The World Zoroastrian Organisation

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION
World Zoroastrian House, 1 Freddie Mercury Close
Feltham, TW13 5DF, UK

Notice

Annual Report

&

Financial Statement

For the year ended
31 December 2020

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Foreword from the Chairman

"Dear Members, Donors and Supporters of WZO,

I was deeply shocked to hear the news on 1st December 2020 that my friend and fellow worker Shahpur had passed away. We had known each other since 1961 and then a further shock came on 27th December 2020 that Sammy had passed away. Sammy joined the committee in 1988 and soon took an active role. He succeeded me as a Chairman in 2004 when I resigned. Both these gentlemen gave their heart and soul to our Organisation. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking them for the work and effort they gave to build this organisation.

I am humbled that people on this present committee have proposed me to be Chairman of WZO. WZO is very dear to me. I have been very involved on the committee since my election in 1986. I had served as a secretary, treasurer, president and for the final 4 years as a chairman.

During my time as a president under Shahpur and later as a chairman I travelled to Pakistan, India, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand to promote WZO and the work we were doing. When we started work in Gujerat my wife and I went to the villages taking videos of the work that was being done and the poverty that our brethren were living in. When these videos were shown abroad the money started flowing in from overseas and today The WZO trust in India is self-funding and carrying out all the activities to alleviate the poverty among our people. My trips to New Zealand, Australia and the USA were to ask the Anjumans to unite and join us in order that we spoke with one voice in the United Nations and other bodies.

Between 2001 and 2003 FarhangMehr, Professor Kaikhosrov Irani, Adi Davar, Rustam Dubash and myself tried to get local anjumans to become members of the WZO but some of the groups rejected the idea – for whatever reason. WZO is not only for charitable purpose. It was originally formed for political reasons. It helped people in Iran to be repatriated to the West during the revolution in Iran.

We then became a charitable organisation which created the Medical Benevolent fund instigated by our beloved Noshirwan Cowasjee, the Gujarat fund which raised the standards of our community in India, holiday fund for the poor instigated by Shirinbanoo Kutar.

With the support of you all I hope that we can take this further to be a globally recognised organisation and maybe get recognised by United Nations. I would dearly like all associations to join us so that we can speak with one voice and help our community wherever they are in the world."

Sincerely,
Rumi Sethna
WZO Chairman

Foreword from the President Professor Zenobia Nadirshaw MBE

“I thank you all for your response and putting your faith and trust in me and my role as President of the WZO. I give you full assurance that with the help of the local committee and the WZO organization in the different parts of the world we will go onto bigger and better achievements.

In the spirit of Shahpurji and Sammy we need to work collaboratively particularly under the very sorry conditions of lockdown due to the covid pandemic raging across the world. It is now even more important to work in a collaborative and constructive manner with due diligence, respect and kindness towards each of us and between each of us. We need to continue the legacy left by Shahpurji and Sammy to offer solutions to our progress by doing appropriate work by taking honest and sensible decisions and being guided by Good thoughts, Good words and Good deeds. Our business is to see clearly what lies ahead and how we proceed on the road to success and prosperity for all the community members and beyond. Thank You**”.**

You can donate to WZO through PayPal by visiting the website, https://www.w-z-o.org/donate

AGM NOTICE

03rd September 2021

NOTICE is hereby given that an **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **The World Zoroastrian Organisation Limited** will be held on Sunday 26th September 2021 **at World Zoroastrian House via Zoom at 04:00pm BST precisely**, to transact the following business.

1. To receive and adopt the Committee's report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

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	Overseas Committee Members
Manijeh Parki	Meher Amersey
	Homi Khusrokhan
	Ervad Jehan Bagli
	Dadi Mistry

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

Rumi Sethna Sunday, 07th February 2021

Rustam Dubash Sunday , 21st February 2021

Darayus Motivala Sunday, 21st February 2021

Shirin Mehri, Sunday, 23rd May 2021

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 2021/2022.

4. To re-appoint the Honorary Auditors, Nash Harvey LLP, for the year 2021/2022.

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 ZOOM.

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 Zoom login details are as below:

Topic: WZO Annual General Meeting
Time: September 26th 2021, 04:00PM BST

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

To join Zoom Meeting, please click the link below

https://zoom.us/j/97575217734?pwd=VHU2cTFFV3lQNE4vQ0xGV0tYN01Wdz09

Meeting ID: 975 7521 7734

Passcode: wzo-agm-21

Thank you and with kind regards

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Benafsha Engineer-Mulla
(Secretary)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Board of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) has great pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report of the 40th successful year of its operation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the World Zoroastrian Organisation held on Sunday 06thDecember 2020, online via Zoom, commencing 4.00pm.

Present: Mr Sammy H Bhiwandiwalla - Chairman

In attendance18 members of the Association.

The meeting commenced with a one-minute silence for our past Chairman Shahpur Captain, who sadly passed away on 01st December 2020.

The prayers were led by Ervad Firoz Motafram.

1 AGM Notice

The Hon. Secretary, Benafsha Engineer - Mulla, read out the notice convening the meeting.

2 Chairman's Report: WZO Chairman, Mr Sammy H Bhiwandiwalla, gave a report on the workings of WZO during 2020.

Chairman, Sammy H Bhiwandiwalla's Speech

"Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to greet you all but I am deeply saddened to start my report by speaking about our past-Chairman Shahpur Captain who passed away on Tuesday, 1st December. At the start of this year, Shahpur suffered serious injury in and around his neck due to a fall. No amount of physiotherapy/ acupuncture or other treatment and medication could eliminate this painful condition and regrettably, he found it impossible to walk. A further fall resulted in a period of hospitalisation, followed by long-term care at home. Unfortunately, his condition did not improve and we have now lost him.

