ZANT Upcoming Events

- Mar. 17: Panjeh Prayers (12pm—4pm)
- Mar. 18: RSVP Deadline for NouRuz Function
- Mar. 25: ZANT NouRuz Celebration (12pm-4pm)
- Apr. 8: ZANT Religion Classes
- May 5: ZANT Carnival (Annual Fundraiser)
- May 27: ZANT Graduation and Gahambar
- June 16: Tirgan and Father’s Day Picnic

Happy NouRuz

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Board of Directors

President: Jamshed Jamadar
Vice President: Kashmira Contractor
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Social Director: Pearl P. Balsara
Director: Persis Shroff Bahrassa
Director: Vacant

ZANT Address:
Zoroastrian Center of North Texas
1605 Lopo Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028-1306

We welcome and encourage feedback from our community. Please send comments or suggestions to president.zant@gmail.com or mail to ZANT, 1605 Lopo Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028-1306
**Message from the Board**

ZANT wishes its family and friends a Very Happy and Prosperous NouRuz 2018!! NouRuz Pirooz Baad!!

We are looking forward to seeing you all in March at the “Panjeh Gahanbar Prayers” at the ZANT Center & NouRuz Celebration at Sneaky Pete’s.

Please RSVP by March 18 for the NouRuz Celebration if you have not already done so. Come join the fun and celebrate with all your family and friends.

In May we are planning to have our fun filled Carnival. Look out in the next news letter for more details on the same. This is another exciting summer event we have every year and as always we will have lots of food and exciting games.

Hope to see you all at these and future events. Our events are a success only because of all of you!!

**Panjeh Gahanbar Prayers & Lunch**

Panjeh Prayers would be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at the ZANT Center from 12pm to 4pm. We’ll have potluck lunch, so please bring a dish to share.

If you’d like to help prepare Aash and Sirog for the Gahambar, please come to ZANT Center by 10am on Saturday, March 17, 2018

**Childrens’ Religion Class and Vohu Manah Group**

Our next Childrens’ Religion class will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018. Please be at the ZANT Center by 10:45 a.m. so we can have the Prayers & Tandarosti for kids in the Prayer Room at 11 a.m. For further details about the class please contact Pearl P. Balsara.

The Vohu Manah group will continue our study of the Gathas. Have some tea and snacks to feed your body and some enlightening conversation to feed your soul! The group will meet on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 2:00pm at the ZANT Center Library. For further details about the Vohu Manah Group, please contact Anahita Sidhwa.
Please SAVE THE DATE for a FUN-Filled Afternoon!
This year let’s get together to celebrate NouRuz....

At: Sneaky Pete’s (Monterey Ballroom with a beautiful view of Lake Lewisville)
Date: Sunday, March 25, 2018
Time: 12pm – 4pm

Besides performances by our kids, we’ll have some fun & games for all to enjoy!

One of the games we plan to have is “Guess the Baby Picture.” For this, please send in your baby (young) pictures to Pearl P Balsara by mail or e-mail (ppbalsara@gmail.com) by March 15, 2018. We will prepare a poster with all the baby/young pictures received. Everyone will try to guess which photo goes with which ZANT member, writing their answers down on paper. The person with the most correct answers will win! So, please dig-up your old albums and start sending your and your spouse’s pictures/photos for helping us put this poster together for some fun at the ZANT NouRuz Celebration! Let’s see, can your own kids recognize you…… can your friends recognize you?
Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

Warmly Welcomes One and All to

NouRuz 2018 Celebration

Date: Sunday, March 25, 2018
Time: 12:00pm – 4:00pm
Place: Sneaky Pete’s (Monterey Ballroom) with a beautiful view of Lake Lewisville
Address: 2 Eagle Point Rd, Lewisville, TX 75077 (972) 434-2800

Program
12:00 – 12:30pm Meet & Greet
12:30 – 1:00pm Entertainment Program
1:00 – 2:30pm Lunch
2:30 – 3:30pm Games, Music, Dance
3:30 – 4:00pm Tea / Coffee & Dessert

Adult Buffet Menu:
- House Salad with Ranch and Raspberry vinaigrette
- Assorted dinner rolls w/ Honey butter
- Roasted Rosemary potatoes and Whole Kernel Corn
- Jumbo Shrimp pasta with white wine sauce (non-veg) Bowtie Pasta with Marinara and Alfredo sauce (veg)
- Pecan Chicken with Praline sauce (non-veg) Eggplant Parmesan (veg)
- Dessert, Lemonade, Tea, Coffee
- Cash Bar

Kids’ Buffet Menu:
- Fruit Salad, Chicken Tenders, Fries, Lemonade, Dessert

Reservations: Please submit this form with correct amount on check. Late fee of $10/person after March 18, 2018.

