



Newsletter – September 2022 - Volume 50, Number 1

President's Message

Welcome to September where we are getting ready to go back to school and ready for a new year of events at the Mehraban Guive Darbe Mehr (MGDM) such as Scouts and religion classes.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered and attended the Mukta prayers, your presence was appreciated. The Board wishes to sincerely thank the following fellow ZSO members for donation towards the dinners:

August 12th - Putli Mirza in memory of her late husband Noshir Mirza

August 13th - Zarine & Cawas Irani

August 14th - Kayo Bajina & Zarine Dordi in memory of Kayo's wife, Dinaz Bajina

The annual write-up of Mukta events by Putli Mirza is included in this newsletter.

For the safety of our community, the MGDM had to be closed for 5 days until we were able to find a reputable enhanced cleaning service to disinfect the MGDM. We encourage those who had purchased Khordad Sal tickets to consider donating the funds to the ZSO in lieu of requesting a refund. Refunds should be requested through email to treasurer@zso.org. Please allow time for refunds to be processed given this is a manual exercise done by our board members.

The 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress is coming up in London, England in July 2023. For more information please visit <https://www.8wzyc.com/>...early bird registration has already begun!

Speaking of which, another wonderful initiative for a fundraiser for the UK Youth Congress 2023, will be the **Patra nu Dinner on September 10, 2022**, so save the date and purchase your tickets to come out to support the youth. If you are unable to attend – please consider donating to help send our youth.

Maintenance work on the MGDM grounds will begin this fall with expected completion before the winter season begins. We look forward to seeing a fresh new look on the outside of the MGDM come spring.

I want to thank Armaity Bamji for her many years of dedication in editing, designing and proofreading the ZSO monthly newsletter. This is not an easy task and we truly thank her for her service to the community as the ZSO newsletter is our main form of communication. The new newsletter editors will be Araash Chotia and Bahram Jam. If you have any ideas or relevant contribution for the monthly newsletter, please email us the WORD document to newslettereditor@zso.org

The MGDM is now open for private bookings. For availability please contact Hoofrish Patel evp@zso.org

For MGDM hours and all future events you can always visit www.zso.org.

Wishing you all Tandarosti, Mitra Jam, ZSO President

Following are the ZSO Seniors' Events Dates for September 2022. Events will be held at Darbe Mehr.

Friday, September 09 2022.....11:00 am.

Friday, September 23, 2022.....11.00 am.

Gathering of the Gathas



On Saturday, July 30, we had a Gathering of the Gathas at the MGDM, led by Dr. Ali Makki, newly appointed Director of Education at the Zarathushtrian Assembly, California.

As a Zoroastrian community leader, a scholar, and clergyman, Dr. Makki spoke passionately about the need to revive the use of our Gathas and our understanding of Zarathushtra's message as a core of our religion. He explained how the Gathas contained many useful principles for us to live by, and as such referred to them as though-provoking mantras. If we were to use the teachings of the Gathas meditatively and as daily prayers, we would be able to create constructive shifts in our day-to-day lives and of those around us.

Dr. Makki referred to the many themes in the Gathas. For example: equality between women and men, the principle of choice, critical thinking

and discernment of what is "right" in making life decisions.

The discussion that followed brought up some salient questions. One of them, posed by Daraius Bharucha, was how to frame the Gathas so that our community (especially teenagers) will engage with them. Afreed Mistry and Armaity Homavazir (both religion class teachers) also added to the discussion with ideas of how to make it relevant for our younger generations. It was agreed that we need a multi-faceted approach to reach all generations as the knowledge is lacking even amongst our elders. Tahmas Mandgaryan asked how the dialogue between Zarathushtra and Ahura Mazda could be considered as prayer.

Participants were left with a sense of the Gathas being accessible to all, and that we had to begin anew within our community. We are extremely grateful for Dr. Makki's time and hope that he returns to Toronto for a continued discussion. Stay tuned for more!

Special thanks to: Mehroo & Dara Homavazir, Kerman Katrak, & Mitra Jam for organizing this event.

Submitted by Armaity Homavazir

Zoroastrian Global Glossary

ZOROASTRIAN SPELLING 101

Do you ever wonder why Zoroastrians have so many different spellings for the same words? Why do we spell Parsi and Parsee or Ferdowsi and Firdausi? The Global Glossary project arose from the need to unify the spelling of Zoroastrian terms being used in the English language. As our people have come through history, our languages have changed and so have the alphabets and the way we pronounce words. The glossary group came together to offer uniformity and regularity for future authors and publications. The Global Glossary can be found at: www.fezana.org/glossary

The full article is included at the end of the NL.

