



Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Newsletter – October 2020
Volume 47, Number 3

MEHRABAN GUIV DARBE MEHR

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What's New Pres?

The Board extends a warm welcome to Hoofrishi Patel (EVP), Afshin Homaie (Treasurer) and Mahshad Khosraviani (Executive Officer 1) as they commence their two-year terms and sincerely thanks outgoing Directors Afreed Mistry (EVP), Artadner Farhadi (Treasurer) and Roozbeh Farhadi (Executive Officer 1) for their immense contributions to the community as well as helping make the transition to the new Board members as smooth as possible.

Fifty is a big number – yes this was ZSO's 50th Annual General Meeting – and on behalf of the Board, I would like to sincerely thank everyone for attending the very first hybrid online and in-person AGM! I would like to sincerely acknowledge the efforts of Afreed Mistry, Meherwan Wadia, Pedram Yazdani and Farrah Cooper for their extraordinary efforts to smoothly manage the online resources required for the meeting. Kudos to everyone on the Board, Committees and Scrutineers who helped conduct the AGM smoothly. Above all, the Board thanks members for their attendance, contributions, support and encouragement @AGM#50! The AGM report is below.

Towards the conclusion of the AGM and as we were unable to do so earlier (typically after the Nowrooz Jashan in March and August) due to the prevailing circumstances, the Board was happy to recognize the volunteer services of Pedram Yazdani and Fravash Chothia for their immense contributions to the IT and Youth Committees, respectively. Pedram and Fravash played pivotal roles in helping ZSO conduct several online activities for all – both religious and entertainment – and drove up youth engagement. They each received a copy of the book "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" as a token of appreciation for their selfless service. We are sure their work will inspire many others like them and foster the next generation of leaders in the Zoroastrian community! Congrats Pedram and Fravash and do let us know how the book turns out!

It's October and time to celebrate Mehregan! Look for details in the Newsletter and online.

A sincere appeal: if you have not yet renewed your membership for the year 2020-21, please do so now and encourage your family, friends and contacts in Ontario to join ZSO. Start at: www.zso.org and contact Zamyad Meherji asstsecretary@zso.org in case you have any questions. Now more than ever ZSO needs your support. We are stronger together!

As we near a month since schools re-opened, there is cautious optimism. While many youth are happy to go back to school after a prolonged break, there is once again a rising number of COVID-19 cases resulting in the Province further tightening restrictions, making it too early to tell how the rest of the year will unfold. We will continue to monitor and communicate updates to members. Please also check the website www.zso.org often.

Till next month, please keep safe and healthy and contact the Board in case of any questions.

Tandarosti,

Mashya Amroliwalla
President

Darbe Mehr – Re-Opening Guidelines

As a reminder, the MGDM is now open for visits with below revised hours of operation:

Tuesday 5pm - 8pm
Saturday 9am - 12pm

All visits to the MGDM remain by appointment only and **MUST** be booked in advance by contacting evp@zso.org OR asstsecretary@zso.org and receiving a confirmation. Please note, ***if you show up at the Darbe Mehr without a confirmed appointment time - your entry may be denied.***

Here is what is allowed as per the COVID-19 Guidelines for stage 3 according to the health and city requirements:

1. Participation of religious services limited to 50 people including the priest(s), COVID-19 dedicated volunteers and cleaning crew
2. Drop in visits to the MGDM are by appointment ONLY - contact evp@zso.org or asstsecretary@zso.org to book your visit
3. Wedding ceremonies are permitted following the guidelines
4. Wearing a non-medical mask/face covering is mandatory
5. Maintain a social distance of two meters/six feet
6. Bring your own prayer book and head covering
7. Follow entry and exit signs
8. Use the online self-assessment tool before every visit to the MGDM
9. Visitors must self-screen with the ZSO volunteer present when entering the MGDM at each visit. The volunteer will record the date, their name and contact information (phone and/or email) and that will only be used for contact tracing for COVID-19 purposes and will only be kept on file for 30 days.
10. Click [here](#) for more details on reopening of **Faith Based Organizations in the City of Toronto.**

Suspended Services:

1. Social gatherings, including those that occur before or after a prayer service remains suspended
2. Navjote and other close contact activities
3. Consumption of food and drink remains suspended
4. Indoor singing, use of instruments and choir service
5. Sharing and distribution of materials and objects such as books, scarves, caps, water, etc.
6. Avoid opportunities for the virus to spread through touch, either directly or indirectly through surfaces and objects, including objects that may be used in rituals or ceremonies.

