

VISION

September 2006

Up-Coming Events

Dec 31st, 2006
Joint OZCF/ZSO New Years
Eve Dinner and Dance

Capitol Banquet Hall.

See flyer for further details

Message from our President

With this edition of the Newsletter, we begin a new year and with that I would like to introduce you to the new OZCF Board of Directors. Elected at the AGM July 23, 2006, were returning Board members, Jehangir Engineer, Farshogar Jasavala, Bahram Parsi, Xerxes Wania and myself, Niloufer Bhesania. New to the Board are Xerxes Bamji, Cyrus Gazdar, Niloufer Irani, Rayomand Irani, Rumi Jasavala, Kelly Jogina, Hanoz Kapadia and Lily Kotwal. We held our first meeting immediately after the AGM and elected the following officers: Niloufer Bhesania, President; Xerxes Wania, Vice-President; Jehangir Engineer, Treasurer; Cyrus Gazdar, Secretary.

As the OZCF enters its fifth year of existence, let's take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished and to look forward to where we are going. A year ago, we completed Phase 1 of our long-term plan when we purchased the land. The focus of this Board will be on Phase 2 of the long-term plan which involves building a community center and place of worship. We welcome your input for Phase 2 and I encourage you to contact any member of the Board to share your thoughts.

The past couple of months have been very busy ones with a function being held at the ZRCC just about every weekend. The variety of events held, from muktad prayers to outdoor camping for the children to the Lamb Roast picnic, the Mela and the Youth Variety Program, speaks to the value of having a property that can be used and adapted in many ways.

In closing, I look forward to partnering with each and every one of you as we continue to raise funds to realize our dream of a community center and place of worship on the ZRCC grounds.

Wishing everyone Navroze Mubarak,
Niloufer Bhesania,
President

Papeti-Navroze Prayers and Function

What a way to kick-start the New Year! On Sunday August 20, 2006, over 250 Zoroastrians gathered at the Zoroastrian Religious Cultural and Community Centre (ZRCC) to attend a Jashan performed by 10 devoted Mobeds (Rishad Unvala, N. Daruwala, Mehad Dastur, Gustad Panthaki, Nozer Kotwal, Boman Kotwal, Xerxes Bamji, Jal Panthaky, Jamshed Dhabhar and Kerman Katrak) and to partake in a delicious lunch. Amid a gentle breeze on a pleasant afternoon, our Mobeds performed prayers to ring in year 1376 of the Shenshai/Kadmi calendar.

It is always terrific to meet community members at events, but it is most heartening to see and encounter new Zoroastrians at these functions. This is a testament to the fact that OZCF continues to grow in numbers. We encourage the membership of all Zoroastrians, young and elderly, to come out to our lovely property at the ZRCC and experience OZCF events.

This event was made possible through the dedicated service of our volunteers. Many thanks go to Meher Panthaky, Thrity Bamji and Coomi Sorabji and a cast of committed assistants who helped ensure a successful function. A special THANK YOU GOES TO Armaity Anandasagar for taking care of nourishing everyone and Dara Wadia who was there everyday doing all the little things necessary for the prayers etc...

Newsletter Committee

Michelle Patel, Roshan
Byramjee, Charis Wania
Daniel Patel and Hanoz
Kapadia

For advertising contact:
Roshan at zbyramjee@
cogeco.ca.

As We Grow

New Partnership Programs

Notice of Caution While at ZRCC

To all members and guests, please be aware that our neighbours, who are all farmers, have installed an electric fence that contains their animals to their property, on their side of the perimeter fence of our property. This fence can give a strong jolt if made contact with. Therefore DO NOT go over the perimeter fence under any circumstances. Please ensure you inform your children as well. If you have inadvertently lost something beyond our fence, please inform a board member for retrieval purposes.

Two New Partnerships in Business

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IdealListing.ca allows you to easily and securely market your property for rent or for sale. The set of tools provided on the site will enable you to sell or rent your property yourself without paying any commission. If you are also looking for a property to rent or purchase, you can look through our site or subscribe to our home alert service. Ideal Listings will donate 5% of profits generated from OZCF members.



The Gardening Shop

GardeningShop.ca is the new online store for your gardening needs in Canada. We work with suppliers directly to bring you variety of products at a great price. Gardening Shop was created and operated by Yasna Inc. Yasna Inc. is a computer software company focused on bringing technology solutions to our customers and the public. Garden Shop will donate 5% of profits generated from OZCF members.



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Renew Your Membership

It's that time of the year again! It's time to renew your membership for 2006.

You can pay for your membership online at <http://www.ozcf.com/Membership.htm> or send your cheques to Nozer Kotwal at 4244 Taffey Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5L 2J2.

New Members

Do you know of a family who may have just moved to Toronto or someone who would like to become a member? Ask for a membership form and help the OZCF grow.

Feel free to copy it and give it to any of your friends or family who may wish to become members of OZCF.

Navroze/Khordad Saal Function

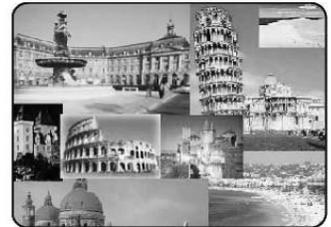
To commemorate the birth of our prophet Zarathustra and Navroze, the OZCF hosted celebrations at the Maple Banquet Hall on Friday, August 25th, 2006.

