

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
proudly hosts the
2010
Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference
and
Zoroastrianism-101: “Zoroastrian Rituals”
supported by
Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)
and
World Zoroastrian Organization (WZO)
at the
Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr,
8615 Meadowbrook Drive,
Burr Ridge, IL 60527,
on
June 25 – 28, 2010

The *Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ)* was established in an initiative spearheaded by Dr. Pallan Ichaporia and Rohinton Rivetna, and formalized during the Eighth World Zoroastrian Congress in London in 2005.

The mission of the Society is to revive the tradition of scholarship within our community among *athornans* and *behdins* alike, and to promote interaction among academicians, theologians (priests), educationists, lay scholars and practitioners of Zoroastrianism, through roundtable discussions, conferences and publications. The aim is to make SSZ a prestigious organization on par with scholarly organizations of other faith communities, and merit affiliation with international bodies such as the American Academy of Religions.

SSZ Conferences have been held in Chicago in 2006, 2007 and 2008, when noted scholars and students presented their research papers. To encourage Zoroastrian studies within the community, these SSZ conferences also include sessions on *Zoroastrianism-101* delivered by community members, especially the youth. Persons/Associations interested in the mission and vision of the Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism, are invited to host future Conferences in their areas. SSZ will provide assistance as needed.

All community members, students and scholars are invited and encouraged to participate. You will no doubt be enriched, your presence gives support to the speakers, and your feedback is invaluable so that future research efforts may be directed in a constructive manner for the benefit of both the academicians as well as the community.

Registration. The cost is \$7 for Friday dinner and \$12 per day for Saturday and Sunday (including breakfast, lunch and tea) There is no charge for Monday. ***Please RSVP by June 15*** to Dinaz Weber (630-830 3430, kenanddina@yahoo.com). For program information contact Pallan Ichaporia (610-589 5419, PRIchaporia@aol.com), Rohinton Rivetna (630-325 5383, rivetna@aol.com) or Kayomarsh Mehta (630-654 8828, kayomehta@aol.com) and visit www.s-s-z.org.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 7:00 pm

Welcome Dinner and Shah Nameh Night to commemorate the 1000th anniversary year of Firdausi. Avesta Pahlavi scholar *Er. Parvez Bajan* will give recitations from Shah Nameh and talk about the Life and Times of Firdausi.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26th, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm or later

9:00 Registration and Breakfast

9:30 Benediction and Monajat
Welcome by ZAC president *Hosi Mehta*
Opening remarks: SSZ co-chairs *Pallan Ichaporia* and *Rohinton Rivetna*

Session I. Chair – *Khuzaan Screwvalla*

10:00 *Dr. Pallan Ichaporia* (University of Mainz) - Enigmatic verses in Behram Yasht; Viambura Demons with their Devilish Rituals.

10:40 *Jenny Rose* (Stanford University) – Zoroastrians in Iran.

11:20 Tea Break

Session II. Chair – *Tushad Driver*

11:40 *Michael Stausberg* (Norway) – The Qualities of the Ideal Priest: Contemporary Priestly Interpretations.

12:20 *Brigadier Er. Behram and Zenobia Panthaki* (Washington) – Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw: Soldiering with Zoroastrian Values.

1:00 Lunch

Session III. Chair – *Arzan Lali*

1:40 *Kayomars Mehta and the Adult Study Class* (Chicago) – Z-FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions; an Interactive Session.

2:20 Tea Break

Session IV. Chair – *Rohinton Rivetna*

2:40 *Cyrus Rivetna* (Chicago) – The Evolution of Fire Temples from Iran and India to the Dar-e-Mehers of North America.

3:00 *Kaemerz Dotiwalla* (Houston) – Trials and Tribulations on the Establishment of the First Consecrated Dar-e-Meher in the Western World, from Dream to Reality.

3:40 *Er. Kobad Zarolia* (Toronto) – Yes We Can Consecrate an Atash Kadeh Building and Dadgah Fire in North America

4:00 *Er. Parvez Bajan* (Mumbai) – Demonstration of consecration ceremonies for an Atash Kadeh with visuals by Er. Soli Dastur and explanation by Dr. Pallan Ichaporia.

5:30 *Bepsy Bajan* (Mumbai) - Demonstration of preparation of food items for liturgies (patri, malido, daran, chapat, bhakra, etc).

Dinner For those who wish to stay on for the food demo, tasting and socializing, we will order pizza for dinner.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27th, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm

9:00 Registration and Breakfast

9:30 Benediction and Monajat

Welcome by ZAC president *Hosi Mehta*

Remarks: SSZ co-chairs *Pallan Ichaporla* and *Rohinton Rivetna*

Session I. Chair – Cyrus Grant

10:00 *Daraius M. Bharucha* (Toronto) – The Religion of early Achemenians; Mazdayasnis or not?

10:40 *Keki R. Bhote* (Chicago) - Forgotten role the Parthian Empire played in recovering the glory of Zoroastrianism.

11:20 Tea Break

Session II. Chair – Afshan Barshan

11:40 *Er. Soli Dastur* (Florida) – Fravardin Yasht.

12:20 *Shireen Havewala* (Washington, DC) – The Fate of our Faith: The Future of Zoroastrian priests in Days to Come.

1:00 *Bomi Damkevala* (Chicago) – Thoughts on Becoming a Mobedyar – Preparation and Ordainment

1:20 Lunch

Session III. Chair – Bomi Damkevala

2:00 *Spitaman Tata* (Rockford) – Thoughts on Gathas.

2:40 *Dastur Dr. Kersey H. Antia* (High Priest of Chicago) – Did Zarathushtra really adopt Assyrian Beliefs as claimed by some Assyriologists?

3:20 Tea Break

Session IV. Chair – Khuzan Screwvalla

3:40 *Er. Parvez Bajan* (Mumbai) – Kiss-e-Sanjan; The story of exodus of the Parsis from the Iranian Plateau to the shores of India.

4:20 *Dr. Pallan Ichaporla* (University of Mainz) – Importance of Zoroastrian Diaspora

5:00 – 5:30 *Open Discussion with Panelists*

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 9:00 am – 12 noon

9:00 - Noon: Roundtable dialogue with scholars and interested community members.

Wrap-up session to discuss actions and assign responsibilities.