

October 2023 Newsletter

@Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Presidents Message

As we welcome the autumn season, I wish everyone a happy Jashne Mehregan where we celebrate the time for harvest and thanksgiving. The ZSO has a box at the main entrance of the MGDM where we are accepting non-perishable food donations for the food bank, which is regularly emptied and distributed. Please bring one item for each event that you attend as our goal is to help individuals and families who need assistance.

The Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanoun (Kanoun) had its annual AGM and now has seven board members actively volunteering. Mehregan which is the festival of kindness will be celebrated at the MGDM on Saturday, October 7, 2023, and Jashne-Abangan will be held on Sat. October 21st. The Kanoun seniors and table tennis events will recommence once the paving is completed.

The paving of the MGDM grounds is ongoing until the first week of October, and we are hoping that all the mid-week events will start by October 9th. All weekend events are still happening. Please be patient during this construction and uneven terrain while parking and walking to the MGDM. Parking will be limited; however, there will be some gravel parking, and of course on the streets.

Congratulations Tasheen Daruwala, who has been awarded a \$3000 scholarship by WZO-Canada Sam Vesuna scholarship towards her education in Kinesiology at Wilfred Laurier University, Canada. Congratulations also to Kashmira Balsara on behalf of the ZSO for receiving the FEZANA Community Award for \$1000 for the 2023-2024 academic year towards her service to the community. We congratulate both youths and hope they both will continue to excel.

The Entertainment & the Youth committees have come up with events, starting from Hiking for the fall colours (Oct. 8) to the Seafood Bonanza (Oct. 28). Please support these committees by registering and attending these social events. Please see flyers.

The ZSO seniors' get-together is held every second Friday at 11 am. New participants to this informal social event are always welcome.

As we continue to volunteer with cGaming we are still seeking volunteers. As a volunteer, you and a

partner simply have to attend a Bingo Hall in Toronto for 2 hours a few times a year to simply greet people as they walk in. Interested in learning more and volunteering? Please contact Shiamak Katrak (ExecOfficer1@zso.org) and help raise funds for the ZSO.

On a final note, we must do our best to limit the garbage that is produced during and at the end of all of our events. Sadly for the majority of times due to improper disposal of recyclables & compost, EVERYTHING is by error thrown into the trash. This must stop.



Compost, recycle and garbage bins

If you have any ideas or relevant contributions for the monthly newsletter, please email us the WORD document to <u>newslettereditor@zso.org</u>. The MGDM is now open for private bookings. For availability please contact Hoofrish Patel

Upcoming Events

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



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Parshan Khosravi's Speech At The Interfaith Unity For Peace And Non-Violence World Peace Event in California



Parshan Khosravi - A devote Member of the Zoroastrian Community locally and globally.

Parshan Khosravi is an education advocate, grassroots organizer, and unapologetic voice for equity-driven public policy. As a first-generation Iranian refugee and a former ESL student in America, Parshan has both seen the power of education as a mechanism of community empowerment, as well as the numerous roadblocks and opportunity gaps that face nontraditional and low-income students pursuing education, especially in BIPOC communities.

Parshan is also a devout Zoroastrian and spends most of his spare time organizing with his faith community and representing Zoroastrians at the local, national, and global level.

Transcript for the Interfaith Unity For Peace And Non-Violence:

Sisters and brothers, It is an honor to be in your presence today and to speak about our collective movement for peace and nonviolence.

I'd like to start my remarks by talking about our Zoroastrian faith. As Zarathushtis, we see it as our duty to leave the world better than we found it, and it is the guiding tenants of our faith that we do so by centering Humata, Hukhta, and Huvarshta in our daily life. Good thoughts, good words, good deeds.

Now, of course, it is critical that we always center good thoughts and the principles of nonviolence in our actions, and it is crucial that we speak about goodness and peace. But as one of my incredible mentors and anchors of the Zoroastrian community always reminds me, it's all our Huvarshta, good deeds, that leaves the biggest impact in the world around us.

Sisters and brothers, we are here today to talk about peace and nonviolence, and I have no doubt that every one of us has centered peace and nonviolence in our daily lives. But we must ask ourselves, what actions are we taking to push for peace and nonviolence everywhere?

What are we doing to uplift our most vulnerable communities who are combatting poverty and still navigating the destructive impacts of a global pandemic? What are we doing in the face of humancaused climate change that is destroying our mother earth? What are we doing to call out bigotry? What are we doing in the wake of Tyre Nichols's murder to call out the systemic racism in our policing system? What are we doing to make sure we are loud and clear that Black Lives Matter?

In the wake of global violence, what are we doing to call out violations of human rights? What are we doing to call out the brutal actions of the Iranian regime in suppressing and oppressing the people of Iran, by the way using the name of religion to do it? What are we doing to say Woman, Life, Freedom?

Sisters and brothers, we must remember that peace and nonviolence is not the same as silence and inaction, and the moment we stop actively taking action to promote peace and nonviolence, we become complacent in the injustices that are happening all around us.

