



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Wikipedia, a Haft Sen Table as seen at Laleh Hotel, Tehran

At a Glance...

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Need a Mobed?

Our Mobeds are available to help in times of need to offer their guidance and services to the OZCF community. Here is a list of contacts:

Ervad Firdosh Bulsara (905) 824-7692
Ervad Xerxes Bamji (905) 702-1034
Ervad Jal Panthaky (905) 568-4946
Ervad Kobad Zarolia (647) 887-9213
Ervad Nozer Kotwal (905) 820-0461

If you have difficulty contacting a Mobed, please contact a Board Member.

ZRCC Contact Information

Prayer Room Access

Nozer Kotwal 905-820 0461

nozerk@yahoo.com

Hall Rentals

Cyrus Gazdar 647-294 6462

cygazdar@yahoo.ca

Facility Management

Khushnuma Doctor 647-285-3717

kbdoctor@rogers.com

ZRCC Coordinator

Armaity Anandasagar

905-271 0366 armaity@rogers.com

President OZCF

Firdosh Bulsara, 905-824-7692]

firdosh@myescapades.ca

President's Message

In this Newsletter you will find an invitation to attend a Town Hall meeting and present your thoughts around the building of a consecrated Place of Worship at the OZCF Property. I strongly urge you to participate and help us determine a path to the future for our community. (please see Page 10 for details)

Our community center has been a hub of activity all through winter and seeing from the events calendar there is no slowing down for the committees organizing religious as well as fun and entertainment functions. There are several events and activities during February, March and April (detailed in this Newsletter elsewhere) and I urge you to join in and make them all a grand success. And, rest assured that a bundle of activities throughout the year are in the planning. Keep an eye out and visit www.ozcf.com regularly.

Talking about our website, thanks to Rumi Jusavala and his team of technocrats, we have a great website that he strives to keep up-to-date. In the event of a sad demise in the community or to announce "Breaking News", the latest addition to the Auto-dialer message (and of course on the Home Page of our website) will be an automatic e-mail to the OZCF Member's in-box providing details. These e-mails will be kept short and to the point. Please contact your Membership Committee and update your e-mail information so we can keep you informed.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Guloo Austin and Aspi Dorabjee on their being successfully initiated as Mobedyars. Our community is richer in spirit by having Guloo and Aspi assist Mobeds in performing ceremonies. Evolution is inevitable as times change and circumstances will demand more individuals join in to keep our faith in existence. I must also thank Ervad Tehmtan Mirza for his mentorship and dedication.

We eagerly anticipate the onset of Spring, and OZCF general membership will, once again, be asked to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) as your Board of Directors seek a fresh mandate before proceeding with the Prayer Hall project. A detailed update is published in this newsletter.

As Zoroastrians, we have never failed to step up when called for help. I would very much like to make that call to all our young and young-at-heart community members to step up and volunteer your time to help make our Association stand tall amidst our peers. My sincere gratitude goes to all those who have been serving for years on end and it is time for others to step-in and continue the good work. Please feel free to call and enlist yourself, even if for a limited time.

Continued on Page 2

President's Message — Cont. from Page 1

Next month the buildings at OZCF will once again be surrounded with the scent of sandalwood and loban as we celebrate the Fasli Muktd ceremonies. The community will come together for prayers, humbandagi and communal dining. Why not enroll as a volunteer or sponsor an evening meal during these 5 days of reverence. We deeply appreciate your help and generosity. Please also see Page 8 regarding **Prayer Hall Renovations**.

And lastly, I want to remind you to ensure that your annual dues are paid and that your membership at OZCF remains intact. Please continue to spread the good word and if all of our existing members canvass to bring on board 2 new members to our Association in 2013, we would be a major force in no time at all!

Take care and stay warm,
Firdosh Bulsara, President OZCF

YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS



Come Lace Up your skates and join us for **Ice Skating at Celebration Square**, Mississauga.

Date: **Friday, February 8th, 2013**

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (you can stay as long as 10:00 p.m.)

Cost: **FREE!!!**

Venue: Celebration Square, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, L5B 3C1

Please RSVP us by either emailing at *youth.ozcf@gmail.com or contact Friya Bastani at 416-909-4219 or Natasha Khursigara at 416-559-9710 by no later than February 6th, 2013.

