



Vision March 2018

President's Message

For Zarathushtis the world over, March 21st is always an auspicious day. The day of the vernal equinox signals the arrival of Spring in the northern hemisphere, coinciding with Navroze celebrations along with hundreds of millions of adherents on the planet. While this is cause for merriment for so many of us, the five Gathic days in the lead up where we observe the Muktaḍ period in reverence to the souls of the dearly departed, remind us that it has been a difficult past year for many within our community who have had to bear the loss loved ones. In addition, many members continue to experience ill health. Spare them a thought and prayer and may the New Year bring about speedy convalescence.

Muktaḍ Prayers will take place at the ZRCC from March 16th – 20th. The “Muktaḍ Prayers” form to give your names for the departed is available under the “home” tab on the website.

Jamshedi Navroze 1387 YZ (Yazdegardi Zarathushti) of the Fasli (seasonal) calendar will be celebrated with a jashan at the ZRCC on March 21st followed by dinner. The cost for dinner will be \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. You must register your names for dinner. Please contact Nelly Engineer at 647-406-2680 or at nellyengineer@ozcf.com

OZCF and ZSO will once again hold a joint Navroze function on Saturday March 24th at Woodbine Banquet Hall. Pricing is as follows: members → adults \$35; children 5-12, \$25; non-members → adults \$45; children 5-12, \$35. Payment must be sent to Shirin Chaturvedi by no later than March 19th. You may contact Shirin at 647-407-4824 or at cshirinm@hotmail.com and book early to avoid disappointment.

Please remember to pay your membership fees. The preferred method is via online payment through our website or by submitting the Pre-Authorized Debit form, included within this newsletter, whereby you can set up a one-time authorization of your membership fees to be deducted annually from your financial institution. Include the Membership form found on the website under the “membership” tab should any changes be required to your personal information.

On March 28th, the Yoga / Zumba sessions will reconvene. While Seniors comprise the majority of attendees, these sessions are for anyone wishing to attend. We are once again in need of volunteer drivers for some of our Seniors. Keep reading these pages to see how you can provide assistance.

We are also in need of additional volunteers to assist with Bingo, which continues to provide an important source of revenue for OZCF. Contact Kermin Byramjee at kermin101@gmail.com, Armaity Anandasagar at armaity.a@gmail.com or Niloufer Bhesania at nillieb@hotmail.com to see how you can help.

Our volunteers realize that by making a positive impact in the lives of others, they are making a positive impact in their own lives. This would truly be a fabulous way to start off the New Year!

Wishing our entire community a very blessed Navroze Mubarak!

Cyrus Gazdar, OZCF President

Place of Worship Advisory Committee Update

The Time Is Now



Mobeds Review New Atashkadeh Drawings

On February 17th, the Ontario Mobed community was invited to OZCF by the Place of Worship Advisory Committee (PWAC) to verify design drawings pertaining to the new place of worship. The Presidents of OZCF and ZSO were also invited.

The architects were present to describe the overall design and building materials to be used, following many meetings with the mobed sub-committee and much research with scholars from India and Iran. Particular focus was placed on design of the prayer hall with Kebla, as well as the Yasnagah, to keep it as authentic as possible to similar structures in India and Iran.

Following a sumptuous meal, the mobeds commented positively on the overall design and provided important input. They suggested some minor adjustments which will be made in the final design stage.

PWAC intends to hold a townhall meeting with the community in March, to show progress made and review the updated drawings. Notice will be provided soon.

May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.

Phil Sidhwa
Chair, PWAC



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH

Sebastian Neville Cooper, born November 3, 2017, to Farrah and Neville Cooper, in Markham Ontario. Grandson to Dara and Farida Bhesania and Kersi and Ani-heeta Cooper. Baby brother to Arianna and Julian.

Congratulations to the Bhesania and Cooper families!

Proud brother Cyrus, loving sister Arnaz and cute little elder brother Aryan would like to announce the arrival of their baby sister Cyraa Bharucha on January 17, 2018. Proud parents are Parvana and Burzin Bharucha.

Congratulations to the family and welcome CYRAA!

