

VISION

OZCF Newsletter

In Perspective Drawing

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OUR AFFILIATES

Member of:



We Support:



Home of:



100th Oakville Zoroastrian Scouts Group

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Finally! The long-awaited good news. Our Site Plan application for the Place of Worship has been approved by the Town of Oakville. This is a monumental step towards our dream of having our own Atash Kadeh. A huge congratulations to our entire Place of Worship Advisory Committee who have worked tirelessly for many years to get us to this point. They now embark on the second phase of their project. Please read below the update from our Place of Worship Advisory Committee Chair Phil Sidhwa.

March brings with it a very busy time with Mukhtad, Navroze and Khordad Saal. During the 5 Gatha days from 16 – 20 March, we will have Mukhtad prayers at the ZRCC, as we remember the souls of our dearly departed. On 21st March, we will celebrate Jamshedi Navroze with a Jashan followed by dinner. You must register if you wish to join us for dinner. Please see below for more information.

For the past few years, we have had a very busy Youth Committee. Besides organizing a lot of youth events, they routinely collaborate with the Seniors, Sports, Entertainment and Fundraising committees, and Scouts to deliver consistently great events. Even COVID and the lockdown couldn't slow them as they pivoted and stepped up with the Helping Hands program to help all seniors with weekly grocery deliveries and kept the community engaged with weekly entertainment via bingo. The success of Quarantine Bingo translated into a Bingo Fundraiser to help subsidize costs for participants attending the Youth Congress in London later this year. With a wide variety of attractive prizes ranging from coffee machines, sporting goods, back and neck massagers, Segway, Air Canada vouchers and Maple Leafs tickets, the event was sold out and excitement levels were high all night. We got amazing feedback from the event and requests to host more of them. A huge thank you to Cyrus Patel who donated the sporting goods on behalf of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce, Meherab Chothia for the Leafs tickets and to our other anonymous donors.

The next Youth event is another Fundraiser for the Congress – Car Rally 2023. A scavenger hunt around Mississauga and Oakville areas solving clues and completing tasks. It promises to be an exciting, adventure-filled evening. Please participate in large numbers by joining individually or as a team.

The Youth Committee is also embarking on a new multi-year project. In collaboration with the youth at the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) and the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA), we are jointly preparing a bid to host the 2027 World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Toronto. We believe the Zoroastrian community in the GTA is thriving and this is an excellent way to showcase ourselves on the world stage. For the past 2 months, we have been preparing our bid document and will be submitting it soon. If any youth would like to get involved with this long-term project, please reach out to us.

Our Bingo Subcommittee is actively looking for more volunteers to join the team. Delta Bingo Oakville has supported the OZCF for many years and we thank them sincerely. If you can volunteer for a couple of hours every other month, please contact Kaiomarz Suntoke at kaiomarzsuntoke@ozcf.com for more information.

The Sports Committee has outdoor sports events of soccer and volleyball lined up in May and June. In the past few years these events have really taken off and we see great participation by folks of all ages. A lot of time and effort is put in by the Sports Committee for outdoor events as due to the size of the playing areas, they start cutting the grass almost a week early to get the ideal playing surface. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours to assist in cutting the playing fields this summer, please reach out to Rumi Jasavala at rumi_jasavala@ozcf.com.

A new initiative by the Board is Gymkhana Nights, held alternate Friday evenings and is gaining a lot of popularity. We regularly have about 25 – 30 people taking part in table tennis, carrom, board games or just socializing. The next one is in 3 days on 3rd March at 6:30pm. Entry is free, and I urge all of you to drop by sometime.

A friendly reminder to renew your Membership for 2023 before 31st March, so you do not miss out on any communication.

Looking forward to meeting you soon at the ZRCC.

Adil Bhesania



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PLACE OF WORSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We are pleased to inform the community that the Town of Oakville has given us Site Plan Approval (SPA) and we are proceeding to submit drawings and application for a Building Permit. This is a major milestone for us considering the years we have spent going through the rezoning and SPA phases of this project. We thank the community for your patience and continued support.

We have prepared drawings and tender documents and contacted six contractors to gauge interest in bidding, of which five are interested in the work. We will put out tenders in March and have tenders submitted by early May. We will then meet with the community to discuss prices, arrangements and next steps.

As construction pricing is expected to be higher than monies we currently have in cash and pledges, we count on community members to donate generously to this wonderful cause.

We will keep you updated as we progress through the building permit and tendering process. May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.

Phil Sidhwa – Chair, PWAC

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 Mehbadi (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) 568-4946

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.

