



ZANT NEWS

A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas



www.zant.org

June 2021

ZANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Jun. 5:** FEZANA Ava Project - Family Paint Event (04:00pm)
- **Jun. 6:** ZANT Virtual Graduation Party (04:00pm)
- **Jun. 27:** North American Mobeds Council IZS - "Ahura Mazda" - Meaning (01:00pm)
- **Jul. 25:** North American Mobeds Council IZS - Vandidad – A Book of Prayers or A Book of Laws (01:00pm)
- **Aug. 29:** North American Mobeds Council IZS - Ahunavad Gatha for Funeral Prayers? (01:00pm)

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>President</i>	Spenta Irani
<i>Vice President</i>	Mahervan Karbhari
<i>Treasurer</i>	Farzeen Elavia
<i>Secretary</i>	Kurush Dehnugara
<i>Social Director</i>	Karin Nayar
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<i>Director</i>	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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members,

As we turn back our clocks by 10 years, it was in the month of May of 2011 that we had the grand opening of our ZANT Center. Over the past 10 years our Center (home) has provided the much needed home for our community, a place for our kids to learn our religion and meet new friends, but most of all a place where our community members can visit and reflect in the solace of our prayer room. As we mature as a community our home is always there to support our needs.

While the Center is currently closed for repairs from the winter storm, we are on track to get it up and running newly renovated in a couple of months. Sheet rock, texture and insulation of the walls have been completed and now we are getting ready to replace the cabinets and doors. This will be followed up by painting, carpeting and final clean-up expected to be completed in a couple of months. We are also in talks with an HVAC contractor for installing a new exhaust system for our Jashan area to help remove smoke. We are also planning to redo the flooring finish of the outside verandah followed up by the upkeep of flower beds. The plan is to have the Center ready for Muktaḍ prayers and we will follow that up with our Shenshai New Year Function and 10 year Anniversary celebrations.

ZANT attended the FEZANA AGM on May 8th and we are proud of our many community members who are involved at various levels in FEZANA. As we celebrate the graduation of our kids and they embark on the next steps in their lives, we would like our members to apply for the scholarship opportunities offered to Zoroastrians by FEZANA. Information for these can be obtained by visiting fezana.org website. ZANT has also planned a celebration for all our recent graduates and we hope you all can join us for the program on June 6th. More details are included in the subsequent pages of this Newsletter.

The year is passing by quickly as we are approaching Father's Day towards the end of June. ZANT wishes all dads "Happy Father's Day" and hope they get to spend quality time with their families.

We would like to end with a quote for our graduates:

"Understand that one day you will have the power to make a difference, so use it well."

ZANT Board

OBITUARY

We are saddened to inform the demise of Ervad Soli P. Dastur on Saturday March 29th, 2021. Soli Uncle was the steward of the Zoroastrian Community and has touched numerous lives through his prayers and service. Ten years ago, many of our ZANT members met Soli Uncle when he stayed up all night to complete the Vendidad prayers for our center. While he is not in this world physically, Ervad Soli's legacy and spirit lives on in our heart. His prayers are embedded forever in our Center and resonate every time we are there for services. Our condolences to JoAnn Aunty, his daughters Shirin & Anahita, his sons-in-law Marvin & Jimbo, his grandchildren Cristina (and Trey Cain), Allison, Taj, Zain & Nev, his siblings, nephews and nieces and the entire Dastur family.

May Ahura Mazda grant his soul eternal peace. Garothman Behest.

RATES FOR MOBED'S SERVICES

Please refer to the following North American Mobeds Council's site for rates regarding Mobed's services: <https://namcmobeds.org/ratesformobedsservices/>

TREASURER'S CORNER

Listed below are the memberships and donations received in the month of May 2021.

ZOMF Donations

Karl Mistry	\$40
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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.

ZOROASTRIANISM – OUTSIDE THE BOX



NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies Announcement

NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies announces the formation of a Monthly Discussion Group.

“Zoroastrianism – Outside the Box”

Objective: Collective learning from a free flow of ideas and opinions on religious and cultural topics while respecting views and opinions of others.

Join us on last Sunday of each month at 2 pm EST, 1 pm CST, 11 am PST

Date: Sunday	Topic	Presenter
June 27, 2021	“Ahura Mazda” - Meaning	Cawas Desai
July 25, 2021	Vandidad – A Book of Prayers or A Book of Laws	Jal Panthaky
August 29, 2021	Ahunavad Gatha for Funeral Prayers?	Firdosh Bulsara

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98448391402?pwd=Nm1vZHVCMEJRY09hdjZhb3NJeGpsZz09>
Meeting ID: 984 4839 1402 Passcode: NAMCIZS

For more information, please contact Ervad Kobad Zarolia at Kobadzaria@gmail.com

These events are facilitated by the NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies to promote knowledge through free but respectful discussions and debate. The views and opinions expressed during these discussions are those of the presenters and participants and do not reflect the official policy or position of the NAMC.

