



The World Zoroastrian Organisation



World Zoroastrian House

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION

World Zoroastrian House, 1 Freddie Mercury Close

Feltham, TW13 5DF, UK

Annual Report & Financial Accounts

For the year ended

31 December 2023

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THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Members, Donors and Supporters of the WZO,

I would like to thank each one of you for supporting the WZO for all these years. I also want to thank the entire board of Directors of the WZO who have made my life very easy.

The World Zoroastrian Organisation was incorporated 44 years ago to primarily assist persecuted Zoroastrians trying to leave oppressive regimes and settling in friendly countries. The Zoroastrian religion originated in Persia some 3000 to 6000 BC. When the Muslims initially propagated their religion and conquered Persia in 700 AD some of the Zoroastrians fled to preserve their religion and settled in India and other countries. Most of the people settled in Western India where they were readily accepted and became known as Parsees as they had arrived from the land of "Paras". The minuscule community prospered however hard times befell some in the country and hence our charity stepped in to help out those in need.

We are a worldwide charity and we assist a great deal of people in India. Our current members reside in 25 different countries and our Managing Committee members reside in 6 countries. We have in the past raised substantial funds from the annual dinner dance functions that we used to have. We are now thinking of carrying these functions out in the future to raise funds which have dried up since COVID hit us.

Our joint social secretaries have carried out a number of functions in 2023 and I am pleased to say that these have been extremely successful. Members have mentioned that they had a wonderful time. They have requested that these functions should continue and in fact have requested that we hold more tea parties etc.

We have continued with our charitable work despite not raising substantial funds. In India we send funds to our associate trust, WZO Trust Funds, who verify the legitimacy of the request prior to parting with the funds. My thanks to Dinshaw and Bacchi Tamboly for their hard work. In other parts of the world, we provide the funds directly.

My thanks also go to the USA chapter which is headed by Kayomارش Mehta for raising awareness in US and for raising substantial funds which are mainly remitted to WZO Trust Funds in India. The total raised from Zoroastrians in USA amounted to over \$439000 in 2023. My thanks also go to Russi Ghadiali of the Singapore chapter and to Darius Mistry of the New Zealand chapter for raising awareness in their respective regions.

May I please request you to continue to donate in order that we can assist people you are less fortunate in our community.

Finally, I would like to state that I shall be resigning as a Chair person as I feel that this role should be taken up by a young person who can devote time and bring new ideas into how we can expand the role to the Organisation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sethna', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rumi Sethna

Chair, WZO

FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



My grandmother who I loved dearly used to say, “Nothing is accomplished without Ahura Mazda’s grace.” I believe Ahura Mazda has shown extraordinary grace to our global community and amazing blessings.

The World Zoroastrian Organisation has had a most productive year and much good work has happened for members of our worldwide community through the intervention of WZO. We have continued WZO’s excellent work supporting medical emergencies, funding further education, organising informative lectures, hosting fabulous Persian and Parsee luncheons and tea parties masterminded by Manijeh Parki and Armaity Engineer. Throughout the year WZO members and friends have celebrated our Zoroastrian festivals. Our spirits are rekindled by these events. They bring us together to celebrate our faith, and our friendships.

A special thanks to our resident mobed Fali Madon and his lovely wife Anahita for their tireless work caring for our WZO centre and for administrating to our people’s spiritual needs. We were all greatly saddened when Fali and his brother Jimmy’s gracious mother Farida suddenly died. She was a most beautiful soul and much loved and missed.

There are many wonderful WZO committee members to also thank for their time, energy and commitment to the work of the WZO throughout the world. Each one of them needs a special thank you. I could write pages on each one but instead I will say thank you and bless you. They are “superheroes” in the words of my grandson Sam - action people who turn their hand to any good deed. I admire you all.

Since I was a girl we were always made to feel that the first aim in life was for us to ensure our faith would survive. We were endangered. I used to joke that like the panda we needed an international preservation order put on us. Today the panda numbers have doubled because of the vision to protect them and their habitat. WZO too has had the foresight and determination to see that the ancient Zoroastrian faith and its followers throughout the world have an international home in Feltham, London and that our faith is now preserved for our future generations. I believe we too are starting to thrive.

We are flourishing because WZO has led the way to a regained pride in our magnificent heritage. Recent achievements to ensure we bring just humanity and joy to others are notable. Our renowned generosity of spirit is once again being displayed and helping to change lives for the better. Wherever there is a real need

WZO takes up the challenge. We are also gaining a much deeper understanding of the relevance of our ancient religion to modern life from helping to stop climate change and beautifying our environment, embracing diversity and equality and to fighting injustice in its many ugly forms.

Zoroastrians have an important and unique destiny which our ancestors kept alive through much hardship. There was a reason. It was so that we could still be the bringers of happiness, kindness and social enterprise back to our world. Today we are facing unbridled greed, grubby power politics and a mean mindedness that needs confronting. If we are to leave young people a precious and sustainable future, we must be bold and courageous.