I could write a book on Shahpur's life and his achievements, his trials and tribulations but today is not the time for such exposition. I am sure all who knew him and worked with him during his lifetime of community service will remember him forever. May his soul rest in peace in Garothman Behest.

In a year of adversity when mankind faced a new invisible enemy, time seemed to stand still. Hopes that a short spell of isolation would resolve infection rates were dashed by our own folly of breaking rules. Families lost loved ones, millions lost their livelihood and much damage was inflicted on the younger members of society.

Charities like WZO exist to serve the community but they too were inevitably the victims of the pandemic. It has blown a hole in the finances of many organisations. There is an air of optimism now and I believe that better times will come and by next year some normality may return in all our lives.

We were very fortunate that in 2015, due to the munificence of three charitable donors, we were able to purchase a building in Feltham for our own use. Prior to that, every penny we raised went towards charitable use and for many years we worked from our own homes.

WZO was singularly responsible for the Gujarat project in India and the subsequent start of many other projects. However, charitable work was only one face of WZO. WZO's calling is also to remove the inequalities and injustices, which are damaging the very fabric of our community. WZO house opened in 2019 .

It is our immediate responsibility to carry on with our stated aims of openness and progressive thinking in the spread of knowledge on Zoroastrianism, which Shahpur and many others fought and struggled for over the years. It is a daunting task but I will strive to strengthen our committee so we can move ahead in the New Year.

We will have to work very hard if we want WZO to be successful in all its activities and I hope most sincerely that the WZO committee will work in a spirit of Hamazori to achieve this.

WZO wishes to thank the many charitable institutions and individuals of the wider community for their financial and moral support throughout this and previous years. I am particularly grateful for the response we've had to our recent appeal for the House and Mobed Fund.

In November this year, we faced the daunting task of arranging the AGM, which was delayed due to circumstances beyond our control. It was probably the worst time of the year to prepare for an AGM especially under lockdown conditions.

I particularly want to thank Monaz Patel who played a vital role in setting up the online AGM, Jimmy Madon for his support on the IT side, Fali and Anahita Madon for all the related duties of printing and preparing of envelopes, and Ursula who queued for endless hours at post offices for mailing when only one or two individuals were allowed into the premises. Thank you."

3 Annual Report and Financial Statement

The Hon. Secretary mentioned there were no questions or points raised on the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019. The report and accounts were unanimously adopted as per the votes cast in the proxies.

4 Re-election of Committee Members

The Hon. Secretary read out the names of the members standing for re-election:-

UK CommitteeMembers	Proposer	Seconder
Mr Dinyar J. Modi	Prof. Zenobia Nadirshaw (MBE)	Behram Kapadia
Mr Filli Vapiwala	Sammy Bhiwandiwalla	Armaity Engineer
Mrs Benafsha Engineer -Mulla	Homai Ghadially	Godafreed Irani

Overseas Committee Members — Proposer: Sammy Bhiwandiwalla
Seconder: Dinyar Modi

Dr. Kersey Antia (USA)
Mr Sam Vesuna (Canada)
Mrs Toxy Cowasjee (Pakistan)
Mr Kersi Shroff (USA)

All the UK and the Overseas International Committee Members standing for re-election were unanimously elected as per the votes cast in the proxies.

New members to the WZO Committee

Nominations for election to the WZO Committee were received from:

	Proposer	Seconder
Ms Tushna Ghadially	Armaity Engineer	Behram Kapadia
Mr Firoz Motafram	Sammy Bhiwandiwalla	Filli Vapiwala

The New Committee members were unanimously elected as per the votes cast in the proxies.

5 Election of Chairman

Benafsha Engineer – Mulla, read out the list of nominations for the chairman.

The current Chairman, Sammy Bhiwandiwalla was the only nominee who indicated his agreement to stand for election. He was proposed by Goody Irani and seconded by Armaity Engineer. Sammy Bhiwandiwalla was unanimously elected Chairman for the year 2020 – 2021.

Benafsha Engineer – Mulla, read out the names of the new committee for the year 2020-21

1. Mr Sammy H Bhiwandiwalla	British
2. Dastur Dr Kersey H. Antia	American
3. Mr Dinyar J Modi	British
4. Mrs Armaity Engineer	British
5. Mrs Benafsha Engineer- Mulla	British
6. Dr (Ms) Godafreed Irani	British
7. Prof. Zenobia Nadirshaw MBE	British
8. Ms Tushna Ghadially	British
9. Ervad Firoz Motafram	British
10. Mrs Monaz Patel	Indian
11. Ervad Jimmy Madon	Indian
12. Mrs Hutoxy Cowasjee	Pakistani
13. Mr Minoo Mistry	British
14. Mrs Manijeh Parki	British
15. Mrs Mani J. Clubwala	Indian
16. Mr Filli Vapiwala	British
17. Mr Homi R Khusrokhan	Indian
18. Mrs Meher Amersey	Indian
19. Mr Russi M. Ghadiali	Singaporean
20. Mr Tehemton Arjani	American
21. Mr Maneck Bhujwala	American
22. Dr Parmis Khatibi	American
23. Mr Kersi Shroff	American
24. Mr Kayomarsh Mehta	American
25. Ervad Dr Jehan Bagli	Canadian
26. Mr RostamYeganegi	Canadian
27. Mr Sam Vesuna	Canadian
28. Mr. Fariborz Rahnamoon	Canadian
29. Mr Darius S Mistry	New Zealander

6 Honorary Auditors

The Hon Secretary, Benafsha Engineer – Mulla, thanked the Auditors Nash Harvey LLP for their services to WZO. They were proposed for re-election as Auditors by Dinyar Modi and seconded by Prof. Zenobia Nadirshaw (M.B.E). They were unanimously re-elected as Auditors.

