



WHAT'S NEW, PRES?

In June, we celebrated Father's Day; we wish Dads everywhere love and our appreciation for all they have done and continue to do for their loved ones.

While each year, except the last two, we remember and celebrate Pire-Sabz in June at the Darbe Mehr. In 2020 and this year we have done so outdoors in the beautiful trails in Oak Ridges. Many volunteers and participants came out to commemorate this magical event and we were blessed with perfect weather to enjoy a walk-and-bike while maintaining safe physical distancing guidelines. What joy!

As you read this, you will have or be receiving your AGM package by post, mailed out on Friday, June 25th in accordance with the Constitution for the upcoming ZSO Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday, July 18, 2021. To continue to maintain everyone's safety your Board has decided to hold the meeting virtually once again, with only the Board, IT administrators and Scrutineers in attendance at the Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr. Instructions on how to register and attend online are in the AGM Notice & Agenda and will be e-blasted to members too. Please remember to renew your membership by Sunday, July 11 and register to attend by Wednesday, July 14 to attend and vote at the AGM. We look forward to you joining the meeting.

Reminding students that the last date to apply for the 2020-21 ZSO Academic Scholarship is Monday, July 19, 2021. Please click [here](#) for details and to apply today!

This will be my last message as President for my term comes to an end at the close of this year's AGM. It has been an honour and privilege to serve with an amazingly dedicated team on the Board, Committees, and all volunteers these past two years and will continue to be so as I serve for one more year as Outgoing President in the Executive Officer role.

If asked what our greatest accomplishment was over these last two years, I would say it was "setting the stage" for the next 50 years. As the last ZSO President in its first 50 years, I believe we have turned a corner, heading securely, optimistically and lead by youth, towards a future where we are locally engaged and globally connected as a strongly united, vibrant and compassionate Zoroastrian community, shining as a beacon for the world by forever upholding the tenets of "humata, hukta, hvrashta".

I have full faith that the new Board, its committees and all volunteers, especially youth, will lead ZSO into its next 50 years and beyond with grace, passion and harmony, following the path of "Asha". Stay tuned for details on ZSO's Golden Jubilee celebrations!

With best tandarosti and a sincere thanks to everyone for your support and trust throughout the years.

Tandarosti,
Mashya Amroliwalla, President

MGDM - UPDATE

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 Darbe 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).

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

Donation to Frontline Workers

Due to an oversight last year – a Board approved donation for \$500 to Meals 4 FrontLine to provide meals for staff at 3 major hospitals in Ottawa was not disclosed.

The donation is in line with ZSO's objectives as set out in the Constitution where it concerns humanitarian aid.

Please contact treasurer@zso.org for any additional details.

ZSO Academic Scholarship 2021

Calling all Students – below is a link to the ZSO Scholarship application for 2021. The deadline to receive applications is 19th July 2021 and as per past practice, the selected recipient will be announced during the Shenshai Navroze celebrations on August 16th 2021.

Click the link [ZSO Academic Scholarship Application 2021](#) and complete the application and feel free to forward to any Zoroastrian youth who may be eligible.

FEZANA – Book Promotion

We are excited to inform you all of the publication of *Zarathustra: The Man and the Message* by Meheryar Rivetna. Meheryar is a long-standing member of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) Library Committee and has devoted his retirement to researching into the Zoroastrian faith.

His book, first published in March 2021, is now in its second printing. Supported by works of eminent scholars in Zoroastrian studies, the book covers the birth and life of Zarathustra and his efforts at spreading his religion; the concept of God, heaven, and hell, in the Zoroastrian religion; the influence of Zarathustra's teachings on western civilization, among many other topics. The book also offers an exegesis of the Gathas in verse by verse explanation based on the works of Gatha/Avesta scholars.

The book may be purchased on Amazon (www.amazon.com) at \$10. Meheryar is donating all proceeds to the ZAH Library/FIRES, whose mission is to promote knowledge of all aspects of the Zoroastrian faith—religious, historical, and cultural.

FEZANA Professorship Update

Zoroastrian Associations of North America, at its 34th Annual General Meeting announced it has reached its matching fundraising goal of \$1.1 million (USD) in partnership with the University of Toronto, officially establishing the FEZANA Professorship of Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto. This milestone achievement will transform and advance the study of Zoroastrian languages and literature in the Western hemisphere for future generations, and marks an historic moment for FEZANA, its member associations and small groups, and the hundreds of patrons who donated to turn concept into reality.

A worldwide search for a candidate to fill the position shall begin in the summer/early fall, with the goal to have a selected candidate in place to start their position at the University of Toronto in July 2022.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

NAMC Presents – An Introduction to Zoroastrianism

This course will provide the student with a brief introduction to Zoroastrianism, its doctrines, rituals, practices, and history, giving the student a window into Zoroastrianism and its influence on other succeeding faiths and raise appreciation of this ancient, relevant, and living faith in our modern society.

Instructors: Ervad Tehemton F. Mirza and Kayomارش P. Mehta

Please email vicepresident@namcmobeds.org to register or visit <https://namcmobeds.org> for more details.

ZSO – Children's Religion Class- Annual Day

The Children's Religion Education Classes held its year-end Annual Day function on Sunday, May 30th, 2021. Students and Family members met via Zoom. Since we were unable to have our Annual Day a year ago, this event was very special. First, the graduates of 2020 were recognized for their achievements.

Congratulations to Jia Amroliwalla, Meherzad Antia, Poras Bhesania, Kayishmand Chothia, Zermesh Irani, Zahan Patel, Jasmyne Pithawala, Megan Singh and Zubin Warden. Megan Singh and Zubin Warden were honoured as the Outstanding Students of the Year.

Also recognized were the participants and winners of the 2019 Essay and Art Contest, who did such an amazing job, writing about various topics such as the role of people in defeating evil, Zoroastrian Philanthropists, and the influence of Zoroastrianism on other religions, and drawing the Seven Creations.

	Group 1 (Art)	Group 2 - Essay	Group 3 - Essay	Group 4 - Essay	Group 5 - Essay
1 st Place	Zofia Irani	Arianna Cooper	Darya Pithawala	Meherzad Antia	Megan Singh
2 nd Place	Derek Jafrabad	Neville Beesley	Ayden Amaria & Orion Haveliwalla	Behzad Karai	Zubin Warden
3 rd Place	Armeen Kotwal and Serina Kotwal	Farzad Bardoliwalla	Aryana Mahmoudzadeh	Benjamin Irani	Dhanyalla Amaria

Then Farah and Ferzeen Kavarana, two Zoroastrian sisters from Michigan, performed an English version of Chayye Hame Zarathusthi, written by their mother, Anahita. The two young ladies gave a beautiful and moving performance, accompanying themselves on the ukulele. We are very grateful to them for taking the time to share their talents with us.

Finally, the religion class students displayed their religious knowledge in a game of Zoroastrian Jeopardy. It was a fiercely contested match, but in the end the winners were the Orange Team. We are so proud of all the hard work and learning the students have done this year.

We would like to express our gratitude to all of the students and parents who joined the online version of the Children's Religion Classes this year. This was a new venture for us which took a great deal of adjustment and the support and understanding of our parents and students made it a great success.

As our situation in Ontario is still changing and developing, the Children's Religion Classes will continue to be online for at least the fall term (until 2022). The dates are September 19, October 3 and 24, November 7 and 21, and December 5, 2021. We will be meeting on Zoom from 11am-12:15pm on those dates. Dates for the spring will be provided to those who register later in the year.

Registration has begun for the following year. We are accepting children born in 2015 or earlier.

The Children's Religion Classes provide a unique opportunity for our community's children not only to meet, but also to learn about the Zoroastrian religion and its traditions. Our goal is to promote an understanding of the religion and to foster a sense of Zoroastrian identity among our students. We hope to see all of our current students and many newcomers in the fall. Please visit the ZSO website or use the following links for more information on registration.

For ZSO & OZCF Members register here: <https://www.zso.org/event-4338793>

For Non-Members register here: <https://www.zso.org/event-4338784>

ZSO 50th Anniversary Video Requests

ZSO welcomes all video submissions of 30 seconds or less from all of its members. We are looking for any of the following:

- short story of how ZSO has affected your life in Canada
- a funny story
- congratulatory message
- you may include photos of yourself and family members
- any photos of a function at the Darbe Mehr

Send your short video, message, story, photos or any relevant content to: 50years@zso.org by July 31st.

Congratulations Mahshad & Farzahn



The Board would like to wish our Executive Officer Mashad Khosraviani and her husband Farzahn Tachakra all the very best on their recent nuptials in London, UK. They were married on Saturday, June 26th at The Shard.

Congrats also to parents Khorshid & Sohrab Khosraviani and Almitra & Dr. Spitman Tachakra.

Wishing you both a long and happy married life!

Dr. Shahin Nouri – Medical Help

Dr. Shahin Nouri – doctor of Neurology and Founder and Director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at New York Methodist Hospital has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and is urgently looking for a bone marrow donor.

For more information on how you can help and information on becoming a donor – please click [here](#).

For more information on Dr. Nouri and stem cell donation – please click [here](#).

Donated/For Sale Items

The following are available to anyone for free:

- 2 collapsible wheel chairs
- 1 walker
- 1 surgical bed with tilt motor

Also For Sale – 2000 Honda Accord, only 60,000 km. Asking \$1,200 or best offer.

Please contact Dara Homavazir at 416-823-5120 if interested.

Muktad Prayers – 2021

This year, the Shenshai Muktad's will be held on August 11- August 15, 2021. People have two options to submit the deceased names:

1. Email the deceased names to Hoshang Udwadia at the "religiouscommittee@zso.org" email address and make a donation online at the ZSO website <https://www.zso.org>
If the deceased names are the same as last year, please just say in the email one line to "carry forward the deceased names from last year".

OR

2. Fill in the Muktad Form and post it to Hoshang Udwadia at 1007 - 10 Parkway Forest Drive, North York, ON M2J 1 L3. Then complete a ZSO Donation Form and mail your cheque (made out to the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario) with the ZSO Donation Form to ZSO, 3590 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON M2M 3S6. Both the forms are in the newsletter.

The Muktad will be from August 11 - 15, 2021 – below are the daily prayer timings:

Wednesday, August 11, 2021- Friday, August 13, 2021

7:00 am Morning Satum
7:30 am Afringan and Farokshi
11:30 am Afternoon Satum
7:00 pm Evening Satum

Saturday, August 14, 2021 - Sunday, August 15, 2021

8:00 am Morning Satum
8:30 am Afringan and Farokshi
11:30 am Afternoon Satum
7:00 pm Evening Satum

In person attendance for Muktad prayers is still subject to COVID Restrictions. Please look out for details on in person attendance and live streaming links in the next Newsletter and via email blast.

Muktad Cleaning

The cleaning of the Darbe Meher will happen on Sunday, August 8th at 10:00 am. There are a limited number of people that are allowed due to Public Health Restrictions and COVID guidelines. If you are interested in volunteering – please contact evp@zso.org.

In person attendees must complete the COVID screening questionnaire online on the day of and show it to the attending Board member. The questionnaire can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/screening/customer/>

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we ensure the safety of our members and stay in line with the City's re-opening guidelines.

Putli Mirza
Board of Directors

Peer-e-Sabz 2021



On Sunday, June 27th – ZSO celebrated the 2nd Walk & Bike event this year. Yearly Pire-Sabz pilgrimage in Yazd is a 5 day event which takes place around 14 to 18 June. The Zoroastrians gather from all across Iran to pray, celebrate and present a unified image of our community. As Pire-Sabz is located at the heart of a mountain; the pilgrimage comes with lots of hiking and outdoor activities and is commonly known for it.

At Kanoun we took this opportunity along with Covid-19 restrictions to celebrate Pire-Sabz pilgrimage with a Walk & Bike event in Ontario's beautiful trails with our loving community members.

Thank you to everyone who attended and enjoyed the beautiful weather and day together!



Poetry Corner – Old is Gold

Another has passed
And we're a little older
Last summer felt hotter
Now winter seems much colder
There was a time not long ago
When life was a blast
Now I fully understand
About living in the past

We used to go to parties
Picnics and lunches
Now we stay at home
Preferring snack to brunches

We used to go out dining
And we couldn't get our fill
Now we ask for a take away
Come home and take a pill

We used to often travel
To places near & far
Now we get restless syndrome
From riding in the car

That, how my friend how life is
Now my tale is told
So enjoy each day and live it up
Before you get old

Submitted by Farida Bamji

Condolences

DENNY RATANSHAW VAKIL, on June 25th. Husband of Late Tehmi Denny Vakil, father of Olga, grandfather of Denny (Lisa), Richard, Sergio & David, Great grandfather of Christian & Cruz. May his soul rest in peace.

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: Pedram Yazdani at admin@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 ۲۸ - ٲند ۶

با منش نیک به سویم آی و در ٲرتو اشا دهشی ارزانی بدار که زمانی دراز ٲایدار بماند. اکنون، ای مرزا، به یاری سفنان ارزشمند به زرتشت و یارانش نیرو بده تا بر آزارها و ستیزی دشمن ٲیره شویم.

جشن ٲیرگان بر همگی شاد باد!

براساس گاهشماری زرتشتی جشن ٲیرگان از جشن های ماهیانه است که در روز ٲیر از ماه ٲیر که برابر با اول جولای است برگزار می شود.



نام ٲیر با ستاره ٲیشتر و باران در ٲیوند است و بخشی از این جشن در گرمی داشت باران و آب است. باران و آب در این فصل سال در منطقه ایی مثل ایران همیشه بسیار مهم بوده است و این جشن را می توان نوعی جشن باران فواهی یا بزرگداشت باران نامید. به طور سنتی افراد در این روز برای شادی از داشتن آب و باران بر روی یکدیگر آب می ٲاشیده اند. به همین مناسبت هر سال در درمهر گردهم می آمدیم و بر روی یکدیگر کمی آب می ٲاشیدیم که امسال به دلیل همه گیری کووید ۱۹ ممکن نیست. به امید این که سال دیگر جشن ٲیرگان را گردهم برگزار کنیم.

اما برای جشن ٲیرگان روایت دیگری نیز نقل می شود و آن این که در جنگی که بین ایرانیان و تورانیان در گرفت، سپاه ایران در شرایط مناسبی نبود و تورانیان برای تعصین مرز بین ایران و توران و در تنگناه قرار دادن ایرانیان، از ایرانیان فواستند که ٲیراندازی را معرفی کنند تا او ٲیری را با ٲیروکمان فود بیاندازد و هرکجا ٲیر به زمین افتاد مرز بین ایران و توران فواهد بود. آنها به این اندیشیده بودند که معمولا ٲیر فاصله ٲندانی را طی فواهد کرد و تورانیان بفش های بزرگی از ایران را در تصرف فواهند داشت. اما براساس این داستان آرش که ٲیرانداز سپاه ایران بود بر روی کوه البرز رفت و با جانفشانی ٲیر را انداخت و ٲیر سه روز و شب در حرکت بود و در جایی که مرز ایران و توران بود افتاد و ایرانیان توانستند سرزمین فود را نگه دارند. این داستان یادآور جانفشانی ایرانیان برای سرزمین فود است.



گهنبار ٲهره میدیو شهیم گاه

دومین ٲهره گهنبار سال جدید از هشت تا دوازه ٲیر برابر با ۲۹ جون تا ۳ جولای می باشد. براساس روایت درباره این گهنبارها، این جشن به مناسبت آفرینش آب است.

هرسال افرادی به عنوان فیراندیش هزینه های برگزاری هر کدام از ٲهره های گهنبار را ٲرداخت می کردند و همین طور فودشان هم در آماده سازی و ٲذیرایی بسیار زحمت می کشیدند و موبدان نیز اوستای مربوط به گهنبار را می فوانند. افراد به دور هم جمع می شدیم و در مین ستایش و نیایش، دیدوبازیدی هم داشتیم و از غذاهایی که تهیه شده بود هم می فوردیم. امسال امکان گردهم ایی وجود ندارد اما بسیار مناسب است که مبلغ های فیراندیشی فود را به مناسبت این گهنبار یا به صورت آنلاین یا به صورت ٲک به انجمن بفروستیم.

گردهم ای سالیانه و انتخابات انجمن زرتشتیان اونتاریو (ZSO)

در این دوران همه گیری کووید ۱۹، شکل و روش فعالیت های اجتماعی نیز به شدت تحت تاثیر قرار گرفت. مخصوصا با بسته شدن مکان های گردهم ایی و نبودن امکان برگزاری جشن ها برای جامعه زرتشتی نیز بسیار سفت بود. اما هموندان انجمن و کانون فرهنگی ایرانیان زرتشتی تلاش کردند که با برگزاری جشن ها و مراسم ها به روش های دیگر آنها را زنده نگه دارند و جشن و شادی را به داخل خانه های اعضا ببرند. بسیار مهم است که با روش های جدید، همآزوری اجتماعی خود را مانند گذشته نگه داریم. در حال حاضر به زمان گردهم ایی سالیانه انجمن زرتشتیان اونتاریو (ZSO) در تاریخ ۱۸ جولای ۲۰۲۱ نزدیک می شویم. این گردهم ایی به صورت آنلاین برگزار می شود و بسیار مهم است که با شرکت در آن در پشتیبانی از انجمن کوشا باشیم.

ورزش و سلامتی



با توجه به درخواست 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 ایی 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 ایی های خود را ادامه بدهند و گزارش یا زمان یا روش آن را برای آگاهی رسانی در فیبرنامه به کانون هم اعلام نمایند.

پشتیبان مالی انجمن را به یاد داشته باشید

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 اونتاریو ادامه خواهد داشت. با توجه به عدم حضور افراد در محل درمهر، کمک های خیراندیشی نیز کاهش یافته است، در حالی که هزینه های ثابت انجمن و درمهر باید پرداخت شوند. امیدواریم مانند همیشه پشتیبانی و کمک شما اعضای انجمن ادامه داشته باشد. کمک های مالی خود را با فرستادن چک یا پرداخت آنلاین ادامه بدهید.

کانال تلگرامی کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان انتاریو

با پیوستن به گروه تلگرامی کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی از افبار 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 نیز می توانید در تماس باشید و نظرها، پیشنهادهای و خبرها را بفرستید.

لطفاً مق عضویت خود را به انجمن پرداخت نمایید

با پرداخت مق عضویت خود، هم انجمن را از نظر مالی پشتیبانی کنید و هم این که هم‌اوری 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 پرداخت کنید.

نشر نوشته در بخش فارسی خبرنامه

در صورتی که مایل به انتشار نوشته هایی کوتاه در مورد تاریخ، دین، سنت یا موضوع های اجتماعی هستید می توانید نوشته خود را به فارسی و حداکثر در هفت خط برای انتشار در بخش فارسی خبرنامه به نشانی ایمیل کانون بفرستید. طبیعتاً این نوشته ها در صورت نیاز پس از نظرخواهی و داوری افراد متخصص منتشر خواهد شد. انتشار نوشته به مجم خبر خبرنامه هم بستگی خواهد داشت.

مناسبت ها و رخدادهاى ماه گذشته

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

ضبط شده این برنامه ها را می توانید در این آدرس ببینید: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ZoroastrianSocietyofOntario>

مراسم سال خانواده گیو



اوستافوانی به مناسبت سالگرد خانواده گیو امسال به دلیل همه گیری کووید ۱۹ بدون حضور شرکت کنندگان روز چهارشنبه ۱۶ جون در درمهر برگزار و از کانال یوتیوب انجمن پخش شد. در صورتی که می خواهید ضبط شده این برنامه را ببینید به کانال یوتیوب انجمن نگاه کنید.

مراسم پیاده روی و دوچرخه سواری به یاد پیرسبز

کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان برای زنده نگه داشتن و یادآوری مراسم زیارت پیر سبز برنامه پیاده روی و دوچرخه سواری را برای تمامی گروه های سنی در روز ۲۷ جون در ساعت ۹ بامداد برگزار نمود. در این برنامه گروه های سنی مختلف شرکت کرده بودند و پس از مدت ها دیداری تازه شد.



Coffee Chat with International Zoroastrian Youth – Sanaya Khambatta – Hosted by Zamyad Meherji



"It is NEVER too late to get involved in the community and we always welcome fresh new faces who are as passionate as us in making a positive difference by engaging and bringing the youth together"

- Sanaya

Hi Sanaya! Welcome to our coffee chat and it's a pleasure to have you as our second guest! 😊

Can you please tell us about yourself?

Hi, I'm Sanaya Khambatta and I am 25 from the UK. I come from a business and technical background, having studied Information Technology Management for Business at university, and currently am working as a Senior Technical Consultant at IBM. I am extremely passionate about encouraging others to pursue a career in the technology sector and run yearly internships for university students and industry talks to share knowledge, skills, and expertise within the field. Being a proud Zoroastrian in the UK community, I have always enjoyed socialising with other Young Zoroastrians (YZs) which encouraged me to become more active and involved in the community. As a direct result of this, I am currently the Vice President of the Young Zoroastrians of the UK and Co-Chair for the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (8WZYC) in London 2023, which is a huge privilege.

How did you get involved with the English Zoroastrian community and what drives you?

Growing up, my family always ensured that I had a strong sense of community. As a result, I always had Zoroastrian friends and engaged with them socially on a regular basis, whether that be through attending Sunday religious classes at our Zoroastrian Centre, where I had the opportunity to learn about the religion or having people over at our house. My parents ensured they always attended celebrations or events at the Zoroastrian centre whether that be Navroze, or community led initiatives etc., and encouraged me to surround myself with other Zoroastrians as well as the traditions and values of our community. These friendships continued over the years and became more and more important as I grew up. I loved that sense of belonging and being involved with others my age who weren't just from school or extra-curricular activities. This helped shape my identity and instilled in me the values of Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds.

My main driving factor for getting involved and even now is to create an environment whereby the future Zoroastrian youth have that same feeling of a sense of community I did and to allow them the opportunity to grow and connect with each other. It is equally as important to get involved in community-based events as educating themselves on our religion, understanding their background/roots, and our traditions. I want individuals to follow the religion not because they must but because they want to be part of this community and environment.

How does the UK Zoro Youth stay in touch? Social events, volunteering, meet-ups, etc.?

Pre-covid the UK YZ committee would organise and participate in several events on a yearly basis, in addition to other ad hoc activities to bring together our youth community including having our own volleyball team, Christmas ice skating, meals out, karate classes, sports days, gymkhanas, and other social activities. Every year 30+ YZs are welcomed with open arms on our annual weekend away at the ASHA Centre, within the heart of the Forest of Dean. This trip is a chance for Young Zoroastrians to engage in a weekend of various games and activities, spiritual bonding, teambuilding, religious

discussions, and relaxation combined with engaging creative exercises. Year upon year this truly is one of the highlights of our social calendar as it allows us to meet and spend quality time with individuals, who we may not have met otherwise, explore our religion in a new way, relax, and enjoy each other's company.

We largely communicate via social media pages (Instagram and Facebook) to engage with and reach our youth on a national level as well as spread awareness of community-based events and initiatives. Post-COVID we are looking to restart our social activities in a safe environment, to get the youth more involved, to expand our YZ committee, to return to the Asha centre, and to focus on the organisation of the 8WZYC.

Being the co-chair of the upcoming 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress to be held in London in 2023, how excited are you to be spearheading this major global Zoroastrian event?

I am extremely delighted to be co-chairing the 8WZYC and we have a strong and enthusiastic team of volunteers to help bring our vision to life! These events are so important in bridging the gap between our global youth and to create a collaborative community. I hope that this congress will contribute towards a legacy for the community and provide a more sustainable future for generations to come. Furthermore, it provides the ideal opportunity to encourage the future generations of the Zoroastrian youth to work together to celebrate, educate, teach, and bond over the religion. I know we have big shoes to fill from previous years, but we are certainly up for the challenge, and I am excited to welcome our global YZ community to London with open arms!

Can you tell us about some of the challenges you've faced or are facing with the preparations for the Youth Congress?

For us one of the biggest challenges so far has been the uncertainty that comes with the pandemic and for the future state of the world. At present, rules and regulations are changing on a weekly basis here in the UK and there is no real assurance of when life will get back to what we consider to be 'normal', we have just adjusted to a new norm with limited capacity events, closure of venues and travel restrictions. We want to ensure we can accommodate participation from our global youth; however, we have to factor in how we make an event of this size safe to do so in the new world and put into place contingencies if limited capacity and travel restrictions still exist.

I remember meeting you at the Los Angeles Youth Congress in 2019, and you shared some of your amazing ideas with me, will you be incorporating some of them in the London edition?

What did you personally like about that congress?

As with any event everyone has ideas and visions and it can be a struggle to incorporate them all, however, we have been taking on board comments from the global youth, especially those who attended the last congress and other previous congresses, to learn from the past and create an even more enjoyable experience for the attendees. I still have notes on my phone from the last congress of things I wanted to remember to incorporate for the 8WZYC! At the end of the day this is a congress for the youth by the youth so we want to take their feedback and ideas on board where we can so watch this space for some exciting things to come!!

With the 7WZYC in LA I loved the fact that everyone stayed in one location. I feel this was vital in getting to know and meet others as when panel talks or events were not going on, we had the opportunity to relax in a social environment with other participants. We were able to connect with others whom we may not have been able to otherwise, as they were from different geographical locations, and often we would have 'after-parties' where we would all get together after an event to unwind and spend more time with individuals who we had maybe even met during the day. I strongly feel this would not have been possible if at the end of the day everyone were to go back to their respective accommodations and that would have created a different vibe and environment for the congress as you would not have built those close bonds and friendships with other attendees by the end of the week.

What kind of volunteers is the UK Zoro Youth committee looking for?

Also, with London being such an international hub especially for newcomers and international students how do you as an organization unearth these enthusiastic members and what opportunities are out there for them to serve the community?

We were looking for dedicated and motivated individuals who would love to play an active role in helping to grow and bond with our youth community in London. Our YZ committee wishes to encourage the Zoroastrian Youth to network, organise and participate in a variety of events and activities, catering for mixed interests and collaborate with other like-minded individuals on a national level, ensure the YZ community is an inclusive space, and to encourage unity among the YZ community.

With regards to the 8WZYC, we have several individuals on our committee who have had little involvement with the Zoroastrian youth community here in the UK and those who have never attended a congress before! London as you say is such an international hub and we have members of our team who did not grow up here however want to be actively involved in the community and get to socialise with other Zoroastrians. For the congress, we started our search by targeting our social media channels, mailing lists from the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE), attendees of previous YZ events, and word-of-mouth. We were also very fortunate to be given the incredible opportunity by multiple global Zoroastrian publications to produce an article series that is released every few months focusing on the people behind the 8WZYC congress and our progress, while in turn reaching a global audience to attract more volunteers (check out www.8wzyc.com to read these). A lot of our volunteers are extremely excited at the thought of participating and helping to put their stamp on the congress as well as experience the more social side of being a Zoroastrian and to connect with like-minded individuals who want to serve the community. They wish to create those lasting friendships and bonds on the future of our religion, and we hope that this experience will be extremely fulfilling for them and of course for them to have fun in the process too!

Lastly, what message do you have for all our community members reading this on how and why they should get involved?

It is NEVER too late to get involved in the community and we always welcome fresh new faces who are as passionate as us in making a positive difference by engaging and bringing the youth together. In a world of rapidly developing technology, it has become easier than ever to engage with the global community and there are so many initiatives and events that you can get involved in especially virtually. COVID has just proved that to us, that as community led activities and engagements were more prevalent than ever using webinars and virtual discussion forums. Even if it is just through attending an event, you are still making an effort with the community, and you could meet some wonderful people along the way! We are also always looking for individuals who want to help contribute to a successful 8WZYC so if this sounds like you, please feel free to get in touch at 8wzyc@ztfe.com or reach out directly!

Thank you so much Sanaya, for your work and service.

We are rooting for you and the entire 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress organizing team!



A 100 years of Zoroastrian celebration and tradition. Khorshid Jobani has seen a lot of changes within the Zoroastrian culture. She was born on July 12th, 1921 in Quetta when it was still under British rule and later saw the independence of Pakistan. She had one older brother and one older sister. She lost her parents at a very young age but was taught the many traditions of our culture such as prayers, respect and the ceremony of a Navjote. For a short while she was in the care of her paternal grandfather, who continued to keep the Zoroastrian flame burning inside her. She married at age 13 and had 4 children of her own, one of which passed shortly after birth. Khorshid Jobani had limited schooling, yet she speaks many languages and learned how to read and write. She taught herself how to sew sudreh, bake bakra, nan khatia and delicious achars for which she became well known in her community. Knowing the importance of being educated, Khorshid and Rustom lived and raised their children in Pune, India, making sure they all completed and excelled in their studies. After her husband passed in 1980, she immigrated to Canada to be closer to her

children and continue the traditions of the Zoroastrian faith. Her pride and joy are her 3 kids and their spouses, her 7 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She wholeheartedly believes in the 3 main tenets of Zoroastrianism, good thoughts, good words and good deeds. She exudes all of them and anyone privileged to meet her will definitely understand. Khorshid Jobani is a symbol of strength, devotion and true goodness in this world. She is made of pure love. She continues to be a huge part of the Parsee community in Toronto Canada. Although the pandemic has slowed her meeting people, she is always seen on virtual social events and online yoga classes. She is still an active participant in raising funds for the OZCF Agari project which is very important to her. She has instilled and passed down many facets of the Zoroastrian culture to those around her, always ready to give advice and console on family, love, traditions and religion. These days, she spends most of her time in Mississauga, Ontario usually enjoying episodes of Family Feud and Indian Idol. She is a true testament that prayers, the pursuit of health, and the blessings she gives and receives from Ahura Mazda keeps her young in mind, body and spirit. That is why we celebrate this milestone birthday.

Everyone of us has a special place in our hearts for Khorshid Jobani and we are blessed to have her in our lives. Please join us in wishing her good health and happiness.

Happy Birthday.
Love,
Your Family



MUKTAD PRAYERS 2019

Kindly include the following names in the daily prayers during the forthcoming Muktaḍ ceremonies:

Names of the Deceased

Name of His/Her Father/Husband

1. E O Oi B K _____ E O B _____

2. E O Oi B K _____ E O B _____

3. E O Oi B K _____ E O B _____

4. E O Oi B K _____ E O B _____

I am enclosing herewith my contribution of \$ _____ to defray costs. *(Please make cheque or money order payable to Zoroastrian Society of Ontario and mail to Treasurer at Darbhe Meher or deposit in the safe box in the dadgah room – please annotate with “Muktaḍ Fund”).*

Thank you.

Full Name

Telephone number

* The first names of the deceased are always recited together with their father/husband's name along with their status (i.e. Ervad, Osta, Osti or Behdin as per Zoroastrian custom)

E= Ervad (male who was a Navar)

O= Osta (Male from a priestly family but not a Navar)

Oi= Osti (Female from priestly family)

B= Behdin (male/female from non-priestly family)

K= Khud (child whose navjote was not performed)

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN BLOCK LETTERS, ENSURING THAT THE RIGHT STATUS HAS BEEN CIRCLED AND MAIL TO ERVAD HOSHANG UDWADIA BY AUGUST 5TH AT THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Ervad Hoshang Udwadia, 1007 – 10 Parkway Forest Drive, North York, Ontario. M2J 1L3.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU WANT TO INCLUDE THE NAMES OF YOUR LOVED ONES THIS YEAR, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM. NAMES WILL NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY CARRIED OVER FROM LAST YEAR.

No names will be accepted over the telephone.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEZANA reaches milestone fundraising goal of \$1.1 Million (USD) in partnership with the University of Toronto, establishing first-ever FEZANA Professorship of Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto

Transformative and sustainable for future generations, the endowed professorship advances the academic study and understanding of Zoroastrianism and its contributions to the world

Burr Ridge, Illinois, USA, June 16, 2021 – [FEZANA](#), the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, at its 34th Annual General Meeting announced it has reached its matching fundraising goal of \$1.1 million (USD) in partnership with the University of Toronto, officially establishing the **FEZANA Professorship of Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto**. This milestone achievement will transform and advance the study of Zoroastrian languages and literature in the Western hemisphere for future generations, and marks an historic moment for FEZANA, its member associations and small groups, and the hundreds of patrons who donated to turn concept into reality.

A worldwide search for a candidate to fill the position shall begin in the summer/early fall, with the goal to have a selected candidate in place to start their position at the University of Toronto in July 2022.

“The establishment of the FEZANA Professorship at the University of Toronto creates an academic milestone for the Zoroastrian community in North America,” said FEZANA President [Arzan Sam Wadia](#). “In our more than three decades of FEZANA’s existence, this has been the single largest capital project we have initiated, and its completion is deeply gratifying to the entire community. What is truly unique is the collective participation of individuals and institutions from around the world. FEZANA will forever remain grateful to every donor who helped realize this dream.”

“This generous gift from the FEZANA community propels our Zoroastrian studies program as a leader on the global stage, greatly elevating its significance and contribution to the study of Zoroastrianism,” says [Tim Harrison](#), chair of University of Toronto’s [Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations](#) (NMC), in which the professorship will be based. “This professorship will help us greatly increase the number of students able to read and understand the ancient languages of Avestan and Pahlavi, and

advance research and publications on the translated texts and their context in history. Ultimately, it will help raise awareness of Zoroastrianism around the world.”

The milestone project was initiated in 2019 by FEZANA under the leadership of Homi D. Gandhi, immediate past President of FEZANA.

“It is important for faith-based organizations like FEZANA to invest in scholarship and educational opportunities for their communities and the world at large,” Gandhi said. “By fostering a greater understanding of the tenets that guide our lives, we can better understand other faiths who may believe differently, and in turn, achieve a global unity based on cooperation and understanding.”

The concept of an endowed professorship was first presented in 2017 at FEZANA’s 30th Annual General Meeting, by Erv. Dr. Jehan Bagli who had met with University of Toronto representatives to broach the idea. Dr. Bagli worked closely with Gandhi, and both devoted energy and enthusiasm toward the fundraising effort. In total, more than 250 generous donors supported the cause, including Zoroastrian individuals, associations, institutions and foundations in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Australia, India, Europe and North America.

FEZANA recognizes the following religious, academic and executive leaders for their behind-the-scenes leadership and guidance that helped advance the cause: Ervad Arda-e-viraf Minocherhomjee, President, [North American Mobed Council](#); Behram Irani, FEZANA Fundraising Lead; Sean Elavia, FEZANA General Counsel; and Professor [Yuhan S-D Vevaina](#), Bahari Associate Professor of Sasanian Studies at The University of Oxford.

“The inestimable and multi-generational value of investing in religious and historical education is not simply a utilitarian concern, but a fundamental tenet of Zoroastrianism to be found in every stage of Zoroastrian literature, from the Avestan sacred texts to those written today in the global diasporas,” Oxford’s Prof. Vevaina commented. “FEZANA is to be truly congratulated for its profoundly forward-thinking commitment to the highest levels of academic scholarship on Zoroastrianism, and I genuinely hope this is the just beginning of many more endowed positions to come which will reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of Zoroastrians living and thriving across the breadth and depth of North America and beyond.”

“The FEZANA Professorship in Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto ensures a foundational religion, and its heritage will be studied in perpetuity,” said [Prof. Jamsheed K. Choksy](#), Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at the University of Indiana - Bloomington. “This is a much-needed undertaking of enduring value.”

[Zoroastrians](#) are followers of one of the world’s oldest monotheistic religions founded by the prophet [Zarathushtra](#) more than 3,000 years ago in ancient Iran. Zoroastrians have long served as bridge builders in interfaith dialogue, believing in truth, righteousness, charity, beneficence, respect and care for the environment, and the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

Zoroastrianism flourished as the imperial religion of three Persian empires, those of the Achaemenians, Parthians and Sassanians, and was the dominant religion from Turkey and eastward to China during those times. North America's Zoroastrian community includes those who arrived from the Indian subcontinent, known as [Parsis](#), and those who came directly from [Iran](#) seeking religious freedom.

