

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario



October 2022 Newsletter





Presidents Message

Welcome to October and the beautiful colours of the autumn season and we are excited as the events at the Mehraban Guive Darbe Mehr (MGDM) continue.

As you may be aware the long due awaited **maintenance work** on the outside of the MGDM have begun where repairs are being done to the asphalt, the pathways and the entrances. This will be completed within this month. The second component of the maintenance will be the paving of the driveway which is to begin in April 2023. This process will take a few months to complete as once the grounds are dug up, it will require 3 months of settling prior to paving. We appreciate your patience.

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

The Patra nu Dinner held last month was a great success with over 100 people attending helping to raise money to help youths attend the WZYC. Please continue to come out to support the Youth in future fundraising events. If you are unable to attend the fundraising events, donations are always appreciated.

The Children's Religion Class program is open to all Zoroastrian children born in 2016 or earlier. Our aim is to provide them with knowledge about our religion as well as to provide them with the opportunity to meet other Zoroastrian children.

The Children's Religion Class program runs one to two Sundays per month in two locations, in the East, at the MGDM and in the West (Mississauga - location to be determined). Classes in the East end run from 2:45-5:00 p.m. and classes in the West end run from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. For any questions, please email the Children's Religious Committee at crc@zso.org



OZCF and **ZSO** Board members

Last month we had productive **joint meeting with the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF)** board members as we continue to work together and support each other with the common goal of keeping our community thriving.

We are currently looking for a **volunteer chair for the Interfaith Committee**. This is a very important role as the chair is a representative of our Zoroastrian community. This position requires the individual to be knowledgeable of Zoroastrianism. Please contact me personally, if you are interested in discussing this position.

ZSO is also looking for volunteers (in addition to the students) to help with the Library Launch program. Farsi readers are very welcome!

The Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanoun (IZCK) is inviting all ZSO members of all ages to be part of the ZTTC (Zoroastrian Table Tennis Club). The ZTTC are to meet for lessons and practice every Monday from 7-8pm.

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 Tandorosti, Mitra Jam, ZSO President president@zso.org

ZSO Gourmet Food Fair

We're happy to announce that our annual ZSO Gourmet Food Fair is back on Sunday, Oct 30, 2022 from 1pm – 3pm.

After 3 years of pre-orders only, we're finally able to host this event in person at the MGDM. We will continue to offer the pre-order option for those who prefer to place their orders in advance. 15% of all sales will be donated to the ZSO Youth committee supporting their fundraising initiatives for the upcoming Youth Congress in UK.

We look forward to your participation and support to make this event a success once again.

FEZANA Scholarship Recipient – Kerfegar Daruwalla

Congratulations to our very own Kerfegar Daruwall on being awareded the Bapsy D. Irani Culinary Scholarship for your culinary studies at George Brown College, Toronto.

We wish you much success in your future studies.

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Seniors Corner

On September 9th, the Seniors were treated to a superb performance of line dancing, by Irene, Connie, Betty, Mari, Mariana, and our very own Roshan Davar. A big thanks to all the performers, and a special thank you to Roshan and Burjor Davar who had arranged for us to have this performance.



The ladies danced to several tunes for the first half hour. After that Irene, the instructor, invited the Seniors to join the performers. Quite a few Seniors decided to try the moves. Irene demonstrated the dance moves which were easy to follow. It was a fun experience for some who had never done line dancing before.

After being energized by the dances, lunch was served. Dina Amroliwala had prepared delicious mutton Pulao Daar, and Caesar's salad which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Dessert of rice pudding followed. On the whole it was another entertaining Seniors lunch.

Dancing classes at Seniors Corner

The dates for our Seniors lunch in October are October 7th and 21st.

We are also organizing the Seniors Food Fair at our Darbe Mehr, on Sunday, October 30th starting at 1:00 pm, till the food is sold out. After a 2-year gap, we are having the food fair in person.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your friends and savour the mouth-watering dishes prepared by our gourmet chefs. Detailed information is in the flyer attached to this Newsletter.

Anyone who wishes to attend the Seniors lunches can contact Roshan Rabadi at 647-341-6731, Yasmin Khory at 416-733-0699, or Katy Panthakee at 647-347-3334.

Following are Seniors' Events Dates for the month of October 2022.

Friday, October 07, 2022.....11:00 AM. Friday, October 21, 2022.....11:00 AM.