7 Any Other Business of AGM

The Hon Secretary requested members that if they had any points to raise relative to the AGM, they may kindly email the same to us at: contact@w-z-o.org
There being no other business pertaining to the AGM, she declared the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all present.

Mrs Benafsha Engineer - Mulla
Hon Secretary

Social and Fundraising Events in UK

The Gala Dinner Dance was inadvertently missed in last year's annual report. Here is a write up of the same.

WZO Gala Dinner Dance held on 16th November 2019 at the Hilton London Gatwick Airport

A report by WZO Late Chairman - Sammy Bhiwandiwalla

It seems a long time since Hilda and Rumi hosted another one of their fabulous Gala Dinner Dances in aid of the charitable activities of WZO.

The razzmatazz with all our lovely ladies looking like showstoppers combined with the entertainment and music was a memorable evening for all those who attended.

Many of Rumi and Hilda's friends and business associates from the Isle of Man travelled all the way to London to support this event and there were many familiar faces from London too, who were lifelong friends of the couple.

So, thank you all for once again supporting WZO through their association with Rumi and Hilda.

The evergreen entertainer and presenter Barry Williams held the show together in his usual charismatic way, interspersed with his wit and humour and had the audience laughing all evening. A one man show that alone justifies the ticket price.

After a very pleasant dinner and wine in the ball room of the Hilton Gatwick, we had an excellent cabaret by "Sisters out Loud" featuring Rocco, of popular Italian classics with dancing and singing coupled with some hilarious audience participation.

This was followed by a short session of fund raising and we would like to thank Eddy and Fillo Lawyer for donating two bottles of champagne, Darius Potel for three very expensive restaurant vouchers, the Cobra Foundation for their prize of "Cobra Beer for a year" towards the auction prizes and Armaity Engineer for the many electrical items in the raffle prizes. The Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation sponsored a table for 10.

The band "Filthy Gorgeous" soon struck up the music and played non-stop till late in the evening.

WZO expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the guests who have supported these dinner dances over the years and helped make each event a success.

We must of course record our sincere thanks to Hilda and Rumi Sethna from the Isle of Man for so professionally organising each annual event, not forgetting their constant commitment and support to WZO. Their combined efforts have rewarded us with substantial sums running into tens of thousands of £'s and this year was no exception with a magnificent £6,500 being allocated to WZO's Building Fund.

Jashne Sadeh 2nd February 2020

On Sunday 2nd February 2020 around 120 Zoroastrians from a rich variety of backgrounds & ages gathered at World Zoroastrian House (WZH) to celebrate the joyful festival of Sadeh. WZO felt that such ancient Zoroastrian festivals should be maintained at our new centre just as Zoroastrian communities were also doing in various countries such as Canada, USA & Australia as close as possible to the 10th day of Bahman month. This traditional gathering is still organised in Iran by Zoroastrian communities and is perhaps most dramatic in Kerman because of the size of the bonfire which commemorates the discovery and importance of fire for our forefathers.

WZO Iranian Co-ordinator Manijeh Parki has been organising such gatherings in the UK for several years but this was the first opportunity to bring it under the wing of WZO. After a short talk about the possible origins and early evidence of this festival by Mehrbod Khanizadeh, a post-doctoral research assistant at SOAS, Ervad Jimmy Madon recited the Atash Niyayesh prayer in praise of Fire.

As daylight faded, Our Mobed and a group of young girls dressed in white & holding candles led a procession from inside the WZH hall to the outside. In the garden a modest brazier was lit from the embers of the Afargani over which the Atash Niyayesh was recited. The fire of course was the focal point for merrymaking which included the drumming on the arabooneh (Iranian tambourine) or daf while dancing around the fire. Pastries were distributed to the congregation who were gathered outside but some people quickly returned to the warmth of the hall for tea and biscuits while others stayed by the fire and were invigorated by the juice of the vine until it was time for a delicious Chelow Kebab.

Freddie Mercury Close street sign unveiled on Monday 24th February 2020 where the World Zoroastrian Organisation's HQ is located

A short-secluded section of Hanworth Road, starting outside World Zoroastrian House (WZH) in Feltham has been renamed after one of its most famous residents. Freddie Mercury Close was officially unveiled by Freddie's sister, Kashmira Bulsara, and the Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow, Councillor Tony Louki.

At a ceremony, on a very damp morning, surrounded by friends, family, residents and fans of the great singer and all the UK Committee members and supporters of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO), Kashmira pulled back the special cover to reveal the new street name. WZO is now housed at 1 Freddie Mercury Close.

After the street unveiling, the guests were welcomed into WZO's Communal hall by Darayus Motivala and introduced to some of the dignitaries who had taken time off to attend the ceremony. They included Lord Karan Bilimoria

of Chelsea, Seema Malhotra the local Labour MP, Shahpur Captain: Chairman of WZO, Mayor of Hounslow Tony Louki and Kashmira Bulsara.

Ervad Jimmy Madon started the proceedings with a minute's silence for Ervad Rustam Bhedwar and Ervad Marazban Dastur, followed by a short prayer with 3 mobeds. He then briefly outlined the principles of Zoroastrianism and gave an introduction to WZO.

