

# VISION

## OZCF Newsletter

In Perspective Drawing

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### OUR AFFILIATES

#### Member of:



#### We Support:



#### Home of:



100<sup>th</sup> Oakville Zoroastrian Scouts Group

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."* – H.E. Luccock

We're well into the last quarter of 2020 and what a year it has turned out to be – one of trials and tribulations. But it brought out creativity and ingenuity in people to help adapt to the new way of living.

The same holds true for OZCF. The ongoing restrictions imposed by the provincial/regional governments continue to put a hold on our regular entertainment and social events. Seniors are unable to meet up and enjoy their yoga sessions together. Even attendance for religious events were curtailed. But, our sub-committees found ways to keep the members entertained and included in new programs:

- A Parsi Thanksgiving through the very successful **Farcha Feasta**. Kudos to the Fundraising Committee for putting their culinary skills at work to get the members' gastronomic juices flowing
- The **Virtual Chair Zumba** sessions for seniors, which now has participants from US and UK join in, has been so popular that it will continue through the winter months
- The online Bingo started by our Youth is back by popular demand and **Quarantined Bingo 2.0** is up and running
- To keep our members active and healthy, our Sports committee set up the **OZCF COVID-19 Virtual Run/Walk** with flexibility to complete 5K in a week

It does not end here. Events coming up:

- The ever popular **Jamva Chaloji**, on November 22. Modified to meet the safety protocols and will be a pre-order event only. Please order your favourite items by November 13 to avoid disappointment
- **Virtual interactive sessions** for seniors to keep in touch, albeit online
- *And many more being rolled out soon.....*

When you have a team of volunteers that work hard to keep the membership engaged in these restricted times and simultaneously generate revenue for OZCF, one cannot ask for more. Hats off to all these folks! And this would not be possible without You, our members, who have participated in and made these events a success. A big Thank You to all!

The response to our request to raise \$40,000 through the 40 in 4 initiative has been truly heartwarming. Over 80 families have stepped up with donations and within 2 months, we have raised \$28,600. Thank You dear donors, once again! But we have some unexpected expenses to incur and we appeal to the generosity of our community to help us reach the targeted amount.

Just as a day is not complete without a night, so too with all the positives we have achieved there have been some setbacks. Over the past month, we have 2 major facility related issues which need to be worked on:

- **Water Tank** clean-up and sealing of some leaks – approx. \$5,000/-
- **HVAC system** – after 12 years, we are at a stage where any repairs would not be a practical solution. The FMC is finalizing selection and installation of a new replacement system and estimated cost is \$20,000/-

Although these expenses come at a time when OZCF is hard pressed in generating revenue, we look at it as an investment for the safety and long-term benefit of the community. As the saying goes **"The only difference between stumbling blocks and steppingstones is the way you use them"**.

Finally, as always, we wish Tandoorasti to our community. Stay Safe and Stay Well!

**Ushtaa Ahmaai Yahmaai Ushtaa Kahmaachit!** – Happiness to those who give happiness to others!

Xerxes Madan  
President



## THE FIRE WITHIN

### **PLACE OF WORSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

As outlined at the AGM, we received high prices in our tender process, as expected, due to the impact of COVID on the construction industry, requirements of government agencies and high-end materials we had specified. The COVID situation has set us back significantly in timing and pricing. Construction schedules have been pushed back across Ontario and this delay has created a frantic effort by constructors to complete outstanding projects first. The contractors have stated that they did not receive good, competitive and accurate pricing from their trades as building supplies are limited and no one wants to take on new work towards the end of the construction season. Winter construction would add an additional \$200,000 to the cost for heating.

To reduce costs we undertook a value engineering exercise with our architect and engineers to see how we could modify the project without compromising our needs. We are now revising our Site Plan Approval (SPA) application to bring the construction cost down while meeting all agency requirements. We recently met for a pre-consultation meeting with the 10 departments from Halton Region, Conservation Halton and Town of Oakville to go over our revisions prior to submission. The agencies were satisfied with the revisions, hence we are now completing the final drawings and editing the Functional Services and Environmental Impact reports. These revisions will take approximately six weeks to complete. The agencies will take another six weeks to review and issue the SPA, following which we will apply for building permit which is usually a 4-6 weeks period.

We are working with the selected contractor on ways to refine building construction costs to meet our budget by going through every detail, without compromising any religious or aesthetic aspects.

We will continue to focus our efforts with the agencies, contractor, architect and engineers to be ready for construction in the spring of 2021. We will come back to the membership once we have completed these investigations to present the final arrangements prior to construction.

With Ahura Mazda's blessings and our community support we will achieve our goal for the benefit of future generations.

Phil Sidhwa

## **HALL RENTAL RATES FOR FUNERAL SERVICES**

**Members: \$100 per day**

**Non-members: \$150 per day**

## 40 IN 4 Update

Dear OZCF Members,

As you are all aware, the **COVID-19** pandemic is now 9 months old and unfortunately continues to significantly impact our way of life.

We had previously advised you of the significant financial impact **COVID - 19** has had on OZCF's ability to raise funds. We had advised that we anticipated, based on current trends, a drop-in revenue of \$89,000 in 2020 and no change in our expenses which currently stand at \$97,000 annually.

We had also notified our readership that we foresaw a shortfall of \$40,000 in revenue in 2020 which triggered the launch of the **40 IN 4 Program**. Our goal has been to raise **\$40,000** with your support over 4 months (September 1 to December 31, 2020).

