



SSZ

**Society of Scholars of
ZOROASTRIANISM**

Zoroastrian Association of Michigan

Proudly hosts

2017

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference

supported by

Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)

at the

**Farmington Public Library Auditorium, 32737 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington
Hills, MI 48331**

on

Saturday October 14, 2017 from 1015 AM till 530 PM.

"The Legacy Of Zarathushtra and His Vision For The Modern World"

The *Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ)* is an initiative to promote study and scholarship of the Religion of Zarathushtra, 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 each year since 2006, when noted scholars and students present 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 next-generation. 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. The organizers enjoy complete autonomy in regard to programming and organizing the Conference.

All community members, students, scholars and members of interfaith communities 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 is FREE. Suggested donation is \$10 per attendee. Lunch, snacks and tea will be provided. Please RSVP by October 7, 2017 to anirani2@yahoo.com and visit www.s-s-z.org for more information.

PROGRAM

SATURDAY October 14, 2017

10:15 *Registration*

10:30 *Welcome – ZAOM Vice President **Dr Ardeshir N Irani**
Introduction to SSZ – **Rohinton Rivetna***

Morning Session

11:00 *Zarathushtra's birth & early life, his enlightenment & early teachings – **Prof Dr Jamsheed Choksy***

11:45 *The Gathas – **Prof Dr Jamsheed Choksy***

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism Recognition Award Presentation

Luncheon

12:30 *Lunch*

Afternoon Session

1:00 *Zarathustra's contributions as a philosopher, scientist, astronomer and ecologist - **Sarosh Irani***

1:45 *Prophet Zarathushtra's influence on world religion & philosophy– **Mobed Tehemton Mirza***

2:45 *Tea Break*

3:15 *How Zarathushtra's teachings are valuable in today's modern world – **Afriti Chinoy***

4:00 *Instilling Zarathushtrian Pride In Our Youth – **Dr Lovji Cama***

5:00 *Closing remarks*

BIO DATA & RESUMES

Professor Jamsheed K. Choksy (BA, Columbia University; PhD, Harvard University) is Distinguished Professor, Professor of Iranian Studies, and Chairman of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. He was nominated by the US President and confirmed by the US Senate as a member of the Council overseeing the US National Endowment for the Humanities. Choksy has held fellowships from the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), National Endowment for the Humanities (Washington, DC), Guggenheim Foundation, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford), American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Religion. Choksy is a consulting editor for the *Encyclopedia Iranica*. He is the author of *Triumph over Evil: Purity and Pollution in Zoroastrianism* (1989), *Conflict and Cooperation: Zoroastrian Subalterns and Muslim Elites in Medieval Iranian Society* (1997), and *Evil, Good, and Gender: Facets of the Feminine in Zoroastrian Religious History* (2002).

Tehemton F. Mirza Following rigorous religious training at the M.F. Cama Athornan Institute, Tehemton was ordained Navar and Maratab at Udvada Atashbehram. His professional career took

him from Mumbai to Iran to Indonesia and he finally settled in London, Ontario Canada where he and his wife Zenobia own and operate a CPA practice. As a Mobed, Tehemton volunteers religious and spiritual services to Zoroastrians in South Western Ontario and Michigan. In addition to being a recreational pilot and a marathoner, Tehemton has published articles on Zoroastrianism in North American publications and spoken on Zoroastrian topics at Zoroastrian associations throughout North America. Tehemton currently serves as Vice President of North American Mobeds Council.

Dr. Lovji D. Cama has a B.Sc and a B.Sc. (Technology) degree from the University of Bombay, India, and a Doctorate in Chemistry from Columbia University in New York. He worked as a research scientist at Merck and Co, and is now retired. Lovji is a founding member of ZAGNY, instrumental in defining the parameters of ZAGNY's constitution. He was its first Secretary and subsequently President and the longest serving trustee of the Dar-e-Mehr (26 years). His great passion is the youth of the community and has run the Religious Education Classes at ZAGNY since its inception in 1974 and Youth Camps for 15 years and worked on the Good Life Book. He is presently chair of the Religious Education Committee of FEZANA. He was instrumental in bringing about the cooperative spirit between IZA and ZAGNY by a reorganization of the constitution of the Dar-e- Mehr. He has lectured on subjects on Zoroastrianism in North America, UK and India and contributed to the text book "Good Life".

Afriti Chinoy is a senior at Troy High School in Troy, MI. Afriti has been involved in the Zoroastrian Youth Organization since she was an adolescent. Afriti has participated in Zoroastrian Youth Camp in Chicago, written for the Zoroastrian Youth Newspaper, and spoken at the Annual World Sabbath for Peace and Religious Reconciliation. Afriti is very involved in her local community- winning the Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award for two consecutive years. Afriti works as the Chair of the Troy Student Advisory Board which organizes local community events and increases participation of high school students in the surrounding area. During summer Afriti trains young athletes in golf at the Troy Golf Academy and works as a ski instructor with Troy Parks and Recreation in winter. At Troy High, Afriti has passionately dedicated her time in Model UN, Economics Club, Nationals Honors Society, and DECA-earning her leadership positions and competing at international competitions. On a jovial note, Afriti entertains the community at the Annual Troy High Indian American Student Association Dance Show where she dances to Bollywood and Bhangra music! Jai Ho!

Sarosh Irani is currently a sophomore at Wayne State University, Detroit, where he is pursuing a dual degree in Public Health and Public Affairs with a minor in Business. He works as a peer mentor in the WSU Biology Department, and also as a Neighborhood Ambassador for MoGo Detroit Bike Share. At last year's SSZ Conference, he presented about Pre-Achaemenian history and the Median Empire. In his free time, he enjoys advocating for public transportation, playing tennis, and volunteering his time at a local hospital.