately woven fabric of the vibrant Zoroastrian community here and continue to serve it selflessly! There is no doubt in my mind that by the Grace of Ahura Mazda and thanks to the selfless spirit of every volunteer, the Zoroastrian faith and organizations such as ZSO, will continue to grow and spread Prophet Zarathushtra's message of Humata, Hukta, Hvrasha for a long time!

November is a time for Canadians to reflect on the sacrifices of the many who served so we may live in peace. On the 11th, we paused and remembered those who have and continue to serve Canada, the True North, Strong and Free and the land we call home.

Zoroastrians in Ontario are blessed to be served by two sister organizations, OZCF and ZSO. The Board of Directors of both organisations meet regularly to sync-up on matters that further unify and strengthen the community. On Wednesday November 20th, 2019, it was the ZSO Board's turn to host the OZCF Board at the Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, in Toronto. The meeting began with a short prayer, followed by the ZSO Board congratulating the OZCF Board and Place of Worship Advisory Committee (PWAC) on passing a key milestone in the journey to building an Atash Kadeh on the OZCF grounds in Oakville. After healthy, transparent discussions on several topics that were both meaningful and engaging, it was clear the Boards shared the common goal of collaboratively serving the Zoroastrian community.

Your Board has been working diligently with the House and Garden Committee on several initiatives and matters to keep the MGDM and its facilities running smoothly thereby enabling the community to enjoy them for generations to come. Some of the key initiatives are listed below with tentative timeframes:

- Floor re-tiling (main hall and adjacent areas) as per the resolution passed at the AGM held this past July. Please see calendar for when the MGDM will be unavailable due to construction – Winter 2020
- Security system – Winter/Spring 2020
- Outdoor tree removal and landscaping, including permits & re-planting – Spring/Summer 2020
- Driveway repair – Spring/Summer 2020

As always, we appreciate all feedback – do let us know what we are doing well and what areas need improvement.

On behalf of the entire BOD – I would like to wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday season!

Tandarosti

Mashya Amroliwalla

Correction from October NL

The “What’s New Pres” message in the October Newsletter mentioned the October 7 prayers for late Arbab Rustom Guiv. The Guiv family prayers are now all held on June 16 each year. The error in the Newsletter and online calendar are regretted and have since been corrected.

Mehregan 2019

ZSO and Kanoun celebrated Mehregan in October with a well-attended function. The evening was graced with beautiful performances by a plethora of talented singers, dancers and musical artistes at the Darbe Mehr. Mehregan is traditionally when the community comes together to give thanks and celebrate a bountiful harvest, yielded us by the seeds sowed in Spring. The festival approximately coincides with the Earth crossing the halfway mark in its journey around the Sun; meaning, we’re over halfway to the next Nowruz! Little wonder then that from ancient times, Mehregan has been celebrated as the second most important festival on the Zoroastrian calendar after Nowruz!



We are indeed thankful to Kanoun and all volunteers, Mobedyars Bahram Varjavand and Mahshad Khosraviani for performing prayers and to Mobed Kerman Katrak for performing prayers and overlooking the entire event. Along with his wife, Soheila, Mobed Katrak has been bringing the community together for around 30 years now, with social, religious and cultural events that have been attended in large numbers. We thank them and each and everyone involved in making these events a success.

Dadar Athornan Institute – 100 Year Anniversary

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, Inc. (ZAGNY) would like to request you to donate generously to the **Dadar Athornan Institute**. It is today the only remaining Zoroastrian seminary in the world. The Institute was established in 1919 and this year is celebrating its centennial year.

Dadar Athornan Institute provides scriptural, religious and ritual training to children of the priestly class along with regular education till the 10th Grade at the Dadar Parsee Youth Assembly High School in Dadar, Mumbai, India. Boarding, lodging, and other facilities like books, stationary and medicines are provided at no cost to the students. This Institute is an asset to the Parsi community as it not only keeps alive the traditions and lifestyle of Parsi priests but also provides ordained priests to the community.

Click [here](#) to donate online or mail your cheques or money-orders to:

Cyrus Pavri
ZAGNY Treasurer
961 Franklin Turnpike,
Allendale, NJ
07401-1315

Checks should be drawn out to ZAGNY with "Dadar Athornan Institute" in the memo field. Please visit www.zagny.org for more details on this worthy cause.