The incomparable team of Gulrukh Patel, Coomi Sorabji, Perin Screwvala, Meher Panthaky and Thrity Bamji along with their band of dedicated volunteers organized a wonderful evening of fun, food and dance. With nearly 200 people in attendance, the evening was a huge success and the crowd was dancing all night to the music of D.J. Rudra Ramlogan. The raffle raised over \$1000 and there was even a dance competition.

Our M.C. for the evening was the new Board secretary, Cyrus Gazdar and of course the evening was chronicled in photo by our one and only "Sam Uncle".



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Zoroastrian Mental Gymnastics

This column is meant to provide a family activity with something for each member, regardless of age. Please send responses to ozcf-zmg@hotmail.com by September 31st and provide the family name, address & phone number. Only one entry will be accepted per household. Please list Question number, followed by the Answer. Only email entries to the given address will be accepted.

The names of the first 3 correct respondents will be published in the next newsletter along with the correct answers and the acknowledgment for the sources of the information.

Here are the answers to last issue's Mental Gymnastics

The Only person to respond correctly to all of last month's questions was Manichay Tampal. Congratulations!

1. List the first 5 days of the Zoroastrian Calendar in Avestan and provide their English meanings

Answer:

1. Dadvah Ahura Mazda (Creator Ahura Mazda),
2. Vohu Manah (Good Purpose)
3. Asha Vahishta (Best Truth)
4. Khashatra Vairya (Desirable Domain)
5. Spenta Armaiti (Holy Devotion)

"Textual Sources For the Study of Zoroastrianism" Mary Boyce Page 19
Avestan followed by English meaning in brackets.

2. List the Names of the 5 Gatha days.

Answer: Ahunavad, Ushtavad, Septomad, Vohukshatra, Vahishtoist
"Textual Sources For the Study of Zoroastrianism" Mary Boyce Page 20

3. Out of the 101 names of Ahuramazda, name # 50 to # 60. Also give the English meaning (translation).

Answer:

50. A ekh-tan (Without body)
51. A-farmosh (Unforgetful one)
52. Hamarna (Settler of accounts)
53. Sanaea (One who knows everything)
54. A-tars (Fearless)
55. A-bish (Without pain)
56. Afrazdum (Most praiseworthy)
57. Ham-chun (Always the same)
58. Mino-stih-gar (Creator of heavenly peace)
59. Amino-gar (Creator of all that is spiritual)
60. Mino nahab (Hidden Spirit)

"Ahura Mazda Unto Thee I Pray" compiled by: Shernaz D. Talati

4. According to the Zoroastrian Religion, what type of wealth gives joy.

Answer: Wealth which has been earned honestly with the sweat of our brow, and is spent only on the right path "A Guide to the Zoroastrian Religion" Firoze M. Kotwal and James W. Boyd Studies in World Religions 3 page 117.

5. Zoroastrians believe that Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds are a key element of the foundation of the religion. What is the religious teaching regarding speaking Good Words?

Answer: To keep sweetness in the mouth and then speak good words is like doing the Yasna ceremony in honor of amahraspand Vohuman Cf. The Denkard.

"A Guide to the Zoroastrian Religion" Firoze M. Kotwal and James W. Boyd Studies in World Religions 3 page 109.

Now try these new questions:

1. List the Avestan names of Ahura Mazda's beneficent Immortals. Also List the English meaning for each.
2. What is going to last forever?
3. Name the two ceremonies a candidate for priesthood has to go through. Level 1, and Level 2

Good luck!!

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Membership Fees

The membership fee is for the term of one year from January 1 to December 31st.

New members joining after November 1st can start paying for the following year.

Newcomers to Ontario may be exempt from the membership on the year of arrival.

Senior	\$15	per person - age 65 and over
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Single	\$30	per individual adult person
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Rates for Ceremonial Observances

For the awareness of the community the North American Mobed Council (NAMC), Toronto Chapter, recommends a rate of \$100 for each religious ceremony per mobed.

Our Prayers go out to...

On Thursday, August 31st, 2006 hambandagis were held simultaneously at the Darbe Meher and ZRCC for young Zubin Sarkari. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sarkari family as we send out this issue of the newsletter. We hope that Zubin, son of Katy and Eruch Sarkari will soon be back on his feet and fully recovered. May Ahura Mazda give the family strength to see them through these difficult times and may his light shine on the family.

We would like to extend our wishes to Niloufer (Kapadia) Woodcroft from Waterloo, Ontario, and her family as they endure a difficult time. Your strength is inspiring and our prayers are with you all.

We wish Keki Bulsara of Ottawa a speedy recovery. May he find the strength to see him through the difficult times ahead and may Ahura Mazda shine His light on Keki and his family.

Obituary

"On September 11, 2006 at Etobicoke General Hospital, Bahadur Burjorji Patell, husband of Soonie, father of Syavux (Freny), Maharukh & Lilly, grand father of Freddy and Cyrus Patell, Crystal and Jonathan Creamer, brother of Zarin Zaheeruddin (Pakistan), Uncle of Nargis & Darius Patell, Dinaz and Minoo Giara, Shehlah Zaheeruddin (Pakistan), Anoo Aga, brother-in-law of Khorshed Patell and Homi Patell (Pakistan)."

