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OUR AFFILIATES

Member of:



We Support:





Home of:



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The first 2 months of the year went by quickly. While events at the ZRCC have slowed down due to ongoing construction, the Board and Committees remain very active working in the background keeping the entire operation going.

The seniors continue to meet online every Wednesday for a Zumba exercise session. Scouts and Religion Class are the only activities taking place at the property. I sincerely thank all the parents for dropping off their children and returning to pick them up, allowing the few parking spots that are available to be used by the volunteers conducting those sessions. Wanting to invest in our future leaders, we contributed \$300 to the 100 Toronto Zoroastrian Scouts Group Jamboree Fundraising Campaign from our General Fund.

The construction of the Place of Worship is coming along nicely as it remains ahead of schedule under the tight supervision of the Place of Worship Advisory Committee (PWAC). Please read on for the accompanying update from the PWAC Chair Phil Sidhwa.

For the past few weeks, work has been ongoing on our parking lot allowing minimal usage of the property. However, I am pleased to report that the Religious and Lectures Committee and the PWAC have coordinated with the contractor to move equipment away from the parking lot during the upcoming Fasli Muktad days and Navroze celebrations to allow the community to congregate. Details of prayers and Jashan are in the following pages.

Navroze Mubarak in advance.

Adil Bhesania,

President



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- 4946
Zarolia, Ervad Kobad (647) 8879213

PLACE OF WORSHIP CONSTRUCTION REPORT

As you have no doubt seen, construction is progressing well and the building is shaping up into the magnificent structure we can all be proud of. What is amazing is the global interest in the construction, with almost 40,000 hits on the website at time of publishing. Publications around the world are talking about our project and it is being viewed on social media.

As we enter the next phase of construction, we urgently need your help to complete the work. You recently received a "Funds for Faith" donation plea and form. If 170 families donate \$6,000 each, or \$2,000/year, we would meet our million dollar goal. After tax credits, you will actually pay only \$1,238/year, or \$3,714 over three years. As we all agreed with enthusiasm to move forward at our EGM, let's make this happen so that we don't have to borrow money at such high interest rates. Please visit the website or call us to make a donation of any amount.

Here is a brief progress update and our schedule for the next month. Some pictures are attached. A construction schedule for the next period is in the table below:

One of the largest components of the construction being the masonry structure, is now complete. The next big task is the structural steel placement for basement and roof. By mid-March this will be completed and the roof will then be installed to enclose the building. In May the ground inside will be levelled, plumbing pipes installed and floors will be poured with concrete. Exterior finishing will start in early May. Our contractor and architect are in discussions with Oakville Hydro and our electrical engineers on installation of our new electrical service and transformer. This will be completed after all the underground piping and stormwater pond is installed to ensure no interference with in-ground wiring.

In early February the water line from the fire pond to the new hydrant was installed underground. Soon the firepond will be drained and extended with a new liner. We will advise the community of timing as fire regulations prevent us occupying the property at all during that time, with no emergency water available.



Installation of the extensive underground stormwater system commenced in mid-February with placing of various catch basins and pipes leading to the stormwater retention pond. This involves digging the ground, placing gravel and laying water pipes accurately with proper slopes. Pipes are then insulated completely to prevent freezing and covered with gravel. Surveys are done for placement of each catch basin and pipeline to ensure proper location and depths for effective drainage of the parking lot and site. We have rearranged schedules to try and complete the stormwater works to accommodate Muktad and Navroze celebrations in mid-March. Hopefully the weather co-operates to enable us to grade the parking lot in time.

The drinking water tank will be removed and a new one installed at a surveyed location behind the house. The old water tank has shown weakness and is unacceptable. During this period for a few days there will be no water in the hall or house. We will inform the membership of timing. In order to save future costs, we are considering building the floor for the priest residence now instead of waiting until future occupation, as installation at that time would incurgreater cost due to tearing down ceilings, wiring and plumbing on the main floor. We will analyze costs and determine whether it can be done now.

The construction team is in daily meetings and communications to ensure that plans are being followed and all specifications are in compliance, with regular inspections by the town, engineers and architect.

We thank the membership for your patience during construction and for coping with the inconvenience. We will keep you updated of progress and in the meanwhile should you have any questions, please contact us. We thank the membership for their generosity to date and call on you again for this last push to fulfil our dream.

May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.

On behalf of PWAC.