Jacky Smith who manages the Official International Queen Fan Club spoke about Freddie Mercurydescribing him as a warm and funny man. Tony Louki, talked about the diversity in the Borough of Hounslow and mentioned how he enjoyed the Boi ceremony when he first visited the centre last July, particularly the smell of the sandalwood and the serenity of the prayers. Lord Karan Bilimoria spoke about the remarkable achievements of the Zoroastrians in India, Britain and around the world. He remarked that it is in the spirit of Zoroastrianism to put in the hard work and be at the top of the game. How else could such a miniscule community achieve so much. He thanked WZO for its work and said "Wow, what an address to have for a Zoroastrian organisation". He also quoted from two of Freddie's songs, "We are the champions of the world" and "Don't stop me now".

Sammy Bhiwandiwalla, who was then President of WZO gave an interesting audio-visual presentation on the notable Zoroastrians in India in the performing arts who were influenced by the western culture from the British. Amongst others, he talked and showed video extracts about the composer-pianist Kaikhosru Shahpurji Sorabji, the conductor Zubin Mehta, the contemporary dancer Astad Deboo and Freddie Mercury. He then spoke about the next generation of stars who have been sponsored by WZO. These include coloratura soprano Farah Ghadiali; the two sisters, Pia and Tara Sutaria, who are accomplished ballet and modern dancers; and the bansuri player Jessica Mistry who has played at a number of WZO events and was present at the ceremony.

Shahpur Captain presented souvenir medallions depicting the World Zoroastrian House to all the speakers and to Angela Parton who has been working tirelessly for many years in Feltham preserving and enhancing the town's memorial to Freddie Mercury. It is planned to turn this into a memorial garden with a bust of Freddie.

Councillor Tony Louki, Mayor of Hounslow said: 'We are delighted to be here today further commemorating this talented star and adopted son, someone who entertained so many people during his lifetime. Although Freddie Mercury died in 1991, his legacy lives on through his wonderful music as well as his being fondly remembered by fans worldwide that especially visit this town. A blue plaque has been placed at the house he lived in at Gladstone Avenue. Freddie is also graciously honoured by the Friends of Feltham Pond, residents led by Angela Parton, who also maintain and tend the recently refurbished memorial space around the now thriving tree on Feltham High Street planted by the late Jer Bulsara, his mother. I must thank The World Zoroastrian Organisation for organising today's event and salute its now most appropriate and unique address of 1 Freddie Mercury Close, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 5DF".

Councillor Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Parks and Leisure said: "I am so pleased to be here today to see the unveiling of Freddie Mercury Close, which just adds to the wonderful cultural aspects of Feltham and the borough as a whole. Personally, I have always been a huge fan of Queen unable to forget their powerful performance at Live Aid in July 1985 just six years before he died. It was also a great pleasure to meet Kashmira, his sister so a big thanks is due to her for coming here today and helping ensure that Freddie's legacy lives on."

The then Chairman of WZO Shahpur Captain said: "The World Zoroastrian Organisation offers its sincere thanks to the Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow and the staff working in the various departments who have helped to name this street 'Freddie Mercury Close' in a very short time.

WZO set up its HQ and Community Centre in Feltham a few years ago and we have been made very welcome by the local Councillors, the Inter-Faith groups and other local groups and associations. WZO will play its part in working with the local community."

Cancelation of 2020 Events

It was with deep regret that the Managing Committee of the World Zoroastrian Organisation announced the cancellation of the NOWRUZ DINNER DANCE on 28th March 2020 to be held at the World Zoroastrian House and all subsequent events lined up for 2020; as the health and safety of our members and guests was our utmost priority taking into account the current climate and worsening situation due to COVID-19.

Hamazor 2020

Due to the pandemic it became a challenge for our Hamazor Editor Natasha Mistry to produce further online issues in 2020. We hope to revive Hamazor in the near future.

All past Hamazors are available on our website at: Publications Archive – The World Zoroastrian Organisation (w-z-o.org)

Membership & Communication

WZO's membership is open to all Zoroastrians, their spouses and their children. Non-Zoroastrians can become Friends of WZO. A Membership form can be downloaded from the website at **https://www.w-z-o.org/membership/** or requested by emailing at **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 do wish to upgrade your membership to Life.

In the UK and other areas, please contact the membership Secretary at **membership@w-z-o.org** for all membership issues. Members have responded positively to our requests for receiving mailers and Hamazor via email.

Website and Social Media

During 2020, Minoo Mistry continued with the simplification and upgrade of IT services along with the implementation of the General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) governing the organisation.

WZO emails members who have subscribed to our newsletters. If you have not subscribed yet, kindly email membership@w-z-o.org and your email id will be added for you to receive updates about WZO events and communication.

WZO events and communication are updated on our website at https://www.w-z-o.org and also on our **dedicated Facebook** and Instagram page - **world_zoroastrain_organisation** which provides information of the WZO events and news related to Zoroastrianism worldwide.

We urge our members to please share with us Community related and Interfaith news. If they have participated in a programme we would be happy to share this with our members worldwide.

Our sincere thanks to Minoo Mistry our IT Resource Manager for devoting a lot of his time to improving the website and secure email system.

Advancement of Zoroastrian faith

As the WZO Nowruz event and the WZO Annual Seminar was cancelled due to the current pandemic, we thought it would be lovely to unite the community all over the world together and perform the "Boi Ceremony" (The service to the Fire) Live on Facebook. The prayers conclude with a "Humbundagi" (Prayer recited together as a group). The prayers themselves have been explained in brief.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us live and showered us with so much love and so many positive comments in our weekly Boi prayers. A big thank you to all our donors who have made it possible for the WZO to continue its charitable work and also bring Ervad Fali Madon as a full time resident priest in the UK.

