



ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

NEWSLETTER

3590 Bayview Avenue, North York, Ontario, Canada, M2M 3S6

November 2013

Vol. 40. No. 6

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 1 st November @ 11:00 am	Seniors games
Friday, 1 st November @ 7:00 pm	Avesta Class
Sunday, 10 th November @ 12:30 pm	Scouts Meeting
Sunday, 10 th November @ 1:00 pm	Avesta Class
Sunday, 10 th November @ 2:45 pm	Children's Religion Class
Friday, 15 th November @ 11:00 am	Seniors Jashan
Saturday, 16 th November @ 7:00 pm	Volunteer Dinner
Sunday, 17th November @ 10:00 am	Enterprise day
Sunday, 17 th November @ 12:30 pm	Scouts meeting
Saturday, 23 rd November @ 7:00 pm	Azargan (F)
Sunday, 24 th November @ 1:00 pm	Avesta Class
Sunday, 24 th November @ 2:45 pm	Children's Religion Class Jt Session
Saturday, 29 th November @ 11:00 am	Fall Prevention and Elder Abuse
Sunday, 30 th November @ 10:30 am	Maidyoshem Ghambar (S)
Friday, 13th December @ 11:00 am	Seniors Volunteer Day
Saturday, 21st December @ 7:00 pm	Yalda
Thursday, 26th December @ 11:00 am	Zarthost-no-diso (F)

(Please note: All events will be held at Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, 3590 Bayview Avenue, unless otherwise specified.)

Disclaimer: ZSO as publisher is not responsible for content and support of any flyers not issued by them

ZSO Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full Page: \$125.00; Half Page: \$75.00; Quarter Page/Business Card: \$55.00
Miscellaneous Two liners: \$15.00; Inserts: \$200.00
10% Discount for 12 months of consecutive advertising

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Two anonymous donors have come forward to sponsor one Merit Scholarship each to be awarded to the students scoring the highest marks in the respective categories below:

- An award of \$ 2,000 to the student intending to enter a University program
- An award of \$ 1,000 to the student intending to enter a Community College program

The sponsors will make their donations to the ZSO on a staggered basis each June in time for the award. We hope that other donors will also come forward. The ZSO needs sponsors for second-place and third-place winners in each of the above categories. Please contact me to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

Further, I am deeply honoured to be offered a time-slot to address the general audience at the World Zoroastrian Congress to be held in Bombay in December. I will use this opportunity to raise ZSO's profile in the eyes of the global Zoroastrian community and to build new relationships.

Both the above demonstrate high esteem for the ZSO's elected Executives.

