

ONTARIO ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



At a Glance...

Sat. Feb. 28
Indian Music Night & 1st Sweepstake Draw (see Pg.2).

Mon. March 16th—Fri. March 20th
Fasli Muktads @ ZRCC

Sat. March 21 - 6:30pm (see Pg. 2)
Navroze Function @ ZRCC

Sun. July 12 - 10:00 am - 4:00pm
Annual OZCF Picnic @ Coronation Park

Sat. August 22—7:00 pm
Grand Shenshai Navroze @ TBD

Summer 2015—date to be decided
Jamva Chaloji @ ZRCC

Need a Mobed?

Our Mobeds are available to help in times of need to offer their guidance & services to the OZCF community. Please contact:

Ervad Firdosh Bulsara	(905) 824-7692
Ervad Xerxes Bamji	(905) 702-1034
Ervad Jal Panthaky	(905) 568-4946
Ervad Kobad Zarolia	(647) 887-9213
Ervad Nozer Kotwal	(905) 820-0461
Ervad Mehbad Dastur	(416) 917-9195
Ervad Jamshed Dhabar	(905) 819-0089
Ervad Xerxes Madon	(416) 254-0685

ZRCC Prayer Room and Facility Hours:

The OZCF prayer room and facility is not open regularly, especially in the winter months.
For personal requests, you may contact the following:

Prayer Room Access

Nozer Kotwal 905-820 0461

nskotwal1@gmail.com

Hall Rentals

Cyrus Gazdar 647-294 6462

cygazdar@yahoo.ca

Facility Management

Rumi Jasavala 905-257-7864

ZRCC Coordinator

Armaity Anandasagar 905-271 0366

armaity.a@gmail.com

OZCF President

Percy Dastur 416-930-9666

president@ozcf.com

Webmaster

Rumi Jasavala 905-257-7864

rumijas@hotmail.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Wikipedia, a Haft Sen Table as seen at Laleh Hotel, Tehran

President's Message

Happy New Year, 2015!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish you all the best in a year full of happiness and success in your personal and professional lives.

Like every year, we take this time to look back and reflect at the year behind us and the year ahead, with great expectation as to what lies ahead. As a board we carry the teachings of the past with us and look confidently forward, as we always do, secure in the knowledge that we are Zoroastrians and we can do anything to which we set our minds. Though small in numbers, our community is mighty and we have and shall continue to accomplish excessively moving forward. Together, we exhibit our confidence in the forthcoming and our solidarity as a community.

Each day brings us new challenges and each day we meet these challenges with determination and passion and thus overcome them with ease. And so as we begin a brand new 2015, we do so with confidence. This year like every one, will bring both obstacles and opportunities. Every challenge brings us together and each accomplishment makes us stronger.

I am certain that this coming year will only bring greater glory to OZCF and the Zoroastrian community. So, as this New Year begins, let us congratulate each other and wish each other love and happiness in the coming year. Let all our dreams come true.

Percy Agreras Dastur

President

"One is not born into the world to do everything,
but to do something."

Henry David Thoreau

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Centre

MAILING & PROPERTY ADDRESS:

1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E, Oakville, Ontario, L6H 7B3

UPCOMING EVENTS

**OZCF ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE CORDIALLY INVITES
YOU TO THE**

SPRINGTIME NAVROZE JASHAN

Followed by Dinner

At the OZCF at 6:30 pm On Saturday, March 21, 2015

Member Adults: \$20 OZCF/ ZSO, Children (0-12) \$15

Non-Member Adults: \$25, Children \$20

Cash Bar and Music

NO CHARGE FOR JUST ATTENDING JASHAN!

Capacity of 100 people only!

RSVP: ozcfentertainment@gmail.com or

289-997-6800

Send cheques to: Jeroo Madan, 2550 Thomas St.

Unit #33, Mississauga, ON L5M 5N8



Music Night at the OZCF



on Saturday February 28, 2015
at 6.30pm.

Enjoy Sammy Divecha's music & dinner for
only \$10 per head!