Introducing Ervad Fali Khushroo Madon

Ervad Fali Khushroo Madon, is the resident priest at the World Zoroastrian House. Fali maintains the Satayesh Gah at the centre and conducts priestly duties. He is available to perform priestly services for the community through WZO and will be undertaking some of the administrative and caretaking work required for the centre.

Fali was born and brought up in Mumbai, India, and is from a long line of priests through the generations. His father Ervad Khushroo Madon, is a full-time priest in Mumbai and his younger brother, Ervad Jimmy Madon, is a part-time priest in London and a member of the WZO managing committee. Fali obtained his Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Mumbai in 2008.

Fali was ordained as a priest in 2000 when he underwent the 'Navar' ceremony and further underwent the 'Martab' ceremony in 2003. These qualify him to carry out the higher liturgical ceremonies for the Zoroastrian community.

He has been performing 'Jashans', 'Navjotes', weddings, funerals and other after death ceremonies for the community all over India and abroad for more than 20 years. In 2013, he decided to give his full commitment to priesthood and went on to become the 'Panthaky' (Managing Head Priest) of the Seth Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy Agiary in Colaba, Mumbai for 4 years. He was one of the youngest priests to become Panthaky at that time.

Fali enjoys teaching Zoroastrian prayers and their significance to young prospective initiates and others interested to learn more about the religion. With Fali's help, WZO hopes to provide educational sessions for the young and old in the future.

WZO hopes that the community will take advantage of the priestly services now on offer. The full list of services offered can be found on our website **https://www.w-z-o.org/** .If you would like further information on these services, please contact Fali at fali.madon@w-z-o.org.

The World Zoroastrian House

The World Zoroastrian House consists of:

a) A worship room (Setayash Gah) named after Dasturji Sohrabji and Shirinbanoo Kutar with appropriate facilities which will be open to all.

WZO past Chairmen Shahpurji and Sammy at the Setayash Gah with Ervad Jimmy Madon

b) Accommodation for a priest/caretaker on the premises.

c) A bar/reception area with a community hall with full audio-visual facilities and supporting facilities for Jashans, lectures and social events.

d) A reference library and reading room on Zoroastrian Religion, History and culture with books and periodicals on Zoroastrians and Zoroastrianism. A further small Meeting room to hold educational classes.

e) A small car park (22 spaces) with an adjoining public car park.

f) A rear garden with benches and plants for outdoor events.

Bar/Reception Area

Private Hall for hire

Meeting Room

Dr Xersis Captain Library which is dedicated to Martin Rustam Vafadari

Future Financial Sustainability

WZO does not wish the centre to be a financial burden to the next generation within the community.

With this in mind, the top floor is on rent and part of the first floor is being refurbished so that it can be leased to a third party.

It is anticipated that the revenues earned will cover some of the running costs of the property and also enable WZO to carry on doing our charitable activities which is one of the primary functions of the association.

In addition, the facilities of the hall and the meeting rooms will be available for hire for private functions and events for all communities when not used by WZO.

How you can help today's and future generations

There are various ways you could help WZO serve the community:

1. WZO requests you to become Life Members, if you are not one already, and encourage your family members and others to do the same.

2. Volunteering your time and knowledge for the successful running of WZO, the community centre and its amenities.
3. Generously donate to a variety of necessities. It will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Necessities that require your support

General Fund
We will allocate your donation to the most pressing expenditure we face.

Supporting the resident priest
A community that looks after its priests who serve the flock with fairness and consideration must be supported by the laity.

You can contribute towards this expenditure on a one off or regular basis. You can pay by a monthly standing order.

Items for the Worship room
Cover the cost of purchasing sukhad and kathi.

Security and maintenance of the community centre

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

WZO is committed to the welfare of the Zoroastrian Community. However, we also undertake fundraising and contribute for world crisis when they occur. Please visit the website for more information on our charitable activities at **https://www.w-z-o.org/**

The World Zoroastrian Organisation needs your wholehearted support: attitudinal, physical and also your financial commitment to continue the work of our various charitable activities. The World Zoroastrian House will be a stepping stone to further increase our activities. Our charitable activities will be posted on the website on a regular basis. Kindly donate generously through our website.

Shahpur Framroze Captain – The man who envisaged WZO and put it on the world map

Shahpur Framroze Captain
1st November 1929 – 1st December 2020

Dear Shahpurji, we will remember you forever

Our beloved past – Chairman, Shahpur F Captain passed away peacefully at his home in Wilmington, Kent on Tuesday, 1st December 2020, MahTir, RojRashne.The GehSarnu (Funeral Prayers) of Shahpurji were held on **Thursday 17th December, 2020** at World Zoroastrian House, Feltham followed by the Ceremony at Mortlake Crematorium.

As we look back on the last 40 years of WZO's existence we at The World Zoroastrian Organisation feel humbled and satisfied that from nothing the WZO has now grown to maturity and is generally recognised as an organisation that has changed the definition of charity, intent on reaching out to the needs of the community in every sphere of necessity.

Dr Farang Mehr induced Shahpur Captain to form the WZO and that is how Shahpurji sowed the seed from where WZO's journey started. WZO as a Zoroastrian organisation recognised that non-Zoroastrian spouses and their offspring are an integral part of our community, to be treated as equals, without the hideous sanctions heaped on them in the past. This was indeed a milestone and we can proudly say, since then most of the Zoroastrian Associations in
North America, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere have gone on to recognise the contribution made by non-Zoroastrian spouses in our religious, social and cultural life and the creation of a more balanced Zoroastrian society.