Submitted by Armaity Homavazir

Excitement, Bonding, and Intense Pani Puri Eating - Sports Night Aug 6th

August 6th, Sports night started at 6 pm with a plethora of activities such as Table Tennis, Basketball, Chess, Carrom and many more. It was jointly organized by the Entertainment Committee and the Youth Committee and packed with Zoroastrians of all ages. (100+ Attendees)

For most, the highlight of the evening was the exciting Pani Puri eating competition, where 20 participants raced to complete a plate of 15 spicy pani puri's that had to be individually dunked in pani. It was a close call between Sohrab Bhiwandiwalla and Manoochehr Zandian but after reviewing the film it was clear that Manoochehr won it by eating all the pieces within a few minutes, while the rest were trying hard to finish their plates. The winner was gifted with a \$30 Walmart gift card as the prize!

During the event, everyone was served with snacks like potato chips, cookies and pretzels and hot beverages. In the end, everyone enjoyed some butter chicken and butter paneer, which was cooked and served by Percy and Tahsheen Daruwala with the help of our community volunteers. All funds that were raised will be going to send more youth to the UK Youth Congress next year.

The ZSO is organizing another fun-filled event, Patra Nu Dinner on Saturday, September 10th, you can buy your tickets [HERE](#). We look forward to seeing everyone there.



For more updates on our events, make sure to follow us on the ZSO Facebook page: [ZSODM](#) and ZSO youth Instagram: [@zsoyouth](#).

Article Submitted by: Sharmin Mistry

Zoro Camping Trip – 2022

There can only be one word to describe this camping trip - exhilarating. On the weekend of July 29, 2022 approximately 35 Zoros gathered together at a campsite in the national park of Darlington, Ontario, Canada.

The trip lasted for two days with an option to stay back for a third. People from Canada and the United States banded together for some weekend entertainment. Everyone approximately arrived by 6pm on Friday. It was great seeing the usual faces and even greater seeing so many new faces! Everyone casually introduced themselves and started gossiping, the usual activity Parsi's thoroughly enjoy doing.

Please continue reading the full article here ➡ [ZOROCAMP](#)

OZCF Navroze Mela

Over 350 people came out to attend the first ever Navroze Mela on August 27th, 2022 at the OZCF.

The Mela kicked off with carnival games such as Ring Toss, Nerf Gun Shooting, Hit The Cans, Bean Bag Toss along with a fun time on the bouncy castles that were set up for the kids.

The hall was filled with delicious food that was on sale by local Zoroastrian businesses. The food table by OZCF catered for crowd favorites like bhel puri, popcorn, falooda and chutney sandwiches. The snow cones and cotton candy were a big hit amongst the little kids.



Attendees then gathered on the field at 7pm for the obstacle race which included 4 teams with participants from all ages. With all their team members cheering them on, each participant had to overcome obstacles like jumping over and crawling under tables and tarps to reach the finish line.



One of the highlights of the evening was a game of tug of war between the over 40 and under 40 age group. It was a close game with both teams winning one round each, which led to the deciding round where the under 40 age group took the victory.

Following the tug of war, the kids lined up to take their shots at the Piñata for all the yummy candy that they were so eager to eat. Of course, we could not end the night without a fun game of Bingo which was sold out within minutes and with lots of prizes to take away.

The event would have been incomplete without some fun beats by our DJ Meherwan Wadia.

We were humbled by the response and the support of the community. Huge shoutout to all our volunteers, food vendors and everyone else that made this event the huge success that it was.

Hope to see you all again, next year!



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Please contact Rita Sethna at rsethna@rogers.com or on 437-345-7087 for more information.

Religion Classes Fall 2022 – Registration now Open

REGISTRATION REMINDER

We are so happy to be holding Religion Classes ***in person again***. There are some exciting changes taking place - including new cultural and social experiences this year. We'd love to have you back if you took a break!

DATES FOR THE FALL

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022
Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022
Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022
Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022
Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022
Sunday, Dec 4, 2022

SPREAD THE WORD - HELP US REACH 100 REGISTRATIONS

Please send this email out to as many friends/families as you can. All children born in 2016 or earlier are eligible. **We are planning to have 100 children enroll in the classes!**

WEBSITE INSTRUCTIONS - <https://www.zso.org/childrens-religion-classes>

We have revamped the website to make it easier for families with multiple children. Now, you can do the whole family and the payment in one transaction!

Please note the following:

1. Fill in your information and all your childrens' info in the form.
2. For each additional child, you will **ADD GUEST** at the bottom of the form. For TWO children, add ONE guest. For THREE children, add TWO GUESTS, etc.
3. **The rate for the first child is already applied.**
- 4.

