



# ZANT NEWS

A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas



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

MAY 2011

## ZANT EVENTS

- 05/01/11: Adult & Youth Woodworking class
- 05/07/11: ZANT Opening Ceremony Gala
- 05/08/11 : Children's Religious Class
- 06/04/11: Gahambar & Graduation Celebration

## ZOROASTRIAN CALENDAR

- 4/30-5/4: Maidyozarem Gh (F)
- 5/1-5/5: Maidyarem Gh (K)
- 5/26: Zarthost-no-Diso (S)
- 5/31-6/4: Maidyarem Gh (S)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ZANT PRESIDENT



Our Vision

Proposed rendering for Zoroastrian Center of North Texas, 2007



Our Reality

Zoroastrian Center of North Texas, 2011

May 2011 is here. ZANT meets a very important date in its destiny- the culmination of a dream cherished by so many over the decades, the result of dedicated contributions on a weekly basis by so many, a testament to the strength of a community when a worthy goal is pursued – the ZANT center is a reality.

Let us make it a symbol of our desires to pass on our heritage to our children and our commitment to being a united community. Let us accept our differences but cherish and promote our unity. The board thanks you , the community, for achieving this monumental milestone.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Zal Parakh
Vice President	Saghar Behroozi
Treasurer	Pearl P. Balsara
Secretary	Khurshid Jamadar
Social Director	Delnaaz Irani
Director	Afsaneh Samiya
Director	Boman Godiwalla

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 271117  
Flower Mound, TX 75027-1117

### ZANT Center:

1605 Lopo Road  
Flower Mound, TX 75028-1306

We welcome and encourage feedback from our community. Please send comments or suggestions to [president@zant.org](mailto:president@zant.org) or mail to ZANT, P.O. Box 271117, Flower Mound, TX 75027

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ZOROASTRIAN CENTER OF NORTH TEXAS OPENING CEREMONY GALA

When: Saturday, May 7, 2011

Time: 11:00 am

Where: ZANT Center

1605 Lopo Road

Flower Mound, TX 75028

For further detail, please refer to opening ceremony update on page 6.



### CHILDREN AND TEEN RELIGIOUS CLASS

When: Sunday, May 8, 2011

Time: 11:30 am

Where: ZANT Center

1605 Lopo Road

Flower Mound, TX 7502

We are very happy to announce that in May, we'll have our **1st Religious Class at ZANT Center on May 8, 2011.**

For further details, please contact *Pearl P. Balsara*.

### WOODWORKING CLASS

When: Sunday May 1, 2011

Time: 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Where: Tengra Residence

Adults and Youth, come and join us for a fun filled woodworking class, taught by Pheroz Tengra. Please let us know what woodworking project you are interested in. ***Please RSVP with Saghar Behroozi***.

### GAHAMBAR & GRADUATION CELEBRATION

When: Saturday, June 4, 2011

Time: 5pm Onwards

Where: ZANT Center

1605 Lopo Road

Flower Mound, TX 75028

Maidyarem Gahambar is in honor of Ahura Mazda's creation – Animals, and is from May 31, 2011 to June 4, 2011.

On Saturday, June 4th, we'll begin the evening with a "Jashan" & following that, have a small ceremony for our "Graduates" & end the evening with Food & Fun!

We are looking for a few good chefs to cook for that evening.....Would you like to volunteer to cook for the evening? Then what are you waiting for?

Please contact Delnaaz Irani. Keep an eye for more details to follow.

## PAST EVENTS

### ZANT ANNUAL CAMPING TRIP

The fire-pit was prepared and the kitchen was stocked as ZANT began its annual camping trip at Lake Hugo . We had 20 cabins reserved for over 100 community members who had a great time throughout the weekend. Weather was perfect for boating and all the fun games like Cricket, golfing, Nargolio (Seven Tiles), scrabble, cards and Mary Tengra's scavenger. Campfire activities – Ghost stories, jokes and songs were fun at night with s'mores for all to enjoy. Sunday morning the kids participated in an Easter egg hunt and collected candy for the drive back. Throughout the weekend, the food prepared was delicious and plentiful. This year's campout was a great success we're already looking forward to next year's!!