MUKTAD (F) PRAYERS

OZCF will be celebrating the Fasli Muktd from Thursday March 16th to Monday March 20th, 2023, at the ZRCC.

We will be performing all the prayers during the Muktd days – three Satoom sessions (morning, afternoon and evening), and Afringan & Farokshi in the morning. If you wish to give the names of your dearly departed for daily prayers, please complete the [Muktd Names Form](#) (click on link to download from the OZCF website) and send it along with your donation cheque payable to OZCF to reach **Er. Nozer Kotwal by March 13th**.

The Hall will be open for a few hours during the prayers. Prayer timings are:

6:30 am – Morning Satoom
7:00 am – Afringan and Farokshi
11:30 am – Afternoon Satoom
7:00 pm – Evening Satoom

If you wish to offer your home-made Malido, Ravo, Sev, Batasa, Bhakras, and/or dry-fruits, flowers, fruits, Sukhad, Loban, we ask that you make arrangements with Er. Kotwal. If you wish to sponsor a meal and/or donate food, please contact Jeroo Madan at jeroomadan@ozcf.com.

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

Muktad are the days of communication between the material and spiritual worlds – our need of health, happiness, peace and prosperity is fulfilled through the blessings of the Ruwans (souls) and the Fravashis (Spirits), and their need for our remembrance is fulfilled by our prayers and invocations. Religious collections play a big part in revenue generation for OZCF and we request the community to donate generously.

NAVROZE JASHAN (F):

OZCF will be celebrating Navroze on Tuesday March 21st at the ZRCC. The prayer ceremony will commence at 7:00 pm followed by dinner.

Members wishing to attend must give their names in advance to Jeroo Madan at jeroomadan@ozcf.com, **latest by March 18th**. The cost of attending the Jashan & dinner is:

OZCF Members – \$20.00/person & \$10.00 for children upto age of 12 years
Non-members – \$30.00/person & \$20.00 for children upto age of 12 years

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 in advance.

KHORDAD SAL (F) JASHAN:

OZCF will be holding a Jashan on Khordad Sal day, as per Fasli Calendar, on Sunday March 26th at the ZRCC.

The prayer ceremony 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 must give their names to Er. Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 or at nskotwal1@gmail.com in advance, but **not later than Thursday, March 23rd**. 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 any religious event in the future, please provide your interest to Er. Kotwal.

FARVARDEGAN (F) PRAYERS

OZCF will be holding a prayer ceremony on Farvardegan day, as per Fasli Calendar, on Saturday April 8th at the ZRCC. The prayer ceremony will commence at 11:00 am, followed by Chasni.

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.

MAIDYOZAREM GAHAMBAR (F)

OZCF will be celebrating Maidyozarem Gahambar, as per Fasli Calendar, on Sunday April 30th at the ZRCC.

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 _____ in advance, but **not later than Thursday, April 27th**. 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 a 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)	\$175.00
Single (Individuals of age 27 to 64 years)	\$100.00
Senior (Individuals of age 65 -89 years)	\$50.00
Seniors (age 90+)	\$FREE
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

ACHIEVEMENTS

We're proud to announce that Natasha Gazdar has finished in 1st place in Gymnastics Ontario's 2nd Provincial Cup, held this past week. The competition was fierce, but Natasha's skill, determination and grace shone through as she executed her routines with precision and style.

This is a significant achievement for Natasha, who trains four days a week and balances her demanding gymnastics schedule with her academic responsibilities as a grade 9 high school student. We are thrilled to see her hard work and dedication paying off. Let's wish Natasha best of luck at Gymnastics Ontario's 3rd Provincial Cup and at the Ontario Provincial Championships in June. Congratulations, Natasha!





ONTARIO ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Invites you to attend the

NAVROZE JASHAN AND DINNER

Date: March 21, 2023

Time: Jashan at 7 PM; Dinner at 8 PM

Adult: Members: \$20

Non-Members: \$30

Child: (5 to 10 yrs) Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$25

Venue: OZCF, 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road E., Oakville, ON

No charge for attending the Jashan only

Please send in your names to jeroomadan@ozcf.com by
March 17, 2023

Payments to be made online at ozcf.com



YOUTH UPDATE:

BINGO NIGHT:

On February 11th, the Youth held a Bingo Night at the ZRCC as a fundraiser for the Youth Congress in London. It was a sold-out event and the night was a great success! The lucky winners went home with amazing prizes like coffee machines, a Segway and Maple Leafs tickets! Thank you to everyone who came out to support!





