



The World Zoroastrian Organisation

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION

Notice

Annual Report

&

Financial Statement(Abridged)

For the year ended
31 December 2016

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Foreword from the Chairman

Dear Members, Donors and Supporters of WZO



It gives me great pleasure to present to you the World Zoroastrian Organisations annual report for 2016. Bridge House in Feltham was finally handed over to us at the end of January 2016. Our plans for the property were beginning to consolidate and we had clarity in our future objectives and more importantly a better understanding of how we would allocate our limited finances. Dare I say that the committee were not all at one many a time.

In the ensuing months we faced the daunting task of getting clearance of our proposed plans from the local district council and those who have ever dealt with planning will tell you what a challenge that is.

Simultaneously the task of obtaining all professional reports on the structural integrity, mechanical and electrical status of the building, lighting, heating and cooling system etc. required for our purposes was carried out.

The building when ready will have a hall on the ground floor to hold social and religious events, Navjots, weddings etc. and private functions. Lectures and seminars on Zoroastrian religion, History and Culture has always been a pursuit of WZO. That there is a need for more emphasis on religious education, a function that WZO has fulfilled throughout the years around the world, needs to be brought back nearer to home.

The building will have a Setayash Gah, where all Zoroastrians will be welcome along with their family and friends. We will have a Library but for reference purposes only. We also hope that the new premises will play a part within the local community, in interfaith events and collaborate on local social and economic issues.

The above will require significant renovation/refurbishing of the premises. Fixtures and fittings such as chairs, tables, kitchen equipment etc. will need to be purchased.

It is estimated that the total cost of refurbishment will be around £850,000 and we are appealing to you to support this worthwhile initiative which will also be beneficial for the worldwide Zoroastrian community. WZO has done much in its short history to enhance, rejuvenate and bring prosperity within the community and it has only been possible through your support. Please help us to continue with the good work.

With the grace of Ahura Mazda we will officially open the building by mid-2018 and may the grace of Ahura Mazda be on you all wherever you reside.
Athazamyat, yathaafrinami.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shahpur F. Captain'. The signature is written in a cursive style on a light-colored background.

Shahpur F. Captain.
Chairman

You can donate to WZO by visiting the website, www.w-z-o.org, and selecting the ‘Property Fund’, or you can send your cheque to your local WZO representative.

UK and ROW - Mr Dinyar J Modi, Hon. Treasurer, WZO.135, Tennison Road, South Norwood, London SE25 5NF. Please make your cheques payable to “**W.Z.O.**”. treasurer@w-z-o.org
If you are a UK tax payer, please ask for a Gift Aid Form.

USA - President of WZO, US Region, Mr Kayomars Mehta, 6943 Fieldstone Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527-5295. Please make your checks payable to “**WZO, US Region**”.
If you are a US Tax payer, then your donation is tax deductible. wzo_usa@w-z-o.org

Pakistan - Mrs Toxy Cowasjee, 2 A Mary Road, Bath Island, Karachi 75530. Please make your cheques payable to “**Hutoxy Cowasjee WZO**” Toxy Cowasjee toxy39@gmail.com

New Zealand - Mr Darius Mistry, 13A Partai Drive, Orakei, Auckland. Please make cheque payable to “**World Zoroastrian Organisation**”. wzo_nz@w-z-o.org

India – Mr Dadi E Mistry B-3/502 World Spa-West Sector 30 & 41, Gurugram 122002, Haryana, India. Please make your cheques Payable to “**The World Zoroastrian Foundation**”. dadimistry@vsnl.net



AGM NOTICE

1st September 2017

NOTICE is hereby given that an **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **The WorldZoroastrian Organisation** will be held on Sunday 24th September 2017 at International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street London W1N 5HD at 4pm precisely, to transact the following business.

1. To receive and adopt the Committee's report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016.
2. To elect members of the Managing Committee in place of the following, who retire in accordance with Article 21 of the Articles of Association, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election, except as stated.

UK Committee Members Overseas Committee Members

UK Committee Members Overseas Committee Members

Mr. Shahpur F. Captain

Dr. Kersey Antia (USA)

Mr. Dinyar J. Modi

Dr. Meherwan P. Boyce (USA)

Miss Benafsha Engineer

Mrs. Hutoxy C. Cowasjee (Pakistan)

Mr Filli Vapiwala

Mr Abtin Sassanfar (France)

Mr Kersi Shroff (USA)

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 2017/2018.
4. To re-appoint the Honorary Auditors, Nash Harvey LLP, for the year 2017/2018.
5. To transact the other usual business of an Annual General Meeting.

If you informed us previously that you will be downloading the Annual Accounts and Report from our website, they are not included with this Notice. If you would like a printed copy in Abbreviated or Full format from next year, you can do so by writing to me at the above address or emailing us at membership@w-z-o.org.

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 if you are not able to attend the meeting.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Darayus S Motivala

(Jt. Hon. Secretary)

For & on behalf of the Committee

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT for the Year Ended 31st December 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Board of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) has great pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report of the 36th successful year of its operation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of WZO was held on Sunday 25 September 2016 at International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street London W1N 5HD. commencing 4.15pm.

The Chairman, Mr Shahpur F Captain, welcomed all the members and guests from the UK and abroad. He reviewed the salient events of the year and thanked the various donors, individuals and institutes for their help and support throughout the year.

The annual report and audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015 were presented to the meeting. The Chairman invited the audience to raise any points on the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2015. There being no questions raised, Dinyar Modi proposed the passing of the Annual Report and Financial Accounts and this was seconded by Mrs Ursula Bhiwandiwalla. The meeting was requested to vote and the report and accounts were unanimously adopted by a show of hands.

The Treasurer, Mr Dinyar Modi and Darayus Motivala were thanked for their efficient hard work on behalf of WZO in preparing the financial statements and annual report respectively.

Election of Committee Members

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

UK Committee Members

Mr Sammy H Bhiwandiwalla
Ms Shahin Bekhradnia
Mrs Armaity R Engineer
Mrs Monaz M Patel
Ervad Jimmy K Madon
Mr Minoo Mistry

Overseas Committee Members

Prof. Kaikhosrov D Irani (USA)
Mr Russi M Ghadiali (Singapore)
Mrs Dhunmai P Dalal (USA)
Mr Darius Mistry (New Zealand)
Mr Kayomarsh Mehta (USA)
Ms Parmis Khatibi (USA)

The Chairman stated that all the above had given meritorious service to the organisation on behalf of the community and should be re-elected.

All the UK and Overseas Board Members standing for re-election were unanimously elected by a show of hands from those attending the meeting.

The following had offered themselves for election to the managing committee:

Dr Zenobia Nadirshaw (UK) and Mr Maneck Bhujwala (USA) and Sammy Bhiwandiwalla spoke on behalf of both at the meeting.

Dr. Zenobia Nadirshaw (UK) was proposed by Sammy Bhiwandiwalla and seconded by Dinyar Modi. Sammy Bhiwandiwalla stated in his supporting introduction that Dr Zenobia Nadirshaw is the Head of Clinical Psychology Service working in the Kensington & Chelsea NHS Primary Care Trust and has been working in the NHS for the last thirty years. She currently holds an Associate Professor title with Thames Valley University and is a Senior Research Fellow Title at the Ethnicity & Social Policy Research Unit at the University of Bradford.

She is currently a Trustee of the Mental Health Foundation and the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities. She holds a Chair position of a Voluntary Alcohol Advisory and Counselling Organisation (EACH) which offers service to minority ethnic people suffering from substance/alcohol abuse across four London Boroughs. She sits on national committees of the Division of Clinical Psychology in the British Psychological Society and chairs the Continuing Profession Development Sub Committee.

Over the last 20 years she has drawn attention to the issues of 'race', difference and diversity, effects of social inequality and exclusion in the mental health, learning disabilities and women's contexts. She has conducted research, has published widely in these fields and is an active speaker at local, national and European conferences. In 1997, she won the award for challenging inequality of opportunity from the British Psychological Society and in 2001 jointly won the first prize for a book in the Mental Health services from the British Medical Association in addressing issues of 'Race' Culture and Ethnicity in Clinical Psychology.

For all her academic and related research work, Zenobia has been granted 3 Honorary Doctorates from 3 different Universities in England. As a migrant woman from India, she makes all migrant women feel proud of their identity and able to build their confidence to achieve more in life.

Zenobia has helped many women in their growth while she has been a great mentor, and most of the time, she does this not because she is financially rewarded but because she is passionate on helping people, especially women. She is very caring, very giving and for this she was recognised as the **"Inspiring Woman of the Year"** at the recently held Migrant Woman Conference and Awards in 2016, for the love that she has given to everyone that she met and helped to transform their lives.

With such a distinguished record of service in the medical profession and social causes I think we should invite Zenobia with open arms to join WZO's managing committee today and I hope you will support this nomination.

Mr Maneck N Bhujwala (USA) was proposed by Sammy Bhiwandiwalla and seconded by Armaity Engineer. Sammy Bhiwandiwalla stated in his supporting introduction that Maneck obtained BSEE at University of Baroda, MSEE at University of New Mexico, MBA from San Jose State University, and M.A. in Interfaith Action at Claremont Lincoln University of Claremont, California in 2015.

His career spanned working in India, California and Texas as an engineer and manager in government and many high-tech companies, including a NASA Life Sciences Space Shuttle project. Maneck Co-founded Society for Rapid Advancement of India (SRAI), Zoroastrian Association of California, Los Angeles (ZAC), and Zarthushti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC) and served as president and other positions on their executive committees, coordinated religion classes, attended interfaith events in California, and represented the Zoroastrian community at Stanford University Associated Religions.