That's why I ask you to take action. I ask you to speak up. And I ask you to use your collective forces of community to promote peace one step at a time. If we work as a whole, as one connected interfaith community, we have the power to change things.

And we don't have to look too far to find actions we can take. In our own communities and neighborhoods, we currently have thousands of our sisters and brothers who are unhoused and

living on streets, living in their cars, and living in and out of shelters. There are several ways the interfaith communities can



Interfaith Unity for Peace and Non-Violence flyer

help support these communities, one of which is to partner with the county to create overnight parking programs and shelters at our faith centers for those living in their cars. I ask each of you as you go back to your communities to look into enlisting your faith centers as a such designated entity.

There are also hundreds and thousands of immigrants who are seeking asylum and refuge at our borders. I ask you to use your resources in providing support for these communities, providing them a sanctuary and a safe haven. I ask you to help uplift our collective voices in telling our policymakers and leaders including President Biden that we need to immediately restore and restart the refugee placement programs such as HIAS that help replace religious minorities in danger of persecution here to the United States.

And finally, I ask you to use our collective voices to speak up for the women of our community, who are seeing their rights stripped from them. We cannot let the movement for gender equality and over 40 years of progress on this front be rolled back, and we especially cannot let that happen using the name of religion.

So join me, sisters and brothers, in using our collective voices as an interfaith community to achieve peace and nonviolence. Join me in doing some Huvarshta, good deeds.

Thank you!

Extracted and Condensed from Parshan Khosravi's Speech on February 4th, 2023

Muktad Report 2023

This year marked the 41st year of our Muktad Observances at Darbe Mehre. It is with gratitude that we look back at all that we have accomplished. The success of these days depend upon on the goodwill, generosity and the faith of our community, in our religion, and our rituals. We remembered Ervd. Bomansha Kotwal who initiated the Muktads, together with Coomi Bathena.

Each day we had the Afringan and Farokhshi prayers in the morning as well as 3 Satum prayers throughout the day. On the 3rd Gatha, we also had a Ghambar Jashan. On the last Gatha day, we had the early morning prayers at 4:15 a.m. when we bid farewell to all our Asho-Farohars. Altogether we had 16 Satum prayers, 7 Afrigans, and 7 Farokshis which brings our total number of prayers to 30.

Ervd. Hoshang Udwadia stayed at the Darbe Mehre through the day to perform all the prayers. Our senior Mobed, Ervd Athavian Bamji came early in the morning for the Morning Satum, Farokhshi and Afrigan prayers. The other Mobeds, included Ervd. Mehbad Dastur, Ervd Navroze Antia, Ervd Xersis Dastur. This year we also had a new Mobed Ervd Kaizad Turel, who has recently come to Toronto. Ervd Jal Panthaky came on the 3rd Gatha for the evening Satum and a lecture. We must also thank Ervd. Khushroo Bharda, who has always been there for our early morning prayers for the past many years. We are all blessed with such dedicated and



Dedicated Mobeds praying throughout the muktad days

devoted Mobeds. It is very heartening to note that our 2 young Mobeds Ervd Navroze Antia and Ervd Xersis Dastur conducted the prayers with so much confidence!

The lectures were given by Ervd. Hoshang Udwadia, Mr. Rustom Chothia, our past President Daraius Barucha, Armaity Homavazir and Ervd Jal Panthaky. All the lectures were informative and generated a lot of discussion. Armaity's lecture was on the FEZANA Glossary, which she presented at the Youth Congress in London, UK.

The food for the breakfast, lunch, and dinner Satums was prepared on the premises by two appointed cooks and numerous volunteers every day. The leading cooks for each day were Katy Panthakee and Prochi Gazdar, Roshan Rabadi and Mickey Katgara, Zarine Irani and Ronny Irani, Nancy Patel and Kashmira Sarkari, Dina Amroliwalla and Kersi Kahambata. We have to especially thank Roshan Rabadi who also prepared the 7:00 a.m, Satum breakfast every morning. Roshan also cooked the early morning Satum food for the last day. All the food cooked for the meals is served to community members present for the prayers. If there is any food leftover it is sold to the community members wishing to buy the same.

This year, on the first Gatha, the lunch was sponsored by Putli Mirza's family in memory of her beloved husband, Ervd. Noshir Mirza. On the 2nd Gatha the lunch was sponsored by Tanaz & Farrokh Bhandari in memory of Perin Bhandari. The dinner on that day was sponsored by a group of friends. On Sunday, the 3rd Gatha the Lunch and Dinner were sponsored by the Irani Family, Zarine and Cawas Irani, Delbar and Ronnie Irani, and Pearl Irani. The Irani family buys all the groceries and cooks the meals themselves. We would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous donations.

The fruits for the prayers and other required items for cooking were purchased by Guloo Bharucha and her husband, Yezdi.