Space is limited—so book early !

Contact: Kermin Byramjee at 905-845-3480

Email at kermin101@gmail.com or

Rumi Jasavala at 905-257-7864

Email at rumijas@hotmail.com

OZCF SWEEPSTAKES 1ST DRAW

5TH Prize - Ipad Mini value \$430

Draw will be streamed live online!

SWEEPSTAKES DRAW AT 9.00PM

Everyone is welcome to attend draw

NEW!

OZCF Sweepstakes!

Each year, we strive to create new and engaging ways to build momentum for the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation, located in Oakville, Ontario. The Fundraising Committee is excited to launch its first OZCF Sweepstake Campaign and with your support raise funds for the development of a place of worship and to continue to provide engaging programs for the Community.

The following prizes will be drawn from February - June 2015 and ticket sales start in January 2015.

Tickets will be sold for:

1 ticket for \$25

5 tickets for \$100

The total value of the five prizes is \$6,387 each one being drawn as below at the OZCF. The draws will be streamed live online.

1. **iPad Mini** - 1st Draw date is February 28, 2015 at the OZCF the Music Night!
(with retina display-32GB, WIFI)
2. **Canon SLR Digital Camera** - Draw date is March 21st, 2015
(EOS Rebel SL1 18mp with 75-300mm/40mm lens kit)
3. **Panasonic Television** - Draw date is April 11th, 2015
(55 inch 1080p, 120hz, LED smart TV)
4. **Apple IMAC Computer** - Draw date is May 3rd, 2015
(21.5inch, 4th gen Intel Core i5, 2.7GHz Computer)
5. **Grand Prize - Trip to South Africa!!** - Draw date is June 21, 2015
(Includes 2 round trip economy class flights from Washington, Dulles or New York, JFK to Cape Town, South Africa on South African Airways but exclusive of government taxes and fuel surcharge. (Black out dates apply, subject to commercial demand). 3 nights accommodation at the 5 star Cullinan Hotel, Cape Town in a double occupancy room and inclusive of government tax. A full buffet breakfast for two daily in Cape Town. Meet and greet service and private transfer airport/hotel in Cape Town. In addition, there will be two tours: full day guided tour of Cape of Good Hope; half day guided City Tour and Table Mountain (weather permitting) based on seat-in-coach bases. Some black out dates apply).

Winning tickets from the first four draws will be re-entered for the grand prize draw in June.

We would like to thank our Sweepstake sponsors:

South African Airways, Alba Tours

Strategic Health

Logihedron

Rayomand Irani, Remax

Dr. Xenobia Jasavala, Sun Valley Dental Centre

If you have any questions, please contact Kermin Byramjee, Board Director & Co-Chair of the OZCF Sweepstake Campaign at 905.845.3480. **Please consider contributing to this worthy fundraising initiative & thank you for your support!**

PLACE OF WORSHIP—UPDATE ON 2014

The Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation was founded to advance the teachings of the Zoroastrian faith, and the religious tenets, doctrines, observances and culture associated with the faith, and establish, maintain and support a Place of Worship.

In 2011, the Place of Worship Advisory Committee (PWAC) on authority of the Board of Directors and membership of OZCF commenced its mandate to:

- a. Investigate the feasibility of developing a consecrated Place of Worship on land owned by OZCF in Oakville, Ontario.
- b. Investigate the community's views around building a consecrated place of worship.

The ultimate vision of building a consecrated Place of Worship is the installation of a consecrated Adaran. Neither a consecrated Dadgah with a Yasna Gah and Bareshnum facility nor Adaran currently exists in North America. Typical Dadgah's such as those that currently exist at the OZCF and ZSO facilities, along with many others across Zoroastrian associations in North America are not consecrated. In a consecrated Dadgah, one can ordain a priest which is deemed an important aspect towards the sustainability of Zoroastrianism on this continent. The consecration of the Dadgah is also an essential step that must be completed prior to an Adaran with a consecrated fire. To achieve this, in Phase 1 a consecrated Dadgah would be built. In Phase 2, the Adaran would be installed with a consecrated fire. In Phase 2 a Mobed will be required full time to look after the fire. The development of the ultimate Adaran will be dependent on a number of factors including financial capability and approvals.