Thanks to your support and generosity, we have raised to date:

**\$28,632 (CAD)**

**This is 72 % of our goal, in 50% of the time lapsed**

Thank You – આભાર – متشکرم

As you are all aware the COVID – 19 cases continue to spike in Ontario and across Canada. This has heightened concerns across all levels of government and additional measures have been put in place to control the spike across the board on families assembling, social gatherings and businesses. For now, there have been **no changes to previous guidance** with respect to Places of Worship. However, this may change anytime.

Unfortunately, the current spike and restrictions, do not augur well for us at OZCF. Your Board is continuously monitoring our finances and adjusting our plans. All sub-committees continue to focus on raising funds.

We therefore continue to request your ONGOING SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY. **TOGETHER WE CAN GET TO THE \$40,000 GOAL!** **TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THESE DONATIONS.** Payment can be made via PayPal or cheque (made payable to OZCF) or via etransfer : [easympay@ozcf.com](mailto:easympay@ozcf.com) . Indicate **40 in 4** challenge.

After all, **"COMMUNITY is about doing something TOGETHER that makes belonging MATTER"** - Brian Solis

So that we are able to continue to manage our facility and deliver programs, catering to the needs of all our members, won't you continue to show your generosity and help?

With Gratitude,  
OZCF Board of Directors

## 40 IN 4 Pledge

Pledge \$20, \$30 or \$50 p.m. for 4 months  
(September to December 2020)

To pay or pledge:

Etransfer: [easy pay@ozcf.com](mailto:easy pay@ozcf.com)

Mail: **Cheque to OZCF**

Online: [www.ozcf.com](http://www.ozcf.com)  
(via paypal)

### Your support will

- Allow us **to cover the shortfall**
- Pay for upcoming large expense items in the last quarter of 2020

Insurance Renewal	\$10,000
Snow Ploughing	\$12,000
Winter Heating Cost	\$10,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 8,000

OZCF  
1187 Burnhamthorpe  
Rd E  
Oakville, Ontario  
Email:  
[president@ozcf.com](mailto:president@ozcf.com)



## Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation

### PLEDGE FORM 40 IN 4

#### Donor Information (please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone 1 | Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax | Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Pledge Information

I (we) pledge a total of \$20 or \$ 25 or \$50 per month to be paid: now monthly over 4 / 6 months.

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of:

\_\_\_\_\_ Cash    \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque    \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (complete information below)    \_\_\_\_\_ Etransfer

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make  
cheques, payable to:

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation  
1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville  
Ontario – L6H 7B3

### Credit Card Payment Information Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone 1 | Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax | Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card type | Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card 3-digit security code \_\_\_\_\_  
I (we) pledge a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
To be paid now monthly  
Authorized Signature & date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Xerxes Madan 416-254-0685  
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

Kartak, 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) 8879213

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Newsletter Committee would like to welcome aboard Cyrus and Daraius Variava, and Ratanshaw Makujina who will piece together content to produce the newsletter. Love the fresh new look to the newsletter gents, great job!

## HALL RENTAL RATES FOR FUNERAL PRAYERS

We often receive inquiries as to costs to rent the hall for funeral prayers. For **members**, the cost is **\$100 per day** over the 4-day period and for **non-members** it is **\$150 per day** for the 4-day period. This will also be stated in the Table of Contents in every newsletter going forward.

## EDUCATION FUND

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Board of Directors for the term 2014-2016 was in receipt of a \$10,000 (CAD) donation to be used for funding education of Zoroastrian youth in need of financial assistance, to continue pursuing their goals in higher education (College / University).

We are pleased to announce that over the past 2 years, we at OZCF have been able to support one such deserving Zoroastrian student. The generosity of our donors has allowed a Zoroastrian youth to continue working towards completion of their Bachelors in Medical Sciences program at an accredited Ontario university.

It goes without saying that we as parents and grandparents recognize that education is the most important gift that one can provide to our children / youth. We also recognize that financial constraints can at times limit some from pursuing their academic dreams.

Donors have expressed an interest in augmenting and backstopping funds for deserving students in need of financial assistance, and developing a recognition program for academic excellence for students pursuing higher education (College / University). **The Board is looking into establishing an Education Fund Program / Policy.** Stay tuned for more announcements.

## FARCHA FEASTA

The October fundraiser was “Chicken Farcha”, which is a traditional Zoroastrian delicacy, served at weddings and other traditional events. This event was planned as part of various fundraising efforts by the OZCF. The idea was received with an enthusiastic response from the community, which was evident in the large orders that were received.

On Saturday, October 17th, 2020, the Committee chefs prepared and cooked the entire meal outdoors, while wearing masks and gloves and maintaining physical distancing. The other volunteers packed the food in boxes ready for curb side pickup on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>. The youth volunteers delivered these boxed meals to the seniors who were unable to do the curb side pickup.

We are thrilled to report that with a little bit of creativity and the help of technology, we were able to create a unique experience in the successful October fundraising event for the OZCF while still following social distancing regulations.



