



# ZANT NEWS

A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas



[www.zant.org](http://www.zant.org)

September 2023

## ZANT Upcoming Events

- Sept 28: Third Thursday Lunch
- Oct 1: ZANT Religion Classes
- Oct 7: Jashn-e Mehregan
- Oct 14: RSVP for "Cyrus Cylinder" art project
- + Eclipse Watch
- Oct 28: Cyrus the Great Day celebration
- Nov 12: ZANT Religion Clas
- Nov 18-19: ZANT Youth Camp



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

[president.zant@gmail.com](mailto:president.zant@gmail.com) or mail to ZANT, 1605 Lopo Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028-1306

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President*      **Spenta Irani**  
*Vice President*      **Anahita Kyani**  
*Treasurer*      **Sarosh Gandhi**  
*Secretary*      **Mehershad Rahnamoon**  
*Social Director*      **Pearl P. Balsara**  
*Director*      **Pearl Surti**  
*Director*      **Sanober Doctor**

We welcome and encourage feedback from our community. Please send comments or suggestions to

## Message From The Board

Jashan-e-Mehregan greeting to everyone,

We welcome our autumn equinox harvest festival with a celebration on October 7th. I hope to see a large gathering for this event. Our Sunday school in September was well attended, with lots of new kids and parents joining us. Seeing all the children excited to see their friends and mingle was great. Of Course, the day started with Prayers from Mobed Poras Balsara...Thank You, Mobed Balsara! ... followed by classes, lunch, and birthday cake. Many thanks to our religious teachers, Pearl Balsara, Delnaaz Irani, and Nina Kalianivala, for their time and effort in making our classes a success. We would also like to acknowledge Rubina Jamshidi for the kids' lunch and Arnavaz Vakaria for the adult lunch. Thanks All!

Please note that our October children's religious class is scheduled for the 1st of October so we do not have conflicting events on the same weekend. This year, our Z-Camp is scheduled in November, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Please refer to the subsequent sections of this newsletter for details of the camp and other programs.

With the football season and other sports events starting, sometimes members would like to meet up in the center. As always, the Center is open for members, but for any large gathering, the following protocols have to be followed. Members who have purchased or have cards from their donation levels can visit the Prayer Room to offer services. A board permission is not needed for the Prayer room visit as the room is never rented and always available to provide services. Our Board recommends that anyone using the prayer room should do so during regular hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Board had to be informed of any visits beyond this time as we have a security system with cameras in place and constantly monitor the Center for safety. The members are responsible for keeping the Center clean and ensuring that is locked after their visit. Please follow all the Operating Guidelines, which are also included in our ZANT Directory and available on our website.

**Social Use:** If a group of Members wants to get together at the Center for Social Events, they are responsible for notifying the board at least 5 days before the event and getting permission (email to [board.zant@gmail.com](mailto:board.zant@gmail.com) ). This is needed since the board has to confirm that there are no conflicts in relation to other ZANT events or private rentals and that the center is clean. Members must also ensure that the Center is left clean and that there are no damages following a social gathering. Only ZANT members are allowed for smaller social gatherings without rental fees. Any large private event with non-members present will be considered a rental and charged rental rates.

**Reminder:** Members who have requested and paid for access cards are requested to set up appointments with the ZANT Board so we can meet at the Center, program the cards, and distribute them. We are not mailing cards to ensure they are not in the wrong hands. Thank You for your patience.

For members with yearly membership, note that the membership for FY 2023 ends October 31st. Everyone is requested to check the membership application in the newsletter and complete it ASAP. For your convenience, we also have made provisions to complete the membership application via the web and utilize Zelle for electronic payment. The details are noted in the form.

As we approach the end of this very hot and dry summer, the quote, "Fall is the Southerner's reward for surviving the summer" has shown us its true value.

ZANT Board

## Thursday Lunch

Please join your ZANT friends for a pot-luck lunch, chit-chat, and fun activities!

DATE: Thursday, October 19, 2023

TIME: 12 noon to 3 p.m.

PLACE: ZANT Center



Program: This is still being finalized... Please contact Anahita Sidhwa at 214-862-5745 or [afsidhwa@verizon.net](mailto:afsidhwa@verizon.net) for more information.