Phil Sidhwa, Chair





CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE : Updated February 22nd 2024			
ΠΕΜ	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE	NOTES
Start Site Serv; Grading; stormwater	***	March 29, 2024	Firepond extension - inform community no events at hall or house during construction. Complete underground site servicing and grading. Exterior backfill to be done as part of site services
Electrical	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing discussions to finalize with Oakville Hydro. Electrical contractor talking to Oakville Hydro about primary power. 400amp service acceptable. Secondary service materials ordered. Schedule Primary service to transformer.
Structural Steel	2024-02-05	March-1-2024	Basement complete. Roof structure almost complete. Build parapets. Ready for roof.
Roofing	March 4, 2024	March-15-2024	I nstall after structural steel in place. Scheduled
Stucco	March-18-2024	April-19-2024	Scheduled
Pumps Rough in Plumbing, under floor slab drains	April-1-2024	April- 26-2024	Pumps ordered.
Plumbing and Electrical Rough In for upstairs, discuss possibility of Priest house floor now with town/architect (steel vs TGI and wood)			Ongoing Discussion
Floors Poured	May-6-2024	May-17-2024	Leave Stairs, wheelchair ramp, sidewalks to later.

















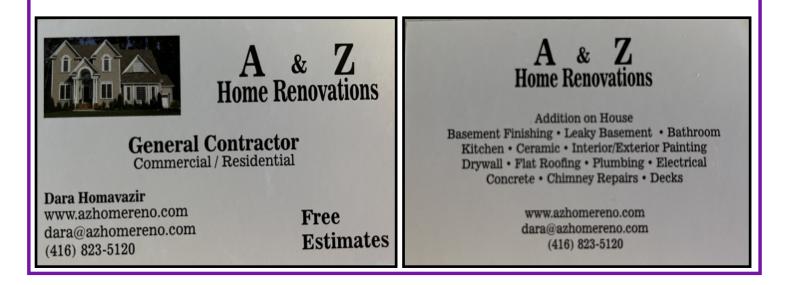
2024 MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE:

Below is agreed upon membership rates passed at the 2022 AGM Fee Structure for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 (Non-Refundable)

Membership Level	2024 Fees
• 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

CONSTRUCTION

With construction having begun for our Place of Worship, we will not be renting out the hall until all construction has finished, bearing in mind the safety of our members and volunteers.





RELIGIOUS EVENTS AND UPDATES

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

Sukhad – \$3/- each Divo – \$3/- each Gahambar lunch – \$15/- 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 Muktad from Friday March 15th to Tuesday March 19th at the ZRCC.

We will be performing all the prayers during the Muktad 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 <u>Muktad Names Form</u> (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 **no later than March 12**th.

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 <u>jeroomadan@ozcf.com</u>.

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



Navroze Jashan (F):

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

Members wishing to attend must give their names in advance to Shirin Chaturvedi at <u>cshirinm@hotmail.com</u>, **latest by March 17**th. The cost of attending the Jashan & dinner is:

OZCF Members – \$20 / person & \$15 for children up to age of 12 years Non-members – \$30 / person & \$25 for children up to 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 Tuesday March 26th at the ZRCC. The prayer ceremony will commence at 7:00 pm, followed by chasni.

Due to the construction work on the Atashkadeh and parking lot, we will confirm in-person attendance by the end of February. Prayers will be live-streamed.

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 Monday April 8th at the ZRCC. The prayer ceremony will commence at 7:00 pm, followed by Chasni.

Due to the construction work on the Atashkadeh and parking lot, we will confirm in-person attendance by the end of February. Prayers will be live-streamed.

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.





RATES TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER:

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

Business Card 1/4 Page 1/2 Page Full Page Last Full Page

\$25 per issue\$50 per issue\$75 per issue\$125 per issue\$150 per issue

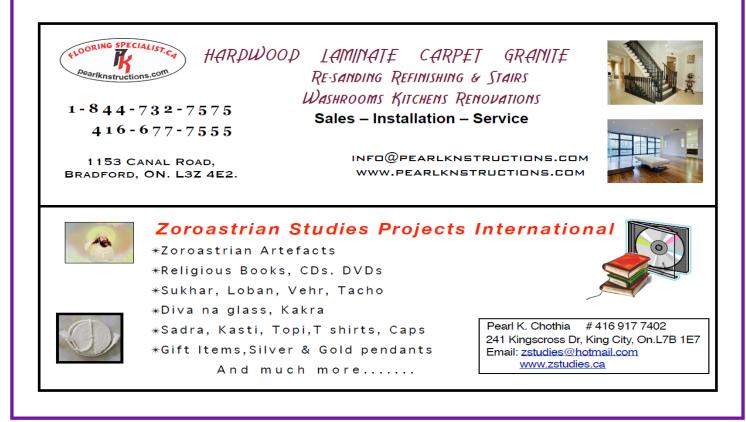
\$150 per year \$300 per year \$450 per year \$750 per year \$900 per year

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.

SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Sports Committee have had to revisit the programs that were planned for the early months of 2024 due to the construction of the Place of Worship. With that being said, we are looking into sustainable options of holding some sporting activities outside of the ZRCC facility until adequate opportunities arise at the ZRCC during the various construction phases. Stay tuned.

- OZCF Sports Committee





FIRDAUS KHARAS ORDER OF CANADA RECIPIENT

The OZCF is proud to recognize Firdaus Kharas who was recently appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. Bestowed with our country's highest civilian honour is quite the achievement indeed, and most deserving as Firdaus has positively impacted the lives of so many through social change via media.

Read on and discover why being a recipient of the Order of Canada is a sense of immense pride and importance to Firdaus. You can also read the Parsi Khabar article highlighting Firdaus's achievement via the following link:

https://parsikhabar.net/news/firdaus-kharas-appointed-officer-of-the-order-of-canada/28460/

On behalf of OZCF and all our members, congratulations Firdaus!











Why the Order of Canada is so important to me

By Firdaus Kharas, OC

I got emotional when I received a call from the office of Canada's Governor-General informing me that I had been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada because I felt so incredibly honoured and humbled by the appointment. This high recognition means a great deal to me and I am deeply appreciative. It is truly a privilege to be counted among the remarkable individuals who have received this recognition in the past.

Every country is not just a geographical area but a living embodiment of the values that define a nation and its people. While no country is perfect, Canada is proof that in a world often fraught with division and violence there is at least one place that exhibits an adherence to our shared responsibility to care for each other.

My journey from a tiny ethnic community in India called Parsis to this prestigious appointment is an example of the values we cherish as Canadians. In Canada there are no outsiders and anyone can receive its highest honour. In the complex tapestry of countries that make up our world Canada stands as a beacon of diversity and inclusion as we weave together threads of Indigenous heritage and immigrant dreams.

For me, receiving the Order of Canada is not just a personal achievement but a recognition of the collective efforts and contributions of countless individuals who have supported and inspired me. I am sincerely and deeply grateful to each of them.

I share this recognition with my family, friends, mentors, colleagues, and the community at large in Canada and around the world for their generous and active support, encouragement, and guidance. This honour would not have been possible without their collaborative spirit and their collective will to make a positive impact on society.

There are many obstacles and barriers to overcome as an individual trying to make a difference. The paths of pioneers and social activists are not easy. As an Officer of the Order of Canada I feel inspired and encouraged to continue to contribute meaningfully to the betterment of our nation and the world through the creation of media for social change.

#OrderOfCanada #GGHonours #Canada #India #Parsi #Parsee #values

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Please include the following names in the daily prayers during the forthcoming Muktad 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	ЕОВ
2. E O Oi B K	ЕОВ
3. E O Oi B K	ЕОВ
4. E O Oi B K	ЕОВ
5. E O Oi B K	ЕОВ
6. E O Oi B K	ЕОВ
Please find enclosed my cheque payable to	OZCF for \$
Thank you.	
Name Signa	ture Tel. No
** Names of the deceased are recited toget	her with their father/husband's name:
E= Ervad O = Osta Oi = Osti B = B K = Khurd (child whose navjote was not per	
Please complete the form in Block Letters, e is circled and forward it to the address belo	ensuring the proper status (i.e., E, O, Oi, B, K) w
OZCF, 4244 Taffey Cres	, Mississauga, ON L5L 2J2





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ONTARIO ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Invites you to attend the

NAVROZE JASHAN AND DINNER

Date: March 21, 2024

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 cshirinm@hotmail.com by March 17, 2024 Payments to be made at <u>easypay@ozcf.com</u>





LIVE THE PRAYER PROJECT

On a cold day in December 2023, the OZCF warmly hosted the Live the Prayer Project (LPP) in a joint annual event held by the ZSO Religion Classes from the East and West end. The idea for the LPP which has been running for at least 3 decades now, was inspired by the last line of the Yatha Ahu Vairyo prayer which states that it is our duty to help others in need.

This event is an opportunity for Religion Class students to bring the prayer to life. The idea is that there are many ways in which we can help others, money being one way, but we can also help others by doing things to show we care. In a world where we increasingly observe people being pushed into poverty, human rights violations and suffering, this special event is a reminder that Zarathushtra brought us many teachings from Ahura Mazda, including to look out for others, even if we don't know them personally.

Towards this goal, the children are encouraged to help their parents in preparing a dish (preferably somewhat traditional), then selling it at the event, and all the monies collected are given to charities (both locally, and to Zoroastrians in India).

This year, the event began with an engaging demonstration of the Atash Nu Parabh led by Freddy Mirza and Khurshid Engineer. It was followed by a food sale, where food prepared by the students and their families was sold to members of the community in order to raise money for charities. From end to end, the OZCF hall was filled with the most delicious food for people to buy, including Dhansak, Chutney Sandwiches, Bhel, Kebabs of all sorts and much more, with Ravo, Sev and Dahi to round out the selection with something sweet. The event was a delicious success as always!

The participation of all the students and families is greatly appreciated, and we hope to see you all and many more, next year.

The Religion Classes provide a unique opportunity for our community's children to build relationships with each other and to learn about the Zoroastrian worldview and its traditions. Our goal is to promote an understanding of the religion and to foster a sense of Zoroastrian identity among our students.

For any questions, please email the Children's Religious Committee at crc@zso.org

The Children's Religious Class Committee





LIVE ZUMBA FOR SENIORS IS BACK!

Starting Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 12 noon

the OZCF Seniors Sub-Committee will once again begin **"Zumba with Ariam"** at the ZRCC 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road E.

Oakville, L6H 7B3

Step outside your comfort zone and out of the house.

Engage with community members and friends.

Enjoy a hot lunch.

Other exciting events for seniors are also being planned.

Participate and help us make this a success.

To register, please email:

Kamal Driver: <u>cawasdriver@gmail.com</u>

Marook Sidhwa: marooksidhwa@hotmail

We are looking for volunteer drivers to bring our seniors to these events every Wednesday. We particularly need drivers in the following areas: Burlington, Brampton, Oakville and Etobicoke.

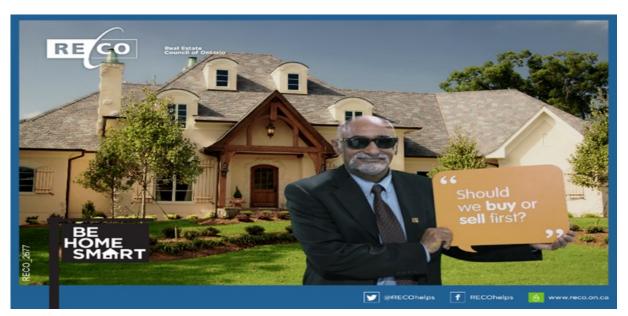






As a special promotion, 10% of sales made to OZCF members through this ad will be donated to the OZCF. This donation is in addition to the 10% charitable donation the business will make to mental health and women's shelter charities.

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





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		MEMB	ERSHIP FORM
GWISHO ZOROASTHIAN COMMUNICT TOW	NO.B.	Januar	y 01 to December 31, 2024
	Membership Application:	New Renew	val
Membership Category / Fees			
Youth	Single	Seniors	Family
Individuals of age 23 to 26 years	Individuals of age 25 and below 65 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
PPLICANT INFORMATION		Last Name:	
		Apartm	
		Province: P	-
		Cell Phone: ()	
		Receive OZCF text messages (Y / N)	
EPENDANT INFORMATION			
1. Full Name		Email	Age
2. Full Name		Email	Age
3. Full Name		Email	Age
4. Full Name		Email	Age
DDITIONAL INFORMATION			
I (We) select OZCF as our I	Prime Membership Group for	FEZANA membership	
I (We) would like to receiv	e the VISION Newsletter by po	ost	
I (We) would like to provide Donation. One time: \$		or ongoing \$	per:
I (We) are interested in vo	olunteering with OZCF		
have reviewed the OZCF By	-laws available on the OZCF w	or Credit Card (paid via vebsite <u>www.ozcf.com</u> , and ag email / phone for announceme	gree to abide by them. By
Signature:		Date:	
		N. L6H 7B3 Tel: 289-725-84	







Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement

For Annual Membership Fees

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

□ \$50	□ \$100	\$50	□ \$175
Youth	Single	Seniors	Family
Individuals of age 23	Individuals of age	Individuals of age 65	Includes spouses/
to 26 years	25 and below 65	years to age 89 (90+ =	partners & children up
	Vears	free	to age 22 years

Member Name:	
Address/Contact Information:	
Signature:	

Date:

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

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