



Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Newsletter – December 2020
Volume 47, Number 5

MEHRABAN GUIV DARBE MEHR

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Toronto, Ontario M2M 3S6



WHAT'S NEW, PRES?

In November, as we do each year, the Board expresses its gratitude to ZSO's dedicated and selfless volunteers by hosting its Annual Volunteers Appreciation Dinner at the Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr. This year in lieu of the Dinner that we could not hold due to the lockdown, the Board delivered a message of appreciation live-streamed online to acknowledge the selfless dedication of all volunteers without whom the community would be bereft of the many events we have come to expect and enjoy, including those that keep us spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally uplifted. A sincere Thank You to all our volunteers, past, present and future!

Now more than ever, fund-raising is at the forefront for most charities and so it is at ZSO. The best way in which to support the organization of course, is by reaching out to your family and friends in the Zoroastrian community in Ontario and ask them to become or renew their ZSO membership. Contrary to thought, it is never the wrong time to become a member or renew your membership. Membership is open year-round, and we can only grow stronger if we do it together. Simply click: www.zso.org/join-us fill out the form and submit your payment securely and speedily. To donate to ZSO, simply click: www.zso.org/donate fill out and submit your donation online to receive your tax receipt by email almost immediately. Every donation, large or small, helps secure ZSO's future.

I would also like to echo the FEZANA appeal and ask you to consider donating towards the FEZANA Professorship at the University of Toronto. An update from FEZANA appears in this Newsletter. With over 70% of the required funds already raised, we are closer than ever to establishing an endowed Professorship in Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto than we have ever been. This is right at our doorstep and I urge you and your family and friends to donate generously by simply clicking www.zso.org/donate and choosing "YES" to the "Donation For Professorship at University of Toronto Fund" question at the end of the form. Your donation will be recorded and tax receipt emailed to you right away. ZSO has received \$116k+ from Canadian donors towards this endeavour till date. Let us aim to double that figure by April 30, 2021! It is a lofty goal, though with your generosity it will become reality!

As some are aware, the R. S. Kane Funeral Home is moving. Please look for an update below.

Till next time, stay safe and we wish you the very best of the Holiday Season!

Tandarosti,
Mashya Amroliwalla
President

It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.

Mahatma Gandhi

MGDM Opening - UPDATE

With the evolving COVID-19 Pandemic and rising cases, the city of Toronto is in a lockdown. Keeping the health and safety of our custodian and members as top priority, as well as following the changes under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) for places of worship and the specific conditions which include limiting capacity and ensuring that public health measures are followed such as face coverings, physical distancing and environmental cleaning and disinfecting, the ZSO Board of Directors has decided to CLOSE the Mehraban Guiv Darb e Meher (MGDM) until further notice.

All upcoming visits to MGDM are cancelled except for any death prayers with a limited capacity of 10 people including the priest and custodian. These bookings MUST be booked by contacting Hoofrish Patel (evp@zso.org).

When visiting the MGDM please be reminded of the following mandatory requirements and guidelines:

- Use the online [self-assessment tool](#) before every visit to the MGDM
- Wearing a non-medical mask/face covering is **mandatory**
- Bring your own prayer book and head covering
- Refrain from bringing Sukhar, loban or other prayer related items from home
- Maintain a social distance of two meters/six feet
- Follow entry and exit signs
- Social gatherings, including those that occur before or after a prayer service remains suspended
- 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

Suspended Services

- Drop in visits
- Social gatherings, including those that occur before or after a prayer service remains suspended
- Navjote, weddings and other close contact activities
- Consumption of food and drink remains suspended
- Indoor singing, use of instruments and choir service
- Sharing and distribution of materials and objects such as books, scarves, caps, water, etc.

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>

We thank you for your patience and appreciate your cooperation.

ZSO Board

NAMC and FEZANA Joint Statement on COVID-19 – Risk Mitigation for Places of Worship

FEZANA and NAMC have joined forces to offer guidance on reducing risk exposure for our mobeds, priests and congregations. The full report can be found [here](#) or www.zso.org under COVID-19 Updates.

Zoroastrian Awarded Prestigious “30 Under 30 Sustainability Leaders” Award



Truzaar Dordi, a doctoral candidate at the University of Waterloo has been selected as one of this year’s [“Canadian Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leaders”](#) by Corporate Knights, for his work on sustainable finance. His research, which examines pathways for a low-carbon transition seeks to reconcile Canada’s commitment to the Paris Agreement with its role as a major exporter of oil from the emissions-intensive oil sands.