For more information, please visit <https://namcmobeds.org/>

2021 ZANT GRADUATES



Dear ZANT Community,

Please join us for a **Virtual Ceremony** to honor our Graduates for 2021 on **Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 4:00PM**. We are so proud of all these young people, please read their write ups below and join us in celebrating their achievements.

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85455853918?pwd=YmRudWh2ZmNGWFdIOEIERIArQzRpQT09>
Meeting ID: 854 5585 3918 Passcode: graduation

Please note that while there may be other graduates, we have reflected only the write-ups and information received from parents. As always all graduates are welcome to attend our ZANT ceremony and we wish everyone the very best in their future endeavors.

Nima Samiya will graduate from Allen High School with Honors! He is an Eagle Scholar and involved in Decca, Math Honor Society, and Interact Club. Nima has participated in the largest band in the land with over 600 members. He has played Percussion since 6th grade. He made All Region wind Ensemble band, one of 2 Percussionist to advance to Area and snare drum band captain this year!! He plays basketball and Spike ball and has led Spike ball tournaments! He plans to attend Texas A&M University- Collage Station in the fall, to major in Engineering! We are incredibly proud of Nima and all his accomplishments!!

Rohan Srinivasan graduated from Coppell High School this May. He was on the Varsity tennis team and played tennis for his school for 4 years. Rohan is going to attend UNT in Denton. He is doing his undergraduate degree in Business and wants to pursue a career in sports management. We are so proud of him and wish him all the very best for a bright future.

2021 ZANT GRADUATES

Zahira Raghani graduated from Creekview High School, Class of 2020, with honors endorsements in Multidisciplinary Studies. She is a member of the National Honor Society, A Capella Varsity Choir, and the Varsity Legends Choir which is the auditioned jazz/show choir of the choral department. Additionally, in her junior and senior years, Zahira held leadership positions in Student Council and the Executive committees of Creekview to support the Class of 2021 by providing opportunities for involvement in school events. Outside of academics, Zahira has also been actively involved with piano lessons over the span of a decade for which she has earned several awards of Superior Plus distinction. She has been awarded the Kumon Math Achievement Award - Advance Level, as part of the Kumon enrichment program. In addition, Zahira was also actively involved as a Dallas Maverick Ball kid over her high school years. She was among 90 Mavs Ball kids that are selected each year from the Mavericks Hoop & Elite Camps to perform various game night responsibilities at American Airlines Center. Also, every summer, as a Jr. Volunteer at the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Zahira participated in doing rounds in Supply Chain Management, Gift Shop, the Media center, the Dyslexia department, Outpatient surgery desk clerk and as an Office Angel at the hospital. Juggling between her extra-curricular activities and a full-time school load, Zahira has held various part time positions working at Crayola, Pizza hut, Kumon, Nate's Seafood & Steakhouse and CVS. Zahira will be traveling this summer to Paris, France as part of the Education First (EF) travel program from her school. She will be continuing her education at The University of Texas at Dallas, in the Navin Jindal School of Management in Global Business and Accounting.

Anaiza Irani graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science and Arts degree. She majored in neuroscience with a minor in health communication and a certificate in forensic science. During her time at the university, she served as an officer in the Best Buddies organization and founded the Global Nutrition and Medicine organization while serving as president for the organization for two years. She also participated and served as a mentor in the Freshman Research Initiative focusing on cellular signaling research. Along with her motor coordination research at UT in a kinesiology lab, she conducted research at UT Southwestern focusing on motor recovery after stroke. She plans to follow her passion within the field of healthcare after graduation.

Sanjana Pemmaraju (Daughter of Shashi & Neena Pemmaraju) & the grand daughter of Zarine & Vasanth Kumar is graduating Plano East Senior High School with an IB Diploma. She will be pursuing Environmental Engineering at UT Austin in Fall 2021.

2021 ZANT GRADUATES

Kaila Menguita is a recent graduate from Wakeland High School - Class of 2021. During her years at Wakeland, she has made an impact. In addition to academic excellence - graduating with a 4.7 GPA, Kaila was involved in numerous activities and served in various leadership roles. Below is a list of her school activities.

- Lieutenant of the Legacy Line Drill Team
- Secretary of the Spanish Honor Society
- Wakeland Asian Cultural Club
- DECA Member
- Member of an Elite Competitive Dance Team

Kaila also has been recognized for her school involvement and community volunteer efforts. Below is a list of her honors and awards.