Name: __________________________________________
ZANT Members: $37/adult _____ x $37 = $_______
(No. of Vegetarians ________)
Child (ages 3-12): $20/child _____ x $20 = $_______
Non-members: $50/adult _____ x $50 = $_______
Donation
(Children under 3 yrs. - Free)
Total Payment = $_______

Mail form and check to:
ZANT Center
1605 Lopo Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028
**KIDS’ CORNER**

**Find Inner Strength**

Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships & decide not to surrender, that is strength!

- Arnold Schwarzenegger

Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will!

- Mahatma Gandhi

**Religious Class:**

At our February Religious class, our little ones discussed the “Navjote”... We went over the three sudrah kusti prayers and why we pray them. Dastoorji Poras also showed and discussed with the kids the sudreh and kusti - How it is made, the materials used to make them & what the two items symbolize.

For our March Class, we requested Soonu Aunty to talk about the significance of our upcoming major celebration Nouruz. The children helped set up a simple Haftseen table with all the important items starting with “s” and “sh” and understand their meaning and then got to enjoy some candy!

**Our Middle-age group** learned the meaning of our daily prayers during the 1st half of their class & the 2nd half is being dedicated to learning about eminent Zoroastrians.

At the February class, we learnt about:

- Teachings from Jasa Mey Avanghe Mazda — The Zoroastrian Prayer of Allegiance
  - This prayer re-enforces our belief in the 12 Articles of our religion—We believe in...
    - only 1 God—Ahura Mazda
    - the excellent teachings of Zarathushtra
    - our religion
    - good thoughts, words & deeds
    - wisdom
    - Avoiding wrong & getting rid of imperfections
    - Non-violence
    - Self-sacrifice
    - Righteous & truthful life
    - That our religion is best for “us”
    - Follow Ahura Mazda’s teachings
    - All “good” comes from God

- It is recited everytime we do Kusti Prayers
- Our Eminent Zoroastrian for February was “Dadabhai Naoroji” - popularly remembered as “Grand Old Man of India”. We learnt about his life & dedication to free India from the British Rule. He was the 1st Indian to be elected to the British Parliament. He was honored by India by commemorating several postage stamps of him. London commemorated him by having a plaque in his honor outside the Finsbury Town Hall.

The teens had a guest speaker in Feb — Anahita Sidhwa very graciously agreed holding a session. The theme was new thoughts, wise words, and good deeds.

- For new thoughts, the teens got a glimpse of Zarathushti treasures that are in a museum in Japan.
- They got a chance to play with the words that form the meaning of Ashem Vohu as part of wise words.
- For the good deed segment, we discussed the collection of toiletries to make hygiene kits for homeless children in Dallas.

In the March Teen Class, we completed our study of the Ahunavaiti Gatha. Today’s selection reiterated the importance of being just and fair to all. Showing respect and reverence to elders is also stressed in our Gathas. During our discussion, the teens acknowledged that they feel their teachers respect them because they are very respectful towards their teachers, they have a strong work ethic, and maintain high moral standards. They felt that this comes from our culture which strongly emphasizes all these worthy qualities. Kudos to all the parents who have passed these down to these wonderful young adults.

**Thank You!**

We are very grateful to our Parent Volunteers for catering lunch for our kids & adults & a monthly Birthday Cake, at each Religious Class. We’d like to thank the Elavia family for February class kids’ & adults’ lunch & Daroona Family & Balsara Family for March Kids’ & Adults’ Lunch!

**Children’s Religious Class:**

Our next religious class will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018. Please be at the ZANT Center by 10:45 a.m. so we can have the Prayers & Tandarosti for kids in the Prayer Room at 11 a.m. For further details about the Religious Classes, please contact Pearl P. Balsara at ppbalsara@gmail.com.
**TREASURER’S CORNER**

The donations and balances listed below are accurate as of February 28, 2018.