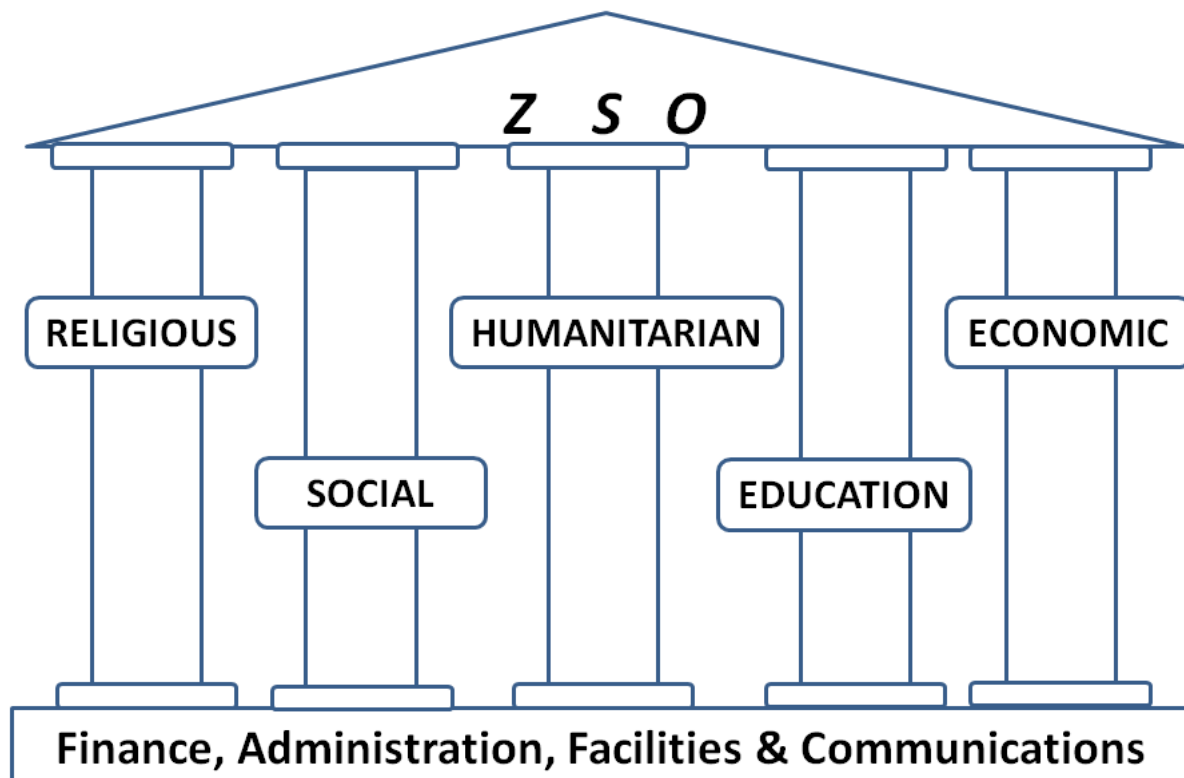
Sarosh J. Bharucha

ZSO – more than just a Newsletter:

There are many who often ask, "What do I get for my membership – except for the Newsletter"?

As you may be aware, the Newsletter is available to anyone (anywhere in the world) by email, by emailing secretary@zso.org with your full contact information (name, address, tel. & email). The fact that you do not need to be a member to receive the ZSO Newsletter has dramatically increased our circulation. We are getting the word out.

In the 1970s, most of ZSO's activities were social in nature, although it started out as a religious organization. With arrival of the MGDM, the pendulum swung to more religious activities. About 10 years ago, ZSO commenced a suite of humanitarian activities. With the arrival of a new leadership in 2013, ZSO has added two more suites of activities – Education and Economics. All activities are supported by an infrastructure of Finance, Administration, Facilities and Communications activities. We are working **to improve the lives of each other.**



Today, ZSO offers a full suite of programs as described above through various sub-committees:

1. Religious – Religious Ceremonies (Jashans, Ghambars, Muktads), Religious Education, Avesta Classes
2. Social – Seniors Program, Entertainment (Dances, Nataks, Galas), Iranian Cultural Kanoun
3. Humanitarian – Helping Hands to aid newcomers and the disadvantaged.
4. Education – Scouts, Scholarships. Future plans call for music, art, dancing, etc.
5. Economic – Support Alliance

To manage ZSOs size and depth activities, ZSO has adopted a portfolio structure (as in a cabinet of ministers) with an executive in charge of each portfolio with TOTAL autonomy as follows:

- Percy Surti - Religious activities
- Khushru Chothia - Social activities and MGDM Facilities
- Bina Behboodi - Humanitarian activities
- Sarosh Bharucha - Education activities, Communications and IT
- Meherwan Wadia - Economic activities
- Jamshed Kershaw - Finance (Balance Sheet, Compliance, Audit, Investments)
- Atoosa Javandmarian - Operational Finance: I&E Statements, Budgets, Banking, Disbursements.
- Fredoon Khory - Administration
- Dara Panthakee - Capital Projects

Each portfolio may consist of multiple sub-committees, each with its own Chair.

Enterprise Day - 17th November 2013 at 10 am: Calling all Real Estate Agents, Insurance Brokers, Financial Planners, Accountants, Lawyers, Travel Agents, Home-Repair/Landscaping Contractors, Mortgage Brokers, Investment Advisors, Caterers, Caregivers, Medical & Para-medical professionals, Business owners, etc. to enroll for Enterprise day. Come and build your contacts, improve your business skills, network with your peers and grow your business. NO DONATIONS ARE EXPECTED. Coffee, soft drinks and finger foods will be served. Please contact Meherwan Wadia (m.wadia@ymail.com) at (647) 297-6591 to book your attendance. Come and promote your business.

