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Founded in 1978, ZAMWI (Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc.) serves the religious and cultural needs of Zoroastrians who live in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area. Zoroastrianism is the oldest monotheistic religion in the world, dating back 3700 years to its founding in Ancient Iran. While most members of the ZAMWI community trace their heritage to Zoroastrian communities in Iran, India and Pakistan, a growing number of Zoroastrians choose to embrace the faith by individual choice in America and around the world. The words of our prophet, Zarathushtra, are contained in *The Gathas*, with guidance to always seek the truth (Asha), exercise our good mind (Vohu Mana) through careful critical thinking, and to do good in the world for the sake of goodness and a means to true happiness (Ushta).

ZAMWI holds religious and cultural events throughout the year. Our Mobeds (Priests) perform special ceremonies at Gahanbars (large gatherings to give thanks and share the bounties of nature) weddings, Sudreh Pooshi or Navjote (initiation into the faith), funerals and on other religious occasions. Prayers in memory of the deceased are also recited each year during a holy period. The Gathas Study Circle draws participants from across the DC region and the globe, and Avesta Classes help students learn the history, faith, culture and meaning of the faith. ZAMWI hosts Nowruz, the Persian New Year on the day of the Spring Equinox (March 21) which marks the beginning of Spring; Mehregan, the time of harvest celebrated in early October; Yalda, the longest night of the year and the Winter Solstice (December 21); Shahenshahi New Year, celebrated in August by Zoroastrians from India, known as the Parsees; Sadeh, 50 days and nights before Nowruz; and, most importantly, the birthday of our Prophet Zarathushtra on March 26.

In September 2014, ZAMWI inaugurated the Kamran Dar-e Mehr located in Boyds, Maryland.

ZAMWI is managed by a Board of Trustees which is elected by its members for a two-year term.

<https://zamwi.org/>