Navjote

Nasha Sethna, daughter of Cyra and Shahveer Sethna, granddaughter of Katy and Rustom Sethna and Yasmin and Fram Sethna in Richmond Hill Ontario on August 6, 2006.

Monthly Mus-tee-ma-jha Sundays

As of Sunday, April 30, 2006, on the last Sunday of each month, everyone was invited to come to the ZRCC and spend the afternoon, playing card games, carom, join in on other activities, or just relax, chatting or networking with friends. It has been a lot of fun and great success. So bring your own "Pot Luck" lunch and we will eat together. The next meeting date is September 24, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.. Please call Gulrukh Patel (905 542-0237) or Kamal Driver (416 490-1374) if you plan to attend.



The World Zoroastrian Organisation

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The raging floods have swept away houses in the semi-urban areas, wreaked havoc on the buildings in the city, destroyed warehouses containing food grains & other essential commodities. There is a severe shortage of even drinking water and milk.

The flood waters began to recede from 10th August 2006, but have left in their wake, acute despair and distress. The first signs of water borne diseases have also begun to manifest, which will accentuate the suffering even further.

As soon as the flood water began to recede, WZO, through its volunteers, based at Navsari were amongst the first to reach the affected areas on 11th August 2006. The task of providing relief to some of the Parsis affected by the calamity has already commenced.

WZO has established contact with the local leaders at Surat. The first consignment of essential items, such as drinking water, milk powder, pulses, grains, oil and other commodities such as potatoes, onions, tomatoes etc has already been distributed. The second consignment has been organized and will be dispatched as soon as we hear from the team in Surat.

Some areas are still under 2 1/2 to 3 feet under water and are not accessible. It has been estimated that many more such consignments will be required to provide succour and relief to the members of our community.

At present we are focusing only on providing relief to community members affected by nature's fury. It is only after the situation returns to some form of normalcy, will it be possible for us to assess the actual extent of damage to property and the rehabilitation that will be required to be undertaken to get our affected brethren back on their feet.

Massive funding will be necessary to meet these humanitarian objectives. The WZO appeals to individuals and institutions to lend a helping hand by making funds available generously for the relief and rehabilitation of the poor Zoroastrian affected by nature's fury.

Please send your donation, however large or small, to WZO as shown below. Please remember that WZO has local charitable status in the USA, India, New Zealand and the UK and therefore your donation will be tax deductible.

Let me take this opportunity of thanking you in advance for your generosity and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,
Sammy H Bhiwandiwalla, Chairman

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Articles and news are welcome from everyone and will be put in the newsletter at the discretion of the committee. Please send your articles to Michelle Patel at: ron.michelle@cogeco.ca

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **October 30, 2006**. Information received after that date will be considered for the following newsletter.

Annual General Meeting and the Extra Ordinary Annual General Meeting

On July 23, 2006, the new board of directors was voted in. What made the AGM special was the fact that it was held at the ZRCC. The meeting started with a short prayer by Nozer Kotwal, followed by an Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EOGM), which then led into the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The EOGM was called in accordance with By-Law 5.2.2 to allow the membership of the OZCF to consider and vote on the following change to By-Law 6.3 of the OZCF.

The current by-law stated that "all retiring Directors shall be eligible for re-election – limited to 3 terms in lifetime unless there are no other nominations. No Executive officer shall hold same office for more than 1 term at a time, unless there are no other nominations". This was voted upon and changed to "all retiring Directors shall be eligible for re-election – limited to 3 consecutive terms, (with no lifetime limitation) unless there are no other nominations. No Executive officer shall hold same office for more than 1 term at a time, unless there are no other nominations".

Phil Sidhwa opened the discussion to the floor and encouraged the membership to air their views regarding this by-law before voting. Many members voiced their opinions, for and against, and then voted via the ballot process, resulting in the by-law being changed.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) then proceeded once all matters at the EOGM were resolved. Phil Sidhwa outlined many outstanding moments of the past year in the "President's Report", including the purchase of the land, monies raised thus far, and our inaugural Jashan where we welcomed over 600 attendees. All these were received with great pride and loud and joyous applause.

Several topics were discussed by all and voted upon, one being the increase in membership fees. The Membership Committee proposed a change to the membership fees as a response to many members voicing their comments at the 2005 AGM.

Several members took the opportunity to express their feelings and gratitude to the exiting board members with some very touching words. Marzi Byramjee spoke about Phil Sidhwa and how he spent endless hours in getting the town of Oakville to accept our preliminary plan for the future of the ZRCC. Khurshid Engineer spoke about the rest of the board including the hard work, contribution and great dedication of Marzi Byramjee, Nozer Kotwal, Phil Sidhwa and Gulrukh Patel. Putli Mirza stood up and was pleasantly surprised to see "such young" people come forward and show such enthusiasm to run for a position on the board of directors and Kersi Cooper expressed some heartfelt words for the board which echoed those of the community.

The new Board Of Directors for 2006-2008: Niloufer Bhesania (President), Xerxes Wania (Vice President), Cyrus Gazdar (Secretary), Jehangir Engineer (Treasurer), Xerxes Bamji, Niloofer Irani, Rayomand Irani, Farshogar Jasavala, Rumi Jasavala, Kelly Jogina, Hanoz Kapadia, Lily Kotwal, and Bahram Parsi.

"Welcome!" to the new OZCF Board members and "Welcome Back!" to the returning members.

