



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We, the ZSO board members wish you and your families and loved ones, a very happy, prosperous, and healthy 2022! We are optimistic that this year we will finally be able to have more gathering at the MGDM.

Despite the challenges of 2021, I am truly proud of our community as we have achieved a lot and were able to hold several virtual events and even a few small in person events at the MGDM.

Here are examples of some of the ZSO achievements in 2021:

- ❖ Successfully held ZSO 50th year anniversary virtual celebration which was organized by an amazing group of volunteers who put together many photos and videos taking us down memory lane
- ❖ First in person event at the MGDM since February 2020, Jashne Mehregan in October organized by Kanoun
- ❖ The in-person volunteer appreciation night was attended and despite the low numbers it was a memorable evening.
- ❖ In person 100th Scouts events began, which brought so much excitement to the children as well as the leaders
- ❖ In person Seniors events began and we were so excited to have them meet up again and reconnect with friends.
- ❖ Youth have been constantly creative in organizing events from online Yoga classes (note yoga classes will resume February 2<sup>nd</sup>), outdoor picnics to ice skating. They are in fact currently organizing a winter clothing drive which will continue until January 6th, 2022. So please drop off gently used winter clothing and boots at the MGDM during opening hours.
- ❖ Completed a number of maintenance projects and upgrades to the MGDM building. The upgrades to the MGDM have included the facade and the stucco outside of the building, drainage pipe and gutter replacements, the windows on the main floor, updated stereo and sound system. Replacements of the fire doors are next on the list. We truly thank the house and garden committee for their ongoing diligence and commitment to ensuring our MGDM is enjoyed by many more generations to come. ZSO appeals to members and the community to donate towards keeping up with its ongoing maintenance costs. Please see the appeal online at [www.zso.org](http://www.zso.org).
- ❖ Cut and disposed of several trees that had fallen for various reasons and replacement trees were planted.

As my father-in-law Jamshid Jam would say, please be a ZSO member and encourage your friends to become members... as it is ***your support that keeps this community alive.***

“Don’t worry, be happy”.

Wishing you Tandorosti,  
Mitra Jam  
ZSO President



## MGDM Hours – Updated January 2022

Aligning with the Province's return to Stage 2 COVID protocols – effective immediately the MGDM capacity has been reduced to 50% for all religious, funeral and post funeral ceremonies. All non-essential social gatherings are cancelled. Numbers for drop in visits are now reduced to 10 at any one time.

You will need to provide proof of vaccination to access MGDM, helping further protect our community from COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

- All individuals visiting the MGDM will be required to provide proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test to participate in an event or a drop in visit.
- Individuals must NOT come to the MGDM (drop in visit or event) if they are sick (any illness – not just limited to COVID-19)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, your health and safety has been our top priority. Thank you to each of you who has done your part in helping to support a healthy and safe environment for all.

The Board of Directors  
Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

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## Skating – ZSO Youth Event, Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

After a warm week, the snow came down along with the temperature (-3°) on Saturday. By Sunday, Zoroastrian's got together to skate at Chinguacousy Park in Brampton. Some people were experts, and some stepped on the ice for the first time! At the end, it was all about getting out and enjoying the ice, weather, and people.

The cold weather is a great opportunity to explore new activities and embrace the cold weather we experience 5 months of the year.

Thank you to all who joined us, please follow ZSO Youth on Instagram for constant updates and exclusive content: @zsoyouth



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## Condolences

Bharucha, Goolu on Decembe 12th, 2021. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Farrokh Bharucha. Goolu is survived by her two children, her grand-children, Alexander, Ryan and Isabella, her daughter-in-law Kashmira, her sisters and brother and their families, and Farrokh's sister, Katy, and her family; as well as her nieces and nephews on the Bharucha side. May her soul rest in eternal peace.



## Yalda Celebrations - 2021

Yalda (Shab-e-Chelleh) celebrations took place at the Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, Toronto, Canada, virtually on December 18, 2021. Relevant prayers were performed by Mobed Kerman Katrak, along with the explanation and significance of this event.