### ZANT INAUGURATION PRAYERS

The DVD of the ZANT Inauguration prayers will be available for purchase. More detail to follow.

## QUIK POINTS

- **Graduating Seniors:** All the ZANT graduating seniors from high school or the university, please email a write up about your school, the attained degree, special awards and achievements, the educational facility your are planning to attend, your area of academic interest, your professional goal, any hobbies , and any other information you would like to share.
- **ZANT Furnishing Committee:** The ZANT Furnishing Committee has been formed and will have its first meeting in the month of May to develop and finalize a process to assess and accept donations. Please retain your donations until the appropriate announcement is made in the June newsletter.
- **ZANT Ladies Club (ZLC):** We would like to invite all the ZANT ladies to join ZLC. This club will plan different educational, social, and cultural activities. In addition, ZLC will provide support for the ZANT events such as cooking or volunteer work. More detail will follow in June edition of ZANT newsletter. For questions, please contact *Nina Dilucci* or *Mary Tengra*.
- **ZANT Community Survey :** Please send us the completed community survey forms by May 15th. The results of the surveys will be included in the June newsletter.
- **ZANT Time capsule:** Please deliver the items you would like to be included in the ZANT time capsule to Sherazade Mehta as soon as possible. The time capsule will be placed in the designated area on the day of the opening ceremony on Saturday May 7, 2011.
- **ZANT Center Operating Rules:** The Operating Rules for our ZANT Center are close to completion. The "Operating Rules Committee" has presented and discussed the Policies and Guidelines that are being proposed to the community at two previous General Body meetings. There have been suggestions and recommendations put forth by the General Body and the Committee is currently working on the final set of Operating Rules. These rules will be sent to all members in advance of the next General Body meeting and will be voted on for approval at this next meeting. This finalization will occur sometime after the Opening Ceremonies for the ZANT Center are completed. We thank you for your patience in this process.

## HAMA-ZOR BAD, HAMA-ZOR HAMA-ASHO BAD

*Hamā-zor bād, hamā-zor hamā-asho bād,  
Hamā-zor hamā-neki bād,  
Hamā-zor hamā khoreh bād,  
Hamā-zor vesh-kerfe bād,  
Hamā-zor kam-gunāh bād.  
Hamā-zor bād Zarthosht-dīn rāstihā bokhtār bād,  
Dīn-e Māzdayasnān hakikat dorost bād.  
Hamā-zor bād Dādār Ahura Mazda  
rayomand khorehmand,  
Hamā-zor bād Ameshāspandān,  
Hamā-zor bād khoreh dīne veh va  
awīzeh Māzdayasnān.*

... from Ardafravash Afrin

May we be united. May we be united with all the righteous, with all the virtuous, with all the goodness in the world, with those of bountiful good deeds, with those of fewer sins.

May we be united with the religion of Zarathushtra, and attain salvation through righteousness. May we attain correct knowledge of the Mazdayasnian Religion.

May we be united with Dadar Ahura Mazda,  
the radiant and resplendent.

May we be united with the Amesha Spentas (Holy Immortals).

May we be united with the aura of the good and righteous Mazdayasni Religion.

*Jamyān ithra ashāonām vanghuhish sūrāo, spentāo Fravashayo!  
Ashoish baeshaza, hachimnāo, zem-frathangha, dānu-drāzangha,  
hvarey-barezangha, ishteye vanghanghām, paitish-tāteye ātaranām,  
frasha-vakhshyāi, rayāmcha kharenanghāmcha!*

... Yasna 60.4

May the righteous, heroic and bountiful Fravashis “the guardian angels” descend upon us!

May they bring along with them gifts of healing virtues that are as expansive as the earth, as far-flowing as the rivers, and as lofty and exalted as the Sun,

May these gifts enable us to attain righteousness and withstand the influence of the vicious,

May they also renew and increase the light and radiance of our souls!