Each year Corporate Knights magazine recognizes 30 exceptional young Canadians shaping our sustainable future. The Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leaders list highlights activists, entrepreneurs, students and professionals from across Canada and worldwide, each showing outstanding leadership on sustainability issues.

“Though our climate crisis appears increasingly insurmountable,” he says, “We are undergoing an unprecedented global energy transformation. Future generations will look back at us like we look back at the industrial revolution. We have the potential to fundamentally reshape our world and our collective futures.” He asserts that youth will play a pivotal role in this transition, as they seek to align their career and their investments with their values. “As we approach what will be the largest transfer of wealth in human history, youth will play a pivotal role in how that money is invested.”

What’s Next

“It has been profoundly enriching to be a part of such a rapidly evolving field of research and practice” Truzaar responds, to his work bridging finance and sustainability. “There is a growing appetite for research on climate finance, driven by recognition of climate change as a financial risk.”

For others, he leaves a note of optimism. “Globally, we have committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the next ten years” These 17 goals, such as No Poverty, Quality Education, and Affordable and Clean Energy span all avenues of economy, society, and environment; necessary conditions to achieving a sustainable world. “Help make the SDGs mainstream! Find at least one thing on the list that you’re passionate about and bring it to your career. You spend half of your waking life at work, don’t leave your values at the door.”

Update on FEZANA U of T Professorship

Since our last communication with you, we suspended our fundraising campaign in April 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It disrupted our plan to raise US \$1.5 million by April 30, 2020, so we renegotiated our agreement with UoT.

Our new agreement is to raise US \$1.1 million by April 30, 2021. Once funds are transferred, UoT will match equivalent amount in Canadian dollars up to a maximum of CAD 1.5 million and create an endowment fund in perpetuity in support of a professorship in Zoroastrian languages and literature.

Currently we have raised a total of US \$820,000 in cash and pledges, with an additional conditional pledge of US \$50,000, to match the last US \$50,000. We are at the finish line! We ask your help to close the final gap, which is US \$230,000.

For US donations click below to donate on FEZANA’s website

[**DONATE in US\\$**](#)

For Canadian donations click below to donate on Zoroastrian Society of Ontario’s website

[**DONATE in CAN\\$**](#)

CYBER-SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Always check the senders name AND email address, as spammers can disguise the name to look like it comes from a genuine source (example: Microsoft Technical Support or Canada Revenue Agency), however the email address will give away the actual origin of the sender/spammer.

o Example: a sender can mimic the name "Canada Revenue Agency", however they CANNOT mimic the CRA's email address.

o Example: email from "Amazon <admin@offclue.online>". Note that the name in bold appears to indicate a genuine source (Amazon), however the email address in < > brackets does NOT.

Members are reminded that legitimate emails from ZSO are always sent from an email address ending with @zso.org such as: communications@zso.org or admin@zso.org. If it comes from other email services such as Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo!, etc. it was NOT sent by or on behalf of ZSO. Always verify the source of emails, beware of and report suspected spam, disregard its contents and do NOT click on any links or open any attachments.

Please reach out to secretary@zso.org for any additional information regarding ZSO email protocols.

Here's a fun Youtube video from James Veitch on receiving unsolicited email. Watch and enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU0JBOIOAA>

Here's a fun Youtube video from Mayim Bialik who plays "Amy" (Sheldon's nerdy girlfriend) on "The Big Bang Theory" with her 5 Tips for Cybersecurity Safety.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOtQ21hXJ7k>

Upcoming ZSO Live-Stream Prayers

Title: Zartosht Death Anniversary - یادبود درگذشت اشوزرتشت اسپنتمان

Date: Dec 25 @ 5 pm

Link: https://youtu.be/KISp7_rHiLk

Title: Maidyarem Gahambar - گهنبار چهره میدیارم در گاهشمار فصلی

Date: Jan 3, 2021 @ 11 am

Link: https://youtu.be/O889_cgo9Ng

Condolences

Bapsy Aspi Cooper, on Saturday, October 31 in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Wife of late Aspi Dossabhoy Cooper, mother of Dilshad Kershaw and Rashna Marfatia. Bapsy was Grandmother to Jenai, Trisha and Rhea, mother-in-law of Jimmy Kershaw and Ripple Marfatia. Sister of Farrokh Mistry and Dara Mistry. May her soul rest in peace.

