WZO Calendar of Events 2019

The Chairman, Shahpur F Captain, and the Board members of the WZO wish you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019. Here are the dates for WZO’s programme for this year to keep in your diary. Details on the later events will be sent to you during the course of the year. We hope that you, your family and friends, will be able to join us at these events.

**Sunday 17th March 2019**
From 2:00 pm

**Open Day with a Jashan at 3:00pm**
Details given in this mailer. Please note this is not the Centre’s official Inauguration day which will be held later.

**Saturday 23rd March 2019**
Starts at 7:00 pm

**Noruz Dinner / Dance**
Details given in this mailer

**Thursday 30th May 2019**
Starts at 6:00 pm

**The 22nd Dasturji Dr Sohrabji H. Kutar Memorial Lecture**
By Dr Salmoueh Gholami, University of Frankfurt.

**Sunday 9th June 2019**
Registration at 10.00 am

**Seminar on Zoroastrian Religion, History and Culture**
Details given in this mailer

**Sunday 7th or 14th July 2019**
From 12 noon

**Annual BBQ**
Date and venue to be confirmed later.

**Saturday 10th or 24th August 2019**
Starts at 7:00 pm

**Shahenshahi Navroze Dinner / Dance**
Further details to be confirmed

**Sunday 22nd September 2019**
From 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**Annual General Meeting**
(Details will be sent with the Annual Report)

We look forward to the pleasure of your company at these events.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Darayus S Motivala
(Hon Secretary)
I wish the membership of The World Zoroastrian Organisation together with their families and friends a very HAPPY and HEALTHY 2019. May the New Year bring peace, harmony and prosperity to the membership and the whole Zoroastrian community.

We are pleased to inform you that the work of renovating Bridge House, renamed World Zoroastrian House has now been completed barring some snagging issues. The journey has been fraught with difficulties and with your support and the grace of God we have finally got there.

WZO continues to seek your financial support on this development project and also towards our charitable activities which remain unabated. WZO has served the community well over the years and will continue to do so in the future providing medical assistance, relief of poverty and education etc.

If you feel you can participate as a committee member and provide your experience and knowledge please do let me know. Your help will be most appreciated. In 2017, we sadly lost some very worthy members of our committee who were held in high regard and we need to strengthen our management team and Board.

There are exciting times ahead for WZO, so make this organisation stronger by encouraging your family and friends to join WZO and become part of a truly world community. They can do so by going to www.w-z-o.org and enrolling as a Life member.

Atha Zamyat, Yatha Afrinami.

Shahpur F. Captain.
chairman@w-z-o.org

Message from the Membership Secretary

If you have relocated recently, kindly update us with your current postal address, telephone number and email id, so you can continue to receive communications from us.

You can email me at membership@w-z-o.org or write to me at World Zoroastrian House, 5 Hanworth Road, Feltham TW13 5AF.

Thank you.
Monaz Patel
AN INVITATION TO THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN HOUSE OPEN DAY

The Chairman and Committee Members of WZO cordially invite you to attend an Open Day at its new HQ, World Zoroastrian House, on **Sunday 17th March 2019**. Committee members will be present to welcome members of the community.

The house will be open from 2pm to welcome guests and be shown around the premises.

We will hold a Jashan ceremony performed by Ervad Jimmy Madon on the premises in the main hall at 3 p.m. followed by the lighting of the fire in the Dasturji Sohrabji and Shirinbanoo Kutar Setayash Gah.

Light refreshments will be served. The event will end by 5.30 p.m.
The Chairman and the Managing Committee invite you to come along with your family and friends, and celebrate Noruz with us on **Saturday 23\textsuperscript{rd} March 2019 at 7:00 pm**.

The evening is sure to delight us all. As always there will be live entertainment and plenty of dancing opportunities!

**It is the first time that the Noruz Dinner Dance is being held at the World Zoroastrian House, 5 Hanworth Road, Feltham, TW13 5AF.**

Time: 19:00 to midnight.

Dress code: Smart Casual/Evening Dress

Free Parking in the WZ House car park or after 6.30 pm on adjoining public car park

Tickets for this very enjoyable event will be £30.

Please call Armaity Engineer (01784 466 312/ 07519 113111) for further information. You may also email Armaity at **social@w-z-o.org**

Members can also make payments to Armaity over the telephone using their debit/credit cards.

Please do let Armaity know of any seating preferences you may have and she will try to accommodate you.
The Twenty-second Dasturji Dr Sohrabji H. Kutar Memorial Lecture
Thursday 30th May 2019, 6 pm

The Department of Religions and Philosophies
In association with
The World Zoroastrian Organisation
Presents the Twenty-second
Dastur Dr Sohrab Hormasji Kutar Memorial Lecture
To be given by

Dr Salmoueh Gholami
(University of Frankfurt)
on
“Endangered Zoroastrian heritage of Iran:
New insights from recently discovered manuscripts”

Abstract: This promises to be a very interesting talk in which she will report about her search for Zoroastrian manuscripts in Yazd and Kerman.