## KIDS' CORNER

### Happy Mom's Day from all ZANT Kids !

"Happy Mother's Day" means more than  
Have a happy day.  
Within those words lie lots of things  
We never get to say.

It means I love you first of all,  
Then thanks for all you do.  
It means you mean a lot to me,  
And that I honor you.

But most of all, I guess it means  
That I am thinking of  
Your happiness on this, your day,  
With pleasure and with love.

Source : Internet

### Thoughts for the Month:

☼ Years ago, my momma taught me that two wrongs don't  
make a right—but I soon figured out that three left turns  
do!

-Jim Hightower

☼ Momma says—If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is  
not for you.

- Anonymous

☼ An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy

- Spanish Proverb

☼ Mother—that's the bank where we deposit all our hurts  
& worries

- T. DeWitt Talmage

### Religious Class:

We did not have a Religious Class in  
April

### Joke Time (Laugh – it increases your face value) ☺

#### Things Mom Would Never Say

1. "How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"
2. "Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too"
3. "Just leave all the lights on ... it makes the house look more cheery"
4. "Let me smell that shirt -- Yeah, it's good for another week"
5. "Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day"
6. "Well, if Timmy's mom says it's OK, that's good enough for me."
7. "The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here."
8. "I don't have a tissue with me ... just use your sleeve"
9. "Don't bother wearing a jacket - the wind-chill is bound to improve"

Source: Internet



☼ A man's work is from sun to sun, but a  
mother's work is never done!

- Author Unknown

### Children's Religious Class:

Our next religious class will be held on  
**Sunday, May 8, 2011, at 11:30 am**, at the  
**ZANT Center !**

Firdosh Mehta will conduct the "Teens' Class"

For further details about the Religious Classes, please  
contact Pearl P. Balsara .

(Kid's Corner logo courtesy of Zoroastrian Studies, India)

## **BUILDING UPDATE**

The last 30 days have been very challenging while being rewarding at the same time. The good news is that we finally received our occupancy certificate on Monday April 25. The city inspectors were very thorough in their close-out process and conducted our final inspection on three occasions, making sure not to leave any stone unturned. It was an arduous, but very beneficial process for us. Working closely with the city through the month, we had to correct a few issues that were not uncovered until late in the inspection process. Things moved quickly and we were able to work through the issues with our various contractors.

While the building committee was working on the final inspection with the city, several community members were busy cleaning and furnishing the building. There are still several touch-up items to be completed and corrected prior to our grand opening on May 7, but the building is completed and looking very nice. By the time this newsletter is distributed, much of the community will have already visited the completed building and attended our community Jashan... what an exciting time!

If you have questions about the building project, please call Jamshed Rivetna.

## **OPENING CEREMONY UPDATE**

The Opening Ceremonies Committee is ready to welcome you all to our ZANT Center on May 7. Our committee members have been working feverishly to make sure that this event is a memorable one for you all.

The Opening Ceremonies is an outdoor event which will be held in a tent. The weather forecast predicts rain all of next week, but with Texas weather who can tell? Keeping the rainy forecast in mind, we have made arrangements to make this event as comfortable as possible for all 300 guests who plan on attending. Please dress appropriately taking the weather into consideration. All we ask of all of you is to be on time and follow the parking guidelines sent to you in your invitations as we plan on starting the event promptly at 11 am.

We are truly excited about opening our doors and welcoming you on this special day.

## **PRIDE IN OUR ZANT YOUTH**

Shayan and Ahneesh Mohanty both competed at the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011. Shayan placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Electrical Engineering (Sr. Div.) and received 8 special awards. Ahneesh placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Animal Science (Jr. Div.) and received a special award. They both qualified to compete at the Exxon Mobile Texas State Science and Engineering Fair held in San Antonio, on April 2, 2011 .