Next Best Thing to Pilgrimage To Iranshah Atashbehram in Udvada

Distance from Udvada precludes you from pilgrimage to Iranshah? Now you can do the next best thing. Help support those who make this pilgrimage possible.

"Dastoor Baug", a dharamshalla located just across the Holy Iranshah Atashbehram and a sanctuary for same day pilgrims to Iranshah is in dire need of repairs. A historical structure (built in late 1800s) was once used as a Madressa to train Mobeds in Udvada and then converted to a dharamshalla to accommodate devotees of Iranshah. Third generation of founding members of the trust are seeking your support to restore the structure to its original glory.

For more information please contact Tehemton Mirza at (519) 660-1135 or send your donations to "The Dastoor Yadgiri Trust", c/o Ervad Jamshed D Dastoor, 644 Dinabad, Dadar Parsi Colony, Mumbai 400 014, India.

Lamb Roast 2006

One of the most popular events on the OZCF calendar is the annual Lamb-Roast Picnic. This year we were able to host it on the OZCF land! In previous years you would hear people saying "It will be so nice to have this picnic on our own property one day!" Well, who thought that day would come so soon? In less time than anticipated not only do we have a piece of property of our own but we are able to host a huge event such as the picnic and have so many newcomers join us to enjoy it with us.

As everyone has come to expect, the food was fabulous and the fun did not end until the last person left. Gulrukh Patel, Coomi Sorabji, Perin Screwvala and their team of super volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone had a great time. The weather cooperated and it was a perfect day.

Joke of the Month

Three Parsi men were discussing at a bar about coincidences. Cyrus said, "my wife was reading A Tale of Two Cities and she gave birth to twins."

"That's funny", Xerxes remarked, "my wife was reading The Three Musketeers and she gave birth to triplets."

Then Zubin shouted, "Good God, I have to rush home!" When Cyrus and Xerxes asked what the problem was.....

Zubin exclaimed, "When I left my house, my wife was reading Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves!"

CAMP Z-ROCK By Sonya Anklesaria

Recently, our great Girl Guide Leader, Armaity Aunty (Anandasagar), with the help of three great leaders: Teenaz Javat, Yasmin Menon and Nergish Khandke organized a four day camp from August 24-27. After giving some thought and wondering what to name the camp, the junior leaders hit upon this idea and called it "Camp Z-Rock". This camp was for Zoroastrian youth between the ages of 6 and 12. Sure, planning and organization took a lot of hard work and concentration (and even some doubts) as in planning any other event. But all the hard work paid off in the end. Everyone had a blast and young and old alike has a great time. It all pulled together beautifully and was totally worth the time spent, thanks to the joint efforts of all concerned.

There was a head count of about twenty children - each child more adorable and fun to hang around with than the other. Headcount was taken every so often throughout the weekend, to make sure, we were not missing anyone!! What was fascinating was how, in just a few days, each child and volunteer bonded so well and developed an amazing rapport and became close one another, more like siblings than friends. Surprisingly, there were no fights, no tantrums, no missing home and no teasing anyone!!

The first day of camp, tarps were put up, tents were pitched, name tags were distributed and the kids were put in groups (Red, White and Maroon). As the children arrived at various times, and were settling in, Armaity Aunty demonstrated to them the "art of Tie Dying", the first activity of Camp Z-Rock. She had bought white cotton shirts and we were going tie/dye them by putting rubber bands around and all over them. Thereafter, everyone assembled and rules of the camp were detailed for the four days, and the kids were given a site orientation tour. Then they were shown to their "posh accommodations" (tents) and were introduced to their little "tent buddies", followed by a craft making session and snacks. Later in the night, a Bollywood movie was set up for the kids to enjoy - "Koi Mil Gaya" (on the lines of the famous Hollywood movie, ET), a movie which most of the kids had seen before, yet being a favourite, was enjoyed by all. Of course, the regular trimmings of party mix and juice/milk had to be given, to make the 'movie experience' complete. Halfway through the movie, it was time to call it a day. Prayers were said, roll calls were done the children were tucked in for the day (who took a long, long LONG time to get tucked in!!!!). But just as our heads were about to hit the pillow, they all came untucked and we were afraid the neighbour's cows would be disturbed.

The next morning, being Khordad Saal, the camp awoke bright and early. It had rained in the night and tarps were drooping over our tents. But that did not curb the enthusiasm of the kids. After breakfast, we got ready for the the Khordad Saal prayers being held at the ZRCC. During the prayers, Nousheen Bastani (one of the Junior leaders) and I noticed some of the kids (mainly boys) dozing off - this was however not surprising at all due the fact that they were creating a ruckus the night prior - switching tents, play fighting and annoying each other and refusing to settle down. After the prayers and dhan dar, the whole camp put on their sharp new tie-dyed shirts (something new to wear on Khordad Saal) (thanks to Taila Anandasagar and her friend Amanda, for dying and unbanding them, and Uncle Raj (Menon) for making trips to dry them in several batches) and off we went, bathing suits and all, for fun swim to the Erin Centre Community pool. What a blast everybody had - the highlight of the swim being able to swing from the Tarzan rope on to the water and playing with water toys provided. That same evening, after dinner, the Junior Leaders put on some music and let the kids hang loose - dance around, talk with their friends or plain chill. About an hour later, another volunteer, Dara (uncle) Wadia, set up a campfire, around which Fairy Rings were made and digested quickly and songs were sung. "Campfire was definitely my favorite part of camp," was the most popular quote of Camp Z-Rock! Once the fire had died out, the kids were given milk, the incomplete Bollywood movie was finished and there ended yet another awesome day.