People standing for prayers

Food used for our Satum, Afrigan, and Farokshi prayers like

Malido, Sev, Dhai, Rawo, Bhakra, Batasas, Pooris, and other sweet items are generously donated by community members. We sincerely thank them all. All the food donations are first placed in the Prayers (Satums, Afrigans & Farokshis) which are conducted throughout the days. Then they are given as Chasni to those in attendance. All the special items are distributed through the five days of Muktad and the Gambar Jashan and the early morning Satum, Afrigan and Farokshi on Navroze Day.

Over these special days, approximately 1,512 members partook in the meals. Meals were served by our volunteers. Many members of our community came throughout the day to pray and participated in the prayers and ceremonies. During the prayers, we remembered 489 souls of our dear departed ones. May all our Ashofarohars rest in Peace.

We have to thank Sam Gandhi and Viraf Bhesania for preparing all the Diwas and for the additional cleaning throughout the day. During the Muktad, over 895 Diwas were lit. Thanks to Dara Homavazir and his family for the donation of oil for the Diwas and all the work throughout the five days.

We were also fortunate to have the help of youth volunteers. They were Yohan Patel, Spenta Chothia, Saen Aderbehman, Jazmin Aderbehman, Benji Irani, Sophie Irani, Kashmira Irani, Ishan Prasad, Jia Amroliwala, Burzeena Amroliwala, Ronel Banaji, Nazish Patel, and Tasheen Daruwala. These youths helped to set up the tables before each meal and helped with the clean up after each meal. About 6 of these youth stayed over night on the last day to attend 4 a.m. prayers. They helped us to clean the kitchen



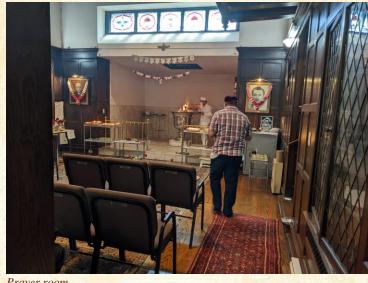
Youths serving up the good food.

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after Roshan Rabadi and Putli Bharda finished cooking the Satum food at midnight!

Hoshang Surty kept our accounts. Our cash and cheques donations plus all the e-tranfers this year was counted by our Accountant Khushro Tarapore and Assistant Treasurer Mehrnaz Dehmiri with a group of Volunteers and came to \$24,060. Our expenses were \$11,047. Giving us a surplus of \$13,013.The cash amount included donations from the Navrose and Khordad Sal jushans. Our expenses include the salary and overtime for Sam Gandhi and overtime for Viraf Bhesania for the 5 days of Muktad.

Our Muktad committee received tremendous support from our ZSO Board of Directors. Our President, Mitra Jam and our V.P., Anahita Ogra, together with our board liaison Hoofrish Patel, helped us to carry on this important tradition. Our resident volunteers were Roshan Rabadi, Khurshid Engineer, Hoshang Surty, and Putli Mirza.



Prayer room

This year, the roses were donated by Dhun & Sarosh Contractor, Roshan Rabadi and Putli Noshir Mirza and family. Anahita Ogra and her daughter Ava made the Toran for the Kebla. The Hars for the all the portraits in the Prayer room were donated by the Ogra family, Gulshan, and Khushroo Tarapore. Hars in the prayer room for the Papeti & Navroze Day were made by Pearl Chothia and some of our volunteers with flowers donated by various community members. The Kebla Toran for Papeti/Navroze was bought by us. All the flowers were beautiful and enhanced the ambiance of the prayer room.

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.

I would also like to personally thank the Muktad committee for all their hard work and the cooperation 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 Barucha, Hoshang Surty, and Zarine Dordi., and our two new members Mahanaz Sheriar and Khshroo Chothia. We welcome anyone from the younger generation who would like to shadow us through the Gatha days and learn what we do! The day starts at 6.00 a.m. and ends at 11.00 p.m. All the most important prayers happen between 7:00- 10:00 a.m.

Once again, we were able to conduct our prayers and all our rites and rituals in full measure! Thank you to all our Mobeds, Volunteers, our Donors and our President with the Board of Directors. We

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would also like to thank and remember Arbab Rustom Guiv and his nephew, Mehraban Guiv for giving us this beautiful place of Worship where we can get our community together and preserve all our rites and rituals. We remember them in all our prayers. We thank Ahura Mazda for the many blessings bestowed on our community. With blessings from all our Asho-Farohars, we hope to work together in peace and harmony for many years to come. We are all blessed beyond measure.

Last but not least, thank you to all the 40 volunteers who spent their Sunday cleaning up the Darbe Mehre and all the utensils needed for the prayers, including polishing our big Afargan in the Prayer room, prior to the Muktads. The food for the clean-up day was cooked by Kersi Khambatta. This clean-up was done under the leadership of Khushru Chothia. Thank you one and all for getting our Darbe Mehre ready for our Gatha Days as it has been done for the past so many years.

Report submitted by: Putli Noshir Mirza on behalf of the Muktad Committee

Entertainment Committee Call-Out

The entertainment committee would like to invite ZSO members who would like to be a part of our Committee.

We are looking for new members/volunteer chefs to join our committee.