If you have any questions, please contact Armaity Homavazir - rmyt3993@gmail.com (website/payment problems) or Zia Poonjiaji - zia7777@hotmail.com (to confirm registrations).

Regards,

The Religion Class Teachers

NAMC – Fall 2022 Calendar of Events

We are excited to announce our upcoming lectures and courses – see attached flyers for details – note that the meeting ID and Passcode used is the same for all lectures - Meeting ID: 824 3218 1448 Passcode: NAMCIZS

Course - An Introduction to Zoroastrianism - September 10 to October 8, 2022 - Saturdays @ 2:00 pm EDT

Online Lecture - Gahambars in Zoroastrianism - by Mobedyar Jamshid Pouresfandiary - September 11, 2022, 2:00 pm EDT

Zoom Link - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82432181448?pwd=Mjh5dDJHOFJ2SmNBMXJqeXZqdjRTQT09>

Online Lecture - How & Why of Nirang - by Ervad Bomanshaw Sanjana - September 25, 2022, 2:00 pm EDT

Zoom Link - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82432181448?pwd=Mjh5dDJHOFJ2SmNBMXJqeXZqdjRTQT09>

NAMC – Fall 2022 Calendar of Events (cont'd.)

Course - Basic Zoroastrian Prayers - Refresher - October 15 to November 12, 2022 - Saturdays @ 2:00 pm EDT

Discussion Group - Zoroastrianism Outside the Box - Conversion? - October 23, 2022, 2:00 pm EDT

Zoom Link - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82432181448?pwd=Mjh5dDJHOFJ2SmNBMXJqeXZgdnRTQT09>

Course - Ecology in Zoroastrianism - November 19 to December 17, 2022 - Saturdays @ 2:00 pm EST

For enrollment in any course, request a 'Registration Form' for that particular course by emailing registrar.izs@namcmobeds.org.

Obituary – Aspi Sapurji



Aspi passed away peacefully at Cortellucci Hospital in Vaughan on August 1, 2022 at age 78.

Predeceased by his beloved wife Katy and loving father to Sunaya (Keith) and Jasmine (Xerxes). Fun and mischievous Grandad to Danika, Katy, and Charlie. Survived by his brother Farokh, sister Zarine, and the many cousins he held dear.

Loved by his family and friends across the globe.

Born in India, he immigrated to Canada from England with his family in the 1970s.

As a traveller he trekked across six continents. He was a cricketer in his prime with the Zoroastrian Cricket Club and an avid golfer until the end. A dedicated sports fan, he attended every Grand Slam tennis tournament at least once, two Olympic Games, The Kentucky Derby, the Cricket World Cup and several FIFA World Cups – including the 1966 final where England won on home soil. He went yearly with his best

friends to the Michigan 500 until its demise.

He saw The Beatles play in London but said it was awful because he couldn't hear a thing over all the screaming. A movie fan, James Bond was his favourite, though he loved Westerns, too. He was never able to figure out the ending of Game of Thrones, despite numerous attempts by his daughters. It's probably for the best.

He was employee No. 1 at Multimatic Inc., where he worked until his retirement. His motto was always, "If you're going to do it -- do it right -- or don't do it at all." This made him a perfect fit for overseeing quality control at various plants.

He not only taught his girls kindness, generosity, patience and empathy, but how to play Blackjack and read a racing form. He adored his grandchildren and gave them all ridiculous nicknames. He consistently spoiled them with "Grandad" cookies, donuts and Timbits – half of which he would eat. Above all, he was fun and he was loved.

Donations in his name may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation.

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 **Assistant Editor:** TBD

Please note that all requests for inclusions in the ZSO NL should be emailed to newslettereditor@zso.org and asstnleditor@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 Mitra Jam 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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اشتودگات - یسن ۲۹ - بند ۷

خدای دانا که با آیین راستی هماهنگ است، در برابر نیایش روان جهان و راستی، پیام خود را آماده می سازد تا برای جهان، راهنمای آبادانی گردد. او کسانی را که می خواهند خدمت کنند، با آموزش های خود پیش می برد. (اهورامزدا پرسید) «ای منش نیک، ایا تو کسی را می شناسی که مردم را یاری کند؟»

گهنبار پیتته شهیم گاه

براساس گاهشماری زرتشتی شش چهره (دوره) گهنبار در سال برگزار می شود. گهنبارها معمولاً به عنوان جشن و گردهم آیی های فصلی در نظر گرفته می شوند. گهنبار پیتته شهیم گاه سومین دوره گهنبار در سال است. هر دوره گهنبار پنج روز است که در این پنج روز معمولاً در خانه های مختلف این مراسم برگزار می شده است.

