ZANT Upcoming Events

- All events are postponed until further notice due to the prevailing COVID-19 related local and State directives.

Happy Mothers Day

Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jamshed Jamadar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Mahervan Karbhari</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jamshid Contractor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Anahita Kyani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Director</td>
<td>Pearl P. Balsara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Kurush Dehnugara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Dilnawaz Rustomji</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 Board wishes all the Moms, everywhere, **A Very Happy Mother’s Day**! Thank you to all Moms for everything you do for your family and for always being there for them!

Also, the directories are printed & ready! Thank you to everyone who helped by contributing ads! We look forward to distributing them when we can meet next.

We’ll be sending out the “Nomination Form” for ZANT’s next Board election for 2020-2022. Please consider volunteering to be a Board Member & nominate yourself or any other member interested.

Take care, Be safe, Stay healthy!

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**ZANT GRADUATION 2020**

**Congratulations to all ZANT Graduates and their parents!**

As in the past, ZANT will be honoring our graduates. For this, we need you to send us a write-up on your kid (at least 4-5 lines…. longer is better!). Please send it to Pearl Balsara at ppbalsara@gmail.com, ASAP, by **May 20, 2020**.

We look forward to conditions improving for us to be able to get together and celebrate them….. if not, then, we’d like to do it virtually at least! So, if you have knowledge of technology as to how the community can get together on-line for an hour or so, for their celebration, we’d like to hear from you! Please contact Pearl at ppbalsara@gmail.com

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**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM**

Dear Members and Non-Members,

As you all know our association is enrolled into the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Your participation is essential. When you buy from Kroger our association gets .5% every time you make a purchase. This program does not affect your fuel points. We encourage everyone to join and participate in the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

**Please follow the instruction as bellow:**

Visit [http://www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com). Once logged into their Kroger account they can search for ZOROAS-TRIAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTH TEXAS either by name or WT497 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

*Customers must have a registered Kroger rewards card account to link to your organization.
*If a member does not yet have a Kroger rewards card, please let them know they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your organization until after your participants register their rewards card. Participants must swipe their registered Kroger rewards card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Each and every penny counts, drop by drop we will fill up the lake. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you,

*ZANT Board*
Dear ZANT Community,

I am a proud member of the 2020 Texas 4000 for Cancer team — a group of about ninety University of Texas at Austin undergraduate and graduate students with a passion for finding a cure for cancer and spreading hope for a future without this disease.

In June of 2021, I along with the rest of the riders from Texas 4000 will embark on the seventeenth annual 4,500-mile cycling journey across North America in hopes of inspiring communities throughout the country to join us in the fight against cancer. We will ride our bikes from the University of Texas at Austin to Anchorage, Alaska. This ride is the longest annual charity bike ride in the world — more than twice the distance of the Tour de France — and will take 70 days to complete. Our goal is to inspire hope in the lives of those personally affected by cancer and action in the lives of others to help prevent the disease by sharing our stories and enthusiasm.

Recently, I went to a new doctor where I had to fill-out all the preliminary forms for family history. One of the questions was, “do you have a family history of cancer in your family?” I wrote “yes”, and began to list 6 people, all direct family and ran out of room. Out of those six, my aunt in Iran was the only one who died because she was the only one without access to the most modern medicine and the best medical treatment. With a better educated staff, she may have also survived. Each generation has had to get more extreme treatments to survive. Because of the progression of cancer research, my other family members have survived. This is why I have actively joined in the fight against cancer. I want to give someone else's mother or father the same chance to fight that my family had. As riders, we are responsible for planning the routes, finding host families, preparing the cancer awareness programs, and raising at least $4,500—a dollar per mile ridden. I know none of this is possible without the support of people like you, and that’s why today I am asking you to make a tax-deductible donation to help in the fight against cancer. You can use the pre-addressed envelope I have included to send checks made payable to Texas 4000 for Cancer with my name, Autusa Behroozi on the “payment for” line, or make your donation online via my Texas 4000 profile at http://bit.ly/Ride4Cancer_Autusa.

We are biking for those who cannot, and for those who live daily with the possibility that they may not be able to do so tomorrow. With your support, we can make a difference in the fight against cancer. Any amount you can donate will be greatly appreciated — no donation is too small. You can learn more at texas4000.org, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I am grateful for your help and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in the Fight Against Cancer,

Autusa Behroozi
PAST EVENTS: WEEKENDWONDERS4KIDZ—FOOD DRIVE
The IranShah Initiative

What is the Iranshah Initiative?