## JAMVA CHALOJI

To view the menu, click on the following link:

<https://www.ozcf.com/resources/Documents/Fundraising/2020-2022/JC%202020%20Menu%20List.pdf>

**OZCF Fundraising Committee**  
presents  
**Jamva Chaloji Bazaar**  
(Pre Orders Only)

**Nov 22nd, 2020 2pm -4 pm at OZCF**



**Please preorder by Nov 13th, 2020 from the attached list to avoid disappointment**

**Email your orders to: [jeroomadan@ozcf.com](mailto:jeroomadan@ozcf.com) or online at [ozcf.com](http://ozcf.com)**

**Please ensure to receive an order number**  
**Payment via e-transfer to: [easypay@ozcf.com](mailto:easypay@ozcf.com)**  
**(All payments to be received before Nov 13th)**

**Pick up on Nov 22nd from 2-4pm at OZCF**

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## THANK YOU OAKVILLE DELTA BINGO

The Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) is very thankful to the Delta Bingo Hall, the OCGA and OLG for allowing the facilities to remain open through these trying times.

Members may be aware, that 4 times in the month 2 OZCF volunteers go to Delta Bingo Hall, Oakville, to help run bingo sessions. For this effort, we get pro-rated funds that are shared between 30+ charitable organizations. Due to closures during the pandemic, the Hall had to shut down, and sadly we stopped receiving our share. When we got to Stage 3 the hall started to partially function and welcomed clients from July 24 onwards. Monies raised at the Oakville location, directly affected our bottom line as we got our share from July onwards.

Although there are no bingo games, you can play on the tap tix machines and make some money for yourselves and at the same time help out the charities.

For more information please click on the link below:

<https://deltabingo.com/our-locations/oakville/jackpots/>

Thank you Delta Bingo and we look forward to helping out once again!

## YOUTH SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

Continuing on the success of the last team, the new Youth Committee kicked-off the term with a joint event with the ZSO Entertainment Committee. We co-hosted an interactive talk via zoom led by the acclaimed Dr. Mickey Mehta, "Mind is Medicine" which was well received by the community. Dr. Mehta is a leading Indian holistic health, well-being, wellness and fitness guru.



It was pleasantly surprising to see that the audience wasn't limited to individuals from Ontario or Canada only, as people from all over North America tuned in. With Afreed Mistry moderating, Dr. Mehta took several questions from the audience on a wide array of topics ranging from yoga, diet, circadian rhythm, Zoroastrian prayers, positive and negative energies and how they influence us and much more.

We got very good feedback after the session with many people who heard Dr. Mehta speak for the first time highly impressed and left wanting more. We will try to arrange another talk with



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## BINGO 2.0

With parts of Ontario back under the modified stage 2 restrictions, we restarted the popular quarantined Bingo version 2.0. We have received an outpour of love and support from the community throughout the weekly events and the excitement of virtual gatherings has been uplifting. We have had gracious sponsors who have donated to cover the prizes for the weekly sessions. As a Committee we are hoping to increase virtual participation from our community by diversifying our events and making it easily accessible to all!



## SPORTS COMMITTEE

Following the 2020 AGM, the OZCF Sports Subcommittee has undergone few changes. Rumi Jasavala, Xarius Jasavala, Cyrus Gazdar and Tauzer Dalal will continue, while Kevan Madan and Adil Bhesania have been added. Khushroo Bharda due to his numerous other commitments has asked to be excused for this term but is willing to help us out whenever needed. We thank Khushroo for his years of service to sports in our community and for being available to our subcommittee as a volunteer.

Rumi and Adil will co-chair the 2020 – 2022 Sports Subcommittee, with Xarius, Kevan, Cyrus and Tauzer as subcommittee members.

The Subcommittee does have a strong focus on getting more people involved in different friendly and competitive sports. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, on site activities at OZCF are not allowed. That hasn't stopped us as we have already planned 2 virtual events before the end of the year - a 5k virtual run/walk and an online chess tournament. Register for the virtual walk/run by visiting [ozcf.com](http://ozcf.com) and keep your eyes out for the chess tournament flyer coming soon.

On a sadder note, our cricket pitch which so many community members used during the summer to play cricket on for a number of years, was vandalized beyond repair. The decision to rip the whole matting out had to be made and volunteers worked through the rain on a Saturday afternoon to take it out. We will be looking into options for a new cricket pitch in the coming years.

To streamline communication with the Sports Subcommittee, a new email address has been setup – [zoroastriansports@gmail.com](mailto:zoroastriansports@gmail.com) If you have any questions or suggestions for us, feel free to reach out.

## SPORTING NEWS

During the latter part of summer and early fall this year, once COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed - 11 Zoroastrian youth participated in a Soft Ball League in Mississauga with most of them playing the sport for the first time.

With only a couple of weekends of team practice and 8 weeks of play, there were a lot of ups and downs in the first season. From a huge loss in the first game to the eventual champions to registering their first win, getting out in double plays to homeruns, batters having perfect games to striking out, spectacularly caught catches to the easy dropped ones - the team powered through it all to secure the 5<sup>th</sup> spot in the league.

It wouldn't have been possible without our cheering squad in the stands, which was easily the biggest. Parents of all team members religiously attended the games, even drawing envious appreciation from most opponents. Needless to say, there was never a dull moment in the stands. What do you think happens when a bunch of Zoros meet in the stands? You guessed it... Tim Hortons coffee, a batasa party and an analysis of every play!

Team comprised of Lila Sidhwa, Tanya Bharda, Ruzbeh Rohinton, Armita Bhesania, Rushad Bharda, Farshad Engineer, Yohaán Bhagwagar. Hormuz Javat, Kevan Madan, Rohaan Kotwal and Adil Bhesania.



**From L to R: Farshad, Hormuz, Kevan, Armita, Adil, Tanya, Lila, Rushad, Rohaan, Yohaán and Ruzbeh**



**Standing L to R: Ruzbeh, Hormuz, Kevan, Adil, Rohaan and Yohaán**

**Sitting L to R: Armita, Lila and Tanya**

**Missing: Farshad and Rushad**

Keep your eyes out for next year, hopefully we'll see more Zoroastrians engaged in the game and in different leagues. And if not, hey our cheering squad always has room to grow bigger.

## AVESTA LANGUAGE CLASSES

The North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) released the following communique in July:

“The North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) is offering Avesta language scholarships for young Mobeds. The candidates must be actively practicing Mobedi in North America and will have demonstrated the propensity for religious education and teaching. The part time course – over four to five years – will be offered online by Dr. Er. Ramiyar Karanjia. Please send your resume with a cover letter, and three recommendations from your association’s President and Mobeds with whom you actively participate by email to NAMC secretary Er. Kurush Dastur at [kurush\\_17@hotmail.com](mailto:kurush_17@hotmail.com)”

The purpose of the classes is for our young Mobeds to learn the Avesta language and gain a better understanding of our scriptures. This way, there will be continuity of knowledge and practice with the Mobeds in the N. American diaspora.

Three young Mobeds were selected for the classes and scholarship – Er. Zerkxis Bhandara (Irvine, CA), Er. Kamran Panthaki (Miss, ON) and Er. Nekzad Illava (Miss, ON). Er. Kamran and Er. Nekzad have been nominated through OZCF and it is heartening to know that the community will have learned guidance for some years to come. The Avesta Language sessions began in September and these youngsters spend their weekend mornings on a Zoom call with Dr. Er. Ramiyar Karanjia, who is based in Mumbai.

OZCF reached out to the young Mobeds for their views on the program and their expectations:



**Er. Nekzad Illava**

I’m very happy that I have been given the opportunity to learn our religion’s ancient language (Avesta) by the NAMC. So far, our learning sessions, hosted by Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia and accompanied by Ervad Soli uncle, have been very engaging and resourceful. During the course of our first few sessions, we have been taught about the origins of the Avesta language, as well as how to read and write the majority of letters in the language. I hope to have a better and deeper understanding of our language by the end of the Avesta course. I’m looking forward to enhancing my knowledge of the Avesta language.



### Er. Zerkxis Bhandara

Having completed a BA in Religious Studies and now pursuing a masters in the same, the role of primary texts in religion is invaluable. For our belief system texts written in the ancient language of Avestan are our gateway into the devotional mindset of our ancestors. As a priest and student of religion, having access to this legacy via the study of the Avestan language is an opportunity I simply could not miss. I am truly honored and humbled by NAMC's far-sightedness in creating an opportunity for Mobeds in the diaspora to stay connected to the tradition of scriptural study by means of this program. Under the tutelage of Ervad Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia, I hope to be a part of this long-standing, erudite tradition of knowledgeable priest, to guide and assist the Zoroastrian community within the diaspora as a well-informed Mobed.



### Er. Kamran Panthaki

I have been learning Avesta under the tutelage of Ramiyar Karanjia for several weeks now. So far we have just learnt the large alphabet as that is the building block of any language, but Ramiyar has sent us a really informative textbook that outlines the rest of information very well. I look forward to learning more as the weeks progress and getting a better understanding of the language & prayers.



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## SENIORS NEWS

The Seniors Subcommittee is happy to announce that our **Virtual Zumba Sessions**, which are held every Wednesday from 11:45am to 12:30 pm, have become very popular and are being enjoyed not only by our seniors here in Ontario, but also by a couple of seniors from the USA as well as from across the pond in UK. This is really fantastic, as we get to chat with people who we do not see on a regular basis. Rumi Jasavala, our ever-helpful technical guide is to be thanked for this. These sessions will continue till the end of March 2021. We are encouraging all seniors to participate to the extent that they are able to do so; as such activities help enormously in maintaining a healthy and active life style. As well, participating in a cheerful activity every Wednesday is beneficial for mental health issues as it keeps the mind alert, and of course helps us all to maintain social contact during our long and often dreary winter days.

We are now in the middle of the second wave of Covid 19 pandemic and with winter fast approaching your Subcommittee is hard at work on ensuring that we stay connected with each other throughout the snowy winter months. With this in mind we are planning to have a few interactive sessions on a separate day (besides our regular Wednesday Zumba Sessions) where we can all meet and have a pleasant time. As soon as we have worked out the mechanics for these new sessions we shall let you know the details. In the meantime if any of you have any suggestions and ideas please do let us know. Since this is our time together your input and participation is absolutely vital to make it enjoyable and a success for all of us.

We also wish to take this opportunity to say a big welcome to our new President Xerxes Madan and are delighted that Khushi Doctor will continue to be our Liaison with the Board.

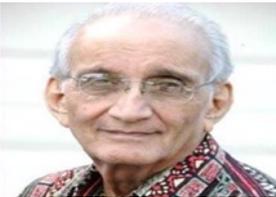
Minnie Mirza, Gulrukh Patel and Kamal Driver.