Lotus Funeral Home: www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com

Lotus is a new funeral home situated near Woodbine in Etobicoke providing a full array of services. President Kamal Bhardwaj had contacted Jal Panthaky and both Jal and Secretary Neville Patrawala were invited to inspect the site, and were able to procure a special discount for the Zoroastrian community starting from \$4100. For more information, contact Mr. Bhardwaj at (bus) 647-547-8188 / (cell) 416-451-6641 or at klbhardwaj@yahoo.ca

Keeping Active:

They say wisdom rests with the elders. Looks like our Seniors have figured it out when it comes to a living a healthy life by keeping active and incorporating fitness. See attached the link to incorporating some zumba (or for that matter, any physical activity) into your routine:

https://www.newsmax.com/health/health-news/zumba-exercise-dance-emotional/2017/11/30/id/829060/?ns_mail_uid=105679754&ns_mail_job=1767332_12052017&s=al&dkn=010102lepdqz

Membership Fees:

Please remember to pay your membership fees. You may pay online via our website or via the Pre-Authorized Debit form whereby you can set up a one-time authorization of your membership fees to be deducted annually from your financial institution. Include the Membership form found on the website should any changes be required to your personal information.

Save the Date: Gymkhana Night – May 5th at the ZRCC. Details to follow

The OZCF prayer room and facility is not open regularly. 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

ZRCC Coordinator

Armaity Anandasagar 905-271 0366
armaity.a@gmail.com

OZCF President

Cyrus Gazdar 647-294-6462
president@ozcf.com

Webmaster & Facilities

Rumi Jasavala 647-885-1759

NEED A MOBED

OUR MOBEDS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP IN TIMES OF NEED TO OFFER THEIR GUIDANCE & SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY. PLEASE CONTACT:

BAMJI, ERVAD XERXES (905) 702-1034

BULSARA, ERVAD FIRDOSH (905) 824-7692

DASTUR, ERVAD MEHBAD (416) 917-9195

DHABHAR, ERVAD JAMSHED (905) 819-0089

KOTWAL, ERVAD NOZER (905) 820-0461

MADAN, ERVAD XERXES (416) 254-0685

PANTHAKY, ERVAD JAL (905) 568-4946

ZAROLIA, ERVAD KOBAD (647) 887-9213

ACHIEVEMENTS

Yasna Dhabhar and Sarosh Daver

On February 10, Yasna Dhabhar and Sarosh Daver participated in the Polar Plunge 2018 through the Army Cadets, 2824 COPS. This was the 50th year of the Polar Plunge, which promotes awareness and supports the Special Olympics of Ontario. Working with different teams, they collected over \$1,500 in donations to help fund the Law Enforcement Torch Run as well as enjoying a dip in icy water with temperatures reaching as cold as -13°C! Both the cadets have been chosen to go for a March Break trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida as a reward of their daring feat.

We are proud of our Parsi youth and encourage altruism within the community.



Teenaz Javat

Teenaz Javat is the recipient of another prestigious award – Absolutely Fabulous Woman Over 40 Achievement Award in the field of Advocacy. The City of Mississauga and the Members of Council have also presented her a plaque on the occasion of International Women's Day 2018.

By blood Indian, by bond Pakistani and by choice Canadian, would best describe Teenaz, a senior writer at the CBC Toronto. Long before she became a journalist, Teenaz was a story teller. Her stories form part of The Shoe Project, a women-only artists collective that documents immigration stories through the lens of shoes.

A multiple award-winning journalist, Teenaz was part of a team at CBC Radio's Metro Morning that won the Adrienne Clarkson National Award for a town hall on domestic violence against women in the GTA. She does not shy away from taking a hard look at topics like the Arab Spring and its impact on Canada, or the not-so-uncommon practice of female feticide among some communities in the GTA.

Teenaz came to Canada with an 8-month-old daughter. She has been a stay-at-home mother, a full-time student at Sheridan College, a full-time journalist at the CBC, and an adjunct professor at Sheridan College, all along volunteering in the local school system and editor of her community newsletter.

She lives in Mississauga with her husband, Mahveer and children, Sherezade and Hormuz and loves having breakfast with her friends when she is not in the newsroom on the early morning shift.



ASHA VAHISHTA SEMINAR II #5 & 6: SYNOPSIS

Like the 4th, the 5th session was dedicated to a discussion of an Articles of Faith (Tenets of Belief) that represent a diasporic ‘mission statement’ and social justice identity for Daena Mazdayasni in the 21st century.

In the 5th session, Articles 24-34 were cleared. A general consensus regarding their necessity and inclusion within a diasporic mission statement for Daena Mazdayasni, was accepted.

This is extremely encouraging because Articles 1-34 (of a draft of 101 Articles) represent the path towards the articulation of resolutions regarding ALL issues that plague contemporary Zoroastrianism. Moreover, the Articles represent a Covenant within which all adherents and participants of Daena Mazdayasni abide. The Articles IMPOSE responsibility. They are meant to be adhered to, rather than administrated. The Articles form the ‘justification of faith’ that provides the Anjuman project of the Asha Vahishta Initiative (AVI) with its legitimacy. This is the only way an intimate, lived, and dynamic faith and fellowship can be sustainable.