Thursday, 30th May 2019, 6:00p.m.
Khalili Lecture Theatre
SOAS, Russell Square, London
(Nearest Underground Station: Russell Square)
The lecture is followed by refreshments
All are welcome
Speaker 1: Kerman Daruwalla

Kerman Daruwalla is a third-year PhD student at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). He is a recipient of the European Research Council (ERC) PhD studentship for the study of the Training of Priests in the Zoroastrian Tradition, and is part of the Multimedia Yasna project led by Prof. Almut Hintze at SOAS. Kerman has an MA degree in Iranian Studies from SOAS, and also an MA in Avesta-Pahlavi from the University of Mumbai. Prior to SOAS, Kerman worked in the telecommunications sector in USA and India. He holds an MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Syracuse University, New York and an MBA degree from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

Abstract of talk:

The Yasna is the fundamental Zoroastrian inner ritual and forms the foundation for all longer liturgical ceremonies like the Visperad and Videvdad. The Yasna encompasses at its center the most sacred texts of the Zoroastrian canon. The Yasna ritual has an unbroken tradition of over two millennia, and it was performed regularly both in India and Iran till the mid-20th century. However since then, the ritual in its entirety has completely ceased to be performed in Iran, and in India, it is performed occasionally by only a handful of priests who have the requisite proficiency.

The entire text of the Yasna has to be completely memorized and recited within the ritual. Almost all the priests who are currently able to perform the Yasna, have studied at one of the only two Zoroastrian priestly training schools in the world, the Athornan Institutes. The enrollments at these institutes has been on a steady decline, which has threatened the survival of this millennia-old ritual.

This talk will trace the journey of the young priestly initiates as they are trained in the memorization of the text and performance of the ritual. It will also highlight the changes in the ritual sphere that have taken place over the past century at the important centres of Zoroastrian priestly activities.
Speaker 2: Ervad Jimmy Madon

Ervad Jimmy Khushroo Madon was born and brought up in Mumbai, India. Ervad Jimmy Khushroo Madon moved to the United Kingdom in 2010. He procured a First Class Honours degree in Computing from the University of East London and is currently pursuing a part-time M.Sc. in Software Engineering at the University of Oxford. He has worked as a Software Engineer for the past 7 years and enjoys transferring his passion for the subject by giving part-time lectures at various universities in the UK.

Jimmy is an ordained priest, a ‘Navar-Martab’, and has been actively carrying out liturgical ceremonies for the Zoroastrian community worldwide. As the youth coordinator of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) and a committee member for the Young Zoroastrians of the UK, he actively helps in organizing community events in the UK. He further volunteers to teach at the religious educational classes in London for kids and parents alike and was the keynote speaker at the 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in New Zealand in 2015.

His presentation, “Zoroastrianism: A Way of Life”, aims to address the modern ‘young’ Zoroastrian, whether he/she is the sceptic freethinker or and an old-time conformist. The presentation promises to be an unconventional discussion on how to practically use Zoroastrianism in one’s own life – be it in academics, in one’s own professional career, hobbies or relationships. It takes Zoroastrianism beyond the cliché Good Thoughts, Words and Deeds paradigm, taking the Jashan beyond the Malido and the Navjote beyond the ‘birdy dance’ or the ‘patra-ni-machi’!

Understanding how to distinguish religion from culture, race and ethnicity while knowing the central themes of the Gathas, one can put Zarathustra’s time-tested ethical framework to good use. Such a rational take should leave any “Zarathushti” wondering if they ever truly lived this wonderful way of life called Zoroastrianism.
Fariborz Rahnamoon was born in Yazd; he was educated in a Catholic school in Bombay, which led him to research his own religion at a very early age. He has a unique perspective on the Zarathushti religion and history, derived with the help of the Bible wherein all the reported deeds of the Persians are based on Wisdom. He says; “the Zarathushti history that has come down to us has been written by its adversaries over the last 2000 years and the Avesta has been deciphered and translated by scholars with preconceived ideology thereby leading us astray.” His finding and views are available on his website. www.ancientiran.com He is also in the process of translating the Gathas which has turned out to be mind-blowingly unique. Samples of which are on the same website.