Thanks to Pedram Yazdani for Video recording and live streaming, Soheila Shidfar for submitting the videos and special thanks to Parvin Mehraein and Parvin Kavoosi for decorating and setting up the Yalda Table.

While the Christians celebrate Christmas, the Iranians, particularly Zoroastrians celebrate one of their most ancient celebrations, called “Yalda”, which means Birth. “Yalda” is the night of Mehr or Mithra’s birth; “Zayesh-e-Mehr”. This is traced to the primal concept of Light and

Good, against Darkness and Evil in the ancient Iranian Zoroastrian religion. From this day forward, Light Triumphs, as the days grow longer and gives more light.

When Mithraism spread to ancient civilized world from Iran, December 21st was celebrated as Mithra’s birthday. But in the 4th century AD because of some errors in counting the Leap Year, the birthday of Mithra shifted to December 25th. Until that time the birthday of Jesus Christ was celebrated on January 6th. (Eastern Orthodox – Ukrainian Christmas). But the religion of most of the Romans and the people of many of the European countries was still Mithraism. When Christianity spread, the Christian priests could not stop the practice of celebrating Mithra’s birthday on December 25th, so they declared this day as Jesus’ birthday which is still so.



In ancient Persia, “Yalda” festivities and symbols included the evergreen tree. Young girls wrapped their wishes in silk cloth and hung them on the tree. Eventually, it became a custom to place presents and gifts under the evergreen tree. To this day frankincense and sandal wood, are offered at the altars of Zoroastrian places of worship, all over the world. As late as the 18th century a German learnt of the “Yalda” tree and created what we now know as the Christmas tree.

For decades the entire Iranian nation, particularly Zoroastrians, celebrate “Yalda” more as the night of the rebirth of the “Sun” than connect it with the birth of Jesus. In this context, it is interesting to note that the three wise men, the Magi, that were present at the birth of Christ, were Zoroastrians.

*Submitted by Ervad Kerman Katrak*



## Beauty – A Poem by Farida Bamji

They say  
"Beauty lies in  
The eyes of the beholder"  
With due respect that's  
Physical beauty  
But real beauty  
Emanates from the heart  
Treating people humanely  
With Respect understanding  
As well Dignity

Wearing the latest fashion  
Makeup perfume lipstick  
That doesn't a  
Beautiful person make  
Having humbleness  
Humility selflessness  
With these qualities  
A happy Peaceful world  
One can create

Each one of us is beautiful ♡  
No matter what we look like  
So please let's concentrate  
On the inherent qualities  
To make this place  
A peaceful happy world

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## Ontario Seniors Home Safety Tax Credit

The Ontario government is helping seniors stay in their homes longer by extending the Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit by one year, to 2022. The [Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit](#) is a refundable credit worth 25 per cent of up to \$10,000 per household in eligible expenses, to a maximum credit of \$2,500. It can be shared by people who live together, including spouses and common law partners. The extension will assist seniors, or those living with senior relatives, to renovate their homes to make them safer and more accessible.

Examples of eligible renovations include:

- Installing grab bars and related reinforcements in bathrooms
- Wheelchair ramps, stair lifts and elevators
- Non-slip flooring

Quick Facts:

- The Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit is available to Ontario seniors or those who live with senior relatives regardless of their incomes and whether they owe any tax.
- Individuals can claim the credit for renovation expenses to their principal residence, either owned or rented, or to a residence that they reasonably expect to become their principal residence within the 24 months following the end of the year.
- To claim the tax credit, claimants should keep receipts from suppliers and contractors.

For more details on this tax credit – contact CRA at 1-800-959-8281 or click on above link.



## NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies – Upcoming Courses and Discussion Groups

NAMC is happy to announce the addition of a number of courses for the Spring and Summer 2022 curriculum. Please note that these courses are all on-line and are free for all to attend.

The first of these will be on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm EST - topic will be Non-Zoroastrian Names recited in Zoroastrian Prayers. See attached flyer for details.