The vision is to provide a continuous stream of global financial support to perpetuate the legacy & time-less heritage of Iranshah, Udvada.

Goals: The 5 five goals for this project include:

TO PRESERVE the Sanctity of Iranshah by honoring, helping and supporting all those who take care of this great spiritual power-house with utmost dedication and selfless commitment –In particular our senior and respected Mobed sahibs who have dedicated their entire lives towards serving our Sacred Iranshah with impeccable sincerity, devotion, dignity and integrity.

TO CREATE a monetary incentive for the present Mobed Sahibs and to inspire our future Mobeds to pursue the noble profession of Mobedi as a career. This is of vital importance for the survival and revival of Sacred Iranshah. An institution like Iranshah needs to be kept alive to keep our religion alive, we need to keep the Mobeds or Priests alive.

TO KEEP the flame alive we need to provide firewood or Kathi. The current Kathi Fund needs to be increased substantially to meet the rising cost of Kathi.

TO PROVIDE round the clock (24/7/365) Security Service for the premises of Iranshah. In addition to this, we also need the voluntary services of devoted and sincere Parsi helpers to keep the premises clean, tidy and presentable for the local, national and global devotees/pilgrims who visit Udvada to pay their homage to OUR Sacred Iranshah.

At the 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Los Angeles in July 2019, Tinaz Karbhari presented a beautiful sensory experience and an interactive talk on the Iranshah Initiative she has been spearheading. Here is a video link to refresh your memory.

We encourage you to kindly assist with presenting it to your Zoroastrian associations, and local communities and associations back home, as well as with your friends and family. Make it your goal to spread the word about this initiative so that it can well and truly take flight, creating a thorough awareness of the project encouraging global involvement.

At this time, we also encourage each and everyone of you to personally get involved in a financial capacity. A project like this can only succeed if we collectively come together. You cannot put a price on the survival of our religion. This is something we need to do, and we need to do now. Let the voice of the youth be heard over a worthy cause like this.

You can donate online. Donations made in the USA are tax-exempt as the online payments are processed through FEZANA.

Tinaz Karbhari

The IranShahInitiative.com
COVID-19

FEZANA would like to share a write-up and appeal from the WZO Trust Funds in India. This gives an update of the steps they are taking to coordinate a massive effort to help out Zarthushtis affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. FEZANA has collaborated with WZO Trust Funds India on numerous occasions and we urge our members to donate to this worthy cause. You can donate online or send in checks. Information to do the same is mentioned below. Monies collected will be transferred to India in due course of time.

Our dear friend and Chairman of WZO Trust Funds India Dinshaw Tamboly writes…

Dear Donors, Friends, Well Wishers,

We, World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust & WZO Trust Funds have begun to plan for relief and rehabilitation that will need to be undertaken for Zoroastrians who have been affected through loss of livelihood due to the Covid Pandemic.

A Write-up cum appeal as below is being sent to donors all over the world with a request to extend support for the many Zoroastrians, who have all been severely affected in different ways.

It is requested that generous support be considered towards this humanitarian of epic proportions.

We expect to commence once the lock down has been lifted and travel restrictions have been eased; sometime hopefully my mid-May or perhaps a bit later. We envisage it will take us around 5 months at the very minimum to complete this humongous task and look forward to receiving support.

Best wishes,

Dinshaw

COVID PANDEMIC AND IT’S AFTERMATH; THE LONG ROAD TOWARDS REHABILITATION.

The world over, people are presently wrestling with the unprecedented implications of the COVID-19 corona virus pandemic. It is a human crisis unlike any experienced earlier.

By way of providing immediate relief during the pandemic, We, The World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust and The WZO Trust Funds have played a reasonably proactive role by supporting from our own funds, Masina Hospital at Mumbai to create isolation facilities, as also recommended to and facilitated overseas donors to support this initiative, and supported the distribution of food packets through volunteers of ‘Pehchaan’ to migrant workers and slum dwellers of Mumbai suffering from hardships.

With the lockdown scheduled to be progressively lifted from mid May onwards, the time is now on hand to planning and focus on providing relief and rehabilitation to Zoroastrians who have been adversely affected economically due to the pandemic.