- National Honor Society – member
- National Technical Honor Society – member
- National American Sign Language Honor Society – member
- National Dance Honor Society – member
- National Spanish Honor Society – member
- DECA Regional and State Finalist – Junior and Senior Year

Even with all her school activities, leadership roles, and memberships, Kaila was able to find time after school and on the weekends to gain real life work experience. Below is a list of her work experience.

- Detour Doughnuts – Barista
- Legacy Dance Center – Teacher
- Terry Family - Nanny

This Fall Kaila will be attending The University of Arkansas, Go Hogs!!! She will be majoring in Business Marketing. Her goal is owning her own business one day. Her parents, Ron and Azin Menguita, are extremely proud of the young lady Kaila has become. We are amazed of all that she has accomplished so far, and we can't wait to see her continue to grow and become the successful businesswoman that we know she can be. Kaila has the compassion, determination, and competitiveness to succeed.

SCOUTING NEWS: "THE GOOD LIFE" AWARD RECIPIENTS



SCOUTING NEWS: "THE GOOD LIFE" AWARD RECIPIENTS



Congratulations to our ZANT scouts for earning "The Good Life" Zoroastrian Religious Emblem Award. Hezan Daroona earned his award in 2020 while Hormuz Buhariwalla, Feron Bustani, and Yazad Kekobad earned their awards in 2021.

The essence of the award and its requirements are based on the Zoroastrian Way of Life: understanding basic Principles of the Zoroastrian religion and Service to fellow human beings, which is a portrayal of one of the three commandments, "HUVARSHTA" (good deeds). Those who serve God best are those who render active service to all creations.

Throughout the various community projects over the last three years, the above scouts displayed responsible citizenship by harnessing energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to serve fellow human beings; we could not be more proud of their efforts.

This program is designed by ZAGNY and the award is also endorsed by the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA. For questions regarding "The Good Life" award, contact Armin Daroona: adaroona@gmail.com



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 members/children and provide any additional information (for "Age Range", please specify, <35 or 35-65 or >65):

Member's Name	Age Range

Children's Name	Age

- 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 Lopo Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028-1306

Membership rates per person:

Annual Membership (@ \$50)	\$ _____	ZCNT Card Key (@\$50)	\$ _____
Student Membership (19 yrs. & older) (@ \$25)	\$ _____	ZOMF Donation	\$ _____
Senior Citizen Membership (65 yrs. & older) (@ \$25)	\$ _____	General Fund Donation	\$ _____
Life Membership (@ \$1,500)	\$ _____		
Subtotal	\$ _____		

CHECK # _____

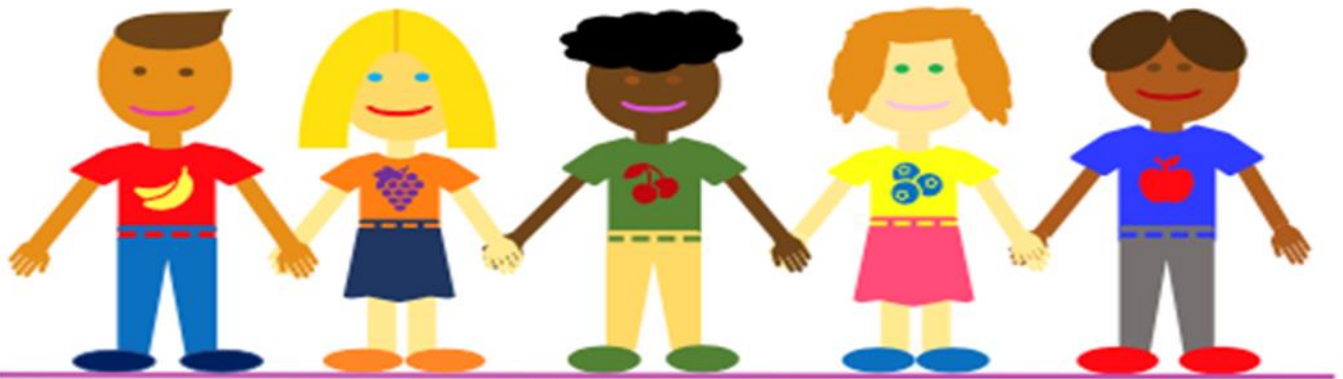
TOTAL \$ _____

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 Zarathushtis and their spouses over 18 years of age.

I certify that I meet the above membership requirements.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Weekend Wonders 4 Kidz

February 2021 marked the 5th anniversary of Weekend Wonders 4 Kidz! We have been working tirelessly to make an impact, in our own small way, on the community around us. Over the past 5 years, with your help, we have donated about 35000 lbs of food!!