Shahpur Captain was born in Karachi on 1st November 1929 the youngest son of Khorshed Limbuwala and Framroze Captain. He attended the BVS Parsi school (built by Soparivala and Limbuwala families) in Karachi and upon matriculation his father Framroze who was an accountant in the famous Sindh Club in Karachi decided to send him to boarding college in Poona where he obtained his B.COM degree.

His father used to accumulate 3 years of his holidays for 3 months travel with his whole family - older siblings Savak and Nergis. They travelled all over India and Kashmir in locked train compartments for safety during those hazardous times where they used to sometimes stay in Gilgit with Framroze's brother in law - Kavas Limbuwala. Shahpurji recalled that Kavas uncle used to teach him and his siblings how to use cutlery and have good table manners which Kavas uncle instilled into his visiting nephews and niece. In Karachi the Captain and Limbuwala families lived in a large bungalow in the Cantonment area where cousins Jamshed and sister Noreen also lived and Shahpurji often recalled Jamshed cleaning his motorcycle in return for American chewing gum and high speed rides on his

motor bike. Also his cousin Jamshed says he was like a big brother to him and sister Noreen - always helpful and caring and charming to one and all. After returning from college in Poona Shahpurji and his siblings were regular members of KPI (Karachi Parsi Institute) where Shahpurji excelled in Badminton Swimming and Tennis and accumulated a large number of trophies which are still at his home in Wilmington. Shahpurji on returning from Poona had commenced work back in Karachi with Arthur Anderson & Company who encouraged him to go to UK to further his career and qualifications. So Shahpurji came to Glasgow in 1955 and obtained LLB, RA and CA degrees finally settling down with his first wife Jilloo in Harlow new town in Essex. Since then they had both been active members of the Zarathustrian Community.

Apart from Shahpur's flawless education, his self-taught religious training greatly influenced his life and the path he chose in the future. It was common practice to light a diva (an oil lamp) at home for prayers each day and he was surrounded by such influences as a young man.
It did not take long before Shahpur had to face up to prejudice and racial discrimination in pursuit of his vocation. Here was a young man, a double graduate, highly articulate, yet was judged by the colour of his skin when he went for job interviews. But he also experienced kindness and generosity from others and eventually he did find employment as an accountant.

WZO Chairman Rumi Sethna gave a sterling speech at the Felicitation and Honouring of Shahpurji at the Inauguration of the World Zoroastrian House on 10th August 2019.

Hilda Sethna unveiling the portrait of Shahpurji

All religions, we hope, exist for the betterment of mankind. The religious tenants of Zoroastrianism are "Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds". This is the moral and ethical framework within which we are expected to live our lives.

Somehow over time our religion became overrun with absurdities which was destroying the very fabric of our society. Injunctions were placed on some women because they choose to marry out of the community.

These women were deprived of their religious rights and their children were not accepted into the faith if they wished to follow the faith of their mother.

Another practice was to debar non-Zoroastrians from even attending events like today. Family and friends could not perform the last rites for loved ones who they had lived and worked with all their lives because priests were debarred from performing the last rites in the presence of non-Zoroastrians.

Shahpurji was the first person, in fact the only person at one time, who would courageously offer prayers, solace and comfort to those families who faced these injunctions. Shahpurji's courageous stand, combined with a true understanding of his own religion enabled WZO to fully embrace the principle of acceptance. He was a truly wonderful man, an inspiration, and a fountain of knowledge and we will miss him.

Perhaps the most telling influence in Shahpurji's life was the presence of Dasturjee Dhalla in Karachi, a much loved and adored High Priest of the time whose progressive thinking, though not in consonance with other High Priests of the Parsees, greatly influenced the receptive minds and hearts of many in the community.

Shahpurji joins all his outspoken compatriots, who have gone before him in their heavenly abode and to name a few - Prof KD Irani, Dr Farhang Meher, Noshirwan Cowasjee and Dr. Ali Jafarey.

The Full Tribute written by family and friends can be found by visiting our website https://www.w-z-o.org/shahpur-framroze…on-the-world-map/

Sammy Hormusji Bhiwandiwalla - A Blessing for those many silent lives that have benefitted through compassion from WZO

Sammy Hormusji Bhiwandiwalla
30th May 1940 - 27th December 2020

To us you were someone special,
Someone set apart,
Your memory will live forever,
Engraved within our hearts.

WZO lost two stalwarts Shahpurji, the founder of WZO and Sammy Bhiwandiwalla who was the Chairman of WZO in a span of one month in December 2020. Chairman Sammy Bhiwandiwalla passed away on 27th December 2020, Gosh Roj, AmardadMah.

Sammy Bhiwandiwalla was born to Alice and Hormusji Dorabji Bhiwandiwalla on 30th May 1940 in Bombay.

Sammy second from right as a young boy with his siblings

Sammy was the youngest of the 5 siblings, the eldest being brother Dorab, sister Lulu, brother Dosu, sister Pervize.

Sammy came to UK in 1960 from India and followed his wish for dancing and singing in the theatre land of London. He entertained at the then famous Windmill theatre. It was whilst taking extra dancing tuitions that he met Ursula and they were married in 1962. They have 2 lovely children, Nicola and Cyrus who have blessed them with 6 wonderful grandchildren. Soon after marriage, Sammy started working as an accountant and when the opportunity presented itself started a business

in industrial chemical supplies for the engineering patternmaking and foundry industry. After 35 years they decided to call it a day and devote some time to the second generation.

Ursula and Sammy have always taken an active interest in community matters in the UK and were greatly influenced by the actions and sincere beliefs of individuals such as Noshirwan Cowasjee, Shirinbanoo Kutar, Shahpur Captain and many others, that in a changing world it was necessary to create a more balanced and equitable community within the UK. He joined the WZO Board in 1988 and since then has served in various capacities becoming an Hon. Treasurer in 1993 a post he held for 10 years. He later became one of the Joint Secretaries before being elected in 2004 as the Chairman where he made a profound and lasting impression on WZO. He further served WZO as the President from 2008 to 2010 and then again from 2012 to June 2020. Following Shahpurji's illness, he became the Chairman of WZO in July 2020 till he passed away on 27th December 2020.

WZO President Mr Sammy Bhiwandiwalla handing a cheque of £ 2500 towards the Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund to the Counsillor Mr Mukesh Malhotra - Hounslow Friends of Faith Organisation.

Sammy was dedicated to the philosophy of WZO and was very keen that WZO moves forward in various directions.

Sammy had a very personal side which endeared him to those around him. He had strengthened relationships with Zoroastrian Associations in India, US and in Europe to the betterment of WZO.

Sammy with Mobedyar Mahshad Khosraviani at the WZO Annual Seminar

Sammy had ensured that WZO gave Iranian members and their concerns more attention and focus, thereby making WZO more inclusive. Sammy and Ursula made an extremely hospitable couple. They hosted a number of WZO meetings and social gatherings at their home.

Sammy was a very pleasant person, mild mannered but ferocious in defending WZO. When one was in the company of Sammy, one immediately got the feeling that here was a man of utmost honesty,

trustworthiness and dedication. Various Trust Funds will confirm that their confidence in WZO increased significantly once they met Sammy as its Chairman. Not only had Sammy raised very substantial sums for WZO's charitable activities, Sammy and Ursula were extremely generous donors in their own right.

There have been several occasions when Sammy and Ursula were bidding against each other in a WZO fund raising auction.

Whilst self-effacing about his own contribution to WZO, Sammy was very aware of the contribution made by others to WZO's success.

Sammy believed in charity with compassion, had the interest of the organisation and the Zoroastrian community at heart, was trustworthy and transparent and totally committed to the Zoroastrian cause. In fact he possessed the very same values and principles that guides the World Zoroastrian Organisation to carry out its duties.

To quote Sammy **"Progress comes at a price and some of us have paid for it. Let's break the shackles that have held us back for centuries"**

We at WZO will always remember you Sammy.

The full Tribute written by family and friends can be found by visiting our website https://www.w-z-o.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Tribute-Sammy-Hormusji-Bhiwandiwalla-1.pdf

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Supporting Zoroastrian Communities Worldwide

WZO carries out charitable works worldwide, in partnership with other, mainly Zoroastrian charitable organisations and through our own Trust Funds. WZO representatives in UK, Canada, U.S.A, Pakistan and New Zealand collect substantial sum 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.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our donors**,** big and small, for their munificent support and co-operation without which very little would be possible. We 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 DasturjiDr. 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.

5. Mr Rumi and Mrs Hilda Sethna
6. Mr Behram and Mrs Rena Baxter
7. Ms Roshni Panthaky
8. Mr Ron Kalifa
9. Late Hoshang Khambatta
10. Late Manijeh Mehta

News from the WZO Regional Offices

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. All membership issues for the WZO UK should be sent to Meher Amersey. Our sincere thanks to Meher Amersey.

WZO US Region

During the 2020-2021 year, WZO US Region was most active and had a successful year to fulfil its obligation to assist and promote the cause of Zoroastrianism and serve the needs of the community. Donations were received and distributed for various diverse causes such as Humanitarian Welfare, Medical Assistance for Critical Illness and to Encourage Education and Religion Perpetuation.

Majority of the assistance in India was coordinated through the co-operation of WZO Trust Funds and those in US were to support the North American Mobed Council, NAMC. All of these acts of kindness would not have been possible without the numerous generous donations from the community members and supporters of WZO US Region to whom we are for ever grateful for their true Zarathushti Spirit of Charity and Benevolence.

Humanitarian Welfare
Four different appeals for Welfare were entertained including for general assistance for Covid Relief. All the efforts were directed to assist WZOT funds in India to meet the Covid crisis as well as for food and grains distribution and general humanitarian assistance to poor Zoroastrians.
Donations comprised of a total of USD 32,000.

Medical Assistance for Critical Illness
Through out the year appeals for Medical Assistance were received from individuals as well as from the B.D. Petit Parsee General Hospital and Masina Hospital in Mumbai India. Donations were solicited and needed assistance was provided. Donation comprised of a total of USD 33,201.

Encourage Education
To encourage education of young talented and deserving Zoroastrians, WZO US Region offers number of scholarships each year. WZO has over the years partnered with Fali Chothia Education Fund of Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington. Last year, Grants were awarded to USD 3,000 to Fali Chothia Education Scholarship Fund, USD 1,500 to University Of California for WZO Grant to Zara Isabel Green, Grant of USD 14,000 to Bai Avabai Petit Girls Orphanage, Mumbai for tuition fees of their 72 students and a Grant of USD 5,000 to Rush Medical College, for a deserving Medical student Yazmin Rustomji, to enable her to continue her medical studies in spite of her family financial issues.

Religion Perpetuation
To encourage education of young Mobeds and to educate the laity within our community, WZO US Region offers number of scholarships to several individuals and honorariums each year to the teachers at the Dadar Athornan Institute in Mumbai. WZO US Region is working closely with the North American Mobed Council NAMC to establish the NAMC Institute. This Institute will offer beginners classes to learn about the basics of our religion, as well as offer graduate level courses on Zoroastrianism to promote education of laity and our young mobeds. Towards that effort the following Grants and Honorariums were awarded. Grant of USD 40,202 to NAMC for their Avesta

Program, an honorarium of USD 10,001 to Dadar Athornan Institute for their teachers, Grants of USD 501 and USD 351 to NAMC for their Religion Education efforts.