If you wish to join the committee please email us your Name : Goals for the committee: Plans to execute these goals : 3-4 sentences about yourself:

Please do send in your information to Entertainment@zso.org by October 31st 2023

Looking forward to your email 🖾

Thanking you, Minoo Bharda (chair) & Mahanaz Sheriar (co-chair)

Advertise in the ZSO Newsletter

Buy your spot at <u>https://zso.org/page-18181</u> and email your advertisement graphic to <u>newslettereditor@zso.org</u> for next month's edition. Your contribution helps keep the Monthly Newsletter in circulation. Thank you.



Free Voice Lessons at the MGDM Do you have a passion for singing? Then come out and join the Asha choir!



Location: MGDM Time: Every Tuesday 6 pm – 8 pm Interested? Please email ShahramBastani@gmail.com and Kanoun@ZSO.org

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ZSO Sports Night- Fun and Energy Come Together!

The Sports Night took place the evening of September 23rd at 6pm, where us young Zoroastrians hosted an evening which was a blend of fun, energy, and togetherness among all the members.

It was heartwarming to witness people of all ages of the Zoroastrian community come together and thoroughly enjoy themselves. Everyone enthusiastically participated in a wide range of sports and games such as table tennis, carrom, chess, poker, and various card games.

The community center was buzzing with excitement as lively table tennis matches unfolded, meanwhile strategists huddled around chessboards, carrom boards, and card tables, plotting their way to victory in games that were as intense as they were fun!

The highlight of the night was undoubtedly the 2nd ever watermelon eating competition. Where the participants gathered around the table by the stage to devour the juicy



4 Enthusiastic Carrom Players

watermelon slices. Loud cheers and applause filled the community hall when Fravash Chothia claimed victory in the competition, with Cyrus Zandian securing the runner-up position.

This Sports Night was an all youth-led event, from set-up, to the food. When I spoke to one of the volunteers, Kayomaz Patel, about his experience for helping out, he said, "Hosting an event is not that hard, all you need is a few volunteers, and a big heart".

There were some snacks served during the games, followed by a scrumptious dinner taking center stage. The dinner preparations kicked off in the afternoon, where our young chefs Araash Chothia, Fravash Chothia, Grishma Chheda, Tahsheen Daruwala, Karl Forbes, Kayomaz Patel and Shiavax Postwalla, prepared the delicious meal while sharing their cooking skills and experiences, enjoying themselves while doing so! The dinner comprised of steamed rice, restaurant style chickpea curry,

tandoori chicken with pasta salad. To sweeten the deal at the end, the volunteers then served up a fantastic combo of fruit salad, an all-time favorite ice cream and cake to celebrate Ishaan Prasad and Ronel Banaji's birthdays both September 23rd.

The ZSO is organizing various other exciting events in the month of October, starting with the Annual Gourmet Food Fair on October 1st, followed by the next ZSO Youth Event, a Community Hike on the October 8th.

We can't wait to see everyone attending the Annual Gourmet Food Fair and supporting the Zoroastrian entrepreneurs and chefs by indulging in their mouthwatering creations. See you at the food fair and hike!



Maya Fighting To Win The Eating Competition

Written by: Grishma Chheda

Zoroastrian Youth Traverse the Golden State of California - Over Four Days Visiting Six Fire Temples

As the sun-kissed days of late summer made their final stretch between August 31st to September 4th, when around 20 youths embarked on their journeys to explore the fire temples, community centers, and downright beauty that California has to offer during the ZYNA (Zoroastrian Youth of North America) Road Trip this summer. The ZYNA team embarked on their journey starting from San Diego driving it all the way up to Sacramento. The four-day trip encompassed visiting 6 of the Zoroastrian Fire Temples along the way in each city. As an attendee, I had the pleasure of meeting with such a diverse group of people during the trip. This would mean meeting studio photographers to tech entrepreneurs with business stories and lessons to share with the team. Some of the crew flew in from Toronto, Seattle, Wisconsin, and of course, the local Californians on the trip to get to know their state better and tag along for the ride. Along the way, we were met by the association locals who welcomed us with hugs, gifts, and detailed tours of their center. With some centers just opening this year to some that have been around for more than 30 years, each place had its flair and unique stories. Here I take you through each center and what I learned on my journey about the place. If you're a local Californian, you can learn something from it too.

CZC - San Diego

Our first stop off the bus was the San Diego Center. When arriving at the center we were greeted by all the locals and shown around the building. Kiyanosh Kamdar and Farhad Kermani, both board members, walked us through the unique story of the funding of the building. They shared with us about the nearly 20-year quest for the Darbe Meher in San Diego; explaining how they pitched to buy 3 different properties over the years which all fell short due to different reasons including funding, permits, and misaligned city planning. Then proudly announcing this location, which will officially have its grand opening on November 6th. They also shared with us the way the local community had gotten much closer as they searched for the new center, and how every family, regardless of their financial wealth, contributed what they could on a month-to-month basis. Raising that much money in such a short time is a testament to the continuing dedication and philanthropy that our giving community has toward good causes.