Saturday morning, after breakfast, Mahiyar (Panthaky) came and organized some outdoor games for a morning of active living!!! Towards the afternoon, Arnavaz (aunty) Dhabar, to the utmost joy of all, volunteered to come in and apply mehendi designs for the girls and tattoos for the boys. She was ably assisted by another Junior Leader, Ferzin Kapadia. While the girls were doing that and enjoying spa treatment of nails and toes, another Junior Leader, Tushar Anandsagar held soccer games and relay races for the kids, and Nousheen and Nurelle Mehta (Junior Leaders) assisted the kids to make friendship bracelets. After some rest and snack, the kids went off on a treasure hunt organized by Jennifer Kapadia, a Junior Leader and myself. Everybody had a swell time, with the Red team (my team) winning the grand prize...a piñata filled with candy! Oooh - what a treat that was for all!!! That night, after dinner, the campfire was lit, with the kids making s'mores and singing more songs. Each group also put on a little show for all, displaying talents (songs, jokes, burping the ABC's and touching the tip of their nose with their tongue), performing a little skit, rants and cheers. During the day, Armaity Aunty had taught the kids how to dance the "Dandiya", a special dance with sticks. Boys and girls ranging from 5 to 12 took part and put on a display of the dance during the campfire. That night, the camp fell silent at midnight, all the kids were exhausted. However, the leaders were up until 4:00 a.m., doing last minute preparations for the final day of camp, making certificates and awards, gluing pictures to frames the campers had made and gluing more pictures in each camper's memory book that the campers had been detailing in each day.

The last day of camp, Sunday, was hectic, what with packing and cleaning up and striking tents. But I have to say that the kids were extremely cooperative and assisted the leaders and the junior leaders as much as possible. At around noon, parents started pouring in to the grounds with large smiles. They partook in a pizza lunch and watched their kids display the group talents - songs and dances which had been performed at campfire, the night before - which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The much anticipated award ceremony at the end of the weekend brought out smiles and laughs from the kids and parents alike. Each child was recognized in some way and given an award to remember their camp days by. This was followed by Nergish aunty cutting a cake for her birthday, and then finally - as all good things have to come to an end - Good-byes = (. Many a tear was shed and lots of hugs exchanged!

To conclude, I would like to say that Camp Z-Rock was a ROARING success. This was an amazing experience and I would be honoured to volunteer my time, time and again. I would also like to extend a BIG thank you to Armaity Aunty, Teenaz Aunty, Yasmin Aunty and Nergish Aunty for organizing a terrific camp. Compliments go to the chef, Nergish Aunty, (who got the QM Xtraordinaire Award) for preparing excellent meals and snacks every single day. And also a big thanks to Dara Uncle for putting up with the children and never letting any task daunt him. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped during the camp. Thanks also go out to Farokh and Rustom Patel, Khushroo Bharda, Raj Menon, Gautam Khandke and Mahaveer Javat for helping out in setting up and running of the camp. Thanks also to Niloufer Bhesania, Xerxes Bamji, Xerxes Wania and Bahram Parsi for sponsoring some of the activities and equipment for the camp. It was greatly appreciated. I do hope that we can do this again next year, and have double the fun!

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References available from your community members

Camp Memories...

From the setting up, to the closing, Camp Z-rock was a blast! As a junior volunteer, I would have to say that this camp was a great mix of teamwork and individuality. There were 3 patrols: red, maroon, and white. And there were about 6 or 7 campers in each, with 1 leader, 1 assistant leader, and 1-2 junior leaders. The campers made many different crafts and went on a trip to the community centre swimming pool where they had A LOTTTT of fun!! The campers were very adventurous, for example: even ones who could not swim, wore life-jackets and dove into the deep-end many times with NO fear!! At the end of the camp, many campers came up to me and told me that they wish the camp wasn't over so soon and wished that it could go on, and on, and on. Camp-Z was a real life camping experience for all with sleeping outdoors in tents, washing their own plates and utensils, and a having campfire. At the beginning, many campers were quiet and a bit shy but after the first night the campers opened up and made many new friends. After helping in leading a camp, I would like to say that it was an experience I'll never forget and an opportunity I wish to have again. Camp-Z was extremely fun and I suggest that if there is another camp like this offered again, sign up for it....I know I will!!

This camp took a lot of organization and time to prepare and I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone involved in planning and leading. Thank you!!!

Jennifer Kapadia
junior leader of the maroon patrol
Pictures by Sonya Anklesaria





Youth Variety Program-What a Huge Success!

On July 30, 2006, many of the young members of our community put on the "Talent Palooza", Youth Variety Program at the Meadowvale Community Theatre in Mississauga. It was the first event of its kind, wholly organized by the Youth of the Zoroastrian community (with a little assistance from a few adults). With singers of various age groups, and tap dancers, piano and band performances, it was a wonderful display of young talent.