For this reason, WZO has put the greatest investment on the empowerment, education and enlightenment of the young. Without their involvement we will only survive not thrive.

Recently the WZO were the diamond funders of the second World Zoroastrian Youth Leadership Forum (WZYL 2.0) programme at the ASHA centre in the Royal Forest of Dean. Our gifted youth spent over a week making lasting connections in the beauty of the ASHA centre and its gardens. They experienced other's stories and gave each other the confidence to take on the many challenges life bowls at us all. They visited Shahin Bekhradnia's home in the Cotswolds where she "ignited their fire" as one so eloquently said.

On the final day at a gathering attended by many of WZO's leading lights and other respected Zoroastrians, each young person gave the most inspiring summary of all they had learnt together. They highlighted their plans for their Zoroastrian communities from the US to Canada, New Zealand to Dubai, India, Iran, Europe and Britain. They launched the timely and most exciting Global Youth initiative to unite young Zoroastrians around the world.

I am in no doubt that our faith will not only thrive in their dynamic hands but will once again impact on the whole world.

For me the highlight of this brilliant initiative was when our mobeds prayed together calling on Ahura Mazda's benevolence on all. This included the Madon brothers and the Sett brothers, Athravan and Vohu-Friyan who are now active WZO committee members. Hopefully they will be future leaders of WZO.

Later around the firepit the young leaders sang Freddie Mercury's chart breaking song "We are the champions". Maybe they and Freddie were right.

Ahura Mazda's grace is amazing.

WZO'S EVENTS IN 2023

BOI CEREMONIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Our resident priest Ervad Fali Madon continues to perform a weekly Boi ceremony every Sunday. The Boi service is broadcast live on our website <https://www.w-z-o.org/live/> and on our WZO Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/worldzoroastrianorganisation>, which can be accessed without a Facebook account. The ceremony is seen by Zoroastrians from around the world.

Unless otherwise noted, all events noted below were held at our recently inaugurated World Zoroastrian House (WZH) in Feltham, Surrey.

PALOOZA ON 15TH OCTOBER 2023

A Palooza lunch was organised by Social Secretary Armaity Engineer on 15th October, the third of the year and the loyal turnout demonstrated the popularity of these occasions. A typical delicious Parsee lunch was the main attraction and music followed to provide a jolly follow up for the participants.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK AFTERNOON ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2023



WZH hosted a community gathering during which backgammon, chess, and cards were played by some, and a film, Taxi Tehran, with subtitles was shown providing an insight into current life in Iran., Sinai Noor gave a short talk about one of the great Iranian film directors Dariush Mehrjui who recently died, a suspected victim of the regime.

Navaz Vatcha spoke about why and how she became a Mobedyar, which was an inspiring journey. The magnificent potluck lunch was a wonderful array of mouth-watering offerings by everyone who came and the occasion was deemed a great success.

SHAB E YALDA/CHELLEH ON 22ND DECEMBER 2023



The final event of 2023 was the celebration of the shortest day/longest night on the winter solstice known as Shab e Yalda/Chelleh. A large number of participants made the effort to come wearing something red and share the joys of poetry recital with many contributions from those present. Lork, a mixture of 7 dried fruits and 7 sorts of nuts was distributed before the poetry recitals, and further enjoyment provided by the beautiful tar music played by Zartosht Safari and his colleague.

JASHN E SADEH - SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2023



The start of 2024 in the calendar of WZH celebrated Jashn e Sadeh on Sunday 28th January which brought together old friends and new ones from several regions including Tajikistan and Kurdistan, who joined our regulars. After prayers in praise of fire, and a talk explaining why Fire is so prominently mentioned and revered in our philosophy, we had a spectacular performance on the Daf (handheld drum/tambourine, the Ney (reed flute) and the DohTar. An excellent meal was provided after the procession to the outside fire accompanied by several players on their Daf. The evening came to an end after some joyous dancing by many of those gathered together.

NOWRUZ DINNER & DANCE - SATURDAY 18TH MARCH 2023



The Iranian style of celebration was prominently noticeable: on arrival, guests were greeted in the traditional style maintained by Yazdi Zoroastrians with rosewater, a coin and a sweet being offered while looking in the mirror towards the year ahead. The greeting to each was "may the year ahead be happy, sweet and prosperous as this present moment". The traditional Haft Sheen table was also laid out, displaying the symbols of the 7 Amesha Spentas, both in terms of their physical and moral attributes. DJ

Barfi, the most popular Iranian DJ in town, made sure to get the crowd onto the dance floor, dancing away into the night.

WZO SEMINAR - SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2023

This year's seminar day followed the traditional formula of 3 speakers each presenting their talk for around 45 minutes followed by questions from the audience. Professor Almut Hintze, Dr Yousef Moradi and Shahin Bekhradnia each give a talk on topics quite different from each other and therefore covering a wide range of pertinent topics within the overarching framework of Zoroastrianism.



This year's attendance was significantly higher and comprised of many non-Zoroastrian visitors drawn to our annual event, alongside many of our own community wishing to learn more.