We continue to encourage all our members to watch our prayers online.

Please subscribe to the ZSO YouTube channel at the following link and turn notifications ON to be alerted of all upcoming events.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3aC8WOPppyeQFjcTcFcaGQ>

CONDOLENCES

Zubin Dotiwalla, on September 10, 2020 in Mississauga, Ontario. Husband of Soonu Dotiwalla, father of Alicia Dotiwalla, brother of Phiroze Dotiwalla. May his soul rest in peace.

ZSO Annual General Meeting

The 50th Annual General Meeting of the ZSO was held at the Darbe Mehr on Sunday, September 20th at 11:00 am. The meeting was well attended virtually with 44 members online via ZOOM and phone, 17 in person and an additional 10 by proxies.

All the items on the agenda were discussed in a meaningful and constructive manner and were voted on by the members. The ZSO financial statements were approved by a majority of the members.

For the position of Treasurer, no additional nominations had been received by the deadline so Afshin Homaie was acclaimed.

The 2020-2021 Board of Directors are as follows:

President: Mashya Amroliwalla – 2nd year of 2-year term
Vice-President: Anahita Ogra – 2nd year of 2-year term
Executive Vice-President: Hoofrishi Patel – 1st year of 2-year term
Treasurer: Afshin Homaie – 1st year of 2-year term
Assistant Treasurer: Mehrnaz Dehmiri – 2nd year of 2-year term
Secretary: Armaity Bamji – 2nd year of 2-year term
Assistant Secretary: Zamyad Meherji – 1st year of 2-year term
Executive Officer 1: Mahshad Khosraviani – 1st year of 2-year term
Executive Officer 2: Dara Panthakee – 2nd year of 2-year term

Congratulations to all the new Board members!

A special thank you to outgoing board members Afreed Mistry, Roozbeh Farhadi and Artadner Farhadi for their important contributions to the community! We look forward to many more collaborations.

Lessons Learned from COVID-19 Crisis – Lord Karan Bilimoria

Join Lord Karan Bilimoria on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 am EST for a talk on the business impacts of the COVID crisis in the United Kingdom.

Click below Zoom link to join webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/8487251418>

ZSO – Academic and Community Award Winner

Congratulations to our 2019-2020 recipient – Varun Shroff! Varun is the son of Ruzbe and Zarir Shroff and older brother to Malcom.

The Board wishes to thank the ZSO Scholarship Committee for their diligence at selecting this year's winner.

Jashn-E-Mehrgan – Livestream

The Kanoun group have scheduled a live-stream for Saturday, Oct 3, 2020 for Jashn-E-Mehrgan. We look forward to seeing you online as per the details below:

Title: Jashn-E-Mehrgan - جشن مهرگان
Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020 @ 6:30 PM
Link: <https://youtu.be/Z78u2rsc2WM>

California Zoroastrian Centre – 2020 Drawing Contest Winners

The results for the Drawing Contest-1 is in.

The contestants submitted drawings visualizing the story "A Bumpy Road to Happiness" (available on <http://www.czc.org/contest>)

It was a very close contest hence room for Honorable Mention and Organizer's Choice.

The drawings were divided into two groups per judges' decision 8-12 years old and 15-18 years old.

Announcing with pleasure:

8-12 years old group:

Winner: Mr. Zeyus Spenta from Vancouver, Canada

Prize: \$50

Honorable mention: Ms. Delna Surveyor from Tomball, TX

Prize: \$30

15-18 years old group:

Winner: Ms. Arnaz S. Irani from Sugarland, TX

Prize: \$50

Organizer's choice: Ms. Sofia Gevorgian from Encino, CA

Prize: \$30

Please visit

<https://www.czc.org/drawing-contest2020> to view all the submitted drawings.

FEZANA – Gathas Essay Competition

ESSAY CONTEST “How Zarathushtra’s teachings in the Gathas guided me in choosing a right path that led me to a right decision to do a good deed.”