The 6th colloquium of AVSS Phase II, was a reprise of a Conversation in Faith session. In this case, Dr. Panthaki was joined by Ervad Panthaki, Ervad Dr. Bagli and Ervad Kotwal, to discuss the focus question:

Can current status-quo clerical and executive bodies, align themselves to the Asha Vahishta Initiative (AVI)? If so, can status quo bodies aid in the realization of the AVI? Might it be possible for them to aid the change, or are they doomed to suffer it?

Er. Panthaki, Er. Dr. Bagli, and Er. Kotwal, reflected upon the original purpose, and their various leadership roles within anjuman organization (associations in Ontario and Quebec), clerical bodies (NAMC), and umbrella organizations (FEZANA).

The discussion built on a consensus that, both in the 1980-1990s and currently the AVI (2016--), were a necessary challenge and check to institutionalized hypocrisy, stagnation of the soul (personal and clerical spiritual development), and corruption of dogma. Such actions whether in 1998 or 2018, inspire us to believe rather than to follow blindly. To be active in spirituality rather than passive in religion.

Discussion continued around the convergence of aims from the 1980s-1990s (involving Er-Panthaki-Bagli-Kotwal) and the AVI. It was concluded that the cause was similar: Diasporic Daena, Autocephalous Organization, Articulation of Vision. Dr. Panthaki then pointed out that the source of disagreement between himself and his interlocutors, arose from their attachment to current status-quo institutions, specifically their belief that the same institutions could act as change-agents and transformative bodies promoting spiritual growth.

The Asha Vahishta Initiative (AVI) has employed education (AVSS: the AV Seminar Series) to mobilize the Anjuman to faith and fellowship action. The AVI now seeks to create a Working Committee (AVIWC) to make actionable, the resolutions from Phase I and Phase II of the AVSS.

Asha Vahishta Appeal WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Start questioning with an open mind... let your voice be heard...

The purpose of the Asha Vahishta Seminar Series is to create a forum for the "People" (anjuman).

We therefore encourage and welcome suggestions, inquiries, and even demands (yes, why not, it's your faith, is it not?), for the inclusions of any and all topics.

We will even create a session based around popular topics.

Additionally, a planned "We the People" open session and/or townhall session is being organized."

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." ~ Albert Einstein

Contact: xerxes_madan@hotmail.com

FUTURE UPCOMING SESSIONS

March 17th – AV Session 2.8 – Sanjan Landing: The Beginning of the End of Daena Mazdayasni

April 7th – AS Session 2.9 – Creed and Covenant: Using the Articles of Faith of Faith to Resolve ALL Controversies.

May 5th – AV Session 2.10 – Faith and Fellowship Are Revitalized and Kept Relevant When They Are Expressions of Social Justice.

All above sessions start at 1.30pm

Contact Xerxes Madan to attend.

ERVAD SOLI DASTUR—LECTURE

There will be a lecture at ZSO Dar e Mehr (MGDM) - 3590 Bayview Ave., North York, on April 22 2018 after the Shenshai Adargan Jashan by Ervad Dr, Soli Dastur. The talk will be on Skype. The title of the talk will be “Boi Ceremony at Udvada Atash Behram”

Ervad Soli Dastur is a trained Chemical engineer who received his Doctorate at Northwestern University, Illinois. However, he drifted away to Computer technology to develop Marketing Data Analysis software to manage Mass Merchandising Industries for Procter & Gamble.

He has been tirelessly performing Priestly duties with zeal all across North America wherever he is requested. He was elected to the Executive board of Zoroastrian Association of Florida for four years. He has visited several Anjuman during the Gatha Prayer days and is responsible for initiating Mukta prayers in Florida since 2009. He is an active member N.A.Mobed Council. He has been conducting religious classes from Tampa, Orlando and Miami as well as classes through teleconferencing. He also publishes regularly Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extracts and has contributed articles in FEZANA and Hama Zor Journals.

Soli is the recipient of Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zoroastrian Award from FEZANA 2010. We look forward to a large attendance for a very enlightening talk.

ZOROASTRIANS GOT TALENT

FUN EVENT

Audience you GET TO VOTE AND CHOOSE THE WINNER!!

Open to All Zoroastrians Of All Ages
Organized by ZSO Entertainment Committee

DATE: Saturday, April 14, 2018

WHERE: Darbe Mehr: 3590 Bayview Ave, Toronto On. M2M 3S6

TIME: From 5pm onwards

PRICE: \$10 Participants
\$15 Audience Member \$20 Audience Non Member
Under 5 yrs Free

Audience will be Judging
Dinner Included For All.

ALL AGES CAN PERFORM 5yrs - 100+ yrs

What's Your Talent?

TALENT SHOW

Show off your Best Talents for all to See & WIN some great Prizes!!!!

For Registration contact us before 31st March 2018 :
Pearl Chothia # 416 917 7402 OR Gul Bharucha # 905 475 8894
Email: kpfreedom@me.com
Mailing Add for registration forms: 241 kingscross dr, King city, On. L7B 1E7.

Religious Events For Upcoming Months

Fasli Muktaad Friday March 16th to Tuesday March 20th

We will be celebrating Fasli Muktaad at Z.R.C.C. 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville. Following is the schedule of Prayers for the five days:-

Friday March 16th

6:30 am Morning Stoom & Baj;

7:00 am Afringan & Farokhshi;

11:30 am Afternoon Stoom;

7:00 pm Evening Stoom & Hum Bundagi

Saturday March 17th & Sunday March 18th

7:30 am Morning Stoom & Baj;

8:00 am Afringan & Farokhshi;

11:30 am Afternoon Stoom;

7:00 pm Evening Stoom & Hum Bundagi

Monday March 19th & Tuesday March 20th

6:30 am Morning Stoom & Baj;

7:00 am Afringan & Farokhshi;

11:30 am Afternoon Stoom;

7:00 pm Evening Stoom & Hum Bundagi

If you wish to give the names of your dearly departed for daily prayers please complete the attached form and send it along with your donation cheque payable to O.Z.C.F to reach Ervad Nozer Kotwal by March 13th. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT. NAMES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OVER THE TELEPHONE.**

Donation of fruits, dry fruits, flowers, Sukhad, Loban, Tachho, etc. are always welcomed.

We also require volunteers to thoroughly clean the Prayer Room, House and Hall before the start of Muktaad as well as regular cleaning during the Muktaad days. Please contact Ervad Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 if you wish to help.

Thank you, our members, for your continued help, as always.

Hamaspathmaidem Ghambar March 17th – contact Nozer Kotwal at 905-820-0461 to attend.

Navroze (F) Wednesday March 21st

Navroze Jashan will be held on Wednesday March 21st at 7:00 pm at Z.R.C.C. 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville, followed by dinner. The cost of attending the Jashan & dinner is \$10 for OZCF members and \$15 for non-members. If you plan to attend, please give your name to Nelly Engineer at nellyengineer@ozcf.com

Khordad Sal (F) Monday March 26th

Khordad Sal Jashan will be held on Monday March 26th at 7:00 pm at Z.R.C.C. 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville, followed by chasni.

Farvardegan (F) Sunday April 8th

Farvardegan prayers will be held on Sunday April 8th at 11:00 am at Z.R.C.C. 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville, followed by chasni.

Maidhyozarem Ghambar (F) Friday May 4th

We will be celebrating Maidhyozarem Ghambar (F) on Friday May 4th at Z.R.C.C. 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville. The Ghambar Jashan will commence at 11:00 am followed by lunch. The cost of attending the Jashan & lunch is \$5.00 per person; children up to the age of 20 years are free. If you plan to attend please give your name to Ervad Nozer Kotwal (905) 820-0461 stating how many adults and/or children, veg. or non-veg., will be attending, a.s.a.p. but not later than May 1st. Donation of fruits, dry fruits, flowers, Sukhad, Loban, Tachho, etc. is always welcomed at these prayer meetings. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

If you and/or your friends wish to sponsor this Ghambar or any other religious event in the future please let Ervad Kotwal know.

Zarthost-no-Diso (S) Thursday May 24th

Zarthost-no-Diso (S) prayers will be held on Thursday May 24th at 7:00 pm at Z.R.C.C. 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville, followed by chasni.



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Oral History Project

If You have a Great Story



We want to Hear From You

The Co-Chairs of the Oral History Project, Minnie Mirza and Gulrukh Patel, are happy to inform you that the groundwork for the Project has been completed and we are now ready to begin our recordings.

The Co-Chairs have been working hard along with a team of other dedicated volunteers to preserve our rich and varied living heritage not only for our grandchildren, but, for all the future generations who will continue to reside in Toronto.

We have all travelled from different countries and have varied life experiences which tell the story of our journey to a foreign country which is so vastly different from the one we and our families lived in for generations. Our grandchildren and their children deserve to know and cherish their roots and their heritage. Our forefathers, going back to the time of Cyrus the Great, left us with monuments and achievements to feel proud of, so did our forefathers in India and other parts of the world, so let us do our part by recording and preserving our histories. **Let us give our future generations an understanding of their heritage and a living picture of their grandparents' lives in a different world.**



Call us: We're Listening....

Please call or email

Minnie Nirza on 905-825-8188

Minnie.mirza@gmail.com

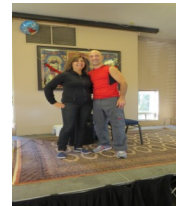
Or

Gulrukh Patel on 905-542-0237

gulrukh.patel@gmail.com



Yoga / Zumba Sessions



The Yoga/Zumba/Laughter sessions for the 2018 season will begin on 28th March (weather permitting) with a welcome lunch and social get together for old friends to meet and greet each other after our long and extremely cold winter.

On 4th April we will have our first Zumba session followed by Laughter session and lunch. All our activities are held every Wednesday from 11.30am till about 1.15pm at the OZCF.

The Yoga sessions are led by our very own Marook Sidhwa. Marook is a trained and experienced teacher with many years of practice to her credit. The techniques she uses allows each individual to do just the right amount of exercise that their body can tolerate allowing each person to either sit or stand while performing the exercises. The regulated breathing during this process is also very helpful for the entire body. This is truly a very worthwhile activity for all to do.

The Zumba sessions which are led by the ever popular Ariam are a lot of fun for all. These sessions performed to lively Latin American music truly brings out the dancer in all the participants.

At the end of each session Nowzer Borzooyan, a talented laughter therapist helps our cardiac and respiratory systems remain in good condition before helping us to wind down with some relaxation techniques.

These sessions are open to all members of our community. If you are free on Wednesday mornings, or even just one or two mornings a month do come and join us. If you need transportation help or can offer a ride to a senior it will indeed be a great help. For all your questions and more information please contact Minnie Mirza at 905-825-8188 or email her at minnie.mirza@gmail.com

OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network – Make a Difference!

You may have heard of the plight facing Sharmin Batliwala, a mother of two young kids, and a young Zoroastrian residing in Melbourne, Australia who has been diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia (CLL).

The doctors have advised her that the best option to beat her cancer will require a bone marrow transplant. For this Sharmin requires a matching bone marrow transplant from a donor. Usually a family member is a perfect match. However, Sharmin did not have a match in her family and they are currently searching the unrelated bone marrow registry for a donor. Anyone can be a match, but the best likelihood of a match is within her same ethnicity.

Enter the **OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network**:

- program of Canadian Blood Services
 - manage the Canadian registry of potential stem cell donors, currently over 422,000 registrants
 - linked to other international stem cell registries providing access to over 30,000,000 potential stem cell donors worldwide
- only one in four patients will find a match in their family, the rest will rely on the generosity of an unrelated volunteer donor

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

- 17 to 35 years of age
- in good general health
- willing to help all patients
- willing to provide a cheek (buccal) swab for testing
- covered with provincial health care (OHIP in Ontario).

Registering is easy: simply visit www.blood.ca/stem-cells where you will complete a health screening questionnaire, and we'll send you a cheek swab kit in the mail to complete and return to us, postage paid.

Here is a short video on donating: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rj2P_kyHXAA

Another way to help a patient in need is to donate blood. Visit www.blood.ca to find a blood donor clinic in your area and book your life-saving appointment.

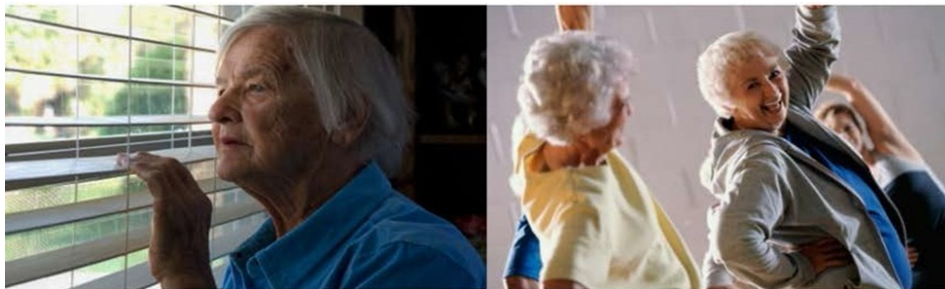
For those of you who require further information, Sharmin can be contacted on sharminavari@gmail.com

Thank You Kindly for Reaching Out to Sharmin. The Batliwala and Avari family send their sincere thanks in advance for your support.

ONE CAR RIDE FOR A PERSON CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

When senior citizens come to Yoga or Zumba on Wednesdays, they laugh, socialize with others and feel alive and stimulated.

If they have no family or friends to drive them, they are left alone in isolation.



Be a volunteer. Be the difference.

We Urgently Need Volunteer Drivers in Oakville, Mississauga and Brampton for One Drive Each Wednesday for a just a few hours.