Since 2015 he has compiled and is publishing the “MazdaYasni” calendar based on the “Bundahishn” that is recognized as “the most accurate Persian calendar from the 2nd millennium BCE that does not need any adjustment for 110,000 years”. You can check it out at www.zarathushticalendar.com/

Fariborz Rahnamoon will speak on the History of the Teachings of Zarathushtra

Human Civilization is lucky to have 240 verses from the Teachings of Zarathushtra in its original form untouched by the ravages of time and the atrocities of mankind. Major parts of this treasure were lost twice once when it was robbed by Alexander and the second time when it was destroyed by the Arabs hordes. It is unfortunate that we have lost the knowledge of the language in which it was sung. In the last 1800 years, unfortunately, it has been translated and interpreted by priests and scholars based on their own beliefs, outlook and background. Let’s trace its 3757-year journey and try and retrieve the original message in these 240 verses that are left from this great Sage of Ancient Iran and hopefully put civilization back on the track of benevolence from where it was derailed by Alexander and called Great for it.

The venue is the World Zoroastrian House, 5 Hanworth Road, Feltham. TW13 5AF.

You can reserve your place by telephoning Darayus S Motivala on +44 (0)1844 352887 or emailing him at darayus.motivala@w-z-o.org by 1st June 2019.
Ordinary Membership fees were due on the 1st of January 2019. If you have not renewed your Ordinary Membership for 2019, please do so today.

You may find it more convenient to use the payment form to pay either by credit/debit card or by standing order or cheque.

We hope you will consider paying in advance for a number of years (£40 for 3 years) or becoming a Life Member for a subscription of £150. In doing so, you will help WZO to use more of your subscriptions and donations on worthy causes by reducing our overheads.

If you have already renewed your membership, please ignore this notice and we thank you for your continued support.

Please send your membership fees to Mr Darayus Motivala (01844 352887) with the attached Renewal Slip.

Thanking you in advance.

____________________________________
Membership Renewal Slip 2019
Your Membership No:

Please send this renewal slip with your cheque (payable to WZO) to:

Jt. Hon. Secretary, WZO, World Zoroastrian House, 5 Hanworth Road, Feltham. Tw13 5AF.

Please renew my Membership and that of ____________________________
as ----------- Ordinary member/s ( £15 per year ) for ------ years,  OR
as ----------- Ordinary member/s ( £40 for 3 years ),  OR
as------------------- Life Member/s ( £150 )

I also enclose a donation of £________ for the General Funds.

Your Name & Address on our Records (Please amend if incorrect)

We would appreciate if you could please inform us of your current telephone No. and Email address. Thank you.

Tel: __________________________ Email: __________________________
# Payment Form for Donations and Membership

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Your Personal Details</th>
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Please tick either box A,B or C and complete the details for your chosen method of payment.

### A. Standing Order

To The Branch Manager,

Bank

Branch Address

Postcode

Please quote Reference

(This should be your Name or Membership No)

Please debit my/our Account

ACCOUNT NAME:

Branch Sort Code

Account No.

The sum of £ (in words)

on___________________ and thereafter on the 1st day of each following Month / Year (Please delete as appropriate) until further notice. This cancels any previous Standing Order to the same payee and for the same reference.

To the Account of the World Zoroastrian Organisation

SortCode: 60—50—01, Account No: 13533479

Signature Date

I authorise the World Zoroastrian Organisation to debit my card for the sum of £

Signature Date

Please note these details will not be retained after your transaction has been completed.

### B. Credit / Debit Card

Please indicate which Credit / Debit card you wish to use for payment

- MasterCard
- Visa
- Maestro
- Issue No.

Card No.

Valid from Expiry date

The Card Security Code (CSC) which are the last 3 digits on the back of your card

### C. Cheque

Please find enclosed my cheque payable to ‘WZO’ for £

Please tick here if the donation qualifies for Gift Aid. If you have not previously completed a Gift Aid form for WZO, please email treasurer@w-z-o.org or contact us.

Gift Aid
WZO relies on your support and donations to carry out its work. Please send a donation, however large or small, so we can continue our charitable work.

Please make your cheques payable to 'WZO' and send to:

Mr Dinyar J. Modi, Hon. Treasurer, WZO

World Zoroastrian House, 5 Hanworth Road, Feltham TW13 5AF

Alternatively, you may make an instant Credit Card donation by visiting the WZO website at https://www.w-z-o.org/funds/

If you are a UK Tax payer, please ask for a Gift Aid Form.

Thank You

Please also consider WZO when drawing up your will.

Your legacy to the World Zoroastrian Organisation will leave a lasting legacy for the future generations of our community.
Directions to World Zoroastrian House, 5 Hanworth Road, Feltham TW13 5AF

Use Google Maps only and search either for 'WZO Feltham' or 'WZO TW13 5AF'

Access to WZ House and car park is off Hanworth Road via Crendon Court

The Area is Called 'Bridge House Pond' Hanworth Road, Walkway Entrance (World Zoroastrian House is behind the Pond)