With the Grace of Ahura Mazda, we look forward to continue to serve the needs of the community in the coming years.

WZO Canada

WZO Canada carried out its limited activities during 2020 due to Covid- 19. The two projects that were supported was WZOCI Scholarships and the Gatha Hymms project.

WZOCI Annual Scholarship Consisting of one graduate and two undergraduate scholarships to Zoroastrian students resident in Canada & USA at Universities in those countries amount to CAD $7,000.

The three WZOCI scholarships become part of the US $70,000 Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) Scholarships. FEZANA awards more than US $70,000 in scholarships annually. FEZANA Scholarships are available for students in the following categories: graduate studies, undergraduate studies, performing and creative arts, culinary arts, and sports. Because all the donors of FEZANA scholarships except for the three from WZOCI (started three years ago) are from USA, WZOCI donors decided that their scholarships should also benefit USA Zoroastrian students. A formal written agreement to this effect was approved by the two organizations.

The FEZANA Scholarships are announced in the FEZANA Journal and their website and published in the newsletters of all Zoroastrian member organizations in the two countries.

FEZANA selection Committee informs WZCOI of the three students selected detailing the basis, which is than approved by the WZCOI Board. WZCOI then forwards the scholarships directly to the Universities naming the students, as required by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) instructions. The Co-chair of the FEZANA Scholarship Committee is Dolly Dastoor who is a life member of WZOCI and also a WZOCI undergraduate donor.

Gatha Hymms Project started in 2018, for composing Hymns from our Gathas in Farsi and English languages. These Gatha Hymns in Farsi and English languages would be understood and appreciated by the laity. Three Iranian Composers were selected and the composed verses in Farsi which were performed at various events held at The Zoroastrian Society Of Ontario (ZSO) -Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr centre in Toronto and one also at an Iranian Islamic centre.

The intention is to record them in a studio and create a CD which could be decimated to Zoroastrian Organizations, however this is held up because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The funds related to the project were donated by 4 members and the North American Mobeds Council. The Iranian Zoroastrian Project leader and a donor Mr. Shahram Bastani is coaching and part of the choir performs in ZSO and WZOCI premises. His wife Mrs Mina Bastani who is part of the choir has donated the piano to ZSO. We have also the volunteer participation of a famous Azerbaijan composer and conductor residing in Toronto.

There are very few members. A proposal was made to the Ontario Zoroastrian organizations ZSO and OZCF to join and have their representative on WZCI board, we are still waiting to hear.

WZO New Zealand

We all would like to forget this last year as one of the worst years since the WW2 as far as the world calamities goes. But fortunately for New Zealand due to the quick action on the part of the NZ Government. our local economy did not take a major setback. The NZ Government. put the whole country into a 4 week lock down, which followed with several small local area lockdowns. This did take a huge hammering on our economy as the tourism business suffered and collapsed all over the place. But in hind sight it was the best thing for the country as we have now been enjoying several months of freedom compared to most other countries who are still grappling with the different variants of the COVID strain.

As far as the WZO – NZ is concerned we were not very active at all during the last year, except for an online fund raising event to gather funds for our Zarthosti brethren in India. The local community rallied around quite well and collected almost NZ $5000.00 within a short period of time, which was then sent to our WZO champion in Mumbai – Mr. Dinshaw Tambolly. We do realize that the community in India is still going through a rough time, so one of our member who is quite active in the social organising events, organised a huge Bollywood style fund raising event with song and dance to continue collecting funds for our community in India. WZO is an anchor sponsor for the event. We have thrown this event open to the whole Indian community rather than just Zarthosti's of New Zealand, in the anticipation of a larger audience and hence larger funds collection.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish every member of our small community to be extra vigilant, and stay safe and hopefully we will continue with our progress beyond the current COVID effect with the least amount of casualties.

WZO Trust

The WZO Trust believes in building confidence, changing lives and creating a strong community. They have continued to support various different projects during the pandemic. Our thanks to Bachi and Dinshaw Tamboly for all their hard work and dedication throughout the years.

Fundraising for WZO Projects

Fund-raising is the life-blood of our organisation in supporting the community's needs. We made substantial disbursements towards medical assistance, education, relief of poverty and helping individuals with self-employment. Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, all over the world, to finance activities that promote WZO's objectives. We list below the various designated funds held within WZO to support communities worldwide.

Noshirwan F. Cowasjee Medical Benevolent Fund supports applications for assistance where family resources cannot meet the escalating costs of medical treatment. We request donors to continue supporting this very worthy and humanitarian cause for the benefit of our community.

Roshan A. Dehnugara Benevolent Fund was set up in loving memory of Roshan, a popular and respected member of the UK community. The income from the corpus is utilised for the relief of poverty in our community.

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. We welcome further support from our 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. Our 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 us the freedom to apply resources where urgently needed. Support towards the implementation of any of our activities is essential for the effective working of the organisation and we would request our donors not to overlook the benefits of supporting the general fund.

Individual Donors

We wish to record our sincere thanks to all our donors large and small with whose support and encouragement WZO has managed to serve the community's needs in economic and social upliftment. The community faces new challenges with Covid – 19, social change and perspectives and WZO will continue to be in the forefront of shaping our future as we move into new frontiers.

Our thanks are also due to the members of our community who have placed their confidence in WZO for the legacies endowed from the estates of deceased members of our community and for putting their trust in the Board Members of WZO to act as executors of their estate.