



# Roya Behmardian

Roya Behmardian was born and raised in Irvine, California.

She received her B.A in Psychology at UCLA, and her Masters of Arts in Teaching at UCI.

She is now in her 8th year of being an Elementary School Teacher.

# Persis Driver



Persis Driver is a professor of Developmental Psychology at Dominican University, Chicago with a Masters in Teaching, and PhD in Educational Psychology. Her research is in the scholarship of teaching and learning, focusing on how individuals learn, sustain motivation, and interact in teams. She also runs an after-school creative and academic writing program. She is a religious education teacher, curriculum developer, and co-chair of the Children & Youth Religious Education committee at the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAMC) and a recipient of their Community Service Award. She coordinates experiential learning in the Chicagoland area and neighboring states, designing developmentally appropriate curricula, lessons, and activities. She contributes to the FEZANA education group, providing professional development workshops for educators and evaluating age-appropriate lesson plans. She has compiled two guides on developmentally sound teaching practices for students at diverse ages and for sustaining youth engagement, interest, and advocacy in religious education.

# Armaity Homavazir



Armaity Homavazir (M.A., B.Ed. Certified Orton-Gillingham Practitioner) is a special education teacher in Toronto and the founder of *Spellbound Education (spellboundtoronto.com) (2019)*. She is currently a consultant for the new language curriculum with the Ministry of Education - Ontario, Canada.

Armaity has made use of opportunities within the Canadian school system to inform hundreds of students and colleagues on Zoroastrian topics. She has taught religion classes in her community for many years and was involved with the FEZANA Religious Education Committee in their endeavour to create lesson plans and materials in English.

It is through this work and her interest in linguistics and English orthography, that inspired the ***Zoroastrian Global Glossary in 2021*** ([fezana.org/glossary](http://fezana.org/glossary)). You can see her photography at: [www.rmyt.ca](http://www.rmyt.ca)

# Vehishta Kaikobad



Vehishta Kaikobad holds a diploma in Montessori education (St. Nicholas College, London, England), with over 30 years of experience in the field of early childhood, Middle School and High School education.

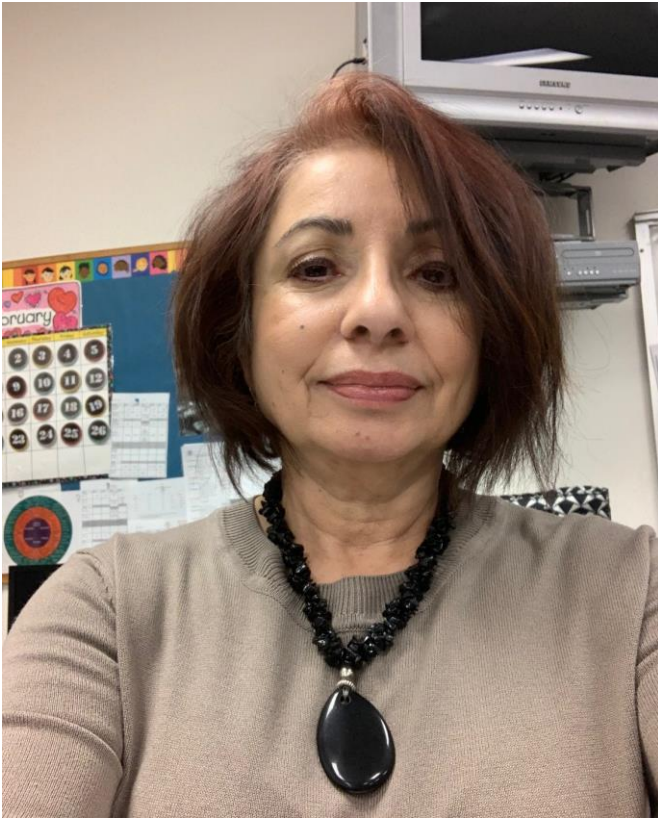
She was recognized by the Houston Children's Museum for the "Spirros Martell Teacher of the Year" award in 2000; and in 2008 awarded the prestigious "Mary Benedict Docent of the Year" award by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH).

Currently a Teaching Artist at the Glassell Junior School, MFAH, Vehishta conducts innovative workshops and offers Outreach Programs to citywide schools.

Vehishta conducts Sunday School at Zoroastrian Association of Houston, since 1980's, holding religious workshops at national and international level.

Vehishta remains dedicated to promoting education through art at a global level.

# Nina Kalianivala



Nina Kalianivala lives in Fort Worth, Texas. She and her husband have been in Texas twenty-three years. They have one daughter, Anahita, who is married and working at the VA in Reno, Texas.

Nina has been a middle school English teacher for thirty-two years of which twenty-three have been in Texas. Ever since arriving in Texas, she has been involved with religious classes, first with the little ones and then with the teen class.

She loves spending time with her students, reading, and cooking.



## Nilufar Kamdar

My professional journey, which began in 2002, is diverse and multifaceted. As a seasoned educator, I've taught students ranging from 1st to 8th grade in public schools, with a special focus on science.

In addition to my work in public education, I've also made significant strides in the private sector. Here, my role has been to educate company employees, helping them understand the workings of their own products. My Bachelor's degree in Rhetoric and Communications, coupled with a teaching credential, have been key to my success in these varied environments.

Whether it's simplifying complex scientific concepts for middle school students or elucidating product functionalities for adults, my mission remains consistent: fostering an environment of curiosity, encouraging critical thinking, and equipping learners with the knowledge they need for success.

Tanaz Karai



## Hilda Kasravi

Hilda Kasravi is from Southern California and has attended CZC Persian and religious classes while growing up.

She received her Bachelor's and Master's degree from University of California, Irvine.

Hilda is an elementary school teacher in Orange County.