Ro<mark>ad</mark> trippers make their first stop in San Deigo

Since the place is still being built and the renovation materials still around, could see how excited people were for the grand opening, and how emotional they were to finally see their dreams come to life. Along with the renovations, they got the painting of Asho Zarathustra painted by a local Zoroastrian artist Mr. Shahram Akhtarkhavari.

CZC Westminster Orange County

Walking into the Westminster California Center, the hall opens to a beautiful stage and grand hall. At the time of our visit, the place was just starting its 7-month, \$500,000 renovation project to change everything from the ceiling to the floors to the stage to modernize the place to meet the ever-evolving needs of the community. The center is home to a grand afarganyu with a fire so beautiful that one could sit there for hours in peaceful meditation. While there, 2 board members, Farshid Ezzati and Jamshid Ourmazdi, spoke to us about the history of the place. They shared with us about how the Zoroastrian community in the 70s would use various locations such as their houses and offices for meetings and activities, before 1979, when six Iranian Zoroastrian ladies formed a committee under the Zoroastrian Association of California which would later go on to become a stand-alone organization on its own as the California Zoroastrian Center. They further shared about the over 35 years of the OC Darbe Meher, and its impact on the community, as well as the legacy Arbab Rustam Guiv in helping secure the place and set the foundation for the center.

On the trip Farzin Avari, ZYNA Co-Chair brought along her 10 year youth empowering project Zubin the Teddy. "Zubin was created for my Sunday school class in 2010. I was teaching a class about the sudreh-khusti and wanted to show the different parts of the sudreh for my students. As we all know representation matters, and so I wanted something beyond a paper hand out to help teach the kids. I brought him on the road trip, because we plan on making a children's book about what it's like to grow up as a Zarathushti youth." When I asked her what's next for the book she said, "We're planning on sending the teddy around North America, so kids can see what growing up Zarathushti in North America



Zubin the Teddy - created for Sunday school classes, so kids can see what growing up Zarthushti in North America is like.

is like."

CZC Los Angeles Valley

When arriving at the Los Angeles Darbe Meher, what stands outside the center is an eye-catching statue tying together our Persian history with modern-day Zoroastrianism. This center is home to a grand Cyrus the Great statue that was unveiled on Cyrus the Great Day in 2019 celebrating his founding of the Achaemenid Empire and visionary ruler granting religious freedom throughout his empire of 3 continents and 25 nations; ruling from 559–530 B.C.

There we met the center's president Mitra Zartoshty who toured us around the place. What I found fascinating were the various plants growing around the perimeter including limes trees, fennel plants and



Road Trippers pose in front of the Cyrus the Great Statue outside of CZC - LA

pomegranates to name a few. When we were inside, Artemis Javanshir FEZANA's Co-Chair of the Religious Education Committee walked us through the center's buying history, she said it was bought in June 2010 with the renovations being done in March of 2018. After the presentation, it was great chatting over tea, coffee and breakfast about the place, and the different people who contributed to its building over time.

Zoroastrian Association of California - ZAC

Arriving at ZAC, we were preparing our appetites for the barbecue and game night with the youths from Los Angeles. With the tour from Rooky Fitter the ZAC President, who showed us around and explained the origins of the center which was bought and opened in July 2010 for the community with the Atash Kadeh later built in 2015. As the night went on, I was talking with some locals discussing ideas on modern Zoroastrianism and community building; discussing potential projects. Those who recently went to the 8th World Zoroastrian Congress in London, UK this summer were sharing their experiences and what they learned from it.

The night was leading up to the Midnight Boi Ceremony, performed by 11-year-old Ervad Kyan Arzan Lali, who performed in the new Atash Kadeh. The Boi Ceremony is a ritual to feed the sacred fire with fragrance and fuel. A boi ritual is performed over consecrated fires of Ādarān and Atash Behram in each of the five watches of the day. For the Dādgāh fire, the boi ritual is performed at least once a day. Which was a perfect, and peaceful way to end the day.



Ervad Kyan Arzan Lali, who performing the Midnight Boi Ceremony at ZAC

San Jose Darbe Mehers - PZA & ZANC

Driving into this Darbe Meher, it felt like I was being pulled into a secret part of San Jose where peace and tranquility were at the heart of its creators and the visionaries who originally built the place in 1992. With a wonderful view of the city, this Center is situated on Crothers Rd. on the way to Mount Hamilton high up on the San Jose Hills where most of the external distractions of the bustling city aren't present. I had the pleasure of meeting the caretaker Shirin, who said "I've been taking care of this place for the past 25 years!... This place is my home, the people here are my family." When we arrived, we were shown around the property and recited prayers in their new fire temple.



Selfie in San Jose!

It was here, on Day 4, where I felt the road trippers were becoming more than just physically connected, we were becoming spiritually connected through our prayers. I could hear the prayer patterns and vibrations come into sync together, causing our collective power to strengthen. The prayer ceremony here was so peaceful, I felt one with the place and the hills on which it was situated.