*Donations*

The cost of maintaining the center is approximately $2,500 to $3,000 per month. If anyone would like to help with that, please contact the board.

**LINKING YOUR KROGER REWARDS CARD WITH ZANT**

Just a reminder to all new and existing ZANT members.

ZANT has established a Community Rewards Partnership with the Kroger family of stores. Please link your Kroger Rewards Card with ZANT so that ZANT gets a donation from Kroger every time a member shops at the store.

The NPO # for linkage is 63989.

Please feel free to contact a board member if help is needed to create the link.

**INTERFAITH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2018**

The Interfaith Council at Thanksgiving Square invites ZANT to participate in their monthly meetings. The calendar for 2018 is shown below:

- Mar 12  Spring Festival of Faith
- April 9  Panel Conversation
- May 3  National Day of Prayer
- June 11  Visit to Lutheran Churches
- Sept 17  Indigenous Art
- Oct 8  Visit to Presbyterian Church
- Nov 12  Day of service honoring Veterans
- Dec  Winter Festival of Faiths

If you would like to attend, please contact Anahita Sidhwa at afsidhwa@verizon.net for further details. ZANT has participated in the spring festival of faiths for the past 2 years with a NouRuz table. We hope to do so this year also and welcome your help and support to showcase our community and customs.
Past Events: Super Bowl, Feb. 4, 2018
Past Events: Religion Class & Volunteering, Feb. 18, 2018
PAST EVENTS: TEENS RELIGION CLASS PROJECT, MARCH 11, 2018
weekendwonders4kidz

Making weekends wonderful ... one kid at a time, one bag at a time, one week at a time

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
To everyone who came to the Zant Center with lots and lots of food donations and helped us bag them too, thank you! You exceeded our targets and expectations! We want to give a special shout out to all our junior volunteers - you are awesome! You were all so organized and the bags were very accurately assembled. We hope you all had fun!

Navroz Mubarak to everyone!!
The FEZANA Executive is happy to announce that the 31st Annual General Meeting of Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America shall be held from Friday April 27th to Sunday April 29th 2018 in Los Angeles, California.

As is the practise, the day before the AGM Thursday April 26, 2018 shall have various Pre-AGM events; and we encourage one and all to attend the same.

FEZANA Member association California Zoroastrian Center are the hosts of the upcoming AGM and they shall in due course of time send out details about the actual program, accommodation etc.

One of the main thrusts of this AGM shall also be to find out more about the 2019 World Zoroastrian YOUTH Congress to be hosted by the youth of the host association California Zoroastrian Center. In this regard we urge member associations to encourage and bring along their youth representatives to the AGM so they can interact with their counterparts at CZC to aid in making the 2019 WZYC a grand success.

For participants to book their flights etc, please find below a very broad conceptual program.

**Thursday April 26, 2018**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Pre AGM Session Hosted by North American Mobed Council
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Panel Discussion and Brainstorming for FEZANA's participation at Global Interfaith Events in 2018

**Friday April 27, 2018**

8:30 AM : FEZANA AGM Begins

**Saturday April 28, 2018**

8:30 AM; FEZANA AGM Continues

**Sunday April 29, 2018:**

8:30 AM: FEZANA AGM continues and shall end at noon.
1:00 PM: Post-AGM Sessions TBD

If you have any questions please feel free to email Arzan Sam Wadia FEZANA VP and Chair of the Coordination and Planning Committee at vp@fezana.org

Sincerely,

FEZANA Executive
11th World Zoroastrian Congress 2018

Perth, Australia
June 1st - 4th 2018

Day 1
Friday, 1st June 2018
Optional sightseeing in Perth
Registration
Religious Jashan
Opening Ceremony
Networking
Entertainment
Dinner

Day 2
Saturday, 2nd June 2018
Conference Speakers
Presentation
Religious & Youth Panel Discussions
Lunch
Activities
Networking

Day 3
Sunday, 3rd June 2018
Conference Speakers
Cultural Presentations
Panel Discussions
Lunch
Award Presentation
Gala Night
Entertainment
Dinner

Day 4
Monday, 4th June 2018
Networking
Optional sightseeing in Perth
Depart with fond memories of the 11th World Zoroastrian Congress
"Together Towards Tomorrow"

The 11th World Zoroastrian Congress
"Together Towards Tomorrow"
A once in a life time experience with fantastic speakers, dynamic panel discussions and breakaway sessions on religious, youth, cultural topics. Plus entertainment, gala dinners and optional tours in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast and New Zealand.

Looking forward to seeing you and your family here!

Visit www.11wzcperth.com.au for more information
Zoroastrian Association of Houston will be hosting the North American Zoroastrian Congress in 2020 (NAZC2020). The NAZC2020 Core Team is launching a competition for the best NAZC2020 Logo, so please put on your thinking caps and send us your entries. There will be a grand prize of $150 for the best NAZC2020 Logo entry selected by the designated selection committee.

Here are some guidelines:

- Should highlight the importance of Zarathushti religion and culture
- Should be relatable and aligned with the NAZC2020 Theme: GENERATION Z: PROPELLING THE ZARATHUSHTI RESURGENCE
- The selection committee will consist of the NAZC2020 core committee and/or its selected judges
- The logo must be easy to use, handle, resize, and manipulate for all reproduction purposes
- It should be visually appealing on both small (as small as 2 cm x 2 cm) and large scales
- Entries should be emailed to the NAZC2020 Secretary, Percy Master (percyMMaster@gmail.com) latest by Feb 28, 2018
- Submissions should include artwork in GIF, JPG, PPT, PDF or BMP format and a brief description of how the logo entry relates to the NAZC2020 Theme

In addition, listed below are some of the main committees needed for the congress. Anyone interested in volunteering on any of these committees should let the NAZC2020 Secretary, Percy Master (percyMMaster@gmail.com) know (being resident in Houston is not a requirement for most volunteers, since many of these items can be done via phone/email):

- Program – Determine the sessions and speakers for the congress
- Entertainment – Coordinate all of the entertainment before, during and after the congress
- Hospitality – Determine the venue for the congress
- Registration – Manage the list of registrants for the congress
- Public Relations – Manage press releases and invite dignitaries for the congress
- Publicity and Press Release – Manage the publicity campaign for the congress
- Publications – Publish the congress souvenir brochure
- Audio Visual – Manage microphone, sound and lighting requirements for the congress
- Technology – Manage website and social media for the congress
- Booths & Exhibits – Manage commercial booths and exhibits to promote Zarathushti culture and enterprise during the congress
- Youth – Manage events for youth, including social and educational sessions
- Tours & Transportation – Manage transportation for speakers and dignitaries, and sight-seeing before/after congress for all registrants

We hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,

Percy M. Master
NAZC2020, Secretary
Like Sugar in Milk

Majlend Bramo, a documentary photographer from Florence, Italy who has been travelling to India since 2014 has produced a visual documentary of the Parsi community, in a book 'Like sugar in milk'. This is a visual journey into the traditions, culture and religion of the Parsis, all done with the aim to document such a valuable community that is unfortunately declining in numbers. Shernaz Cama of UNESCO Parzor has written the preface of the book, which is of great added value for the book.

It will be published by Jak Printers in Mumbai by the end of February, but a pre-sale order of 300 books is needed to cover their printing costs. The cost per copy is INR 1800 (US$28) in this phase and will be increased after pre-sale is over.

To order a copy, please contact Majland Bramo at photbramo@gmail.com. The book will make a good gift for all occasions.

Dolly Dastoor, Ph.D.
FEZANA Journal
This is a follow-up to the FEZANA email blast dated December 4, 2017.

Sharmin BATLIWALA, a mother of two young kids, and a young Zoroastrian residing in Melbourne, Australia has been diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia (CLL).

The doctors have advised her that the best option to beat her cancer will require a bone marrow transplant. For this Sharmin requires a matching bone marrow transplant from a donor. Usually a family member is a perfect match. However, Sharmin did not have a match in her family and they are currently searching the unrelated bone marrow registry for a donor. Anyone can be a match but the best likelihood of a match is within her same ethnicity.

“Life becomes worth living, when it is geared towards giving.”

With that sentiment, we ask you to join us in giving the GIFT OF LIFE to a fellow Zarathushti in need by either participating yourself or by promptly sharing this information with all those who can reach out to Sharmin, as time is of the absolute essence. People residing in the United States can join "Be the Match registry" at a live event or online.

Potential donors should expect to spend about 15 minutes to join. A consent form will be needed to be filled out and a sample of a cheek swab will be taken to see if they are a match for Sharmin or for any patient in need. To join, you must be between the ages of 18-44 years old, in good health and be willing to donate to any patient.

Presidents of the member associations are requested to arrange a “Donate Bone Marrow Drive” at your local Centers. Those member associations unable to arrange a drive may contact Joyce Valdez, whose information is given at the end of this article.

If you cannot attend a live event, you can join online at http://join.marrow.org/swabforsharmin.

Those residing outside the United States may sign up visiting https://www.wmda.info/donor/become-a-donor/ and it will guide you to whom to contact for the country you reside in. There is a worldwide registry for bone marrow donors and once a match is located (even from overseas) arrangements will be made by the hospital to bring the matching bone marrow to Australia if necessary. There is no cost involved for the donor.

For those of you who require further information, Sharmin can be contacted at sharminavari@gmail.com or on +61 432 680 630.

Thank you kindly for reaching out to Sharmin. The Batliwala and Avari families send their sincere thanks in advance for your support.

All pertinent questions regarding this Bone Marrow Donation or for a live event or an online registry can be directed to:

Joyce Valdez
Community Outreach Specialist
BE THE MATCH Registry at City of Hope
Office: 626-218-0784
Cell: 626-373-4000
Fax: 626-218-8826
Email: jovaldez@coh.org
THE ASSOCIATION FOR PERFORMANCE OF THE FIRST YEAR NECESSARY DEATH CEREMONIES OF THE PARSI ZOROASTRIANS

E. Mithaiwala Agiary Compound, Jehangir Daji Cross Lane, Sleeter Road, Grant Road (W), Mumbai 400007. Registration No. F-80 (Bom)

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Society by the name of The Association For Performance Of The First Year Necessary Death Ceremonies Of The Parsi Zoroastrians was founded in the year 1942 for the purpose of performing the essential death ceremonies of Parsi Zoroastrian individuals who desire to have the same performed for themselves, but do not have any relatives who will get the ceremonies performed.

The Society is headed by Ervad Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia, Chairman of the Association, and ably guided by Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji, Panthaky, Vatcha Gandhi Agiary, Mrs. Shernaz D.Mehta, Director, Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank Ltd. and other Trustees.

The Society has arrangements with a few Agiaries for the Performance Of The First Year Necessary Death Ceremonies in different areas in Mumbai and Pune. The Society has received a heartening response from many Zoroastrians and who have since become its members.

The Society offers two Options:

1. **Option 1** is the economical scheme, priced at Rs. 30,000/-, covering the essential after death ceremonies for one year including Muktad.

2. **Option 2**, priced at Rs.55,000/-, covers the essential after death ceremonies for one year including Muktad, a few days of rituals and one Vendidad.

Zoroastrians desiring to become members of this Scheme or for further details can contact:

Mr. Ariez Kharas, Administrator. Tel. 022 23870283 or 9769761284.

Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji, Panthaky, Vatcha Gandhi Agiary, Hughes Road Tel. 022 23803826 or 919820493812

Ervad Kersi Bhadha, Panthaky, M.J.Wadia Agiary, Lalbaug Tel. 022 24702207

Ervad Viraf Pavri, Panthaky, B. C. Batiwalla Agiary, Tardeo Road Tel. 022 23530142

Ervad Hormuzd A. Dadachanji, Panthaky, Mithaiwala Agiary, Jehangir Daji Street, Grant Road (West) Tel. 919820493812

Ervad Rusi J. Katrak, Panthaky, Mehella Patel Agiary, Balaram Street, Grant Road, Mumbai 400 007.

Ervad Parvez M. Bajan, Panthaky, Seth B. M. Mevawala Agiary, Victoria gardens, Byculla, Mumbai 400 027. Tel. 23716799 (Res).

Zoroastrians who desire to get their first year after death ceremonies performed should first become members of the Society by paying a nominal sum of Rs. 51/- and, thereafter, can opt for either of the schemes mentioned above.

The Society is registered as per the Society’s Registration Act and also under the Bombay Public Trust Act and is being looked after by its Board of Trustees. Community members may take advantage of this Scheme depending on their needs.

A General Body Meeting of The Association will be held on Saturday, the 6th of January, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the Administrative Office of the Association.