Volunteers Appreciation Dinner Night at ZSO



The Annual ZSO Volunteers Appreciation Night was held on November 2nd, 2019 at the Darb-e-Mehr hall. Committees who help in the running of various events throughout the year for the ZSO attended and it was an evening of food, music, dance, and camaraderie. Volunteers from the Youth and Sports, Entertainment, Muktaad, Seniors, Scouts, and various other committees were present.

The Board of Directors welcomed them all and snacks and drinks were served upon arrival. The President welcomed all the attendees and thanked each and every volunteer for their generous and devoted effort and time towards the community and its citizenry.

Some renowned members were felicitated followed by a delightful piano recital performed by Rostam Pourmandegarian, and an uplifting powerful dance performance by Roya Merchant. Overall it was a fun-filled evening and the food was enjoyed by all. The Board of Directors thank all the volunteers and its members and look forward to a great year ahead!

Scout's Group Report - October 2019

On October 6th, Beaver-Scouts Iyana Baria, Katy Irani and Gabriel Van Dam were invested into the Colony by receiving their scarves as they completed all the prerequisites. Congratulations to the newly invested "eager Beavers". The parents received a crash course from the Beaver leaders in how to pack their kids' bags for camps and outings by using proper camping bags, sleeping bags etc. and NOT using plastic bags!!! The Beavers decorated the baskets for the "Apple Day". The Cub-Scouts had a very interesting meeting where they learned the use of a camera and appreciating nature from a different perspective. They thoroughly enjoyed the activity and earned the Photography badge.



The weekend of October 18th and 19th was a very busy one. The Beaver-Scouts had a sleepover at the Darbe Meher. The camp was organized in order to have better control and participation for the Apple Day event which is observed by Scouts Canada across the county. It is a fundraising event where the scouting members thank the public with an apple (or apples) for their donations. All the funds received are retained by the scout groups. Many thanks to the Beaver leaders Pearl Chothia and Mandana Bastani and special thanks to Cub leaders Maneckji and Avan for their assistance as well as to the Group's Co-Chair Rohinton Kiash for organizing with the manager at the Food Basic Grocery store near John

street and Bayview to allow our group to carry out the activity outside the store. Thanks to everyone and especially the little Beaver-Scouts for their help in raising funds for our group. This activity is a wonderful experience for the young Beavers.

Over the same weekend, the scouts attended the Jamboree-on-the-air (JOTA) in Bowmanville, ON organized by Scouts Canada. They communicated with scouts from different parts of the world with the help of "Ham operators".

(Report submitted by the Section leaders for the Beaver Colony, Cub Pack and Scout Troop)

Children's Religion Class – Preparing for Yalda



On November 23, 2019, the East End Religion class students participated in making divo glasses/candle holders. This activity was organized for the kids to connect with our seasonal calendar and the celebration of Yalda. Students in all classes took turns to decorate their own glass.



Special thanks to all the parent volunteers in Armaity Homavazir's Grade 1 and 2 class, who not only gave their time, but donated many of the materials. We hope to continue engaging our students with other art/drama activities that tie in our religion with the natural cycles of the Earth as the year progresses.

Teachers at both centres are working together to coordinate such activities and plan for future events that will inspire our children to attend.

Cardinal's Dinner 2019

On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, ZSO President Mashya Amroliwalla attended the 40th Annual Cardinals Dinner held in Toronto at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.



The Dinner is a prestigious annual fundraising event presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto and several dignitaries from Religious, Political and Armed Forces of Canada, such as Premier Doug Ford, city Mayors and the Chaplain General of the Canadian Army.

ZSO and the Interfaith Committee thank Father Prakash Lohale and Daniel Niamat of the Archdiocese of Toronto for the invitation.

Rastam Manak – A Vignette on Parsi Doggedness and Entrepreneurship

(The below excerpt appears in Dossabhoy Framji Karaka's book – History of the Parsis – published 1884)

The Portuguese, French, Dutch, and English factories all employed Parsis as their chief brokers; and without them it may be said that they found it almost impossible to conduct their trading and banking operations.

One Rastam Manak, who was born at Surat in the year 1635, gained a high reputation as chief broker of the English factory at Surat. He was a man of great ability and excellent character, and had been most useful in advancing English interests in that place. He often smoothed over the difficulties which did not fail to arise between the English and the officers of the Mogul, with whom also he possessed great influence.

In the year 1660 many impediments were thrown in the way of the English by the nawab or ruler of the city, and Rastam Manak took the bold step of going for redress, accompanied by the head of the English factory at Surat, direct to the court of Aurangzeb at Delhi, when he addressed the emperor in somewhat the following terms: "This Englishman has come to Hindustan for trading purposes, but your Majesty's nobles are throwing many obstacles in his way. The English gentleman, now with me, is a good and noble man, and seeks your royal favour, and solicits that he may be permitted to settle at Surat and be allowed to establish a factory there for trading purposes, and that he may be protected in his business by your imperial commands."

A most interesting read about the forefathers of Parsi entrepreneurship in India. The book is available in PDF format by clicking [here](#). Alternatively – please email newslettereditor@zso.org who will send you a copy via email or post.

Navjotes

Saturday, October 19; Arianna Cooper, daughter of Neville and Farrah Cooper. Performed by Ervad Kevan Madan and Ervad Nozer Kotwal. Congratulations to our newest Zarthusthi initiate!

Health and Fitness

Sports and exercise classes arranged by our Iranian Cultural Kanoun on Sunday afternoons at the Langstaff Community Centre, 155 Maple Red Road, Richmond Hill, ON, L4B 4P9 (Telephone: 905-882-4295). Avesta Class is in Farsi.

| Date | Basketball & Avesta - Gym 'B' | Volleyball – Gym 'C' | Futsal – Gym 'C' |
|--------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 01-Dec | 2:30 to 4:00 | 3:00 to 4:30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 08-Dec | 2:30 to 4:00 | 3:00 to 4:30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 15-Dec | 2:30 to 4:00 | 3:00 to 4:30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 22-Dec | 2:30 to 4:00 | 3:00 to 4:30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 29-Dec | 2:30 to 4:00 | 3:00 to 4:30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |

Helping Hands Corner

- A Caregiver is available to look after Seniors in their home.
- Needed - someone who can stitch Sadras.

For any of the above – please contact Khurshid Engineer on 416-520-8325. Please contact Minoo Bharda at m2bharda@hotmail.com for any other items or to request any assistance.

Shahrzad Shahriari is a registered social worker and provides free psychotherapy services to the community. Interested members can contact Shahrzad on 647-405-7706.

Newsletter Requests

Please note that the deadline for receiving submissions for the ZSO newsletter is the 20th of each preceding month. Any materials received after this date will be published on a best-effort basis.

Editor: Armaity Bamji (newslettereditor@zso.org)

Please note that all requests for inclusions in the ZSO NL should be emailed to newslettereditor@zso.org
Please copy Afreed Mistry at evp@zso.org for approval.

The distribution or reproduction, in part or whole, of the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario's monthly Newsletters by any means or via any media, requires authorization by the Society's Board of Directors. Any unauthorized distribution or reproduction is strictly prohibited.

Miscellaneous

ZSO Contacts:

Emergency situations: Khushru Chothia (416) 677-7555

Messages on the auto-dialer: Mashya Amroliwalla (647) 285-2105 or president@zso.org

Renting MGDM hall (for post-funeral prayers/rituals or for private functions): Afreed Mistry at evp@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.



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اهنودگات - یسن ۳۴ - بند ۱۱

پروردگارا، دو بخشش رسایی و جاودانی^(۱) مردم را به فروغ معنوی و روشن درونی فواهد رسانید. در پرتو نیروی اراده^(۲)، منش پاک^(۳)، راستی و پاکی^(۴)، عشق و ایمان به خدا^(۵) زندگانی پایدار و نیروی معنوی افزایش فواهد یافت. ای خداوند فرد و در پرتو این فرزانگان بر دشمنان فیروزی توان یافت.

۵-آرمیتی

۴-اشا

۳-وهومن

۲-فشترا

۱-فرداد و امرداد



زرتشتیانه سپی تامه آشانو فروشیم یزمیده

بر فروهر پاک اشوزرتشت اسپنتمان درود باد

کانون زرتشتیان اتاریو برای پاسداشت اندیشه ها و یادبود درگذشت اشوزرتشت اسپنتمان از همه همکیشان گرامی دعوت می کند تا در ساعت ۵:۰۰ پسین روز پنج شنبه، خیر (خور) از ماه دی برابر با Dec. 26th (روز پنجم دی ماه) در درب مهر مهربان گیو گرد هم آیند.

گهنبار چهره میدیارم

گهنبار چهره میدیارم از روز مهر از ماه دی تا روز وهرام از ماه دی برابر با ۳۱ دسامبر - ۴ ژانویه می باشد. بنابراین در پاسداشت برگزاری مراسم و آیین های دینی، واج یشت گهنبار چهره میدیارم در روز یک شنبه ۵ ژانویه (Jan. 5th) از ساعت ۱۱:۰۰ در سالن مهربان گیو برگزار می گردد.

با هموندی و همزوری خود این مراسم را با شکوه برگزار نمایید.

هما زور بیم و هما اشو بیم



شب یلدا (شب چله)

کانون زرتشتیان اتاریو از شما همکیش گرامی دعوت می نماید تا شادی شب یلدا (شب چله) را با دیگر همکیشان در درب مهر مهربان گیو جشن بگیرید.

زمان و ساعت شروع: شنبه ۱۶ دسامبر ساعت ۶:۰۰ پسین - Sat. Dec 21st @ 6:00 PM

ورودی: زیر ۱۲ سال رایگان، اعضا \$۱۰ / غیر اعضا \$۱۵

برای کمک به بهتر برنامه ریزی کردن و تدارکات، نام و نام خانوادگی و تعداد نفرات را با ایمیل kanoun@zso.org آگاهی رسانی نمایید.

بیاید دیگران را در شادی هایمان هم بهره کنیم.

برای آگاهی همکیشان، سالن درب مهر مهربان گیو برای بازسازی کف سالن و جایگزینی کفپوش سالن از تاریخ ۱۳ تا ۲۷ ژانویه در دسترس همگان نمی باشد. آتشگاه و دیگر بخش های درب مهر همچنان باز و برای همکیشان گرامی در دسترس می باشد.

ورزش و سلامتی



| Date | Basketball & Avesta Gym 'B' | Volleyball Gym 'C' | Futsal Gym 'C' |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 - Dec | 2.30 - 4.00 | 3.00 to 4.30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 8 - Dec | 2.30 - 4.00 | 3.00 to 4.30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 15 - Dec | 2.30 - 4.00 | 3.00 to 4.30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 22 - Dec | 2.30 - 4.00 | 3.00 to 4.30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |
| 29 - Dec | 2.30 - 4.00 | 3.00 to 4.30 | 4:30 to 5:30 |

همانگونه که آگاهی دارید ورزشهای سالنی والیبال، فوتسال در رده سنی جوانان و بزرگسالان و بسکتبال در رده سنی کودکان و نوجوانان



در مجتمع فرهنگی ورزشی (Langstaff) در روزهای یکشنبه هر هفته برپا می باشد. دیدار و ساعات شادی را

با دیگر همکیشان داشته و با ورزش کردن سلامتی خود را بیمه نمایید.

تجاس با ما

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

گردهمایی ماهیانه بانوان

بانوان زرتشتی در اولین سه شنبه هر ماه از ساعت ۱۰ تا ۱۲ ظهر در دب مهر مهربان گپو گرد هم می آیند. شرکت برای همگان آزاد می باشد.



جشن ریگان فرخنده باد

واژه دی در ایران باستان به معنای دادن و آفریدن و ساقتن و بخشودن است و دادار در فارسی از همین ریشه است. در گاهشمار زرتشتیان، سه روز از روزهای هر ماه با "دی" همراه می باشد که برای تمیز دادن هرکدام، هر یک را به نام روز پس از آن می خوانند. این سه روز "دی به آذر" (Dec. 23rd)، "دی به مهر" (Dec. 30th) و "دی بدین" (Jan. 7th) می باشند که این سه روز را در ماه دی جشن می گیرند.

همچنین "اورمزد" از ماه دی (Dec. 16th) نیز به نام "فرم روز" روزی گرامی نزد ایرانیان بوده و جشن می گرفتند. درود به روان و فروهر پاک پدران و مادران زرتشتی که در این سه هزار و هفت صد سال و اندی که از تاریخ دین بهی گذشته، با جانفشانی و فداکاری این جشنها و سنت های نیک را پاسداری کرده و به ما رسانده اند و این فویشکاری ما است که آنرا به همانگونه که است به دست فرزندانمان و آیندگان برسانیم.



ZSO Entertainment Committee & Kanoun present

NYE 2020

A BLACK & WHITE AFFAIR

Tuesday, December 31st 2019

Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

3590 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON

8:00 PM

DINNER, DJ, & CASH BAR
LIMITED SEATS - BOOK NOW!

Members \$35 Non-Members \$45

EARLY BIRD - Before December 20th

Members \$30 Non-Members \$40

Ages 11 & under - FREE

Registration is available online at ZSO.org

Contact Guloo Bharucha: 905-475-8894

Cheques Payable to Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Mail Cheques To: 24 Trafford Crescent, Markham, ON L3R 7H9

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