The event Co-chairs were Natasha Kharwanwala and Sharon Byramjee. Their committee consisted of Shireen Kharwanwala, Nina Byramjee, Cyrus Cooper, Zubin Jasavala, Zubin Jussawalla, Farzeen Jasavala, Armeen Jasavala, Farokh Patel, and Sarosh Bhungara. The adult mentors were Hushtasp Bhungara (who had the original idea to put the show together), Niloufer Bhesania, Roshan Byramjee, Hosi Patel and Charis Wania. Back stage help was provided by Zavar and Dinshaw Byramjee, Roxanne Kharwanwala, and the committee members. Thanks to Jasmine Jasavala and Xerxes Wania we will have a DVD of the program and thanks to Porus Dinshaw we will have lovely pictures of the event.



There were nearly 50 performers ranging in age from 6 to 25. The dancers were Gauri Khandke, Benaisha Major, Sherezade Javat, Sanaya & Humin Dhabhar, Sima Mehrabanypoor, Friya Bastani, Mahshad Khosraviani, Nadia & Auriana Irani, Jennifer Kapadia, Zenia Aga, Sonya Anklesaria, Parizad Patel, Alina & Zahra Patel, and Lila Sidhwa. The singers were Tashan and Cyrus Hira and Cyra Asli. The Karate Kids were Darius Dalal, and Zain & Cyrus Wania. The musicians were Cyrus Byramjee, Natalie Bhesania, Cyrus & Zenia Aga, Farokh Patel, Rayomand Dinshaw, Zubin Jasavala, Zubin Jussawalla (who was also musical director), Hafshin Irani, and Gray Stone (Zubin Jussawalla's band) which included Andre Clark, Kris Giles and Steve Sinclair. The flag bearers were Rustom Patel and Mahyar Khosraviani. The Children's Choir included Yazad Bhathena, Jeraz Cooper, Sanaya Dhabar, Hafshin Irani, Sherezade Javat, Benaisha Major, Jamsheed Mistry, Zehan Mistry, Kerman Panthaki, Armaan Panthanki, Tanya Patrawala, and Afreen Sharifabadi. The invocation was performed by Rishaad Unvala and the inimitable Master Of Ceremonies was the wonderfully witty Cyrus Cooper. Zubin Jussawalla served as Musical Director.



The show was followed by a fun barbeque at the ZRCC catered by The Barbeque Gourmet. The ticket price included admission and a full BBQ meal, which was a great way to end a perfect day.



From the Youth Variety Program

"There were lights... cameras... and tons of action! On July 30th the youth of the Zoroastrian community presented a youth variety show, showcasing the talents of our young Zoroastrian community ages 5- 25. 175 proud parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts uncles and friends helped to fill the Meadowvale Theatre and witness the performances of our future Kelly Clarkson's, Bruce Lee's, and Ashwaria Rai.

We were entertained for the afternoon by musical bands (some of which were newly formed especially for the talent show), tap dancing, singing solos, Indian dancing, karate demonstrations, lip syncing and our, oh so very funny MC, Cyrus Cooper. After the show the audience shuffled their way to the OZCF property where they enjoyed a free catered BBQ dinner and tried to get over how good the talent show was.

After 6 months of planning the YVP committee was pleased to hear nothing but rave reviews and compliments from everyone. Not only did we receive good reviews, to our surprise we even made money that we are able to donate to the recreational fund at the OZCF property. The amount raised is still being calculated however thanks to the support of the audience, and some donors we were able contribute a significant amount to the ongoing fundraising efforts for the OZCF.

Trust me, if you missed this show, you should be very disappointed. However, you can still witness the amazingly talented youth of our community by purchasing a DVD of Talent Palooza. For a mere \$10 you will be able to relive the very memorable acts performed by our future stars. This great deal will only be available until October 25th after which the price will increase to \$15 as each CD will be made to order.

To preorder a DVD please go to the OZCF website to get more information and to preorder your DVD. This show could not have been the success it was without the efforts of the youth committee and our mentors. This committee comprised of young individuals who took time to go to the meetings while working around their busy school, work and social lives. (Hey we are kids, right!) So a big thank you and congratulations for a job well done, goes to Nina Byramjee, Cyrus Cooper, Sarosh Bhungara, Shireen Kharwanwala, Farzeen Jasavala, Armeen Jasavala Zubin Jasavala, Zubin Jussawalla, Farokh Patel. A special thank you also goes to my co-chair Sharon Byramjee, I couldn't have done it without you, you're my right hand woman... but we're both lefties' anyways...

Everyone is already looking forward to the next show, the audience is anticipating the next round of talented youth to be showcased... the kids are already preparing the acts that they will be performing and we, the committee, look forward to your continued support. If anyone would like to participate in the next show please contact myself, Natasha, at balletdance@yahoo.com, or Sharon Byramjee at sharon_natasha@yahoo.com, as we are looking into tentatively having another show in February."

Thank you
Natasha Kharwanwala



"You talk, I Listen!!"
Themton Irani, A.B.R.
Associate Broker

RE/MAX Realty

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OZCF Seniors Group

On Monday, the 4th of September 2006, the following persons held the first meeting of the Committee Members of the OZCF Seniors Group under the chairmanship of:

Mr. Dinyar Dinshaw (Chairman), Mrs. Dhun Gazdar, Mrs. Dinoo Sidhwa, Mr. Bejan Sidhwa, Mr. Cawas Patel, Mrs. Perin Screwvalla, and Mr. Jehangir Screwvalla.