The place of worship committee has met several times and developed a strategy to maximize public input through an open and transparent process. Five town hall type focus group meetings were held, including with ZSO, where Zoroastrians were able to attend, ask questions and voice their views through a structured and focused interactive process. Written submissions were also received. Notices of meetings were distributed, through the OZCF website, by telephone calls to the membership, in newsletter announcements, to ZSO and by invitation letters to Fezana to inform all Zoroastrian associations in North America. Meetings were held with the following groups: Mobeds; Youth 18-34; Seniors 60+; Adults 35-60; ZSO; General Open Meeting.

In 2013, at an Extraordinary General Meeting, OZCF members voted unanimously to proceed to build a consecrated place of worship subject to a financial plan being presented. To access more historical information on this project, please also visit our website at www.ozcf.com go to 'Project' and click on 'Place of Worship' to see the **POW documents**.

An architect was hired in 2014 through a selection process to develop conceptual drawings that will enable us to price the construction of the facility. We received conceptual drawings that we have refined based on members' views as much as possible. We continue interaction with the mobeds group to ensure that the building meets all acceptable religious requirements. A presentation to the membership on costing and timelines will be made once all the information has been gathered. We are also working closely with the Town of Oakville and Region of Halton together with our planners, to address approvals for water and wastewater use. Under the current Official Plan, "new developments" are not permitted until full servicing with municipal pipes is installed. We continue to have discussions at various government levels on this matter.

We have developed various sub-committees to bring the project to successful completion and have over 40 enthusiastic community members participating and are always open to volunteer with specific skills. We will keep you updated on progress on a regular basis.

PERCY DASTUR, *President, OZCF*



OZCF YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The OZCF youth hosted a successful Children's Christmas party on November 29, 2014. It was attended by 40 children ages 4 and up. While a visit from the Parsi Santa was the highlight of the evening, the kids went home with Christmas Gifts from the big guy. Thanks to the OZCF Youth Committee Chair Farshad Engineer and his team for volunteering, especially since it was in the middle of final exams for our hard-working youth volunteers!

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH A HUGE SUCCESS!



'Mark and his Angels' of the OZCF Entertainment Committee put up yet another fabulous New Year Dinner & Dance, bringing 2014 to a close.

While the function was not as well attended as expected, the variety of food, from Hakka Chinese, BBQ, Indian and Italian to the fabulous soundtracks and live music by DJ Sabby catered to all tastes from ages 9 to 93!



Attractive raffle prizes and a midnight desert table that included delicious crepes, fruit and coffee were enjoyed by all as we rang in the Year 2015 in style!



ADVERTISEMENT RATES FOR OZCF NEWSLETTER

On January 5th, 2015, the OZCF Board of Directors ratified a change to the rates for advertising in the OZCF Vision newsletter. Effective immediately, the following rates are in place for business card, quarter page, and half page ads, that will appear **4 times this year** in Black and White. *Please note ads will not appear in our annual colour issue.*

The OZCF Newsletter Committee has reaffirmed their commitment to delivering a total of six issues per calendar year and providing tremendous value for our advertisers. Please direct any enquiries regarding newsletter advertisements to Roshan Byramjee (rozbee@gmail.com).

Advertisement Size	Cost Per Issue
Business Card	\$25
Quarter Page	\$50
Half Page	\$75

ACHIEVEMENTS

Our heartiest congratulations to **Sam Vesuna**, recipient of the Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award. Sam is a valuable member of our community, and we appreciate his continuing support and volunteerism.