This is followed by the first of several courses starting on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2:00 pm EST. See below for brief description:

### **Zoroastrianism in Zoroastrian Dynasties:**

*This course will provide the student with the knowledge of various pre-Zoroastrian and Zoroastrian dynasties, their rulers, their battles and how Zoroastrianism influenced their rule.*

*Learning Objectives: On successful completion of this course, the student will gain an understanding of the history of Pre-Zoroastrian and Zoroastrian rulers, their influence on their subjects and their neighbouring countries and the practice of Zoroastrianism during their reign.*

For registration – please email [registrar.izs@namcmobeds.org](mailto:registrar.izs@namcmobeds.org) . For details on all upcoming courses please visit [IZS Courses](#) or see attached flyers in this Newsletter.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of this great opportunity and learn from the priests within our community about our religion and customs.

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## **Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize - 2022**

The Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize has been established by the Library Committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH), home of the FEZANA Information Research and Education System (FIRES). FIRES is a centralized collection of books, manuscripts, literature, magazines, and scholarly research materials in print and electronic form, primarily pertaining to Zarathushti faith, culture, and history. FIRES was established in 2010 and is housed and managed by the ZAH Library.

The main objective of the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize is to recognize the literary production of works by Zoroastrian authors. We seek to celebrate the accomplishments of Bapsi Sidhwa with this prize and honor literary expressions that represent the rich characters, setting, laughter, and thoughtful topics found in her novels and essays.

### **Submissions and Deadlines:**

The Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize will be awarded to writers of fiction. Novels and collections of short stories will be accepted. All works should be originally in English. Submissions are accepted only from Zoroastrian authors. The Prize will be awarded biennially. Works must be published between January 2020, and January 2022, for the 2022 award. Each submission must be accompanied by the Application Form.

Authors must be 18 or older. Submissions must include one copy of the book. Submissions must be first editions. In addition, a digital copy is required to share with the jury for adjudication. Digital copies will only be made available to the judges adjudicating the prize. Hard copies will not be returned and will be placed in our library. Reviews and endorsement letters can accompany applications but are not required. Each submission must be the work of a single author. No co-authored books, edited books or anthologies will be accepted. Self-published books will not be eligible.

See attached flyer for more information and application form.



## 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 **Assistant Editor:** Aban Irani

Please note that all requests for inclusions in the ZSO NL should be emailed to [newslettereditor@zso.org](mailto:newslettereditor@zso.org) and [asstnleditor@zso.org](mailto:asstnleditor@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 Mitra Jam at [president@zso.org](mailto:president@zso.org) for approval**

Renting MGDH 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
- \* Religious Books, CDs, DVDs
- \* Sukhar, Loban, Vehr, Tacho
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- \* Sadra, Kasti, Topi, T shirts, Caps
- \* Gift Items, Silver & Gold pendants

And much more.....



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Gratitude to *P*earl *C*hothia,

*O*n behalf of the 100 Toronto Scout Group, the Group Committee is extremely pleased and appreciates your dedication to the Beavers over the years.

As a Section Leader your compassion, leadership, dynamic nature and generosity to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are commendable and unparalleled. You as a dedicated mother guided the Beavers as your own children giving them love and teaching them discipline. You achieved this extraordinary feat while raising your own four children.

At the Beaver meetings and camps your organization and care of the group was exemplary, as you were more of a mother than a leader. Guided by your motherly instincts you lovingly tended to our sick youth at the Canadian Jamboree 2017.

Your contribution to the Group Committee and fund raising was always constructive, useful and advisory. Your knowledge and comments were valuable and highly appreciated. Your account keeping was impeccable. Your deeds, enthusiasm, unselfish dedication and discipline will be an example and role model for the 100 Toronto scout Group.

You are *P*earl not only by name but also by elegance and beauty. Your luster will always dwell in our minds. We will always remember that amongst us there is a precious Pearl.

