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OUR AFFILIATES

Member of:



We Support:





Home of:



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Hoping everyone had a lovely joyous holiday season and got to spend it with family and friends. Can't believe how fast this year has gone by! I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our members and donors for their continued patronage of OZCF and all our volunteers who are the main driving force behind the OZCF.

2022 was an event packed year. Celebrating all our Religious festivals, weekly Zumba, music nights, Raptors basketball game, Blue Jays baseball game, Jamva Chalo Ji food fair, Navroze Mela, Scouting activities, Halloween party, Christmas Party, Gymkhana Nights, cricket, soccer, volleyball and chess tournaments - there was something to interest everybody. The Youth came up with 2 creative projects for fundraising – Little Free Library and the Color Palette Project where they have built 6 lovely new picnic benches which will be put in use in 2023 once they finish painting. At the AGM, we updated our bylaws around Banking and Investments and the Major Repairs fund. Despite the limited services, the Board is also taking another look at incorporating more greener initiatives at the OZCF for 2023.

Our Place of Worship Advisory Committee is still waiting to hear back from the Town regarding our Site Plan Approval application. We hope to get some positive news soon.

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership and a gentle reminder to those who haven't yet. If there are any changes in your personal information, please fill out the Membership Form below and send it to the Membership Committee. You can also set-up direct deposit, so your membership automatically renews every year. As always, we appreciate your support. PAD form is attached and available online at www.ozcf.com

Our members in good standing should be receiving the amalgamated Zoroastrian calendar for 2023 in January. Donors towards the Place of Worship in 2022 should be receiving their donation receipts in January. Tax receipts for General Fund donations will be sent out next month.

January 2023 is shaping to be a busy month. The Toronto Parsi Drama Group is organizing a Gujrati natak in 2023. They want to encourage new talent so please sign up for auditions happening on 06 January 2023. Our biweekly social event Gymkhana Nights also restart on 06 January 2023 and will continue alternate Friday evenings. On January 12, a large group of 84 people are at Scotiabank Arena to cheer on the Toronto Raptors at an NBA game. Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) - the youth wing of FEZANA is visiting Toronto for the weekend and they will be joining us at the game.

A huge thank you to all the Board members of the previous and current Boards of Directors for their continued support.

Hoping for a wonderful 2023!

Sincerely,

Adil Bhesania

OZCF President







ANNOUNCEMENTS

HALL RENTAL RATES:

Please note new rates to rent the hall for social events. These rates are significantly lower than renting at halls and hotel rooms and allow members and non-members the entire use of our facilities.

Members: \$400 Non-members: \$500

Rental of Audio/Video equipment is \$100.

RATES TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER:

Members often inquire about rates to advertise in the newsletter. See the rate structure below:

Business Card	\$25 per issue	\$150 per year
1/4 Page	\$50 per issue	\$300 per year
1/2 Page	\$75 per issue	\$450 per year
Full Page	\$125 per issue	\$750 per year
Last Full Page	\$150 per issue	\$900 per year

If paid in full at the beginning of the year by the end of January, a 10% discount will be applied. There are six issues per year – January, March, May, July, September and November.

HALL RENTAL RATES FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

Members: \$100 per day (over the 4-day period)

Non-members: \$150 per day



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 Anandasgar 905-271-0366 armaity.a@gmail.com

OZCF President

Dr. Adil Bhesania 647-985-0305 president@ozcf.com

Webmaster & Facilities

Rumi Jasavala 647-885-1759 rumijas@hotmail.com

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

Katrak, Ervad Kerman (647) 444-7359 (Speaks Farsi)

Kotwal, Ervad Nozer (905) 820-0461

Madan, Ervad Xerxes (416) 254-0685

Panthaky, Ervad Jal (905) 568-

Zarolia, Ervad Kobad (647) 8879213

RELIGIOUS EVENTS AND UPDATES

Due to inflation and increasing costs, OZCF will be revising rates for religious offerings and events with immediate effect, as follows:

- Sukhad \$3/- each
- Divo \$3/- each
- Gahambar lunch \$10/- per person; children up to age 5 years are free

We sincerely appreciate the continuing support of the community.