EC News:

- **Donors Day:** The EC has unanimously authorized President Sarosh Bharucha to re-connect ZSO directly with the Guiv family, our largest benefactors. The mission is to build a confederation-of-donors and to position the Guiv-family in a leading role in this confederation. A Donors Day is being considered for 2014. Public input is invited to develop a format for this grand function.
- **Caretaker's Apartment:** All renovations except for the kitchen cupboard have been completed. At a recent jashan, the attendees were taken on a tour of the apartment; feedback has been generally positive. The caretaker will also be provided with new furniture.
- **MGDM Renovations:** Plans are in an advanced stage of preparation. Consent has been received from RGFO.
- **Newsletter:** ZSOs offer to send an email Newsletter to anybody (anywhere in the world) has been well received. The printed 4-page black-and-white newsletter together with all the advertisements will continue to be mailed to members, many of whom are Seniors and may not have access to a computer. The newsletter is ZSOs showpiece. It is meant to *put on a show, with marching bands - drums beating, trumpets blaring, and elephants parading down Main Street*. To that end, the EC has requested each sub-committee to have an embedded reporter and photographer at each function.
- **IT infrastructure:** ZSO has established its entire back-office infrastructure on the *Cloud*. Hosted with global giant Microsoft on its Shared Office/365 service, it offers a robust, secure platform with built-in backup/recovery/failover and infinite scalability. Using the latest technology it opens up ZSO to communicate with the world not only by email, but also FACEBOOK, TWITTER, LINKEDIN, etc. Its Unified Messaging

capability offers the potential to communicate by voice, data and video. Executives can now seamlessly share data from anywhere in the world under security on standard Microsoft products such as OUTLOOK. Four main contact points have been established via email:

- office@zso.org - for all general matters
- secretary@zso.org - for all administrative matters
- treasurer@zso.org - for all financial matters
- info@zso.org – shared mailbox for matters where the destination may not be clear
- president@zso.org - for escalations only

Up until now ZSO did not even have a list of members in its own office-computer. Instead its membership list was stored on the personal computer of a previous committee member – who has not handed them over to the new EC. Accordingly ZSO has hired temporary office-help to re-enter all this data into the brand new system. Security measures have been implemented so that no single person can have exclusive control of ZSOs vital records. In the spirit of cooperation, the ZSO will gladly assist any other FEZANA member to implement a similar infrastructure. **ZSO expresses its deep gratitude to MICROSOFT Corp for offering its IT services to ZSO totally free.**

- **Finance:** Equipped with the latest computer technology, Treasurer Jamshed Kershaw and Assistant Treasurer Atoosa Javandmariam have committed to providing monthly Income and Expense statements to the EC. Further they have accepted the target to “Close the Books” within 2 weeks of year-end and complete the audit within “4 weeks of year-end”. This would permit the AGM to be held before June-end, leaving the summer months for rest and enjoyment. ZSO is being managed like a business.
- **Youth at EC meetings:** Our EC meetings are receiving regular attendance from our youth. Any youth wanting to attend is requested to email secretary@zso.org .

Progress as Promised: The following has been accomplished in the first 90-days of the new EC:

- **October 2013:** Renovations to Caretaker’s apartment completed. Sponsorships for two scholarship awards received. Computerized vital records uploaded to the Cloud.
- **September 2013:** Newsletter is made available to anyone via email.
- **August 2013:** Opened up attendance to Executive Committee meetings.

Dynamic Daulat Divecha Delivers the food-fair:

The popular event held on September 28th, 2013 was a great success with brisk sales of mouth-watering snacks, jams, pickles and savouries. An amount of \$1,546/- was collected from generous donations and pre-agreed proceeds from the sellers. A beautiful Afghan was made and donated by our senior Perin Katrak, which was raffled. Our thanks to Sarosh Contractor, Eruch Mistry, Phiroze Dotiwalla, our chefs, donors, participants, our custodians, 100th Toronto Scout group and last but not least to all our volunteers for their continuous help and support. There are nearly 400 Seniors on our membership list and we want to see a larger turnout consistently. Congratulations Dynamic Daulat & the Seniors team.