At the State level, Ahneesh placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the category of Animal Science (Junior Division); and Shayan was awarded the Second Place Grand Prize for Physical Science (Senior Division). Shayan also received two special awards as well as the TX Governor's Award. In addition, Shayan was named an INTEL International Science and Engineering 2011 Finalist (ISEF) and will be competing at ISEF on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles, CA. Shayan will also be going as a member of the US Science and Engineering Team to MILSET Expo Science International in Bratislava, Slovakia on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, 2011. Shayan made an oral presentation and defense of his project at the Texas Junior Academy of Science on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Texas in Engineering. He will be going on to compete at the American Junior Science Academy in Vancouver, Canada in February 2012.

ZANT is proud of both Shayan and Ahneesh and wishes them ongoing success in the path of achieving their professional and educational goals.



## A SUMMARY OF ZANT'S HISTORY

The oil boom of the 1980's brought many Zarathushtis from all over the world to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. In August 1982, Feroze & Anahita Sidhwa hosted a Shenshaai New Year party at their home in Coppell, and everyone was amazed when over 30 people participated. Jamshed & Khurshid Jamadar held the next NouRuz party at their home in Fort Worth in March 1983, and there it was decided that we should try to form an Association.

In an attempt to rejuvenate the idea of forming an Association, Shiawak Tengra drafted a letter to the community on March 21, 1986. There was also enthusiastic participation in a joint celebration of Asho Zarathushtra's birthday on March 29, 1986 at the Park Suite Hotel in Richardson, organized by the Behroozi, Salamati, Namiranian and Samiya families. Later that year, Behram Atashband coined the name "ZANT" on November 29, 1986. Soon after, Charlotte Kharas (the fourth ZANT president) sent the community a letter seeking volunteers, nine people stepped forward to render their services.

By 1988, the group felt it was time to start writing the bylaws so that the Association could be registered. The momentum continued under the able guidance of Behram Irani. An interim committee of nine volunteers met regularly for over a year, formulating our bylaws, and preparing all the necessary paper work to register ZANT as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax exempt religious organization in the state of Texas. By the grace of Ahura Mazda, our association was formally registered on March 14, 1989. The interim committee continued to function for one year, after which time elections were held, and Behram Irani was elected the first President of ZANT, in 1990.

The first ZANT Directory was published in March 1990, with 77 families and six ads. In 1991, Roda and Aspy Mistry initiated a meeting to explore the possibility of making a building. Another land mark was the creation of our logo, in September 1992. Mr. Yezdi Madon, a visiting artist, sketched the first ideas for the logo. Later, a tragic car accident took Yezdi's life. Based on Yezdi's thoughts, Poras Balsara created the version we now use. In it, the fire symbolized Ahura Mazda, the hands show a closeness to Ahura Mazda and "Ushta-te" means "happiness unto you."

On August 5, 1995 the ZANT Building Fund was created under the leadership of third ZANT president, Anahita Sidhwa. During the 4 year leadership of Mehraban Roshanravan, a revived urgency to follow through with the ZANT Building process was awakened. The ZANT Fundraising Committee, led by Behram Irani, was created with 14 members. The community unanimously approved purchasing a 2.5 acre parcel of land in Flower Mound, Texas on November 27, 2006 under the leadership of Kali Buhariwalla as ZANT president. The Building Committee led by Jamshed Rivetna, began the exhaustive process of developing detailed plans and on February 18, 2008, the Flower Mound Council gave ZANT the site plan approval. The Groundbreaking ceremony for the ZANT Center was held on February 8, 2009 under the leadership of Kamran Behroozi, the President. And now, the ZANT center opening ceremony will take place on May 7, 2011 under the leadership of Zal Parakh.

ZANT is a vibrant and growing Zoroastrian Association for both Iranians and Parsis and therein lies one of our greatest strengths. Yes, we want a place for communal and private prayer, where we can meet in fellowship and friendship and share our rich religious and cultural traditions, where our children can grow to become good citizens of the United States following the ageless teachings of Zarathushtra. Let us thank Ahura Mazda for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us and pray for His help and guidance as we go forward, so that we can practice and spread good thoughts, good words and good deeds.

*Source: ZANT 2010-2011 Directory*

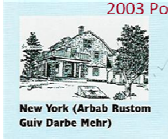
# IF YOU BUILD, THEY WILL COME— OUR HOME AT LAST!