Sacramento Darbe Meher

Walking into the Sacramento Zoroastrian Association (SZA), we met Khodadad (Khody) Pashutanizadeh, a well humored guy who gave us a thorough tour of the place, from the storage rooms to the bathrooms. He explained that starting in 2010 SZA was originally established by five Zoroastrian women from Northern California, initially known as the Zoroastrian Women Organization (WZO), later changed to SZA in 2014. Through generous donations and support, SZA was able to purchase a building on the former Mather Air Force Base for \$550,000 and construct a separate Darbe Meher prayer hall with a donation of \$200,000 from the Zoroastrian Association of Hong Kong. They also undertook a major renovation, funded by a bank loan of \$250,000, to comply with City and County codes for large gatherings. The Center was then officially opened on June 30, 2018.

After prayers, we put our Hawaiian dance hats on and joined the Sacramento locals to a Hawaiian-themed party.



Omid Shahzadi and Cody K. Partovi getting ready for the Hawaiian Themed Party

More Than a Pilgrimage

This was the first ever road trip organized by ZYNA, so it's safe to say it set the standards for future road trips to come. Although this

trip was about visiting all the centers, we were also exploring California, a state which has the world to offer. Including its beautiful and warm beaches like Laguna Beach and cute little towns like Solvang, and sandwich shops like the Zoroastrian-owned <u>Delirama</u> in Berkeley.

What I learned on this trip was that our centers are safe places to foster important discussions on Zoroastrian history and philosophy. They are places that provide religious instruction for children, conduct religious ceremonies, celebrate Zoroastrian festivals, and promote self-esteem and self-confidence in the Zoroastrian community, particularly among the youth through sports, music, and dance classes.

Above all the knowledge and history that I picked up, my main take away from it was the opportunity to spend four days with Zoroastrians from around North America that I never knew prior to the journey. We traveled, ate, played, prayed, and sang together which fostered the tight bonds among us that I'll cherish forever. I want to thank the <u>ZYNA</u> and <u>FEZANA</u> team for making this trip possible along

with every association that let us into their prayer hall and showed us their open arms by treating us like their own.

Written by: Araash Chothia



Enjoying lunch by the beach

Library Committee Message

Most members of the community are not aware of the existence of a very useful library on the Religion of Zarathustra as also many historical accounts on the Parsis in India and abroad. History of Persia, and India, 10 volumes of the Shahnameh in English, the life and teachings of Zarathustra, translations of the Gathas in English by contemporary scholars - Indian and International, children's books on the religion, translations and commentaries on our beautiful religion by Nobel Laureat Rabindranath Tagore and Jatindra Mohan Chatterjee; biographies of eminent Parsis of India such as J.R.D.Tata, the Wadia's etc.

We intend to expand our subjects to include cookbooks by Parsi authors as also fiction written by and about Parsis - authors such as Bapsy Sidhwa, Anosh Irani, Rohinton Mistry, etc. (donations of books on the above subjects are welcome). We welcome youth and seniors to come and explore this treasure trove of information and knowledge. Young Spenta Chothia and Librarian Mrs. Amroliwalla may be contacted by SMS: 647 287-2215 - Spenta; 647 - 987 - 8765 - Mrs. Amroliwalla.

Submitted by: Aban Amroliwalla

Sunday Scriptures – Translated Yasna 28.2

Gatha Ahunavaiti, Yasna 28.2

Ye vao Mazda Ahura pairi jasai Vohu Manangha maibyo davoi ahvao astvatascha hyatcha manangho ayapta Ashat hacha yaish rapanto daidit khvathre

LEZŽNA ZUČ

O Mazda Ahura, I verily Through Vohu Mano, wouldst reach up to Thee In both worlds, to me, do Thou give ---The spiritual, and the material, in which I live ---The blessings which through Asha flow, Thus leading the faithful to the Abode of Glow!

The Poetry Of the Prophet by Jimmy Nadershaw Sidhva

Gatha Ahunavaiti, Yasna 28.2

In this verse, Prophet Zarathushta expresses his deep desire to reach up to his creator through the Amesha Spenta Vohu Mano (Behman Ameshaspand), the Amesha Spenta of the Good Mind. In other words he wishes to elevate his own mind to a transcendental level with the help of Vohu Mano, the Good Mind, so as to be able to visualize Ahura Mazda in his mind's eye.

He then asks Mazda to shower upon him His choicest Blessings through the Amesha Spenta of Truth, Asha Vahista — not only the corporeal blessings of the body, but also the spiritual ones of the soul — so that he and his people may be guided to Garothman, "the Abode of Glow." This verse highlights the unending and deep desire of the Prophet to strive even harder to reach up to his Creator, with the help of His love and

blessings. The Poetry Of the Prophet by Jimmy Nadershaw Sidhva



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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: Araash Chothia Assistant Editor: Bahram Jam

Please note that all requests for inclusions in the ZSO NL should be emailed to <u>newslettereditor@zso.org</u>. Please copy Hoofrish Patel at <u>evp@zso.org</u> and Mitra Jam at <u>president@zso.org</u> for approval.