## OBITUARIES



Thrity Madon, wife of late Russy Madon, Mother of Khurshed and Hutokshi Madon, and Kermin Byramjee, Mother-in-law to Sharon Madon and Marzi Byramjee, Sister to Asaad Talati, (Keki, Freni, and Perviz Talati (dec.)), Grandmother to Roshni, Deenah, Chilina, Rhea and Cyrus, Great Grandmother to Maleena, Sofia, Miah, Oliver, Farrah, Leo and Arun, passed peacefully on October 9th, 2020

The Family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude for the outpouring of support and love during these unprecedented times. Thrity will be missed dearly by all fortunate enough to have known and loved her.



With profound sadness we announce the sad passing of Firoz (P2) Mehta, beloved husband of Freny, adored father of Aniheeta (Kersi), Nina (Keki), Sharook (Nina), cherished grandfather of Neville, Xerxes, Kayaan, Karl, Cyrus, Shanaya and Shaun, on September 21, 2020.

Mrs. Perwin Irani passed away on Friday, October 9, 2020 at Cawthra Gardens Long Term Care Residence in Mississauga. Perwin was mother to Niloofer Irani and Navzer Irani (Bombay), mother-in-law to the late Jamshed(Jumbo) Irani; and Sanober Irani(Bombay). She was grandmother to Natasha, Karl, Cyrus and Elsa and great grandmother to Zain, Zaahan, Mackenzie and Stirling."

## RELIGIOUS EVENTS

### **Zarthost-no-Diso (F) Saturday December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Zarthost-no-Diso (F) prayers will be held on Saturday December 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at ZRCC 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville. If you plan on attending, please let Ervad Nozer Kotwal know at (905) 820-0461 and no later than December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

### **Maidhyarem Gahambar (F) Saturday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

We will be celebrating Maidhyarem Gahambar (F) commencing at 11am on Saturday January 2<sup>nd</sup> at ZRCC 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville. If you plan to attend please give your name to Ervad Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 a.s.a.p. but not later than Dec 29<sup>th</sup>. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

**Please note – the number of people in the Hall will be restricted to 25 at any given time. Also, there is no access to prayer room in the house as the house is currently locked.**

Members wishing to attend must contact Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 or at [nskotwal1@gmail.com](mailto:nskotwal1@gmail.com). As numbers permit, we will let people enter on a first-come basis and limit access to 25 members in the Hall.

Volunteers will notify members to leave the premises immediately after, with no socializing to be done on the property.

Sukhad must be bought from OZCF and cannot be brought from home or outside. We ask that members not light a Divo in the Hall, instead letting the Mobeds do so.

**There will be no meals nor Chasni served after the prayers.**

All members who come to the property MUST adhere to the laid down protocols (COVID-19 Screening Sheet and Instruction Guidelines), bearing in mind the volunteer has the right to refuse a member from entry if they feel the member could be endangering the health and safety of others.

As with all messages OZCF has communicated to the community, we remind our members that while these stipulations require us to carry out our engagements differently, we must adhere to them in order to enhance the safety of our members, volunteers and Mobeds. OZCF appreciates your continued patience and understanding.

Due to requests from members, we will repost FAQs on Zoroastrianism.

## **BASIC FAQs ON ZOROASTRIANISM**

(compiled by Ontario Mobeds Advisory Committee (OMAC))

### **15) Are there different Calendars being observed by Zoroastrians?**

There are currently three main calendars in use: Shahenshāhi, Qadimi and Fasli. These are based on the use of different modes of computing. The Shahenshāhi (traditional) and the Qadimi (ancient) use a “non-intercalating” calendar of 365 days. However, their New Years are one full month of 30 days apart. The Fasli (seasonal) calendar is a religious calendar (Dini Sal) which is based on the seasons by intercalating one day every four years of 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45.5 seconds. The New Year always begins on the first day of Spring, on or about March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **16) What are the Zoroastrian Observances?**

Two sacred garments, the *sudreh* (shirt) and the *kusti* (cord) are the emblems of the religion. The short cleansing ritual is known as the Padyab. It involves untying and retying the *kusti* several times a day. Other obligatory prayers are recited several times daily from the Khordeh Avestā. Prayers are mainly composed in the Avestā language with some segments in Pazand – a language that evolved in a later era. The devotees are also expected to participate in the seasonal festivals of “Gahambar” during the annual cycle.

### **17) What is a Fravashi?**

Fravashi is known as the guardian spirit. It is the spark of the creating force Mazda. It is the highest of all Divine principles in the human constitution. Fravashi is the spiritual guide for the soul in its physical existence. Fravashi also provides light, knowledge and energy to the physical matter.

### **18) Why do Zoroastrians pray in front of a fire?**

Fire is the provider of heat and light and is the source of life and growth. Fire or any source of light represents Ahura Mazda’s divine light and energy. Fire is also a symbol of “Asha” and the “original light of God” and holds a special place of esteem in the religion. Hence, the prayer is

often performed in front of a fire. All consecrated fires are kept perpetually burning in the major fire temples. Consecrated fires are believed to be the very incarnation of Creator – Ahura Mazda. So, when we pray before a fire, we are paying homage to the Creator, the creation that represents life and the inherent nature of Ahura Mazda – total goodness. **FIRE** is variously interpreted as the fire of inspiration, the fire of love, the fire of righteousness, the fire of emotion, the fire of compassion, the fire of devotion, the fire of the life-giving force in all of Mazda’s creations.

### **19). What are the three grades of fire?**

The three grades of fire among the Zoroastrians are the Ātash Behrām, the Ātash Ādarān and the Ātash Dādgāh.