Skate Rentals available at the venue at a minimal cost. For more details please see the flyer attached with this email or visit: <http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/celebrationsquare/skating>

The Youth Committee Proudly invites you to their **3rd Annual Winter Family Fun Day** on **Monday, February 18th, 2013**.

Come join us for some delicious Parsi Food, Games, Crafts, Music, some Prizes and Surprises! There will be loads of activities to do!

Venue: OZCF Hall, 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

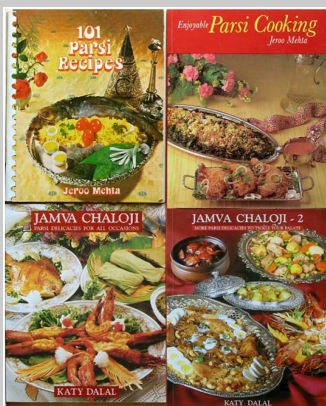
Cost: **FREE ENTRY**

Delicious Parsi Food will be sold



Please RSVP us at youth.ozcf@gmail.com or contact Natasha Khursigara at 416-559-9710 by Monday February 11th, 2013, Don't miss out on a fun day with your family and great food and activities!

Join us at **Young Zoroastrians In Ontario**



Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation

Presents

JAMVA CHALOJI II

(March 3, 2013 – 11am to 2pm at OZCF)

Back by public demand, we are hosting yet another bigger and better feast of all our Parsi delicacies just in time for Navroze. Stock up your refrigerators with Pattice, Cutlets, Margi-na- farcha, Titori, Dhansak, Curry Chawal, Tarapori Patio, Achar, Batasa, Bhakra, Dar-ni-pori, Patrel, Bheja cutlets and many more dishes.

Contact:

**Havovi Bharda at 905-607-6882 havokey@hotmail.com OR
Perveen Katila at 905-821-0305 katilas_kpda@hotmail.com**

Menu Items with Pricing will be posted on the OZCF Website.
Orders can be booked in advance to avoid disappointments.
Contact us if you wish to sell your culinary talent by hosting a table.



FASLI MUKTAD PRAYERS

Our very precious Fasli Muktaf Days are once upon us. Join us at the ZRCC for prayer, food & reflection.



FASLI MUKTAD DAYS & HUMBANDAGI (March 16—20, 2013)

Morning Stum: March 16 & 17 at 7:00 a.m. March 18, 19 & 20 at 6:30 a.m.

Morning Afringan & Faroskhi: March 16 & 17 at 7:30 a.m. March 18, 19 & 20 at 7:00 a.m.

Afternoon Stum: 11:00 a.m. (all 5 days)

Evening Stum & Humbandagi : 7:00 p.m. (all 5 days)

Navroze Day Jashan prayers will be held at the ZRCC Hall on Thursday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. followed by chasni.

The evening Stum prayers will be followed by Gatha recitation and hambandagi. It is fast becoming a tradition initiated by Khurshed Patel as he leads the congregation, melodiously reciting the Gathas creating a harmonious camaraderie amongst all those who attend the prayers. There is a sponsored dinner each night. Donations for food, sukhar, loban, etc. are very welcome.

Donations of Fruits, Flowers, Dry Fruits, Cooked Food, Sukhad, Loban, Tachho etc. will be very much appreciated. If you would like to volunteer your services please contact Kermin Byramjee at (905) 845-3480 or kermin@cogeco.ca or Armaity Anandasagar at (647)778-8441 or armaity.a@gmail.com. Help would be appreciated for cooking morning and evening stum food and set up and clean up before and after meals.

Please see the *Prayer Names Form* on **Page 10**.

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation

Presents

Navroze Dinner and Dance

Let's welcome spring and celebrate Navroze at a fun-filled evening with dinner, dance, entertainment and raffle prizes!!

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013

Cocktails: 7:00 pm

Dinner: 9:00 pm/Cash Bar

Where: Payal Banquet Hall

3410 Semenyk Court,

Mississauga, ON L5C 4P9

Members - \$30 (Adult)

\$15 (kids 5-10)

Non-Members - \$40 (Adult)

\$20 (kids 5-10)

**Seats are limited so please RSVP by March 15, 2013 to
Havovi Bharda at 905-607-6882 havokey@hotmail.com
Perveen Katila at 905-821-0305 katilas_kpda@hotmail.com**

**Please mail out your cheque payable to "OZCF" to:
Havovi Bharda at: 3248 Mainsail Crescent, Mississauga ON L5L 1H2
Perveen Katila at: 5305 Glen Erin Drive, Unit 49B, Mississauga, ON L5M5N7**

OZCF Car Rally

Our Annual OZCF Car Rally is ready for a headstart on **Sunday, April 28, 2013**. Khushroo Bharda and his team is all geared to make this year's participation bigger and better.