Scouting News:

Over the years our Scouts group has seen many youngsters pass through since 1990. Many are now married and have children of their own, who are starting in our Scouts group as Beavers:

- Anaiya Khory (daughter of Anahita and Cyrus)
- Avaeya Gazder (daughter of Sheila and Yohann)
- Xerxes Mancherjee (son of Janine and Kevin)

What an achievement, it shows the benefits and fun that their parents had from participating in the Scout Movement in their early years! We hope that more parents will bring their children to join our vibrant group!

Congratulations to Aban Karkaria for being the recipient of Scouts Canada Award for 20 years of "Dedicated Service to 100 Toronto Scouts Group from 1992-2013.

We have had an extremely busy September and October - months that always see a flurry of scouting activities at the beginning of the Scouts Canada year. It began on 8th September when over 42 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers participated in the first Scout meeting of the year. All Section Leaders and a multitude of parents attended. The children soon got busy with their Leaders training for the events, and they participated with distinction in Scouts Canada OBA Challenge Camp, and in the International Dorchester Cuboree that was attended by over 800 Cubs. Our Venturers (age 14-17 years) have been rejuvenated thanks to inspiration and excitement whipped up by our Venturer Advisor, Farhad Sethna.

Nimble Natasha Nabs the Newsletter:

24-year-old Natasha Bozorgi has been appointed editor of the ZSO Newsletter. Natasha is a graduate of York University in Specialized Honors English and holds a Master of Arts in Literatures of Modernity from Ryerson University. Daughter of Rustom & Dilnavaz Bozorgi, Natasha is currently working towards a Certificate in Publishing at Ryerson University. Natasha is seeking a career in the Publishing Industry, whether it is Educational or Trade Publishing. If any member is aware of any interning opportunities please contact Natasha at nbozorgi@hotmail.com. Natasha is another one of our youth who has stepped up to the leadership-plate. Welcome aboard, Natasha!

A heartfelt thank-you to the Mahavas:

Mehru and Eruch Mahava will be retiring at the end of the year. They have both offered yeoman service for over 25 years:

- Packing, stamping and mailing ZSO Newsletters every month
- Performing gate-duty at our functions to check-in the attendees, issuing meal tickets, etc.
- Cooking and performing various duties at ZSO functions

Eruch is now 85 years old and has to visit the hospital regularly. Despite his offer to continue his voluntary work, the ZSO EC decided to move the responsibility elsewhere. Their voluntary work has saved ZSO thousands of dollars during its formative stage. Mehru and Eruch are paragons of role-model behavior. They have helped to improve the lives of others.

If you meet Mehru and Eruch, please thank them. They carried ZSO on their back at time when it was a fledgling organization. May Ahura Mazda bless them for generations to come. A fond thank-you to Mehru and Eruch!

Recent Events:

1. The first Shahenshai Maidyozaem Gahambar, for this year was celebrated on Sunday, 29th September 2013. The Gahambar prayers were performed by Ervad Hoshang Udwardia and Ervad Cyrus Panthakee. Ervad Bomansha Kotwal led the Humbandgi. Ervad Hoshang Udwardia provided a sermon on "Ardibahesht Ameshaspand". Zarin Irani assisted by Armeena Irani, Eruch and Mehru Mahava, Jeroo and Hoshi Mancherjee prepared a delicious lunch. The Gahambar was sponsored by three families and was attended by approximately 65 people. Thanks to all the sponsors for their generosity. Thanks to the volunteers for making this event a success. (Photographs attached).
2. RGFO AGM on 21st September: The Board of Trustees consists of Trust-Chairman Kaikhosrow Guiv, Trustee Shahpour Guiv, Trust-President Russi Balsara, Trust-Secretary Jahangir Behboodi, Trustee Shariar Sotoudehnia and Trust-Treasurer Ardeshir Anary, Bharucha and Kershaw are the two ZSO representatives.
 - Present were Anary, Balsara, Behboodi, Bharucha and Sotoudehnia.
 - RGFO has about \$ 55,000 in funds, well above the \$ 30,000 it is required to maintain. There was no interest among the Trustees to apply any of this surplus towards renovation or beautification of the MGDM.
 - Bharucha provided the necessary paperwork to obtain RGFO consent for the renovations together with a detailed presentation. The Consent was approved unanimously.