UPDATE on R.S. Kane Funeral Home

Dear members, please find below an update on the R. S. Kane Funeral Home as confirmed via email by Mr. John R. Kane to ZSO President Mashya Amroliwalla on Tuesday, September 8, 2020:

"Dear Mr. Mashya Amroliwall,

Some time has passed since we last communicated about the changes taking place with R.S. Kane Funeral Home. You asked about concerns the Zoroastrian community had regarding our future relationship when the death of a loved one takes place. At the time of our last communication, we were able to commit to our standing agreement. I can only tell you and others, that that arrangement still continues.

It is still our plan to cease operations at 6150 Yonge Street and relocate a short distance north to Thornhill. The address is 8088 Yonge Street. We will be known as KANE-JERRET Funeral Homes (Vaughan). Major renovations are presently underway. We continue to be pleased with our new ownership.

Of importance to you and your community is that nothing else is changing. Our fees are to remain the same for now. If there should be a fee adjustment, you will be notified. We have always been pleased with our fee structure for you and your community and hope to continue as we have.

I'm still connected with R.S. Kane on a daily basis and will continue as long as I can or move into a time of retirement.

*Thank you,
My best to you and all your great works,
John R. Kane"*

The R. S. Kane Funeral Home is at its current location till November 30, 2020; the move to the Kane-Jerrett Funeral Home is expected after this date and a further update regarding the same is awaited. Should you have any further questions at this time, please contact a ZSO Board member.

FAQs on Zoroastrianism

The Ontario Mobeds Advisory Committee (OMAC) has compiled a list of responses to frequently asked questions about the Zoroastrian Faith. The ZSO will feature a few of these in the newsletters to come.

What is "Asha"?

In his search for Truth Zarathushtra identified a Divine order in Nature which he designated as Asha. No word in English can adequately describe Asha. It is loosely translated as truth, righteousness, world-order, eternal law etc. Asha is the order that governs the natural activities such as rising and setting of the sun, waxing and waning of the moon, rise and fall of tides, the day and night going their daily cycle, and non-stop seasonal changes that take place.

What is Fravashi?

Fravashi or the guardian spirit. It is the spark of the creating force Mazda. It is the highest of all the Divine principles in the human constitution. Fravashi is the spiritual guide for the soul in its physical existence. Fravashi also provides light, knowledge and energy to the physical matter.

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 ۸

آن گاه چنین پاسخ دادم: من زرتشت دشمن سر سفت دروغ و دروغگویان هستم و تا آن جا که مرا نیرو و توان است با آنها پیکار خواهم کرد ولی با تمام قدرت یاور و پشتیبان درست کرداران خواهم بود. پروردگارا بشود که از نیروی معنوی و بیکرانت برافروزدار گردم و همیشه سرسپرده و ستایشگر تو باشم ای مزدا



زرتشتیانه سپی تامه آشانو فروشیم یزمیده بر فروهر پاک اشوزرتشت اسپنتمان درود باد

کانون زرتشتیان اناریو برای پاسداشت اندیشه ها و یادبود درگذشت اشوزرتشت اسپنتمان، با توجه به شرایط کنونی و محدودیت های بهداشتی کوید-۱۹، مراسم را به صورت مجازی و همزمان از کانال یوتیوب انجمن زرتشتیان اناریو در ساعت ۵:۰۰ پسین (روز آدینه، فیر (خور) از ماه دی برابر با Dec. 25th) (روز پنجم دی ماه) برگزار می نماید.

https://youtu.be/KISp7_rHiLk

برای شرکت در مراسم بر روی این لینک کلیک نمایید

گهنبار چهره میدیارم گاه

مراسم گهنبارخوانی چهره میدیارم گاه در روز یکشنبه ۳ ژانویه (Sun. Jan. 3rd) 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 خوانی آن همزمان از کانال یوتیوب انجمن زرتشتیان اناریو برای همکیشان پفش می شود. برای دسترسی روی این لینک کلیک نمایید:

https://youtu.be/O889_cgo9Ng

هما زور بییم و هما زور هما اشو بییم

ابراز همدردی

درگذشت روانشاد بمان هرمزدیار فسرویانی (۲۲ اکتبر ۲۰۲۰ برابر با اول آبان ۱۳۹۹ در ایران) را به آقای رستم فسرویانی و دیگر بازماندگان آن روانشاد آرامش باد گفته و شادی روان آن بهشتی روان و دیرزیوی بازماندگان را از درگاه اهورامزدا فواستاریم.



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 .



ورزش و سلامتی

کانال تلگرام کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان اناریو

کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان اناریو در راستای هماهنگی و به روز رسانی ها/زمان (جامعه) کانال تلگرامی را راه اندازی نموده است. از همه شما گرامیان فواهشمندیم تا در جهت گسترده نمودن این کانال لینک و نشانی این درگاه را به دوستان، آشنایان و فواستاران دیگر آگاهی رسانی نمایید. فُشنود فواهیم 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 با ایمیل آدرس kanoun@zso.org در میان بگذارید.



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.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Donation Amount: \$_____

Please mail cheques to : Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Attn: Treasurer
3590 Bayview Ave
North York, ON, M2H 3S6

****All cheques payable to Zoroastrian Society of Ontario**



The World Zoroastrian Organisation

World Zoroastrian Organization, U.S. Region Ltd.

6943 Fieldstone Drive, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527-5295

Phone: (630) 654-8828 . Fax: (630) 654-8838 . kayomehta@aol.com

AN APPEAL FOR ZOROASTRIANS IN ECONOMIC DISTRESS DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC

Zarathushtis in India are continuing to suffer severely from the brunt and after effects of the Corona virus. **WZO Trust, India** has been extremely busy assisting affected individuals. By the end of September, they had provided assistance to over **two thousand (2,295) recipients**. This aid was provided as payments to Hospitals, to individuals in economic distress and in the form of distribution of food grains to the needy.

The recovery period is still very distant but WZO Trust is committed to continue their mission to provide the needed support to the affected individuals. Every day they receive requests from individuals who have been financially impacted due to the Pandemic - either medically, or by way of, loss of income due to loss of jobs, pay cuts in salaries, small businesses floundering due to adverse economic conditions, Mobeds losing out on income due to closure of places of worship, activities in rural areas being severely impacted due to closed poultry & dairy farms, brick kilns being not operational, farmers facing issues of lack of labor and inability to transport their produce to market. Not addressed so far is the need to equip about 125 poor Zoroastrian children with electronic note pads and Wi-Fi gadgets, because their parents do not have the capacity to provide them. Their education is totally disrupted due to schools and colleges offering remote learning.

They need our help. With your assistance, we can help our fellow community members in their hour of need. We request your generous Donations to help them during this terrible pandemic situation. **Please donate generously to WZO US Region to provide the much needed help.** Your donation will enable our fellow Zarathushtis mitigate and survive this disaster. Kindly make your donation checks payable to "**WZO**" with a reference to "**Corona**" and mail them to **WZO US Region address**. Please make sure to provide your mailing address, email and phone number to facilitate receipt for your kind donation.

Thank you very much for your Zoroastrian Spirit.

With kind regards,
Kayomars P. Mehta
President
WZO US Region Ltd.
6943 Fieldstone Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527-5295, USA.

kayomehta@aol.com
Res: 630-654-8828
Cell: 630-430-5296

Ushta ahmai yahamai ushta kahmai-chit.
Happiness to him, who make others Happy. Ushtavaiti Gatha, Yasna 43.

The mission of World Zoroastrian Organization is to be of service to all, by providing critical assistance and support to the needy anywhere in the world. WZO US Region Ltd. is a registered tax deductible 501(c) 3 charitable organization registered in USA. Tax Exempt I.D: 36-4236575.



COVID-19

Do you have any of the following:



Fever or chills



Cough



**Difficulty breathing or
shortness of breath**



**Sore throat,
trouble swallowing**



**Runny/stuffy
nose**



**Decrease or loss
of taste or smell**



**Nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea**



**Not feeling well
extreme tiredness,
sore muscles**



Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 without wearing appropriate PPE?



Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?



If you answered YES to any of these questions, go home & self-isolate right away. Call Telehealth or your health care provider, to find out if you need a test.

[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

 **TORONTO** Public Health



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 _____