FEZANA is initiating an essay contest for the youth and the young adult Zarthushtis living in North America, in one of the three age categories: 13-18, 19-24, and 25-30. The topic for the essay is “**How Zarathushtra’s teachings in the Gathas guided me in choosing a right path that led me to a right decision to do a good deed.**”

You may write about a certain Hā in the Gathas and/or a specific teaching of Zarthushtira that inspired you to do a good deed.

There will be a prize of \$250 for the best essay in each of the age categories. A panel of three judges will review all submitted essays. The winning essays will be printed in the Spring 2021 issue of the FEZANA journal.

We invite you to please let us know by **September 30, 2020** of your intention on participating in this essay contest. The deadline for the submission of your essay, not exceeding **500 words**, is **December 1, 2020**.

Please contact Jamshid Goshtasbi @ jamshidgg@yahoo.com for more details or to express your interest in submitting an article.

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 Hoofrish Patel 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: Rostam Khosraviani (416) 277-7416 email: autodialler@zso.org

- **Please copy Mashya Amroliwalla at president@zso.org for approval**

Renting MGDM hall (for post-funeral prayers/rituals or for private functions): Hoofrish Patel 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 ۴۳ - بند ۶

ای مزدا، در آن زمان که فرد پاک و فشترا و وهومن به سوی ما آیند، آن گاه جهان هستی به سوی راستی و درستی پیشرفت خواهد کرد و فرشته آرمیتی نور ممیت و ایمان را در دل رادمردان روشن کرده، آنان را به سوی مقیقت رهبری خواهد نمود و هیچ کس را یارای فریفتن پروردگار مظهر فرد و مکتب نخواهد بود.



جشن مهرگان فرخنده باد

گهنبار چهره ایاسرم گاه

مراسم گهنبارفوانی چهره ایاسرم گاه در روز یکشنبه ۱۱ اکتبر (Sun. Oct. 11th) در ساعت ۱۱:۰۰ بامداد در درب مهر مهربان گیو برگزار می شود. با توجه به شرایط کنونی و محدودیت های بهداشتی کوید -۱۹، مراسم اوستا فوانی آن همزمان از کانال یوتیوب انجمن زرتشتیان انتاریو برای همکیشان پخش می شود. برای دسترسی روی این لینک کلیک نمایید:

https://youtu.be/0xZ_qIRTeFQ

هما زور بیم و هما زور هما اشو بیم



ورزش و سلامتی

با توجه به درخواست وزارت بهداشت کانادا و به منظور جلوگیری از گسترش ویروس کرونا در بین افراد جامعه همه گردهمایی ها و رویدادهای ورزشی برگزار نخواهد شد امید داریم که با همکاری و رعایت دستورالعمل های بهداشتی هر چه زودتر این بیماری ریشه کن و دوباره با سلامتی به دور هم گرد ایم.



کانال تلگرام کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان انتاریو

کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان انتاریو در راستای هماهنگی و به روز رسانی هازمان (جامعه) کانال تلگرامی را راه اندازی نموده است. از همه شما گرامیان خواهشمندیم تا در جهت گسترده نمودن این کانال لینک و نشانی این درگاه را به دوستان، آشنایان و خواستاران دیگر آگاهی رسانی نمایید. فشنود فوایم شد تا پیشنهاد های فویش را به ایمیل آدرس kanoun@zso.org برای ما ارسال فرمایید. <https://t.me/zsokanoun>

گردهمایی ماهیانه بانوان

با توجه به درخواست وزارت بهداشت کانادا و به منظور جلوگیری از گسترش ویروس کرونا در بین افراد جامعه همه گردهمایی ها و رویدادهای ورزشی برگزار نخواهد شد

تماس با ما

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

جشن آبانگان بر همه همکیشان فخته باد

سفنی با شما



دهش و نیکوکاری یکی از ارکان دین زرتشتی می باشد. هر فرد زرتشتی تلاش می کند تا هر چند کوچک امر نیک دهش و نیکوکاری را در زندگی خود انجام دهد.

گهنبار، جشن سنتی و زیبا می باشد که از دیرباز و از ایران باستان به یادگار مانده است. گهنبار یا "گاه انبار" زمان برداشت محصولات کشاورزی و زمان انبار کردن آنها برای ماههای پیش رو بوده است. این جشن با اوستا خوانی و شکر گزاری از اهورامزدا همراه بوده و در کنار آن با فیرات و دهش به دیگران و مستمندان انجام می گرفته است. از سوی دیگر دلیلی برای گرد همایی همکیشان، مشاوره و همیاری در امور یکدیگر می بوده است.



به رسم این مراسم و سنت می باشد که می بینیم زرتشتیان کنونی در گهنبار ها فیرات انجام می دهند. این فیرات در مکانهای مختلف به روشهای گوناگونی انجام می گیرد. برای نمونه در ایران فیرات و پذیرایی با میوه های فشک (لُرک)، مبوبات و یا با نان تنوری انجام می شود. و در کشورهای دیگر مانند کانادا/امریکا که در سالهای اخیر شاهد مهاجرت گسترده ی زرتشتیان از دیگر مکانها بوده است، گهنبار ها یکی از مراسم هایی بوده که همکیشان گرد هم آیند تا در کنار مراسم اوستا خوانی و شکرگزاری، دیداری با دیگر همکیشان داشته باشند. به این دلیل فیرات آن با پذیرایی با غذای گرم همراه بوده است.



در زمان کنونی که سراسر گیتی گرفتار بیماری کوید-۱۹ و محدودیت های آن شده، گهنبارها هم محدودتر شده اند. برای نمونه در تورنتو دیگر همکیشان نمی توانند در درب مهر مهربان گپو گرد هم آیند و مراسم گهنبار را با آن شکوه همیشگی برگزار نمایند. ولی برای پابرجا نگه داشتن این سنت و با سپاس از تکنولوژی، مراسم اوستا خوانی از یوتیوب انجمن زرتشتیان انتاریو به صورت زنده برای همگان پخش می گردد.

از سوی دیگر آنگونه که در دو چهره ی پیشین گهنبار (میدوزرم و پیتیه شهیم) شاهد بودیم، خانواده های زرتشتی که در هر چهره گهنبار فیرات و دهش را انجام می دادند، با گردآوری وجوه فیرات، امر نیک دهش و نیکوکاری خویش را با اهدای وجوه به انجمن زرتشتیان انتاریو (ZSO) و یا سازمانهای شناخته شده ایران انجام داده اند.

آرمان داریم که این سنت زیبای دهش و نیکوکاری همچنان در بین زرتشتیان و به مناسبت های گوناگون در گهنبارها و دیگر جشن ها پا بربا بماند.

ESSAY CONTEST

Topic: What do you consider the most important element in a happy family? Why? How does it relate to the teachings of Zarathushtra in the Gathas?

Due Date: January 15, 2021

First Place: 300 dollars

Second place: 200 dollars

Third place: 100 dollars

**Winning essays will be published
in collaboration with FEZANA
Journal and Chehreh Nama
Magazine**

Criteria:

Age between 11-14

700-900 words max

**Word Document file
only**



Sponsored by Fatane Farid Fund

**Rubric and topic information as described in the Gathas are provided
on czc.org/contest**

**Submit your essays online at website czc.org/contest or email
Zessayentry@yahoo.com**

**By submitting, you agree for the essay contest organizer to publish or
use your essay in any desired form.**

Endorsed by California Zoroastrian Center in Los Angeles

Supported by Chehreh Nama Magazine and FEZANA Journal

SHORT STORY ESSAY

Topic: *Spenta Mainyu*, progressive mentality is promoting spiritual and/or material improvement at a personal, family, community, or global level. This can be achieved by one or many individuals. Write a story centered around the main character or characters using *Spenta Mainyu*.