One for the ages

Author Rohinton Mistry, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Times Litfest, charmed the audience, both with his words and his singing on Sunday evening. The author, now based in Canada, aspired to become "Bombay's Bob Dylan" at one point. And it was so wonderful to hear him croon the legendary Mother India number, 'Dukh bhare din beete re bhaiya' which left the audience quite moved. Read the article here: <http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/erratica/the-challenge-to-survival-of-parsis-comes-from-self-appointed-messiahs-rohinton-mistry/>

IN MEMORIAM

Aloo Furdoon Wadia, wife of late Furdoon Nadirshaw Wadia, mother of Kanizehn Vistasp Patel and late Benaifer, grandmother of Pinaz and Delna, passed away on November 25, 2014. Our condolences to the bereaved family.

Khurshed Fredoon Gazdar passed away peacefully on Saturday December 6th. He is survived by his brother Sam, sister-in-law Dhun and by his nieces, grand nieces and nephews, Aban, Roy, Diana, Natasha, Kashmira, Mikiyo Nina and Cyrus. May Ahura Mazda bless his soul eternally.

We are sad to announce that **Darius Sidhwa** passed away on December 7th, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia at 28 years of age. Son of Dinshaw and Elsa, grandson of Bejan and Dinoo Sidhwa, and Alejandro and Carmen Rosario, nephew of Phil and Shahroukh, and Alehandro Jr., and Orlando.

Sarosh Rohinton Motiwalla, eldest son of Rohin and Prochi Motiwalla, died on 18 December 2014 at Reachview Village Home, Uxbridge, Ontario following a long term illness. He was 50 years old.

Dinyar Mistry, husband of Lucia, father of Zarina and Danielle, brother of Arni Presswalla, Eruch and Kerman Mistry (of India), passed away on December 12, 2014.



ZUMBA ,YOGA AND VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The Seniors' Sub-committee is happy to inform you that the Zumba and Yoga groups enjoyed very successful months from August to November 2014. We close all activities for the months of December, January and February till after the Fasli Muktads in March. This is because of the cold weather and treacherous road conditions.



As mentioned before, the number of participants increased from 9 to 15 to 30 to 35 or 36 in each session. This is of course thanks to your enthusiasm in participating with such vim and vigor in these activities and providing delicious snacks afterwards while we all socialize and spend some time in laughter and catching up with all that is going on in the our community.

Our immense **thanks** go to our more than wonderful **volunteer drivers** who many times went out of their way to accommodate all our various needs. From our hearts we say thank you to you all, as none of this would have been possible were it not for your invaluable input and help to us.

As we all age and our ability to drive and travel around independently to different activities decreases, the need from the community members who are able and capable of providing this kind of assistance to those of us who require it is increasing. We are in great need of good hearted people who are willing to devote about 3 hours every Tuesday to help us out by transporting these individuals to our activities. Isolation is indeed a very serious threat to the well being for our 'golden aged citizens' as it causes the gold to turn into lead. Even if you can help out twice a month, and if sufficient number of people get involved and help out, it will make a world of difference in their lives.

This is an appeal to the community at large to please give serious consideration to this appeal in order to make our senior citizens healthy and be a vibrant part of the OZCF community. Contact Minnie Mirza at minnie.mirza@gmail.com or call (905)-825-8188 for more information.

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR COMING SOON TO THE ZRCC

The best way for a community organization to look after it members is to be prepared. Owning an A.E.D. is one small way that can make OZCF be more prepared.



The Seniors' Sub committee proposed to the BODs that OZCF invest in the purchase of a DEFIBRILLATOR for our organization. The board has approved this purchase.

A defibrillator is a device that delivers electric shocks to the heart when a person collapses. AED'S are very simple, easy to use little machines that any one can use anywhere, indoors or out side, to help save a life. They provide guided VERBAL instructions to the by stander to help the victim while waiting for the EMS services to arrive. Since most public places such as Arenas, Shopping Centers, theaters, schools, airports and many work places etc. in the U.S. and Canada have this life saving equipment OZCF has decided to purchase one as well.

This device is an important tool to possess for a community center where a variety of activities take place on a regular basis by participants of all age groups.

Of course we have many different activities for the Seniors group from March to late November every year, but there are many other activities taking place at OZCF as well for Youth and other events for the general membership all the time. A training program will also be provided for members representing the different group activities.