MAIDYAREM GAHAMBAR (F) - SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2023

OZCF will be celebrating Maidyarem Gahambar, as per Fasli Calendar, on **Sunday, January 1, 2023**, at the ZRCC at 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville.

The Gahambar Jashan will commence at 11:00 am, followed by lunch. The cost of attending the Jashan & lunch is **\$10/- per person**; children up to the age of 5 years are free. Members wishing to attend in-person must give their names to Er. Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 or at nskotwal1@gmail.com in advance, **but not later than Wednesday, December 29**th. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

If you wish to offer your home-made Malido, Ravo, Sev and/or dry-fruits, flowers, fruits, Sukhad, Loban, we ask that you make arrangements with Er. Kotwal.

If you and/or your friends wish to sponsor this Gahambar & lunch or any other religious event in the future, please provide your interest to Er. Kotwal.



OZCF MEMBERSHIP 2023

Below is agreed upon membership rates passed at the 2022 AGM

Fee Structure for January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 (Non-Refundable)

Membership Level		2023 Fee
Family (Includes spouses/partners & children up to age 22	\$17	5.00
Single (Individuals of age 27 to 64 years)	\$10	0.00
Senior (Individuals of age 65 -89 years)	\$50	.00
Seniors (age 90+)	\$FR	EE
Youth (Individuals of age 23 to 26 years)		\$50.00

Below is agreed upon membership rates passed at the 2022 AGM Fee Structure for January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 (Non-Refundable)

Membership Levels:

Family (Includes spouses/partners & children up to age 22

Single (Individuals of age 27 to 64 years)

Senior (Individuals of age 65 - 89 years)

Seniors (age 90+)

Youth (Individuals of age 23 to 26 years)

2023 Fees:

Family: \$175.00

Single: \$100.00

Senior 65-89: \$50.00

Seniors (age 90+) FREE

Youth: \$50.00



Are you a big or small Zoroastrian business owner in the GTA?

Would you like to advertise your services in the community and support OZCF while doing so?

Then place an ad in the OZCF Newsletter!

Why? Help us, help you!

The newsletter goes out 6 times a year to a community of over 600+ members in the GTA

Tell the community who you are and what you do - Spread the word!

Grow your business - get new customers. Support OZCF with your ad



OZCF Newsletter Advertising Costs		
Type of Ad	Cost per issue	Cost per year
Business Card	\$25	\$150
1/4 (quarter) page	\$50	\$300
½ (half) page	\$75	\$450
Full page	\$125	\$750
Last full page	\$150	\$900

Send your request to cyrusgazdar@ozcf.com



THIRD ANNUAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Medieval mayhem of mass magnitude took place at the ZRCC on Saturday November 26th as combatants engaged in head-to-head tussles at the OZCF's 3rd Annual Chess Tournament.

We had a melee of the minds with Hans Ang, Pourus Anklesaria, Hoshang Bhesania, Zeus Elavia, Owen Engineer, Cyrus Irani, Shahan Irani, Behzad Karai, Yazad Karai, Shirin Kola, Pervez Moos, Yezdi Sheriar, Jehan Wadia and Cyrus Gazdar all revved and ready to engage in cerebral combat.

Two groups of seven involved the competitors playing six games against the other members of their group, with a bye allotted for each player. The top two advanced to the semi-finals pitting Pourus Anklesaria, the winner of Group B against Jehan Wadia, the runner-up from Group A. The other semi had Cyrus Gazdar as the Group A winner opposing Pervez Moos who finished second in Group B.

A colossal contest ensued in the final between Pourus Anklesaria and Cyrus Gazdar, with neither player giving an inch. Congratulations to Pourus Anklesaria for eking out a very close win in a tightly contested final and to Pervez Moos who defeated Jehan Wadia to claim third place.

We would also like to acknowledge our youngest participants, 7 year-old Owen Engineer,

11 year-old Shirin Kola, the sole female participant and 12 year-old Zeus Elavia. Good on all three of you for coming out and taking part!

The Sport Committee would like to thank Jehan Wadia and Hans Ang of Hercules Chess for sponsoring the event. These guys do great work at promoting the game of chess for players of all ages. Check them out at www.herculeschess.com Also, huge props to our noble knights Adil Bhesania and Rumi Jasavala for carrying out all the prep work in advance. As always, these mates check to ensure that events run smoothly.