## Dar-e-Mehrs in USA & Canada

Community Halls and Places of Worship (Dar-e-Mehrs) In North America

1

1977 New Rochelle, NY & new location  
2003 Pomona NY



New York (Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr)

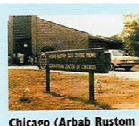


1978 ZSOntario



Toronto (Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr)

1983 ZACHicago



Chicago (Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr)

1985 Vancouver, BC, Canada



1987 California ZC



Los Angeles (Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr)

1998 ZAHouston



Houston (Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center)

We as Texans are familiar with the Zoroastrian Center aka. Dar-e-Mehr close to us such as the one in Houston, TX, but what is even more exciting is that we are now part of the few communities that have Centers throughout North America.

The *Zoroastrian Association of New York* was formed in 1929. This Dar-e-Mehr Zoroastrian Temple was formed as a religious corporation and was inaugurated in **December 1977** in New Rochelle, **New York**. It was the first place in North America where Zoroastrians could gather to practice their religion and celebrate a sense of community away from the home of their forefathers. It too had to move to accommodate the growing needs of the community in 2000 to the facility named Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr in Pomona, NY.



The *Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO)* was founded in 1971 from its precursor, the Zoroastrian Fraternity.

In 1975, the ZSO would acquire a community center in Metropolitan *Toronto* to be able to accommodate the growing membership. The Center was to be a focal point for religious ceremonies, education, reading material, social activities, sports and recreation. The community center became a reality through the philanthropy of Arbab Rustom Guiv, a prominent Zoroastrian of Iran. With a donation of \$600,000 USD, 3590 Bayview Avenue was purchased and extended to include an assembly hall to accommodate a membership of about 500. The Center known as the Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr is named after Arbab Guiv's nephew. It includes a prayer room (Atash Dadgah) and a library. It is leased from the Rustom Guiv Foundation (Ontario) and has served as the centre of the ZSO's activities for the past twenty-nine years. A significant fraction of the community now attends the religious classes for children and adults. There is an active Senior's Group, a Zoroastrian Scout Group, The Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanoun, Informal Study Group, Youth, Lecture, Investment, Entertainment, Library, Employment & Newsletter Groups.

There is also the *Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation* based out of Mississauga *Ontario* which has its own centre for its activities. Due to the increasing growth of Zarathustis west of Toronto it was formed in 2003 with a vision of building an agiary, a hall and an old age home together with facilities for children and adults.



## IF YOU BUILD, THEY WILL COME— OUR HOME AT LAST!

There is also the Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Mehr in **Vancouver** which was formerly a church purchased by the Guiv Trust in 1985 and leased to ZSBC. It too has outgrown its growing population and has so set their sights on a location in North Vancouver.

The **Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia** with its own Center was established in the province of **British Columbia** in 1985. This region referred to as "Supernatural British Columbia" for its scenic beauty, is home to many cultures and ethnic groups that have come to live together in harmony, peace, cross-cultural understanding, and love.

The **Chicago Dar-e-Mehr** also known as Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr opened its doors in **September 1983** with the generous donations from the Arbab Rustom Guiv Foundation and many members of the community. It was the birthplace of FEZANA and has hosted many events promoting the Zoroastrian faith and its peoples. The Chicago Dar-e-Mehr is the nucleus of all Zarathushti activities in the Midwest region. It was conceived and designed by Mr Rohinton Rivetna, father of our very own Jamshed Rivetna, who has been pivotal in pouring his time and efforts in doing the very same for our Centre here in the Metroplex together with many other like minded individuals. It became the first Dar-e-Mehr to be constructed on this continent.

### ***Zoroastrian Center and Dar-e-Mehr of Metropolitan Washington.***

In 1990, a beautiful 7 acre plot of land was acquired by the Vandsar Committee from a grant by the Guiv Foundation. The **Washington** community has used the small house on this property for classes and gatherings and also has a prayer room. It has big plans to build a center working with Rivetna Architects with design features which include an Atash Kadeh and a community hall.