About 30 seniors met at the ZRCC premises and the Chairman took the group interested on an inspection of our property. Thereafter, lunch brought in by seniors was laid out on tables in the garage hall and enjoyed by all present. One group of seniors played cards and another displayed their talent on the carom board. A voluntary donation of \$101 was collected by the Seniors Group for the benefit of the OZCF.

After partaking of tea, the seniors left having enjoyed a fun-filled day. In due course, the Chairman will advise the seniors about other activities such as excursions, yoga classes and games of interest to seniors.



"[Note: The following are my personal feelings and views on this topic and in no way reflect the views of the other committee members, although, I have been encouraged to voice my concerns and disappointment over the past talent show. Being labeled as a 'youth' of the community, I have kept my thoughts to myself, but I know that there are other youth that share them.]

"I am sure you are all aware that we cannot do anything in this world without support. As a mature youth, I am finding that while my need for support networks are increasing, my own personal ability to be able to provide and show support is growing. When asked to help organize the youth variety program (YVP), I jumped at the chance. Not only would I be able to work with my friends to organize this event, and work with kids but in the true spirit of being a Parsee, I would be able to do something charitable and help raise some money for the OZCF. When the idea of the OZCF property started, it was, from my understanding, to create a place that would not only house a place of worship for the Zoroastrian community, but it would be a place that the youth of the Zoroastrian community could come together, hang out, and eventually(in the back of your minds) expand our dwindling community.

Why wouldn't I want to support this idea! However, when the YVP committee and I began discussing the talent show, we came to realize that this use of the property was, in fact, not for us, but for the even younger youth. Since the majority of us are in our early to mid 20's, by the time the property is up and fully running, most of us (and I hate to say this), will be married and maybe even starting families of our own. Our primary goal was that the talented youth who chose to participate in this event would not only be able to perform and display their talents, but more importantly, meet other Zoroastrians, make new friendships and lasting memories, while fostering a sense of community involvement. So that when the community center is eventually built there will be a group who will have bonded, become friends and want to utilize and fulfill what our adult community is trying to achieve. The fundraising part of it was our secondary goal, but still played a major role; as at the end of the day the amount of money raised is essentially a marker of how much we support our community. (for some people).

As young adults we are asked to show support in what you, the adults, are trying to achieve, and we try to, to the best of our abilities. You also ask the youth to get more involved, we did, and after some hard work, we put together a fundraiser for something that we believed in. We then asked for your support, and we found that there was a VERY small response. I know speaking for myself, I found this very discouraging. I really noticed a different side of our community. I guess now that I have broken away from the shelter of being classified as a 'kid', I am exposed to reality. I was blinded by the facade of the galas, picnics and other fundraising events. I was blinded by the large sums of money being graciously and generously donated with a simple raise of a paddle or the signing of a cheque. We all thought, if our community can show so much support during fundraisers organized by the adults of the community, imagine the support we could receive when we arrange an event that is performed and run solely by the youth of the community, the future fundraisers, if you will. But as the day of the show grew closer and our ticket sales were still less than half of what we expected, our confidence began to dwindle. Thoughts of failure began running through our heads. What if we were not able to break even? How would we pay for the theatre? Do they really want to see our first fundraising attempt fail? WHERE WAS OUR SUPPORT WHEN WE NEEDED IT?

With the price of 30 dollars per ticket, our idea was that we would be covering the theatre, the food, and other costs that we would incur while having a small amount left over for the OZCF. We realized that it could be a problem for some families, especially with ALL of the fundraising events that have been going on during the summer months, it adds up. We understand. But we really thought that in providing the show and food afterwards, that we were giving value for money. (Go check out how much it costs to rent a theatre for a day!) Every year there are more and more fundraising events, and every year they are getting more and more expensive. When we were approached, however, to organize this event, we were lead to believe that we would get support from our community because we were the youth. And how could you not support your youth? Right?

Lately I feel that everything has become completely money driven and while it does make the world go round, everything comes with a price. At this point in time, fundraising is centre stage for the OZCF; however, as mentioned before it was our secondary goal. Our primary goal was our participants, getting them together in a fun situation, making new friends, while making them feel that they are doing something worthwhile towards their community. These kids worked so hard perfecting their skills and talents, coming up with a performance that they knew would amaze the audience. It can be pretty intimidating for a 6 year old to perform a solo on a large stage in front of an audience, and if they were going to put in the effort for us, we wanted to provide them a full auditorium that would appreciate their time, effort and talent. We had less than half of the auditorium full, and that was with some of the performers sitting in the audience while they were not performing. These are young kids, they are so proud of their talents (which they have every right to be), and when they want to show them off, we should be encouraging them not discouraging them! To prove my point further, I heard that some of the parents of the performers did not even come, as they felt they were not getting their money's worth. Throughout all the years that I performed various ballet and dance routines, I cannot imagine going on stage at a theatre and performing to an empty auditorium, the thought of not having my parents there to watch and encourage me never even entered my mind.

Regardless of the lack of support from our community, with the support of our immediate families, friends and mentors, we pushed through and we delivered a fantastic show. Despite the low ticket sales, due to the generosity of a few donors, we were able to contribute something to the OZCF. Many people have already commented that they cannot wait for the next show. Trust me there will be another. However, we have learned from this situation. We have learned not to procrastinate, that \$30 for a ticket is a lot of money, that the summer is not a good time for a fundraising event, that next time we should be able to do this without the help of adults, that there are politics in absolutely everything we do, but most of all we realized that if we are not going to get the support from our community then we will have to support a different organization. This way our primary goal of getting the youth together to create the friendships and memories will still be achieved and it will not be a west side story. The children from the east end will not be as reluctant to participate, as this year some did not participate due to the politics. This way we can also look outside of our community for support and donations and not have to depend on the same people to donate each time. We decided that since the talent show is performed and run solely by the 'kids', we should donate to a foundation that supports other kids. Kids helping kids. I cannot think of a better way to ingrain the importance of doing charitable work into the minds of our future.