Volunteer drivers will be matched with the people living closest to them.
The OZCF has a policy to protect, to the best of its ability, all volunteer drivers.

Do it because you would want someone to do it for your mother,
for your best friend, FOR YOU.....

Please contact Minnie Mirza at (905) 825-8188 or email at minnie.mirza@gmail.com



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*January 1, 2010 to November 15, 2010. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under agency contract.



ZSO & OZCF Presents



JAMSHEDI NAVROUZ Dinner & Dance !!!



Date : Saturday March 24th 2018 - 6.30 pm onwards

Location: Woodbine Banquet Hall.

30 Vice Regent Blvd, Toronto,
ON. M9W 7A4 (Hwy 27/Rexdale Blvd)

Tickets: ZSO / OZCF Members - Adults \$35 , Children 5- 10 years \$25
ZSO/OZCF Non-Members - Adults \$45, Children 5 -10 years \$35

DINNER: Indian Cuisine with Cash Bar



Please fill out your details below & send it along with your cheque.

Cheques payable to ZSO mail to: Guloo Bharucha
24 Trafford Crescent, Markham, ON L3R7H9 #905-475-8894

Cheques payable to OZCF mail to: Shirin Chaturvedi
Unit 64, 2825 Gananoque Dr, Mississauga, ON L5N1V6 # 647-407-4824

Cheques must be received no later than Monday, March 19, 2018. Please adhere to this deadline to avoid last minute disappointment.

NAME: _____ Member/Non-member

NUMBER OF ADULTS: _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN: _____ VEG OR NON-VEG

TOTAL PAYMENTS\$ _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

Asha Vahishta Initiative (AVI) Conference 2018: May 5, May 26, Aug 18, Aug 19

Re-Imagining Faith and Re-Claiming Fellowship In Diaspora: The Asha Vahishta Initiative (AVI)

Acknowledgements:

The AVI is dedicated to the memory of Arbab Rustam Guiv (1888-1980). The magnitude of his generosity was for fulfillment of a vision, that faith and fellowship would become vibrant, dynamic, relevant, and rooted within diaspora. Faith is a constant re-imagining of fellowship, not a mummification of attitudes under the guise of preservation. The AVI acknowledges the work of Dr. Kaikhosrow Irani (1922-2017). His diasporic re-imagining of faith began to reconceptualise a 'Mission Statement' for an anjuman centred 'Zoroastrian Operating System'.

The AVI is aware that North American Zoroastrians are guests of First Nations Peoples, and must act accordingly.

You are invited to attend the AVI Conference (AVIC)! All sessions revolve around formulation of a 'mission statement' and 'operating system' for Daena Mazdayasni in diaspora. This is in conjunction with the core vision-document 101 Inspirations. We are honoured that non-Zoroastrian guests/faith leaders are part of our panels. This ensures a broad perspective regarding how to keep spirituality relevant in the 21st century. Be a part of the dialogue and culmination of the first two phases of the Asha Vahishta Initiative (AVI), an anjuman revitalization project whose third phase moves towards implementation of a diasporic identity for faith and fellowship.

Programme (May 5): The "101 Inspirations" as Liberation Theology: From Priestly to Prophetic

Main Theme: Faith/Fellowship are revitalized and kept relevant when they are expressions of social justice. The first session deals with AVI efforts to achieve this for Zoroastrianism. The second/third sessions relate the AVI to similar attempts by other faith/fellowship communities, their success, and what can be learned.

Session 1: Seizing the Day and Claiming the Daena: Seeking Support, NOT Sanction, for Diasporic Re-Imagining. (How to recover the 'radical' Zoroastrianism of Mehta-Naoroji-Cama, in diaspora.)

Session 2: Conversation In Faith—Radical Theology, as Pastoral Practical Theology. (Insights of the Vatican II and Medellin Conferences. Zoroastrianism in conversation with revitalized Latin American Catholicism).

Session 3: Conversation in Faith—Shalom and the Community of Creation, The Harmony Way. (Insights from First Nations. Zoroastrianism in conversation with revitalized Indigenous Faith).

Guest Panelists:

*Dr. Ana Maria Bidegain (Historian, Latin American Religion, Florida International University)

*Dr. Randy Woodley (Acadia U, Intercultural/Indigenous Studies at George Fox U-Portland Seminary)

*Dr. Romila Thapar (Historian of South Asia, Jawaharlal Nehru University-JNU New Delhi)

Programme (May 26): Institutional Re-imagining of Faith to Re-claim Fellowship

Main Theme: Faith requires constant re-imagining for Fellowship to be vibrant and dynamic (An Operational Perspective). The opening address will explain how the AVI re-imagines faith and fellowship in order to make it an authentic expression of Zoroastrianism in diaspora. Subsequent sessions will reflect on the various elements of re-imagining which are involved, why they are necessary, and how they can lead to stronger fellowship.

