ZANT NEWS
A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

www.zant.org

November 2020

ZANT UPPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 1: New ZANT Board Commences
- Nov. 2 (4pm): Faiths in Conversation - Zoroastrian Religion in Society
- Nov. 8: Kids / Adults Religion Classes
- Nov. 15: College Seminar & Discussion

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Spenta Irani
Vice President: Mahervan Karbhari
Treasurer: Farzeen Elavai
Secretary: Kurush Dehnugara
Social Director: Karin Nayar
Director: Dilnawaz Rustomji
Director: Pearl Surti

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

ZANT News - November 2020
**MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD**

November 2020 will mark the beginning for a new board of Directors for ZANT. A BIG THANK YOU to Jamshed Jamadar, Mahervan Karbhari, Jamshid Contractor, Anahita Kyani, Pearl Balsara, Kurush Dehnugara, and Dilnavaz Rustomji who served on the Board.

*We welcome our new board members:*
Spenta Irani as President, Mahervan Karbhari as Vice President, Farzeen Elavia as Treasurer, Kurush Dehnugara as Secretary, Karin Nayar as Social Director, and Dilnavaz Rustomji and Pearl Surti as Directors.

This also marks the beginning of our Membership year from November, 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021. We encourage our current members to renew your memberships. We also hope that Zoroastrians in North Texas who are not currently members to formally join ZANT and become an active part of our community. We have noticed that several individuals and families regularly participate in our events and also help during the events but for whatever reason have not become members of ZANT. The $50 fee does not come close to the cost of running our Center and our Activities. But each additional membership fee helps with the expenses.

We would like all community members to help with ZANT’s activities. We ask everyone to participate and bring your children young and old with you.

*Ask what you can do for ZANT and not what ZANT can do for you.*

Those that have been actively participating in ZANT’s activities have developed a close emotional bond with our Zoroastrian community and in fact created a new family for most of us who have adopted this as our new homeland.

This is the last newsletter coming your way from the “old” Board. Please be on the lookout for the next newsletter from the “new” Board. We appreciate the opportunity to serve our community, and the support and affection we received.

**CHILDREN’S RELIGION CLASS AND VOHU MANAH GROUP**

Our next **Childrens’ Religion Class** will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2020 via ZOOM. Zoom link will be sent before Nov. 8. For further details about the class please contact Pearl P. Balsara.

The **Vohu Manah Group** will also be held virtually using ZOOM on Sunday, November 8, 2020. Ervad Soli Dastur will give a presentation on Zoroastrian Death Ceremonies. We are very grateful to Ervad Soli bhai for his continued interest in educating us and hope many ZANT members will take advantage of his knowledge and attend this session.

10:00am—11:00am Little Kids’ Class with Manijeh Rustomji  
(RSVVP manijehrustomji@gmail.com if your kids plan on attending)

11:00am—11:30am Zoom telecast of Boi ceremony (Atash Niyae and Tandarosti) from ZANT Center Prayer room

11:30am—12:30pm Middle Age Group Class with Pearl Balsara  
(RSVPP ppbalsara@gmail.com if your kids plan on attending)

12:30pm—1:30pm Teenagers’ Class with Nina Kalianivala  
(RSVPPninakalian@gmail.com if your kids plan on attending)

2:00pm—3:00pm Vohu Manah Discussion Group with Anahita Sidhwa  
(RSVPP afsidhwa@verizon.net if you plan on attending)

For the “Tandarosti” prayers (for good health and healing), please send in the names of your children (and any adults who request this prayer for their health) to ppbalsara@gmail.com by Sat., Nov. 7, 2020.
FAITHS IN CONVERSATION
AN ONLINE, MONTHLY 6-PART SERIES

Session 3
Zoroastrian Religion in Society
November 2, 4:00 - 5:30pm
Free Admission
dallasinstitute.org/faiths

Professor Jesse S. Palsetia is Professor of History in the Department of History, the University of Guelph, Canada. He is a historian of India and the British Empire. His specialization is the Zoroastrian (Parsis) of India and Bombay city history. He has authored a book and articles on the Zoroastrian (Parsis), Bombay, and colonial-imperial relations. His work deals with Indians in contact with the West from the age of modern empire.