- OZCF Sports Committee





















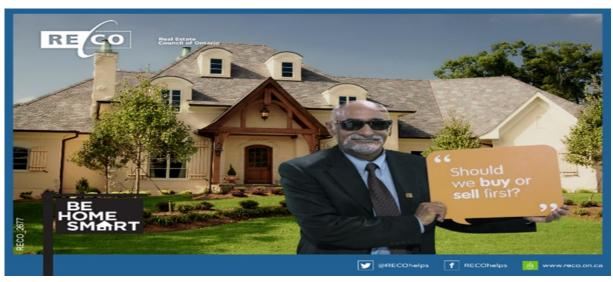
















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The OZCF Youth Committee and 100th Oakville Zoroastrian Scouts Group joined forces for their annual Kids Christmas Party. There were over 50 kids under the age of 18 who came on December 4th, 2022 to the ZRCC to celebrate the Christmas spirit. The kids had a fun-filled afternoon with many activities and a special visit from Santa!

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MUSICAL CHAIRS





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I offer financial planning services to Canadians! I specialize in financial planning for young professionals (primarily doctors and lawyers), and also retirement planning for retirees and those nearing retirement.

As a special promotion, 10% of sales made to OZCF members through this ad will be donated to the OZCF. This donation is in addition to the 10% charitable donation the business will make to mental health and women's shelter charities.

Visit <u>www.phbfinancial.com</u> and schedule **a free**, **no-obligation consultation**. Thank you for your support!



OLAF PIÑATA





SANTA'S HERE







Thank you to all the volunteers and leaders for a fun and incredible event!!



OBITUARIES

Sheroo Doctor



On Sunday December 25, 2022, Sheroo Doctor peacefully floated to heaven to watch over all she loved. She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years Bahadur Doctor, her daughter Khushi, sister Nergish Major and many loving nephews, nieces, great nieces and great nephews.

She was a believer in community. Since her arrival to Canada in 1969 she has been encouraging the Zoroastrian community to come together and was on the Board of the ZSO during the first few years of its conception. Over the years she has continued to participate in community events, encouraging and helping newcomers when possible, and always with a big smile, open heart and sweets in her pocket to share with kids of all ages.

She leaves behind a legacy of giving of her time and heart to all who crossed her path. Rest In Peace my Sweet MOM.

Your loving daughter, Khushi.

Pessi Sohrabji Divecha



Pessi Sohrabji Divecha, 81, was the son of the late Mani and Sohrabji Divecha, brother of Rohinton, Shavir, Sami and Jalu, and significant other to Elizabeth.



OBITUARIES

NERGISH YOE



(nee Surkari) was the embodiment of a life, fully lived. Born a Parsi, in Aden, Yemen on August 6th, 1936 and passed away peacefully on December 28th, 2022 surrounded by her beloved husband Aichen, daughter Fariza and son Shayn.

Nergish was born the eldest child of Nusserwan and Villoo Surkari, and sister to siblings Gool, Pervez, Zarine, Eruch and Gauver. Wife to Aichen Yoe, mother to daughter Fariza Warren (Sean, preceded in death) and son Shayn

Yoe. Grandmother to Karl Warren (preceded in death), and Luke Warren.

Nergish learned to appreciate beauty in its truest sense at an early age from her grandmother, who taught her how to paint, sew, play the piano and cook delicious food for her family. All which Nergish enjoyed doing far into her senior years.

Nergish attended the Franciscan School in Aden, graduating and promptly going into the work-force to help her parents with the family's expenses. She purchased their home's first record player so that her entire family could hear the magic of music from artists such as Dean Martin, Pat Boone, & Elvis. Nergish was always a strict disciplinarian with her siblings but whilst also having the kindest of hearts.

Nergish was equally determined when it came to her career. First working at Eastern Bank, she followed up with roles with Air India, Caltex and Mobil Oil whilst she was in Aden. And during her time off, Nergish would enjoy dancing with her friends at the dance clubs and playing badminton and table-tennis. Which is where she would meet her future husband Aichen Yoe.

