



Newsletter – August 2021 Volume 48, Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The board of Directors would like to thank all the members of the Zoroastrian Society Ontario for taking part in the Virtual 51st annual general meeting held on Sunday July 18, 2021.

The board welcomes the following new board members for a two year term

President: Mitra Jam
Vice President: Annahita Ogra
Executive officer: 2 Mashya Amroliwalla (1 year term outgoing president)
Secretary: Armity Bamji
Assistant treasurer: Mernaz Dehmiri
Assistant secretary: Ferozeshaw Ogra

August brings the focus on Shahenshahi, five days of remembering our dear departed loved ones. Please remember to give the names of loved ones for the Mukta prayers to Ervad Houshang Udwadia. Additional details can be found in the relevant section of this Newsletter

Third stage of re-opening phase, the board asks for your cooperation to view our guidelines for visiting the MGDM also contained in this Newsletter. All visitors MUST book with Hoofrish Patel by email evp@zso.org and will receive a confirmation.

Don't forget to save the date for the 50th anniversary virtual celebration for the ZSO being held September 12, 2021. We truly need your help to make this event a success. Please be a part of this celebration by sending in your videos, stories and pictures you would be willing to share; email 50years@zso.org

I am so honoured to be representing our community and look forward to seeing you all soon in person.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful summer.

Happy Shahenshahi Norooz!

With gratitude,
Mitra Jam

Correction from July Newsletter:

Please note the poem submitted in the July NL was erroneously flagged "by Farida Bamji" – the original writer is unknown.

MGDM - UPDATE

The province has entered Step 3 of the Roadmap to Reopen, and we are happy to share that by following the changes under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) for places of worship alongside the reopening guidelines the Mehraban Guiv Darb e Meher (MGDM) will be **reopening for the upcoming Shahenshahi Farvardegan days (Aug 11th - 15th)** with modified hours and some specific conditions. These conditions will continue ensuring all public health measures are followed including capacity limits, face coverings, physical distancing and environmental cleaning and disinfecting.

As we cautiously and gradually plan the upcoming Shahenshahi Farvardegan days, participation in religious services during these days (Aug. 11th – 15th) will be limited. **The MGDM will be open for visits by appointment and during the scheduled prayer times only** with health & safety protocols to follow.

The MGDM revised hours of operations starting, from August 11th – 15th, 2021 are: **6 AM to 9 PM**

All the following prayers will be performed and live streamed during the Farvardegan days:

- Three Satoom sessions (morning, afternoon and evening),
- Afringan
- Farokshi in the morning
- Evening Satoom and Hum Bundagi

All visits to the MGDM will be **by appointment only** and **MUST** be booked in advance, a minimum 24 hours prior to the day of the visit, by contacting Hoofrish Patel (EVP@zso.org) and receiving her confirmation. Please note if you do not have an appointment/confirmation your entry will be denied.

As you all are aware this has been hard for all communities including ZSO in terms of revenue generation, we request everyone to donate generously by visiting our website (www.zso.org). Cash donations should be dropped off in the ZSO safety deposit box. Please do not drop off any cheques in the safety deposit box. If you wish to donate by cheque, please be sure to attach the completed [donation form](#) with your cheque made payable to 'Zoroastrian Society of Ontario'. Cheques made payable to ZSO will be rejected and not processed.

We thank you for your patience and appreciate your cooperation as we gradually and safely reopen, keeping the safety of our custodian and the community at large as the top priority. Below are the COVID-19 Guidelines during the Farvardegan days as per the health and city requirements:

Do's	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in religious services is limited and based on capacity guidelines.• Visits to the MGDM are by appointment ONLY by contacting Hoofrish Patel (EVP@zso.org)• Use the online self-assessment tool before every visit to the MGDM• Complete the covid screener on the day of visit and show it to the volunteer who will be on-site (https://covid-19.ontario.ca/screening/customer/)• Wearing a non-medical mask/face covering is mandatory• Maintain a social distance of two meters/six feet• Bring your own prayer book and head covering• Sukhar must be purchased at ZSO only and CANNOT be brought from home or outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social gatherings, including those that occur before or after a prayer service remains suspended• Consumption of food and drink remains suspended, this includes donation of ravo, sev, malido, etc.• 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.• No consumption of chasni by individuals

Disclaimers and resources:

- *"All visits to the MGDM are voluntary and at the visitor's own discretion. Visitors must comply with applicable guidelines including limits on numbers, wearing of masks and physical distancing. All visitors are responsible for their own health & safety as well as respecting the health & safety of those around them."*
- *"Visitors must self-screen with the ZSO volunteer present when entering the MGDM at each visit. The volunteer will record the date, their name and contact information (phone and/or email) and that will only be used for contact tracing for COVID-19 purposes and will only be kept on file for 30 days."*
- [Click here](#) for more details on reopening of Faith Based Organizations in the City of Toronto

ZSO Annual General Meeting

The 51st Annual General Meeting of the ZSO was held at the Darbe Mehr on Sunday, July 18th at 11:00 am. The meeting was well attended virtually with 44 members online via ZOOM and phone, 17 in person and an additional 10 by proxies.

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

For the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Asst. secretary, Asst. Treasurer and Executive Officer 2, no additional nominations had been received by the deadline so the following nominees were acclaimed:

Position	Term	Nominee
President	2 years	Mitra Jam
Vice-President	2 years	Anahita Ogra
Secretary	2 years	Armaity Bamji
Asst. Secretary	1 year	Ferozshaw Ogra
Asst. Treasurer	2 years	Mehrnaz Dehmiri
Executive Officer 2	1 year	Mashya Amroliwalla

Congratulations to all the new Board members! After the announcement that Mitra Jam was acclaimed President for the year 2021-23, a brief video clip that Mitra had prepared was played for attendees as per her request, since she could not attend due to a prior engagement.

A special thank you to outgoing board members Dara Panthakee and Zamyad Meherji for their important contributions to the community! We look forward to many more collaborations.

After the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting it was brought to the attention of the Board that certain derogatory remarks were directed from one member to another on the Zoom chat during a discussion on the Agenda item concerning Financials. We take this opportunity to remind members that the only way we will remain united and grow as a healthy, strong and vibrant Zoroastrian community is by treating one another with respect, regardless of our differences, setting the right example for the next generation. Members failing to maintain decorum will be asked to leave the meeting. The Board is grateful to members for their participation and support.

Congratulations!

Delna Patel (daughter of Vispi and Kanizehn) to Shiamak Mehta (son of Vistasp and Khushnum) on July 27, 2021 in Poona. Congratulations to the whole family!

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

Thank You Mitra Jam



In appreciation for conducting Yoga classes and providing a much needed service to the Zoroastrian community and her local community - Mitra Jam was given a surprise gift from a few of her fans. Thank you Mitra for all that you do!

Poetry Corner – submitted by Farida Bamji

Ask not what your prayers can do for you
But how through them one can make a difference
To make this world a better place

United we stand
Divided we fall
Ours is an universal religion
Meant for one and all

Hear with your ears
Ponder with a good mind"
Let there be Respect Tolerance
Treat people with understanding dignity
As well Equality for all of humanity

Wake up!! from one's pipe dreams
Have an open mind
Heal the wounds & play our part
So that our Zoroastrian Community
May advance and empower generation
On the Right Path

Condolences

Nargis Asundaria, on July 7th. Beloved mother of Villie Valodwala and Firdosh Patel. Mother-in-law of Minu Valodwala, grandmother to Ruzbeh and Vabeez Valodwala and great-grandmother to Perseus Valodwala. May her soul rest in peace.

Obituary for Dr. Phiroz Dastoor

Dr Phiroz Nariman Dastoor, 88, passed away in Toronto, 2021; husband of Dolly Dastoor (Montreal), father of Dr MacRae) Maine, Ervad Zubin (Jasmine Cooper), Natasha (Dr Adel) Irani, Houston, grandfather of Ervad Zane Dastoor, Roxanna, Isabelle, Dinshaw and Josephine late Perin (Soli) Pardiwala, Noshir (Sarosh) Dastoor, Bhathena; Kety (Freddy) Mirza, brother-in-law of late Dinshaw) Bharucha, Mumbai, Bomi Bharucha, Mumbai, Bharucha, Philadelphia. Phiroz was a chemist working in around the world and was one of the Founding Members Scouter with the 100th Toronto Scout Group, also known as the "First Zoroastrian Scout Group" when it was 1990. He was also a scouter in Quebec with the 1st Group from 1974 to 1979 and before that he was a scout for a couple of years (approx. 1940-42) with the "Dinshaw Mistry Scout Group" in Dadar Parsi Colony, Mumbai. Phiroz was a world traveler and was interested in different cultures and cuisines. He was a kind and generous man who volunteered with many groups such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Phiroz lived by the moto: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others (Mahatma Gandhi). He will be greatly missed.



on July 2nd, Farahad (Dr Jean Singapore, Dr Jehan, Ervad Irani, brother of Sheroo (Minoo) Roshan (late Jimmy (Roshan) various industries and an Assistant in the community established in Brossard Scout

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Message of appreciation:

The Dastoor and Irani family sincerely thank family and friends who attended the prayers virtually and in person. Sincere thanks to all for your phone calls and cards of sympathy. Your support is much appreciated in our time of bereavement

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Immediate need for blood donors to help patients this summer!

Canadian Blood Services is calling on all eligible blood donors to support lifesaving care for patients, as more than 1000 appointments are yet to be filled at the Hillcrest Mall Blood Donor Centre, Richmond Hill this summer. As COVID-19 restrictions gradually ease and we move into a "new normal", the need for blood is rising due to increasing demand and missed or unfilled blood donation appointments.

Canadian Blood Services is recognized as an essential service by the provinces and territories during this pandemic. We are committed to welcoming donors into our donor centres to provide their life saving gifts to Canadians. Every donation counts. The demand for blood never stops.

In keeping with current physical distancing measures, we have limited the number of people permitted inside the donor centres. Appointments must be booked in advance as we are unable to welcome walk-in donors during the pandemic. Safety is our highest priority. Enhanced wellness measures are in effect to ensure the wellbeing of donors and our teams are safeguarded. Additional COVID-19 safety measures in place at all donation events include:

- o Wellness checkpoints that include mandatory temperature checks and screening
- o Mandatory masks and additional personal protective equipment
- o Increased and thorough environmental cleaning; and
- o Active hand hygiene and enforced physical distancing.

All blood types are needed. If you are in general good health, we need you to book and honour your appointment to help patients this month and throughout the year. Download the GiveBlood app, call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) or book now at blood.ca/T322.

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

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 - بند ۷

ای اش، سهم و بفش ما را از پاداشی که برای نیک اندیشی است ارزانی بدار. ای آرمئیتی به ویشتاسب و من توانایی بیفش. ای مزدا اکنون کام ما را برآور و بفواه که پیام مینوی را بشنویم و دریابیم.

جشن شهریورگان بر همگی شاد باد!

براساس گاهشماری زرتشتی جشن شهریورگان از جشن های ماهیانه است که در روز شهریور از ماه امرداد که برابر با ۲۱ آگوست است برگزار می شود. کلمه شهریور از شکل «فیشتره ویری» اوستایی است که به «شهریاری فواسته شده» ترجمه می شود. درباره پیگونی برگزاری این جشن در دوره باستان آگاهی پندانی نداریم.

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.



گردهم ای ماهیانه بانوان



با توجه به در فواست 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 فبرنامه 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 فیراندیشی نیز کاهش یافته است، در مالی 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 دهید.

با توجه به اقدام دولت اونتاریو در بازگشایی مرحله به مرحله مکان های عمومی و تجاری، انجمن زرتشتیان اونتاریو نیز در حال برنامه ریزی برای بازگشایی مرحله به مرحله درمهر است. فبرهای در این زمینه را از راه ایمل انجمن دریافت خواهید کرد.

کانال تلگرامی کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان اونتاریو

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 فبرها 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 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 پرداخت کنید. فرزندان و دوستان و آشنایان خود را برای پیوند به انجمن از راه پرداخت مق عضویت برانگیزید.

نشر نوشته در بخش فارسی فبرنامه

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 فبرنامه به نشانی ایمیل کانون بفرستید. طبیعتاً این نوشته ها در صورت نیاز پس از نظرخواهی و داوری افراد متفحص منتشر خواهد شد. انتشار نوشته به مجم فبر فبرنامه هم بستگی خواهد داشت.

مناسبت ها و رخدادهای ماه گذشته

مجمع همگانی انجمن برگزار شد

امسال هم مجمع همگانی انجمن از راه آنلاین برگزار شد. در این گردهم آیی که تعداد فوبی از اعضا از راه سیستم زوم شرکت کرده بودند، مرامل مفتلف رای گیری و گفتگو انجام شد. در پایان نیز اعضای هیات مدیره جدید معرفی شدند. با سپاس از اعضای گذشته هیات مدیره که در شرایط سخت کارهای انجمن را نیز انجام دادند و فروش آمد به اعضای جدید هیات مدیره، امیدواریم که همگی در پشتیبانی از هیات مدیره کوشا باشیم.

Coffee Chat with International Zoroastrian Youth – Dinsha Mistree



“It’s really not that hard to do something meaningful. Avoid the elegiac debates about what’s wrong with our community and just do something” – Dinsha

Hi Dinsha! Welcome to our coffee chat and we’re excited to have you as our third guest in this series!

1. Can you please tell us a bit about yourself?

Thanks! I was born in Houston and grew up in Atlanta, where I finished high school. I then went to Boston for college before moving to New Jersey for graduate school. I am currently a research fellow and lecturer at Stanford Law School where I teach and conduct research on topics related to international development and poverty. I am married to a great person (Fareeza) and have a son named Hormazd, with a second on the way!

2. You have visited Iran, lived across the United States, visited your wife’s city of Karachi, Pakistan and of course been to India. Can you highlight some of the Zoroastrian cultural similarities and differences?

This question deserves a longer and more complex answer, but basically the short answer is that everyone practices the religion differently. There are some common features, of course, but I think we have lost any semblance of a standard global practice. There are more similarities from a cultural perspective, but we are different. Even in N. California, where I am currently based, we have two Zoroastrian associations, one run by the Iranian Zoroastrians and one run by the Parsis. There is a deeper question here as to whether this is a problem, and if it is, what should we be doing about it? My view is that we must promote mutual respect. If someone in Timbuktu wants to be called a Zoroastrian, I don’t need to agree with it, but I don’t need to interfere either. Likewise, if a temple in India says, “Only these people are allowed,” it would be wrong for someone living abroad to attempt to break or change the rule.

3. You co-founded the now popular “Return To Roots” as well as “Agiary Connect” programs, how did that idea come to your mind and can you tell us a bit more about these projects? What other projects are you involved with?

Agiary Connect came about because I find value in Zoroastrian religious services and could not get them performed when I am in the US. At the same time, priests in India are suffering economically as a huge portion of our community has left. There is priestly poverty, and I can’t blame any priest who doesn’t want to go into the profession as there is really no money in it anymore. I decided to learn more. The first question was whether it was religiously possible. I found out from my uncle Khojeste that back in the ancient days in Iran, priests in the cities would send religious service orders to priests serving in rural shrines. Then I thought about all the times that I had gotten a service performed at an agiary for someone who wasn’t physically there. My friend, Benafsha Shroff, also got really interested and we started looking out for a priest at an agiary who could help us. We found our person at the Banaji-Limji Agiary, the oldest agiary in Bombay. That’s when all the headaches really started. The Indian government made it very difficult to do money transfers from elsewhere to India. Thankfully, we figured out a solution and are now able to make things work. Then our website was subject to a number of spam attacks, which ultimately led to it being shut down. Thankfully Jamsheed Mistri came into our lives and revived the website. As we grow, we are hoping to find someone who can help us market and do advertising. Also, we are always looking for more agiaries and priests to work with. We operate the site with a few small donations. We transfer

all the money we get for services to the priests and agiaries, apart from the transfer / currency conversion fees. (www.agiaryconnect.com).

Return to Roots was different. Aban Marker Kabraji and Shernaz Cama wanted to do a project that a bunch of youth could work together doing. They had been asking people in their networks for ideas. I had come across an undergrad at Princeton (where I was currently studying) who had just finished a trip on Taglit-Birthright Israel. He was not all that connected to his community when he went, but he figured it was a free two-week trip where could learn more. He ended up moving to Israel after he graduated and even served for a short spell in the Israeli Defense Forces. Aban and Shernaz were instantly on board with the idea and we set forth on plans to arrange trips to Iran and India. Aban and Shernaz reached out to talented youths from all over the world. We started with Rosheen Kabraji, my cousin Kaiyan Mistree, Shireen Havewala, and myself (fun fact: Aban brought Shireen into the group and Kaiyan fell in love. Shireen and Kaiyan got married a few years ago). Rosheen and I went to communities all over the diaspora to fund the program and to send their youth. Kaiyan and Shireen handled Indian operations, which included the gargantuan tasks of planning the trips. Not really knowing what to expect, sixteen brave souls decided to come for the first trip. Return to Roots has done trips to India every year apart from 2020 and 2021. We always wanted to do Iran, but visa issues have limited what can be done. Hopefully one day.

- 4. You mentioned you're traditional in your practice of the faith, but your mother is a non-Zoroastrian, did that affect you in your childhood and practicing of the religion? You're also the nephew of the renowned Zoroastrian scholar - Khojeste Mistree, were you always heavily involved with the community and faith. Did you feel any pressure to continue the familial legacy?**

My mom grew up in the Unitarian faith. My personal view is that in mixed marriages, at least one person must compromise on the religious practices in the family. If both parents compromise and the parents try to provide both religions, then the child grows up without a strong grounding in either faith. In my case, the Zoroastrian influence was a much stronger presence. That's not to say that I don't appreciate my mom or my matrilineal relatives, but we were going to Zoroastrian Sunday Schools instead of church. My dad, Farrokh, and Khojeste are both heavily involved in the community and have both encouraged me to get engaged. They have both provided me with a number of opportunities, not to mention intellectual engagement on the weighty issues facing our community.

- 5. Can you tell us more about your work with FEZANA and the Scholarship committee? How has FEZANA adapted and grown with the times and maximizing reach?**

If FEZANA ever had a Hall of Fame, Dolly Dastoor would certainly have to be among the first inductees. In addition to starting FEZANA Journal and serving as FEZANA's president, she started the FEZANA Scholarship program more than 30 years ago. What Dolly has done is remarkable: this year, the Scholarships will give out more than \$70,000 USD to several of the community's finest students. Much of this money comes from endowment funds and will only grow over time. I was lucky enough to receive a FEZANA Scholarship when I was studying and was honored when Dolly invited me to serve as a judge on the committee. Recently, I have been helping Dolly do some updates to the Scholarship program, which has provided me a glimpse into the amount of work she does in coordinating everything. It's simply incredible. We are doing several things to maximize reach. This year for the first time, FEZANA's social media team (led by Tanya Hoshi) got the word out about the scholarships. We have more than 100 applications, about two to three times what we usually get. I am optimistic that we will be able to expand what we can offer as well. Scholarship alums frequently pay back what they receive, and we have several new donors who are coming forward to support our activities. It's really exciting.

- 6. So, lots of people visit 8 Atash Behrams in a single day, but you've covered 50 agiaries in Bombay in a single day, how was that experience? Would you recommend it to our readers?**

One day, Kaiyan (my cousin) and I were talking, and we got the crazy idea to visit all the consecrated fires in Bombay. There are 41 agiaries and 4 Atash Behrams; we also did one or two dadgah temples to get to an even 50. We started making plans. Everything would have to go just right, and even then, we thought we might not be able to pull it off. We got everything ready and left from Khareghat colony at 4:15 am. We started in Kalyan and it was a blur from there. We would do our kustis, enter the agiary, make some donations, say a few prayers, take our tilis, and go to the next one. We finished at 9:35 pm and only took one bathroom break. When we were planning everything, I didn't think it would be a very religious experience, but I have to say that there were several moments where we really experienced the magic of the agiaries and the fires. Also, we did this activity on a random Saturday. Kaiyan and I estimated that we saw more than 500 people in all the temples. There was the aunty who goes to agiary every day, the college student praying for better grades, the newly married couple coming in, and the person dashing in quickly before starting his errands. We often bemoan how the religion is falling apart, but it is worth remembering that these are important institutions that people use everyday.

- 7. Are you involved in the organization of the upcoming World Zoroastrian Congress to be held in New York City, USA in 2022? How excited are you and would you encourage the youth and other community members to attend the international event next summer?**

I'm not involved in the planning for the upcoming World Zoroastrian Congress, but I'm cheering them on. Congresses are great ways to meet new people. In pre-covid times, I traveled a lot for work. When I got the chance in a new city, I like to contact some of the people I have met at previous Congresses. It's always fun to see these folks again, plus they always love showing off their home cities. If one has the means, Congresses are worthwhile to attend.

- 8. Lastly, what message do you have for our young members reading this and in what ways can they make an impact?**

It's really not that hard to do something meaningful. Avoid the elegiac debates about what's wrong with our community and just do something. If you're looking for ideas, organize a hike or talk people into a dhansak cooking party or go bowling. Invite the other Zoroastrians in the area. You will find a nice group of people who will become your friends. Before you know it, you will have a community.

Thank you so much Dinsha, for your time and amazing work for the community!



Survey on 'Zoroastrians-by-Choice' and their interactions with 'Zoroastrians-by-Birth'

The study is part of Ruzbeh Hodiwala's doctoral project under Professor Almut Hintze, the Zartoshty Brothers Professor of Zoroastrianism at SOAS, University of London.



Survey I: For Zoroastrians-by-choice < <https://forms.gle/bJcEsyJmAm6mkpuT9> >

Click on the above survey link, if you were born into a non-Zoroastrian family – where both mother and father are/were born non-Zoroastrians, i.e. they were legally assigned a non-Zoroastrian identity at birth and you decided to accept the Zoroastrian identity by undergoing a Sedreh-Pushi ceremony, or you/your family publicly identified as non-Zoroastrians but privately remained Zoroastrians, therefore you accepted the Zoroastrian identity by undergoing a Sedreh-Pushi ceremony.

If you are a 'Zoroastrian-by-choice' who has not undergone a Sedreh-Pushi/Navjote ceremony or you are waiting to undergo a Sedreh-Pushi ceremony and would like to participate in the project, please contact the researcher at <ruzbeh_hodiwala@soas.ac.uk> or by completing the contact form at <https://www.neozoroastrianproject.com/contact>.



Survey II: For Zoroastrians-by-birth <<https://forms.gle/mBkyDgsfar6jYhzd7>>

Click on the above survey link if you are a Zoroastrian who was born into a family where 'both' the parents or 'at least one parent' – mother 'or' father – is/was born a Zoroastrian. You can undertake this survey if you have not undergone a Navjote/Sedreh Pushi ceremony but identify yourself as a Zoroastrian.

After clicking on the survey link, you will see additional information on the eligibility criteria and have the option to proceed to a different survey based on your eligibility. If you are still unsure about which survey to complete, please contact the researcher at ruzbeh_hodiwala@soas.ac.uk

The surveys are best viewed on a device with a large screen and can take up to 20 minutes to complete.