Almut covered the historical and textual background of the religious tradition based on the Gathas, while Yousef illustrated his recent archaeological discoveries at Takht e Suleyman consisting of discarded inscribed seals allowing insights into the relationship between the various religions living in past centuries. Shahin spoke of her maturing appreciation of the dynamic and still relevant values within Zoroastrian philosophy such as the importance of nature, the position of women and the role of wisdom.

JASHN E TIRGAN & GARDEN PARTY - SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2023



Blessed by wonderful warm weather this community gathering of around 100 people brought together the cultural and religious elements of the festival celebration. Having to adapt tradition to current circumstances, we had archery opportunities for anyone who wanted to try their skills, prayers by the beautiful pond in front of our centre, and we finished off with water pistols.

In the month of Tir in the height of the summer when the temperature can reach very high levels, and on the day of Tir, we celebrate one of our monthly Gan festivals (when name of month and day are the same) in a special way. The WZO introduced this much-loved festival to the London community many years ago and has a proud heritage of running it annually with great success. Of course, here in the UK we have to modify our fun and games to suit our environment but we think our formula keeps the joy and spirit of the beloved Tirgan festival alive!!

AFTERNOON TEA WITH PROSECCO ON 26 JULY 2023



By popular request, following last year's teatime gathering, another lovely occasion was organised following the successful formula that proved such a hit last time.

It was meticulously planned and delivered with delicious and delicate morsels and not only was it enjoyed by all who were present, but it made a whopping great profit of almost £1500.

Events such as these are essential if WZO is to continue to organise cultural and religious events and activities, which are not expected to make money for the organisation but underpin the identity of Zoroastrians in the diaspora.

VISIT TO WZH BY FEZANA OFFICE HOLDERS ON 26 JULY 2023



WZH hosted a lunch for around 40 guests consisting of UK Committee members and their spouses alongside a number of senior FEZANA members, and journalist Shernaaz Engineer from Jame Jamshed. They had been staying at The ASHA Centre as guests of WZO President, Zerbanoo Gifford, who arranged for their transport from Gloucestershire to WZH in Feltham through the beautiful landscapes of the Cotswolds and on towards London.

Their visit to WZH provided FEZANA guests with an opportunity to see our new centre and to enjoy the impressive exhibition of prominent Zoroastrians which is currently on display within the building. They also had a chance to learn a little about the genesis of WZO and of the multiple aspects of work in which WZO has been involved.

FELTHAM TRAIN STATION PLANTERS



As part of the WZO's work with the local community, the WZO has donated planters to Feltham to improve the area.

They are installed at Feltham Station for commuters and locals alike to enjoy.

CHERRY TREE UNVEILING AT THE FREDDIE MERCURY MEMORIAL ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2023



The WZO participated in a tree planting commemorating the much beloved Freddie Mercury's birthday at an outdoor event held in Feltham High St on the green, soon to become known as the Freddie Mercury Memorial Garden.

A great throng of residents from the local Feltham area where Freddie spent his youth with his family after relocating from Zanzibar to the UK came out to show their support for the star and for the initiative taken by Friends of Feltham Green. In addition to the locals, which included members of different faith groups, (with a strong Zoroastrian turnout) plus local councillors, the Mayor and the local MP, an impressive number of Japanese fans were mingling with the rest of the sizeable crowd, all present because of the initiative of a particularly devoted Japanese fan who had been liaising with Friends of Feltham Green over 3 years to honour Freddie by planting a Japanese cherry blossom, thus turning her dream tree into a reality.

Following a very brief prayer by Resident WZH priest Fali Madon and explained by Mobedyar Nawaz Vatcha, a few short speeches were made.

SHAHENSHAHI NAVROZ DINNER/DANCE ON 19 AUGUST 2023

A high numbers of members attended the evening. The evening started with a Boi service by Fali Madon at the Satayesh Gah. The guests danced to the live music of Ashwood. It was truly remarkable to see the old and young come together and dance the night away. The food was catered by Tanaz Godiwalla, adding the finishing touches to the night.

UNITED FARVARDEGAN PRAYERS AT BROOKWOOD CEMETERY ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

WZO held its Farvardegan prayers at the Zoroastrian cemetery in Brookwood. The prayers were also streamed live to its members. The prayers were recited by Fali Madon, WZO's resident priest, his father, Khushroo, and Navaz Vatcha. After the prayers, the attendees were treated to a lovely array of sandwiches and light snacks.

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATION

WZO's membership is open to all Zoroastrians, their spouses and their children. Zoroastrian youth are especially welcome. Non-Zoroastrians can become Friends of WZO. A Membership form can be downloaded from the website at <https://www.w-z-o.org/membership/>. Alternatively, you can request one by email to membership@w-z-o.org

WZO urges their Ordinary members to upgrade to **Life/Family membership** which decreases its administrative burden. Please do get in touch with the WZO representatives in USA, Canada, Pakistan, New Zealand and India if you wish to upgrade your membership to Life.