Forthcoming Events:

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & Dance: ZSO wishes to show its appreciation of our volunteers' efforts, by inviting them to this event to be held on 16th November at 7:00 pm. Invitations to individual volunteers will be conveyed to them by their sub-committee chairs. Come out & boogie the night away.

Births: Julie Shirin Flynn Dastoor was born on the 6th of September 2013, to Elizabeth & Merzi Dastoor of Waterloo. Sister to Neville & Seamus Dastoor. Granddaughter to Sarosh & Noshir Dastoor as well as Julie & John Flynn. Niece to Tineke Keesmaat & Neville Dastoor.

Deaths: Farokh Ghadijally, husband of Naomi Ghadijally; Father of Zain, Zavera and Shaan Ghadijally; Son of Pearl Ghadijally; brother of Sohrab and Hoshang Ghadijally and Katy Tamboli(Houston) passed away on Tuesday 8th October 8th, 2013..

Awards: Congratulations to Byram Avari of Karachi Pakistan, who was a proud recipient of HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL. The award was presented to him by Jason Kenney, Minister for Employment, Social Development & Multiculturalism, on Sunday 15th September 2013 in Toronto. Byram has been Honorary Consul of Canada for 30 years and this award recognizes his services to Canada. Byram has helped Zoroastrians all over the world for many years now and graciously made his Toronto hotel available for ZSO's Religious Education Classes for many years. Byram has done ZSO proud by his achievements. We wish him and his family every success.

MISCELLANEOUS:

ZSOs office Tel: (416) 733-4586: Public Tel: (416) 225-7771.

Contacts:

- Emergency situations - Khushru Chothia at 416-677-7555,
- Auto Dialer messages – English: Mehad Dastur at 416-235-2627 or Farsi: Bahram Jam.
- Address/Telephone changes - office@zso.org
- Private Functions at MGDM and to include information in a newsletter (by 15th of the month) – Sarosh Bharucha 905-294-7193 or president@zso.org

ZSO Newsletter Information:

Publisher: Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Editor: Natasha Bozorgi

Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr Hours:

Please note that the Darbe Mehr is open during the following hours:

Monday	4:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am to 12 noon; 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am to 12 noon
Thursday	Closed all day
Friday, Saturday & Sunday	9:00 am to 12 noon; 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Visit us on the Internet at: www.zso.org

Maidyozarem Ghambar





NORTH AMERICAN MOBEDS COUNCIL

Lecture Series 2013/2014

Where: OZCF
Zoroastrian Religious and Cultural Centre (OZCF Hall)
1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East
Oakville, Ontario L6H 7B3

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013

Time: 10 am till 3 pm

Topics: **"Concept of Heaven in Zoroastrianism"**
Presented by: Ervad Tehemton Mirza
Explore these questions:
Do you know the path to heaven?
How did Prophet Zarathushtra describe heaven?
Do you have to be a Zarathushti to reach heaven?
How is life in heaven?

"Zarathushti Core Principles in Our Daily Lives"
Presented by: Mobedyar Khushroo Mirza
What are these Core Principles?
What do they mean to us in simple terms?
How do we adhere to these principles?

"The God of Zarathushtra"
Presented by: Ervad Dr. Jehan Bagli
How does the Prophet identify his God?
How does He encounter the Divinity?
The revelations and their Importance.
How do Zarathushtis perceive Ahura Mazda?

Lunch and Coffee/Tea will be served

RSVP: Ms. Khurshid Engineer: khurshid.engineer@rbc.com or 905-828-8324