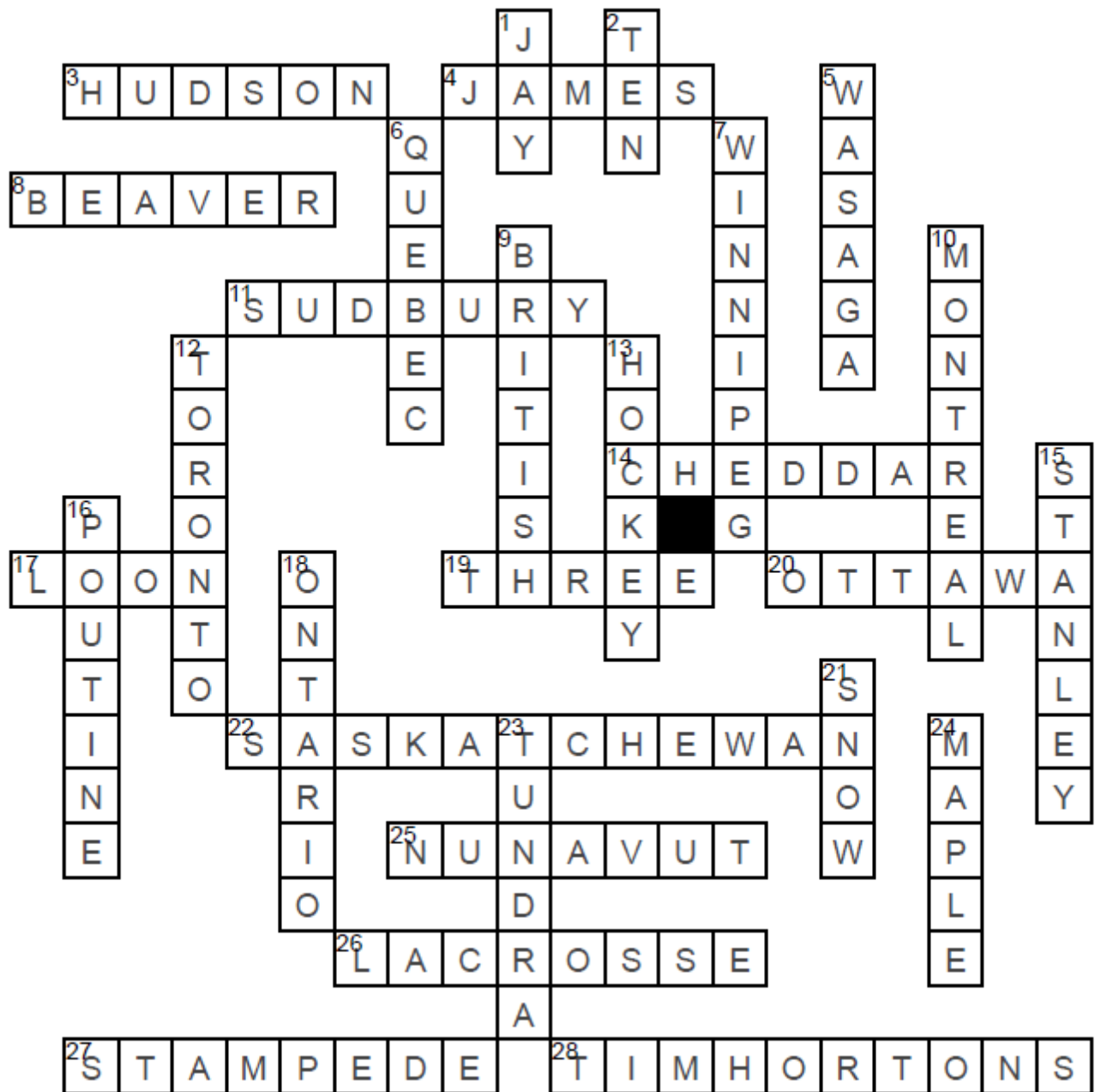
A Persian version of Survey-I for 'Zoroastrians-by-Choice' will be available shortly. If there are enough requests, the surveys will be translated into other languages.

Thank you

Ruzbeh Hodiwala

CANADA DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWER KEY



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, M2M 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 _____