"O.Z.C.F."

A Poem by Mrs. Sooni Patel

"In 2002 in Oakville a Centre was found
A place of worship for Zoroastrians all around..."

They named it Ontario Zoroastrian Community
Foundation
It was a big step which received much celebration...

To keep focused on their goal they had a mission
Which they conveyed through their newsletter "VISION"

Activities for young and old they have galore
With the following, who could ask for anything more!

Our Seniors were honoured on Grand Parents Day
We know they contribute in so many ways

Their sporting spirit none can beat
To watch them doing Yoga and dance Zumba is a treat.

Other activities that come to mind
Are so different and "one of a kind"

There is Movie Night and a Cricket Team
'Jumva Chaloji' with dishes in the past were seen.

Many other activities are in store
To raise revenue for the Building, more and more...

The vision that was seen in the past
Has come to a joyous reality, at last!"

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES 2014—2015

Mark your calendars for these religious events this year and next year!

Mar. 16 - 20	Mon - Fri	All Day	Muktd (F)
Mar. 21	Saturday	7:00 PM	Navroze
Mar. 26	Thursday	7:00 PM	Khordadsal (F)
Apr. 8	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Farvardegan (F)
May 3	Sunday	11:00 AM	Maidhyozarem Ghambar (F)
May 25	Monday	7:00 PM	Zarthost-no-Diso (S)
July 1	Wednesday	11:00 AM	Maidhyoshem Ghambar (F)
Aug. 13 - 17	Thurs - Mon	All Day	Muktd (S)
Aug. 18	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Navroze (S)
Aug. 23	Sunday	11:00am	Khordadsal (S)
Sept. 5	Saturday	11:00 AM	Farvardegan (S)
Sept. 6	Sunday	11:00am	Dasturji Kukadaru Baj
Sept. 13	Sunday	11:00 AM	Paitishahem Ghambar (F)
Oct. 16	Friday	11:00 AM	Ayathrem Ghambar (F)
Dec. 26	Saturday	11:00 AM	Zarthost-no-Diso (F)

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."
Erma Bombeck

NEW NAVARIA

Toronto Area Gains Another Young Ervad

Ervad Nekzad Aspi Illava of Mississauga, Ontario son of Tanaz and Aspi Illava, Grandson of Keki Illava who was going through the training from last two and a half years under the able guidance of Ervad Jal Noshirwan Panthaky went through his Navar Ceremony at Motlibai Wadia Agiyari - Malcom Baug, Jogeshwari in Mumbai on December 21, 2014.



Congratulations to the young Ervad, his parents and grand parents.

CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS

Yoga is a low impact form of exercise that involves gentle stretching and resistance training for the body while sitting securely on a chair. The chair yoga sessions at the OZCF are conducted under the expert supervision of Marook Sidhwa who is a trained and certified professional in this field.

Chair Yoga exercises are most suited for seniors as they are self paced—this means that one does the exercise to the extent that it does not cause discomfort and provides relief for the person.



The purpose of doing yoga is to unite the body, mind, and spirit in order to achieve a balance of activity and inactivity in one's life. It helps to get to know the limitations of your body without injuring yourself as it is done. It helps to avoid the "misery of pain and aging that has not yet come" into our lives. There are many major benefits derived from Chair Yoga.

1. It improves flexibility and balance
2. It provides relaxation for the body and mind
3. It provides relief from digestive issues
4. It is good for blood circulation, heart, and lungs.
5. It helps in reducing pain, fatigue and stress in the body.
6. It improves the quality of life in the "golden years."

And, as if all the above is not enough, after all sessions the participants socialize to catch up with what is going on in our world while enjoying delicious snacks—provided by the participants themselves!

For enquires and further information, please contact:
Minnie Mirza, 905-825-8188 | minnie.mirza@gmail.com

FASLI MUKTADS

Fasli Muktd prayers will be held at the OZCF from **March 16 to March 20, 2015.**

We would appreciate it if families can take up making of the stum lunch and dinner for the five gatha days and the mid-night meal on March 20. Please let us know if you are available to prepare a meal, by yourself or with someone else, this will help us with creating the schedule.

