

# Vision

OZCF Newsletter  
January 2019

In Perspective Drawing

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## OUR AFFILIATES

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, 2019!

On behalf of the OZCF Board, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year full of happiness and success in your personal and professional lives.

As we celebrate the start of 2019, I would like to thank all members and donors for their continued patronage of OZCF and above all, our amazing volunteers who are the reason we exist. The coming year fills us with hope and pride as we march towards achieving our dream of building the Place of Worship. Stay tuned for updates from the Place of Worship Advisory Committee.

In the year ahead, there are certainly many other exciting things being planned by your Board and its various sub-committees, which include activities for members of all ages to come out and take part in throughout the year. Look out for Ghambars, various parties, Jashans, scouting activities, food fairs, yoga, zumba, music nights and 2019's biggest fundraising event, Fashion Blast 2 on July 27th where our youth will showcase their talents as models. Be sure to check the website often to stay on top of this very full calendar.

Please remember to fulfill your membership requirements for 2019 and pay your fees online and/or forward any changes to personal information to the Membership Sub-Committee on the attached membership form. You may set up direct deposit payment so that your membership self-renews annually. PAD form is attached and also available online at [www.ozcf.com](http://www.ozcf.com)

Finally as always, I ask that you pray for and keep within your thoughts, those members of our community who are currently ailing. May Ahura Mazda assist them to a speedy recovery.

Until next time,

*Natrawala*

Neville Patrawala  
President

Email: [president@ozcf.com](mailto:president@ozcf.com)

Cell: (416)-846-0785

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**

Neville Patrawala 416-846-0785  
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 Mehsad (416) 917-9195*

*Dhabhar, Ervad Jamshed (905) 819-0089*

*Katrak, Ervad Kerman (647) 444-7359*

*Kotwal, Ervad Nozer (905) 820-0461*

*Madan, Ervad Xerxes (416) 254-0685*

*Panthaky, Ervad Jal (905) 568-4946*

*Zarolia, Ervad Kobad (647) 887-9213*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### PAPERLESS NEWSLETTERS AS OF 2020

In a bid to go paperless and reduce printing costs, members will be receiving all newsletters from January 2020 in online format. Members will have the newsletter blasted via email and a copy will also be available on the OZCF's website.

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### APPEAL

FEZANA has been notified that there is a 2-year-old girl battling cancer who needs a very rare type of blood found only in Indian, Iranian, and Pakistani descendants. There may be several Zarathushtis who may be able to help in this case. Please visit the links included below and help this young girl if you can.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/2-year-old-florida-girl-battling-cancer-needs-extremely-rare-n943566>

<https://www.oneblood.org/zainab/>

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### BIRTHS

Soonoo and Daraious Billimoria are delighted to announce that their son Xerxes and daughter-in-law Corinne are now proud parents of their lovely grandson Cyrus Kade Billimoria, born on July 13th, 2018.

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### PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS

The Parliament of World Religions was held in Toronto from Nov 1-8. See accompanying pages for write up and photographs on how we showcased Zoroastrianism.



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**ZAMYAD MEHERJI**  
**@ 647-834-2494**

**FEB 18**  
**3:00 PM**  
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**ARENA**

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**VS**  
**CRUNCH**

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**33**

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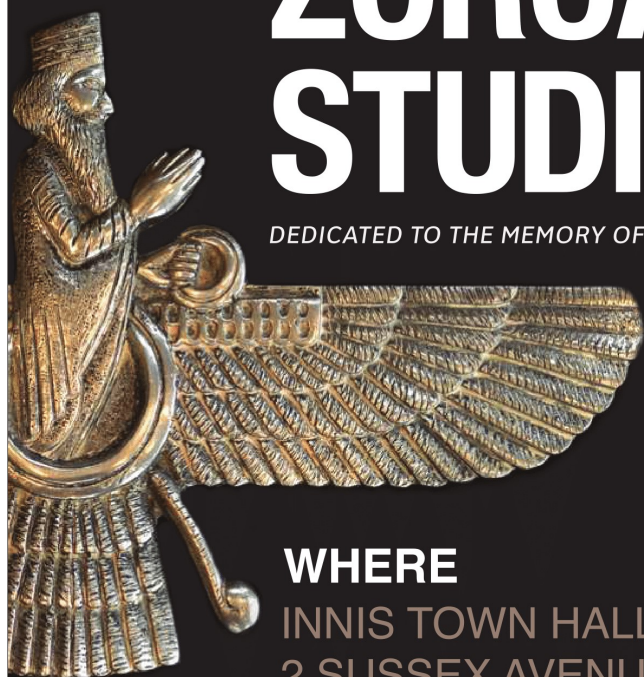
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# ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES

## A SYMPOSIUM

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR EHSAN YARSHATER (1920-2018)

### WHERE

INNIS TOWN HALL,  
2 SUSSEX AVENUE,  
TORONTO, ON, M5S 1J5

### WHEN

APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
1:00–7:00 PM

**1:00–1:30** REGISTRATION

**1:30–1:50** INTRODUCTION

Dr. Jehan Bagli, Timothy Harrison & Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi

**1:50–2:25** ZOROASTRIANISM IN THE ACHAEMENID PERIOD

Maria Brosius, University of Toronto

**2:25–3:00** PURE BODY: THE BARŠNŪM CEREMONY THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Miguel Angel Andres Toledo, University of Salamanca

**3:00–3:35** THE EPIC OF SAMAK-E `AYYAR: A LITERARY COMPANION TO MITHRAIC MYTHOLOGY, ETHICS, AND SOCIAL PRAXIS

Parvaneh Pourshariati, New York City College of Technology

**3:30–4:10** BREAK

**4:10–4:45** DANTE AND WIRAZ: TWO OTHERWORLDLY TRAVELLERS

Enrico Raffaelli, University of Toronto

**4:45–5:20** PARSİ TRADERS AND TRAVELLERS: GLOBAL ZOROASTRIANS IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE

Jesse Palsetia, University of Guelf

**5:20–6:00** ZOROASTRIANISM AND THE PROBLEM OF UNIVERSAL RELIGION IN THE EARLY MODERN ISLAMIC WORLD

Dan Sheffield, Princeton University

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DEPARTMENT OF NEAR AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES  
TORONTO INITIATIVE FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

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THE FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA,  
ONTARIO ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION,  
AND ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO





## YOUTH COMMITTEE TOWN HALL MEETING

**DECEMBER 8, 2018**

The Youth Committee held a Town Hall meeting at the OZCF on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The agenda included introducing the 2018 – 2020 Committee, providing info for upcoming events and the Youth Congress, and hearing from the participants on activities they would like to have.

With 15 youth brainstorming over ample food and drinks, the conversation was long and fruitful. Many new ideas were suggested to the Committee who are now working to organize them during 2019.

Information regarding costing, events and activities at the Youth Congress was provided as interest amongst youth is high. Subsidies and a fundraising campaign to help minimize costs for Congress participants was discussed. Individuals interested in the Congress are encouraged to get in touch with a Youth Committee member or email [ozcfyouthevents@gmail.com](mailto:ozcfyouthevents@gmail.com) before Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, for details and joining the fundraising campaign.

On Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 2019, ZSO and OZCF youth are going together to a Toronto Marlies hockey game at Scotiabank Arena. The event is open to all ages so send your names in to watch the defending Calder Cup champions play at home.

With social media being the most effective platform to get word out, youth are also encouraged to follow us on Facebook @Young Zoroastrians in Ontario and Instagram @zoro\_youth. Any suggestions via DM or email are encouraged.


Best wishes from the Youth Committee for 2019!

## GYMKHANA NIGHT AT OZCF



The ZRCC was filled to capacity with the always popular Gymkhana Night held at the ZRCC on November 24th with carrom, ping pong and dancing. Many thanks to Shirin Chaturvedi and her dedicated team of volunteers team putting together an enjoyable evening.







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## PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS



On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, your Board hosted the FEZANA delegates attending the 7th Parliament of World's Religions (PoWR) held in Toronto. We took the opportunity to host the delegates of the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (Toronto Chapter). Phil Sidhwa, our PWAC Chair provided an update on the Place of Worship project to the FEZANA delegates attending the Parliament from across North America. We also had Edul Daver, Global WZCC President, Father Tommy and Armene Modi, founder of Ashta-No-Kai address our WZCC delegates on entrepreneurship and what it takes to succeed in the business world, and how charities working with business continue to have a positive impact on the lives of the less fortunate.

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## RELIGIOUS &amp; LECTURE COMMITTEE



On December 15, the R&L Committee organized two lectures – one by Ervad Kobad Zarolia and the second by Ervad Tehemton Mirza.

Ervad Kobad presented a **Photographic Journey of Uzbekistan**, which as Persian history is part of **AIRYANA VAEJA** – the original land of the Persians. He visited Uzbekistan in 2017 and talked about his travails through various cities and towns. Although the Uzbeks are predominantly Muslim, they are aware of their Zoroastrian roots. Numerous archaeological sites have revealed Zoroastrian artifacts.

Ervad Tehemton's talk was on **Live Your Prayers**. He believes Zoroastrianism is a way of life; Zoroastrians are expected not just to say or chant their prayers, but to understand them, learn from them and, most importantly, live them. Zoroastrian prayers are uniquely practical; rather than just praising God, our basic prayers preach values. The Ashem Vohu and Yathā Ahu Vairyō prayers are statements of truth and wisdom – an Instruction Manual for a Good Life.

## RELIGIOUS EVENTS

On December 16, thirteen Ontario mobeds got together to form an informal body – **Ontario Mobeds Advisory Committee (OMAC)**. The main purpose of OMAC is to provide a uniform response by mobeds to queries on religious matters. The following Mandate was accepted by the Mobeds present:

- OMAC will act as an informal advisory body to their respective associations (OZCF and ZSO)
- OMAC to restrict its scope to issues related to the day to day operations and procedural matters of their respective associations (e.g. queries and frequencies of communal ceremonies like Jashans, Gahambars, Muktaḍ, religious education and dissemination, etc.). Matters would be referred to NAMC where further clarification or input is needed
- All broader and larger policy issues like standardization of Navjote, Weddings, Death ceremonies etc., interpretations, representing NA Mobeds and other issues that relate to NA Mobeds and Mobedyars in general shall be beyond the scope of this OMAC and be left to NAMC

OMAC will draw up a list of common queries which mobeds receive and provide a uniform response. These queries & responses will be uploaded on the OZCF & ZSO websites for reference by the anjuman like a list of FAQs.

If you have a query on religious matters, please forward it to:

- *Ervad Hoshang Udwadia (ZSO) at [hudwadia@hotmail.com](mailto:hudwadia@hotmail.com)*
- *Ervad Xerxes Madan (OZCF) at [xerxes\\_madan@hotmail.com](mailto:xerxes_madan@hotmail.com)*

OZCF will be celebrating Maidhyarem Gahambar (F) on Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Gahambar Jashan will commence at 11:00 am followed by lunch. If you plan to attend please give your name to Ervad Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461.




## CHILDREN'S BOOTH AT PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGION



During the PoWR event, we had set up a small area for children from other religions to come and learn about some important parts of our faith. Exhibits included; (World's largest) Oversize sudreh, Four posters, Explanation of parts of Sudreh and 2-page summary of Zoroastrian Religion (shared on the next page), Two large banners rolled up (What's in your pocket and Zoroastrian).



Maneck Minwalla



**Maneck Minwalla, B.B.A.**  
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## THE STORY OF ZOROASTRIANISM

The Zoroastrian or Mazdayasni religion is one of the most ancient religions of the world, originating at a similar time to the Vedic religion. It is believed that Zoroastrianism influenced other Western religions such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Still practised today, it was the pre-Islamic religion of Iran and the Middle East. It survives all over the world, with populations in India, UK, North America, Europe, Iran and Australia.

### Origin:

The prophet Zarathustra was born into the Spitama clan either in North-East Iran or North-West Afghanistan. All we know about him is documented in his poems, called the Gathas. Zoroaster had several visions when he was thirty. Inspired by these spiritual experiences, he began to teach that there was only one God and ask followers to live by the basic principles of Humata (good thoughts), Hukhta (good words) and Huvarshta (good deeds). Many rejected his teachings in the early days, but his cousin Madhyoma had faith in him. The local religious heads and officials opposed him as they dreaded losing their authority over ceremonies and rituals. After many years of fruitless persuasion and trials, he felt disheartened and left home. Eventually his philosophy got support from the Bactrian King Vishtaspa. The King and the Queen became followers and gave his teachings official recognition as the religion of their kingdom. Zarathustra died at an advanced age, in his 70s. His religion spread throughout Iran and was the religion of three ancient Iranian empires the Achaemenid Empire (c.550–330 BCE), the Arsacid Empire (250 BCE-261 CE) and the Sassanian empire (261 CE-641 CE). Though in today's Iran, Zoroastrian presence is small, its influence continues due to its former dominance for thousands of years. It can be seen in the Greater Iran's heritage reflected in Iranian festivals and the customs.

### Theology:

Zoroastrian belief is that there is only one universal transcendent God, Ahura Mazada or the 'Wise Lord'. In its tradition, there are two opposing principles: 'Bounteous Principle' referred to as "Spenta Mainyu" and 'Destructive Principle' referred to as "Angra Mainyu" or "Ahriman". This faith is believed to be 'the world's ecological religion' as it teaches to protect the nature. It strongly advises followers to remain active in life doing good deeds as the path to happiness. This active involvement is central to the concept of free will. Ahura Mazda will finally triumph over evil, through the free choice of humans and there will be cosmic renovation of the universe. Sacred Text: The Avesta is the religious text of the Zoroastrians containing the scriptures. It was orally transmitted with the help of written texts in some ancient non-phonetic script and finally written down in a phonetic script, the Avesta script, which was invented in the Sassanian period. During the Sassanian period the Avesta literature was translated, summarized and commented upon in Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanian period. Very little of the Avesta and Pahlavi literature survives today. The Gathas, the Yasna, the Visperad and the Vidvedat and the Khordeh Avesta are important parts of the Avesta literature still surviving.

### Practices:

Zoroastrians routinely pray in presence of some form of fire. Both fire and water are considered important for sustaining life and are found in a fire temple. They also cover their head during prayer, like Jewish people. The initiation into the faith, called the Navjoe (Sudreh Pushi) is like the Bar (or Bat)- Mitzvah in the Jewish faith. Both boys and girls undergo the Navjote. Funeral practise: The Tower of Silence is a place where traditionally a dead human body is left for ritual exposure. It is still practised in parts of India. Other Zoroastrian communities follow cremation or burial.

## THE STORY OF ZOROASTRIANISM (CONTINUED)

### Migration:

The end of the Sasanian Empire by the invasion of Muslim Arabs, ended Zoroastrian rule of Iran. A period of continuous persecution of non-Muslim Iranians decimated the Zoroastrian population in Iran. Zoroastrians sought refuge in Northern Iranian mountains and in the regions of Yazd. Finally, for survival, some migrated in about the year 900 AD. Many sailed to Gujarat in India. Their descendants are called the Parsis or Parsees. There are small groups of Zoroastrians in Central Asia, the Caucasus and as expatriates they are in the developed countries such as the USA, Canada, UK and Australia. Parsees and India: They first arrived in Diu in Kathiawar and then at Sanjan in Gujarat. They lived in the Gujarat region for almost eight centuries, busy with agriculture and various trades. The big change occurred after Gujarat became part of British India. They prospered under British rule and started various industries, and became prosperous as lawyers, doctors and successful businessmen and women. They contributed to giant industries in diverse fields, from steel to software, aviation to hospitality, which flourished based on their ethical business practices. They used their wealth for social welfare creating institutions like Institute of Science in Bengaluru, Children Hospital and Cancer Hospital at Parel, Institute for the Fundamental Research, Institute for Social Science and many others all over India. India's development owes much to Parsee families, including the Tatas, the Godrejs, the Wadias etc. Compared to the size of their community which is just 0.006% of India's population in 2011, the Zoroastrian contribution has no parallel!

### Demographics:

Going by a survey of 2004 the world-wide population of the Zoroastrians was between 124,000 to 190,000 with about 57,000 in India in 2011 (census). Due to the low birth rate and the immigration trend, their number in India may drop to 23000 by 2020. Another contributing factor is opposition to proselytizing. Persian Zoroastrians allow conversion and their centres are active in this regard.

Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Wikipedia, (Compiled by Gurudas Gulwadi)

Review by Nawaz Merchant, Lovji Cama

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## Tell your kids! Tell your friends!

### Register for the 2019 Zoroastrian Youth Congress

**Who:** 18-35 year old Zoroastrian Youth from around the world

**What:** Sign up for the World Zoroastrian Youth Congress today!

**When:** July 1-6, 2019

**Where:** Los Angeles, CA USA

**Why:** Learn about the Zoroastrian religion, network with peers and other professionals, and make new friends from around the world!

**How:** Click the "I'm an Early Bird" button below...use the code FIRST100 to get the early bird price of \$399.99! The ticket prices will increase significantly as time passes (up to \$599) so buy now!

## What is a Youth Congress?

As the first youth congress took place in California in over twenty-five years ago, this congress is a milestone event where we can recognize the progress and shortcomings that our community have faced over the last twenty-five years as the original youth groups have now transitioned into adulthood. Now, it is time that we re-energize our youth and engage them again to build a better Zoroastrian community in an increasingly globalized world.

We plan on encouraging the youth to attend and take place in the **ABC's of the congress**.

**Academic:** What updates have taken place in our understanding of the religious and historical literature regarding Zoroastrianism over the last twenty-five years?

**Business:** What professional opportunities are Zoroastrians thriving in across the world and how can we continue to thrive professionally and entrepreneurially going forward?





## MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 01 to December 31, 2019

Membership Application: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

### Membership Category / Fees

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

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 HomePhone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ CellPhone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### DEPENDANT INFORMATION

1. First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



## Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement For Annual Membership Fees

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

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

Member Name:

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Address/Contact Information:

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Signature:

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Date:

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