Given the severity of the pandemic one can foresee that once the lockdown and travel restrictions have been lifted or eased, the focus will have to be on continuing to provide relief, as well as to organize rehabilitation of Zoroastrians who have been severely affected - in cities, towns and villages. The tasks are undoubtedly extremely daunting and will require long term effort and commitment.

When the lockdown has been lifted and travel restrictions eased, it will be necessary to not only continue relief but also to plan rehabilitation strategies, as may be necessary, for Zoroastrians who are facing immense hardships as a result of the pandemic.

(contd.)
Providing relief is a temporary measure, whereas organizing rehabilitation is a distinctly and extremely long process that entails first counselling distressed minds to be optimistic, followed by assessing what would be the most practical and quickest manner of rehabilitating entire families who would have lost their jobs or means of livelihoods and / or suffered from illnesses during the troubled times and finally raising resources from donors that would be used to bring affected families back into the mainstream of society.

To successfully rehabilitate Zoroastrians affected by the pandemic, it will be essential that all hands (volunteers and donors) will need to be on deck, doing what they can do best to alleviate the suffering.

The main impacts of the lock down that will need to be addressed are:

| 1 | Arranging food grains packages for Zoroastrians in cities, towns and villages who have suffered economic hardship |
| 2 | Financial difficulties being faced by families of white collar workers having received only half their regular salaries |
| 3 | Financial difficulties being faced by families of blue collar workers not having received salaries as the factories remain shut |
| 4 | Financial difficulties being faced by individuals involved in modest Self Employment initiatives such as driving autorickshaws, commercial taxi’s, auto mechanics, stationery shops etc who have been unable to go about their professions. |
| 5 | Full time Mobeds who are not employed by Agiyaries but are daily wage earners many of who presently have no income. |
| 6 | a. Supporting agriculturists who have been unable to harvest their standing crops that have decayed on account of non availability of labour force.  
   b. Dairy Farmers having suffered financial setbacks as milk collected from their livestock’s being unable to reach the processing dairies; difficulty in obtaining feed for their cattle.  
   c. Poultry farming having come to a standstill as it has not been possible to transport the fully grown fowls to processing units.  
   d. Brick kilns are an industry having a short 7 month window (December to June); Zoroastrian beneficiaries who have established kilns in their villages have suffered severe financial setback as the migrant labourers have left for their native places leaving half baked and unbaked bricks causing immense hardships. |

Total amount of funds required for the entire rehabilitation package as above are estimated to be in the region of Rs.13,200,000 (Rupees thirteen million two hundred thousand or Rupees one crore thirty two lakhs). The time frame for completing the work is estimated to take between four to five months.

Service to our people is the need of the times. We can at best play a proactive role by using all the means available to us in terms of manpower and by raising resources from donors.

We request individuals and institutions from all over the world, having the means and resources, to dig deep into their pockets and donate generously to enable us to undertake rehabilitation of the many Zoroastrians who have suffered untold misery during the pandemic.

You can donate online using the link below. Donate to the "COVID-19 INDIA WZOTF APPEAL" or mail in your checks to: Rocky Fitter, FEZANA Treasurer, P.O. Box 266, Sunset Beach, CA 90742.

DONATE ONLINE at fezana.org/donate
Coronavirus—Desperate Need for Medical Supplies in Yazd

Dear Fellow Zarathushtis,

Iranians have been widely affected by the current Pandemic Coronavirus.

The Coronavirus has also affected our small community in Yazd and Tehran. More than 40 Zoroastrians are affected by this pandemic. Available information is incomplete because there are no collective data for Zoroastrians from all over the country. Information available from Sepanta Niknam, Chairman -Yazd Zoroastrian Association and Member-Yazd City council, and Mobed Mehraban Firouzgary are below

— 4 deaths in Yazd (3 men & 1 woman) & 1 in Tehran.
— 8 are in ICU in Yazd,
— 11 in infectious ward in Yazd

There is a long list of medicines and medical supplies needed by Iranians; list sent to and published by United Nations agencies (sent by Iranian Foreign Minister), and which is forwarded to me by Dr. Ekhtiyari, Zoroastrian member of Majlis, via Mobed Firouzgary.

Sepanta Niknam has requested the following medicines and supplies.
“Our urgent needs for hospitals and preventive care teams are:
1. Drugs for treatment of Covid-19: Oseltamivir (tamiflu) and kaletra (lopinavir)
2. Laboratory kits for detection of Covid 19
3. Adult ventilator for intensive care
4. Protection personal kits and Masks”

And Sepanta has also requested whether Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla or any medical charity can help in securing and transporting the above supplies to Yazd and Tehran.