### Eclipse Watch

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, a partial solar eclipse will be visible in our local area. Some of us will be at ZANT Center as the parking lot, and grounds are well-situated to watch it. However, special precautions **MUST** be taken to see any type of solar eclipse. See below for the reason we must be careful.

The Sun always gives off visible, infrared, and ultraviolet radiation. Under typical everyday conditions, if you look at the Sun even for a second, the pupil of the eye constricts and your eyelids close, and thus there is no damage to the eye. But during a solar eclipse, the Moon covers up the Sun, and therefore, the light emitted by the Sun decreases. This causes the pupils to dilate and allows more light to enter the eye and strike the retina. Since there are no pain cells on the retina, you feel no pain, even though the radiation could be causing permanent damage. Hence, you must **NOT** look directly at the Sun during a solar eclipse. Solar filters or special eclipse glasses can be used to view it safely. Sunglasses do **NOT** give adequate protection.

The eclipse begins at 10:23 a.m., mid-eclipse is at 11:52 a.m., and ends at 1:27 p.m. To reserve your special eclipse glasses, please contact Anahita Sidhwa at [afsidhwa@vezon.net](mailto:afsidhwa@vezon.net).

## Jashn-e-Mehregan Celebration:



Mehregan is one of the two most ancient Iranian festivals known, dating back at least as far as the earliest Iranians. Mehregan is an Iranian festival celebrated in honor of Mithra, the divinity of covenant, and hence of interpersonal relationships such as friendship, affection, and love. The word "Mehr" (in Mehregan) represents knowledge, love, light and friendship.

Let's get together and celebrate Mehregan!

**Place:** ZANT Center

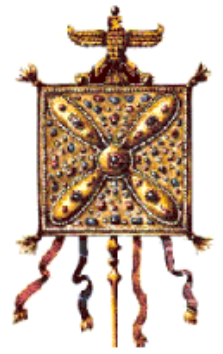
**Date:** Saturday, Oct 7, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 pm

For more details about the Program and RSVP deadline, please see the Mehregan Flyer attached.



# Zoroastrian Association of North Texas



## Welcomes One and All to Jashn-e Mehrگان

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Saturday, Oct 7, 2023</b>	6:30 pm	<b>Meet and Greet</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6:30pm onwards</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Watch "Feathers of Fire"</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>ZANT Center</b>	8:30 pm	<b>Dinner, Dessert and Party !</b>

**Feathers of Fire** is an award-winning cinematic shadow play for all ages - a monumental production centered around Shahnameh (The Book of Kings). It magnificently narrates the tale of Simorq, the love story of Zaal and Roodabeh, and the legendary birth of Rostam. The show is in English with Farsi subtitles.



**Dinner Menu:** *Khoreshe Gheyme Bademjan (eggplant stew), Khoreshe Karaf (veg./non-veg), Potato Salad w/wo Chicken, Aush, Adas Polo (Persian Lentil Rice) with Tahdig, Joojeh (Chicken) Kabob or Veg. Kabob, Shirazi Salad, Bread. Pizza (Youth & Kids only).*

**Dessert:** *Cake and Persian Saffron Ice Cream*

**For the dinner, please RSVP to [zantsocialdirector@gmail.com](mailto:zantsocialdirector@gmail.com) by Monday, September 25, 2023 and pay by Zelle to [treasurer.zant@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.zant@gmail.com) or Check (made to ZANT) with your RSVP. In the memo line, please write "Mehrگان dinner"**

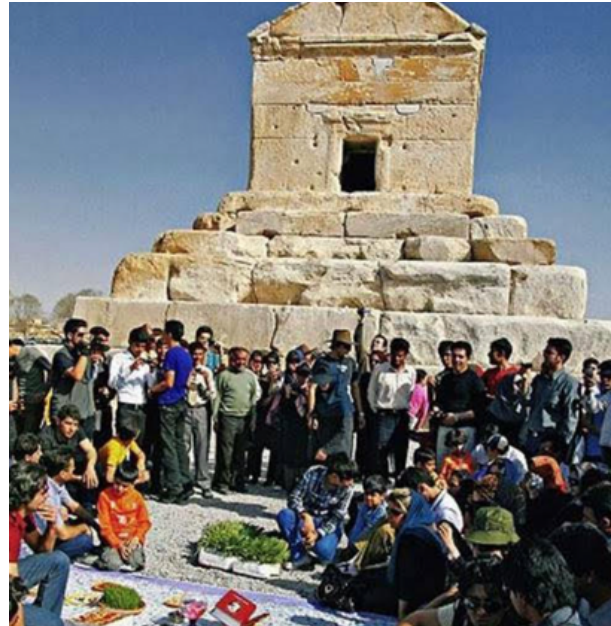
- ZANT Adult Members (and their out-of-town guests) \$15/person
- Youth and kids \$5/person
- Adult Non-members (and their out-of-town guests) \$22/person