Keynote Address: The AVI as Anti-Paradigm and Counter-Narrative to Hegemony. (Replacing a mummification of attitudes and religious adjudicators, with a dynamic fellowship of Faith).

Session 1: Aesthetic of Emotional Wisdom: Re-Imagining, as Authentic and Intimate Expression. (Art is important to maintain an active connection to Faith. Creative representation is education and involved Fellowship).

Session 2: Diaspora as Re-Discovery: Legitimate Expressions of Self and Location. (Fellowship as a local expression of Faith. Respecting the past doesn't mean denying the present).

Session 3: Identity and Belonging: Constructing Histories, Choosing Narratives. (Writing the history you want to live. Defining oneself, one's faith, and one's actions, through conscious selection).

Session 4: Curriculum and Communication: Ensuring Education is Transformative and Sustainable. (Education as Faith/Fellowship messaging. Communicating ethos, not information. Ethos-directed institutions).

Session 5: Finding Mashyane in Diasporic Faith and Fellowship: Women in Daena Mazdayasni. (Making women prominent in Faith and Fellowship. Citing historic episodes and enlightened text is insufficient).

Session 6: From Mobed to Mage: Re-conceptualizing Clergy as Pastors of Faith and Fellowship (Rethinking what is, who is, and what does, a priest. Vibrant and dynamic faith requires leaders who communicate inspired faith, otherwise they remain detached managers of status-quo religion to their congregations).

Session 7: From Out-sourced Zoroastrianism to Dynamic Daena Mazdayasni: Youth Engagement. (Home-grown youth expression of lived faith and fellowship, not out-sourced Zoroastrianism).

Session 8: Open Forum, Wildcard, Town Hall

Adjournment Reflections: “101 Inspirations” as Axioms, Epistemology, Cosmovision and Covenant.

Guest Panelists:

*Hamid Rahmanian (Iranian Creator/Director: Feathers of Fire, global tour www.kingorama.com)

*Zerbanoo Gifford (creator: ASHA for Education, London)

*Farrukh Dhondy (novelist, social critic, activist, postcolonial theorist, London)

*Dr. Sarfaroz Niyozov (Comparative Development Education at OISE-UofT, Aga Khan University Karachi)

*Dr. Martin Schwartz (Gathas, Professor Emeritus at Berkeley)

*Dr. Enrico Raffaelli (Apocalyptic Zoroastrian literature, University of Toronto)

*Astad Clubwala (ZAGNY, President, New York)

Programme Day 2 (Aug 18): Conceptual Re-imagining of Faith to Re-claim Fellowship

Main Theme: Fellowship requires constant re-imagining for Faith to remain relevant (A Systems Perspective). The opening address will explain how the AVI attempts to lay the basis for transformed/new institutions of faith and fellowship. Subsequent sessions will reflect on the various elements of institutional rethinking that are necessary, to sustain faith and fellowship in diaspora in the 21st century.

Keynote Address: The AVI as a Psychosocial Ethos to Direct Diasporic Faith Administration. (Eliminating the contest of ‘authorities’... text, tradition, scholars, priests etc, a mandate for anjuman autonomy).

Session 1: Broadening Faith by Broadening Fellowship Identity: From Parsis to People. (Inclusive Faith and Fellowship. Linking Zoroastrian faith and its fellowship to cosmopolitanism and global justice).

Session 2: Organic Institutions and Anjuman Autonomy: From Federation to Confederation. (Self-governing Faith/Fellowship. What’s stopping the majority of disenchanted congregations from creating reform?).

Session 3: Insights for Re-imagining: Catholicism After Vatican II, Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. (Local expression and identity while retaining a universal vision of salvation).

Session 4: Insights for Intercultural Literacy: Christian-Buddhist-Daoist-Confucian Encounters. (Interfaith encounters enrich faith and fellowship. Comparative theology as the only way of doing theology).

Session 5: Insights for Decolonization of Mind and Spirit: Indigenous Recovery by Re-imagining Faith. (Re-orienting Zoroastrianism as Creation-centred, to re-discover Daena Mazdayasni).

Session 6: Insights for Introspection and Taking Action in Diaspora: Sikh Social Justice. (Self-reflection is painful, embarrassing, and necessary! It is the truest test of Faith, Fellowship, adherence, and courage).

Session 7: Spiritual Formation and Scaffolding Faith: Nurturing Clergy and Congregations. (Tradition vs. Reform. How to sustain diasporic Faith and Fellowship).