In the UK and other areas, please contact the Membership Secretary Mrs Anahita Madon at membership@w-z-o.org for all membership issues. Many members have responded positively to our requests for receiving mailers and Hamazor via email. Please consider whether you can reduce WZO's cost by agreeing to receive its Mailers and Hamazor by email.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

WZO emails members who have subscribed to its newsletters. If you have not subscribed to it as yet, kindly do so by emailing them at membership@w-z-o.org and your email ID will be added to its emailing list for updates about upcoming WZO events and communications.

WZO events and communication are also updated on its website at <https://www.w-z-o.org> and also on their Facebook and Instagram pages (#world_zoroastrain_organisation) which provides information of all WZO events and news related to Zoroastrianism worldwide.

WZO urges its members to please share with them Community related and Interfaith news. If you have participated in a programme, they would be happy to share this with their members worldwide.

WZO LIBRARY

The WZO Library at WZH is open to all. It is a reference library and, therefore, no books will be lent out. Committee members, Shahin Bekhradnia and Jimmy Madon have sorted the books under broad subject matter categories. Fali Madon, our resident priest and his wife, Anahita, our Administrative Assistant, have now taken on the task of preparing an inventory of all the books in the library.

HELPING THE ORGANISATION

WZO can only continue to do its work in the community if it is supported by its members and supporters. There are various ways you could help WZO serve the community.

1. WZO requests you and your family members to become its Life Members / Patrons (if you are not one already). Please do encourage your friends to also become members. WZO's membership is open to all Zoroastrians, their spouses and their children. Those people who are interested in Zoroastrianism and WZO but do not qualify for full membership can join as Friends of WZO.
2. Volunteering your time and knowledge for the successful running of WZO, the community centre and its amenities. You may well have skills and expertise in areas to supplement those of the committee members. WZO is particularly looking for Young Zoroastrians to help shape its future to meet the needs of the next generation.
3. Please consider WZO in your will for a lasting legacy.
4. Please consider donating to WZO's General Fund as it gives them the flexibility to use your donation to the most pressing expenditure they face. At the time of your donation, you can indicate how you would like your donation to be used and they will do our best to honour your wish. The WZO Committee wants to thank many of their supporters who donate regularly to them through a Standing Order.
5. Please consider using the priestly services offered by WZO. A community that looks after its priests who serve the flock with fairness and consideration should be supported by the laity.
6. Donate whatever you can when you visit the Worship room to cover the cost of purchasing Sukhar and Kathi. Alternatively, please donate these items to WZO.
7. Please consider renting the hall at WZH for your next event. The facilities include audio-visual, air-conditioning, commercial kitchen and parking. Please remember that the Satayesh Gah is also available on the premises. There are reduced rates for WZO members. Please contact Anahita Madon anahita.madon@w-z-o.org, for details and bookings.

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

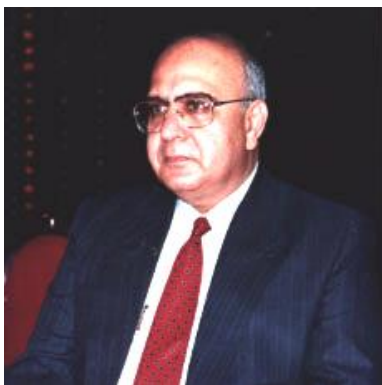
While the World Zoroastrian House sits in a pleasant garden setting, there are many security and maintenance issues in a public area. Therefore, WZO needs to secure the grounds around the property with protective landscaping.

WZO needs your wholehearted support: attitudinal, physical and also your financial commitment to maintain these premises so WZO can continue the work of its various charitable activities. The World Zoroastrian House is a stepping stone to further increase their activities. Their charitable activities are posted on the website on a regular basis. Kindly donate generously through its website www.w-z-o.org/donate.

SUPPORTING ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

WZO carries out its charitable works worldwide, in partnership with other, mainly Zoroastrian charitable organisations, and through its own Trust Funds. WZO representatives in UK, Canada, USA, Pakistan and New Zealand collect substantial sums towards charitable activities. During the year, WZO endeavoured to fulfil its obligations towards community requests for medical treatment and aid, educational grants and loans for higher education, lectures and seminars for the furtherance of religious education, interfaith and social and religious activities.

WZO TRUST OF INDIA



The World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust (Estd. 1991), The WZO Trust for Women & Children (Estd. 1993) and The WZO Trust Funds (Estd. 1995), were established as independent Trusts under the provisions of The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1951.

These 3 independent Trusts, collectively known as **WZO Trusts**, have been in the forefront of raising funds for various community centric welfare causes from donors – both institutions as well as individuals from all over the world and disbursing them in India to individuals in various forms of distress.

The 3 Trusts are over all managed by a team of Trustees comprised of 9 independent persons with some persons serving on all 3 Trusts as Trustees. The Chairman of these Trusts is Dinshaw K Tamboly with Homiyar F. Madan as the Managing Trustee in Mumbai and Aspi B. Ambapardiwalla as the Managing Trustee in Navsari.