### **20). How are the different grades of fire installed?**

Sixteen different kinds of fire are required to install an Ātash Behrām. An Ātash Ādarān requires four different fires for installation and an Ātash Dādgāh can be installed with just one household fire. These various fires are installed after performing elaborate consecration ceremonies in all cases.

### **21). What is “Asha”?**

In search for Truth, Zarathushtra identified a Divine order in Nature which he designated as Asha. No word in English can adequately describe Asha. It is loosely translated as truth, righteousness, world-order, eternal law, etc. Asha is the order that governs the natural activities such as the rising and setting of the sun, the waxing and waning of the moon, the rise and fall of tides, the day and night going about their daily cycle and non-stop seasonal changes which take place .

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Chairs of the Oral History Project Gulrukh Patel and Minnie Mirza are excited and happy to inform you that, our Oral History Project has been **REVIVED AND REJUVENATED**. ADIL BHESANIA, ARMITA BHESANIA and ANAISHA MADAN have all joined the revamped committee **IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR RICH AND VARIED CULTURAL HISTORIES**.

There have been innumerable Oral History Projects carried out all over the world by different communities.

Historians have finally recognized and acknowledged the importance that the **EVERYDAY MEMORIES OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE**, not just the rich and famous, have great historical importance and value, and these **MUST** be preserved before they are lost forever. What a great loss this would be for our grandchildren and their children not to know what their forefathers went through in order for them to live in a country where their dreams can become realities because of **THE LIFE CHANGING DECISIONS THAT THEIR FORE FATHERS MADE YEARS AGO**.

Each one of us **SENIORS** has changed the course of our family's history by uprooting ourselves from our country of origin and having the courage to start a new life halfway across the world. Everything from the climate, the food, the way of dressing, the manner in which we interact with each other is now different. From our stories our descendants will someday **LEARN ABOUT YOU, THEIR ANCESTOR**.

## REVIVED & REJUVENATED



Your struggles, adjustments and sacrifices and feel proud and grateful to **YOU**, for giving them a historical background regarding their origins.

The goal of our Project is to record and preserve the rich backgrounds and experiences of our senior community members, sharing their varied life experiences from their countries of origin and as immigrants to Canada before their memories fade away and are lost forever. A lot of our history as Zoroastrians had been lost in the past because it had not been captured while it was fresh in the minds of the people at that time.

**LET US NOT REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES. WE ARE SINCERELY ASKING YOU TO VOLUNTEER AND OFFER YOUR HISTORIES TO POSTERITY.**

It will not be a big demand on your time and we will try to ensure that it is convenient for you and your family in every possible way.

## ILLUSTRATION OF AN ORAL HISTORY

(Kind courtesy of Zoroastrian Association of Houston.  
Library Committee)

### Peshotan Bhadha's History

My wife Anoo and I interviewed my father-in-law, Peshotan Bhadha, in May of 2014, just less than 6 months before he passed away. He was 97 years old. **Here's a snapshot of his recorded oral history.**

Peshotan was born in Udvada, which is a holy place for Zoroastrians. His father, like Peshotan, was also a priest. But unfortunately, Peshotan never got to know his father, because he died in the 1917 plague when Peshotan was only 6 months old. Peshotan's mother was a very hard-working lady, and she lived in a community place for widows. So Peshotan lived in Udvada until he was 8 years old. There was no High School in Udvada, so boys could go to school only till the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Life was school in the morning and learning Navar-Martab prayers in the evening till 7 pm. Most boys in Udvada at that time became priests and earned their living that way. Not a very bright future. But thanks to his elder brother who pushed to have him educated, Peshotan was taken to Bombay and put in an orphanage.

Life in the orphanage was hard. Morning breakfast every single day consisted of a cup of tea and one banana. He was so sick of bananas that he swore he would never touch a banana after he left the orphanage, and he kept his word till the day he died. Meals were mostly vegetables or cereals. Each room had a line of 50 or so beds, and at bath time, all the boys would take off their clothes, and stand in a line to enter the long line of open showers. One man would sit at the top and open all the showers at the same time. There were no individual controls, and the man would shut the water off for everyone while they all applied soap. Then the water comes on and everyone had to finish up. Anyway, upon graduation from high school, the orphanage would summon a tailor and have him stitch one new pair of clothes, and then you would be turned out into the world with nothing but the clothes on your back to fend for yourself.

I won't go into the rest of Peshotan's life, but you can listen to his whole history on the website. How he managed to get 2 engineering degrees, how he found a job with one of the largest manufacturing companies, Godrej; started as a foreman there, and worked hard to rise to Plant Manager where he had several hundred people reporting to him, and where he worked for 48 years. But even after he became a hotshot at a large firm, he never forgot his friends at the orphanage. You see, a lot of them had become food servers, or what we call bawarchis. So in every Navjote or wedding, he would disappear for a half hour or so to go back to the kitchens, and meet with his friends, and give them cash in envelopes.

As I was preparing this talk, I was struck by how different my history is from his. Like many of you, I came to this country with exactly \$10 in my pocket, and went through experiences that seemed to come straight out of a Hollywood movie. My oral history is also recorded on Rice University's website. For Peshotan though, we're really glad that we were able to get him to record his life just before he passed away. My grandchildren, who are Peshotan's great-grandchildren, will someday learn about their ancestors and feel grateful, and feel a sense of pride. But what is amazing is that even though he was my father-in-law for 43 years, and even though he lived with us for the last 15 years, there were things in his early days that we did not know about. Things that were revealed to us only when we sat down to do the recording for this oral history project.

This is what the power of Oral Histories is. It is not a pretentious egotistical exercise. Human nature is such that we always want to be remembered, and for others to know where we are coming from. Events that are the origin of something that changes people's lives are always a matter of interest, and sometimes pride. And each one of us has changed the course of history. Let's face it. We may not be a household name in America, and we may not even have become very wealthy. But by uprooting ourselves and having the courage to start a new life half-way around the world, we have changed the course of future for our children and grandchildren.

We should be proud to document our lives for posterity.



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## BOOK LAUNCH

### “Murder in Old Bombay”

My dear friend Nawaz Merchant (NJ, USA), who writes under the name Nev March has written an award-winning mystery novel and the locale is my favourite city - Bombay. Over the years Nawaz has been on several sub-committees at FEZANA. Her novel "Murder in Old Bombay" won 2019 Mystery Writers of America's award for Best First Crime Novel. It was the first time this award was won by a writer of Indian origin, a woman of Indian origin, or a Zoroastrian.

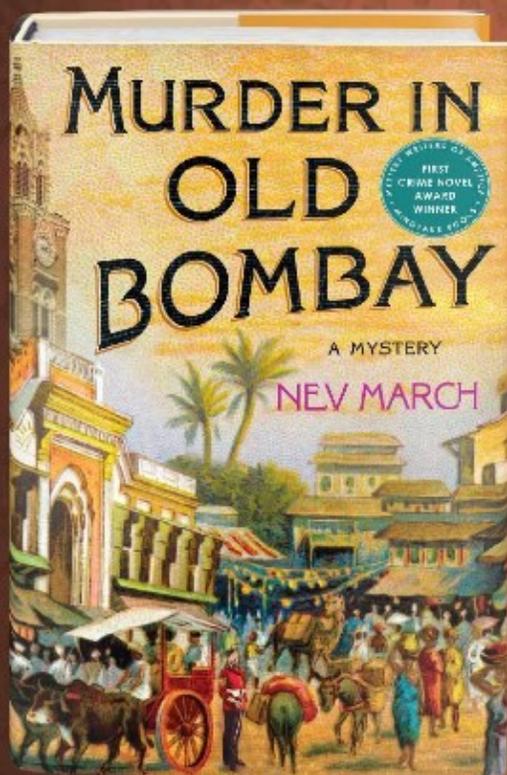
A book tour was planned to launch the book with gatherings and book readings. Unfortunately, that is not possible in the current covid climate. She is looking for creative ways to publicize her historical mystery, coming this Nov from Macmillan. Preorders are open on Amazon and other bookstores. Contact her at [NevMarchauthor@gmail.com](mailto:NevMarchauthor@gmail.com)

She writes *"My book addresses issues prevalent at the turn of the 20th century which are present today: discrimination against those who do not belong to our 'in' group, demeaning attitudes toward women, for example. It's also a heart-felt appeal to our own (tiny) Zoroastrian community to update our social norms--or face extinction. Loosely based on the tragedy of the Godrej girls in 1891, my novel is an action adventure with deeper themes of **feminism and countering discrimination**. It's an evocative journey through colonial India during the British Raj, describing the vibrant mix of sub-cultures and the danger of buried secrets. Ultimately it's a story of triumph over adversity, and the different forms that courage can take."*

Watch the Trailer of the book at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I346egMuecc&feature=youtu.be>  
Pre-Order a copy of the book at: <https://read.macmillan.com/lp/murder-in-old-bombay/>

submitted by Armaity Anandasagar

A GOLDEN AGE.  
 A LAND OF DIVIDED LOYALTIES.  
 A MURDER IN OLD BOMBAY.



MINOTAUR BOOKS

In 1892, Bombay is the center of British India. Nearby, Captain Jim Agnihotri lies in Poona military hospital recovering from a skirmish on the wild northern frontier, with little to do but re-read the tales of his idol, Sherlock Holmes, and browse the daily papers. The case that catches Captain Jim's attention is being called the crime of the century: Two women fell from the busy university's clock tower in broad daylight. Moved by Adi, the widower of one of the victims—his certainty that his wife and sister did not commit suicide—Captain Jim approaches the Parsee family and is hired to investigate what happened that terrible afternoon.

But in a land of divided loyalties, asking questions is dangerous. Captain Jim's investigation disturbs the shadows that seem to follow the Framji family and triggers an ominous chain of events. And when lively Lady Diana Framji joins the hunt for her sisters' attackers, Captain Jim's heart isn't safe, either.

Based on a true story, and set against the vibrant backdrop of colonial India, Nev March's Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award-winning lyrical debut brings this tumultuous historical age to life.

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD  
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## BOOK LAUNCH

### “Complementary Medicine”

Greetings to my family and friends,

I wanted to let you know that my book, Complementary Medicine is now available, and I would greatly appreciate your support in helping to spread the news!

#### **Here is a quick overview of the book:**

This book is authored with my associate, Manohar Sood to provide information and resource about various well-known practiced alternative therapies, such as Ayurveda, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Naturopathy, Laser Therapy and more.