The **Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey** (ZAPANJ) has also announced grand plans to fulfill their vision of a centre on their recently acquired property in Mt.Laurel **New Jersey**.

**California** seems to have a lot more Zoroastrian centers than any other state here in North America. The **California Zoroastrian Centre** in Westminster, CA was inaugurated on **March 25, 1987**. It is named Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Mehr and serves the **Los Angeles** area. It has a hall with a capacity of 630 persons, a prayer room with 4,000 books, and about 3 class rooms which are easily converted to serve as a dining hall and a kitchen. The fire-altar of the prayer room was donated and was brought from India; it is believed to be a 100 years old. It has a library which is the envy of many and it has a prayer room which is open seven days a week with a fulltime priest and fulltime office manager.

The **San Jose Dar-e-Mehr** serves the Zarathusti community of Northern California and was inaugurated in **March of 1992**. It is a 10 acre property on the hills above **San Jose**. It has a new Atash Kadeh building completed in 1992 which continues to serve the community well.

While the **Zoroastrian Association of California** was established in 1974, it did not have a home of its own until 2010. In **July of 2010** this association opened its doors in the city of **Orange, CA**. It serves members spread from San Diego in the south to the San Fernando Valley and Canyon Country in the North.

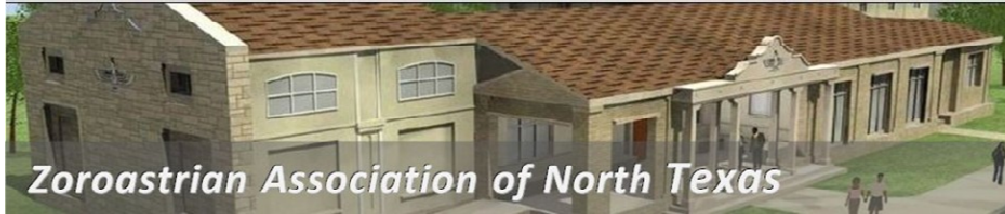
**Houston** opened its **Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center** in **1998** situated on a seven acre site that was donated by community members. The Center has a Dar-e-Meher, a prayer room. It has Sunday school, a study group, a youth group and many other activities are regularly encouraged at the centre.

There are also plans by a group of Zarathustis from the **Houston** area of building a traditional Mazdayasni Zarathushti Dar-e-Mehr in the near future.

## IF YOU BUILD, THEY WILL COME— OUR HOME AT LAST!

Many Zoroastrian communities especially in the *Boston* and *Seattle* area are committed for future centers to accommodate the needs of the community.

The tri-state-area of *Kentucky, Ohio* and *Indiana* of about 50 families is keeping the flame alive by attending functions and celebrating our faith until they realize their dreams of a center too.



We here in *North Texas* can finally enjoy the fruits of our labor and come together as a community to help maintain our very own *Zoroastrian Center of North Texas* as of **May 2011**.

We were not the first community to build one, nor will we be the last one, but we surely can be proud of achieving this milestone after more than 20 years of sweat and effort from our local Zoroastrians and generous national and global neighbors. It is our hope that we use this Centre of ours as our home away from home and build on it for our children who will one day be inheriting it from our hands. Though few in numbers that we are, being united has allowed us to achieve our lofty goals and has proven how we can overcome odds and move forward towards building our dreams in this new land of ours. We will need this same unity moving forward in order to grow and prosper as a community.

*Written by: Boman Godiwalla*

*Photographs courtesy of Firdosh Mehta*

*Excerpts taken from Fezana Journal June 2010*

## OUR CENTER: ONCE A DREAM, NOW A REALITY!

The opening of the ZANT Center is a significant milestone in the history of our association. It marks years of initiative, collaboration, and hard work within our community. These are all values that are central to our ancient Zoroastrian faith. Our Center is now a visible mark of our commitment to these values, and will become a home to nurture our future generations to initiate greater community projects, foster greater collaboration, and work even harder to overcome any obstacle that may stand in the way of their dreams. This is indeed a proud moment for us all.