There is a saying: "If you build it, they will come" but without support, you CAN build it... but will they be WILLING to come?"

Natasha Kharwanwala

Dear OZCF members,

We are now approaching the next phase in growing the OZCF and in order to do so we have added several new sub-committees. The summarized mandate for each sub-committee is listed in the table and we would like the community to participate in these sub-committees and working groups. If you have a skill, knowledge or experience in any of the above sub-committees then please contact the BOD liaison listed above. We would like to finalize these committees by Sept 30th, 2006. We look forward to your positive response.

Ushta te,
Xerxes Wania

Name	Mandate	BOD Liaison
Religious and Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain the calendar of religious events • To supervise usage & order of prayer room • To enhance the awareness of our prayers and religion • To bring Spirituality into our community 	Xerxes Bamji
Entertainment & Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update calendar of events & obtain approval of Board of Directors for budget & plan • To organize & manage events / functions • To manage & report budget & actual exp. & revenues • To provide treasurer with accounts & funds. 	Niloufer Bhesania
Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term plan (1-2 years) • Long term plan (5 years) 	Farshogar Jasavala
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting and audits • Business plan • Quarterly reporting of Budgets and Actuals • Collection of funds • Interfacing with all other committees regarding financial matters • Issuing tax receipts 	Jehangir Engineer
New Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate new immigrants to Canada that may include help with housing, finding jobs, introduction to the community • Accommodate new immigrants with short-term assistance 	Lily Kotwal
Fund Raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface with the Gala and entertainment committee • Plan to get funds from outside the community, large donors and government programs • Online fund generation • Business related fund generation 	Xerxes Wania
Housing/ZRCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Management • Grounds maintenance, including field, gardening and trees • To supervise usage & order of facilities • Enhance the usage of the ZRCC 	Farshogar Jasavala
Communications & Media (C&M)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with the Newsletter working group • Advertising for all events • Responsible for Audio/visual for each event • Flyer generation and posting for inside and outside of the community 	Hanoz Kapadia
Information Technology (IT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website Administration • Auto-dialler access • Email and online communication 	Rumi Jasavala
Sports & Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To start a sports program for youth and elders • Encourage participation in team sports and individual sports 	Rumi Jasavala
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and inform members regarding membership dues • Keep all membership information current • Increase membership by 30% 	Niloofer Irani
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the interest of the Seniors • Organize Seniors events & programs 	Xerxes Bamji
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring • Encourage to participate in organized events • Youth presence in the community • Focus on the interest of the Youth 	Hanoz Kapadia
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw review & changes • Keep members and Board of Directors abreast of laws and regulation governing not-for-profit organizations • Insurance and other legal matters 	Bahram Parsi

Directory update

If you would like to have your name included in the ZSO directory please fill out the form below and send it to Pervaze Rabadi at the address indicated.

Please write clearly

For 2006 ZSO Directory

Last Name		First Name		Middle	Profession
Spouse's Last Name if different		First Name		Profession	
Apt or Unit Number		Street Number & Name			
City		Province / State		Postal Code/Zip Code	
Res Tel # - -		Bus Tel # - -		Spouse Bus Tel # - -	
FAX # - -		Cell # - -		e-mail	

CHILDREN UNDER 18 (at the same address - to be listed with family)

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____

CHILDREN OVER 18 (at the same address - to be listed separately)

First Name	Cell #	e-mail
First Name	Cell #	e-mail
First Name	Cell #	e-mail

For other family members living at the same address, such as married children, parents, grand parents, brothers, sisters and cousins, please fill out a new form for each as required.

Mail to: Pervaze Rabadi, 48 Monte Vista Trail, Brampton ON L6Z 2G5
Tel: (905) 846 6177 e-mail: prabadi@aol.com

OZCF Annual Black Tie Gala-NEW DATE!!!!

The 5th Annual OZCF Black Tie Gala, which was to be held at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton on November 11, 2006, is being rescheduled to February of 2007. The Gala is OZCF's biggest fund raising event and your new Board of Directors and new Gala Committee want to make sure they have the time to make this year's Gala as successful as in previous years. The theme for this Gala is "La Bella Noche" or "A Beautiful Evening". And that's what it promises to be with strolling entertainers, magicians and much, much more. Stay tuned for further details!

Your continued support is essential to making the Gala a success. If you would like to sponsor all or part of the evening please contact Yesna Bhesania (byesna@hotmail.com). Families and friends can get together and buy a "Best Wishes" page in the program book to wish the OZCF well. To buy a "Best Wishes" page or to advertise in the program book, please contact Charis Wania (2cxw@rogers.com), Benaaz Irani (Benaaz.Irani@thepersonal.com), or Roshan Byramjee (zbyramjee@cogeco.ca).

Last year's Gala was sold out so reserve your seats in advance by contacting Niloufer Bhesania either by email (nilieb@hotmail.com) or phone 416-662-4939.