Sunday, October 30, 2022.....Food Fair.....1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

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

<u>Discussion Group</u> - Zoroastrianism Outside the Box - Conversion? - October 23, 2022, 2:00 pm EDT Zoom Link - https://us06web.zoom.us/j/ 82432181448?pwd= Mjh5dDJHOFJ2SmNBMXJqeXZqdnRTQT 09

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.

Patra Nu Dinner

A traditional dining experience traveling all the way from India to Canada, the Patra Nu Dinner (Dinner on a Leaf) event was a culinary event that brought the nostalgia of eating at a Zoroastrian wedding and navjot in Navsari, to the table of Torontorians at the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) organized by the ZSO Youth Committee and Entertainment Committee on September 10, 2022, as a fundraiser to generate awareness and funds to give access to ZSO Youth to attend the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (WZYC) in London, UK in July 2023.

As the crowd began to assemble around 6 p.m. The guests were greeted at the door and all attendees wore wristbands, and had the option to buy raffle tickets at the door for prizes given throughout the night.

The ambiance of the event began to take shape. The attendees consisted not only of Zoroastrians but also of curious foodies, and people around the city who had never had a traditional Parsi dining experience like this and wanted to see what it was all about.



Guest seated, eager to begin their Patra Nu Dinner

The young and ambitious Kayomaz Patel emceed the event and was explaining the style of eating (with hands) and the different dishes being served throughout the night. He described what Patra Nu Dinner meant to Zoroastrians and gave out the order in which each food item would be presented.

The servers began serving the guests with Jagar Meva nu Achar (carrot and raisin pickle), followed by Sariyas, and Vegetable Stew, along with their choice of pop. The wonderful Patra Ni Machi (leaf steamed fish) was then served together with Chapati, and the vegetarian guests were offered Paneer Steak

When the diners had completed their Patra Ni Machi, the servers arrived to clean up before moving on to the next food item. The famed Parsi Sali Boti was then served to the guests, and everyone was given a second serving of everything (parsis love to eat until they can't eat any more). It was finally time for some Chicken Pulao and Dar. All of the guests were stuffed to the gills with the delectable meal that was served to them.



Rustom Pourmandgarian playing the violin

After everyone had completed their meal, the servers went around and had each guest wash their hands while sitting with the use of a large bowl, warm water, and soap, as it is done traditionally at a Patra Nu Dinner. Following that, the folded Patras were removed from the table and the guests were given Lagan Nu Custard (wedding custard) and Gulab Jamun for desserts. While the famous DJ Hoshi provided music all night.

Rostam Pourmandgarian, who traveled all the way from Montreal to play at the event, opened the night with a piano and violin act. His fingers glided lightly across the keyboard, generating pleasant music. He stunned the audience by playing the violin after the piano. At the evening's second performance, Meherzeen Daruwala sang a song, and was as melodic as a bird.

And finally, Benji Irani closed off the final performance of the night with an opera tune that captivated the audience. Karishma Mevawala and Sohrab Bhiwandiwala, the bartender combo, not only amused the audience while making beverages for the guests, but also ensured that everyone drank responsibly.

After the show and meal, the floor was cleared for dancing. The crowd began to groove to the latest sounds while several guests took advantage of the \$3 shot special and \$5 cocktails at the cash bar, the cheapest drinks in town. The Patra Nu Dinner was a wonderful success, with the food cooked by our household names, including Percy Daruwala and Kersi Kambatta. This event could not have happened without the help of all the volunteers and all the attendees that came out to show support. We would like to thank the ZSO community at large and all of the donors that donated gifts, alcohol, materials, and tickets for people who wanted to come but couldn't afford them.



The ZSO Youth Committee along with the Entertainment Committee

If you would like to support this fundraiser, please make a donation here at https://www.zso.org/donate. The ZSO Youth Committee is already arranging further significant events, which everyone will be notified of very soon. Please keep monitoring our website here at https://www.zso.org/events for the most up-to-date information.

Report written by: Sohrab Bhiwandiwala

Table Tennis Anyone?

The Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanoun (IZCK) is inviting all ZSO members of all ages to be part of the ZTTC (Zoroastrian Table Tennis Club). The ZTTC are to meet for lessons and practice every Monday from 7-8pm. Our first session was attended by the young and the young at heart. As time goes by we will gradually be diving the teams into those are advanced versus those who just wish to play casually. We look forward to seeing all those who wish to participate.



