



Who is ZAKOI?

We'd like to give you an idea of who we are! Even though we are a relatively small Zoroastrian community, our Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana (aka ZAKOI) is a diverse, inclusive, vibrant community, which has been active in various aspects in the community over the past thirty years.

We are open to accepting anyone into our faith as long as they learn about it first, and learn the prayers with understanding, and are willing to work with us in that process. We do not believe that Zarthusstra ever wanted his beautiful religion to be closed to any human being. We believe ours is a universal religion that every human being has the right to follow our prophet's teachings, as it only leads humankind towards further peace and unity in the world.

Here are some of our activities and information about us:

1) Every year, we have about 8 community events, which include
i) a gatha jasan and muktad prayers; and several Jasans throughout the year,
ii) NowRuz Celebration function,
iii) picnics, Gahambar Get-togethers, and Potlucks,
iv) Holidays' Celebrations and more.

2) Every year, for the last 20 years, we have had week-long religion camps for children 6-18 years of age in Bakhtavar & Fred Desai's home. About 10-20 children attend every year, not just from our region, but also from nearby and other states. We also have Religion Classes for kids of all ages once a month.

3) We have a couple of priests, who perform jasans, navjotes, weddings, and funeral prayers for our community. We are currently in the process of training 5 young people from our community who have stepped forward to take on the responsibility of serving the religious needs of our community in the future.

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4) We actively participate in and lead several Interfaith Activities not only in our local region, but all over the country as well, mostly virtually, but sometimes in person as well. These include: i) Cincinnati Festival of Faiths, which is an annual event attended by over 2000 people, ii) Faith Communities Go Green, an organization geared towards continuous work on improving sustainability in our area, iii) Sacred Connections, a program whose goal is to educate folks about different religions, and help to build peace, friendships and collaborations for the greater good among the various faith communities. Bakhtavar leads this Program, iv) Pride Interfaith Services and Pride Festivals and parades, and many more local events.....

5) As Co-Chair of FEZANA's Interfaith Activities Committee, Bakhtavar helped the North American Zoroastrian delegation represent FEZANA successfully at the 2023 Parliament of World's Religions that was held in Chicago last August, and continues to represent FEZANA in Interfaith work in the world.

6) We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so all donations made to ZAKOI are tax-deductible according to the United States IRS.

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