Multiple activities for the welfare and well-being of the Zoroastrian Community in India are undertaken by the WZO Trusts and support is also extended for the promotion of cultural and socio-economic environment.

The major welfare activities undertaken by the WZO Trust's covers extending financial support for:

FARMERS REHABILITATION PROJECT: Since 1991 we have been involved in the rehabilitation of 518 families of poor Zoroastrian farmers in 213 villages having expended Rs 71,614,148/-. The average cost of rehabilitating one family varies between Rs 150,000 to Rs 200,000 depending on the layout of their fields and the inputs required.

RURAL HOUSING PROJECT: Over the years we have facilitated the improvement of life styles of Zoroastrian residing in rural areas by converting huts of 340 families into cottages made from brick and mortar. The cost of one cottage amounts to Rs 600,000.

SELF EMPLOYMENT PROJECT: Ever since the project was introduced in 1995, we have extended interest free financial support to 1242 Zoroastrians across 131 rural and urban locations expending Rs 233,946,543/- towards being self employed in diverse professions of their choice. A maximum amount of Rs 500,000/- is considered for which repayments have to be made in 40 equated monthly instalments

MEDICAL SUPPORT: We receive around 665 requests every year for medical support towards reimbursement of expenses incurred on various illnesses and hospitalisation. After undertaking due diligence on the appeals received, we recommend to various donors to extend support.

EDUCATION SUPPORT & YOUTH ACTIVITIES: We raise funds from donors to support the pursuit of post graduate education within India and overseas. Every year we receive close to 220 requests. We support development of youth by encouraging and motivating them to undertake activities that mould them into being good and mature citizens.

RELIEF FROM POVERTY: Every year we raise funds to extend one time support to around 524 families in economic distress. Additionally, we raise funds and disburse them on a quarterly basis to 571 elderly and infirm in need of financial support.

SUPPORT TO MOBEDS: Since 1996 we have in association with Athornan Mandal been running a scheme that encourages and supports by way of financial incentives young full time Mobeds by evaluating the types of ceremonies they perform. Currently we have 70 such young Mobeds on the support list. We have since 2017 co-founded the Empowering Mobeds Group that has held various events over the past four years that impart soft training skills that renew and rejuvenate the image of our Mobeds.

ECONOMY HOUSING AT NAVSARI: We receive old dilapidated houses as gifts which we redevelop into apartment buildings by raising funds and provide decent accommodation for those in need at economical rents. We have so far constructed 18 such buildings.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE AT NAVSARI: We have established two interconnected Centres for Senior Citizens at Navsari. These are much sought after facilities where up to 50 senior citizens reside in a very vibrant and happy atmosphere.

SANJAN SANATORIUM: Open to Zoroastrians from all walks of life. A popular retreat in verdant surroundings that provides clean, comfortable and economically priced boarding and lodging facilities for pilgrims, enjoyable vacations, group visits. One of the few community facilities that is completely green, solar powered and water harvesting facilities.

WZO Trusts take this opportunity to extend sincere gratitude to all our donors, which include WZO London & WZO US Region, who too have been extending support to us for our various welfare initiatives.

NEWS FROM THE WZO REGIONAL CHAPTERS



WZO FOUNDATION, INDIA formed in 2013, operates as a charitable trust from Delhi. The Foundation is now up and running and is able to receive and process WZO membership applications, receive and distribute funds and can process application for funds. Membership issues for WZO India should be sent to Meher Amersey (meher.amaersey@w-z-o.org). WZO offers its sincere thanks to Meher Amersey for her hard work in managing the Foundation.

WZO US REGION



The mission of WZO US Region Ltd. 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 ID: 36-4236575.

The 2023 year was a very busy yet an extremely rewarding year for WZO US Region Ltd. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were fortunate to receive total donations of USD 439,472 for various charitable purposes.

WZO US Region Ltd. was in turn able to use all of these donations to support worthy charitable contributions to the tune of USD 484,101 for diverse causes. Our activities are summarized under four major headings of Critical Medical Assistance, Scholarships to mitigate High Education Costs, Provide Welfare to the needy and to strengthen and support our Religious Institutions for posterity.

CRITICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

During the course of 2023, WZO US Region Ltd. was able to support 23 individuals with their appeals requesting Critical Medical Assistance. One out of these appeals was for a cancer survivor from Canada. The other appeals were all from The WZO Trust Funds of India. Total amount disbursed to mitigate these medical expenses in this year amounted to USD 136,200. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to all our benevolent donors who sympathized with these persons in dire need, fighting for their life and donated generously what they could spare to help out. We truly salute your Zoroastrian spirit and sincerely appreciate your support.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

To promote education for our community members, WZO US Region Ltd. offered Education Scholarships to students all over the world, in US, Canada, Europe, Singapore and Australia. During the 2023 year, we were able to support nine individual student scholarships. Individual scholarships offered ranged from USD 3,000 to USD 40,982. We are proud to have provide support to a deserving and talented individual through her medical school. With WZO's support, she was able to successfully Graduate with her medical degree. in addition to these individual scholarships, we made our yearly donation to the Fali Chothia Scholarship Fund of Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Inc., ZAMWI. Once again, our sincere Thanks to our many generous donors, who value and believe in the power of education to advance the members of our community. Thanks to your philanthropy, WZO US Region Ltd. was able to disburse Scholarships totalling to USD 142,435 in this year.