Around this time 5 years ago, you all became part of a larger movement to help food insecure children. One of these kids may be sitting next to your child in the classroom, playing with your child in the playground or riding the bus home with your child. We could not have done this without your support. Now more than ever, the families we serve are struggling and in need. Please keep them in mind when you are buying groceries and add a can or two of fruit or vegetables for them. We have now added a wish list on Amazon to make donating easy and convenient.

Your support helped us meet one of the most basic needs a child must never be without - FOOD. If you donated to us, we thank you. If you met with us and advised us, we thank you. If you filled bags, we thank you. If you drove your children to help us, we thank you. If you collected empty grocery bags, we thank you.

WE THANK YOU!!

AMAZONSMILE—GROW DONATIONS FOR ZANT

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](https://www.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 below:

Visit <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.



The World Zoroastrian Organisation

World Zoroastrian Organization, U.S. Region Ltd.

6943 Fieldstone Drive, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527-5295

Phone: (630) 654-8828 . Fax: (630) 654-8838 . kayomehta@aol.com

AN APPEAL FOR ZOROASTRIANS IN ECONOMIC DISTRESS DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC

Zarathushtis in India are continuing to suffer severely from the brunt and after effects of the Corona virus. **WZO Trust, India** has been extremely busy assisting affected individuals. By the end of September, assistance was provided to over **two thousand (2,295) recipients**. This aid was provided as payments to Hospitals, Purchase of ventilators, aid to individuals in economic distress and in the form of distribution of food grains to the needy. The need to continue these forms of aid is absolutely imperative with the onslaught of the second wave of the Corona virus. Every day there are requests from individuals and institutions who have been financially impacted due to the Pandemic - either medically, or by way of, loss of income.

We will best be able to extend support for community members affected by the pandemic:

- a) Providing financial support to full time Mobeds that work at Agiyaries on a daily wages basis and were unable to carry out duties due to the lockdown and Agiyaries remaining shut.
- b) Individuals who have lost their jobs or suffered cuts in salaries.
- c) Business men and entrepreneurs who have suffered losses.
- d) Zoroastrian agrarians suffering losses on account of being unable to transport their produce; poor Zoroastrians who have brick kilns, cattle dairy farms, poultry farms and the like.
- e) Distributing foods grains in cities, towns and villages to the needy.
- f) Providing Oxygen and equipment to hospitals. A single Ventilator costs USD10,000.

The task is humongous but we are determined to play a very proactive role and do our very best. The recovery period is still very distant but WZO is committed to continue their mission to provide the needed support to the affected individuals.

They need our help. With your assistance, we can help our fellow community members in their hour of need. We request your generous Donations to help them during this terrible pandemic situation. **Please donate generously to WZO US Region to provide the much needed help.** Your donation will enable our fellow Zarathushtis mitigate and survive this disaster. Kindly make your donation checks payable to **"WZO"** with a reference to **"Corona"** and mail them to **WZO US Region address**. Please make sure to provide your mailing address, email and phone number to facilitate receipt for your kind donation.

Thank you very much for your Zoroastrian Spirit.

With kind regards,
Kayomars P. Mehta
President
WZO US Region Ltd.
6943 Fieldstone Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527-5295, USA.

kayomehta@aol.com
Res: 630-654-8828
Cell: 630-430-5296

Ushta ahmai yahamai ushta kahmai-chit.
Happiness to him, who make others Happy. Ushtavaiti Gatha, Yasna 43.

The mission of World Zoroastrian Organization is to be of service to all, by providing critical assistance and support to the needy anywhere in the world. WZO US Region Ltd. is a registered tax deductible 501(c) 3 charitable organization registered in USA. Tax Exempt I.D: 36-4236575.

FEZANA NEWS



Did you know that FEZANA awards more than \$70,000 in scholarships every year? The application portal is now open and will close on July 1, 2021 at 23.59. EST. For more information and for the application, please visit : <https://fezana.org/scholarships/>

Scholarships are available for students who are pursuing graduate studies, undergraduate studies, performing and creative arts, culinary arts, and sports. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and are based on academic standing, community service, and financial need.

Candidates can apply in multiple categories by filling out the same common application form.

Since its inception in 1999, the FEZANA Scholarship Program has grown from awarding 2 scholarships to providing 23 endowed scholarships and 8 FEZANA-supported scholarships. This Program is only possible because the amazing support that we receive. If you would like to support the next generation of young Zarathushtis, please consider donating: <http://fezana.org/scholarships/donate/>

FEZANA Scholarship Committee
academicscholarships@fezana.org



FEZANA, North American Mobeds Council Issue Joint Statement Reiterating CDC Guidance on COVID-19 Risk Mitigation for Places of Worship

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 hand shakes, 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.



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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

Start Spreading the News...

<https://wzc2022.nyc>



1st-4th July | 2022

World Zoroastrian Congress

2022

For details: <https://wzc2022.nyc/>