Rachel Ball-Phillips received her Ph.D. in South Asian History from Boston College in 2015, and conducted language study and research through multiple American Institute of Indian Studies language grants, a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship, and a Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy Fellowship. She currently teaches South Asian history courses at SMU that include the Civilization of India. Dr. Ball-Phillips is the Director of National Student Fellowships and the President’s Scholars at SMU. She also serves as the President for the Fulbright Association Dallas Chapter where she is committed to fostering international exchange in the Dallas community.

Presented by the Interfaith Council of the Thanks-Giving Foundation, SMU Perkins School of Theology and The Dallas Institute
Dr. Farrokh Mistree and his wife, Dr. Janet Allen will be conducting an interactive session for parents and students interested in attending college. The seminar will cover topics like, how to prepare for college, applications, admissions, etc. There will also be a panel discussion with past students.

This seminar will be conducted online by Zoroastrian Association of Houston on Sunday, November 15, 2020 around 4:00 to 6:00pm. Please RSVP to roshnichikhliwala@gmail.com in order to receive the Zoom link for this online event (see the detailed flyer on Page 5 of this newsletter).

ZANT hosted a "Virtual Carnival with Real Food" on September 20 2020, which was a great success. We far exceeded our expectations for this fund-raiser, and for that we want to acknowledge and thank the many super-chefs and donors who contributed their time, talent and materials. We are listing them here, please excuse the random order of their names, but by using our original menu list we hope we have not missed anyone.

They were: Arnavaz Vakharia, Pouroo Dastur, Shirin Wadia, Farzeen Sukheswalla, Shahin Samiya, Kashmira Mistry, Pearl Surti, Farzeen Elavia, Dhun Dehnugara, Mahnaz Irani, Dilnawaz Rustomji, Kashmira Contractor, Ramin Belivan, Panteha Saroushpour & Sohrab, Karin Nayyar, Afsaneh Samiya, Mehroo and Ava Damri, Nina Kalianivala, Anahita Sidhwa, Manijeh Rustomji, Mani Mullick, Ruby Mehta.

Of course any major fund-raiser like this one takes effort from many others, so thanks also to all Board members and other volunteers for assisting with the set-up and distribution, Feroze Sidhwa for maintaining the spreadsheets and ALL the family members of the chefs who probably had to endure some sacrifices so their kitchens could focus on carnival goodies.

Last but not the least, we really appreciate all the community members who generously supported this cause by purchasing the goodies. We pray for everyone's good health and look forward to better times with great food.
SEMINAR - PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

There will be a session with the past ZAH Legacy Scholarship Award Winners and Youth Alumni, moderated by Farzad Sunavala. This will be followed by an interactive session with Dr. Farrokh Mistree and his wife, Dr. Janet Allen, in an interactive format.

Panelists for the Past Legacy Scholarship Winners
- Katie Master - University of Texas at Austin
- Friyana Sidhwa - Texas A&M University
- Rayomand Hormuzdi - University of Houston

Date: Sunday, November 15th, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm for ZAH Youth Alumni Panel. 5:00 PM onwards for Dr. Mistree’s College Session
Place: On Zoom (link will only be sent to those who RSVP)
RSVP: roshnichikhilwala@gmail.com

Topics being discussed are very well designed to help students (8th thru 12th grade) and parents are encouraged to attend
- Admission dos and don’ts for college
- Application process for Colleges and scholarships
- Questions regarding SAT, ACT and Importance of AP courses, etc.
- Information regarding the ZAH Legacy Scholarship
**AmazonSmile—Grow Donations for ZANT as you Shop on Amazon**

Smile, ZANT is now registered for Amazon Smiles Charity Program. With no additional effort your personal purchases can help ZANT. All you have to do is instead of going to Amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com, login, select ZANT (Zoroastrian Association of North Texas) as your charitable organization of choice and Shop away.

Alternatively, you may use Your unique charity link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2282878

In the Amazon App, navigate to the top left, click the dots, then go to programs and features (where they have Amazon fresh, Amazon go etc.) You will find Amazon smiles there, then turn that on, find our charity and shop away.

