

**SSZ Conference – 2007**  
**"Zoroastrianism 101: Living a Zarathushti Life in North America"**

**Sponsored by Society for Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Zoroastrian Association  
of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC) and Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of NA  
(FEZANA)**

**Chicago, November 16-19, 2007**

At

Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr  
8615 Meadowbrook drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

**PROGRAM**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16:**

7:00 pm Welcome dinner for speakers and guests.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17:**

**"Zoroastrianism 101: Living a Zarathushti Life in North America - Practices,  
Customs and traditions"**

(Each speaker on Saturday has 20 minutes, including Q&A and discussion)

- 9:00 Coffee and rolls
- 9:15 Benediction  
Welcome by ZAC president *Hosi Mehta*  
Opening remarks: *Pallan Ichaporia* and *Rohinton Rivetna*
- 9:40 Living a Zarathushti Life - *Hosi Mehta*
- 10:00 Understanding the Zarathushti Calendar - *Pesi Vazifdar*
- 10:20 Zarathushti Scriptures and texts - *Kayomarsh Mehta*
- 11:00 Tea break
- 11:20 The Gathas in Our Daily Lives - *Keki Bhote*
- 11:40 Guide to Personal Prayers - *Bomi Damkevala*
- 12:00 Ritual Observances in a Zarathushti Household - *Edul Udvardia*
- 12:20 Lunch and Presentation  
My grandfather Jivanji Modi's writings on Customs and Ceremonies  
- *Jim Modi*
- 1:40 Tying the Kushti with Understanding - *Er. Jehan Bagli*
- 2:00 Appreciating the Jashan, and Hamazor handclasp - *Rohinton Rivetna*
- 2:20 Practicing respect for the Environment - *Rashna ghadialy*
- 2:40 Tea break
- 3:00 Celebrating Gahambaras - *Jehangir Mobed*
- 3:20 Festivals: Navroze, Jashne Sadeh, Mehrgan ... - *Keikhosrov Mobed*
- 3:40 Customs for: Birth, Navjote, Wedding and Death  
by *Mahnaz Farhadieh*
- 4:00 Post-death customs and ceremonies – *Pallan Ichaporia*  
Dakhma in North America – *Jehangir Shroff* (in abstentia)
- 4:20 Closing benediction

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18:**

(Each speaker on Sunday has 40 minutes, including Q&A and discussion)

- 9:00 Coffee and rolls
- 9:30 Welcome and Benediction

### **Session I. Chair – Dara Patel**

- 9:40 "Gathas are not Didactic" by **Dr. Pallan Ichaporia** (University of Mainz)
- 10:20 *Pahlavi Yasna and Importance of Pahlavi Literature*  
by **Prof. William Malandra** (University of Texas)
- 11:00 Tea Break

### **Session II. Chair – Minoos Press**

- 11:20 *Zoroastrianism's Influence on the Offshoots of 3 religions:  
Essenes of Judaism, Nestorians of Christianity and Sufis of Islam*  
by **Keki Bhote**.
- 12:00 *Jamsheed in Avesta and Pahlavi Literature*  
by **Prof. Dr. Helmut Humbach** (Mainz University) in absentia.
- 12:30 Lunch  
Luncheon Speaker: FEZANA president **Dr. Rustom Kevala**

### **Session III. Chair - xxx**

- 1:40 *Mankind to Mazda - a Voyage in Life* by **Er. Jehan Bagli** (chair, NAMC)
- 2:20 *Update on Persepolis Tablets at Oriental Institute*  
by **Dr. Matthew Stolper** (Oriental Institute)
- 3:00 Tea Break

### **Session IV. Chair - xxx**

- 3:20 *New Evidences in Zoroastrianism* by **Prof. James Russell**  
(Harvard University)
- 4:00 'Life' after Life according to Zarathushtra - **Dr. Kersey Antia**
- 4:40 Closing benediction

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

9:00 - Noon: ROUNDTABLE dialogue with scholars and interested community members. Wrap-up session to discuss actions and assign responsibilities.

### **PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

Contact Pallan Ichaporia (610-589-5419) or Rohinton Rivetna (630-325-5383, [rivetna@aol.com](mailto:rivetna@aol.com)).

### **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Suggested nearby hotels are: La Quinta, Willowbrook, IL. \$75 + tax for 4 people, continental breakfast, 630-654 0077. Holiday Inn, Willowbrook, IL. \$135 + tax for 4 people, no breakfast, 630-325 6400. Or, upon request, hosting arrangements will also be available with Chicago-area families.

## **REGISTRATION**

Cost is \$7 for Saturday and \$7 for Sunday, payable at the door. *Please RSVP by November 9<sup>th</sup> to Roshan Rivetna (630-325-5383, RRRivetna@aol.com)*, with the number of persons attending on each day: Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.