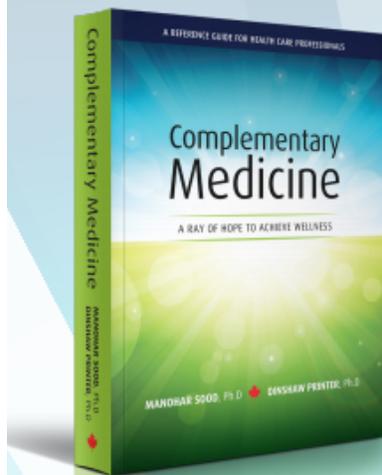
Complementary Medicine represents our compendium of comprehensive knowledge. This includes my researching and practicing complementary medicine and alternative treatment methods for over 25 years and Dr. Manohar Sood's clinical success working with alternative therapies of over 40 years.

#### **Here are two ways you can support the book launch:**

- Purchase one or more copies here by contacting me.
- Think of few people who would benefit from this book and let them know about it.

I would sincerely appreciate your support in helping me get the book launched with great momentum. If you have any innovative suggestion, please let me know.

Thank you and best regards,  
Dinshaw Printer PhD, FF.HOM, DHS(Med)



**We are on the cusp of a medical revolution where healthcare practitioners will, for the first time, be able to combine the best of 21st century medicine with natural, organic treatments honed by centuries of practice.**

This holistic approach to healing will usher in a new era of patient care and general welfare.

It is the destiny of every human being to face illness in this physical life. This book represents a compendium of comprehensive knowledge of over 40 years of Dr. Manohar Sood's clinical success working with alternative therapies and Dr. Dinshaw Printer, who has been researching and practicing complementary medicine and alternative treatment methods for over 25 years.

The book provides a plethora of information and resource about various well-known alternative therapies, including Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Acupressure, Chiropractic, Naturopathy, Osteopathic manipulation, Massage, Yoga, Hypnosis, Meditation, Unani and Laser Therapy Etc.

In context of the many options available, this book offers clear and concise information on multiple complementary health therapies that can be used to manage health conditions from relatively benign conditions to the most serious disorders. The goal of this book is to provide a solid base of knowledge to help in the decision process, so as to make you inform and thus know more confident choices about your healthcare.

**It is the natural heritage of every human to regain true wholeness of health, as inscribed in the Laws of Nature.**

The Authors' are Registered Homeopaths since April 2015 by the College of Homeopaths of Ontario, Canada

Dr. Sood founded The Centre of Alternative Therapies (COAT) in 1989 and is the owner/President. Dr. Printer is the Director of Clinical Services. Together, they run a successful Homeopathic practice and offer their Homeostasis™ line of products in this prestigious holistic clinic; The COAT is located in Mississauga, Ontario.

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## About the Authors

**Dr. Manohar Sood, Ph.D** has played an integral role in the North American Natural Health Products industry. His involvement spans over four decades and he has guided many individuals and businesses to success in the industry. Dr. Sood earned his Doctorate at the University of Delhi in 1964. His thesis was related to the isolation, characterisation and synthesis of natural compounds of biological importance. Recently, Dr. Sood has been inducted into the Canadian Health Food Association's Hall of Fame recognising his lifetime achievements and contributions to the Canadian Health Food/Natural Product industries.

**Dr. Dinshaw Printer, Ph.D** has been practising holistic approach in treating patients and his research into complementary medicine and alternative treatment methods has achieved good results in acute and chronic illnesses. Dr. Printer earned his Doctorate at the Open International University for Complementary Medicines and was admitted as a Fellow by the Homeopathic Foundation; Faculty of Medical Studies Medicina Alternativa (ALMA ATA 1962) an affiliate to the University at Colombo in 2000. He believes that a state of health or wholeness implies freedom from rigidity of body, emotion and mind.



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 01 to December 31, 2021

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

### DEPENDANT INFORMATION

1. First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
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- I (We) select OZCF as our Prime Membership Group for FEZANA membership
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- I (We) would like to provide Donation. One time: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or ongoing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per: \_\_\_\_\_
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Total Enclosed: Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque: \_\_\_\_\_ or Credit Card (paid via website): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement For Annual Membership Fees

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

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**COVID-19 SCREENING CHECK SHEET**  
**To be completed Prior to Entering ZRCC**  
**A separate Form for everyone must be completed**

Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ am / pm

**Screening Questions:**

1. Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?

	YES	NO
<b>New or worsening cough</b>		
<b>Shortness of breath</b>		
<b>Sore throat</b>		
<b>Runny nose, sneezing or nasal congestion</b> <small>(in absence of underlying reasons for symptoms such as seasonal allergies and postnasal drip)</small>		
<b>Hoarse voice</b>		
<b>Difficulty swallowing</b>		
<b>New smell or taste disorder(s)</b>		
<b>Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain</b>		
<b>Unexplained fatigue/malaise</b>		
<b>Chills Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain</b>		
<b>Headaches</b>		

2. Have you travelled outside of Canada or had close contact with anyone that has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?      **Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_      **No:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have a fever?      **Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_      **No:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you had close contact with anyone with respiratory illness or a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?  
**Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_ – go to question 5      **No:** \_\_\_\_\_ – go to question 6

5. Did you wear the required and/or recommended PPE according to the type of duties you were performing (e.g., goggles, gloves, mask and gown or N95 with aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs)) when you had close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19?  
**Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_ – go to question 6      **No:** \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you aware of any COVID-19 related reason why you should not be here?  
**Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_      **No:** \_\_\_\_\_ screening complete

**PRINT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_      **SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(a parent or guardian must sign on behalf of children 19 years and under)*

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