First Place: 300 dollars

Second place: 200 dollars

Third place: 100 dollars

Due Date: January 15, 2021

Criteria:

Age between 13-18

1000-2000 words max

Word Document file only

Sponsored by Parimarz Firoozgar

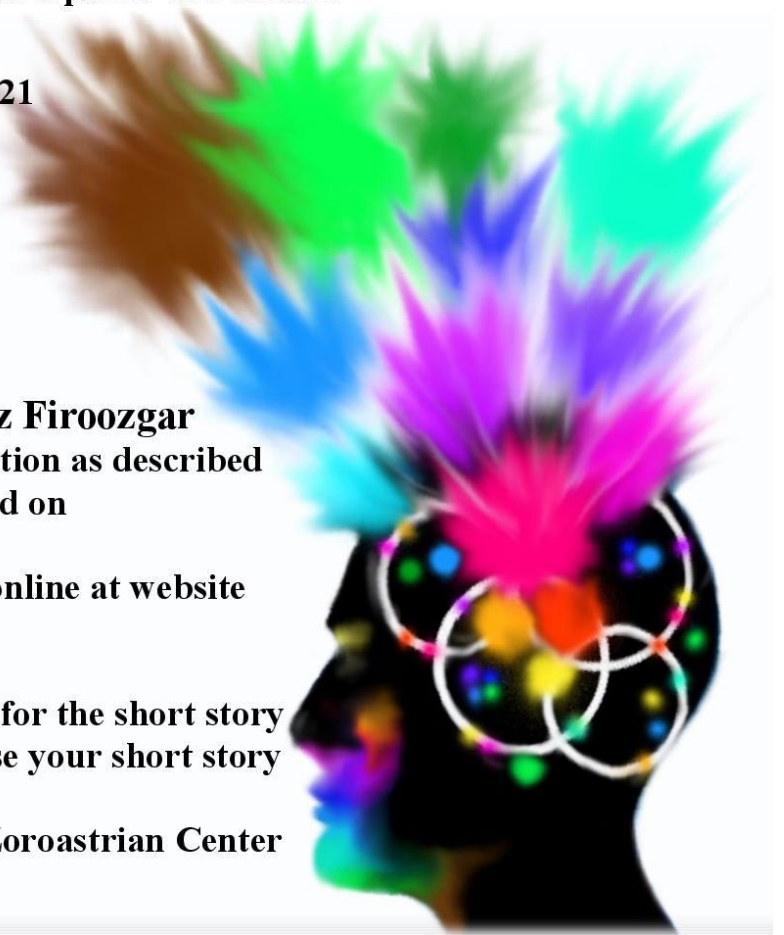
Rubric and topic information as described in the Gathas are provided on czc.org/contest

Submit your short story online at website czc.org/contest or email

Zessayentry@yahoo.com

By submitting, you agree for the short story organizer to publish or use your short story in any desired form.

Endorsed by California Zoroastrian Center in Los Angeles





DONATION FORM

Please complete the form below and send it along your donation cheque. This form will ensure we have your correct mailing address to send your tax receipt.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 and higher.

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ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

3590 BAYVIEW AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M2M 3S6

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Application: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member Membership Year April 1st 20____ - March 31st 20____

Membership Category/Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> Family senior
Includes children under the age of 18	Non-student over age 18	Full time student age 18-25	Age 65 and over	Both spouses age 65 and over
\$100	\$60	\$30	\$30	\$50

Applicant Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Spouse Last Name: _____ Spouse's First Name: _____
Address: _____ Apartment/Suite# _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Home Phone: (____) - ____ - ____ Cell Phone: (____) - ____ - ____
Email: _____ Age: _____ Signature _____

Dependent Information:

First & Last Name	Age

Select your communication methods: Auto dialer (US & Canada), E-Mail and SMS Messages (SMS within Canada Only)

Auto dialer voice messages: ☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Spouse Cell: _____

SMS Messages: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Newsletter: ☐ Email ☐ Spouse Email: _____ ☐ Regular Mail

Total Enclosed: Cash \$_____ Cheque \$_____

(All cheques payable to "Zoroastrian Society of Ontario" and mailed to Attn: ZSO Treasurer (Membership Form) 3590 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON, M2M 3S6). Please note the bank will **NOT** accept cheques payable to "ZSO".

☐ I have reviewed the ZSO Constitution & Bylaws* and agree to abide by them (*available on the ZSO website zso.org)

NEW MEMBERS must be introduced by two ZSO members in good standing and approved by the ZSO Board of Directors (BOD).

Existing ZSO Member

Print Full Name _____

Signature _____

Existing ZSO Member

Print Full Name _____

Signature _____

Approved by the ZSO BOD

☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature _____