



## Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Newsletter – April 2021  
Volume 47, Number 9

MEHRABAN GUIV DARBE MEHR

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### WHAT'S NEW, PRES?

As we welcome the Persian New Year and celebrated Asho Zarthosht's birthday, the weather offers a glimpse of fair days ahead, bidding adieu to another winter and the promise of fresh spring air. While Sizde-bedar is looked forward to by all amidst outdoor gatherings with friends for a picnic, we must remain aware of prevailing health regulations in each region, as they may differ.

This year your Board deliberated allowing limited in-person attendance to the MGDM, finally deciding to maintain the safer approach and continue – like last year – holding the Panjeh/Gatha Days, Norooz and Khordad Saal/Zayesh-e-Zarthosht Jashan/celebrations with our Mobeds praying from the Darbe Mehr and various volunteers contributing online. With the help of our IT Committee, lead by Pedram Yazdani and the stupendous efforts by our Religion Committee, Kanoun, Bahram Jam, Mandana Bastani and so many others, this made for another safe, fulfilling and widely participated-in series of prayer & celebration events, enjoyed across the community, as is evident by the hundreds of online views.

We are ever so thankful to everyone, though most of all to our next generation of young Mobeds, namely Ervad Xersis Dastur and Ervad Navroze Antia. Young Xersis lead both the Panjeh/Gatha and the Norooz Jashan prayers, with able support from his dad, Ervad Mehbod Dastur, Ervad Navroze Antia and our ever smiling and humble Ervad Hoshang Udwadia. A special note of thanks to Mobed Kerman Katrak for mentoring and guiding Xersis throughout. Please read the heartfelt note below from Xersis himself and do enjoy the writeups and photos of these events.

We are grateful to members who have already started to renew their memberships, with a large portion of these coming in through the ZSO [website](#). As April 1 is the start of the membership year, please take a moment and [renew](#) as well as tell a family member or friend to [join](#) ZSO. Why, you may ask? Because if we don't, who will; because coming together is the best legacy to leave our next generation and most important of all, because we are Zoroastrian!

A huge thanks to every single donor for helping ZSO reach nearly 70% of its goal to raise another \$25,000 by March 31. While the financial year has ended, fund-raising has not. So please spare a minute and [donate](#) generously to help ZSO continue to meet its operating costs.

Besides Norooz-related events, March also saw Yoga, Art and many other events, all online, with more being planned for April and beyond. Stay tuned for updates and check the [website](#) often. Look for Norooz and Khordad Sal write up and pix in English in the May NL.

In closing, your Board is pleased to announce that – subject to conditions prevalent – the Society's next Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 18, 2021. Your Board is eager to see the next generation lead ZSO on the path of Asha, lay the foundation for the future and work to continue to unite, fulfill and strengthen our vibrant Zarathushti community across Ontario.

Tandarosti,

Mashya Amroliwalla  
President



## MGDM - 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 post-funeral 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](mailto: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

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### ZSO account is now on LinkedIn!

Please go ahead and follow us for updates and if you'd like you could list ZSO under your "Volunteer Experience" section by connecting the official new page.

We understand how effective LinkedIn can be to enhance one's professional credibility and legitimacy. Over 50+ LinkedIn profiles have included Zoroastrian Society of Ontario account under their Volunteer Experience.

Follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/zoroastriansocietyofontario>



## Annual General Meeting

This year – subject to prevalent conditions – the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario's Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 11:00 am.

The backbone of any religious not-for-profit charity, such as ZSO, is its membership. And ZSO is blessed to have a wealth of selfless, dedicated and talented members, like you, passionate about volunteering to serve and strengthen our vibrant Zoroastrian community together.

Your Board is excited to confirm the following positions become vacant at the upcoming AGM:

President – 2 Year Term

Vice President – 2 Year Term

Secretary – 2 Year Term

Assistant Treasurer – 2 Year Term

Executive Officer 2 – 2 Year Term (1 Year if filled by outgoing President)

If you've ever wanted to showcase your talent, air your ideas and collaborate with passionate fellow Zoroastrians, in Ontario, across North America and around the world, complete a nomination form as the first step to bring your vision to life!

Oh and did we mention, this year ZSO proudly completes its 50th year.... Yes, it's the organization's Golden Jubilee year; such a memorable milestone in our ongoing journey!

We certainly feel tremendous gratitude to the visionary founders and volunteers who have achieved so much for ZSO in its first 50 years. And by the Grace of Ahura Mazda, we are thrilled to start the next 50 years and more, with you leading the way to realize the vision of the next generation!

So what are you waiting for? Just complete and mail the appropriate nomination form (attached or available online [here](#)) to address below or email to [secretary@zso.org](mailto:secretary@zso.org) by no later than 11 AM Eastern Time on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

Secretary  
Zoroastrian Society of Ontario  
3590 Bayview Ave  
Toronto ON M2M 3S6

It's your turn to make a positive impact on our shared Zoroastrian destiny!

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### Panjeh and Norooz Prayers – A note from Ervad Xersis Dastur



I would like to give a big thanks to Kerman uncle for training me with the Beresaad prayers as well as the other prayers such as the Doa Nam Satayeshne prayer and the Satum Prayers that I need to practice for the 5 Iranian Muktdad days. It helped me a lot and as I kept practicing, it made it easier for me and I became more confident. I would also like to thank him for arranging virtual meetings on MS Teams to help me with the prayers. At first, I was a little bit nervous performing the prayers on the first day of the Muktdad by myself, but Kerman uncle gave me a lot of

confidence when I was practicing, and he was always there to help me.

On March 21, I performed the Navroz jashan along with Ervad Hoshang Udwadia, Ervad Navroze Antia and my father. I definitely missed the crowd due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully, next year will be better.



## Membership Renewal – 2021/2022

As much as we value donations, ZSO values your membership. This revenue is vital for the Society to meet its annual operating costs and best of all, shows your support for ZSO so we can continue to meet our objectives and serve the Zarthushti community.

Your ZSO membership renewal is due on April 1, 2021. ZSO recommends completing your renewal online, securely, at [www.zso.org](http://www.zso.org) and receive immediate confirmation. Click [here](#) for a step-by-step guide.

### IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING AUTO RENEWALS:

ZSO has updated their payment system on the website. As a result, your original recurring membership auto-renewal has been cancelled - you would have received a notification by email on January 19. This means you'll have to set up your recurring membership auto-renewal details again when you renew your membership for 2021-22. Here are the steps to do so:

1. Go to your member profile: <https://zso.org/Sys/Profile>
2. Click the Renew button and follow the instructions to enter your payment details

*Note: to avoid missing your annual membership renewal, ZSO recommends auto-renewal.*

If you need additional help or have any questions, please email one of the following:

**Membership questions, such as, renewal date, level-change, information, etc.:** [secretary@zso.org](mailto:secretary@zso.org)  
**Technical questions, such as website or if something is not working:** [admin@zso.org](mailto:admin@zso.org)

If you would like to pay by cheque, please complete and sign the membership form attached, tick the "Renewal" option, make the cheque payable to "Zoroastrian Society of Ontario" (as our bank will not accept it if it says "ZSO") and mail it to: Secretary, 3590 Bayview Avenue, Toronto ON M2M 3S6

Thank you for being a valuable member of the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario. Together we will grow even stronger.

*ZSO Board of Directors*

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## Staying Cyber Safe

Here's the link to the Government of Canada's "Get Cyber Safe" website. Save or bookmark the link and visit often to learn and share cyber safety tips.

### [Get Cyber Safe](http://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca)

Get Cyber Safe is a national public awareness campaign created to inform Canadians about cyber security and the simple steps they can take to protect themselves online.

[www.getcybersafe.gc.ca](http://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca)

Make safe internet/cyberspace practices an inclusive part of keeping yourself and your loved ones safe in life 😊.

Share your thoughts and tips on Cybersafety with us each month by emailing them to: [newslettereditor@zso.org](mailto:newslettereditor@zso.org) with a copy to: [evp@zso.org](mailto:evp@zso.org) and [admin@zso.org](mailto:admin@zso.org).

**Stay safe, stay cyber-safe!**



### Donations to Darbe Mehr

ZSO is thankful to Kaizad Master and his family in Mumbai who send sandalwood, Tacho, Agar Batti, diva kakras for use at the Darbe Mehr. He has been sending the same at least twice a year for the last two years and the community is truly grateful for the family's generosity.

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### UPDATE on R.S. Kane Funeral Home

As a reminder – the R. S. Kane Funeral Home has moved to the Kane-Jerrett Funeral Home effective November 2020. Should you have any further questions at this time, please contact a ZSO Board member.

Below is the link where you can access the online version of the Funeral Guide for Zoroastrians.

[Zoroastrian Funeral Ceremonies](#)

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### Medical Aid for Ervad Zahan Turel

ZSO Board is happy to advise that the \$5,000 donation towards Ervad Turel's hospital bills has been received by the World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust in Mumbai. We continue to pray for his ongoing speedy recovery.

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### CEBA Loan for ZSO

The Board is pleased to advise that ZSO has received an additional \$20,000 CEBA Loan from the Government of Canada. In total the Board has secured a loan of \$60,000 - \$40,000 which was received in April 2020 and another \$20,000 in March 2021. This comes with a total of \$20,000 forgiven when the balance is paid back by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The Board had applied in time to take advantage of the \$20,000 forgiveness and will seek "post-facto" approval from members at the next AGM.

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### Thank you to Mr. Fariborz Parsi

On behalf of the ZSO Community, the Board would like to recognise and thank Mr. Fariborz Parsi for donating the installation of a sink at the front entrance of the Darbe Mehr. Having a working sink at the entrance will allow members and visitors the luxury of "washing up" prior to entering the prayer hall.

We are truly blessed to have such generous members within our community.

Special thank you to Kersi Khambatta for arranging the visits and installation while maintaining COVID safety protocols.





## FEZANA U of T Professorship – Making our Mark!

We have reached 91% of our goal!

We have almost reached our goal of creating the **FEZANA Professorship in Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto** — and we are [urgently calling on your support](#).

We have made tremendous progress, raising more than \$1,000,000 (USD) toward our ambitious goal of \$1.1 million (USD), thanks to the generosity and shared vision of the community. That includes people just like you, who believe in the value of preserving the Zoroastrian languages and culture for generations to come. We have received support from 210 families and 11 member associations — donors at all levels and from many regions. This support motivates us as we approach the finish line.

Our efforts will be matched dollar for dollar by the University of Toronto to a maximum of \$1.5 million (CDN).

However, time is running out. We must reach our goal by April 30, 2021 or risk losing out on matching funds and this powerful opportunity to create this professorship. We know you believe in the impact we can have on the future of Zoroastrian languages and culture. We cannot afford to lose the groundwork we have already laid.

Together, we can create what is believed to be the world's first professorship of its kind focused on preserving the languages and culture of one of the world's oldest continuously practiced religions. We can deliver knowledge to future students and advance our understanding of Zoroastrianism through research and public engagement.

To all our donors and those who have pledged support, we thank you. And if circumstances allow, we urge you consider raising your donation amounts. To those of you still considering supporting this important cause, we urge you to join us with a generous gift.

The **FEZANA Professorship in Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto** will preserve the Zoroastrian languages and culture for generations to come, but only with your support. Together, we can all be proud of this truly ground-up, community-driven project.

Please join us in creating the [FEZANA Professorship in Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto](#).

[Help us create the Professorship](#)

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or feel free to call me at +1 (212) 380 7629 (NYC timezone), and I will be happy to address your queries.

Sincerely

Arzan Sam Wadia  
President, FEZANA

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### Condolences

ROSHAN BURJOR BHESANIA, on Monday Feb. 22, 2021 in Prince Rupert, BC Canada. Predeceased by her loving husband Burjor and her daughter Thrity. Survived by her daughter Shernaz and her 2 grandchildren Rayomand & Parizad, as well as many nieces & nephews. We pray that Roshan's soul resides in the House of Peace and Light in the Abode of Ahura Mazda.



## Virtual Baden Powell Day Celebrations, Sunday 21 February 2021

The 100 Toronto Scout Group each year celebrates Lord Baden Powell's birthday. Lord Baden Powell was the founder of the Scout Movement which is known around the world. Lord Baden Powell himself was nominated for the Nobel Prize. This year our Scout Group had a virtual celebration on Sunday, February 21, 2021.



**Yohan Ghadiali** impressed us with his pre-recorded song and dance routine of "Want to Break Free". This song made by a famous late **Bawaji Freddy Mercury** of the Queen Group. Who does "Not Want to Break Free" from the COVID".

Standing in front of a Christmas tree **Rhea Irani's** voice matched her pre-recorded song, which enticed some of our viewers to quietly hum along.

**Maya Zandian** elegantly swerved, gyrated and twisted rhythmically in an Irani attire to the beat of Persian music. Sugar her pet dog seem to be part of the performance. We should learn Persian dancing which is our heritage.

**Nurelle and Aiden Vania** burst on to the screen with their medley of dances in different attires. It was well choreographed and recorded.

**Kashmira and Sophie Irani** entertained with a quick and energised real-time acrobatic dance

**Arshan Gazdar** pulled his kerchief headband over his eyes and played a short musical piece on his guitar in real-time. Not bad for a blindfolded guitarist.

**Ava Ogra** plucked at the guitar strings and gave a live performance of a beginner's piece of music. She sounded good and should do well as a guitarist at the campfires.

**Benji Irani** gave us a noteworthy real time performance on the piano. He is turning out to be a good musician.

**Katy Irani and Fram Appo** demonstrated their learner skills on the piano, good for a start.

Our young drummer boy **Xerses Irani** eagerly stirred up beats on his drum set. On a lighter note, his parents must be aware that the 'sweetest revenge to take on one's enemy is to give their child a set of drums'.

The Scout group put on a hilarious video starting with a parody oath for the Scouts on COVID. The show was compiled by our talented **Kashmira Bulsara** and edited by **Jason Buhariwala**. In the humorous skit on the lockdown, overweight **Golfer Adil Bulsara** wants to sell his golf clubs. He cannot see the golf ball when teeing off or putting because of his overgrown beer belly. To culminate his tireless lockdown day on the couch, Golfer Adil tele-orders a pizza. To his dismay **Maneckji Appo Pizzawalla** has hacked into **Golfer Adil's** personal records on past orders, health, bank account, credit cards, insurance and invalid passport.

As a finale **Apro Freddy Mirza** delighted us with a medley of oldies on his harmonica.

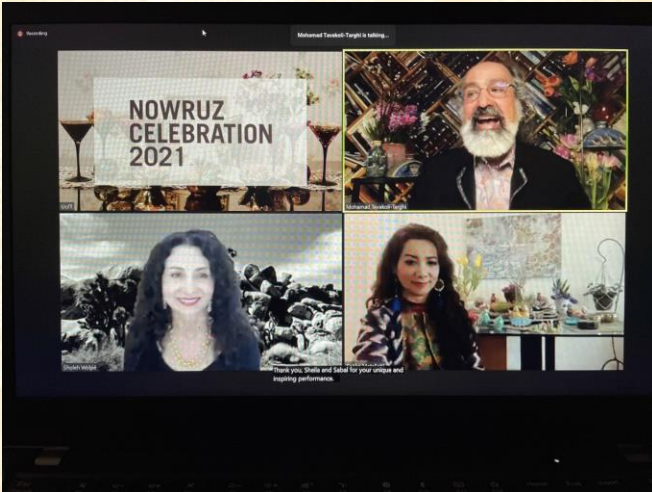
Thanks to the Section Leaders for their dedication in organizing the Virtual Scout Meetings.

We encourage all parents within the community – both ZSO and Kanoun - to enrol their children in the 100 Toronto Scout Group. The ZSO and Kanoun are very receptive to this amalgamation of our English Speaking Zarathusti youth. **"One Language, One Zarathusti Scout Group"**.

Submitted by Rohin Kiash



## Nowruz Celebration 2021 at the University of Toronto



Our own **Ervad Jehan Bagli** offered the opening remarks at the celebration on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Dean Melanie Woodin and Professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi organised a program of music and poetry to celebrate Nowruz and welcome spring. This inaugural Nowruz celebration by the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies featured a performance by **Sholeh Wolpé**, a renowned Iranian-born poet, playwright and literary translator, and **Sahba Motallebi**, an Iranian-born musician who has captivated audiences around the world with her skill on the tar, setar and shoorangiz. These two talented artists collaborated to create and present a singular sensory and spiritual adventure.

## Navroze Themed Art Night



While Zoroastrians all over the world were getting their Navroze tables set, the ZSO Youth Committee organized an educational and artistic “Art Night”. On March 18th, Elina Pourbemani hosted a first-ever Navroze themed Art Night, only this time she ditched the paint and paper and instead used basic household items like garlic, candles, glitter and quarters as the medium. Everyone was able to create a unique candle and spice up their Navroze Haft Seen table.



All who participated enjoyed applying the concepts taught by Elina to make their candles unique. There is an inner artist among all our ZSO members, we encourage all members to participate and create an enthusiastic environment when attending our art nights hosted by our very own Toronto youth. We are all creative in our own ways, and “Art Nights” are the best way to express new ideas and have fun while doing it!

*Report Submitted by Fravash Chothia*





## Newsletter Requests

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

**Editor:** Armaity Bamji ([newslettereditor@zso.org](mailto:newslettereditor@zso.org))

Please note that all requests for inclusions in the ZSO NL should be emailed to [newslettereditor@zso.org](mailto:newslettereditor@zso.org)  
Please copy Hoofrish Patel at [evp@zso.org](mailto:evp@zso.org) for approval.

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## Miscellaneous

### ZSO Contacts:

Emergency situations: Khushru Chothia (416) 677-7555

Messages on the auto-dialer: Pedram Yazdani at [admin@zso.org](mailto:admin@zso.org)

- **Please copy Mashya Amroliwalla at [president@zso.org](mailto:president@zso.org) for approval**

Renting MGDM hall (for post-funeral prayers/rituals or for private functions): Hoofrish Patel at [evp@zso.org](mailto: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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## Zoroastrian Studies Projects International

- \* Zoroastrian Artefacts
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- And much more.....



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## اهنودگات - یسن ۲۸ - بند ۳

ای راستی و ای منش نیک، من برای شما، ای صفات فدای دانا سرود گوینم. سرودهایی که تاکنون کس نسروده، سرودهایی که در شهرپاری فلل ناپذیر فدا آرامش می بخشند. به نیایشم گوش کنید و به یاری ام بشتابید.

### جشن فروردینگان نخستین جشن ماهانه پس از نوروز

جشن فروردینگان، نخستین جشن ماهانه سال نو فروردیدی است. این جشن به مناسبت برابر شدن نام ماه و روز در گاهشماری زرتشتی گرامی داشته می شود. فروردینگان جشنی است که با فروهرها که به طور سنتی فروزه ایی مینوی در وجود انسان هستند در ارتباط است و پس از درگذشت هم بنابر این باور باقی می ماند. به طور سنتی در این روز یاد و خاطره درگذشتگان گرامی داشته می شود.



امسال، با توجه به شرایط کنونی و محدودیت های بهداشتی کووید-۱۹، امکان برگزار این جشن به صورت مفوری وجود ندارد، اما اوستافوانی در **روز پنجشنبه ۸ آوریل ۲۰۲۱ ساعت ۶:۳۰ پسین** از

یوتیوب انجمن برگزار خواهد شد: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ZoroastrianSocietyofOntario>

### گهنبار چهره میدیوزم گاه

اوستافوانی گهنبار چهره میدیوزم گاه برگزار خواهد شد. امسال این گهنبار به دلیل همه گیری کووید ۱۹ بدون حضور شرکت کنندگان خواهد بود. اما می توانید در **روز جمعه ۳۰ آوریل ساعت ۶:۳۰ پسین**



از کانال یوتیوب انجمن در این اوستافوانی شرکت کنید: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ZoroastrianSocietyofOntario>

فیراندیش های خود را به مناسبت گهنبار می توانید به صورت آنلاین یا با چک به انجمن بفرستید.

### جشن طبیعت در روز سیزده سال نو

به طور سنتی روز ۲ آوریل به «سیزده به در» معروف است و ایرانیان معمولاً در این روز به دامن طبیعت می روند و این روز را با اعضای خانواده گرامی می دارند. امسال به دلیل همه گیری کووید ۱۹ گردهم ایی یا بیرون رفتن های غیرضروری تا این زمان توصیه نمی شود. بنابراین در صورتی که می خواهید در مد بسیار محدود و با اعضای خانواده این روز را گرامی بدارید متماً به توصیه های ایمنی توجه نمایید.



### ورزش و سلامتی

با توجه به در فواست وزارت بهداشت کانادا و به منظور جلوگیری از گسترش ویروس کرونا هیچ گردهمایی و رویداد ورزشی برگزار نخواهد شد. اما می توانید در برنامه هفتگی یوگا هر چهارشنبه به صورت مجازی شرکت کنید. هر هفته زمان و نشانی پیوند را در ایمیل خود دریافت می کنید. با شرکت در آن به سلامتی خود اهمیت بدهید.





## گردهم ای ماهیانه بانوان:



با توجه به درخواست وزارت بهداشت کانادا و به منظور جلوگیری از گسترش ویروس کرونا هیچ گردهمایی برگزار نخواهد شد. اما بسیار مناسب است که بانوان با ایجاد گروه های مجازی (زوم، واتس آپ و ...) گردهم ای های خود را ادامه بدهند و گزارش یا زمان یا روش آن را برای آگاهی رسانی در خبرنامه به کانون هم اعلام نمایند.

## فراخوان پشتیبانی مالی به انجمن

به دلیل وضعیت موجود در پیوند با ویروس کووید-۱۹، محل درمهر و انجمن بر روی عموم بسته می باشد. این وضعیت تا آگاهی رسانی دولت استان انتاریو ادامه خواهد داشت. با توجه به عدم حضور افراد در محل درمهر، کمک های فیراندیشی نیز کاهش یافته است، در حالی که هزینه های ثابت انجمن و درمهر باید پرداخت شوند. برای هم‌آزوری فراخوان پشتیبانی مالی آگاهی رسانی شده است که امیدواریم مانند همیشه با پشتیبانی و کمک شما اعضای انجمن همراه باشد. کمک های مالی خود را با فرستادن چک یا پرداخت آنلاین ادامه دهید.

## کانال تلگرامی کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان انتاریو

با پیوستن به گروه تلگرامی کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی از اخبار و برنامه های جامعه آگاه شوید. نشانی این کانال تلگرامی را به آگاهی دیگران هم برسانید. نشانی کانال تلگرامی: <https://t.me/zsokanoun> با کانون به نشانی [kanoun@zso.org](mailto:kanoun@zso.org) نیز می توانید در تماس باشید و نظرها، پیشنهادهای و خبرها را بفرستید.

## مناسبت ها و رخدادها ماه گذشته

با سپاس از همه افرادی که در برگزاری این مناسبت ها هم‌آزوری کردند.

## جشن نوروز روز شنبه ۲۰ مارچ ۲۰۲۱ از کانال یوتیوب انجمن پخش شد

امسال، با توجه به شرایط کنونی و محدودیت های بهداشتی کووید-۱۹، امکان برگزاری این جشن به صورت حضوری وجود نداشت، اما افراد مختلف با تهیه فیلم کوتاه تلاش کردند که هم‌آزوری، امیدها و آرزوهای فوب خود را برای سال نو با یکدیگر تقسیم کنند. با سپاس از همه افرادی که در این برنامه شرکت کردند. این برنامه را می توانید هنوز هم از کانال یوتیوب انجمن ببینید. به امید این که سال دیگر نوروز را مانند همیشه برگزار کنیم. اوستافوانی مربوط به جشن نوروز هم در روز یکشنبه ۲۱ مارچ برگزار شد. اعضای هیات مدیره انجمن هم در فیلمی کوتاه که بر روی کانال یوتیوب انجمن می توانید ببینید نوروز را به همه شادباش گفتند.



ضبط شده همه این برنامه ها را بر روی کانال یوتیوب انجمن ببینید: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ZoroastrianSocietyofOntario>



## اوستافوانی پنج روز پنجه و گهنبار چهره همس پت میدیم گاه

برنامه های اوستافوانی پنج روز پنجه و گهنبار آفر سال به یاد درگذشتگان در درمهر مهربان گیو برگزار شد.

اما این برنامه ها به دلیل همه گیری کووید ۱۹ بدون حضور شرکت کنندگان بود. با سپاس از موبدان و افرادی که در برگزاری و پخش این اوستافوانی هم‌زوری کردند و همچنین با سپاس از افرادی که فیراندیشی های خود را به نامگانه درگذشتگان به انجمن فرستادند.



## ششم فروردین زادروز اشوزرتشت فرخنده باد

کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی جشن زادروز اشوزرتشت را به همه شادباش می گوید.

با توجه به شرایط کنونی و محدودیت های بهداشتی کوید-۱۹، این جشن به صورت مجازی و همزمان، از کانال یوتیوب انجمن زرتشتیان انتاریو در ساعت ۶:۰۰ پسین آدینه، روز فرداد از ماه فروردین زرتشتی برابر با ۲۶ مارچ برگزار شد. این برنامه با اوستافوانی و پیام



های هموندان و نیز اجرای سرود و موسیقی همراه بود. با سپاس از تمامی افرادی که در برگزار آن شرکت کردند. ضبط

شده این برنامه: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ZoroastrianSocietyofOntario>



## لطفا مق عضویت خود را به انجمن پرداخت نمایید

به زمان معمول برای پرداخت مق عضویت هموندان نزدیک می شویم. با پرداخت مق عضویت خود هم انجمن را از نظر مالی پشتیبانی کنید و هم این که هم‌زوری خود را با انجمن و جامعه نشان بدهید. مق عضویت خود را می توانید به صورت آنلاین از تارنمای انجمن یا با فرستادن چک و پر کردن فرم مربوط انجام بدهید.

## آگاهی رسانی انجمن به مناسبت نوروز و بسته بودن درمهر

در روزهای گذشته بسیاری از هموندان درخواست بازدید از درمهر را کرده اند. اما با توجه به شرایط و اهمیت تندرستی هموندان جامعه هیات مدیره تا این لحظه تصمیمی برای بازگشایی درمهر ندارد. نوروزو مناسب بسیار فرخنده ایی است اما تندرستی هموندان جامعه نخستین اولویت هیات مدیره است.

انجمن تلاش می کند که تمامی مناسبت ها را از طریق کانال یوتیوب انجمن اجرا و پخش کند. هموندان هنوز هم می توانند روشن کردن شمع و چوب صندل در درمهر را سفارش بدهند. برای این لطفا از تارنمای انجمن دیدن نمایید.

هیات مدیره تلاش می کند که آگاهی رسانی های بهداشتی دولت را از نزدیک دنبال کند و بر روی طرح های احتمالی برای باز کردن دوباره درمهر با توجه به شرایط کار کند.

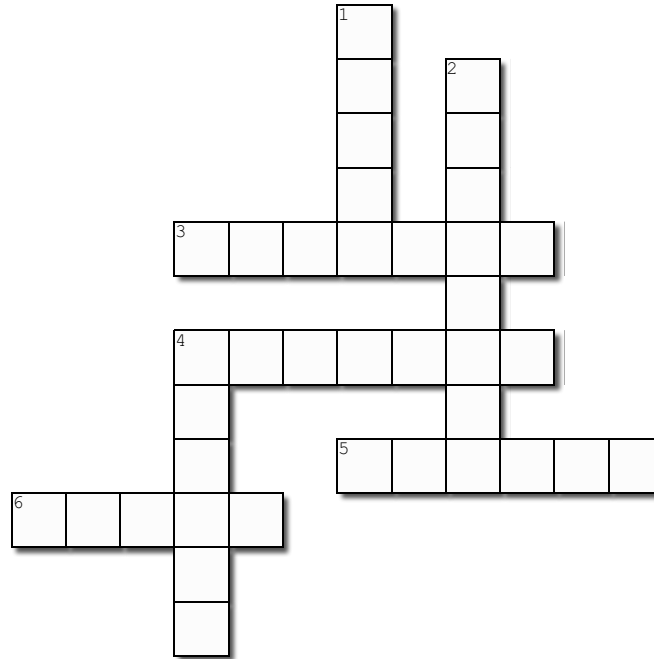
با بهترین آروها برای نوروزی شاد، همراه با تندرستی و کامیابی. نوروز پیروزا!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Haft-Sin

Complete the crossword puzzle below by placing the English translations of the Farsi words of items on Haft-Sin.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

- 3. سرکه
- 4. سبزه
- 5. سیر
- 6. سماق

### Down

- 1. سیب
- 2. سنجد
- 4. سمنو



## **Interfaith Activity report –March 2020 to March 2021**

The Zoroastrian community in the Toronto, York, Peel and Halton Regions are represented on the following Interfaith Councils:

The Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF); Toronto Area Interfaith Committee (TAIC), MOSAIC, Peel District School Board (PDSB) Faith Leaders Forum and the Interfaith Council of Peel (ICP).

Due to the pandemic, all meetings have been virtual since March 2020.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – ICP's Annual Meeting of the Interfaith leaders, representatives and service providers. Guest speaker was scheduled to be the Peel Region's Police Chief, Nish Duraiappa, but, due to a last minute call for duty, the Deputy Chief Mark Andrews attended and was accompanied by Suleha Khan from their Diversity and Inclusion Department. Peel Police now has a special unit to deal with incidents involving people with a mental health problem.

Nov 25<sup>th</sup>-PDSB meeting. These meetings are held every 3 months to inform the faith leaders of the changes in the PDSB's curriculum and the activities of the Board, in order to obtain their suggestions. Discussions included: Indigenous equity; Empowering Modern Learners with Modern tools-Equity Support to African and Indigenous students.

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>-An hour long conversation with the Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada regarding the "Contribution of Faith Communities in a Pandemic" attended by nearly 434 people. The conversation was organized by 3 organizations, namely, the Cdn. Council of Churches, the Cdn. Interfaith Convention and the Cdn. Multifaith Federation. The PM thanked all the faith leaders for their important work in fulfilling the spiritual needs of their respective communities as well as providing help through their volunteers. There were speakers from the Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Baha'i and Indigenous faiths. Others expressed their concerns in the "chat box" which will be compiled and sent to the Office of the PM. PM was requested to consider the faith leaders as "essential front line worker" because they fulfil a very important role of providing a mental peace through spiritual ceremonies and prayers.

Dec 8<sup>th</sup>-ICP meeting with 3 Mayors from the Peel Region: Mayor Bonnie Crombie of Mississauga, Mayor Patrick Brown from Brampton and Mayor Allen Thomson of Caledonia. Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel Region Health Advisor was present. There were 100 participants. All the Mayors addressed the challenges faced by the places of worship due to the present lock down and restrictions on the number of worshippers. They also addressed the issue of the vulnerable seniors in the Long Term care homes. They were also concerns raised relating to the small businesses and retailers followed by an interesting Q&A.

Sun Jan 17<sup>th</sup>: World Religion Day event co-hosted by the Interfaith Council of Halton and One Burlington at the Oakville synagogue. Mobedyar Mahshad Khosraviani represented the Zoroastrian community and shared Zoroastrian perspective along with the other Faith leaders from the Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Christian, Ba'hai, faiths and other representatives.

Tue Jan 19<sup>th</sup>: Interfaith Council of Peel Steering Committee meeting to plan the future events in the Peel region. Ervad Kobad Zarolia and Freddy Mirza are members on this committee.

Monday Feb 1<sup>st</sup>: World Harmony Annual Breakfast (Webinar) Annual Event organized ICP-SC and attended by 35 participants. There were Faith representatives from Indigenous First Nation, Zoroastrian,



Jewish, Christian, Islam, Ba'hai, Buddhist, Hindu and Jain religions who said a short prayer on the theme of "Extending our embrace".

Tue Feb 9<sup>th</sup>: A brief meeting of the ICP-SC to finalize the program for Mississauga's mayor Crombie's Harmony meeting on Friday Feb 12<sup>th</sup>.

Fri Feb 12<sup>th</sup>: Mayor Crombie's office and the City of Mississauga Council hosted a Harmony Breakfast Meeting organized by the ICP-SC. There were approx. 140 participants. Faith Leaders Presentations from the Muslim, Hindu, Ba'hai, Buddhist, Zoroastrian (represented by Freddy Mirza)\*\*, Catholic, Christian and the First Nation Elder, Knowledge Keeper, Cat Kreeger He is also with the University of Toronto to educate on the beliefs, customs rituals and practices of the First Nations Indigenous people. (\*\* Unfortunately, due to computer problem he was unable to carry out his presentation).

There were also presentations from the following Community Partners: Peel Region Police Chief Nishan Duraippah, (a video greeting): He is very supportive of a dialogue with the interfaith community. Changes are being initiated in the Peel Region to include diversity as well as initiative for handling cases dealing with mental health; Peel Regional Council Chair: Nando Ianicca; Peel Public Health: Dr. Lawrence. He was sorry that the COVID-19 vaccination roll out is slower than expected. Requested everyone to be patient. Other service providers were Peel Paramedics, Chief Peter Dundas; Peel Trillium Hospital Health Partners, COE & President Michelle E. DiEmmanuele and the Mississauga Food Bank, Director Meghan Nicolls. Due to the pandemic, the demand has increased from three million to four million and hence a greater need for the community and faith groups' to help out.

Tue Mar 9<sup>th</sup>: ICP-SC monthly meeting attended by approx. 40 participants. Freddy Mirza represented the Zoroastrian community and did the opening with a brief explanation of the Navroz and the Haftsheen and Haft Seen table items and their symbolism. The Guest of Honour was Mississauga's Deputy Chief of Peel Region Police Anthony Odoardi. He had a presentation on the efforts to introduce the Body Worn Cameras (BWC) in order to implement transparency as well trust during a police investigation. He requested support from the Faith communities for their co-operation to implement the program. The project includes Digital Evidence Management System and the BWCs are made by Axon (makers of "Tasers" currently being used by the police). Since Nov 2020, 9 airports international airports across Canada have been involved in the pilot project which expected to be initiated by April 2021. There was an interesting Q&A after the presentation. With respect to the places of worship, the police will not be using the BWCs unless requested or in case of an emergency. There were other presentations by the Food Drive through at the Unitarian Church in Mississauga; Community Garden Project by the Halton region; with regards to the requests from the local Food Banks, it is recommended to make cash donations in lieu of preparing and donating food because the Food banks can buy the same items at a subsidized lower rates from their suppliers.

Wed. March 10<sup>th</sup>: Faith Leaders meeting with the Peel District School Board (PDSB) . There were faith reps from Zoroastrian, Ba'hai, Jew, Christian and Islamic religions. The agenda included a report from the Director's Office Update Colleen Russell-Rawlins, Interim Director of Education, PDSB; and update on COVID-19 from Claudine Scuccato, Acting Superintendent – Coordination of PDSB's Pandemic School Response (Acting); PDSB's Anti-Racism Policy by Rohan Thompson, Assistant Director Equity & Community Relationships; De-streaming Plan Progress Update Poleen Grewal, Associate Director - Instructional & Equity Support Services and Vocational 2 Program Update by Poleen Grewal, Associate



Director - Instructional & Equity Support Services. Details of their presentations are posted on the PDSB's website.

Activities of the various interfaith councils are posted on the social media websites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

(Report submitted by the Interfaith Committee)





## NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies

### Announcement

NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies announces the formation of a **Monthly Discussion Group**.

#### **“Zoroastrianism – Outside the Box”**

Objective: Collective learning from a free flow of ideas and opinions on religious and cultural topics while respecting views and opinions of others.

**Join us on last Sunday of each month at 2 pm Eastern, 11 am Pacific time**

Date: Sunday	Topic	Presenter
April 25, 2021	Mazdayasni Calendar – The Nature’s Calendar	Fariborz Rahnmoon
May 23, 2021	Rapithwin Gaah	Firdosh Mehta
June 27, 2021	“Ahura Mazda” - Meaning	Cawas Desai
July 25, 2021	Vandidad – A Book of Prayers or A Book of Laws	Jal Panthaky
August 29, 2021	Ahunavad Gatha for Funeral Prayers?	Firdosh Bulsara

Zoom link:

Join Recurring Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98448391402?pwd=Nm1vZHVCMEJRY09hdjZhb3NJeGpsZz09>

Meeting ID: 984 4839 1402

Passcode: NAMCIZS

For more information, please contact Ervad Kobad Zarolia at [Kobadzarolia@gmail.com](mailto:Kobadzarolia@gmail.com)

These events are facilitated by the NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies to promote knowledge through free but respectful discussions and debate. The views and opinions expressed during these discussions are those of the presenters and participants and do not reflect the official policy or position of the NAMC.

For more information, please visit <https://namcmobeds.org/>

March 2021





# 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**



# ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

3590 BAYVIEW AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M2M 3S6

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Application: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member Membership Year April 1<sup>st</sup> 20\_\_\_\_ - March 31<sup>st</sup> 20\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category/Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Student</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Senior</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family senior</b>
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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_