Enjoy a great day out with the family and friends! Enjoy solving fun destinations, complete with wild clues at the treasure hunt car rally! Get on to solving the final mystery course in and around Mississauga and Oakville. A delicious lunch awaits you while clues are tallied and winners are announced Great prizes awarded for: *Best Dressed Car, Most Innovative Team Name, Best Dressed Drivers, Fastest Car, Most Popular Team, People's Choice Award*. All Teams are required to Sign Waiver Forms prior to the start of the rally.

Contact: Havovi Bharda at 905-607-6882 or havokey@hotmail.com to sign up your team!

UPCOMING LECTURE EVENT

There will be two lectures each of about thirty minute duration at the Darbe Mehr on **March 3, 2013** starting 4:30pm. Professor Richard Foltz the founding Director of Concordia Centre for Iranian studies will deliver a lecture entitled "Zarathushtra's World: What Can We Know About Ancient Indo-Iranian Society?" Professor Foltz (Ph. D. Harvard) is a historian of comparative religious traditions with a special focus on Iranian world. His research has highlighted the contributions of Iranian civilization to world history. Prof. Foltz is currently completing a book entitled 'Religions of Iran: From Prehistory to the Present,' which is due to be published in 2013. In all he has authored or edited eight books and over one hundred journal articles and other scholarly publications. His work has appeared in more than a dozen languages.

The second talk will be delivered by Manya Saadi-nejad on the subject of 'Anahita: An Indo-European River Goddess' Manya Saadi-nejad is an artist and scholar from Tehran, Iran. She has been living in Montreal since 2004, where she is a Lecturer at Concordia University. She holds an M.A. in Ancient Iranian Languages and Culture and is currently completing a Ph.D. at Freie University in Berlin, Germany.

DATES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES - SECOND SEMESTER 2013

Please note that the religious education classes for children will continue to be conducted at two locations as before; at the Darbe-Meher (MGDM) and at John Fraser Secondary School in Mississauga. The dates for the second semester at each location are as below:

MGDM

February 3
February 24
March 24 (Full-day)
April 7
April 21
May 5
May 26 (full day)

JOHN FRASER SECONDARY

February 10
March 3
March 24 (Full-day)
April 7
April 21
May 5
May 26 (full day)

In case any further clarification is required please contact the following:

Ms. Kermin Mehta (416) 446-1417 or Mrs. Khurshid Engineer (905) 828-8324

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ITEM OF INTEREST

Experience in India with underprivileged women and Children at NGOs in India - April to August 2012

(The following is an article written by our own youth member, Tanya Bharda, who just recently traveled to India).

"Summer of 2012 has been a breakthrough year for me and my experience in India has been a stepping stone towards my future goals and aspirations. Based on my work in 2011, I got yet another opportunity to go to India for another summer to do work with different NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) and worked with Vinimay Trust, Asha Sadan, Sujaya Foundation, PremDan Garden School and Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT).

Prior to my travels, I did a lot of research and based on my past experiences, I wanted to give back first hand to the poor and needy the basic subsistence of life that goes towards education and nutrition. I therefore reached out to our family and friends in Canada seeking donations that would go directly towards the needs of street kids. This year I raised Cdn\$1700 which comes up to INR 94,000 that were allocated within different NGOs that I worked for. Nothing went towards any administrative costs and books, raincoats, blackboards, food, clothing, shoes were bought and handed out by me. Money does not buy happiness but the donations went a long way in bringing a smile on the faces of these children who do not have any childhood with toys and clothes and good food. The payback was very rewarding as the money was put to good use and kids won't get wet in the rains or be deprived of pencils and pens and books for school. The four months passed by so quickly and it was time for me to return home and back to start my 3rd year at the University of Toronto. My work in India will not go towards any credits at university but has evolved and enlightened me towards my future goals and aspirations. My work is not done yet and I shall return with a bigger plan in the next few years and make a difference in the lives I have touched over the years.



My work is a drop in the ocean of humanity to work towards our social issues. I would like to thank all the NGOs, street kids, women and my family and friends in India and Canada for their support towards paving a path towards my career goals as I am majoring in Women and Gender Studies.

Equality and Respect to all of humanity is key. We need to work towards one global goal to live in harmony no matter what."



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NOROUZ RETREAT

March 1-3, 2013

ZYNA



FEZANA EVENT FOR YOUTH IN NEW YORK CITY!!

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) will be kicking off the NEW YEAR 2013! Join us, in the BIG APPLE, for a celebration filled with festivities, friendship and fellowship.

This event, to take place **March 1-3, 2013**, will be a networking social retreat geared towards established professionals (ages 25-45) who want to network. The new generation of Zoroastrians will be able to strengthen friendships and connect with like-minded professionals that live and work by the core beliefs of our religion.

HURRY—REGISTRATION ENDS FEBRUARY 10!

See <http://fezana.org/zyna> for all registration info.!

Call for Applications: FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship 2013

FEZANA would request the Presidents/Representatives of Member Associations, Corresponding Members & Committee Chairs to please communicate & share this announcement with your membership and fellow Zarathustis:
Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship 2013.

The objective of the FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship (P&CAS) is to provide financial support to Zarathustis who are performing artists in music, drama, etc. or practice other creative art forms like literature, poetry, fine arts, sculpture, painting, etc. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable the recipients to study with experts in their field and thus fine tune and enhance their talent and capabilities, BUT NOT FOR BASIC EDUCATION IN THE ABOVE FIELDS.

Five (5) copies of this application form with all attachments (including portfolio items) must be submitted by June 30, 2013.

See www.fezana.org for all forms, information, and deadline date.

Regards,

Sherazade F. Mehta, Chair - FEZANA Performing & Creative Arts Scholarship Committee

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BIRTHS

Tinaaz Nozer Gariba born to Nozer & Lily (Kotwal) Gariba on December 6, 2012 in Mississauga ON. First grandchild of Nozer & Nergish Kotwal (Canada) and Bejan & Aloo Gariba (India), niece to Sorab Kotwal and Eric & Kaiser Gariba.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rushad Bharda, son of Khushru and Havovi Bharda, got selected as one of the 25 youth from all over Canada for The Vimy Pilgrimage Award which consists of a week long educational program in Vimy, France to study Canada's tremendous First World War effort. The Vimy Pilgrimage Award recognizes the actions of young people who demonstrate outstanding service, positive contributions, notable deeds, bravery or leadership. Congrats Rushad!!!

Congratulations to **Jehan Ghandhy** on becoming the squadron Warrant Officer of 820 Chris Hadfield Squadron. The promotion to Warrant Officer is a very prestigious and valuable distinction that a few cadets earn throughout their cadet career. Cadets must showcase their leadership skills on parade and are evaluated by a Merit Review Board on a series of situational based questions. From this rigorous procedure, a Warrant Officer is selected to lead the squadron as well as set the standard for his fellow cadets.

Dinci Patel was recently elected on the Board of Directors for Canadian Association of Montessori Teachers. Dinci lives in Mississauga, Ontario with her husband Percy and children Zane, Tanya and Zahra.

Viraf Savak Kapadia was honored with the Grant's Desi Achiever Award 2012 for his invention - the In-flight Safety Monitoring System (ISMS) and his achievement in aviation technology. Viraf was amount a select group of South Asian Leaders in Canada to achieve this high honour He lives in Mississauga, Ontario with his wife Pouruchisti, son Hanoz (Ferzin) and daughters Zonah and Jennifer.

Congrats to all our achievers!



Jehan Ghandhy

IN MEMORIAM

Vispi Kabraji on January 23, 2013. Husband of Tehmi Kabraji, father of Navroze Kabraji, father-in-law of Faranak Kabraji, grandfather of Kaizaad Kabraji.

Kay Nargolwalla, wife of Feroze Nargolwalla, mother to Pervez Jamula, Tanya Nargolwalla and Charis Wania, who passed away peacefully on January 29, 2013.



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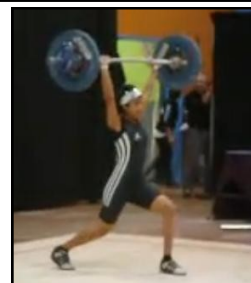
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AN OLYMPIAN AMONG US!