Life has to go on and so must you. We shall never forget you and hope you never forget us. We hope that you will return to help us in our time of need, difficulties and fund raising. We wish you the best in your new endeavors.

*O*nce a *S*cout, always a *S*cout.

Gratias *T*ibi *V*alde,

***From 100 Toronto Scout Group***

*G*ratITUDE to *S*hiraz *T*ampal,

*Y*ou, over the years, were the mentor and guide to our Section Leaders. Your exemplary dynamic nature set an example for our Section Leaders and the Group Committee.

*O*n behalf of the 100 Toronto Scout Group, the Group Committee is extremely pleased and appreciates your dedication to the Scouts over the years.

Your leadership commanded respect and at the same time exhibited compassion towards the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. Under your stern command there was a subtle generosity and motherly instinct of caring for our youth.

Your gusto to achieve perfection is a remarkable role model for the 100 Toronto Scout Group. Your contribution to the success of our fund raisers was commendable and unfathomable. Your presence at all our events and meetings was like the 'wind below our wings'. You never hesitated to give ideas and suggestions which were useful and constructive.

Your organization at Scout meetings and camps was extraordinary. Behind your strict demand for discipline, you exhibited tenderness and lovingly tended to our sick youth at the Canadian Jamboree 2017.

Life never stands still and you have to move on. We will always remember you and hope you too will always remember us. We hope that you will be back to help us in our time of need, difficulties and fund raisers. We wish you the best in care and love of your grandchildren. We will be pleased to see you as our own when return with your grandchild for the Beavers.

*S*hiraz, you are by name sweet and a secret song. Your nature fills us with a joyous spirit just like a good wine.

*O*nce a *S*cout, always a *S*cout.

*G*ratias *T*ibi *V*alde,

***From 100 Toronto Scout Group***



**اھنودگات - یسن ۲۸ - بند ۱۲**

به شما، روان جهان دادخواهی می کند؛ برای چه مرا آفریدید؟ چه کسی مرا سافت؟ مرا فش، ستم، کینه توزی، درشتی و تندخواهی در بند کرده. برایم پشتیبان دیگری جز شما نیست. پس راهنمایی نیک و شایسته به من نشان بدهید.

**سال ۲۰۲۲ بر همه خجسته باد!**

امیدواریم که این سال نو میلادی برای همه سالی همراه با تندرستی و خوبی در کنار خانواده و نزدیکان باشد. این چند سال گذشته به دلیل همه گیری، آنطورکه همیشه انتظار داشتیم جشن های سال نو را با گردهم ایی جشن نمی گیریم، اما بسیار مناسب است که با وسایل ارتباطی با یکدیگر در تماس باشیم و از اموال یکدیگر با فیرا

امیدواریم که تا نوروز و شروع سال فورشیدی وضعیت بسیار بهتر شده باشد و بتوانیم جشن و دیدوبازدید نوروزی را برگزار کنیم.

**گھنبار میدیاریم گاه**

گھنبار میدیاریم گاه پنجمین چهره گھنبار در سال است. به طور سنتی گھنبارها جشن های فصلی هستند و روایت شده است که این گھنبار پس از آفرینش جانوران بوده است. از سوی دیگر گھنبارها را باید جشن هایی برای گردهم آمدن، نیایش و ستایش و دیدوبازدید نامید. هر چند که شوربختانه در حال حاضر هنوز گردهم آمدن مانند گذشته ممکن نیست، اما در **روز یکشنبه ۲ ژانویه ساعت ۱۱ صبح** از راه کانال یوتیوب انجمن می توانید اوستافوانی و مراسم را ببینید. در صورتی که فواستید می توانید فیراندیشی های خود را به این مناسبت به صورت آنلاین یا چک به انجمن بفرستید.

**جشن نوروز را با هم جشن بگیریم!**

هموندان انجمن از مدتی پیش تلاش خود را شروع کرده اند تا با توجه به شرایط اگر ممکن باشد جشن نوروز را مانند گذشته برگزار کنند. بنابر آنچه که تاکنون مشخص شده است، جشن نوروز در **روز یکشنبه ۲۰ مارچ ۲۰۲۲** در Fontana Gardens Banquet Halls برگزار خواهد شد. جزییات بیشتر را به زودی به آگاهی فواهم (رساند، تا آن زمان این روز را بر روی تقویم خود مشخص کنید.

**جشن سده**

جای فوشمالی است که امسال بتوانیم برای جشن سده (در پایان ماه ژانویه ۲۰۲۱)، با توجه به شرایط گردهم بیایم و دیداری تازه کنیم و سده را جشن بگیریم. خود را برای این جشن آماده کنید و گوش به زنگ باشید تا جزییات بیشتر را به آگاهی شما برسانیم. هموندان انجمن از هم اکنون تلاش خود را شروع کرده اند تا بتوانند جشن ها را با توجه به شرایط و اگر ممکن باشد، برگزار کنند. در صورتی که مایل هستید همکاری برای برگزاری این جشن ها داشته باشید با هموندان کانون در تماس باشید.



## بازگشایی درمهر مهربان کیو

مدتی می شود که با توجه به شرایط، درمهر در روزهای دوشنبه و چهارشنبه از ساعت ۴ تا ۸ پسین و روزهای شنبه از ساعت ۹ صبح تا ۱۲ ظهر باز می باشد. برای ورود به درمهر لازم است که برفی شرایط از جمله (روز و ساعت و نیز داشتن مدرک واکسن و ... رعایت کنید. برای جزئیات این شرایط به تارنمای انجمن (به نشانی زیر) مراجعه کنید. به امید این که هر چه زودتر به شرایط معمول گذشته برگردیم، اما تا آن زمان و هر چند با برفی محدودیت ها، بسیار مناسب است که رفتن به درمهر را در برنامه خود بگذارید و هر مدتی یکبار به درمهر بروید.

<https://www.zso.org/covid-19-updates>

## کانال تلگرامی کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی

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، پیشنهادها و فبرها را بفرستید.

## ورزش و سلامتی

هر چند که فوشبفتانه وضعیت همه گیری کووید ۱۹ در حال بهتر شدن است و بازگشایی و برفی گردهم ایی های محدود آرام آرام از سرگرفته می شود. اما برفی از فعالیت ها را هنوز می توان از راه مجازی انجام داد.



از جمله 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.

## پشتیبان مالی انجمن را به یاد داشته باشید

به دلیل وضعیت موجود در پیوند با ویروس کووید-۱۹، ممل درمهر و انجمن هنوز به شکل کامل بازگشایی نشده است. با توجه به عدم حضور افراد در ممل درمهر، کمک های خیراندیشی 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 بدهید.

## نزدیکان و فویشان خود را به پیوستن به انجمن برانگیزید

با پرداخت حق عضویت خود، هم انجمن را از نظر مالی پشتیبانی کنید و هم این که همآوری خود را با انجمن و جامعه نشان بدهید. حق عضویت خود را می توانید به صورت آنلاین از تارنمای انجمن یا با فرستادن چک و پر کردن فرم مربوط پرداخت کنید. فرزندان تان که به فوشمالی بزرگ شده اند و زندگی جدیدی تشکیل داده اند و دوستان و آشنایان خود را برای پیوند به انجمن از راه پرداخت حق عضویت برانگیزید.



## مناسبت ها و رخدادهای ماه گذشته با سپاس از همه افرادی که در برگزاری این مناسبت ها هم‌آزوری کردند.

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

### سالگرد درگذشت اشوزرتشت



براساس سنت و گاهشماری زرتشتی روز فیر از ماه دی برابر با ۲۶ دسامبر به عنوان سالگرد درگذشت اشوزرتشت در نظر گرفته می شود. به همین مناسبت در روز یکشنبه ۲۶ دسامبر ساعت ۵ پسین اوستافروانی برگزار شد که به طور همزمان از کانال یوتیوب انجمن نیز پخش شد. ضبط شده این برنامه را می توانید از کانال یوتیوب انجمن ببینید. با سپاس از موبدان و افرادی که در پیدن سفره، پخش از یوتیوب و برگزاری این برنامه هم‌آزوری کردند.