To avoid the civil war in the 1960's, Nergish and Aichen moved to London, England together and got married on August 5th, 1971.

Because of her passion for cooking, Nergish would enroll at the Cordon Bleu School of Cookery, which would set her family and friends up for a lifetime of stories about her delicious food and scrumptious baked fares. There is nothing that Nergish would not and could not do in her kitchen.

In 1971 she and Aichen moved to Hong Kong, which turned out not to be to her liking. And so based on the invitation of her extended family they relocated to the newly independent city of Dubai in 1973, where she would build their new home and a gathering place for her precious community. In 1975 Nergish and Aichen would welcome their newborn son Shayn.



OBITUARIES

Nergish would establish a 25-year career working for Dubai Petroleum Company as the Assistant Director of Housing. Nergish was tasked to do what she loved the most, assisting her staff in their new home in Dubai. And she would often be found delving through carpet and curtain material to pick the perfect sample to custom fit the employee's personal tastes.

During her 26 years in Dubai, Nergish developed countless lifelong friendships and she would never be one to say no to trying something new, such as volunteering at Shayn's school events, joining the Sheikhs & Dates square-dance club, joining the Dubai 10-pin bowling league, learning how to create exquisite cross stitch, and of course, cooking delicious food for friends and strangers alike.

In May 1994, she would be present for the birth of her first grandson Karl Warren in Saudi Arabia and would visit Bahrain in January 1996 for the birth of her second grandson Luke Warren.

After an illustrious career Nergish would retire in 1999. She and Aichen would relocate to Mississauga, Canada to be closer to her siblings Gool and brother Eruch. Until the time of Nergish's passing, the cold winters of Ontario might have nipped at her ankles but could do nothing to diminish the warmth of Nergish's kindness towards people, her hospitality, the love that she had for her Parsi community, and her devotion towards her Zoroastrian faith.



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OBITUARIES

<u>Dinoo Sidhwa</u>, our darling mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunty, passed away on December 31, 2022. She is now at peace in her heavenly abode with her husband Bejan, son Dinshaw, and grandson Darius. Our family was blessed to have her beautiful spirit in our lives. She was loved by all those she touched, including her friends, relatives, neighbours, and even strangers.

She was married to (late) Bejan Sidhwa for 64 years before dad passed in 2016. She was the mother to (late) Dinshaw, Phil (Marook) and Shahroukh – "naughty boy!" (Riah). Her brother Fardoon (Freny) survives her. She had several other loving siblings, Nergish, Rusi, Freny and Homai who have all passed on. She was dearly loved by her grandchildren Michelle, (late) Darius, Farokh, Lila, Danny, Jahan, Kashmira, and Arman, and great-grandchildren Cyrus, Archer, and Zara. She is missed by her many nephews and nieces and their children. And of course, her daily companion and guard dog, Diego!

Mum was a fun-loving person who enjoyed life to the fullest, with many laughs, parties, cooking and gardening. She loved music and dancing, along with going to the casinos in Atlantic City and Woodbine horse racing. As her family and friends know, she had all sorts of stories from her childhood that would keep us all laughing in stitches. She loved her grandchildren and looked after all of them from birth. She loved her community at OZCF and ZSO as well as participating in ZCC activities with dad.

Mum was born in Udvada, India on December 5, 1929, in a strictly religious household, which didn't stop her mischief, stories of which are legendary. In 1957, with Dinshaw (four years old) and Phil (one month old) in tow, they moved from dad's home in Karachi to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where dad was transferred for work. Life was wonderful there until 1970, when mum and family emigrated to England due to political tension. The sacrifice of parents of that generation to ensure a good and safe future for their children is an extraordinary chronicle of strength, resilience and faith.

In 1965, mum had opened an Indian boutique store in the Kilimanjaro hotel, the largest hotel in Africa at the time. She called it Sharooqi's, after her 3rd (and most mischievous!) son. We had memorable times there, being treated to barbecue chicken at the fancy hotel restaurant every time mum sold a sari! Mum met many dignitaries who were staying at the hotel and visited the shop, including Apollo 12 astronauts, actor Sidney Poitier, the AgaKhan, and others, for whom mum would rush down even in the middle of the night, to open her shop when called.