Currently he is serving on the boards of the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN), Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council (GHBIC) and South Coast Interfaith Council (SCIC), and as co-chair of the Interfaith Activities Committee of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA). He is also practicing as a part-time on-call priest for doing jashans,

navjotes, and funeral ceremonies for families in the local community, and serving at community Jashans at ZAC and California Zoroastrian Centre (CZC).

Maneck is a life member of ZAC and WZO, and a member of CZC, NAIN, GHBIC, and SCIC. He attends interfaith Thanksgiving and service events, participates in television and radio programs about interfaith and Zoroastrianism, gives talks on Zoroastrianism at schools, junior colleges, to religious groups, and at Zoroastrian Congresses. He also writes articles for FEZANA Journal, Hamazor, India Currents, India West, and other news media.

With such a distinguish record of community service Sammy Bhiwandiwalla concluded that Maneck Bhujwala would be a welcome addition to the WZO Board.

Dr Zenobia Nadirshaw and Maneck Bhujwala were unanimously elected to the committee by a show of hands.

The meeting proceeded harmoniously, with a vote of confidence being granted to the on-going Committee.

Election of Chairman

Mr Shahpur Captain temporarily vacated the Chair during the procedure for the election of a Chairman with Sammy Bhiwandiwalla, taking over the Chair.

Darayus Motivala, read out the names of the new committee.

There was a single nomination for Chairman, that of Shahpur Captain. Sammy Bhiwandiwalla enquired if there were any further nominations from the floor. There were none. Shahpur Captain was unanimously elected Chairman for the year 2016 – 2017.

Election of Auditors

The Treasurer Dinyar Modi thanked the Auditors Nash Harvey LLP for their services to WZO. After being proposed for re-election as Auditors by Dinyar Modi and seconded by Shahpur Captain, those present unanimously supported the motion with a show of hands.

Any other Business of the Meeting

Faridoon Madon asked for an update on Bridge House and how the donors will be recognised. Shahpur Captain stated that WZO had made a planning application for the change of use and to build a lift shaft in a corner of the building. All donations above £1,000 for the property fund would be shown on a board. In addition, there would be portraits of Mr & Mrs Firuz Madon, Mr & Mrs Abtin Sassanfar, Dastur Dr Sohrab H Kutar & Dr Mrs Shirinbanoo Kutar, Dasturji Cama and Dasturji Dhalla. An Afargani had been donated by the late Mani Bhungara. Rohinton Irani stated that he would be donating a large portrait of Zarathushtra. Ursula Bhiwandiwalla suggested that there should be a portrait of Shahpur Captain. Rohinton Irani suggested that a portrait of Nuserwanji Mehta should be considered.

Arshid Moti-Ghavanian asked how the President and the Treasurer were appointed. Dinyar Modi explained that at the first committee meeting after an AGM all the Office bearers were appointed by the committee members. He then asked if all the committee members were volunteers and Dinyar said they were.

There being no other business pertaining to the AGM or further questions from the floor, the Chairman declared the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all present.

Election of Office Bearers at committee meeting held on 16th October 2016

President	Mr Sammy H Bhiwandiwalla
Vice-President	Mr Kersey Antia
Treasurer	Mr Dinyar J Modi
Jt. Hon. Secretary	Ms Shahin Bekhradnia
Jt. Hon Secretary	Mr Darayus S Motivala
Membership Secretary	Mrs Monaz M Patel
Social Secretary	Mrs Armaity R Engineer
Social Secretary	Ms Benafsha R Engineer
Youth Co-Ordinator	Ervad Jimmy Madon
Religious Co-Ordinator	Ms Shahin Bekhradnia
Grants Co-Ordinator	Dr Godafreed Irani

PERSONALITIES AND EVENTS

Past Chairman Ruby Contractor



It was with deep regret that we had to inform the membership of the passing away of Past Chairman, Ruby Contractor of The World Zoroastrian Organisation, London on Tuesday 27th December, 2016 at the age of 88 years. She was a Founder Member of WZO, a Committee Member from the outset in 1980, a Joint Hon. Secretary for many years and finally Chairman in 1991 till 1996. Born in an Athornan family (Pavri) in Bombay, Ruby was brought up strictly in line with Zoroastrian ethos of that time. Recitation of prayers, going to the Agiary regularly, respect for the elderly and moral behaviour of Humata, Hukhta and Huvarasta in the broadest sense of the phrase. Her family lived in Dadar Parsi Colony. Young Ruby

attended the Parsi School in Dadar and after Matriculation joined the Podar Arts College at Matunga, qualifying as B.A. with Honours in English. Ruby was truly “educated” as she possessed a broad mind that is a hall mark of all truly educated people. She could grasp all sorts of information and details and then use her “educated” brain to arrive at her conclusions.

Ruby was imbued with the recitation of Zarathushtrian prayers and ethos. Ruby learnt all about the religion of Zarathushtra by reading extensively, attending lectures and talks on Zoroastrianism extensively. She had read all the translations of the Nyashes and Yashts in Gujarati and English. She was deeply religious and pious but not “orthodox.” She was a gem of a person.

Ruby was an absolute asset to the Committee of WZO with her meticulous work as the Hon. Secretary, keeping up to date the membership records, recording Minutes accurately, corresponding with Zoroastrians all over the world and bringing deep wisdom and extreme kindness to the deliberations of the Committee.

She was part of the first delegation to visit India to spread the word re: WZO and its aims and objectives. When the Gujarat Farmers Upliftment programme was started, she enthusiastically visited the villages of Gujarat to witness at first hand the extreme poverty of our co-religionists in the vast expanse of that State. She was deeply moved by what she saw. As such, she was ever so determined to play an active part in the WZO Committee to alleviate the poverty in which the Parsi agrarians lived and toiled. Ruby was one of the Committee Members who donated funds to the WZO from day one, by regular monthly payments. The Committee of WZO is deeply grateful for the excellent services rendered by our dear Ruby over many years.

In the 1980’s Ruby accompanied the Office Bearers of WZO on two separate occasions hoping to obtain affiliation to UNESCO. Sadly this was not granted as at that time we were not an open organisation.

As WZO’s Chairperson in 1991, she convened the first International Gatha Colloquium where 12 international scholars spoke on Zoroastrian religion, history and culture. It was a scintillating event which presented a splendid opportunity for everybody to meet the Scholars, Members, and supporters from abroad.

On 25th April 1993 Ruby presided over the historic change in the WZO Constitution which made it possible for non-Zoroastrian spouses and the children of inter faith marriages to become members. For the first time an International Zoroastrian organisation had recognised that non-Zoroastrian spouses and their offspring, wherever in the world, were an integral part of our community, to be treated as equals, without the hideous sanctions heaped on them in the past.

Whilst writing, we have also to state that she gave long and very devoted service to The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (INC) for many years. First, she joined, with her husband Nari, the House Committee organising the varied functions at the Zoroastrian House at 88 Compayne Gardens, West Hampstead, London, along with their lifelong friends Soli and Dina Master. Both Ruby and Soli subsequently joined the Main Committee. Both had deep rooted love for their community and did everything possible to enhance the unity of the community, with dignity and humility. Both had high intellect that they used effectively in the deliberations of the Committee.

Ruby had a very pleasant personality. She was humble, humorous fun loving person. She was soft spoken but never afraid to put her point of view forward in any discussions. Her sense of dress was very good and her choice of Saris was just immaculate. She looked stunning in her Saris. Both Ruby and Nari were very friendly people and attracted others with their winning personality. Naturally they liked socialising but never at the cost of neglecting community service. Ruby was an excellent cook, serving 3 to 4 dishes with Parsi size platefuls and Nari was the person who entertained their guests with hilarious jokes the whole afternoons or evenings.

It is said that what is “Written” is always “Done”. And so our dear Ruby after a short spell of illness passed away peacefully in the loving presence of her family. May her soul rest in Eternal Peace in Garothman Behest and may her exemplary life inspire future generations to dedicate themselves to service of the community.

AthaZamyat, Yathaafrinami.

• * *

Advancement of the Zoroastrian Faith

WZO Seminar on Zoroastrian Religion, History and Culture. Sunday 5th June 2016



Speaker: Alexandra Eleni Laura Buhler. Alexandra Buhler is in the final year of her PhD at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. After graduating from Oxford University where she completed a BA in Theology, Alexandra obtained an MA at SOAS in the Study of Religions. During her MA Alexandra’s interest in Zoroastrianism developed and it became the focus of her studies.

In this talk Alexandra drew on some of the findings of her doctoral research which concerned the impact of the **Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1906-1911**, on the Zoroastrian community. The Constitutional Revolution was significant for Zoroastrians in Iran as it resulted in the political representation of the community in the Iranian Parliament.

In addition to highlighting some key points relating to the changing position of Zoroastrians in Iran at this time, Alexandra also discussed the importance of the links between Zoroastrian communities in India, Iran and Great Britain during this period.

Speaker: Professor Simon James



Professor Simon James read archaeology at the London Institute of Archaeology, where he also took his PhD, by which time the Institute had become part of University College, London. He moved to the British Museum, first as an archaeological illustrator and then as a museum educator, responsible for programmes relating to the later prehistoric and Roman collections.

After a decade at the British Museum, he decided to seek a career in research and teaching. Having held a Leverhulme Special Research Fellowship at the University of Durham, he joined the School in January 2000, was promoted Senior Lecturer in 2002, and Reader in 2005. In April 2012 he was awarded a personal chair.

A major theme in his research has been the military archaeology of the ancient city of Dura-Europos on the Syrian Euphrates. This became a Roman military garrison, which was besieged and destroyed by a Sasanian army c.AD256.

He has published the remarkable finds of arms and armour from the site, mostly belonging to the Roman defenders, but also including rare and very important early Sasanian remains. Further related research into the siege which led to burial of these artefacts led to identification of probable use of 'chemical warfare' by the Sasanians during the fighting.

The evidence from Dura has led him to examine more widely Roman interactions with the Partho-Sasanian world, in both war and peace.

Professor Simon James spoke on 'Of Mithras and Magi, Cataphracts and Crowns: the forgotten influence of Sasanian Iran on the Roman World.'

Speaker: Dr Maria Macuch



Professor Dr Maria Macuch was up to her retirement in 2015 Professor of Iranian Studies and head of the *Institut fuer Iranistik* (Institute of Iranian Studies) of the *Freie Universitaet Berlin*.

She was President of the main association of European Iranologists, *Societas Iranologica Europaea*, from 2003-2007, is member of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum* since 2007 and editor of the Series *Iranica* since 1993.

Main areas of research: Pre-Islamic Iran; Zoroastrian and Sasanian law and its impact on other legal cultures, especially Christian, Rabbinic and Islamic law; Pahlavi literature and classical Persian literature.

*Maria Macuch spoke about: **The Zoroastrian Background of Sasanian Law***

Iranian law was based theoretically on Zoroastrianism up to the Muslim conquest of Iran in the 7th century. As in other pre-modern religious legal systems, such as Talmudic and Islamic law, the fields of theology and jurisprudence remained intertwined to a very large degree. Zoroastrian norms comprised in an early historical period two main areas dealing with moral, ritual and purity rules on the one hand, and civil and criminal law, on the other. Although jurisprudence gradually developed into an individual discipline by the Sasanian period (3rd-7th centuries) religion remained its theoretical foundation and a large number of important legal institutions were founded on Zoroastrian norms. In this talk Maria will give an overview of the historical development of Zoroastrian law and discuss how basic tenets were integrated into the legal system of the Sasanian state.

Hamazor2016



Now in its 15th year of publication, we thank Toxy Cowasjee for her stewardship in producing Hamazor single handed. Always searching for articles that will inspire and hold our reader's attention like a good book she scoursthe world which requires dedication and commitment and is a labour of love.

She strives to do her best yet many a time she is self-critical of what the final composition of Hamazor looks like and that signals her professionalism to the end. Readers are constantly reminding us of how much they enjoy each issue of Hamazor and that speaks volumes.

We are most grateful to all those who contribute their knowledge and wisdom in the enlightening articles on Zoroastrian religion, history and contemporary issues.

Our thanks to Ms Tannaz Minwalla and her team, at Creative Unit (Pvt) Ltd, for creating such delightful covers for Hamazor every year and Ms Rovena Sethna, a graphic artist & designer also from Karachi, provides her expertise to design the cover of our much sought after Zoroastrian annual calendar. We sincerely thank both Tannaz and Rovena for their professionalism given gratis to WZO.

We are immensely grateful to the ladies of various colonies in Karachi, who hand deliver the Hamazor in Karachi to our members since 2002, saving considerable postage expenses and insuring safe delivery.

Hamazor Issue 1, 2016 was generously sponsored by the Firuz Madon Foundation, UK. Issue 2, was kindly sponsored by Abtin and Mehrafzoon Sassanfar, Fr. Issue 3, was published through the immense kindness and generosity of Hilda and Rumi Sethna. IOM.Hamazor Issue 4 was not published in anticipation of a block buster planned for the first publication of 2017.

WZO thanks and acknowledges the generosity of all the above benefactors without whose financial support WZO would not have managed to produce Hamazor in 2016.

We request our friends and supporters to come forward and help us print further issues of Hamazor as the costs of printing and postage are truly daunting. It need not be an individual donor, a group of like-minded persons can join together to make up the sum of IRs 200,000, or US\$ 5,000 or UK£ 3,000 which includes postage. However any donation towards Hamazor will be gladly accepted, as pennies do become pounds.

Membership & Communication:



Our WZO representatives were as usual very active this year and we got a good number of Life members from USA, India, UK and Canada.

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 or requested by emailing at membership@w-z-o.org

WZO urges their Ordinary members to convert 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 Mrs Monaz Patel at membership@w-z-o.org for all membership issues.

Members have responded positively to our requests for receiving mailers and Hamazor via email. Please help us strengthen WZO by encouraging new membership.

Fellow Committee member Filli Vapiwala also co-ordinates with membership communication. Our heartfelt thanks to Filli for helping us with the same.

Website and facebook:

During 2016 WZO was involved in the gradual transfer of our website to run on WordPress, which is more user friendly, with the help of fellow committee member Mr Minoo Mistry. Not an easy task but we're pleased to say that it has been accomplished.

With Hamazor published quarterly, members are kept informed of interesting facets of our community life through our recently started web based News Letter which we are slowly developing. A dedicated Facebook page provides information of the WZO events and news related to Zoroastrianism worldwide.

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 <http://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 and completing the renovation work currently going on at Bridge House so that the same can be completed in good time. Our charitable activities will be posted on the website on a regular basis. Kindly donate generously through our website.

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 members worldwide donated generously towards Aryana Quettawala, a three year old Zarthoshti girl residing in Karachi diagnosed with Severe A-Plastic Anemia in January 2015.

WZO representatives in UK, Canada, U.S.A and New Zealand collected a substantial sum towards the final amount and the same was passed on to Mr Kaeyan Quetawalla for Aryana's treatment at KK Women's and Children's Hospital in Singapore. As a result Mr Kaeyan Quetawalla was able to pay a sum of US\$180,000/- on 30th March, 2016 for baby Aryana's surgery and treatment.

Our special thanks particularly to our Pakistan representative Mrs Toxy Cowasjee for collecting a huge sum of donation for medical expenses for Baby Aryana and our special thanks to all our members worldwide who donated generously for the cause.

World Zoroastrian Organization Trust (established 1991); WZO Trust for Women & Children (established 1993); WZO Trust Funds (established 1995) are registered as Public Charitable Trusts under Bombay Public Trust Act, and continue to serve the community in India through their multifarious welfare activities. Mr Rustamji Gai an eminent lawyer from Delhi visited and witnessed the work done in the villages of Gujarat and realising the legal difficulties faced by the

WZO in establishing an organisation in India suggested setting up the above named Trusts. This suggestion was enthusiastically taken up by Mr Shahpur Captain during his tenure as President of WZO and diligently followed up by Mr Dinshaw Tamboly who along with his wife Bachi and other trustees administered these Trusts with real zeal and dedication.

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 continuous and extremely generous support received for our multifarious activities 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. Noshirwan F. Cowasjee Medical Benevolent Fund, UK.
4. The Firuz Madon Foundation WZO is deeply indebted to FMF for their very generous donation of £1m towards the purchase of WZO's new HQ and community centre and for their ongoing commitment towards the furtherance and study of Zoroastrianism through lectures and seminars held worldwide.
5. Mr Rumi and Mrs Hilda Sethna, not only for their generous financial contributions throughout the years, but also for their on-going dedication and personal involvement.
6. Mr. Abtin & Mrs Mehrafzoon Sassanfar It was their initial offer of £500k for a WZO Community centre that gave WZO confidence to search for a suitable property. They are also sponsors of Hamazor each year.

The Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation

Up to 2016, projects valued over £492,700 had been channelled through WZO towards Zoroastrian and non-Zoroastrian charitable applications. In particular charities in India and Pakistan were supported and grants were made to deserving students from India pursuing higher studies at home and abroad.

WZO offers its sincere thanks to the Trustees of The Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation for their magnanimous support for various charitable projects since 2006.

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 at meheramersey@gmail.com or hpamersey@gmail.com whilst other issues will be dealt with by Dadi Mistry at dadimistry@vsnl.net. Our sincere thanks to Dadi Mistry and Meher Amersey.

WZO US Region

WZO US Region is managed by its President, Kayomars Mehta. WZO US Region received substantial donations from individuals, Trusts and Associations which were transmitted to the various beneficiaries listed below.

WZO Trust Funds Mumbai .India

US\$ 7,800 Rural Housing

US\$3,233 Senior Citizens Centre

US\$6,950 Medical

US\$34,100 Welfare and for fire temple repairs

US\$24,975 Religious education

Athornan Mandal Mumbai India

US\$ 25,000 Drs. Mehroo and Minu Patel Athornan Mandal Educational Endowment Corpus Fund.

US\$ 24,000 Aryana Quettawala Pakistan Medical Appeal

US\$4,000 Melbourne, Australia Medical Appeal

US\$15,000 Higher Education USA

WZO US Region extends its sincere appreciation to all its donors, big and small, for their generous support and co-operation through the year. Their heartfelt gratitude goes to the continuous and extremely generous support of their major donors in 2016 and, in particular:

Zarin and Neville Sarkari Foundation of Colorado.

Drs. Minu & Mehroo Patel of Westchester, Illinois

Behram & Rena Baxter of San Diego, California

In addition WZO US Region administers the Hormazdiar Damkevala Humanitarian Endowment Fund. We are grateful to the donors William and Yasmin Cumming of Santa Rosa, California for this generous endowment.

Our sincere thanks to Kayomarsh Mehta, President WZO US Region for his commitment to WZO and efficient management and administration of all donations.

We continue to make donations of US\$3000 each year through WZO U.S. Region to **The Fali Chothia Charitable Trust USA** in support of scholarships for deserving Zoroastrians in North America.

WZO London was one of the Premier Sponsors of the 15th Zoroastrian Games held at Elmhurst College in Chicago from June 30th to July 4th. The WZO logo, letter of support and advertisement were published in the printed and electronic editions of their Souvenir Guide to the Games, prominently displayed on all T-shirts, and recognized in their official news release/communications. The games attracted approximately 250 Zoroastrian athletes and their families from around the world. Shahpur Captain in his letter of congratulations wrote to the participants, 'Sports have always been a great leveller and one of the best ways of bonding with fellow men and women. It teaches people to be competitive yet be friendly and supportive of their fellow competitors without being aggressive. This is a great opportunity for the Zoroastrian youth of different background and cultures to unite in a common cause. This ethos bodes well with WZO's motto 'Zoroastrian Unity Worldwide'.

WZO Canada is managed by its President, Ervad (Dr) Jehan Bagli, and ably supported by his fellow Trustee, Mr Sam Vesuna. Whilst awaiting the outcome of their discussions with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA), their activities have been limited. Nevertheless they have continued their efforts to try and fulfil some of their objectives.

WZO Canada has initiated two scholarships through an endowment fund of C \$100,000 by Sam Vesuna in memory of his parents. The Dr. Minocher Rustom Vesuna scholarship is worth C \$3,000 for Graduate studies and the Dowlat Minocher Vesuna scholarship is worth C \$3,000 for undergraduate studies. The recipients in 2015 were Sepideh Noruzian for Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario and Urvaksh Davar for Electrical Engineering at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology respectively.

WZO Canada has also received another endowment of C \$ 25,000.00 that will permit them to disburse a Sheroo Darabsha Kolsavala scholarship of C \$1000.00 for higher studies in Canada or USA. WZO Canada collected C \$1,789 for the WZO special appeal for the victims of the Nepal

earthquake. This amount was matched by the Canadian government. A total of C \$3,578 was sent to the Canadian Red Cross.

WZO Canada had sent out an appeal for medical assistance for baby Aryana Quettawala to the members. A modest sum of C \$300.00 was collected which was disbursed through the assistance of ZSO. Our sincere thanks to the Trustees of WZO Canada for their commitment to WZO and efficient management and administration of all donations.

WZO New Zealand has been in existence as a local Non-Profit Organisation for over 12 years. The two Trustees based locally are Darius Mistry, and Farah Unwala. The Trust plays a low profile role in the local Zoroastrian community, only to step in and assist when there is a genuine community need. The WZO NZ chapter has over the years contributed to the local Zoroastrian community in times of need by funding hospital bills for the deserving Zoroastrians, one off financial assistance in hardships, Our sincere thanks to Darius Mistry who manages the NZ Trust.

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, self-employment etc. 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 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:

An Anonymous donation of £15,000 was received from a well wisher for the Education Fund. 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 of 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.

THE ZOROASTRIANS OF SOUTH GUJARAT – WZO Trust oversee the progress made in the project to rehabilitate poor Zoroastrians residing in the rural areas of South Gujarat.



The project revolves around 4 main issues

- a) Rehabilitate poor Zoroastrian farmers who have land available to pursue agriculture viably. Alternatively to make use of land available towards dairy & poultry farming, setting up brick kilns and so on.
- b) For those who do not have any land, to provide support towards their self-employment.
- c) Replacing huts in which the poor Zoroastrians live into decent cottages made from bricks & mortar.
- d) Providing adequate quantities of food grains to economically challenged Zoroastrian families residing in villages that would last them for a few months thereby providing relief. Given below is a short treatise on how our journey began and how it has unfolded so far.

1988: Dr. Cashmera Bhaya submits her report on the sample (not census) survey that she undertook at the behest of The World Zoroastrian Organisation, London and Surat Parsi Panchayet on the Socio-Economic conditions of Zoroastrians residing in the rural areas of South Gujarat. Her conclusions: she identified 687 Zoroastrian families in 209 villages living below the poverty line.

1991: The World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust was established, primarily to rehabilitate these poor Zoroastrians. During the course of WZO committee members journey they found that there were many more Zoroastrians living in abject poverty in many villages than covered in the report (which was a sample and not a census survey).

Rehabilitation process begins, comprising of providing inputs to agrarians, providing self-employment to the landless or those where agricultural efforts could not be economically viable, replacing the huts in which the poor Zoroastrians lived into cottages, providing medical relief, supporting their children to receive a good education, distributing food grains and so on.



Zoroastrian farmers in the villages of South Gujarat have been extended support in their farming activities and replacement cottages.

Individuals in different rural locations have been provided opportunities and financial support to be self-employed in vocations of their choice, such as plying taxis, auto-rickshaws, grocery shops, motor garages etc.

Food grains are distributed periodically every year to economically challenged Zoroastrians residing in the villages.



Bartad village - in fields of beneficiary; sugarcane cultivation

Collaborations & Partnerships:

It is not possible for any single institution to undertake work on this scale without the active cooperation support from other likeminded individuals and institutions through collaborations and partnerships.

World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust is fortunate to have received generous support from all continents in which Zoroastrians reside and is extremely grateful to those who have contributed towards this massive ongoing exercise. We acknowledge that whatever has been achieved has been due to the unstinted support of donors and well-wishers who have participated by way of donations and also by creating awareness of our work. Partnerships such as these have enabled World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust to change the lives of many. Whilst much has been done, even more yet remains to be done. Many are still experiencing the throes of poverty, and looking forward to helping hands bringing them back into the mainstream of society.

Our thanks are due to Bachi and Dinshaw Tamboly for the above work as well as Farrokh Kasad, who has been associated with the Rehabilitation Programme since its inception.

Fundraising Events

WZO's calendar of events runs from March to November each year. Social activities interspersed with educational events gives a happy balance but because of the absence of our own premises, is only possible because we have a dedicated team of volunteers for each event who work exceedingly hard to make them a success. With the advent of a proper place we can call our own, things will get better and hopefully we will generate better and more successful events and more fundraising will help our charitable activities.

The Jamshedi Nowruz Persian Evening held on Saturday 19th March attracted a large crowd of Zoroastrians who attended a fun filled and joyous celebration. This was followed by the Summer BBQ held on Sunday 29th June at the Staines and Laleham Sports Centre. On Saturday 20th August, WZO held its Shahenshahi Navroze Dinner and Dance.



It goes without saying that our thanks for organising and managing all these events each year rests predominantly on Armaity and Benafsha Engineer's shoulders and we offer our sincere thanks to them both.

A Special Event for Fund raising was held this year on Saturday 12th November at the Marriott Hotel Marble Arch and it was a stunning success. Our sincere thanks for all the hard work to Armaity and Benafsha Engineer, Shahin Bekhradnia and Darayus Motivala for a very successful evening.

It would not have been possible for us to undertake such extensive welfare programmes without support from our donors, and also our band of dedicated volunteers. We have always followed a policy of being open and transparent in all that we do, with full accountability being provided to all our donors at all times. This policy has endeared our trusts to donors, who have willingly given generous donations on a regular basis.

To those of our beneficiaries, whose lives have been touched by the generosity of our donors, we can happily say that our promise of providing better days has been fulfilled. Whilst we are proud of what we have done, we recognise the fact that very much more needs to be done. It is for this reason that we seek the continued support of our donors from all over the world to enable us to sustain and enhance our welfare activities.

Appendix

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Abridged Version)

- for the year ended -

31st DECEMBER 2016

**Nash Harvey Group LLP
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors
The Granary, Hermitage Court
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9NT**

Charity Registration No. 1023334

Company Registration No. 01510380 (England and Wales)

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED

We have audited the accounts of The World Zoroastrian Organisation Limited for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of The World Zoroastrian Organisation Limited for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The trustees have elected for the accounts to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly we have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the accounts in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounts

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounts sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the accounts. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounts and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on accounts.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2016 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

David Smith Bsc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Nash Harvey Group LLP

29 August 2017

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

The Granary
Hermitage Court
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9NT

Nash Harvey Group LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	105,983	157,651	263,634	709,117
Charitable activities	4	199,884	-	199,884	156,636
Other trading activities	5	1,569	-	1,569	3,655
Investments	6	28,264	5,364	33,628	30,516
Total income		335,700	163,015	498,715	899,924
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	7	36,466	-	36,466	42,679
Charitable activities	8	37,970	138,582	176,552	537,274
Total resources expended		74,436	138,582	213,018	579,953
Net gains on investments	12	91,652	23,422	115,074	23,434
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	(75,104)
Net incoming resources		352,916	47,855	400,771	268,301
<u>Other recognised gains and losses</u>					
Other gains or losses	13	144	36	180	900
Net movement in funds		353,060	47,891	400,951	269,201
Fund balances at 1 January 2016		2,466,781	948,976	3,415,757	3,146,557
Fund balances at 31 December 2016		2,819,841	996,867	3,816,708	3,415,758

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	2016		2015	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	14		4,416		8,828
Tangible assets	15		1,931,264		1,936,397
Investments	16		842,955		728,563
			<u>2,778,635</u>		<u>2,673,788</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	18	90,790		54,862	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,040,872		775,734	
		<u>1,131,662</u>		<u>830,596</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(93,589)		(88,626)	
Net current assets			1,038,073		741,970
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,816,708</u>		<u>3,415,758</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	21		996,867		948,977
Unrestricted funds			2,819,841		2,466,781
			<u>3,816,708</u>		<u>3,415,758</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2016, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 23 July 2017

Mr Shahpur Captain
Trustee

Mr Dinyar Modi
Trustee

Company Registration No. 01510380

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	2016 £	£	2015 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	25		225,881		151,686
Investing activities					
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		4,946		-	
Purchase of subsidiaries		-		(1)	
Purchase of other investments		(33,487)		(139,257)	
Proceeds on disposal of other investments		34,170		192,779	
Interest received		33,628		30,516	
Net cash generated from investing activities			39,257		84,037
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			265,138		235,723
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			775,734		540,011
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,040,872		775,734