ZSO Contacts:

Miscellaneous

Emergency situations: Khushru Chothia (416) 677-7555 *Messages on the auto-dialer*: Pedram Yazdani at <u>admin@zso.org</u> Renting MGDM hall (for post-funeral prayers/rituals or for private functions): Hoofrish Patel at <u>evp@zso.org</u> Kanoun Representatives for September 2023-2024 are as follows, if you have any questions please contact these individuals for Kanoun events:

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اهنودگات - یسن ۳۰ - بند ۵

زیرا هرکس راه و روش خود را خود برمی گزیند. اما کسی که بهترین اندیشه را اختیار می کند، سنگ تمام عیار را می گذارد و با کارهای راستین خود خدای دانا را خوشنود می سازد.

پيام فرنشين انجمن

در حالی که به فصل پاییز خوش آمد می گوییم، به همه جشن مهرگان را شادباش می گویم. مناسبتی که در آن فصل برداشت و سپاسگزاری را جشن می گیریم. در محل ورودی درمهر جعبه ایی قرار داده شده که در آن خیراندیشی های شما که شامل غذاهای فاسدنشدنی است را می پذیریم. این مواد به طور مرتب جمع آوری و پخش می شوند. لطفا برای هر مراسم و برنامه که به درمهر می آیید، چیزی را بیاورید زیرا هدفمان این است که به افراد و خانواده هایی که نیازمند هستند کمک کنیم.

کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی (کانون) نشست سالیانه خود را برگزار کرد و هم اکنون هفت عضو داوطلب کارشان را شروع کرده اند. جشن مهرگان که جشن سپاسگزاری است در شنبه ۷ اکتبر ۲۰۲۳ در محل درمهر برگزار خواهد شد. جشن آبانگان هم در روز شنبه ۲۱ اکتبر جشن گرفته خواهد شد. گردهم ایی سالدیدگان کانون و برنامه پینگ پونگ هم به محض پایان بازسازی محوطه درمهر دوباره آغاز خواهد شد.

بازسازی محوطه درمهر تا هفته اول اکتبر ادامه خواهد داشت، امیدواریم که با پایان آن، تمامی برنامه هایی که میان هفته برگزار می شدند از ۹ اکتبر دوباره اغاز شوند. اما برنامه هایی که در تعطیلات آخر هفته برگزار می شدند متوقف نشده اند. لطفا در جریان این بازسازی صبور باشید و هنگام پارک ماشین یا راه رفتن بر محوطه بسیار مراقب باشید. پارکینگ بسیار محدود و بر روی شن خواهد بود و البته از خیابان های اطراف هم می توانید استفاده کنید.

شادباش به تشین دارووالا که بورس سه هزار دلاری توسط دبلیو زد او کانادا که توسط سام وسونا بنیان نهاده شده را دریافت کرد. این بورس برای پیشبرد تحصیلاتش در تربیت بدنی در دانشگاه ویلفرد لورر است. همینطور شادباش به کشمیرا بالسارا برای دریافت بورس هزار دلاری فزانا برای انجام کارهای اجتماعی در سال تحصیلی ۲۰۲۳– ۲۰۲۴. به هر دو این جوانان شادباش می گوییم و امیدواریم فعالیت های خود را بیشتر کنند.

کمیته جوانان و سرگرمی برنامه هایی را در نظر گرفته اند که با پیادهروی رنگ های پاییز (۸ اکتبر) و مهمانی غذاهای دریایی (۲۸ اکتبر) شروع می شوند. با شرکت در این برنامه ها از آنها پشتیبانی کنید. لطفا آگهی ها را ببینید.

برنامه گردهم ایی سالدیدگان انجمن هر دومین جمعه ساعت ۱۱ صبح برگزار می شود. به شرکت کنندگان جدید به این برنامه خوش آمد می گوییم.

چون ما هنوز با برنامه سی گیمینگ همکاری می کنیم، برای همین نیاز به افراد داوطلب داریم. به عنوان داوطلب، شما و پارتنرتان فقط باید به بینگو هال تورنتو بروید و برای دو ساعت چند بار در سال به افرادی که وارد می شوند خوش آمد بگویید. افرادی که علاقه مند هستید یا می خواهید بیشتر بدانید، لطفا با سیامک کاتراک تماس بگیرید و برای کمک مالی به انجمن همکاری کنید.

آخرین نکته این که باید تلاش کنیم که تولید آشغال را در جریان گردهم ایی ها و برنامه ها به حداقل برسانیم. متاسفانه در اغلب موارد به دلیل عدم رعایت موارد درباره مواد بازیافتی و کمپوست، همه اینها به داخل سطل آشغال ریخته می شوند. موضوعی که باید متوقف شود.

اگر هر نوع ایده یا نوشته ایی در ارتباط با خبرنامه دارید، لطفا آن را در یک متن وورد و به نشانی ایمل newslettereditor@zso.org بفرستید.

درمهر برای هر نوع رزرو برنامه های خصوصی قابل دسترس است. برای این لطفا به هوفریش پتل evp@zso.org بنویسید.