As some of you may know, **Fereshteh Bulsara** has been training and competing in Olympic-Style Weightlifting for several years now. She has finally reached a level of performance that has allowed her to compete on a national level. Placing among the top three in the province of Quebec, the next step is competing at the Canadian Weightlifting Championships in May of this year. As well, Fereshteh is looking to gain some international experience.

Competing at this level is expensive for athletes and training time detracts from earning time. As such, she is seeking private and corporate sponsorships to help support her on this journey. Fereshteh will be competing at the Canadian Championships in Edmonton, and requires sponsors to cover the costs. In addition, she will be competing at her first International competition this March, at the Arnold Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio. Depending on her performance at these competitions, she is hoping to be able to move forward.



Here is a link to Fereshteh's site if you or someone you know would like to help sponsor her. It's also where you can get more information on her competitions, read her story, find links to results, and images: www.4myhealthnow.com/athlete.html

Not sure what Olympic Style Weightlifting actually is? Follow this link to a video of Fereshteh competing at a provincial competition: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr7sBSQ9vhc>

If you have a company, please do contact Fereshteh to discuss corporate sponsorship: fereshtehdinazbulsara@gmail.com or call/text at 514-882-5521. She would appreciate any help you can give to help her achieve her goals!

MAJESTIC MASQUERADE BALL!

What a fun-filled evening it was! On December 22, 2012, with less than a month's planning and marketing the Youth Committee had a very successful event. People of all ages got together during the Christmas Weekend to have some fun and they enjoyed in style with some pretty and fancy masks!

We had a surprise package.. YES! Santa decided to visit us from the North Pole. He posed for funky pictures and even got everyone grooving to the beats of Gangnam Style. Thank you to Taronish Foods for the delicious dinner and Kapadia Family for sponsoring a professional D.J who's music got everyone to the dance floor. Also, a big thank you to the surprise Santa for removing time from his busy schedule to visit our guests and the Youth Committee members for organizing a spectacular event!

How can we forget to thank all those who attended the event and went back with fun memories. Hope to see you all again at the Family Day Event on Monday Feb 18th, 2013 and our upcoming Ice-Skating event on Friday Feb 8, 2013. For more details join us on FB at "Young Zoroastrains of Ontario" or email us at youth.ozcf@gmail.com to be on our mailing list.

The second **OZCF Gymkhana Night** was held on January 19, 2013. A total of 90 Members and Non Members attended this event, to play Table Tennis, Carom and Cards as well as feast on Chicken Dhansak, Rai No Papeto and desert, catered by Tarnoish Foods. After dinner everyone danced to Bollywood Music played by our very own DJ, Meherwan Wadia. A big Thank you to the volunteers led by Shirin Chaturvedi and her team of Neville Patrawalla, Manish Chaturvedi, Jasmine and Keki Wadia, and Zarir Cooper.

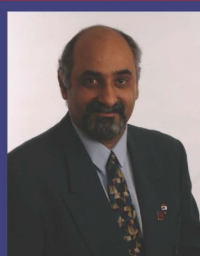
Gymkhana Nights are being planned every quarter. The next event is planned for spring and will be announced via the OZCF Newsletter.

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***We know you want to see pictures!
Don't worry—the April 2013 issue is
our annual colour issue—so you will
get to see pictures of all the most
recent OZCF events!***

Newsletter Committee—Contact Info.
Please email all submissions for the next
issue no later than **April 1, 2013** to:
ozcf.newsletter2012@gmail.com

Photographs

We will be taking pictures at functions and events for the purpose of sharing with our community through the Newsletter and on our website. All pictures taken at functions and events are the sole property of the OZCF and may not be used without permission from the Board of Directors.

UPDATE ON PRAYER HALL RENOVATIONS

OZCF members are aware that renovations to the Prayer Hall had stalled in July 2012. In order to restart the project, a full slate of requirements as stipulated by the Town of Oakville needed to be addressed. These required the Board to research and investigate various avenues that would not only satisfy the Town of Oakville but would also provide a prudent spend from the Association's coffers.

The New Dadgah Room Project as anticipated and advised to the general membership at the July 2012 AGM was to be completed at a cost of \$ 39,000. To satisfy the Town of Oakville's demands for necessary fire and building code requirements, this project is now estimated to cost more than double, perhaps even 2.5 times higher than the original amount.

The Board is currently proceeding ahead with the architect, engineers and the building contractor to obtain revised drawings and construction quotes for the "stalled project" of building the new Dadgah Room and the subsequent construction within the building that will comply with the requirements as ordered by Town of Oakville. We are also in the process of receiving the revised submission by the Engineers and their undertaking to provide a compliance letter upon completion of the project as required by the Town of Oakville.

Simultaneously, the Board is also proceeding ahead with a similar process of obtaining architectural and structural drawings and construction quotes for an alternative "OPTION 2" – that of renovating the existing Prayer Room in compliance with Ontario Building Code fire protection regulations and that of construction of Wheelchair access washroom and Wheelchair access entrance.

The Board will then review the two options, present the same with as much detail as possible on costs and completion, and seek a new mandate from the general membership at an Extraordinary General Meeting. The timeline to complete the above tasks and have the EGM is anticipated by March end.

In my view (as well as the Board's), it necessitates that the Board include the "OPTION 2" for the community to consider, that of renovating the existing Prayer Room in compliance with the OBC Fire regulations and to add a Handicap-equipped washroom adjacent to the prayer room. It may or may not be a viable option should the cost savings show to be negligent. However, I strongly believe that we need to look at every possibility in the best interest of the community.

I will keep you all updated as we make progress.

Firdosh Bulsara, President OZCF

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." — Mother Teresa

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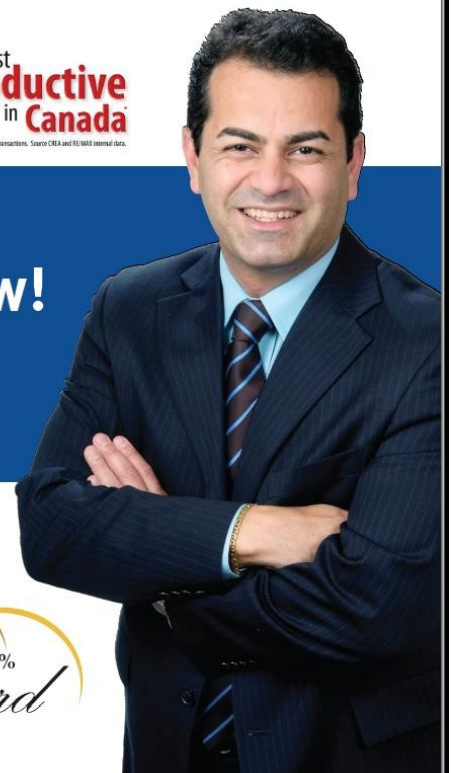
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Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation

INVITATION TO TOWN HALL MEETING TO DISCUSS

OZCF PLACE OF WORSHIP

You are invited to attend a Town Hall meeting to present your thoughts around the building of a consecrated Place of Worship at the OZCF property in Oakville, Ontario.

Background:

Based on growing community needs, the OZCF board of directors, in 2010, appointed a Long Term Planning Committee to investigate potential options for developing the site further. After exhaustive research including economic, planning and social factors the committee ranked the four options investigated.

The four options were:

- Expand current hall
- Build seniors home
- Build large new hall
- Build a consecrated place of worship

Development of a consecrated place of worship placed as the highest priority project. The findings were presented at the AGM in 2010.

In 2011 a Place of Worship Advisory Committee was formed to investigate the feasibility of developing a consecrated place of worship. At the 2012 AGM, the committee presented its plans to the board and the community. The committee was given the mandate to move forward with its plan to investigate the feasibility of the project and report back to the board and the community. As part of these considerations, the Place of Worship Advisory Committee feels that it is necessary to receive input from members on all aspects of the project.

AN INVITATION

You are invited to attend one Town Hall meeting, in a specific age group, on the following dates at the Zoroastrian Religious and Cultural Centre at 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Oakville, Ontario. It is recommended that you attend only one of the meetings, so that everyone can be accommodated and have a chance to voice their views. The Advisory Committee will be present to answer questions.

MEETING DATES

Mobeds	Saturday, February 23rd, 10am – 12pm
Ages 18 – 34	Sunday, February 24th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Seniors 60 +	Saturday, March 2nd, 10 am – 12 pm
Ages 35 – 60	Saturday, March 2nd, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

4244 TAFFEY CRESCENT, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, L5L 2J2