Session 8: Open forum, Wildcard, Town Hall

Closing Address: Monotheism or Mono-seeism? Re-imagining Zoroastrianism as Daena Mazdayasni

Guest Panelists:

*[Homi Gandhi](#) (President of FEZANA, Honorary President of Religions for Peace, California).

*[Dr. Dolly Dastoor](#) (Editor, FEZANA Journal, Dept. of Psychiatry McGill University, Montreal)

*[Astad Clubwala](#) (ZAGNY, President, New York)

*[Dr. Shahin Bekhrandnia](#) (WZO London, researcher, London)

*[Dr. Ruth Hayhoe](#) (Department of Leadership, Higher & Adult Education (LHAE), OISE-University of Toronto)

*[Father Susai Jesu OMI](#) (Sacred Heart of the First Nations (Sandy Narrows, Cree community, Saskatchewan)

*[Sun Bear](#) aka: Cat Mark Criger (University of Toronto at Mississauga, Cayuga Six Nations elder)

*[Baldev Mutta](#) (CEO Brampton Punjabi Community Health Services)

*[Reverend \(Ph.D. Candidate\) Christine Smaller M.P.S., M.Div.](#) (Birchcliff Bluffs United Church, Scarborough)

Programme (Aug. 19): What is to be Done? We Ourselves or In Solidarity?

Main Theme: Reflecting on how to re-imagine Faith and re-claim Fellowship going forward with the AVI. There may be a Conversation in Faith, comparing the AVI and Zoroastrianism with the efforts and history of Reformed Judaism. Subsequent sessions will discuss impressions and insights gained from the conference. There will also be strategic discussions pertaining to next steps for the third phase of the AVI, concretization.

Session 1 (Tentative): Conversation in Faith—Reforming a Tradition in Diaspora (Insights Reformed Judaism)

Session 2: AVI Conference Synopses and Insights

Session 3: AVI Phase II Reflection and Phase III Forecast (AVI Working Committee, Pledge 101 Campaign, I Am Anjuman Campaign, AVI Pastorship-Preach)

Guest Panelists (tentative):

*[Rabbi Michal Shekel](#) (Har Tikval Synagogue. Exec Director Toronto Board Rabbis)

NOTE: OZCF and local Zoroastrians upon panels to include:

*[Dr. Neville Panthaki](#) (Chair, AVI Conference, AVI creator/director)

*[Cyrus Gazdar](#) (OZCF, President)

*[Ervad Dr. Jehan Bagli](#) (OZCF Mobed consultant, NAMC member, FEZANA contributor)

*[Phil Sidhwa](#) (Organizer of the OZCF Atash Kadeh project)

*[Mobedyar Gool Austin](#) (London-Ontario)

*[Khushnuma Doctor](#) (OZCF Director)

*[Armaity Homavazir](#) (ZSO former youth educator)

*[Mahiyar Panthaki](#) (OZCF member and AVSS participant)

*[Ervad Farhan Panthaki](#) ('this-gen' Mobed, California, and AVSS Skype-participant)

*[Ervad Kamran Panthaki](#) (OZCF 'this-gen' Mobed)

*[Ervad Armaan Panthaki](#) (OZCF 'this-gen' Mobed)

*[Ervad Mehsad Dastur](#) (active Mobed for ZSO)

Please visit the [OZCF website](#) for regular updates regarding scheduling ([session times](#)), and panelist info.

For [conference topic/panel](#) or related questions, please contact: Dr. Neville Panthaki npanthaki@sympatico.ca

To **RSVP** for conference attendance (indicate, which day(s)), please contact: Ervad Nozer Kotwal nskotwal1@gmail.com



MUKTAD PRAYERS

Please include the following names in the daily prayers during the forthcoming Muktaḍ Ceremonies. Please note that **NO NAMES WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE PHONE.**

Name of the Deceased

Name of his/her father/Husband**

1. E O Oi B K _____

E O B _____

2. E O Oi B K _____

E O B _____

3. E O Oi B K _____

E O B _____

4. E O Oi B K _____

E O B _____

5. E O Oi B K _____

E O B _____

6. E O Oi B K _____

E O B _____

Please find enclosed my cheque payable to OZCF for \$ _____

Thank you.

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Tel. No

** Names of the deceased are recited together with their father/husband's name

E = Ervad O = Osta Oi = Osti B = Behdin

K = Khurd (child whose navjote was not performed)

Please complete the form in Block Letters, ensuring the proper status (i.e., E, O, Oi, B, K) is circled and forward it to the address below

OZCF, 4244 Taffey Cres, Mississauga, ON L5L 2J2