**When you RSVP please specify number of veg. and non-veg. persons.**

## “Cyrus the Great” Day Celebration:

Cyrus the Great Day, also known as Cyrus Day, is an Iranian observance held in October. It is dedicated to the Persian King Cyrus II, who became famous as the founder of the Achaemenid Empire.

Cyrus the Great Day is the anniversary of Cyrus’s entrance into Babylon. Cyrus the Great took Babylon, the ancient capital of the Babylonian state covering modern Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Israel, in October 539 BC. Cyrus II is known not only as a great conqueror but as the author of the Cyrus Cylinder, considered by some the world’s first declaration of universal human rights.



Cyrus Day is mainly celebrated in Iran and by Iranian communities in other countries. In Iran, those who want to honor the memory of Cyrus the Great come to his tomb in Pasargadae, the ancient capital of the Achaemenid Empire.

Let’s get together and celebrate “Cyrus Day” and remember the Great Champion of Freedom, Justice, and Human Rights!

**Place:** ZANT Center

**Date:** Saturday, Oct 28, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Program: 6:00 to 7:30: Make your own “Cyrus Cylinder” with air dry clay**

(you may make it with “your own message” on the Cylinder or the “cuneiform script”)

**8:00 onwards: Dinner**

We’ll do a “Potluck” Dinner, so bring a dish to share. ZANT will provide drinks and dessert.

If you are interested in participating in the “Cyrus Cylinder” art project with our resident artist Kashmira Mistry, please RSVP by Saturday, October 14, as we need to order supplies.

The charge per participant for this project is \$20 – ZANT will provide the supplies.



## Children's Religion Class

Our next Children's Religious Class and Community Prayers will be held at the ZANT Center on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Please be at the ZANT Center by 11:15 a.m. so we can get your kids' names or the names of anyone else for the Tandarosti prayers.

11:30 am - 12:00 pm: Boi & Tandarosti Prayers by Mobed

12:00 pm – 01:00 pm: Little ones group with Delnaz Irani

12:00 pm - 01:00 pm: Pre-Navjote group with Pearl Balsara

12:00 pm - 01:00 pm: Post-Navjote group with Nina Kalianivala

01:00 pm - 01:45 pm: Lunch

01:45 pm – 02:30 pm: Craft Project for all ages - Making a “Happy & Festive Pomegranate” for your “Mehrgan Table”! (ZANT will provide supplies)

Here's the link for parents to sign up for an opportunity to volunteer for kids' and/or adults' lunch: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845A8A828A5FE3-lunch>.

If your kid has their Birthday in October, someone can volunteer to bring a cake; we can have all the Birthday kids' celebrations on Oct 1!

Please RSVP for lunch & and the craft project so we have adequate supplies!

We look forward to having a wonderful afternoon with you and your kids at the ZANT Center on Sunday, October 1, 2023!

## Treasurer's Corner

Listed below are the memberships and donations received in August 2023. Thank you for your contribution!

Please reach out to [treasurer.zant@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.zant@gmail.com) for any questions.

<b>General Fund Donations</b>	
<b>Ruth-Dinaz &amp; Vispy Sarkari</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Rashna Ghadialy and Rohinton Karanjia</b>	<b>\$251.00</b>
<b>Behzad Kekobad</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Kashmira &amp; Jamshid Contractor</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>Anahita &amp; Ramin Belivan</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Mehroo &amp; Rajesh Medeka</b>	<b>\$101.00</b>

<b>ZOMF Donations</b>	
<b>Ruth-Dinaz &amp; Vispy Sarkari</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
<b>Rashna Ghadialy and Rohinton Karanjia</b>	<b>\$251.00</b>

<b>Memberships</b>
<b>Minaz &amp; Rusi Debu</b>
<b>Cyrus Sarkari</b>
<b>Serena Sarkari</b>

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.