امروزه و مخصوصاً در خارج از ایران این دوره پنج روزه در یک روز و در سالن های گردهم آیی برگزار می شود. در تورنتو مرسوم بود که گروهی از افراد و خانواده ها هزینه ها و کارهای مربوط با هر دوره گهنبار را انجام می دادند. هرچند که در چند سال همه گیری کرونا این گردهم آیی ها نیز به صورت حضوری برگزار نشدند اما بسیار مناسب است که دوباره نظم و روش گذشته در پیش گرفته شود.

گهنبار پیتته شهیم در روز یکشنبه ۱۱ سپتامبر از ساعت ۱۱ صبح در محل درمهر برگزار می شود.

جشن مهرگان بر همگان شاد!

جشن مهرگان در دومین روز ماه اکتبر است برای همین در اینجا درباره آن آگهی رسانی می کنیم چون در خبرنامه بعدی فرصت نخواهد بود. این جشن در روز شنبه اول اکتبر ساعت شش پسین برگزار خواهد شد. جزییات بیشتر را از ایمل و تارنمای انجمن دریافت خواهید کرد. در گاهشماری زرتشتی روز مهر از ماه مهر به نام جشن مهرگان خوانده می شود و از سالیان دور گزارش های در مورد برگزاری این جشن را در دربار هخامنشیان و دوره های بعدی داریم. این جشن حتی پس از دوره ساسانی نیز تا سده ها در بین ایرانیان و حتی حاکمان بیگانه آیی که بر ایران تسلط داشتند رایج بود. مانند بسیار از جشن های ایرانی، این جشن نیز با چندین روایت در ارتباط است: این جشن از یک سو با طبیعت در پیوند است و می توان آن را اعتدال پاییزی نامید.

و همینطور بخش نخست آن یعنی مهر به ایزد مهر در پیوند است. ایزد مهر در مجموعه اوستا بسیار مورد توجه بوده است و سرودهایی در بزرگداشت آن سروده شده است. ایزد مهر، نگهبان عهد و پیمان است و نشان می دهد که ایرانیان بسیار به نگه داشتن عهد و پیمان خود اهمیت می داده اند. از سوی دیگر بنا بر روایت ها این جشن زمانی است که فریدون پس از مبارزه با ضحاک، او را سرنگون کرد و فرمانروایی را به دست گرفت. فردوسی در شاهنامه این جشن را چنین توصیف می کند:

به سر برنهاد آن کیانی کلاه به روز خجسته سر مهر ماه
به آیین یکی جشن نو ساختند دل از داوری ها بپرداختند
گرفتند هر یک ز یاقوت جام نشستند فرزنانگان شادکام

گردهم آیی ورزشی!

هر دوشنبه از تاریخ ۱۹ سپتامبر از ساعت ۷ پسین گردهم آیی ورزشی در درمهر برگزار می شود. می توانید برای بازی پینگ پنگ در این برنامه شرکت کنید یا این که برای تماشا و دیدوبازدید به درمهر بیاید. اگر می خواهید پینگ پونگ یاد بگیرید، هم می توانید در این برنامه شرکت کنید.

هر دوشنبه در این گردهم آیی ورزشی و دیدوبازدید شرکت کنید.

بازگشایی درمهر مهربان گیو

با توجه به شرایط، از ماه مارچ درمهر در روزهای بیشتری از هفته: دوشنبه (بعدازظهر)، سه شنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، چهارشنبه (بعدازظهر)، جمعه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، شنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) باز می باشد. ساعت های باز بودن درمهر را حتما از روی تارنمای انجمن ببینید.

بسیار مناسب است که مانند گذشته رفتن به درمهر را در برنامه هفتگی خود بگذارید.

پرداخت حق عضویت

با پرداخت حق عضویت خود، هم انجمن را از نظر مالی پشتیبانی کنید و هم این که همزوری 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 خوشحالی 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.

پشتیبان مالی انجمن را به یاد داشته باشید

به دلیل وضعیت موجود در پیوند با ویروس کووید-۱۹، برنامه ها و گردهم آیی های در محل درمهر و انجمن هنوز مانند گذشته برگزار نمی شود. 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.

انتقادات، نظرها و پیشنهادهای خود را با کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی با ایمیل kanoun@zso.org در میان بگذارید.

با پیوستن به گروه تلگرامی کانون و آگاهی رسانی درباره آن به دیگران، از برخی اخبار و برنامه ها آگاه شوید.

<https://t.me/zsokanoun>

مناسبت ها و رخدادهای ماه گذشته

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

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

سخنرانی و گهنبار توجی

در روز یکشنبه ۷ آگوست ساعت ۴ پسین سخنرانی درمورد «مهارت مدیریت خشم» در درمهر برگزار شد.