Kerman Katrak and Shiamak Katrak



Two play a friendly game of Table Tennis

ZSO Library Committee Announcement

The library is going through a new, exciting overhaul! With the donation of new books, reviving the old collection and the addition of new shelves, we would like our community to become more aware of the treasures we have! We are looking for volunteers to support the ZSO library with small tasks. If you are able to read Farsi or Gujarati, that would be a great asset as well!

Please contact: Aban Amroliwalla <u>abanpa@yahoo.com</u> or Armaity Homavazir <u>rmyt3993@gmail.com</u> for more information.

Chill Night - Food, Music, and Games

Zoroastrian Youth all across the GTA, got together at the ZSO Saturday, Sept 24th to socialize, have fun, and mingle with each other. The hall was set up in a welcoming space with a couple table tennis tables, card and board games all over the place for people to latch onto when they pleased. The music was bumping, the food was hot, and after giving out some prizes we were all able to come together and strengthen our bond with other youth, talk with each other on how to get more involved, and how to make a difference locally in our community.

With the event being low cost, we were pleased to see over 70 Zoroatrian youths in the same room enjoying their evening and making new friends.

Report Submitted by: Fravash Chothia



Celebrating 4 birthdays - Zruvan, Sohrab, Danny, and Nasha



Youth bonding over a carrom game

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.

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

guarter page/Business care

Miscellaneous two-liners: \$15

10% discount for 12 consecutive months of advertising.

Half page: \$75 Full page: \$125



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اشتودگات - یسن ۲۹ – بند ۸

آری من تنها یک کس را می شناسم که به آموزش های ما گوش داده. او زرتشت اسپنتمان است. ای مزدا، او آماده است تا این پیام را برای راستی از راه سرودهایش به مردم برساند. پس چه بهتر که به او شیرینی زبان داده شود.

جشن مهرگان گرامی

جشن مهرگان در اولین روز ماه اکتبر برگزار خواهد شد. در روز شنبه اول اکتبر ساعت ۴ پسین در محل درمهر مهربان گیو گرد هم میآییم. با توجه به مشکلاتی که در کشور عزیزمان ایران در جریان است؛ جشن مهرگان را با گردهم ایی و اوستاخوانی برگزار می کنیم.

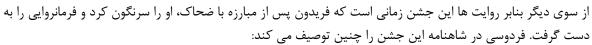


در گاهشماری زرتشتی روز مهر از ماه مهر به نام جشن مهرگان خوانده می شود و از سالیان دور گزارش های در مورد برگزاری این جشن را در دربار هخامنشیان و دوره های بعدی داریم. این جشن حتی پس از دوره ساسانی نیز تا سده ها در بین ایرانیان و حتی حاکمان بیگانه ایی که بر ایران تسلط داشتند رایج بود. مانند بسیار از جشن 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.



به سر برنهاد آن کیانی کلاه به روز خجسته سَرِ مهر ماه به آیین یکی جشن نو ساختند دل از داوری ها بپرداختند گذاند هر یک ناماهای دادگاه



گهنبار ایاسرم گاه

گهنبار ایاسرم گاه در روز یکشنبه ۱۶ اکتبر از ساعت ۱۱ صبح در محل درمهر برگزار می شود.

گهنبار ایاسرم گاه چهارمین گهنبار در سال است. این گهنبارها جشن های فصلی و کشاورزی هستند که در دوره های بسیار کهن برگزار می شده اند. بنابر متن های دینی این گهنبار زمان آفرینش گیاه است. گهنبارها از جمله سنت های کهن هستند که خوشبختانه هنوز در جامعه زرتشتی باقی مانده اند.

گردهم ایی ورزشی!

هر <mark>دوشنبه از ساعت ۷ پسین</mark> گردهم ایی 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 ایی 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 همازوری 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.

انتقادها، 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

یشتیبان مالی انجمن را به یاد داشته باشید

به دلیل وضعیت موجود در پیوند با ویروس کووید-۱۹، برنامه ها و گردهم ایی 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 انلاین ادامه بدهید.