WELFARE

With the help of one of our large-hearted patrons, WZO US Region Ltd. was able to set up the Goolbai & Ardeshir Marphetia Memorial Endowment Fund of USD 100,000 to provide welfare in the community.

Grants were sent to the WZO Trust Funds of India to support their multifarious welfare activities and their many ongoing projects. Such as, Grain and Food distribution to poor Parsee families, Building Cottages for Parsees living in huts in rural villages, Promoting Self Employment Scheme, Operating a Senior Citizen Home and other miscellaneous welfare needs. Outgoing welfare related donations to WZO Trust Funds India for the above-mentioned projects totaled to USD 43,428.

A Yearly Grant of USD 10,001 was dispensed to Gram Seva Inc., a cosmopolitan medical organization, brainchild of Drs. Roda & Khushroo Patel. The Organization serves the badly needed health and nutritional needs and care of children and women in the villages around Navsari.

An annual donation of USD 5,001 was sent to The B.D. Petitt Parsee General Hospital for payment of fees for those poor Parsee patients, who are unable to afford the fees.

Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, WZO US Region Ltd. was able to support all of the above welfare related activities to the tune of USD 158,430 during 2023.

RELIGION

WZO US Region Ltd. was able to add a hefty sum of USD 23,003 during 2023 to build upon the existing Deena & Minoo P. Mistri Endowment Fund to actively promote welfare of practicing Mobeds in India.

To support and enhance education of future Mobeds, grants were provided to Athornan Mandal of India for their Dadar Athornan Institute. Donations were sent towards the DAI Scheme to provide ongoing incentives to the young Mobeds to join Dadar Athornan Institute and to reward them upon completion of their Navar.

WZO US Region Ltd. was able to support various other religious causes such as donations to Modi Atash Behram in Surat, to OZCF Atash Kadeh under construction at Toronto, to co-sponsor the annual Society of Scholars of Zoroastrians SSZ Conference at Chicago and to provide honorariums to various Mobeds for their ongoing services to the community.

Once again, all this would not have been possible without the foresight and love of our religion of many of our donors. Religion related donations made by WZO US Region Ltd. amounted to USD 47,036.

CONCEPT OF GANJ-E-DADAR

Our scriptures mention this very important concept of “Ganj-e-Dadar”. The word Ganj means Treasury. We are all Blessed with this Treasury. Whatever we have in life, represents this Treasury of God that is entrusted to us by Ahura Mazda. It is my understanding that, we are obligated to share this **Treasury of God**, entrusted to us by God, with those who are needy and less fortunate than us.

This is what our Yatha Ahu prayer teaches us. The Gathas also teach us that Happiness comes to those who make others Happy. Yasna 43.

Wishing you good health and Happiness throughout the years ahead.

WZO NEW ZEALAND



The New Zealand Zarthustis community has been busy over the last 12 months, with several events organised by various associations and individuals. Here are a few snippets of what the New Zealand Zarthustis have been up to in the last 12 months.

As always, the local ZANZ organisation has been actively conducting a Jashan on Jamshedi Navroze, conducted by our young mobeds who sit for the Muktaḍ, Ghambar, and Jashan prayers. The ZANZ also organises a regular event for the seniors in our community. For the community's knowledge, a few senior community members have also taken it upon themselves to

conduct cultural sessions on Zorastrian topics.

CRITICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

This year, there was a serious effort put in by a cross-section of our community to gather funds for one of our WZO member families, Erick and Nasreen Morgan (pictured here with their delightful daughters), to fund Erik's brain cancer treatment, which was not covered under the NZ medical plan.



Here is what Nasreen had to say –

“Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us in getting access to a drug called Ivosidenib for Erik, in the treatment of his very advanced stage of Brain Cancer. Your generous contributions have made a significant difference in his treatment journey. WZO immediately assisted us through their local trustees Darius Mistry and Rashna Tata. We faced the daunting task of raising a considerable amount of money in the shortest possible time.”

COMMUNITY AWARDS



The Indian Newslink, the oldest Indian Newspaper, organises various community events and the grandest and the most popular event in the Southeast Asian Community calendar in New Zealand is the Annual Sports, Community, Arts and Culture Awards. Two of our community members, Afrin Todywalla and Benifer Porus Irani, both long-term members of the Zoroastrian Community of

Auckland, were honoured for their outstanding achievements and service.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Our motorbike enthusiasts, “The Bawa Bikers,” organised by Porus Kateli, continue each weekend to ride the beautiful surrounding regions of Auckland. We have some of the most beautiful bike-riding roads in and around Auckland city, and the Bawa Bikers are frequently seen in their full biking regalia on these scenic spots.

