ZANT NEWS

A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

www.zant.org

July 2019

ZANT Upcoming Events

- July 24 & 31: Visit from Human Geography Teachers
- July 26-28: ZANT-ZAH Youth Camp in Houston
- Aug 4: RSVP for Muktad / Farvardegan Jashan
- Aug 10: Anand Bazaar
- Aug 11: ZANT Mukted / Farvardegan Jashan
- Aug 12-16: ZANT Muktad Prayers
- Aug 17: ZANT Shenshahi New Year Function
- Sept 8: ZANT Religion Classes
- Sept 21: Deadline for Tennis Tournament Entry
- Sept 21: ZANT Table Tennis Tournament
- Oct 6: Jashn-e Mehergan

Happy 4th of July Independence Day

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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

We wish all our Kadmi members a Very Happy Kadmi New Year 1389 YZ! May Ahura Mazda bring you & your loved ones Happiness & Good Health!

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Anand Bazar, Muktad Prayers & Shenshahi New Year Function! We also look forward to participation from you & your kids, at ZANT’s 1st Table Tennis Tournament!

Enjoy the summer with family & friends!

ZANT TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

ZANT will be hosting our annual Table Tennis tournament on the evening of Saturday, September 21st. We would like to invite those interested, to register and be a part of a fun event full of excitement and competition, by September 8. We are taking entries in the following categories:

1. 13 and under
2. Over 13: Women, Men and Mixed Doubles

Entry fee is $5 which includes food (Lunch and Dinner). Last date to register is September 8th.

ZANT CENTER VISIT BY HUMAN GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS

ZANT will be hosting some teachers attending a summer institute for the Advanced Placement (AP) course in Human Geography. We have been approached by the organizers so that teachers of human geography in the DFW area will be able to learn about the Zoroastrians, both as a religion and as community neighbors. The visits are scheduled for Wednesday July 24 and Wednesday July 31 at 2 pm at ZANT Center. While we will be making arrangements for the presentation, we would also appreciate having other community members present as we are expecting about 30 people each day. Please contact Anahita Sidhwa at afsidhwa@verizon.net or 972-462-1553 if you can attend and help.

SHENSHahi MUKTAD PRAYERS

Shenshahi Muktad prayers will be held during the Gatha days from August 12, 2019 to Aug 16, 2019 at 7 p.m. at ZANT Center.

This is a tradition we had followed at ZANT for more than twenty years, and its purpose is to venerate the Fravashis of our dear ones.

A table with fresh flowers will be set up in the prayer room with offerings of Satum (food) and we will recite a few short Avesta verses with their translations to welcome the Fravashis. It is an opportunity to remember our ancestors and give thanks for the gifts we have received and renew our commitment to lead a good life.

While many of us probably do our prayers and set up the table at home also, what is the significance and importance of doing it at ZANT Center? Its because the ZANT Center is our second home, and we think it is important to welcome the Fravashis in a location that is so dear to us.

In the spirit of communal well-being, please join us for the prayers and bring fresh flowers and your satum (food) offering for the Muktad table.

To make it convenient for everyone, a simple meal will be served after the prayers. RSVPs for dinner are not required but would be appreciated. Please call Anahita Sidhwa at 972-462-1553.
Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

Muktad / Farvardegan Jashan
(to remember our departed and celebrate their lives)

Date: Sunday, August 11, 2019
Address: 1605 Lopo Road
Time: 5:00 pm onwards
Place: ZANT Center

Jashan at 5:00 pm followed by Dinner
Non-Veg: Jardalu ma Gosh, Kheema palao, Bawa style Shrimp Wraps.
Veg: Eggplant a-la Nellie, Veg. Pea / Kesar Palao, Dal.
      Salad, Raita, Medley of Desserts, Tea and Coffee

The Jashan and dinner is being sponsored by Mrs. Daisy F. Presswalla,
in memory of her late husband Dr. Farokh Presswalla

Reservations: Please submit this form with correct amount on check. There will be a late charge of $5 per person (members & non-members) for RSVP after the August 4, 2019 deadline.

Name: _____________________________
ZANT Members: $10/person contribution
   (No. of Vegetarians _________)
Kids/Youth (4-14 yrs): $5/person contribution
Non-members: $15/person contribution
(Children under 4 yrs. - FREE)  Total = $ _______

RSVP by August 4, 2019 to
Pearl P. Balsara at
Tel: (972) 519-0373 or
Email: ppbalsara@gmail.com
Mail: ZANT
     1605 Lopo Road
     Flower Mound, TX 75028
Zoroastrian Association of North Texas
Invites ya’l to a rootin’, tootin’, bootkickin’ celebration of
Sheneshahi New Year 2019

Date: Saturday, August 17, 2019
Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm
Place: Ranch of Lonesome Dove
Address: 2005 Foxfire Lane
Grapevine, TX 76051
Phone#: (817) 329-3305

Activities (starting at 6:15 pm sharp)

- Ranch Olympics (all ages): Water balloon toss, sack race, hula hoop pass, tug-of-war, pole race, etc.
- Bounce house, hay wagon ride, children train ride, ping-pong, foosball, air hockey, soccer, softball, volleyball, horseshoe, badminton, croquet

Line Dancing with Instructor for kids and adults!

Dress casual – shorts and jeans

Dinner Menu

Non-Veg: RANCH BBQ – Tender Beef Brisket, Sliced Chicken Breast, served with BBQ sauce, Loaded Mashed Potato, Corn, Mac-n-Cheese, Dinner Rolls.

Veg: RANCH TEX-MEX – Veg. Fajitas served w/ Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Guacamole, Pico de Gallo, Fresh Salsa, Sour Cream, Tomatoes, Tortillas.

Desserts: Warm Pecan Cobbler with Whipped Cream, Cream Cheese Brownies.
Drinks: Frozen Slushes, Sodas, Iced Tea, Coffee and Lemonade. NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED.

Please indicate veg/non-veg and submit this form with check. Late fee of $10/person after August 4, 2019

Name: _____________________________ Veg:# ______ × $45 = $ ______
ZANT Members: $45/adult
Child (ages 3-14): $30/child
Non-members: $60/adult
Donation $ ______

Total Payment = $ ______

Mail form and check to:
ZANT Center
1605 Lopo Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028
Treasurer’s Corner

Memberships, donations and balances listed below are accurate as of June 30, 2019

Donations
- Karl Mistry (11/18—6/19) $375
- Farieda & Behram Irani $300
- Ramin & Anahita Belivan $232
- Donation for Meher Malhotra funerary services $301
- Kroger $27

Memberships
- Burjor P. Ichhaporia
- Shirin and Bahman Sharifabad

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.

Kroger Rewards for ZANT!

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 new Non-Profit Organization number for linkage is WT-497. Please feel free to contact a board member if help is needed to create the link.
PAST EVENTS: ZANT GRADUATION, JUNE 8, 2019
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Past Events: ZANT Graduation, June 8, 2019
Past Events: ZANT Youth Black & Red Night, June 22, 2019
An Appeal

A Zarathushti lady living in the United States has reached out to FEZANA seeking help. She is a single lady who is on kidney dialysis and is taking care of a son with challenges which make him incapable of working to make a living.

She is not sure how long she will live and she is concerned about the financial security of her son. She would like to pay off the balance of her condo mortgage so her son is secured of a place to live.

With the help of our generous community we would like to lessen that one burden of hers. Whatever financial help she gets will go towards reducing the mortgage.

Please send your donation to FEZANA with note for kidney patient.

We thank you once again for always stepping up to lessen someone’s load.

To donate online click on this link:  https://fezana.org/donate/
Select Fund Category:       Welfare Activities
Under Sub-Category Select: General Critical Assistance
In the memo line In memory/honour of notate:

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE June 2019

For Mailing Checks to FEZANA Treasurer the address is :

Rooky Fitter
FEZANA Treasurer
PO BOX 266
SUNSET BEACH, CA 90742

Thanking you
Sincerely,

Hosi Mehta, Hutoxi Contractor, Freyaz Shroff
Co-Chairs
FEZANA Welfare and Critical Assistance Committee
Dear Parents,

Due to popular demand and positive feedback from parents, North South Foundation is offering a series of targeted ONLINE workshops for college admissions. College Admissions Planning (CAP) process is not well known to many of the NRI parents. Getting into college has never been more competitive. With tens of thousands of qualified candidates, every aspect of an application is critical for success. **Guide to Pre-Med Admissions is a highly sought after workshop from NSF parents.**

Please register online by selecting “Register for Online Workshop” on the Parent Functions page after logging into NSF as a parent. Do not use the link “Register for Onsite Workshop”, which is a different tool.

2. **Guide to Pre-Med Admissions, choose one from April 13 or April 14 @ 1 pm EST (Deadline without late fee April 6th)**

Pre-med programs, and combined BS/MD programs are some of the most competitive in the United States. In this webinar, you will learn:

- The various types of pre-med programs offered and the advantages of each
- Specific requirements - academic, extracurricular and otherwise - for pre-med applicants
- How to improve an application through certifications and volunteer programs

3. **How to Gain Admission to Ivy League Universities, May 11 & 12 @ 1 pm EST**

Ivy League universities are among the most rigorous, selective and coveted in the United States. Most now have acceptance rates in the single digits. In this webinar, you will learn:

- What Ivy League admissions officers are really looking for in applicants
- Why essays are often the key to admission - and how to write essays with impact

4. **Writing a Standout College Essay, June 22 & 23 @ 1 pm EST**

The college essay can be the determining factor for admissions officers in deciding whether applicants should be admitted or rejected. In this webinar, you will learn:

- How the essays are evaluated by admissions officers - and what they are looking for
- The way to select a topic that will enable applicants to stand out from the pool
- Examples of truly exceptional application essays as well as common mistakes to avoid

5. **Tips & Tricks to Completing the Common Application, July 27 & 28 @ 1 pm EST**

Whether your child is applying to college this year or in several years, it is beneficial and helpful to view and understands the college application. In this webinar, you will learn:

- About each section of the application and how students should approach completion
- Why the order in which students list their extracurricular activities is so important
- How a student’s declared major plays a critical role in the admissions process
6. Building a Standout Extracurricular Profile, September 21 & 22 @ 1 pm EST

Admissions officers seek applicants with the most compelling and interesting extracurricular profiles. Leadership is critical, too. In this webinar, you will learn:

- The importance of a student extracurricular profile in the college admissions process
- Activity recommendations: academic, competitions, pre-professional, travel, athletic
- Which activities have the most impact and when students should get started

1. Planning Early for College Admissions, March 9 & 10 @ 1 pm EST (Completed. recording available for a fee)

Freshman or sophomore year is the right time to lay the foundation for a successful college admissions process. Earlier is always better! In this webinar, you will learn:

- How students can narrow down and identify an academic area of interest/future major
- What extracurricular, summer and leadership activities have the most impact
- Why the key to gaining admission to highly selective schools is starting early

For more details, visit: https://www.northsouth.org/public/uscontests/workshops/workshop.aspx

Since these workshops are online, you can be anywhere as long as you have a desktop/laptop with high speed Internet connection and a headphone.

- After you register, you will see the Join Webinar button on the View Status for Online Workshop & Download page after you login into NSF as a parent. You will also receive a Video/Audio link to join the workshop a few days prior to the workshop.
- There will be a chat line and a whiteboard for the teacher to write on.
- A workshop booklet will be made available a few days before the date of the workshop. You can review it before joining the workshop.
- Your child and you can use the question panel to communicate with the presenter.
- There will be an interactive Q&A session at the end of the presentation.
- Recording of the session will be available to registered users for about a week after the session.

All inquiries regarding Online Workshops should be sent to workshops@northsouth.org
The Restoration of the Zingar Atashgah: the Atashkadeh at Jek, Azerbaijan

A report by Farroukh Jorat

My article “Atashgah of Khinalig. The highest fire temple of the world” was published in the “Hamazor” (Issue 1/2017, pp. 8-12). The article highlighted my team’s work on the Atashkadeh (Atashgah) restoration with the help and support of The World Organisation and The Firuz Madon Foundation.

The Restored “Atashgah of Khinalig” is located in Azerbaijan, 200 km away from Baku near the Khinalig village (Guba distr.) at an altitude of ~3000 meters on the slope of the Shah-dag mountain. This is the highest fire temple of the world and its eternal natural flame burns due to a field of methane clathrate (supramolecular compound of methane and water). It was listed in the “List of state-protected historical and cultural monuments of the Republic of Azerbaijan”, ID #4647.

After the article of Restoration of “Atashgah of Khinalig” was published in the Hamazor, Hasan Aghayev (local school teacher, who with his team of four builders restored the temple structure) and myself got a lot of positive feedback from Zoroastrians around the world.

My team’s effort to restore the abandoned "Zingar Atashgah" after the overwhelming support we received after the restoration of The Atashgah of Khinalig

Atashgah of Khinalig was not the only Atashgah in that area. Another abandoned Atashgah was located near Jek village (~20 km far from Atashgah of Khinalig and at ~1500 m altitude). Our team discovered that it was an abandoned Atashgah with no flame and covered by more than 1 m layer of stones, mud, sands and soils.

The basic idea is to restore this Atashgah as a fire temple of traditional Sassanian style (“chahartaq” structure with “gonbad”).