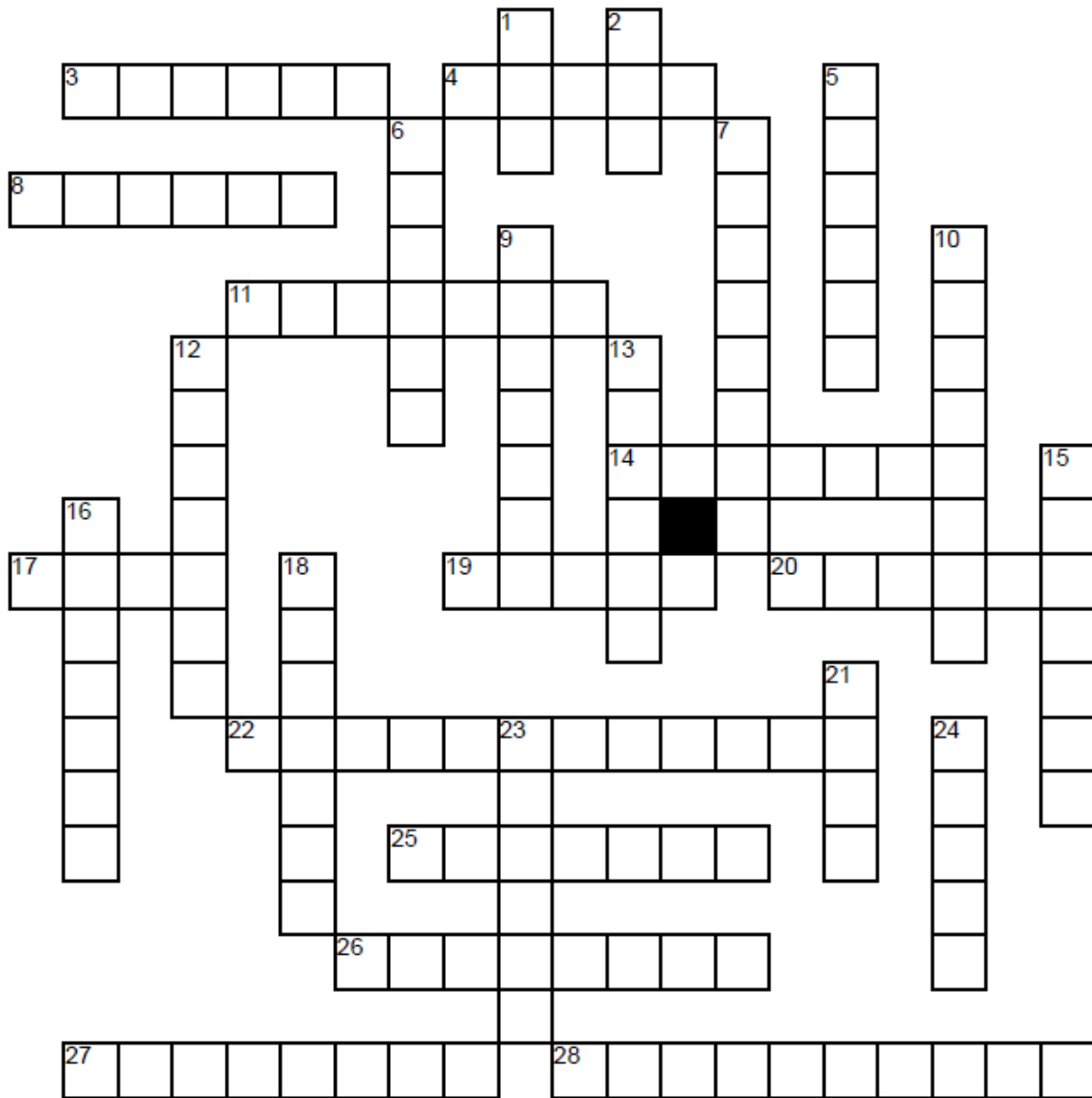
About FEZANA

Founded in 1987, the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) represents a diverse and growing Zarathushti community in the western diaspora. Guided by the blessings of Ahura Mazda and the teachings of prophet Zarathushtra, the non-profit federation serves as the coordinating body for 27 Zoroastrian associations and 14 corresponding groups in Canada and the United States. The activities of FEZANA are conducted in a spirit of mutual respect, cooperation and unity among all member associations, and with due regard for the Zarathushti principles of goodness, truth, reason, benevolence, implicit trust and charity toward all mankind. Visit www.fezana.org and follow FEZANA on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook @TheFEZANA.

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Media contact:
Jim Engineer
Chief Communications Officer
FEZANA
<pr> at <fezana> dot <org>

CANADA DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across	Down
3. Big Bay 4. Little Bay 8. Canada's National Animal 11. Nickel City 14. Most popular cheese in Canada 17. Worth one dollar 19. Number of territories 20. Capital 22. Stuck between Alberta and Manitoba 25. Last Province or territory to join Canada 26. Canada's national summer sport 27. Calgary 28. Famous Coffee	1. National bird : Gray ... 2. Number of provinces 5. Fresh Water Beach 6. Cheese Province 7. Capital of Manitoba 9. Our Columbia 10. Second largest French speaking city in the world 12. Big City 13. Canada's national winter sport 15. Most Famous Cup 16. Famous Quebec dish 18. Most popular province 21. Canadian precipitation 23. Biome found in Canada 24. Favourite Syrup

Drawing Contest 3

Ages 8-20

Deadline for submissions: September 1, 2021



Drawing Guidelines:

Size: 5x8 or 8x5 inches

Color: Black and white (gray shades can be included)

Medium: Computer graphics or non-smearing medium on good quality paper

Format: High resolution (300 dpi or larger) JPEG

Entry: A minimum of four entries (or per organizer and judges' discretion) is required in each age group for the contest to be carried out

Please note:

By submitting your drawing, you give the Drawing Contest organizer the right to publish and use your drawing in any desired fashion

Procedure:

- 1.) Visit www.czc.org/contest
- 2.) Read the story
- 3.) Consider the rubric
- 4.) Submit a drawing best visualizing the featured story
- 5.) Email it to zessayentry@yahoo.com OR mail it to:

PO BOX 572966

Tarzana, CA 91357

- 6.) Include your full name, age, email address, mailing address, and phone number in your submission



1st place prize: \$100

(in each age category)





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 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 _____