The Center began as a dream twenty or so years ago. In the beginning, it was difficult to imagine the dream becoming a reality. But a few dedicated individuals invested time and energy to keep the dream alive. We would gather in each other's homes, in libraries, in restaurants – anywhere we could find – to discuss and develop ideas to raise the necessary seed money for the land on which the Center sits today. Over the years, our building committee members were steadfast in their faith that we would see this Center come to life one day, and contributed tremendous time, energy, and funds to see this dream become the reality we enjoy today. While I congratulate the community on our accomplishment with this Center, I especially acknowledge the early and sustained efforts of the building committee members who, over the years, never waivered in their commitment to see this project to fruition.

Let the Center be the beacon that draws future Zoroastrians to North Texas, knowing fully well that there is a community committed to the welfare and traditions of Zarathustra's teachings. Once a dream, now a reality, our Center proves that the sky is the limit when we rally as a community to build brighter and better futures for us all.

*Written by: Bakhtavar Roshanravan*

## A JOURNEY THROUGH ZANT'S ACTIVITIES

Through the years, ZANT's religious and social activities have evolved, changed, grown, adapted, and blossomed into the many community events we hold today on a regular basis. There are activities that are attended in the hundreds and then there are those attended in the handfuls. There have been religious activities, social activities, fundraising activities, educational activities, sports activities, business activities, adult and kid specific activities, and generally just good old fashion fun activities! Our communities' interests have been wide and diverse and throughout the 22 year history of ZANT our community has continued to gather to celebrate our unique culture, our longstanding heritage, and our Zoroastrian traditions.

In the early 80's, the community met informally to celebrate together. Then, there was a push to for a formal association, with that accomplished in 1989, ZANT was able to commence with more regular activities organized by the ZANT Board of Directors. Once the structure was in place, Norouz and Shenshai New Year became yearly planned events. Also, the establishment of Kids Religious classes and Adult Religious discussion groups were started right away. As time went on, activities were constantly being added to the ZANT social calendar. The celebration of Mehregan, Tirgan and Jashne-ne Sadeh became well attended events through the years. From a small fledgling community of a few families, ZANT continued to grow.

ZANT's main fundraising activity, participating in the Anand Bazaar by selling falooda became a social event in itself! The community has gathered to sell our well renowned drink at the Anand Bazaar for the past 19 years and more recently we added the Divali Mela to our social calendar. To get together just to have some good old fashion fun, a new and modern gathering was coined – ZANT Happy Hour. This was just a get together to get together and what fun we did have during these Happy Hours! As the social activities kept increasing, so did the participation in ZANT, and so did the call to find a home of our own to host these many activities.

The demographics of ZANT created a need for more child friendly activities and so it was that ZANT Sports day, Fall Carnivals, Picnics, Christmas Parties, ZANT Camping, three separate Kids Religious Classes and many more events were created. For the Business minded adults of the community, a networking group called the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce established a Chapter in North Texas. ZANT Gahambars brought out the crowd in more recent years, the food and fun enjoyed by young and old alike. Our gatherings during the Shenshai Muhtad days have been ones of prayer, peace and love for our departed loved ones. Once again families have stepped forward to host these events. The thought has always gone back to having a Zoroastrian home in North Texas to host these events.

Through the years, our ZANT Social Directors have continued to find new and interesting venues to host our many social activities. The Yalda celebration requires one to stay awake all night and enjoy the morning sunrise. ZANT Yalda celebrations began in the first house on our ZANT property, then we were given a members place of business and finally an open house to use as we wished! What fun we have had as a community in Libraries, Hotels, Community Centers, Parks and most importantly in ZANT member houses.

Today as we stand together to open our new Zoroastrian Center of North Texas, we reflect on our journey of religious and social activities up to now, but more importantly we realize the new potential ahead! With a Center of our own, our community will have the flexibility to gather at a moment's notice, our hands will not be tied to availability of a certain location. May we make the most of this new home, young and old alike. May our ZANT community continue the journey of togetherness and sharing of moments and memories.

*Written by: Keshvar Buhariwalla*



# ZANT NEWS

A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas



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MAY 2011

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