Contact Armaity Anandasagar at Armaity Anandasagar at 905-271-0366 Email armaity.a@gmail.com or Kermin Byramjee at 905-845-3480 or email kermin101@gmail.com

We require volunteers to clean the house and the hall prior to the start of the Muktds. Clean up days are March 14 and or March 15, if you wish to volunteer with the clean up please call Nozer Kotwal at 905-820-0461

It would be of great help when you bring the meal, to stay and prepare the stum tray and clean up afterwards. For those families who cannot cook but can stay and clean up after the meal please let us know so we can sign you up for those dates. **The morning meal should be at the centre by 10:30am and the evening meal by 6.00pm.**

Donations of fruits, dried fruits, flowers, sukhad, loban, malido, papri, etc. are always appreciated. We also require water, plates, serviettes, cutlery and cups. Please forward this information to friends and family.

Prayer timings will be:

Morning Stum: March 16 - 20 at 6.30am. Afargan Farokshi 7.00am.

Afternoon Stum: March 16-20 at 11.30am.

Evening Stum & Humbundagi: March 16-20 at 7.00pm.

If you wish to include names of your dearly departed, make sure you fill out the appropriate form on the website and send it to Ervad Nozer Kotwal by March 10, 2015. **No names will be accepted over the telephone.**

Khordadsal Prayers at OZCF on Thursday March 26, 2015 at 7.00 pm

PRIEST CORNER
EXPLANATION OF PRAYERS & RITUALS OF JASHAN CEREMONY
 By Ervad Jal Panthaky

A Jashan is a thanksgiving ceremony performed by 2 or more priests. In the absence of 2 priests it can be done by one. The Jashan means a ceremony with offerings and is performed for the well-being of both the spiritual and physical worlds. The living thank Ahura Mazda and Amesha Spentas (the Holy Immortals) and pray for their blessings from the spiritual world. There are different types of Jashans:

1. Religious – Performed especially for thanksgiving to Ahura Mazda and the holy spirits on auspicious days like Birthdays, house warming etc. They are also performed on death anniversaries in honour of the righteous farohars and souls of the departed persons.
2. Seasonal - are the Ghambar Jashans
3. Historical - are performed on special holy days of the month, in order to commemorate the days of historical importance.

During a Jashan ceremony, the following items are used which symbolically represent the **Seven Amesha Spentas**

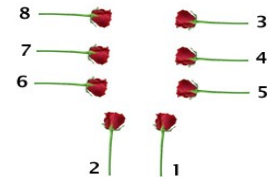
- The **FLOOR** or ground where the priest sits to do the Jashan represents the earth and the Amesha Spenta Armaiti; **Spendarmad**) who is the power of holy piety and devotion



- The priest prays in front of **FIRE** (Atash). It represents the eternal flame, the spiritual fire, and the Amesha Spenta Asha (Truth), the power of truth, righteousness, and cosmic order.
- **MILK** represents animal life and the Vohu Mano (**Bahman**) Amesha Spenta; power of Good Mind and who presides over the animal kingdom
- The **FLOWERS** and **FRUITS** represent vegetation and the Amesha Spenta Amertat (**Amardad**), who is the power of immortality
- The **METAL UTENSILS** represent the sky and the Amesha Spenta Khshathra Vairya (**Shehrevair**), who is the power of Desirable Dominion and well-experienced authority.
- The **PRIEST** represents humanity and Spenta Mainyu.
- The above 7 Bounteous Immortals along with the righteous Farohars of the departed souls are invited down to the earth through the prayers and rituals to grace the Jashan and bless mankind.

RITUALS (Symbolic gestures):

- Several symbolic rituals are performed during the Jashan ceremony.
- The priest arranges flowers in a certain arrangement as follows:



Flower No. 1 represent the life on this earth and **Flower No. 2** represent the life in the spiritual world.