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

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

گهنبار پیته شهیم گاه

گهنبار پیته شهیم در روز یکشنبه ۱۱ سپتامبر از ساعت ۱۱ صبح در محل درمهر برگزار شد. خوشبختانه تعداد شرکت کنندگان بسیار خوب بود و نشان می داد که هموندان انجمن بعد از چند سال دوری از برنامه ها و گهنبار، دوباره گردهم می آیند. سیاس از افرادی که برگزارکننده و خیراندیش این گهنبار بودند و نیز افرادی که در آن گردهم آمدند.

3590 Bayview Avenue Toronto, ON, M2M 3S6 Tel: (416) 225-7771

Reg# 88897 0241 RR0001 Website: http://zso.org

"The valuables we have may impress others, but the VALUE we hold is enough to inspire others!"

"Help where you can, Give what you can".

The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario's (ZSO) Youth committee is actively hosting fundraising events to keep the youth engaged and involved in building a stronger community together. This year most of our activities are focused on raising funds to provide the youth an opportunity to attend the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (8WZYC) in London, UK (July 21 – 26, 2023).

The World Zoroastrian Youth Congress begun 25 years ago with a mission to bring together the Zoroastrian youth from around the world. It happens once in every four years. Over the years these congresses have brought together hundreds of Zoroastrian youth and enabled them to interact with others, as well as collaborate and work towards the challenges we face as a community. The intended age of these youth ranges from 18 to 37 years of age.

With your generosity and support, we are confident that once again we will be able to support our youths to discover new adventures and achieve experiences they would not have elsewhere. These social and engagement opportunities develop them into capable, confident, and successful individuals focused on giving back to their community and helping others.

Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to subsidize between 30-40 youths to give them an opportunity to engage and enhance their knowledge of our religion, create everlasting friendships with Zoroastrian youth from all over the world, and expand their connectivity within Toronto, and their greater worldwide network. The ZSO Youth have a fundraising vision to aid every youth from the ZSO to attend the 8WZYC. The total trip expense is likely to be over \$2,500 CAD per person (including airfare and accommodation).

As a token of appreciation, all official promotional sponsors (Bronze \$500+, Silver \$1,500+, Gold \$5,000+) will have their logo printed on the back of T-shirts given to all the ZSO youth attending the congress. For more information on sponsorship please contact Sohrab Bhiwandiwala [email: Youth@zso.org | Call: +1(289)-886-2309].

Here is how you can donate;

- 1. **Online**: www.ZSO.org/donate → Select the option "ZSO Youth 8th WZYC Fundraiser". Electronic tax receipt will be issued right away.
- Cheque: Payable to "Zoroastrian Society of Ontario". In the memo section kindly, mention "ZSO Youth 8WZYC Fundraiser". Please be sure to complete the donation form and attach it with your cheque. This will ensure we have correct mailing address to send the tax receipt.

We look forward to your continued support.

Thank you,

ZSO Youth Committee

Library Project for Volunteer Hours for High School Students

The ZSO Library committee invites high school students to enroll in the **Library Launch**.

This experience will cover the 10 hours required for volunteering for high school.

Students will meet at the Meheraban Guiv Darbe Mehr to help reorganize and sort books. They will be trained in:

- printing and creating labels,
- labeling books,
- generating and updating databases
- and writing short book reviews.

This is a great opportunity to come help the community, become familiar with the ZSO book collection and meet other young people.



Sessions will be 4 Saturdays in October and November

(for 2.5 hours) lunch will be served

Dates: October 15, October 22, November 5, 12

Times: 11:00AM - 1:30 PM

Contact: Armaity Homavazir rmyt3993@gmail.com

or Aban Amroliwalla <u>abanpa@yahoo.com</u> for more information.



Save The Date

SUNDAY, OCT 30, 22

1pm - 3pm

Details are Cooking

Stay Tuned

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario



2022

Pre-Order In person

Interested in showcasing your passion and talent, Contact Anahita Ogra (vp@zso.org)







ZOROASTRIANS GOT TALENT

DATE: SATURDAY NOV 12TH, 2022

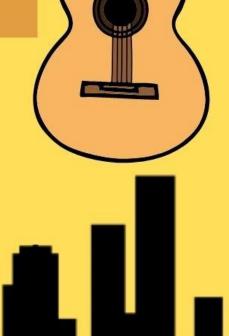
TIME: 6PM ONWARDS

PLACE: (ZSO) 3590 BAYVIEW AVE,

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\$35 NON-MEMBERS

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