Here is a photo of Porus Kateli with a group of the Bawa Bikers.

The Zarthosti community is still young in NZ, but we punch our weight to establish ourselves in our beloved Country, Aotearoa – The Land of the Long White Cloud.



FUNDRAISING FOR WZO PROJECTS

Fund-raising is the life-blood of our organisation in supporting the community’s needs. WZO made substantial disbursements towards medical assistance, education, relief of poverty and helping individuals with self-employment. Thanks to the generosity of its members and supporters, all over the world, WZO was able to finance activities that promote its objectives.

WZO FUNDS

A list of the various designated funds held within WZO to support communities worldwide is given below:

Noshirwan F. Cowasjee Medical Benevolent Fund supports applications for assistance where family resources cannot meet the escalating costs of medical treatment. WZO requests donors to continue supporting this very worthy and humanitarian cause for the benefit of our community. During 2023, over £21,000 was given by WZO to deserving cases from this fund.

Educational loans

Throughout its existence since 1979, WZO has been working discreetly behind the scenes to reach out to young Zoroastrians, wherever they may be, in furthering their educational achievements. In 2023, over £14,000 was loaned to deserving students pursuing higher education.

Aloo Vatcha Education Fund generously started with the guidance of the Vatcha family continues to grow through donations and our fund-raising activities. Students seeking to achieve their academic ambitions face escalating fees towards higher education. WZO welcomes further support from their well-wishers.

Ervad Framroze Edulji Gazi and Allan Framroze Gazi Education Fund was endowed with a donation of £10,000 from Miss Thrity Framroze Gazi in loving memory of her dear departed parents. WZO offers its sincere thanks to Miss Gazi for this generous donation.

The WZO General Fund serves a plethora of applications be they administrative or charitable, thus giving it the freedom to apply resources where urgently needed. Support towards the implementation of any of its activities is essential for the effective working of the organisation and WZO would request our donors not to overlook the benefits of supporting the General Fund. WZO has continued to donate Zoroastrians in the Kudistan Region of Iraq for their welfare, the maintenance of their administrative offices and for the continuation of their religious activities.

WZO's Ardent Supporters

WZO extends its sincere appreciation to all their donors, big and small, for their munificent support and co-operation without which very little would be possible. They especially acknowledge, with immense gratitude, the extremely generous support received from:

1. **World Zarathushtrian Trust Fund, UK** towards general charitable donations and publications.
2. **The Dasturji Dr. S. H. Kutar Benevolent Fund** for relief of poverty, medical cases and higher education.
3. **The Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation** has channelled substantial funds towards Zoroastrian and non-Zoroastrian causes worldwide over the years. WZO offers its sincere thanks to the Trustees of The Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation for their magnanimous support.
4. **The Firuz Madon Foundation.** WZO is deeply indebted to FMF for their ongoing commitment towards the furtherance and study of Zoroastrianism through lectures and seminars held worldwide. Have sponsored a number of issues of the Hamazor.
5. **Mr Rumi Sethna and his wife, Hilda,** for their continued financial support, their precious time and sound advice.
6. **Mr Behram Baxter of San Diego, USA and his wife, Rena,** for their continued financial support.

Individual Donors

The Committee of WZO wishes to thank all the supporters and donors worldwide who helped them to carry on their charitable activities for the Community.

The Committee also extend its thanks to members of our community who have placed their confidence and trust in WZO and leaving a lasting legacy for future generations by including WZO in their will.

NOTICE OF WZO'S AGM ON 6TH OCTOBER 2024

AGM NOTICE

15th September 2024

NOTICE is hereby given that an **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **The World Zoroastrian Organisation Limited** will be held on Sunday 06th October 2024 at **World Zoroastrian House and via Google Meets at 04:00 pm BST precisely**, to transact the following business.

1. To receive and adopt the Committee's report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.
2. To elect members of the Managing Committee in place of the following, who retire in accordance and (3) of the Articles of Association, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

UK Committee Members

Rumi Sethna

Rustam Dubash

Darayus Motivala

Manijeh Parki

Overseas Committee Members

Meher Amersey

Homi Khusrokhan

The following members were co-opted to the WZO committee during the year and are now standing for election:

Mr Athravan Sett - 21st April 2024

Mr Vohu-Friyan Sett- 21st April 2024

Mr Khuzan Irani - 12th May 2024

If you wish to nominate some other members of the Organisation for the Managing Committee, please send in your nomination, together with the written consent of your nominee, to reach the Honorary Secretary not later than 72 hours before the time arranged for the meeting. Nominations received thereafter will not be accepted.

3. To elect the Chairman from amongst the members of the Committee for the year 2024/2025.
4. To appoint the Honorary Auditors, Ward Divecha, for the year 2024/2025.
5. To transact the other usual business of an Annual General Meeting.