با آرزوی تندرستی برای همه شما، میترا جم، فرنشین انجمن، president@zso.org

خبرنامه

گردهم ایی ماهیانه سالدیدگان

سالدیدگان ایرانی در محل درمهر در روز سه شنبه ۳ سپتامبر از ساعت ۱۰ گردهم می آیند. این دورهمی با گفتگو، دیدوبازدید و صرف چای و شیرینی خواهد بود. با شرکت در این دورهمی دیدوبازدیدی با دوستان داشته باشید.

جشن مهرگان بر همگان شاد باد!

مانند هر سال جشن مهرگان را در درمهر با گردهم آمدن و شادی و پایکوبی برگزار می کنیم. این جشن که یکی از کهن ترین جشن های ایرانیان است در فراز و نشیب های مختلف تاریخ برگزار شده است و بهانه ایی بوده است برای شادی و همبستگی.

جشن مهرگان هم جشنی است همزمان با اعتدال پاییزی که دگرگونی از فصل تابستان به پاییز را جشن می گیریم و هم این که به ایزد مهر یکی از ایزدان قدیمی ایران پیوند دارد که متنی به نام مهریشت در وصف آن سروده شده است. بنابر روایت این ایزد پاسدار عهد و پیمان است.

مهرگان را در محل درمهر در روز شنبه ۲ اکتبر از ساعت ۶ پسین جشن می گیریم. این جشن با اوستاخوانی، برنامه های شاد، گفتگو، دیدوبازدید خواهد بود. با شرکت در این جشن، یکی از قدیمی ترین سنت های ایرانی را زنده نگه می داریم.

گردهم ایی ورزشی!

جمعه ۶ اکتبر از ساعت ۷ پسین گردهم ایی ورزشی در درمهر برگزار می شود. می توانید برای بازی تنیس روی میز در این برنامه شرکت کنید یا این که برای تماشا و دیدوبازدید به درمهر بیاید. اگر می خواهید تنیس یاد بگیرید، هم می توانید در این برنامه شرکت کنید.

در این گردهم ایی ورزشی و دیدوبازدید شرکت کنید.

بازگشایی درمهر مهربان گیو

روزهای باز بودن درمهر عبارتند از: **دوشنبه (بعدازظهر)، سه شنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، چهارشنبه (بعدازظهر)، جمعه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و اعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، جمعه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، جمعه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، جمعه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، جمعه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، جمعه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر) و یکشنبه (صبح و بعدازظهر)، 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.

انتقادها، نظرها و پیشنهادهای خود را با کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی با ایمیل <u>Ranoum@ zoo.org</u> در میان بگذارید. با پیوستن به گروه تلگرامی کانون و آگاهی رسانی درباره آن به بخشی از نیازی های مینوی و اجتماعی خود را برآورده کنید. میدواریم مانند همیشه پشتیبانی و کمک شما اعضای انجمن ادامه داشته امیدواریم مانند همیشه پشتیبانی و کمک شما اعضای انجمن ادامه داشته بشد. کمک های مالی خود را با فرستادن چک یا پرداخت انلاین انجام

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نشست سالیانه کانون فرهنگی زرتشتیان ایرانی در محل درمهر برگزار شد و افراد جدید هیات مدیره این کانون معرفی شدند. از افرادی که در هیات مدیره قبلی فعالیت نمودند، سپاسگزاری می شود و ضمن خوش آمد گویی به افراد جدید، اسامی آنها به ترتیب حروف الفبا به شرح زیر می باشد: کامران بمانپور، کتایون بهدین، بهرام جم، رستم خسرویانی، کورش فرهادی، فرانک ماوندادی، میترا مینو برای همکاری با کانون یا آگاهی از اخبار و برنامه ها با ایمل بالا تماس بگیرید و به گروه تلگرامی کانون بپیوندید.



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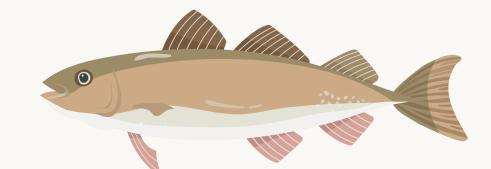
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ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

3590 BAYVIEW AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M2M 3S6

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the age of 18	age 18	age 18-25		and over
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Total Enclosed: Cash \$ Cheque \$ (All cheques payable to "Zoroastrian Society of Ontario" and mailed to Attn: ZSO Treasurer (Membership Form) 3590 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON, M2M 3S6). Please note the bank will NOT accept cheques payable to "ZSO".

I have reviewed the ZSO Constitution & Bylaws* and agree to abide by them (*available on the ZSO website zso.org)

NEW MEMBERS must be introduced by two ZSO members in good standing and approved by the ZSO Board of Directors (BOD).

Existing ZSO Member

Print Full Name

Signature

Existing ZSO M	lember
----------------	--------

Print Full Name

Signature

Approved b	y the ZSO BOD
□Yes	5 🗖No
Signature	