### مشن شب چله در درمهر برگزار شد



مشن شب چله در ۱۸ دسامبر در درمهر مهربان گیو برگزار شد. در این برنامه ابتدا توسط موبد کرمان کاتراک اوستای بایسته خوانده شد و درباره این مشن و تاریخچه آن گفتگو شد. از جمله این که مشن یلدا (چله) که هم زمان با مشن کریسمس در غرب برگزار می شود، به معنی «زایش» است. این مشن را در سنت ایرانی باید مشن پیروزی نور و گرما بر تاریکی و سردی نامید که از فردای آن، روزها بلندتر می شوند و هر چند که در زمستان هستیم اما به نوروز و تابستان

نزدیکتر می شویم. زمانی که آیین میترائیسم از ایران به نقاط دیگر دنیا گسترش یافت، مشنی نیز در ۲۱ دسامبر برای زایش میترا برگزار می شد.

اما در قرن چهارم به دلیل برفی اشتباهات مناسبه، این مشن به روز ۲۵ دسامبر جابجا شد. در همین زمان تاریخ تولد عیسی مسیح در تاریخ ۶ ژانویه برگزار می شد. بعدها با گسترش مسیحیت در اروپا (رومانیون مسیحی تاریخ زایش مسیح را به ۲۵ دسامبر یعنی مشن زادروز میترا که به طور گسترده ایی برگزار می شد، منتقل کردند و آن را روز کریسمس نامیدند. در ایران قدیم مشن یلدا با گیاهان سبز مشن گرفته می شد و با شعرخوانی همراه بود. بسیاری از این سنت ها بعدها به کریسمس منتقل شد.



ضبط شده این برنامه را می توانید از کانال یوتیوب انجمن ببینید. با سپاس از همه کسانی که در برگزاری این مشن هم‌آزوری

کردند؛ از جمله پدراخ یزدانی که امکان ضبط ویدئوها و پخش آنها از یوتیوب را فراهم آورد و سهیلا شیدفر برای رساندن ویدئوها و نیز پروین مهرآیین و پروین کاووسی که در پیدن میز مشن همیاری کردند.



# Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize

## Submissions and Deadlines

The Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize will be awarded to writers of fiction. Novels and collections of short stories will be accepted. All works should be originally in English. Submissions are accepted only from Zoroastrian authors.

The Prize will be awarded biennially. Works must be published between January 2020, and January 2022, for the 2022 award. Each submission must be accompanied by the Application Form below.

Authors must be 18 or older. Submissions must include one copy of the book. Submissions must be first editions. In addition, a digital copy is required to share with the jury for adjudication. Digital copies will only be made available to the judges adjudicating the prize. Hard copies will not be returned and will be placed in our library. Reviews and endorsement letters can accompany applications but are not required. Each submission must be the work of a single author. No co-authored books, edited books or anthologies will be accepted. Self-published books will not be eligible.

Submission of hard copy with application and fee must be sent or delivered in a sealed package to the following address:

FIRES/ZAH  
526 Woodbend Lane  
Houston, Texas 77079

A digital copy should be sent to [info@fires-fezana.org](mailto:info@fires-fezana.org). Contact Aban ([aban@coatingindustries.com](mailto:aban@coatingindustries.com)) or Jangoo ([jbmistry@gmail.com](mailto:jbmistry@gmail.com)) for any questions concerning the prize. Submissions must be received no later than **February 1, 2022**, for the 2022 award.

## Selection and Adjudication

For this category, a panel of judges will select finalists and then choose the winner. The organizers of the Prize and the judges will not be responsible for issues arising from any alleged plagiarism among the finalists and the winning work. In the case of insufficient or inadequate entries, the prize will not be assigned in that year. The decision of the finalists and winner by the managing organizations and the judges is final.

The winner will receive \$ 2,000 and a trophy.-All the participants are invited to attend an award ceremony (TBA). Finalists and winner will be announced in our press release before the award ceremony. The winner is encouraged to attend or to delegate a person of their choice to accept the prize.

## Background and History

FIRES and ZAH are the sole managers and organizers of the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize. The Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize honors and promotes the work of Zoroastrian writers who share the same enthusiasm to represent the worlds and people found in Sidhwa's novels and essays. The Prize is named after the first recognized Zoroastrian writer from Pakistan of Parsi descent. Bapsi Sidhwa was born in Karachi in 1936 and lived in Houston, Texas for many years as a Pakistani writer with an international reputation. She was considered by Faiz Ahmed Faiz as the precursor to representing Parsis in literature, stating that "Bapsi Sidhwa's study of some archetypal characters of her community -the Parsis - deserves more than praise both as a sociological and as a literary document....Bapsi Sidhwa has opened for us all the doors and all the windows of this world's innermost recesses."

**BAPSI SIDHWA LITERARY PRIZE  
2020 – 2022 APPLICATION FORM**

Author (first and last name): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Certification I, (print name clearly) \_\_\_\_\_, certify that:

- ☐ I am a Zoroastrian author over the age of 18
- ☐ I am the author of this text submitted with this application

Work Submitted (title): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication Date (MM, YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Reviews included with application (not required to apply):

Endorsement Letters included with application (not required to apply):

One copy of book: ☐ Included with application ☐ Will be mailed by publisher

A digital copy should be sent to [info@fires-fezana.org](mailto:info@fires-fezana.org). Contact Aban ([aban@coatingindustries.com](mailto:aban@coatingindustries.com)) or Jangoo ([jbmistry@gmail.com](mailto:jbmistry@gmail.com)) for any questions concerning the prize. Submissions must be received no later than **February 1, 2022**, for the 2022 award.

I hereby authorize FIRES/ZAH and any of their directors, officers, or affiliates, to make such inquiries and investigations as they deem necessary to verify the information I have provided in this application. I understand that any information contained in this application that is determined by them to be untrue may invalidate my application and disqualify me from the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE





## **NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies**

### **Discussion Group – Zoroastrianism outside the Box**

**Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 2 pm Eastern, 11 am Pacific**

## **Topic: Non-Zoroastrians' names in Zoroastrian prayers?**

### **Zoom Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82255067379?pwd=Vkl2VDIJa1hyVzdKNUZoRjFsYWxzUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 5506 7379

Passcode: NAMCIZS

Could non-Zoroastrians' names be recited in Zoroastrian prayers and rituals? Are there scriptural restrictions? Are Zoroastrians prohibited from offering prayers for their dearly departed non-Zoroastrian spouse or loved ones? Do meaning of prayers make it inappropriate? – Let us discuss.

### **Presenter: Ervad Poras Balsara**



Ervad Poras T. Balsara is a Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Texas at Dallas. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He has been actively serving the Zoroastrian community in the Dallas/Fort Worth area as a volunteer Mobed and in several other capacities.

This event is facilitated by the NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies to promote knowledge through free but respectful discussion and debate. The views and opinions expressed during this discussions are those of the presenter and participants and do not reflect the official policy or position of the NAMC.

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



## **NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies**

### **Upcoming Courses – Spring and Summer 2022**

Dates	Topic	
February 14,2022 to March 19,2022	Zoroastrianism in Zoroastrian Dynasties	
March 21,2022 to April 23, 2022	Basic Zoroastrian Prayers – Recital and Meaning	
May 2,2022 to June 4, 2022	Zoroastrianism in Post-Sassanian Iran	
June 6,2022 to July 16, 2022	Shahnameh	
September 5, 2022 to October 8, 2022	An Introduction to Zoroastrianism	

For Course information please visit

<https://namcmobeds.org/IZS-Courses/>