If you informed us previously that you would like a printed copy in Abbreviated or Full format then they either enclosed with this Notice or will be posted to you separately. If you have not previously requested a hard copy or you are receiving this Notice by email then please download it from WZO's website in the WZO Reports section.

According to the Constitution, non-members may not be admitted to the meeting; however, interested Zoroastrians will be welcome but not entitled to vote.

A personalised proxy form is enclosed for your use which should arrive not later than 72 hours before the time arranged for the meeting.

The AGM will be held on 06th October 2024.

Kindly confirm if you would like to attend the AGM. Prior registration is a must. If you do wish to attend the online WZO Annual General Meeting then inform WZO by emailing at agmproxy@wzo.org

The Google Meets login details are as below:

Topic: WZO Annual General Meeting

Time: 06th October 2024 at 04:00 PM London

(India IST 8.30pm, Pakistan PKT 09.00 pm, USA EST 11am, USA PST 8 am)

To join Google Meets, please click the link below

<https://meet.google.com/xza-uvhe-sim>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3937 3193

PIN: 560 646 074#

Thank you and with kind regards

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. Benafsha Engineer-Mulla

(Secretary)

MINUTES OF WZO'S AGM ON 08TH OCTOBER 2023

Minutes of the 43rd **Annual General Meeting** of the World Zoroastrian Organisation held on Sunday 08th October 2023, in person at WZH commencing 4.00 pm and online via Zoom.

Present:

Rumi Sethna, (Chair)

Plus 21 WZO members

The AGM started with a short prayer led by Ervad Fali Madon, WZO's resident priest.

1 AGM Notice

Darayus Motivala, standing in for the Hon. Secretary, Benafsha Engineer - Mulla, read out the notice convening the meeting.

2 Chairman's Report

WZO Chairman, Mr Rumi Sethna, gave a report on the workings of WZO during 2022-2023. A copy of his report will shortly be available on the WZO website, www.w-z-o.org/agm-reports.

3 Annual Report and Financial Statement

Rumi Sethna asked if there were any questions or points raised on the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

4 Re-election of Committee Members

Darayus Motivala read out the names of the members standing for re-election: -

UK Committee Members

Mrs Benafsha Engineer-Mulla

Mr Dinyar Modi

Overseas Committee Members

Mr. Kersi Shroff (USA)

Mr Sam Vesuna (Canada))

Proposer – Mr Ratan Vatcha

Seconder – Tirdad Sorooshian

All the UK and the Overseas International Committee Members standing for re-election were unanimously elected.

New members to the WZO Committee

Nominations for election to the WZO Committee were received from:

Mr Tirdad Sorooshian

Proposer – Mr Darayus Motivala
Seconder – Ms Shahin Bekhradnia

Tirdad Sorooshian was unanimously elected to the WZO Committee.

5 Election of Chairman

Darayus Motivala took over the Chair of the meeting for this section of the AGM.

Darayus Motivala read out the list of names of the new WZO Committee.

Title	First Name	Surname	Residency
Ms	Shahin	Bekhradnia	British
Mr	Rustam	Dubash	British
Mrs	Armaity	Engineer	British
Mrs	Benafsha	Engineer - Mulla	British
Mrs	Zerbanoo	Gifford	British
Ervad	Jimmy	Madon	British
Mr	Dinyar	Modi	British
Mr	Darayus	Motivala	British
Professor	Zenobia	Nadirshaw MBE	British
Ms	Manijeh	Parki	British
Mr	Rumi	Sethna	British
Mr	Tirdad	Sorooshian	British
Mr	Fariborz	Rahnamoon	Canada
#Mr	Sam	Vesuna	Canada
Mrs	Meher	Amersey	India
Mr	Homi	Khusrokhan	India
Ms	Pia	Sutaria	India
Mr	Darius	Mistry	New Zealand
Mr	Russi	Ghadiali	Singapore
Mr	Maneck	Bhujwala	USA
Ms	Parmis	Khatibi	USA
Mr	Kayomارش	Mehta	USA
Mr	Kersi	Shroff	USA

The current Chairman, Rumi Sethna was the only nominee who indicated his agreement to stand for election. Rumi Sethna was unanimously elected Chairman for the year 2023 – 2024. Rumi Sethna took over the Chair of the meeting for the rest of the AGM.

6 Honorary Auditors

Darayus Motivala thanked the Auditors Nash Harvey LLP for their services to WZO. Rumi Sethna asked for a proposer and seconder to retain Nash Harvey LLP as auditors.

Proposer – Mrs Armaity Engineer
Seconder – Ms Shahin Bekhradnia

They were unanimously re-elected as Auditors.

7 Any Other Business of AGM

Rumi Sethna requested members that if there were any points to raise relating to the AGM. Darius Potel asked why WZO had not accepted his suggestion to have the vacant room on the first floor leased at £1.50 per sq. ft. Rumi Sethna explained that was an uneconomical rate. The room has remained vacant for some time, so WZO is considering having an exhibition of Zoroastrian artifacts in that room.

There being no other business pertaining to the AGM, Rumi Sethna declared the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all present.