We call upon all Zoroastrians of the world to help our community members and people of Iran to come through this pandemic.

HAMA ZOR! HAMA ASHO BED!
MAY WE ALL BE UNITED IN STRENGTH IN RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Homi D Gandhi

President, FEZANA
(201) 410-8963
Key Facts
Theme:
Generation Z – Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence

Dates:
Congress: 12/29/20 – 1/1/21
Pre Congress: 12/28/20
Post Congress: 1/2/20
4 Day Cruise: 1/4 - 1/9

Venue:
Royal Sonesta Hotel
2222 West Loop S,
Houston, TX 77027
Room rate $99

Hosted By:
Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport
Houston, TX 77071
www.NAZC2020Houston.com

Congress Trivia:
Do you know we have 75+ volunteers and 12+ teams working on making this the best congress ever

Breaking News

Welcome to the first edition of the NAZC Times.

This publication will carry articles, the program, registration details, and other information related to NAZC 2020.

We strive to bring you the most up-to-date news and insights as we prepare to welcome you to the spectacular North American Congress which will take place in “Yee...Haw” Houston, Texas in December 2020!

We expect 550 – 600 attendees from all over the United States, Canada, as well as around the globe.

The preparation and planning is underway and we are excited to welcome you to a “one-of-a-kind” Congress
The theme for our Congress theme is Generation Z: Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence. Generation Z is a double word play, signifying all the Zarathushti Generations, as well as the generation in their teens and early twenties. After successfully hosting 3 Congresses, it’s time again for Zarathushti to become the launch pad for “Z” generations to come together with the world-wide Zarathushti community and propel the Zarathushti resurgence to heights never reached or seen before!

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AT THE NAZC2020

JASHAN
A grand Jashan will be held to open the Congress, with all Ervads present; including the 20+ from Houston, who will participate. Delegates will also have the opportunity to attend a Jashan at the close of the Congress at the Bhandara Atash Kadeh on January 1, 2021. You can also visit the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, home of Fezana Information Research Education Service (FIRES)

Find us on: NAZC 2020 HOUSTON; TWITTER; INSTAGRAM; FACEBOOK;
PROGRAM

The Program Committee is working hard to present a rich and rewarding experience which will showcase the theme of the XVIII North American Zoroastrian Congress. You will have the opportunity to connect with, and hear the voices of multiple generations. Dynamic speakers – Scholars, and Laymen, will provide much food for thought with lectures and interactive panel discussions on various topics related to our religion, history, culture, and contemporary existence. The use of technology will facilitate the immediate exchange of ideas and opinions from the audience.

One of the goals for the Congress is “40 under 40”. Our aim is to try and get 40% of the attendees to be under the age of 40. This will result in interactive sessions that are developed by the youth and young adults – The Future Leaders of our Community.

Day 1 – 12/29
- Opening Ceremony
- Keynote
- Lunch
- Breakout Sessions
- Dinner & Fashion Show
- Post Dinner Lounge

Day 2 – 12/30
- Plenary Sessions
- FEZANA Awards Lunch
- Breakout Sessions
- Dinner and Natak (English)
- Post Dinner Casino Night

Day 3 – 12/31
- Plenary Sessions
- Lunch
- Closing Sessions
- New Year Eve Gala

Day 4 – 1/1
- Jashan in Bhandara Atash Kadeh
- Lunch at ZHCC

Find us on: NAZC 2020 HOUSTON; TWITTER; INSTAGRAM; FACEBOOK;
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AT THE NAZC2020

ENTERTAINMENT

Another important goal of the Congress is to facilitate friendships amongst Zarathushti youth in North America. To that end, events will be offered before the start of the Congress to optimize the time you can spend with friends new and old. There are also social events scheduled during, and Post Congress. Some highlights are shown below:

➢ Pre-Congress WZCC and Youth & Young Adults events and outings
➢ Internationally renowned artists / celebrities expected
➢ Opening Ceremony includes “Visions of Paradise”
➢ Hilarious English Play
➢ Post dinner lounges with Casino/Jazz and Studio 54 Club Nite
➢ Post-Congress Cruise, Jan 4th to 9th – 4-day Royal Caribbean (details coming soon)

Find us on: NAZC 2020 HOUSTON; TWITTER; INSTAGRAM; FACEBOOK;