Flowers 3, 4, 5 are arranged in descending order representing that we come to this world to live the life of Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds (Humata, Hukhta, Havarshata)

Flowers 6, 7, 8 are arranged in ascending order representing that after living the life of Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds we depart from this earth.

While reciting the paragraphs of Āfrināmi **khshathrayān danghahu paiti**, the priest holds flowers no. 1 & 2 up in his right hand. This is a symbolic gesture. Just like a lightning rod attracts the lightning and grounds it, so does the blessings of the Ahura Mazda and all the spirit soul attract through the flowers and through the priest's prayers are spread to the people attending the Jashan. After these 2 flowers the priest picks up 3, 4, 5 and 6, 7, 8 in the same order as they were laid down.

During the prayers while praying Yatha Ahu Vairyo the Priest touches the water beaker with his chiipyo or chamach in up-down, right-left motion, then all the other elements and finally the Afarganyu. Next he will touch all of the above in the other 4 direction i.e. NE, NW, SE, SW. These gestures symbolizes that the priest is revoking the blessings of all the Good Souls from all the 8 directions.

The fruits are nicked with a knife so the spiritual souls can partake by getting the smell. The symbolism of the gestures of making a cut on the fruits and touching the water is to generate spiritual energy from the water and it is believed that through this gesture the spirits bless the food offerings which are consumed by the members of the congregation at the end of the ceremony.

The Jashan ceremony usually consists of 3 main parts: First is dedicated to Ahura Mazda our Almighty Creator, second is Dahman Yazd and the third is to Sraosh Yazd, the keeper of all souls the dead and the living.

The first Āfrin is dedicated to the righteous Farohars, the second to the Buzorgan or celebrated personages of ancient Iran and the third to the Amesha Spentas

At the end the priest recites Tan-Darosti for the health and well-being of the community and also for the health, happiness and prosperity of those members who have arranged for the Jashan ceremony.



1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East,
Oakville, ON. L6H 7B3
Tel: 905-257-0244
www.ozcf.com

December 01, 2014

Dear OZCF Member,

The board of Directors for the OZCF would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the patronage and support received in the form of your membership fees and participation at all the events hosted by the OZCF in 2014.

As you are aware we are young and vibrant organization which has successfully delivered on all the promises made to our membership. This success is solely due to the support and the membership fees received from our members. The dues received from you help the organization create and provide better services to its members.

This letter is being sent to all our current and past members, as a gentle reminder that membership fees for the year January 2015 to December 2015 are due for payment. Our fee structure is VERY AFFORDABLE. The breakdown of these fee structures per month is minimal - Family members: \$10.41/month, Student: \$2.5/month, Single: \$6.66/month, Senior: \$3.33/month.

We have included a copy of the Membership Form. You have the flexibility to pay your fees online using PAYPAL/Credit card or by cheque made out to **Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation** and mailed at **1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd East, Oakville. ON. L6H 7B3**. We would like to encourage everyone to start paying and managing their membership online and any issues can be addressed to Rumi Jasavala at rumijas@hotmail.com

Please also remember to indicate if you would like the OZCF to be your primary representative to FEZANA, which will make OZCF as the primary organization to represent your views and opinions to FEZANA. There are no additional fees applicable for this membership. All we need is your permission.

We request you to ensure that a copy of your completed membership form also reaches us along with your dues. If you have already renewed your membership by paying your dues we sincerely thank you and ask you to disregard this letter.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the chair of the membership committee, Shirin Chaturvedi @ (905) 286-4824.

KINDLY PROMOTE THE OZCF MEMBERSHIPS TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

Yours truly,

PERCY DASTUR
President



FEZANA Information Research Education Systems (FIRES)

FIRES' mission is to establish and provide global access to a centralized collection of materials in print and electronic form, (books, magazines, and online resources) primarily pertaining to the Zarathushti faith, culture, and history.

Over the last 5 years, the FIRES Committee has been working to put together an impressive collection of materials, and we now have our own website and online catalogue at www.fires-fezana.org. Learn more today!