پس از این سخنرانی در ساعت ۵:۳۰ گهنبار توجی خوانده شد.

Muktad Report 2022

This year marked our 40th year of our Muktad Observances at Darbe Mehr. Approximately 1,000 people from the community participated in the prayers and meals over the 5 Gatha days. During the prayers we remembered 500 souls of our dear departed ones. It is with gratitude that we look back at all that we have accomplished. The success of these days depends upon on the goodwill, generosity and the faith of our community towards our religion and our rituals. We remembered Ervad Bomansha Kotwal who initiated the Muktad prayers together with Coomi Bhathena.

Due to the continuing Covid pandemic, the number of community members who could partake in the lunch and dinner was restricted to 130 members, including volunteers and Mobeds.

Ervad Hoshang Udwadia organized all the Mobeds for the various prayers throughout the day. There were 3 Satum prayers and Afringan and Farokhshi prayers in the morning, Gahambar Prayers on the 4th Gatha and on the last Gatha day, early morning prayers at 4:15 a.m. where we bid farewell to all our Asho-Farohars. Ervad Hoshang Udwadia and Ervad Mehsad Dastur stayed at the Darbe Mehr through the day to perform all the prayers. Our senior Mobed, Ervad Athavian Bamji came early in the morning for the Morning Satum, Farokhshi and Afringan prayers. The other Mobeds included Ervad Navroze Antia, Ervad Xersis Dastur, Ervad Hanoz Antia and Ervad Pauzash Mithaiwalla. We must also thank Ervad Khushroo Bharda, who has always been there for our early morning prayers for the past many years. Our thanks to the parents of Ervad Navroze Antia for bringing him every day and even in the early morning so he could participate in all the prayers. We are all blessed with such dedicated and devoted Mobeds. It is very heartening to see our young Mobeds conducting the prayers with so much confidence!

The evening Satum Prayers were followed by lectures organized by and led by Ervad Hoshang Udwadia. Rustom Chothia and our past President, Daraius Bharucha also led lectures which were informative and generated a lot of discussion.

The food for breakfast, lunch and dinner Satums were organised by Putli Mirza and prepared on the premises by two appointed cooks and volunteers every day. The leading cooks for each day were Katy Panthakee, Prochi Gazdar, Roshan Rabadi, Micky Katgara, Zarine Irani, Dolly Irani, Nancy Patel, Kashmira Sarkari, Dina Amroliwalla and Kersi Khambatta. Special thanks to Roshan Rabadi who also prepared the 7:00 a.m. Satum breakfast every morning and early morning Satum food on the last day.

The fruits for the prayers and other required items for cooking were purchased by Guloo Bharucha every day. The Malido, Sev, Rawo, Bhakra, Batasa, Poori, and other sweet items were donated by community members. Big thank you to all these faithful community members who continue to supply the items needed for our Afringan and Farokshi prayers year after year.

Thanks to Sam Gandhi for preparing all the Diwas and for the additional cleaning through all of the 5 Muktad days. He was ably helped by our caretaker, Farookh Farhadian. We were also fortunate to have the help of youth volunteers, Burzina Amroliwalla, Ishaan Persaud, Yohan Patel, Yazad Tafti, Kayomars Patel, Tasheen Daruwalla and Jia Amroliwalla. These youths helped to set up the tables before each meal and helped with the clean up after each meal.

Our Muktad committee received tremendous support from our ZSO Board of Directors. Our President Mitra Jam and our board liaisons Mehrnaz Dehmeri and Anahita Ogra helped us to carry on this important tradition. Our special thanks to Hoofrish Patel for registering the members from her home for

lunch and dinner. Our resident volunteers were Roshan Rabadi, Khurshid Engineer, Hoshang Surty, and Putli Mirza. Mehrnaz Dehmeri and Hoshang Surty managed the finances with total donations this year of \$21,551 and expenses of \$9,319. Thank You to them both for managing our accounts this year.

Thank you to everyone who donated cash along with food items, flowers, and so many forms of service. The supply of sandalwood and loban was sufficient, thanks to all the donations from various community members. We continue to request all community members to bring in a supply of Sandalwood, Tacho, Loban and Kakras whenever they travel to India or Pakistan. All these items are difficult to import.

This year the roses were donated by Dhun & Sarosh Contractor, Roshan Rabadi and Putli & the late Noshir Mirza. Anahita Ogra and her daughter Ava made the Toran for the Kebla in the prayer room, for the Navroze Day. The garlands and the Toran bought by us for the Gatha days were beautiful and enhanced the ambience of the prayer room. Everything was just perfect as we remembered all our loved ones who have passed on, leaving behind a rich legacy for our future generation.

Last but not the least, thank you to all the 37 volunteers who spent their Sunday cleaning up the Darbe Mehr and all the utensils needed for the prayers, including polishing our Afarganyu in the Prayer room, prior to the Muktaf. The food for the clean-up day was cooked by Kersi Khambatta. This clean-up was done under the leadership of Khushru & Pearl Chothia and is an annual event that is always well attended by our community members.

The Navroze Jashan was held on August 16th led by our young Mobeds, Ervad Xersis Dastur and Ervad Navroze Antia. They were supported by Ervad Athavian Bamji, Ervad Hoshang Udwadia, and Ervad Mehsad Dastur. 215 community members attended the prayers. After the Jashan, our Mobeds were recognized for all their services rendered during the Muktaf days and throughout the year, they received flowers and a token of our appreciation from the Executive.

We would like to acknowledge our caretaker Farrokh Farhadian and part time helper Sam Gandhi who have worked with us so diligently not just during Muktaf but throughout the year and always with a smile for the past many years. It would be difficult to accomplish so many chores without the help of these two gentlemen. I would also like to personally thank the Muktaf committee for all their hard work and the co-operation that they have given me. My special thanks to Roshan Rabadi and my Co-Chair Khurshid Engineer for their hard work and support. The other members of our committee are Katy Panthakee, Guloo Bharucha, Sarosh Dastoor, Hoshang Surty, and Zarine Dordi. The Volunteers who are there for all the 5 days are Vispi Patel, Putli & Minoo Bhada, Kersi Khambatta, Dhun Contractor, Zarine Dordi, Mahrookh Bapooji, Sherezad Chothia, Pearl & Khushroo Chothia and Percy Daruwalla.

Once again, we were able to conduct our prayers and all our rites and rituals in full measure! We would also like to thank and remember Arbab Rustom Guiv and his nephew, Mehraban Guiv for giving us this beautiful place of worship where our community can gather and preserve all our rites and rituals. We thank Ahura Mazda and with blessings from all our Asho-Farohars, we will continue to work together in Peace and Harmony for many years to come.

Report submitted by Putli Noshir Mirza on behalf of the Muktaf Committee.
August 2022

Please find a list of volunteers from the 2022 Darbe Mehr Clean Up below:

Mehrnaz Dehmeri

Roya Merchant

Mashya, Dina and Aban Amroliwala

Farokh Farhadian

Dalzin Ghadirwala

Minoo Bharda

Kaizad Tafti

Kersi Khambatta

Khushru, Pearl, Spenta, and Zruvan Chothia

Zahan Patel

Kaizad Patel

Ronel Banuji

Mandana Bastani

Ruzan Patel

Kaizad Tafti

Yazad Tafti

Maya Zandian

Meher Zandian

Morvarid Zandian

Manocher Zandian

Roshan Rabadi

Kayan, Arshan and Rustom Bozorgi

Shiamak Katrak

Karl Dastur

Aspi Wahwa

Hoofrish Patel

Havovi Patel

Yohan Ghadiali

Mehru Italia

Cyrus Tampal

12th World Zoroastrian Congress – New York - 2022

Learn from others, foster ideas, and address modern-day problems the Zoroastrian way.



With nearly 1200 attendees from 16 countries, ZAGNY (Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York) and FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Association of North America) planned an action-packed World Zoroastrian Congress in the heart of Manhattan, New York for the July 1 - 4 weekend. The attendees came together to listen, and participate in conversations on important issues faced within our religion. Attendees also got to listen to insightful stories by Zoroastrians from all walks of life including Zoroastrian religious leaders, academic scholars, community leaders, and facilitators, with panels tailored to all generations.

Zoroastrians across the world perceive the religion through different perspectives. Cultural differences infiltrate almost everything in our lives, with religion being no exception. These differences impact the way Zoroastrians practice the religion and perform rituals. In these panels, the speakers emphasized how Zoroastrianism helped shape their identity, and how the teachings of Ahura Mazda guided them through pivotal moments in their life.

The WZCC (World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce) held a powerful panel on social entrepreneurship which highlighted the role our religion has played on the environment and its impact worldwide. One of the panelists was CEO Mira Metha of the tomato paste company Tomato Jo's. Her company is tackling poverty in Northern Nigeria by sustainably growing and processing tomatoes for tomato paste in Nigeria, and selling it back into the local markets. Her company works directly with Nigerian farmers to increase their operational efficiency by increasing their tomato yield per hectare and driving down their per tonne cost of production. When asked what community impact means to her, Mira said "We want to make sure that everything we're doing, and all of our profitability is directly tied to the lives of the people in which the company operates." Emphasizing creating and selling products locally impacts the company's bottom line, and impacts the community in a positive manner.

Other notable panels were the Future of God, Children of Intermarriage, Zoroastrian Conversion, and its existing narratives. Some renowned speakers included now retired Supreme Court Judge of India, Ervad Rohinton Fali Nariman who inaugurated the congress with his keynote talk on Gender Equality: The Rights of Parsi Women after the Advent of the Constitution of India. Cobra Beer founder, and life peer in the UK House of Lords, Karan Bilimoria spoke about leading through a crisis the Zoroastrian way. American psychologist and Harvard Professor Mahzarin Banaji spoke about her work on implicit bias regarding race, gender, and sexual orientation, in an interactive presentation with the audience. She displayed how everyone has subconscious biases against certain topics regardless of the educational background.

Some talks were held in smaller rooms (100-150 people). In one of the rooms, the youth had 4 rounds of 10-minute intimate roundtable discussions, each round with a new set of people discussing questions like "What is working in your local community center, and what can it do better?", "What aspect of Zoroastrianism do you identify with most, and why?", "Do you feel welcome in your local community, why or why not?", "In your opinion what will contribute to the Zoroastrian faith continuing?" These questions are meant to ignite meaningful debates among the youth by allowing them to express their opinions and share personal stories with other youth from across the globe. The World Zoroastrian Congress is the perfect place to share your thoughts while gaining knowledge from others, to build up on each other's ideas and to foster them for programs and projects to be developed to address the modern-day problems of our society and religion.

Another youth panel was "Leaders asking Leaders - Q & A with Youth Leaders across the Globe" composed of leaders from different places sharing their local projects and new ideas for our post-pandemic era. Toronto native Tanya Hoshi spoke about social media marketing and getting the youth involved in the community by attending events at the local Dar-be-Meher through events like sports or Navroze galas. She further highlighted how another great opportunity to get involved within the community is to attend the [Return To Roots](#), a program designed to reconnect Zoroastrians, who have been affected by the diaspora, with their origins in India and Iran.

Attendees were made aware about what other Zoroastrians have experienced, their research, and their insights into the religion. Discussions of conversion, interfaith, and intermarriage, which were few of the most significant themes of the congress. Dr. Nazneen Engineer introduced her research about children of intermarriage (someone born between a Parsi-Zoroastrian parent and a non-Zoroastrian parent) . Furthermore, she presented her research on the differences of children's ethnic identity with a Parsi-Zoro mother in comparison to a Parsi-Zoro father and their

acceptance within the community. This acceptance rate greatly varied within communities from different countries mainly due to the cultural and ethnic differences along with the social environment that surrounds the community. Ruzbeh Hodiwalla presented his Neo-Zoroastrian Project research on 'Zoroastrians-by-choice' or 'Neo-Zoroastrians', which refers to Zoroastrians who are not born to any Zoroastrian parents, yet still, practice the faith by choice. Mr. Hodiwalla is studying the Neo-Zoroastrian settlements globally to understand their interaction with established Zoroastrian communities.



Few of the Toronto faces at the Congress, Gala Night.

music by Nauzad Sadry and Live Music Fusion featuring DJ Zubin.

When speaking to one of the attendees Armand Patel, he said the best part of the congress was “to meet all the new people and reconnect with people I haven't seen in a while,” when I asked him what his favorite panel was, he said it was “‘Making the Impossible Possible: Enhancing the Global Zoroastrian Excellence through Entrepreneurship’ panel with the panelist talking about their businesses and journeys throughout their life.” He soaked in their insights, and said he one day strives to walk in their footsteps.

Another attendee Sam Khushru Jokhi said it is “cool to hear different perspectives on the religion I otherwise wouldn't have heard. I thought hearing different people's journeys was really eye-opening for me and I'm sure other people here too.”

With over 30 talks in 4 days, attending all the events was close to impossible, but fortunately, the organizers live streamed and recorded all of the talks which are uploaded to FEZANA's Youtube channel for everyone's viewing pleasure. At last, the torch bearers passed on the flame for the next 13th World Zoroastrian Congress in 2026 with Singapore being the destination. The attendees have already started packing their bags for that one.

On that note, ZTFE (Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe) is hosting the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in London (Ages 18-37). This congress is aimed at bringing the Zoroastrian Youth from across the world together. The ZSO Youth Committee wants to take this opportunity in bringing the Zoroastrian youth of Toronto (and all of Ontario) together. The committee wants to take every eligible Zoroastrian youth to this congress to increase community engagement and to grow the existing youth base in Toronto. They will be raising funds to subsidize the trips of all ZSO members (18-37), so everyone that wants to go has access to it.

These congresses aim to engage people in our religion, educate and have meaningful debates on modern issues facing our religion, create lifetime bonds, and unite generations together. The congresses are one of the keys that help keep the fire of our religion burning for centuries to come.

Report Submitted by: Araash Chothia



ZOROASTRIAN SPELLING 101

Do you ever wonder why Zoroastrians have so many different spellings for the same words? Why do we spell Parsi and Parsee or Ferdowsi and Firdausi? The Global Glossary project arose from the need to unify the spelling of Zoroastrian terms being used in the English language. As our people have come through history, our languages have changed and so have the alphabets and the way we pronounce words. The glossary group came together to offer uniformity and regularity for future authors and publications. The Global Glossary can be found at: www.fezana.org/glossary

It is a vital tool for all of us to use no matter where we are in life! Whether you are:

- a parent, writing up the notes for your child's navjote,
- a student writing a project
- an author waiting to be published
- on the executive committee writing for the newsletter or...
- on an interfaith committee



Our children deserve better than our invented spellings! We would never allow them to spell <school> as "scule" or "skool" so let's do the same for them and come together on our spellings.



BUT WHAT ABOUT PRONUNCIATION???

Spelling must NOT be confused with pronunciation!!! Remember that in English, we spell <aunt> one way, but we say it differently depending on where we are from. If we spelled it <ant>, it would mean something else!

***Tomato* and *potato* are other words that we pronounce differently. The glossary is intent on keeping our spelling consistent. You CAN pronounce the words any way you wish with your particular background, heritage and accent.**



HOW IT STARTED...

We are incredibly grateful to Dr. Jenny Rose, Claremont Graduate University's Religion Department, who provided two different glossaries from her own publications as a starting point for us. We are also grateful to the Fezana Journal for providing the glossary compiled by Dr. Dolly Dastoor and Roshan Rivetna. The team consists of: Armaity Homavazir, Ervad Zerkxis Bhandara, Artemis Javanshir, Dr. Ali Makki, Dr. Rastin Mehri, Tashan Mistree, and Mobed Fariborz Shahzadi.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Go to www.fezana.org/glossary
2. Click on the letter of the alphabet that your word begins with
3. Scroll down to your word and read the spelling and brief description.

Our intention is to *make the English spelling of Zoroastrian terms as uniform as possible*. We have in certain cases offered more than one spelling, depending on the term. We've also included the language of origin and attempted to match the English spelling as closely as possible to its original alphabet, be it Avestan, Pahlavi, modern Persian or Gujarati.

UPDATES

This glossary is version 1.0. We understand that there may be additions, corrections and deletions to be made. We welcome comments and will update the glossary on a regular basis. Send comments or questions to: glossary@fezana.org



Patra nu Dinner

UK Zoroastrian Youth Congress 2023 FUNDRAISER

Saturday, September 10, 2022

6pm onwards

3590 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON, M2M 3S6, Canada

\$80/-

(Please note this event is open to all but is first come first serve with limited seating!)

Come join us for live DJ, Cash Bar and
a night filled with entertainment

Menu

Non-veg

Gajjar meva achar
Rotli
Saria
Parsi Stew
Patra ni Machi
Sali boti
Chicken pulao
Dar
Lagan nu custard

Veg

Gajjar meva achar
Rotli
Saria
Parsi Stew
Sali paneer
Paneer Steak
Veg Pulao
Dar
Lagan nu custard

Please pay online by **SEPT 7**

ZSO.ORG > EVENTS > SEPT 10 > REGISTER

OR

Call for questions:

Nasha Makujina: 647-231-2240

Pearl Chothia: 416-917-7402



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Request Registration Form:
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ONLINE COURSE

Introduction to Zoroastrianism

Saturdays at 2pm EST
September 10 to October 8, 2022

Instructors

Ervad Tehemton F. Mirza
Mobedyar Khushroo Mirza
Mr. Kayomارش P. Mehta

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.





SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11
2PM EST / 11AM PST

Online Lecture
**Gahambars in
Zoroastrianism**

By Mobedyar Jamshid Pouresfandiary



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82432181448?pwd=Mjh5dDJHOFJ2SmNBMXJqeXZqdnRIQT09>

Zoom Meeting ID
824 3218 1448

Zoom Passcode
NAMCIZS



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SUNDAY SEP 25
2PM EST / 11AM PST

Lecture

How & Why of Nirang (Consecrated Bull's Urine)

By: Ervad Bomanshaw Sanjana



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82432181448?pwd=Mjh5dDJHOFJ2SmNBMXJqeXZqdnlRTQT09>

Meeting ID
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