OBITUARIES

In 1972, mum and family immigrated from England to Canada, which was to her the greatest country in the world. It was the Trudeau era when many Zoroastrians came from Africa due to political tension. We were fortunate to have an amazing network of friends from Africa in Mississauga and Oakville who assisted us in settling, namely the Jafrabads, Madons, Kotwals and Austins. As long as mum and dad lived, they were always grateful for their support, along with their many other friends, as well as the founding Zoroastrian institution ZSO, that still supports immigrants so well upon arrival.

Mum worked at the Bank of Montreal with many other Zoroastrians at the time, encountering those painfully cold Go-train rides from Clarkson to Union and back each day. She then worked at Safeco Insurance close to home in the new Erin Mills development in Mississauga. Mum retired in 1994. They had moved into their new home in Mississauga where she enjoyed gardening, tending to her many birds and fish, and cherishing her social life with friends.

Those three kids did however put her through some tough times. From Dinshaw's cancer, to Phil and Marook plane crash, and Shahroukh's serious medical issues, she kept on a brave face, despite taking on immense stress inside. By the time she lost her grandson, Darius, at age 30, then dad, then Dinshaw, all in successive years, the emotional impact was only minimized by the Alzheimer's which had already kicked in. Perhaps Ahura Mazda in a mysterious way shielded her from the pain of those losses?

Mum stayed at Phil and Marook's home and she was transported to the hospital on December 29 due to breathing distress. She passed away peacefully on December 31, at 5 AM. During her last years, Shahroukh, Phil, Fardoon Mama, and our families are truly grateful for the care and love provided to mum especially by Marook and mum's personal and amazing caregivers Lynette, over the past two years, and Nofala prior. We are grateful for the friendships and constant thoughts and prayers of all who loved her dearly. And to all the grandchildren and family that loved her so much and looked after her constantly.

Mum is at peace now and we wish her a good journey to her heavenly abode. Mother, thank you for everything you did for us, the values you instilled in us and all the sacrifices you and dad made to make us who we are.

God Bless her soul.



NATAK

The OZCF and Toronto Parsi Drama Group invite everyone to audition for a Gujrati Natak!



AUDITIONS OPEN!

OZCF & TORONTO PARSI DRAMA GROUP INVITE YOU TO AUDITION FOR A GUIRATI NATAK IN THE SUMMER OF 2023

AUDITIONS ON: FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 6.30 PM AT OZCF (1187 BURNHAMTHORPE ROAD EAST, OAKVILLE, ON) AGE: 20 AND UP

THE STAGE WILL BE YOURS. PREPARE TO DAZZLE US!

SIGN UP WITH:

SHIRIN CHATURVEDI @647-407-4824 ARMITA BHESANIA @647-391-0306





MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 01 to December 31, 2023

Membership Application: New Renewal

Membership Category / Fees

Single Seniors Family

Individuals of age 23 to			
26 years	Individuals of age 27 and below 64 years	Individuals of age 65 years to age 89 (age 90+ = free)	Includes spouses/partne & children up to age 22 years
\$50	\$100	\$50	\$175
PPLICANT INFORMATION			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Address:		Apartm	ent No:
City:		Province: F	ostal Code:
Home Phone: ()		Cell Phone: ()	
Email:	Age _	Receive OZCF te	xt messages (Y / N)
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2. Full Name		Email	Age
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Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement

For Annual Membership Fees

Please debit my Bank Account Annually (attach VOID cheque) for

\$50	\$100	\$50	FREE	\$175
Youth	Single	Seniors	Seniors	Family
Individuals aged	Individuals aged	Individuals of age	Aged 90 and	Includes spouses/partners &
23 - 26 years	27 - 64 years	65years - 89 years	above	children up to age 22 years

Member Name:	
Address/Contact Information:	
Signature:	
Date:	

I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of (Payee to insert period – <u>not to exceed 30 days</u>). To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information on my right to cancel a PAD Agreement, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville, ON. L6H 7B3 Tel: (289) 725-8484 president@ozcf.com | www.ozcf.com

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca