

VISION

September 2007

Message from our President

Happy Navroze and Khordad Sal to each and every one of you and your families!

I am pleased to report that at the EOGM held on August 25th, our members voted overwhelmingly in favor of spending up to \$300,000 to renovate the non-house (garage) building at the ZRCC. They went on to demonstrate their conviction in their decision (put their money where their mouths are) by donating **\$121,000** towards the renovation. This allows us to take full advantage of a very generous offer from one of our members to match up to \$100,000 in donations for this purpose. This means that we have raised \$221,000 of the \$300,000 that we need.

Having a facility that we can use year-round is particularly important in light of the attendance at the Muktrad ceremonies held in the days preceding Navroze. Every evening over 100 members of all ages attended the prayer ceremonies carried out by our volunteer Mobeds. I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank Nozer Kotwal and Armaity Anandasagar for coordinating the ceremonies.

Your Board is now entering the second year of its term. Our objectives for this second year are to maintain the level of activity that we have established by continuing to hold sports nights, social functions and other activities on a regular basis. We will also continue our focus on raising funds to build the place of worship and congregation hall based on our Vision and Mission.

Each of our committees is actively looking for new members so please give us a call and share your skills. The participation of our members is the cornerstone of the success of the OZCF!

Niloufer Bhesania

As We Grow...

Fundraising Committee

Our monthly donation program started off with a huge success, we have been able to secure approximately \$10,000 per year via PayPal and post dated cheques. New members have been joining us on a monthly basis and it seems that the membership has given us a good support through this program. For those of you who are new to this, we would like each and every member to participate in this program by donating monthly to the OZCF. Currently there are approximately 20 families contributing on a monthly basis. If we have all our members contribute even \$1 per day (\$30 per month), we would have approximately \$75,000 per year collected. With the growing membership, this could easily increase to \$150,000 per year. We need 100% participation from our members as every one of us will make a difference and we are the ones who will make this dream happen.

To donate via credit card (you need a PayPal account), please go to www.ozcf.com/donate.html, hit the pledge button.

To donate via cheque, please send your post dated cheques to 4244 Taffey Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario L5L 2J2. Make cheques payable to the OZCF.

For more information you can write to donate@ozcf.com

Recent Events

The OZCF AGM was held at the ZRCC on Monday August 6, 2007. With approximately 80 members in attendance, President, Niloufer Bhesania's message opened up with introducing the board members and their various involvements in the committees. Following that was the "Accomplishments Overview" reminding us of all the events we have had over the past year and those to come. Some of them included Camp Z-Rock, Navroze functions, Gifts from Zanzibar, Tree Planting, Black Tie Gala and the Youth Variety Program. Upcoming Events were outlined including Sport Event Sundays, Halloween Party and the New Years Eve joint function. Niloufer ended her President's Report with thanking all of our volunteers. Jang Engineer thanked Scheherazade Talati for donating her time during the financial report. Several members were able to air their views, concerns and questions throughout the meeting. Niloufer Bhesania closed the meeting on a high point, when the final slide showed the two Corner Stones of our community, our youth and our seniors. Our seniors have sponsored certain aspects of our functions as well as donating the proceeds which are raised during their Yoga sessions. Our Youth put on the highly successful 2nd Annual Youth Variety Program earlier with no involvement other than the youth themselves. We would like to quote Niloufer as saying "the youth show us the way through their new ideas, and together the seniors and the youth are the biggest and best aspect of the OZCF!"

O Canada!

O Canada! Birthday parties are synonymous with good food, great company and a festive atmosphere. On July 2nd, over 500 Zoroastrians from around the world came out to the ZRCC and were treated to a barbecue in the company of family members and friends. For many out of towners, it was a way to close out their attendance at the Fezana North American Congress. There was music for those who wanted to relax in the surroundings and carrom for those wishing a game or two. Our energetic teenagers and twenty-somethings had erected a volleyball net and enjoyed several spirited games of volleyball. "I've never seen so many Zoroastrians in one place. I love it", remarked one of the participants. "I love the fact that there are over 500 people here, yet it doesn't feel crowded at all", said another.

Adorned with flowers, gazebos and Canadian flags, the grounds of the ZRCC provided an ideal setting to host the barbecue and celebrate Canada Day. Guests came from various destinations within North America, the UK, the Middle East and Australia, many of whom were in awe of the acres of space amongst the idyllic setting on our property and the potential it holds.

President Niloufer Bhesania acknowledged the team of volunteers who pitched in to assist in putting together this enjoyable event within a short span of time. Kudos to all!



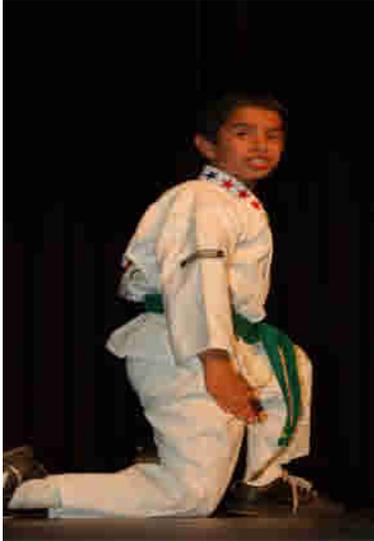
Cookbook Fundraiser

For 70 years, the Time and Talents Club has been reaching out to those in need.

The Club was founded in 1934 by a group of philanthropic women who used their time and creativity for the benefit of the disadvantaged.

The Recipe Committee has been highly successful with their Time and Talents Club cookbook, (now in its 11th edition). You've probably seen the famous red cookbook in your mother's kitchen since you were a young child; it includes over a thousand Indian and International recipes contributed largely by its members.

Copies of this book have been generously sponsored by one of our members and are available for a price of \$25.00 each, with 100% of the proceeds going to the OZCF. Please contact Charis Wania at 416-450-5260 for your copy and support the OZCF!

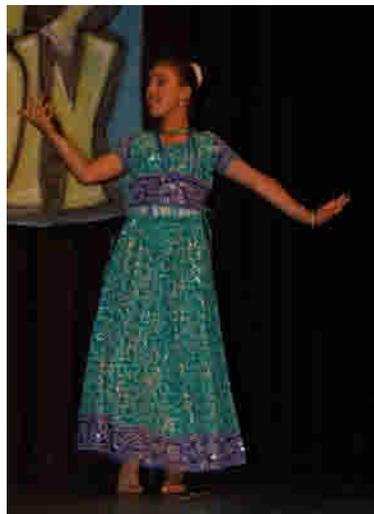
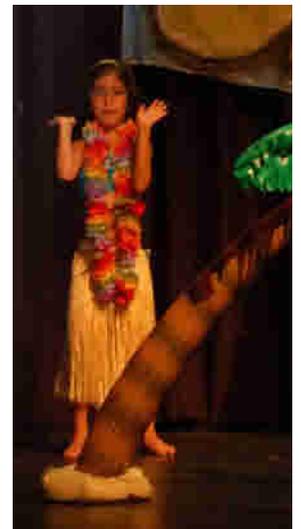


Youth Variety Program

The youth are the future of our community. They are also the most talented and spirited members of our growing community. Zoroastrian youth showcased the abundance of talent, and embodied the spirit of success at the Second Annual Youth Variety Program, which was held on July 22 at the Burnhamthorpe Library Theatre.

A sold out Burnhamthorpe Theatre was host to a superb showcase of young talent. The capacity crowd was wowed by piano recitals, dance routines, and martial arts performances. There was also a bevy of other musical talent, including vocalists, singers, and bands. The abundance of talent was truly amazing, and each act was unique in its own right.

All the volunteers, under the stewardship of Natasha Kharwanwala, did an outstanding job of organizing and executing the event. The young volunteers even managed to have bhel donated by Surti Sweet Mart. This outstanding event raised an amazing \$3,800. Excellent job everyone. We are already looking forward to next year's show.



Congratulations!

Cyra Asli – represented the Ontario Conservatory of Music (Streetsville Chapter) in the 3rd Annual Canadian Music League Competition 2007. She was awarded first place in the Traditional Song category and third place in the Broadway Song category. The competition was held on July 14, 2007 at Holiday Inn.

Farida Bamji of Ottawa, Canada, a regular contributor of Poems to the FEZANA Journal was named Poetry Ambassador Associate by the International Library of Poetry and National Poetry Month Committee. Edward Moffet III, Chairman - ILP / National Poetry Month Committee writes “Congratulations Farida Bamji, on becoming a Poetry Ambassador Associate. As a member of this elite group of poets from around the nation, you should be very proud of this honor. We here at the International Library of Poetry are so grateful for all that you do to promote and share your love of poetry wherever and whenever you can. We have reserved a full page to honor this year’s Poetry Ambassador Associates in a future issue of Poetry Today, a literary magazine distributed worldwide by the International Society of Poets.

To further commemorate this great honor as a Poetry Ambassador Associate, you have been selected from among other Poetry Ambassador Associates to receive the official 2007 Commemorative U.S. Poetry Ambassador Medal. We would like to thank you for all your continued efforts to promote and share your love of poetry with your friends, your family, and your community”.

Phiroz Dastoor - of Etobicoke, Ontario, has been recognized by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration as a recipient of the Volunteer Service Award 2007 for 20 years of service, by Donna Cansfield, MPP at the recent 2007 Ontario Volunteer Awards Banquet held June 27 at the Arcadian Court in Toronto.

Dr. Godrej Engineer - recently graduated from the Prestigious Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto - the only Chiropractic College in English Speaking Canada. After receiving his BSC Honours degree in Kinesiology, from the University of Western Ontario in 2003, Godrej proceeded to successfully obtaining his doctorate in Chiropractic Medicine. Godrej is the son of proud parents Khurshid and Jehangir Engineer, Grandson of Perin and Pesi Engineer and brother of Fiona Engineer of Mississauga, Ontario. We wish Godrej much success in his career and are proud to include his name to the list of home-grown Canadian born Zoroastrian Professionals of Toronto.

Meher Pavri - 19 years old and a student of Music at the University of Western Ontario was crowned Miss India-Canada 2007 after defeating 15 contestants vying for the honour. After finishing her undergraduate degree, Miss Pavri plans to do her Master’s in Vocal Performance to pursue a career in Opera and private vocal teaching. She is actively involved in charitable work in her own community in London, Ontario, and wishes to further that with her title of Miss India-Canada.

Danny Setna – is the 2007 recipient of the FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship and is currently studying a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Animation (BAAA), at Sheridan College in Oakville.

– Grand Prize Winner of nXZEN Design Contest

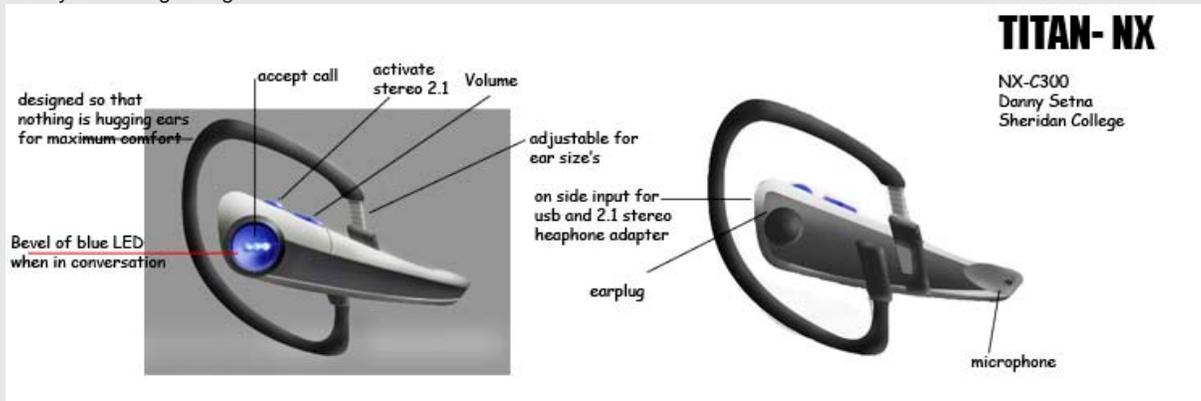
Burlington, ON – August 1, 2007 – The nXZEN team is pleased to announce the winners of the international nXZEN “Now it’s cool to be a show-off” design contest.

The Grand Prize winning student for the best nXZEN design is Danny Setna of Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario. Danny’s design “The Titan – NX” met the criteria of placing within the top ten online vote tallies and his design also won a monthly iPod prize as the Most Athletic Design.

“It wasn’t until I worked on this assignment that I realized I could combine the two things I love in life: drawing and electronics,” said Danny Setna. “Working on this headset design really opened my eyes and I realize now that I would love a career in designing electronics. Winning the monthly prize and the grand prize really gave me the confidence in my abilities to design consumer electronics.”

Danny Setna just completed his first year of a four year degree in the animation program at Sheridan College. Sheridan’s Oakville Campus is home to the College’s animation program, also known as the Harvard of Animation.

Danny’s Winning Design:



Bapsi Sidhwa wins the XXXIII Premio Mondello 2007 for Foreign Authors for her book “Water”. This prestigious Italian literary award previous winners were Josef Brodskji, Doris Lessing, V.S. Naipaul, Günter Grass, Sheamus Heaney, Kenzaburo Oe, Octavio Paz, José Saramago, Wole Sojnka, J.M.Coetzee. The award ceremony will take place November 23 & 24 at Mondello, Palermo (Sicily). Sidhwa, who resides in Houston, TX is an author of Pakistani origin. She is well known for her collaborative work with filmmaker Deepa Mehta: Sidhwa wrote both the 1991 novel Cracking India which is the basis for Mehta’s 1998 film Earth as well as the 2006 novel Water: A Novel which is based upon Mehta’s 2005 film, Water.

Obituaries

Keki Bomanji Vania, 91 years old, father of Roshan Burjor Davar, Maki & Len Trumble and Phil Vania, passed away in Mumbai on May 22, 2007. He was the grandfather to Shayna, Kyle and Diana.

Homi Homji, husband of Villie, father of Rashna, Coombi & Kavasji and father-in-law of Doris, Darius and Stephen passed away on May 31, 2007

Homie Kawasji Patell, passed away on Aug. 4th in Multan, Pakistan. Younger brother of Soonie Bahadur Patell, brother-in-law of Khorshed Minoo Patell, Uncle of Syavux and (Freny), Mahrukh and Lilly, Nargis and Darius Patell. Great Uncle of Freddy and Cyrus Patell, Crystal and Jonathan Creamer."

May their souls rest in peace.

News from London, Ont...

CONGRATULATIONS, Meher Pavri, on being crowned Miss Canada-2007. We are so proud of you on achieving this honour but we are even prouder of your fine qualities of humility, friendliness and your wonderful operatic voice. Your rendition of "Alleluia" at the congress which you sang with such ease and confidence and your smile throughout, totally mesmerized us. Best wishes for continued success and we look forward to more performances.



CONGRATULATIONS DARIUS MIRZA on achieving his "Captain's wings" with the Canadian Air Force. You do us proud and we wish you continuous success. Ervad Capt Darius Mirza was awarded his wings as a Royal Canadian Air Force Pilot on July 20th 2007.

Darius was born in India and immigrated to Canada with his parents at the tender age of 18 months. During his schooling in London, Ontario he joined the Air Cadets and won several scholarships and obtained his Private Pilot's license. Darius completed his civil engineering degree from Royal Military College and proceeded to train as a Pilot with Canadian Forces. Darius was recently promoted to the rank of Captain and was awarded his wings in Portage La Prairie in Manitoba. He is one of the few Canadian forces Pilots selected to fly C-17 airplanes, Canadian Forces newest acquisition of transport aircrafts. Darius is based in Trenton, Ontario.

We welcome back Cyrus Hira, Anaita Bharucha, Nauzer Forbes, Sheahan Nariman returning students from out of town to UWO and Fanshawe College.

We do look forward to having you all in our midst and in our wonderful city. If we can be of any help please contact any of the Zarthushtis in London.

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.

IT Committee

There is a lot happening at the OZCF.....

Keep up with the news and events by visiting <http://www.ozcf.com>

The OZCF web site is a great way to reach out to the community quickly and efficiently and allows easy distribution of information. The IT committee welcomes any suggestions that you feel may help you keep in touch with the community, its goals and achievements. Kindly contact Rumi Jasavala at rumi.jasavala@mdsinc.com or 905-257-7864 for any IT related questions, suggestions and concerns.

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@rogers.com Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **October 1st, 2007**. Information received after that date will be considered for the following newsletter.

Bingo Fans!

Recently there has been some interest in having Bingo nights at the OZCF. The fundraising committee did some research and it appears that the ZRCC would have to be a licensed Bingo hall before we could do that, OR we could always book a licensed Bingo hall. In order for us to make money, we would need the majority of our members to attend, and this event would need a lot of organization, including licensing, professionals to run it, monthly accounting and reporting to the government. It seems that holding Bingos nights at the ZRCC may not be as easy as we did in our motherland.

We encourage different ideas of raising funds and would like to hear from you. Please email your suggestions to fundraising@ozcf.com.





World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce

ZOROASTRIAN BUSINESS CONTEST – 2007

Have you always dreamed of owning your own business but don't know where to start?

Do you have a business idea and want the chance to turn it into reality?

Look no further, as this is the opportunity that you have been waiting for. No idea is too big or too small. You could have the opportunity to present your business idea to a forum of investors who can invest up to CAD100,000.00 in your venture. Help fuel the spirit of entrepreneurship within the community by taking part in this exciting opportunity. For information on how you can become an investor, please contact one of your WZCC executives below or visit <http://opportunities.wzcc.net> for more information please email: zbiz@wzcc.net

Entry Requirements:

- Must be a resident of Ontario, Canada
- Must have parental consent if under the age of 18
- Zoroastrian origin

Business Proposal Guidelines:

- The business idea can be a product or a service
- The idea should be unique or opportunistic (We will **not** consider the following types of businesses: franchises, multi-level marketing ideas, or any other existing business types such as dry cleaning, corner stores, etc.)
- Only serious ideas and proposals will be accepted and reviewed by our panel.

Application Process & Deadline:

All completed applications should be submitted to zbiz@wzcc.net **no later than September 30, 2007.**

Selection process:

You will be contacted by November 1, 2007 and may have a chance to present your idea in more detail if you are short-listed. Should your idea be considered viable following your presentation, you will be assigned a coach and will be guided through the process of expanding on the executive summary, setting up a business plan and creating a presentation. We will then ask you to present to a larger group of people that may include customers, venture capital, business owners and/or investors.

WZCC Vision: To facilitate networking, enhance trade and commerce and re-energize the Zarathusti entrepreneurial spirit.

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee of the OZCF is committed to providing assistance to help all immigrants in the Greater Toronto Area attain self-sufficiency in the Canadian Society.

The Welcoming Committee is currently looking for volunteers in the following areas, receiving new immigrants at the airport, providing/finding with accommodations. If you would like to help out in any of these areas please contact Meher Panthaky at meherpanthaky@yahoo.ca.

The Fali Chothia Charitable Trust is now accepting applications for its 18th annual scholarship awards. Scholarships are open to all Zoroastrian students in North America enrolled in four-year or graduate-level programs. Awards are based on financial need, academic achievement, extra-curricular activity and community service. They are given as outright gifts or no- and low-interest loans.

To demonstrate solidarity and trust between organizations while serving community causes, the US Chapter of the World Zoroastrian Organisation is once again joining the Fali Chothia Trust's Scholarship Program. This partnership enables the Trust to significantly increase the amount of its scholarships.

The Fali Chothia Charitable Trust was established in 1988 under the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc. (ZAMWI). The Trust provides scholarships to deserving Zoroastrian students enrolled in universities in North America, regardless of their country of origin.

Applications may be downloaded from: <http://www.zamwi.org/about/2001FCCT.pdf>

Sports Committee

Rushad Bharda is participating in the Mississauga Triathlon event on September 15th, 2007. Mississauga Kids triathlon remains Canada's largest kids Triathlon and this year an expected 600 kids are to partake ranging from the age of 3 to 15 years.

Rushad is training for this event and we wish him all the very best.

Rushad also took part in the Life Saving Society competition held on the same day as our Youth variety program and did extremely well. The event took place at Woodbine beach with 200 participants.

Xarius Jasavala, age 10 has made a good start to his Rep soccer this season and playing on the left wing has scored 8 goals in 12 games. Congratulations to him for scoring his first Rep soccer hat-trick.

Xarius came 2nd in the Halton Schools 400m and 100m relay during the end of the school year.

Congratulations to **Darius Dalal**, age 9 who competed in a Karate tournament and came 1st in his age group.

Darius is also part of the Ontario Cricket Academy, U13 team that participates in the Toronto & District Cricket League. The team has made it's way to this years playoffs and we wish him all the best.

Rhea Jasavala, age 7 is playing in her 2nd year of House league soccer and has scored 8 goals in 10 games. Good job Rhea, keep up the good work.

Congratulations to **Zain Wania** – age 13, for earning his Brown Belt in Karate on August 11, 2007. He studies the ancient Japanese style of Goju Ryu under Sensei Magliocco.

ZCC-Zoroastrian Cricket Club, plays in Division 2 of the Etobicoke & District Cricket league ([http:// www.edcl.net](http://www.edcl.net)) and are currently in joint 4th position in their division having played 12, won 7 and lost 5 games. The aim is to finish in the top 2 to get promotion to Division 1 next year.

Congratulations for the following ZCC player achievements to date:

Ali Shah for scoring 126 retired hurt from a total of 284 runs from 9 wickets

Khushroo Wadia for scoring 201 runs from a total of 377 for 5 wickets. This was an extraordinary inning consisting of 20 fours and 6 sixes.

Zain Ghadially for scoring 93 runs from a total of 377 for 5 wickets. This innings, as opener anchored the team for Khushroo to make his runs.

Religion Meets Journalism: Priest mixes Religious Duties, Reporting Career

Khush Panthaky was ordained as a Zoroastrian priest at the age of 12, but today, he works as a reporter and writer for OMNI News.

When Khush Panthaky was about 10 years old, his father suggested he become a Zoroastrian priest like himself. One of the most ancient religions in the world, Zoroastrianism was the dominant faith of the Persian empire, estimated to once have more than 40 million devotees. And if Panthaky were to enter the priesthood, his father hinted, he just might become the first North American-born Zoroastrian priest ever.

Becoming the “first North American-born Zoroastrian priest ever” also didn't pan out for Panthaky (someone else beat him to the punch) but he did become ordained as a priest at 12. And today, while Panthaky isn't being interviewed by hordes of journalists, he is often in their company.

In addition to presiding over the occasional Navjote (a Zoroastrian initiation ceremony), the 38-year-old Mississaugan is a reporter, writer and former sports anchor for OMNI News, South Asian edition. His television aspirations also trace back to early childhood, when he used to watch shows like 20/20 while babysitting. Aside from work and priesthood, however, today Panthaky is just a typical 38-year-old, enjoying music or attending a friend's stag. “In our day-to-day lives, we're regular people,” he insists. “(My priesthood) is just one of the many aspects that makes up the person that is Khush Panthaky.”

The road to becoming today's Khush Panthaky wasn't without its difficulties however. When he was 14, Panthaky was hit by a car and put in a month-long coma. During that time, a Zoroastrian high priest visited from India, bearing special prayers for his recovery, and to this day, Panthaky still recites them whenever possible.

The accident did leave him with some cognitive and behavioral problems however, and Panthaky suffered in school, became alienated by his peers and ultimately attempted suicide twice before finally reaching a turning point. “I pledged that I wouldn't allow myself to get so low again,” Panthaky said. “I don't like to give up and that's something that's been with me since the accident.”

Panthaky's newfound fortitude helped him piece himself together and he soldiered on to eventually get a Radio and Television Arts degree from Ryerson University and his first journalism job with the CBC. While his current work with OMNI News doesn't allow much time for priestly duties anymore, he does wear his religious garments under his clothes every day. And on some level, the two facets of Khush Panthaky do intersect.

“You're not supposed to get emotionally involved in your stories but it can be hard because as a priest, empathy does come so naturally,” Panthaky says. “Perhaps it does make me a better journalist or reporter though, because I am able to see the other side of things.”



Khordad Sal Jashan

Saturday, August 25th was a busy one at the ZRCC. The day began with a Jashan to celebrate Khordad Sal, the birthday of our prophet Zarathustra. Despite the early start time of 10am, almost 100 people were present for the Jashan. Chasni and flowers were generously donated by Chisti and Firdosh Bulsara.



Extra Ordinary General Meeting

The Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EOGM) began shortly after noon with approximately 140 members in attendance. The purpose of the EOGM was to vote on 2 Resolutions: 1) to approve renovation plans for the Garage building; and 2) to authorize the Board of Directions to spend up to \$300,000 on the renovation of the Garage, including demolition, construction, finishes, electrical and mechanical, general contractor, well and septic system, and pond for fire requirements.

Niloufer Bhesania, Farshogar Jasavala and Phil Sidhwa took members through a presentation that explained the work undertaken by the Development Committee over the past several months. The current facilities at the ZRCC are not adequate to meet the needs of the community in that there is inadequate heating, air-conditioning, lighting and washrooms. There is also a significant immediate demand from the membership to utilize the ZRCC NOW. As a result, a sub-committee of the development committee was formed to consider various alternatives. The sub-committee also met with and had discussions with the Town of Oakville to determine their requirements, and hired an architect who developed a design and provided preliminary construction estimates.

The 4 options investigated by the sub-committee were: 1) New Structure i.e. a large congregation hall, 2) Temporary Structures i.e. steel and tent buildings, 3) Renovate the house building at the ZRCC, 4) Renovate the second building (Garage) at the ZRCC. After reviewing the pro's and con's of each alternative, the sub-committee recommended proceeding with option 4), renovation of the second building at the ZRCC. This option was approved by the full Development Committee and by the Board of Directors and was being brought to the membership of the OZCF for their approval at this EOGM.

At this point, members were given the opportunity to ask questions. The discussion was carried out in an intelligent and thoughtful manner with many important points being raised by members. Following the discussion, a vote was taken on both resolutions through a written ballot. The results were as follows:

Resolution 1: 135 For, 3 Against, 3 Abstentions, 1 Invalid Ballot
Resolution 2: 133 For, 6 Against, 2 Abstentions, 3 Invalid Ballots

While the ballots were being tabulated, Niloufer Bhesania and Marzi Byramjee informed members about an offer from an anonymous donor. This generous donor had offered to match up to \$100,000 in donations from the membership for the purpose of paying for the renovations of the second building. Niloufer Bhesania informed members that 100% of the Board of Directors had agreed to make a donation for this purpose. Marzi Byramjee then asked for donations from the membership. \$121,000 was collected thereby securing the matching grant of \$100,000. This means that \$121,000 of the maximum of \$300,000 has been funded through new donations. There are adequate funds in the general funds of the OZCF to fund the balance.

The next steps are to form a small working group to handle the details of the renovation including applications for building permits, developing tender documents for the various phases of the project, getting at least 3 bids from suppliers for each phase of the project and appointing a project manager. The Board of Directors will have final approval over all costs and expenditures for the renovation.



Lamb Roast Picnic

Following the EOGM, the OZCF held its annual Lamb Roast Picnic. Over 250 members, young and old, came out to enjoy roast lamb, chicken, potatoes and salad. The chicken, potatoes and salad were cooked by several of the ladies of our community to whom we extend our thanks. Games were provided for the younger set with a lively soccer match in progress most of the afternoon until dark clouds forced a close to the festivities.