### **How to send money with Zelle®**

1. ACCESS ZELLE® Get started by enrolling your email or U.S. mobile number through your mobile banking app or with the Zelle® app.
2. PICK A PERSON TO PAY. Enter the preferred email address (in this case- [treasurer.zant@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.zant@gmail.com)) or U.S. mobile number of the recipient.
3. CHOOSE THE AMOUNT. Enter the amount to send.



# ZANT YOUTH UPDATE

## **Huvarashta Project:**

ZANT Youth plans to do a Huvarashta project during the Youth Lock-in camp. The project is to support "Weekend Wonders 4 Kidz," a non-profit organization feeding school kids on weekends who otherwise go hungry. Our project includes assembling and providing food packages for kids. We would love our community members to support our youth through monetary donations for the program. Checks can be mailed to the ZANT address, but please make them payable to "Weekend Wonders 4 Kidz". Send checks before November 17th, 2023. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Delnaaz Irani @ 972-398-8673 or email at [delo.irani@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delo.irani@sbcglobal.net)

## **Youth Camp:**

ZANT is happy to announce that we will host our annual youth camp during the weekend before Thanksgiving break on Saturday and Sunday, November 18th-19th, 2023 at the Zoroastrian Center of North Texas, 1605 Lopo Road, Flower Mound, Texas, 75027. All Zoroastrian youth ages 11 years and older are welcome to participate. We have also invited youth from Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and California for this event.

The event will be an overnight camp for our youth and consist of social and educational sessions. The cost is \$38 per youth member, "payable to ZANT," and will include all the meals for the lock-in duration. This event starts Saturday, November 18th @10 am and will end on Sunday, November 19th @1:00 pm. Further information will be provided later to all who RSVP only. If interested, please RSVP to Delnaaz Irani @ [delo.irani@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delo.irani@sbcglobal.net) by November 11th.

This year, we would like to invite our youth parents, family, and friends to join us for dinner and activity on Saturday, November 18th, evening @7:00pm. Meet our Houston/out-of-town friends and enjoy the evening with us! Our young adults visiting from college are also welcome to join. The cost for dinner is \$16 per person and should be payable to ZANT. Please RSVP by November 11th if you would like to join.

We encourage all our youth to participate, make new friends, and create beautiful memories with your fellow community members.



FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

**FEZANA Religion Education Committee invites you to**

## **Lived Zoroastrianism: How Zoroastrian Women Practice Religion in the American Diaspora**

**Time: Saturday Oct 28, 2023  
9:00 AM Pacific | 12:00 PM Eastern**

FEZANA Religion Education Committee invites you to  
**A CONVERSATION WITH DR. PAULINA NIECHCIAT**

**LIVED ZOROASTRIANISM**  
How Zoroastrian Women Practice Religion in the American Diaspora

Saturday  
October 28, 2023  
9am Pacific  
12 noon Eastern  
Zoom Meeting ID:  
894 3548 7277  
Passcode: FEZANA

fezana.org/education  
education@fezana.org

Topic: Lived Zoroastrianism: A Conversation with Paulina Niechciat

Time: Oct 28, 2023, 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89435487277?pwd=c2RxRGVnYvbG5CMWxHanluSkcyUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 3548 7277

Passcode: FEZANA



# World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce

Building the Spirit of Entrepreneurship



**SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 22, 2023**

**12 NOON NEW YORK TIME**

**WZCC NY CHAPTER PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**THE SPOTLIGHT SERIES FEATURING**

**RONNIE IRANI**

***“MY ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY FROM DEVLALI, INDIA TO  
OKLAHOMA, USA”***

**In Conversation with Edul Daver**

**Introduction by Farah Randelia**

**Synthesis and Closing Remarks by Natalie Gandhi, WZCC NY Chapter Chair**

ZOOM INFORMATION TO JOIN:

Topic: WZCC Spotlight Ronnie Irani

Date: Sunday, October 22, 2023

Time: 12 Noon New York; 09:30 PM Mumbai, Kolkata, New Delhi;

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83548010482?pwd=UnBGN1FNMURmOFhmSIRlQU1MUE1iQT09>

Meeting ID: 835 4801 0482

Passcode: 676057

# Religion Class





# Weekend Wonder 4 Kids