For every purchase made, **Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to ZANT.**

Below is a little more information about the program and step by step instructions.

Go ahead and Shop Away -- you're doing it for a good cause :) 

**What is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that **AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.** You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

Signing up is easy! **Here’s how to shop AmazonSmile:**

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice
4. Select your charity
5. Start shopping!

**Kroger Community Rewards Program**

Dear Community 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 ZOROASTRIAN 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.
ZANT Membership Form
(Nov. 1, 2020 to Oct. 31, 2021)

To avoid misspelling of names please print all the information on this form clearly.

Family Name: ___________________________ Home Phone#: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________ Cell Phone#: ___________________________

Home Address:
(Street Address) (Apt #) (City) (State) (Zip)

Please list names of member/children and provide any additional information (for “Age Range”, please specify, <35 or 35-65 or >65):

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<th>Member’s Name</th>
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<table>
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<th>Children’s Name</th>
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- ZANT members may access the Zoroastrian Center of North Texas (ZCNT) by card key. Please read Card Key Access Form on our website zant.org for details.
- Donations to ZANT Center Operations and Maintenance Fund (ZOMF) may also be included. Please read the ZOMF Pledge Form card key and other details, including free ZCNT rental on our website zant.org.
- ZANT Newsletters are delivered by email or accessible from the ZANT website. If you prefer a newsletter mailed to your home, please add a $25 annual fee.
- Please complete this form (and ZCNT card key liability form if requesting a card key) and mail the form(s) with your check to ZANT, 1605 Lope Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028-1306

Membership rates per person:

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<th>Membership</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Membership (@ $50)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Membership (19 yrs. &amp; older) (@ $25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Citizen Membership (65 yrs. &amp; older) (@ $25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Membership (@ $1,500)</td>
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Subtotal $ $

ZCNT Card Key (@$50) $ 

ZOMF Donation $ 

General Fund Donation $ 

CHECK # TOTAL $ 

For the purposes of membership in this Association a Zoroastrian shall be defined as: A person who is a believer and a follower of the religion as propounded by Zarathustra and one who has been initiated in the religion in accordance with the customs and religious practices followed in the community in which he or she currently or previously resided.

Regular & Life Membership is open to all Zarathushtris and their spouses over 18 years of age.

I certify that I meet the above membership requirements.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
PAST EVENTS: ZANT ONLINE AGM & JASHN-E MEHRGAN — 2020
PAST EVENTS: ONLINE JASHN-E MEHRGAN — 2020
Past Events: ZANT Pomegranate Workshop—1
**Past Events: ZANT Pomegranate Workshop—2**

![Images of people holding pomegranates in plates.](image-url)
PAST EVENTS: ZANT POMEGRANATE WORKSHOP—3

As Zarathushti associations and groups begin to open their doors or put together their plans for limited capacity in-person worship, the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) and the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) have joined forces to offer and reiterate guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on reducing risk exposure to COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible for our Mobeds/priests and congregations.

1. Anyone entering a Zoroastrian place of worship should wear a mask out of respect for their fellow Zarathushtis: including Mobeds, administrators, congregants, visitors, vendors and janitorial staff.

2. Socially distance 6’ to 10’ – no hugs, no handshakes, no elbow bumps or close conversations.

3. If you are elderly, have pre-existing health issues, or are sick, please use common sense and think twice about whether you want to put yourself and/or others at risk; and if prayers virtually via platforms like Zoom are perhaps a wiser option.

4. If you live with the elderly (parents/grandparents), think about your actions, movements and interactions, and have a plan to address the risk of infection within the home.

5. Become familiar with your local (county-by-county) numbers: positivity rate, number of new cases, hospitalizations and deaths; if you are located in a community where numbers are trending upward, use extra caution.

6. USA spotlight: 55,000 new cases per day; 38 states within the United States (at the date of this publication) are surging in new Coronavirus cases as colder weather months approach.

For further CDC guidelines for communities of faith, please see the CDC website:

Start Spreading the News...

https://wzc2022.nyc

World Zoroastrian Congress

2022

For details: https://wzc2022.nyc/