ZANT NEWS

A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

www.zant.org

January 2018

ZANT Upcoming Events

• Dec. 16: Shab-e Yalda Celebration
• Jan. 14: ZANT Religion Classes
• Jan. 27: ZANT AGM (6:00pm)
• Jan. 27: Jashn-e Sadeh Celebration (7:30pm)
• Feb. 4: Superbowl at ZANT Center
• Feb. 11: ZANT Religion Classes
• Mar. 25: ZANT NouRuz Celebration (12pm-4pm)

Inside This Issue

Message from the Board 2
ZANT Religion Classes 3
NouRuz (Save the Date) 5
Kids’ Corner 6
Treasurer’s Corner 7
Past Events 8-9
Weekend Wonder 4 Kids 10
ZANT Membership Form 12
ZANT Directory Ad Form 13-14
FEZANA News 15-18

Board of Directors

President  Jamshed Jamadar
Vice President  Kashmira Contractor
Treasurer  Mehroo Madeka
Secretary  Anahita Kyani
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
The ZANT Board wishes all of you & your families A Very Happy & Prosperous 2018! May all your wishes come true! May Ahura Mazda bless all of you with Good Health & Happiness always!

Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) has been chosen to host the North American Zarthushti Congress (NAZC2020) to be conducted in Houston, Texas from December 29th thru 31st 2020. It is our honor that ZAH has requested ZANT for assistance with planning and organizing for the NAZC2020. For this, we are seeking volunteers from our ZANT community. It would be the first time ever in North America that two FEZANA affiliated organizations would have joined hands to plan and conduct a National FEZANA Congress. ZAH will list the various sub-committees on which ZANT members can serve and assist, for instance, Program, Entertainment, youth, Medical, etc. We are extremely excited about this partnership and look forward to our ZANT members stepping-up to help.....If you would like to volunteer helping out with the NAZC2020, please contact any Board member ASAP, and let them know if there’s any specific area you’d like to help out with or are open to helping anyway possible......so we’ll keep you posted & in the loop as developments take place & the need for your services come up.

Thank you!

ZANT Yalda Celebration— Dec. 16, 2017

The nights are long and the days are short,
   The light is low and the nights are dark.
But we know how to feast and sing,
   And how a lot of fun and joy to bring.
So along to ZANT Center we want you to come,
   To mingle, to eat, to sing, to dance,
To celebrate until the night is done.

Please plan to be at the ZANT Center by 7:30pm on Dec. 16, 2017. It will be a potluck meal, preferably finger foods or snack items, followed by “Chack o Dooleh”, crafts, poetry, and traditional Yalda celebration activities.

ZANT Directory Updates

Please know that we will once again print a directory for ZANT. We ask that you fill out your 2017-2018 membership forms with the most updated information so that we can double check your information for the directory. The new directory will be distributed at our NouRuz 2018 function. If you are aware of new families to the area, please encourage them to send in their information. ALL UPDATES TO THE DIRECTORY MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 31, 2018. You are welcome to send your updated information to Anahita Kyani at anahita_kyani@yahoo.com
**CHILDRENS’ RELIGION CLASS AND VOHU MANAH GROUP**

Our next Childrens’ Religion class will be held on Sunday, January 14, 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, January 14, 2018 at 1:30pm at the ZANT Center Library. For further details about the Vohu Manah Group, please contact Anahita Sidhwa.

**ZANT COMMUNITY SERVICE**

ZANT kids/youth willing to help will have the opportunity for "ZANT Community Service" hours following religion class. Comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes recommended.

*When:* 1:30 PM (after religion class lunch).

*What to bring:* Your school/scout service hours form, to be signed by Armin Daroona. For online service hours submission, email to adaroona@gmail.com.

**ZANT LADIES CLUB FUNDRAISER**

ZANT Ladies Club would like to host a fundraiser for the ZANT General Fund to be held in Feb.

A planning meeting will be held on Dec. 16 at 7pm this is 30 minutes before the Shab-e Yalda Celebration.

All ZANT ladies are invited to attend. If you can not make the meeting don't worry more details will come out in the next newsletter of ways to help out for the fundraiser.

Contact Mary Tengra at marytengra@yahoo.com with questions.

**ANNOUNCEMENT—VACANCY ON THE ZANT BOARD**

Effective Aug. 28, 2017, Monaz Karkaria has resigned from her position, as a Director on the ZANT Board, due to the increase in travel and demands of her business.

We want to thank Monaz for serving on the previous Board for 2 years and on this one for the past 14 months.

Per our Bylaws, since this resignation is within the first 18 months of this board’s term, we are requesting nominations for the vacant seat on the Board.

Serving on the Board is an honor and a privilege. The Board needs help and we encourage members to step up and help serve our community.
Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

JASHN-E SADEH

Celebration on Jan. 27, 2018

| Date:      | Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 | Address:  | 1605 Lopo Road |
| Time:      | 6:00pm onwards          |           | Flower Mound, TX 75028 |
| Place:     | ZANT Center             |

**Jashn-e Sadeh Celebration**

- **6:00pm** ZANT AGM
- **7:30pm** Jashn-e Sadeh Prayers and Celebration
- **8:30pm** Potluck Dinner
- **9:30pm** Bingo and Dessert / Tea / Coffee
ZANT 2018 NouRuz Celebration (SAVE THE DATE)

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
Lunch Buffet: TBA

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?

Kids & adults interested in participating in the ZANT NouRuz dance performances, please contact Pearl P Balsara at ppbalsara@gmail.com by December 23, 2017. Practices will be on Sunday evenings at the ZANT Center, beginning in January 2018.

We are going to form a ZANT Kids Orchestra that will give a short performance at the NouRuz function. If your kids/youth play any instruments, and would like to be part of the performance, please contact Anahita Kyani by December 23, 2017 at anahita_kyani@yahoo.com. Orchestra practices will also begin in January 2018.
Playing Cards

Did you know that the Traditional Deck of the Playing Cards is the most ingenious form of a Calendar?

There are 52 weeks in the year and so there are 52 Playing Cards in a Deck.
There are 13 weeks in each Season and thus there are 13 cards in each suit.
There are 4 Seasons in a Year and 4 Suits in the Deck.
There are 12 Months in a Year so there are 12 Court Cards (Those with faces namely Jacks, Queens and Kings)
The Spades indicate ploughing/ working.
The Hearts indicates Love thy crops.
The Clubs indicates flourishing and growth.
The Diamonds indicate reaping the Wealth.

(Source : Internet)

Religious Class:
At our November Religious class, our little ones reviewed the meaning of Ashem Vohu & Yatha Ahu Vairyo prayers and talked about Amesha Spentas. We connected Thanksgiving to giving thanks for good words & good thoughts. Learnt the song from Anahita aunty.

The teen religious class continued our study of the Gathas. We looked into the Ahunavaiti Gatha One of the important points that came up was the concept of duty. Duty towards ourselves, our family, and the the world beyond. Choice is another important concept of our religion. We have a choice in everything we choose to think, say, or do and we must be prepared for the consequences that come with the choices we make. When we make choices and decisions, we must be emotionally vested in them, but we must use our knowledge and intellect too to guide us. We must always value truth and after due diligence, if things do not go our way, we must accept it as God's will.

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 Bustani family & the Kekobad family for November class kids’ & adults’ lunch & B’day Cake!

Children’s Religious Class:
Our next religious class will be held on Sunday, January 14, 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

There will be no religious class in December, but I hope to see all of you at our Yalda celebrations.
TREASURER’S CORNER

The donations and balances listed below are accurate as of November 30, 2017.

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.
PAST EVENTS: SANJAN DAY CELEBRATION, NOV. 18, 2018
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weekendwonders4kidz

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

FOOD OF THE MONTH

This month's food of the month is Ramen Noodles!

Semi-Annual Bring n Bag Event

Due to popular demand, we are introducing a semi-annual bring n bag event. Please look at the link below and sign-up! We will of course sign off on volunteer hours for whoever requires them. The first event will be after religious class in February 2018. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please contact Armin Daroona.

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084ba8af23a0fe3-weekend1

As always, thank you so much for your continued support of Weekend Wonders 4 Kidz and helping the children we serve. Please remember we can help with volunteer hours for school, scouts, etc. and we also give hours for donations!

“Helping a person will not change the world, but it will change the world for that one person.”

..... thatonerule.com.
NOMINATION FORM

I, ________________________________, wish to serve on the Board of Directors of ZANT for the position of Director (until the end of the current Board term).

Signature:_________________________  Date:_______________________

Please mail this form to:

    Jamshed Jamadar
    c/o ZANT
    1605, Lopo Road
    Flower Mound, Texas 75028

Please submit your biodata along with your form,

_______________________________________________________________________

According to our bylaws:

It is the responsibility of each candidate to confirm that his or her nomination has been received (Article 7.03).

Only Zoroastrian members are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors (Article 4.03).

Members of the Board of Directors must be 21 years of age or older and should be members of the Association in good standing for at least one year (Article 4.4).

_______________________________________________________________________
FEZANA Journal is happy to announce that Edul Daver, Global President of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce shall be the guest editor of the Spring 2018 issue of the FEZANA Journal.

_Below is a request from Edul and Dolly Dastoor (Chief Editor, FEZANA Journal)_

Zarathushtis in North America are doing very well with many Young Adults on the threshold of Leadership positions in their respective fields.

The FEZANA Journal would like to feature these Emerging Leaders, from North America, in the Spring 2018 issue.

I have been requested to guest edit this issue and accepted the challenge. We plan on featuring two levels of leadership:

1. those under 35 yrs and
2. those between 35 – 45 yrs.

If you would like to be considered for inclusion please contact Edul Daver, eduldaver@gmail.com; 908-397-4443.

Also, if you know of someone that should be considered please forward their name and e-mail address.

We will then forward a questionnaire for each of them to complete before selecting the individual for inclusion.

We plan on profiling 15 or so, movers and shakers who will no doubt make our community proud in the not too distant future.

Your help to make this issue a success is much appreciated.

Thanks,

Edul Daver eduldaver@gmail.com 908-397-4443
Dolly Dastoor dollydastoor@sympatico.ca 450-656-2036
FEZANA News

The Promise of Inclusion
The Power of Love
Pursuing global understanding, reconciliation and change

Dear Fellow Zarathushtis,

The 7th Parliament of World’s Religions will take place in Toronto, November 1-7, 2018. The Parliament of the World's Religions was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

Since the historic 1893 World’s Parliament of Religions in Chicago, modern Parliaments have attracted participants from more than 200 diverse religious, indigenous, and secular beliefs and more than 80 nations to its international gatherings in Chicago (1993), Cape Town (1999), Barcelona (2004), Melbourne (2009), and Salt Lake City (2015). These Parliament events are the world’s oldest, largest, and most inclusive gatherings of the global interfaith movement.

Zoroastrians have been represented in all the Parliaments both in the opening and closing sessions, in panel discussions and individual presentations. Toronto is also the home of the largest concentration of Zarathushtis outside India.

FEZANA will be actively participating in this Parliament. For that purpose, an ad hoc committee of the following individuals has been appointed to assimilate and coordinate work on all aspects of FEZANA presentations at the event.

Ardeshir Irani, Dolly Dastoor, Aban Rustomji, Afreed Mistry, Armaity Anandasagar, Kersi Shroff, Rustom Bhopti, Zerbanoo Gifford, Arzan Sam Wadia (Consultant), Rohinton Rivetna (Consultant), Homi D. Gandhi (Ex-Officio).

The above committee will be co-chaired by Ardeshir Irani and Dolly Dastoor. Arzan Sam Wadia will act as Consultant for all Digital, Design and IT aspects. Rohinton Rivetna will guide us as Consultant on program presentations with his experience at several past Parliaments.

All interested attendees are welcomed and encouraged to register: parliamentofreligions.org. FEZANA will submit a program proposal by the March 1, 2018. Kindly send your proposal to the co-chairs, Ardeshir Irani (anirani2@yahoo.com) and Dolly Dastoor (dollydastoor@sympatico.ca) on or before 31st December, 2017. Successful programs will be announced by May 1, 2018. Regular programs will be 45, 60, and 90 minutes in length.

Program types may include: Lecture or oral presentation, Academic paper, Seminar Panel discussion, Religious or spiritual observance, Workshop, Training session. Artistic performance Film. They should preferably focus on: the broad critical issues of justice, peace and sustainability; critical constituencies of Indigenous Peoples, The Next Generations, and Women and Girls; the signature document of the Parliament of the World's Religions, Declaration Toward a Global Ethic.

In addition, each morning there will be an assembly of three hours during which time there will be no other session. The assemblies are on Indigenous people, Women, Climate, Justice /Global Ethics, Violence. Each day will also feature Major international speakers, each day will close with a plenary.

The parliament will also provide a hospitality room where we, as Zoroastrians can provide small Iranian and Parsi refreshments. There will be an open space for us to display books, artifacts, exchange information, etc.

This is our chance to showcase our community and religion in a very positive light. So, we encourage you to register, attend and make presentations to make the Zarathushti presence felt.

For further questions, suggestions and to get involved reply back to this email or write to Ardeshir Irani & Dolly Dastoor, (Trustee & Vice-Chair 7th PWR 2018) Co-Chairs, 7th PWR Ad-hoc Committee.

Sincerely,

Homi D. Gandhi
President, FEZANA
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](mailto:vp@fezana.org)

Sincerely,

FEZANA Executive
Critical Assistance Special Appeal

We are requesting donations for Aspi Sepoy who will need lots of help for years as he has two young children and now having his legs amputated will need lots of medical treatment, his children will need care in upbringing and education and with the income he had there could not be much savings if any.

Aspi met with an unfortunate accident today afternoon whilst on his way from Udvada to Navsari; he fell from the railway platform under a train, with both his legs being severely damaged. He was rushed to the civil hospital at Valsad, where doctors have performed emergency surgery and amputated both his legs below the knees.

Personal Background: Aspi Sepoy is a resident of Ava Baug, Navsari (46 years), a widower having lost his wife around five years ago in tragic circumstances. He is the father of two children who, have been enrolled as boarders at J. N. Petit Institute, Pune, their education is being paid for by The WZO Trust from funds being contributed by Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao). Aspi is employed by Foundation for Development of Udvada (FDU) as caretaker of the Zoroastrian Information Centre (Parsi Museum) at Udvada; he earns a salary Rs.10,000 per month plus travelling expenses. (High Priest Khurshed Dastoor of Udvada and the undersigned along with a few others are Trustees of FDU).

The Accident: Aspi met with an unfortunate accident on Thursday, September 14, 2017 whilst on his way from Udvada to Navsari; he fell from the railway platform under a train, with both his legs being severely damaged. He was rushed to the civil hospital at Valsad, where doctors have performed emergency surgery and amputated both his legs below the knees.

Current Update: Aspi was shifted to Parsi General Hospital at Mumbai on Saturday, September 16, 2017 for further treatment. Eminent Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Jamshed Bunshah has performed a further surgery today (Tuesday, September 19, 2017). The dressing will be checked after three to four days when it will known if blood circulation the leg stumps is normal, in which event no further surgeries may be required. However, this will only be determined once the dressings are opened again for examination. To avoid infection, Aspi will not be placed in the general ward, but in a separate room (of the lowest denomination) after he is discharged from the ICU. It has been given to understand that artificial feet that are imported (not made locally) will need to be procured. The cost of each foot is estimated to be in the region of Rs.5,00,000 that is 10,00,000 for both. Hospitalization and other expenses on medicines cannot be quantified at present but are expected to be substantial.

Please send your generous donation to FEZANA, earmarked Aspi welfare. The monies collected will be remitted to the WZO Trust in Mumbai, India for the specific use in Aspi's treatment and welfare. You can donate online by clicking on Donate Online or send in your checks to Shirin Jahanian, FEZANA Treasurer with “ASPI SEPOY APPEAL” in the memo line and by mail it to:

Shirin Jahanian,
FEZANA Treasurer
P.O. Box 185, 65 Kirkwood Road,
Gibbsboro, NJ 08026

We thank you in advance of your anticipated generosity. For further information please feel free to contact, Hosi Mehta hosimehta@aol.com or Houtoxi Contractor huty.contractor@gmail.com
Sharmin Avari, who is a young Zoroastrian in Melbourne, Australia and a dear friend has been diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia (CLL).

The doctors have advised her that she requires a bone marrow transplant which is the best option to beat her cancer. For this Sharmin requires a matching bone marrow transplant from a donor. The doctors have informed her that the best likelihood of a match is from within the same ethnicity i.e. all the Parsees, Iranis and/or Zoroastrians in Australia and overseas.

People residing overseas as well as people residing outside Melbourne can register themselves as donors. 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.

The link (http://www.abmdr.org.au/how%20-to-join-2/) provides comprehensive information on bone marrow transplant organisation, patients and donors.

For those staying in Australia, the first step is to book an appointment and register with Red Cross on 13 14 95 or by contacting the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) (http://www.abmdr.org.au/how%20-to-join-2/)

For those outside Australia, there are similar donor registers for each country. You can find the info for your country by clicking this link (https://share.wmda.info/display/WMDAREG/Database;jsessionid=C90FD1D9E21895430C219205CDBCCA98).

In the true Zoroastrian spirit of Hvarashta (Good deeds) it will be greatly appreciated if you will consider registering and becoming a donor to help one of our very own and share this message with your family, friends and the community.

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

The Avari family send their sincere thanks in advance for your support.