NEWS FROM THE RELIGION AND LECTURES SUB COMMITTEE

Submitted by Khushroo Mirza

I am happy to report that there has been an interest expressed by non-Zoroastrian school students to educate themselves regarding Zoroastrianism for their assignments on religion.

The OZCF and ZSO both received such requests and these were referred to me (Ervad Jehan Bagli and I have divided the students referred by the ZSO). The interviews were conducted by email and the questions were quite wide-ranging and interesting in nature.

Here are a few examples, which demonstrate the thought processes of the present day youth, and the answers/guidance they are seeking from religion:

- What do you want others to know about your religion?
- What do you think is the most unique aspect of your religion?
- How does your faith handle societal issues such as premarital sex, intermarriages, teen pregnancy and divorce?
- How does your religion react or provide understanding for violence in society(past and present)?
- What emotional or spiritual problem is religion trying to solve.
- Why do we suffer?

These questions posed under the religious umbrella appear to be an attempt on the part of the educators to try and make religion pertinent for the youth in our present day turbulent times.

It is indeed interesting to note that these schools chose Zoroastrianism from a group of major religions. Such interviews provide a healthy exposure for our otherwise little known and very ancient religion. As well it brings our small but vibrant and dynamic community on this continent to the forefront of peoples minds.

Jamva Chaloji



From mithoo-mohnoo to tikhoo tam-tam-too... the spread of Parsi delicacies at the Jamva chalooji would put a Mumbai caterer to shame. Held at the OZCF on Sunday, November 30, 2014, the hustle & bustle amid the chill of the midday sun was vibrant as over 100 people arrived to take in their favourite dar-ni-pori or murgghi-na-farcha.

While several Parsi favourites were up for sale, a liberal helping of piping hot chicken dhansak donated by Zarina Gutta and katchumber was offered as the iconic Sunday lunch. The credit for putting up this annual food extravaganza goes to the dynamic OZCF Entertainment Committee lead by Mahveer Javat.

His team (Jeroo Madan, Arnawaz Dhabhar, Hormuzd Engineer) has completed another successful event, and it would not have been possible without the help and assistance of the ever-willing volunteers from the Scouts & to the community. Thank you to our vendors, volunteers and our members for sharing part of their Sunday with us.



WANT FREE GAS? PAY YOUR 2015 OZCF MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!

To promote online payment of membership fees the OZCF Board is glad to announce that all memberships for 2015 which are paid online will be eligible to participate in a lucky draw, where **three** lucky winners will win Gas cards worth \$100 each.

The draw will be held at our Navroze function in March 2015.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

**LET'S HEAR
FROM YA!**

We are always looking to our readers to provide valuable insight into the community and events that are important to you.

If you would like to share a point of view, an interesting article, or important family news, please let us know! Please email all submissions for the next issue no later than **March 15, 2015** to: ozcf.newsletter2012@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 01 to December 31, _____

Membership Application: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Membership Category / Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors	<input type="checkbox"/> Family
Individuals of age 19 to 24 years	Individuals of age 25 and below 65 years	Individuals of age 65 years and above	Includes children up to age 18 years
2015 - \$30	2015 - \$80	2015 - \$40	2015 - \$125
2016 - \$40	2016 - \$100	2016 - \$50	2016 - \$150

APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Apartment No: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: (_____) - _____ - _____ Cell Phone: (_____) - _____ - _____

Email: _____

DEPENDANT INFORMATION

1. First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____
2. First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____
3. First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____
4. First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ☐ I (We) select OZCF as our Prime Membership Group for FEZANA membership
☐ I (We) do not require the VISION Newsletter by post. (you must include your email address above)
☐ I (We) would like to provide Donation. One time: \$_____ or ongoing \$_____ per: _____
☐ I (We) are interested in volunteering with OZCF

Total Enclosed: Cash: \$_____ Cheque: _____ or Credit Card (paid via website): \$_____

I have reviewed the OZCF By-laws available on the OZCF website www.ozcf.com, and agree to abide by them.

Signature: _____

Date: _____