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RAPTORS GAME:

The Youth Committee hosted their much-anticipated annual Raptors Game at Scotiabank Arena on January 12th. As always, it was a big success with around 80 attendees cheering on their team! This time we were also joined by the Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) Committee who were visiting Toronto for the ZYNA Retreat.

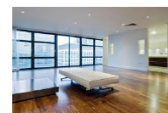


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SENIORS' WRITE UP

The OZCF Seniors Sub-committee is hoping to restart in April 2023 their ever popular weekly Yoga and Zumba sessions each Wednesday at the ZRCC at 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East in Oakville.

The Seniors Sub-committee is once again looking for volunteer drivers to pick up and drop off only those seniors who require this assistance from their homes. The sessions begin at approximately 11:45 am and end around 2 pm.

Please volunteer; it is a very worthwhile cause and of immense benefit to seniors who enjoy the sessions, followed by a hot lunch and socializing with fellow seniors in a happy, healthy environment.

If you can assist, please give your names to Seniors Sub-committee co-chairs:

Kamal Driver: (416) 417-7580 Minnie Mirza: (905) 825-8188





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GYMKHANA NIGHTS

Since November 2022, every alternate Friday evenings, the ZRCC at OZCF is the place to be! A vibrant community centre filled with people of all ages catching up about their past week, enjoying a game of carrom or table tennis or just watching the Toronto Maple Leafs or Toronto Raptors game on television.

It is pleasing to see new faces plus the regulars every time. Usually, all games are friendlies but at the last Gymkhana Night we shook things up a bit by having an impromptu 1 game knockout style table tennis tournament with the semis and finals being best of 3. Competition got heated quickly. The final saw a seasoned Shiamak Katrak hold on against a tough challenger in Rustom Irani. We plan on doing a one evening carrom tournament soon.

The next Gymkhana Night is on 3rd March. We will take break on 17th March as Mukhtad prayers will be taking place but resume on 31st March. Entry is free for all and the OZCF Board graciously provides snacks every time.

Some feedback the Board has received from regular participants encouraging us to continue with this recurring event.

<p>“ The Gymkhana Nights have been quite exciting and people from diverse age groups are attending which makes it fun. It is a nice way to connect, socialize and make friends. Also, snacks are provided each time, which is a very good gesture by OZCF ”</p> <p>– Yohaana Bhagwagar</p>	<p>“ It is a great initiative! table tennis is so much fun! Plus, you get to meet new people every time ”</p> <p>– Cyrus Variava</p>
<p>“ It's lovely to see the community come together as a team in the spirit of sports ”</p> <p>– Shahyan Bharucha</p>	<p>“ Great initiative by the OZCF to help community members socialize whilst playing games ”</p> <p>– Zane Tengra</p>
<p>“ It's a great place to meet up with old friends and make some new ones. Makes me happy to get to play some table tennis with everyone there ”</p> <p>– Yashaan Mavalvala</p>	<p>“ I absolutely love Gymkhana Nights. It's a lot of fun getting together and ripping some intense ping pong games. ”</p> <p>Great way to start the weekend!</p> <p>– Pauzash Mithaiwala</p>
<p>“ Great initiative started by the OZCF bringing together friends across the community on Friday nights ”</p> <p>– Hormuz Javat</p>	

With summer coming up we plan on including outdoor sports and activities in Gymkhana Nights.





Zoroastrian Cricket Club group at Gymkhana Nights

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 01 to December 31, 2023

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 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/partners & children up to age 22 years
\$50	\$100	\$50	\$175

APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____ Apartment No: _____
 City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Home Phone: (_____) - _____ - _____ Cell Phone: (_____) - _____ - _____
 Email: _____ Age _____ Receive OZCF text messages (Y / N)

DEPENDANT INFORMATION

1. Full Name _____ Email _____ Age _____
 2. Full Name _____ Email _____ Age _____
 3. Full Name _____ Email _____ Age _____
 4. Full Name _____ Email _____ Age _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ☐ I (We) select OZCF as our Prime Membership Group for FEZANA membership
☐ I (We) would like to receive the VISION Newsletter by post
☐ 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. By signing this form I give consent to OZCF to contact me by email / phone for announcements and requests.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

OZCF, 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road, East, Oakville, ON. L6H 7B3 | Tel: 289-725-8484 | www.ozcf.com



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 23 - 26 years	Individuals aged 27 - 64 years	Individuals of age 65 years - 89 years	Aged 90 and above	Includes spouses/partners & children up to age 22 years

Member Name: _____

Address/Contact Information: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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*Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation
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president@ozcf.com | www.ozcf.com*

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