

VISION

OCTOBER 2008

Upcoming Events

Nov 1, 2008: Howlin' Halloween Family Costume Party - River Grove Community Centre, 7:00pm (see attached flyer)

Dec 7, 2008: Annual Children's Party

Feb 07, 2009: Winter / Valentine Function

Mar 21, 2009: Jamshedi Navroz Function

April 12, 2009: Spring 2009 Function

Religious Events

October 12 (Sunday) 3:00pm
Ayathrem Ghambar (F)

December 26 (Friday) 11:00am
Zarthost-no-Diso (F)

January 1, 2009 (Thursday) 3:00pm
Maidhyarem Ghambar (F)

Newsletter Committee

Roshan Byramjee, Michelle Patel,
Rayomand Patel, Charis Wania,
Board Liaison: Cyrus Gazdar

Entertainment Committee:

Kashmira Laher (chair) Armaity
Anandasagar, Niloufer Bhesania, Ferzin
Bulsara, Kermin Byramjee, Shirin
Chaturvedi, Zarina Gutta, Pervin Katila,
Fred Laher, Benifer Patel, Coomi Sorabji

President's Message

I would like to welcome and introduce the OZCF board of members for the next two years. **Elected at the AGM on September 7, 2008, were Xerxes Bamji, Sam Bharda, Niloufer Bhesania, Sharon Byramjee, Khushnuma Doctor, Cyrus Gazdar, Niloofer Irani, Rumi Jasavala, Zubin Jasavala, Lily Kotwal, Kashmira Laher, Farokh Pavri and Stephen Shinn.** The following offices were subsequently elected: Rumi Jasavala (President), Cyrus Gazdar (Vice President), Lily Kotwal (Treasurer) and Niloofer Irani (Secretary).

We thank the outgoing board for their excellent work over the last two years as we focus on continuing the momentum that has been established from the very beginning of the OZCF formation.

We will soon see the start of the garage renovation which is in line with the vision of the founding members and we must continue the strides forward in making our dreams come true.

The next two years are going to be critical for moving forward which will have a high priority on planning and fundraising.

This is where all of you play a role. We request that you come forward in providing help whether it is financially, physically, mentally or otherwise to work in unity to move the vision even closer at a rapid rate. You do not just have to be on the board to get things done and we would like to encourage everyone to contact a board member to offer any assistance and suggestions that you may feel would help.

Looking forward to an exciting phase and seeing the community unite even more to achieve the vision and goals for the OZCF.

Rumi Jasavala

Building Project Update

Much has been accomplished over the last year in preparation for the building work to begin on the garage. Minister's Zoning Order amendment, foundation testing, plan changes, requests from the municipality and gaining of permits have all had to be dealt with. This included reviews by various agencies of issues such as conservation, transportation and roads, planning, heritage, water and septic, firefighting capabilities and earthquake mitigation. Our architect, planner and consultants worked together to coordinate these activities with the various levels of government. We are getting very close to obtaining the building permit and look forward to starting the work very soon.

In order to keep everyone up to date with what is going on, we will shortly have regular updates posted on the OZCF website. This will provide an estimated timeline, progress to date and pictures showing the state of our OZCF project.

Please do visit the website (www.ozcf.com) and feel free to ask any board member of the progress if you require further information; which they will be glad to answer or direct you to the appropriate source.

AS WE GROW...

How can you play a bigger part within your Zoroastrian community?

As it's the start of a new term, ask yourself if you can become more active within the local Zoroastrian community. Do you have some extra time to spare? Do you have interests that you share with others? Are you good at event planning? There are so many ways you can help – while having fun too!

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

The OZCF is looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of projects as well as before, during and after functions. The best way to ensure our success is to gather a list of volunteers that we can call upon regularly.

We would like you to send in your name and contact details via email with the subject "OZCF Volunteers" to Cyrus Gazdar at cygazdar@yahoo.ca. The more volunteers we have, the more projects we can take on in less time.

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 into Canadian society. The Welcoming Committee is looking for volunteers in the following areas: receiving new immigrants at the airport, and providing and finding accommodations.

If you would like to help out in any of these areas please contact the Welcoming Committee at welcomer@ozcf.com

OZCF Sports

We have had great responses for the skating and soccer events that were held over the last year and have been working feverishly to get a portion of the grounds at ZRCC into a condition whereby we can use it.

The grounds are almost ready to be used and we are very excited to be hosting soccer and cricket on the grounds amongst other events in the summer of 2009.

This does not stop us from moving on with other fall and winter events and we will be bringing these to you starting in the month of November. Please keep an eye on the website (www.OZCF.com) for all sporting events and if you would like to be on the email list, kindly drop us an email with "OZCF Sports" in the subject line and send it to rumijas@hotmail.com

Forthcoming events will include skating, outdoor soccer on an all weather artificial pitch and bowling. We look forward to your active participation.

Help bring our Vision closer to reality and be part of it all!

Lecture Announcement

We are fortunate to have Professor Christoph Emmrich, professor of South Asian Buddhism of the Center for the study of Religion at University of Toronto to address our community on the subject "**The Buddha in the Flame: The Interaction of Buddhist and Zoroastrian Faith**". The lecture will be held on **Sunday October 26, 2008 at 4:30 pm at MGDZM Zoroastrian center**.

Professor Emmrich holds a 2004 PhD in Indology from Heidelberg University. He has been a postdoctoral research fellow at Heidelberg in a collaborative project on "Life-cycle Rituals in Nepal," and has served as Wissenschaftlicher (scientific) Assistant in the Department of Classical Indology at Heidelberg. He is the author of numerous articles in German and English and the co-editor with Dr. Srilata Raman of a forthcoming book on "Rituals of the Body, Rituals of the Mind" (Harrassowitz). Professor Emmrich's current research focuses on the ritual traditions of South Asian Buddhism particularly that of the Newars of the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, who conserve the only still living Indic Mahayana tradition in South Asia. His expertise additionally includes Theravada doctrines of time and causation, Buddhist Tantric poetry and South Indian Digambara Jainism. He is working on a book on ritual, gender and historiography among the Newars in the performance and prescription of rituals associated with virginity and marriage.

Professor Emmrich is a graduate of Philosophy and Classical Indology of the Free University Berlin, Germany (M.A.). The lecture promises to be a most interesting experience to learn about how an eastern Dharmic tradition of sixth century BCE has interacted with an Iranian Zarthushti tradition of *circa* 1500 BCE. Come out to this exciting session to learn more about your faith!

OZCF Membership Dues by January 1, 2009

Please renew your membership as soon as possible! New members joining after November 1, 2008 can start paying for the following year. Newcomers to Ontario can be exempt from the membership on the year of arrival.

Senior	\$15	Per person - age 65 and over
Family	\$50	Family of adult couple and their children under age 18
Single	\$30	Per individual adult person
Students	\$10	Full Time Student - age 18 – 25 years old

Khordad Sal and Lamb Roast

This year's Lamb Roast Picnic coincided with Khordad Sal which celebrates the birthday of our prophet Zarathushtra. And what better way to celebrate than with our annual summer picnic!

The day began with a Jashan to commemorate Khordad Sal. Six young priests prayed in unison and with harmony which belied their collective experience. Mobeds Kobad Zarolia, Jal Panthaky and Nozer Kotwal had a gleam in their eyes throughout the prayers, exuding tremendous pride and satisfaction in fostering the new generation of mobeds. It is fair to say that the next generation is well and truly set in place.

Many thanks to the Entertainment Committee for their meticulous planning for this summer success!

Shenshai Muktd

The Shenshai Muktd was observed for the third year at the ZRCC from August 14 – 18, 2008. The place was alive from early morning till late night with sweet fragrance of Sukhad & Loban, people young & old, praying, socializing and working. This year there was an average attendance of thirty people in the afternoon and seventy at night, a significant increase from previous years. Hopefully after the completion of the hall we will have more participants next year.

Many volunteers, coordinated by Kermin Byramjee, brought in food for the prayers for the five Gatha days. Every day there would be the morning Stum followed by Afringan, Farokhshi and Baj and then Stum for lunch and dinner followed by the Hum Bundagi. All those present, would then partake of the delicious food prepared by our volunteers, too numerous to be named individually. **This year for the first time we were able to do the Baj Ceremony thanks to Ervads Jamshed Dhabhar & Gustad Panthaki.** A Baj is an inner liturgical ceremony performed in honour of the Fravashis of the dearly departed. **To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a Baj ceremony has ever been performed at an Association in North America.**

Our heartiest thanks go out to our Mobeds, Ervads Jehan Bagli; Xerxes Bamji; Khushroo Bharda; Rushad Bharda; Firdosh Bulsara; Farhad Bulsara; Freyhan Daruwalla; Darius Kanga; Minoo Kanga; Nozer Kotwal; Xerxes Madon; Noshir Mirza; Cyrus Panthakee; Farhan Panthaki; Gustad Panthaki; Jal Panthaky; Rishaad Unwalla & Kobad Zarolia, who came out, taking time from their busy lives, and performing all the ceremonies for all the days of the Muktd. Our special thanks to the younger Mobeds who gave up their precious sleep during the summer break to come and pray early in the morning. **Kudos to our youngest Mobed Ervad Rushad Bharda** who not only prayed every morning (here or at ZSO) but also participated in the midnight prayers on the last day of the Muktd. Our thanks also go out to all those who helped with the clean up every day and to those who brought in donations of fruits, flowers, food, sukhad, loban etc. All in all it was a beautiful **Community Event** we could all be proud of.

VISION 2020: A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario invites essay papers addressing the theme: "Envisioning the Future of the Zoroastrians of Ontario in the Next Ten Years".

The purpose of the essay is to afford individuals the opportunity to offer insights into the future of the Zoroastrians of Ontario. *The focus of the essay may encompass topics such as: contemporary issues and matters, religion, history, culture, and society and their relevance to the state of the Zoroastrian community of Ontario and Zoroastrianism today.* Papers will be assessed on the originality of thought, organization of points, and the accuracy of facts.

AWARDS

First Prize \$1000 (awarded by ZSO)

Second and Third Prize \$500 each (generously contributed by Mr. Behram Baxter and another ZSO member)

Note: At least 1 of the 3 prizes will be awarded to youth between the ages of 18 -25

CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION

ELIGIBILITY: This competition is open to all Zoroastrians in Ontario.

AGE: Essays must be submitted by individuals 18 years and older.

LENGTH: The length of the essay is to be 2000 - 3000 words (typewritten or word processed).

FORMAT: Lines should be double spaced, 11 point font (word processed), and margins of 1 inch for all 4 sides.

TITLE PAGE: Each essay must include an official title page with the author's name, contact information and date.

LANGUAGE: English. If the original is written in Farsi, only the English translation should be submitted.

ABSTRACT: Each essay must be accompanied by an abstract not more than 300 words in length.

CITATIONS: Quotes and references must be clearly marked and properly cited.

Deadline for submission is EXTENDED UNTIL: November 30, 2008

Mr. Jehan Bagli, Mr. Daraius Bharucha, and Mr. Jesse Palsetia have kindly consented to act as judges. The final decision will be announced no later than the end of January 2009.

Essays may be submitted to: Armaity Homavazir, spendarmad@yahoo.com or mailed to: 281 Mutual St., Toronto, ON M4Y 3C4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anaiya Anahita Khory, daughter of proud parents Cyrus and Anahita Khory was born on September 26th in Toronto, which happens to be the very same birthday has her dad! Anaiya is the granddaughter to Fredoon & Pervin Khory and Rustom & Dilnavaz Bozorgi, and great granddaughter to Sheroo Mistry and Katyoon Khosravi, and niece to Cyrus Bozorgi, Anita Khory and Natasha Bozorgi.

Baby boy **Yazad Viraf Karai** was born on 13th July 2008 to Winifer and Viraf Karai and brother to Behzad in Mississauga. Proud grandparents are Freny & Phiroz Karai of Pune and Piloo & Sarosh Kasad of Mumbai, India.

On July 5th, **Darius Dalal**, son of Tina and Tauzer Dalal of Oakville, was initiated into the Zoroastrian fold. Darius is the grandson of Rumi and Homai Sapurji of Mississauga and Jimmy and Katy Dalal of Mumbai. Congratulations to the family and Darius, welcome to the faith.

On July 11th, **Coomi and Vispi Sorabji** celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Their actual anniversary was on February 11th, 2008. Our heartiest congratulations on crossing such a tremendous milestone. We wish you many more joyful years together.

ACHEIVEMENTS

Khushnuma Amaria-Kalhan daughter of Adi and Shernaz Amaria, recently completed her doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at the University of Waterloo after defending her PhD thesis on models of social anxiety disorder. At this time Khushnuma is currently completing a 2 year post doctoral training fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Donations are always welcomed & are tax deductible.

Make this Vision a Reality.

For more information see www.OZCF.com

PLEASE HELP

Daneesh Appoo has glaucoma and she has 2 children aged 2 and 3 years old. Please spread the word around and if you know anyone in Edmonton or surrounding areas who would like to work as a live-in to please contact her @ 780-451-8673. Maybe someone from other parts of Canada may want to go too. She pays good wages and will pay for her return fare too.

The Daroga family is looking for people to help with the care of Aspi Daroga, husband of Yasmin and father of Varushka and Narious who had a severe stroke couple of weeks ago and is hospitalized in the Trillium Mississauga Hospital. He has speech impairment and has lost control of his one side. Up to now his wife Yasmin was looking after him during the day time, and the kids were coming in the evening, however she must return to work now.

If you can volunteer few hours of your time once or twice a week during the day it would be greatly appreciated. All that is required of you is to be there during the day and when needed to call the nurse for him as he cannot do that. The family will take care of him in the evenings.

If you are able to spare some time for this cause please e-mail Meher Panthaky [meherpanthaky@yahoo.ca] or Khurshid Engineer [khurshid.engineer@rbc.com]

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
Mahatma Ghandi

Smile of the Day:

Parsi Bawa at a bar in New York.

***Man on his right says 'Johnny Walker single'
Man on his left says 'Peter Scotch single'
Parsi Bawa says - 'Pestonji Powalla, Married'***





Commission on the Status of Women

"The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS."

March 3 - 12, 2009

United Nations Headquarters in New York City

See details about this riveting conference on: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw>

Zarathushtis interested in participating are requested to send a letter of interest, their bio-data and a statement as to how the individual sees himself or herself promoting the mission of the United Nations through the Non Governmental Organization framework to the undersigned.

Afreed Mistry afreed.mistry@gmail.com,
Homi D Gandhi homidgandhi@gmail.com,
Behram Pastakia bpastakia@aol.com,
Co-Chairs, FEZANA UN-NGO Committee

25th anniversary of the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago *Submitted by Dolly Dastoor*

"Twenty five years ago, on September 3, 1983, after years of dreaming, fundraising and hard work, a determined group of Zarathushtis accomplished what at times, seemed to be the impossible – our Darbe Mehr was inaugurated," was the opening sentence of the 25th anniversary brochure of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago

Now 25 years later the Zarathushtis of Chicago all dressed in their gorgeous traditional outfits proudly stood with their children and grandchildren in the very same hall, albeit with extensions, to celebrate the vision, commitment and dedication that brought the Darbe Mehr to life. The evening was ably emceed by the Next Generation of Katie Weber, Cyrus Rivetna, Zenobia Tantra, Karl Grant and Shazad Mehta. The opening Jashan was conducted by 16 Mobeds (including three father and son pairs). All the Mobeds who performed the Inaugural Jashan were invited, three of whom came in from Toronto, Florida and New York. The evening continued with performances by the younger generation as well as an audiovisual extravaganza depicting "Persian and Parsi dress through the centuries".

The highlight of the second day was the inauguration of the FEZANA Office and the introduction of the first administrator Zenobia Damania. This was preceded by the introduction of FEZANA presidents, past and current by Jim Engineer. Each President reflected on souvenirs during their terms of office. The ribbon cutting was done to the singing of *Mubarak, Mubarak* by the ZAC choir led by Freya Dhunjisha. Of course no true Zarathushti event would be complete without a lavish buffet of Pullav-dar, Sali-gos, Lagan-nu-achar, Kuli and other dishes prepared by members of ZAC. The afternoon started with "Recognitions and Honors" by members of the ZAC Board. A panel presentation followed, led by Rohinton Rivetna and Hoshi Vazifdar **on Vision and Goals for Zarathushtis in Chicago and North America for 2025**. After the Tea Break, a hilarious Skit and Song written by Aban Daboo followed. Not to be outdone, the Next-Generationers had prepared "Zeopardy". This "Made in ZAC", game –show was impressive and innovative to say the least. The ZAC choir led by Freya Dhunjisha sang a beautiful song - "Tribute to Zarathushtra" which ended the evening with a musical hour, (which became several hours) provided by Maestro Adi Tamboli. He regaled the audience non-stop with a medley of old and new classics, Indian and Western.

On day three, a celebration of Zarathushti Business and Enterprise was sponsored by WZCC (Chicago Chapter) and ZAC.

Throughout the three days of festivities well-deserved tributes flowed lavishly for the yeoman services provided by Rohinton and Roshan Rivetna to the Chicago community and indeed to the entire diaspora with their vision and their tenacity to turn that vision into a reality. The members of the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago outdid themselves in the execution of the activities for all three days with clockwork precision and co-ordination. They demonstrated that they were up to meeting all challenges, They showed in those few days how they dealt with the celebration of the life of their oldest member Rustom Billimoria, who passed away at age 97, on the day before the silver jubilee gala, and also how they can celebrate 25 years of Darbe Mehr life. All the funeral prayers were performed and members of the community participated without disrupting the planned event.

Co-Chairs for this gala event, Roshan Rivetna and Hosi Mehta need to be complimented for this event which was planned to the minutest details.

25 years ago I had participated in the inauguration ceremonies with my children and I was fortunate enough to participate 25 years later. Ahura Mazda willing I will be there at the 50 year celebrations, maybe on a wheel chair!!

Please see more on the ZAC 25th Silver Jubilee at www.ozcf.com



The Cottage Group

Bottom row: Benaisha Chothia, Manichey Tampal, Zenia Tarapore, Anita Khory and Jimmy Bhesania.

Second Row: Armaitish Sethna, Farrahnaz Bulsara, Ruz Jasavala, Benaifer Desai, Rukshana Bharucha and Taronish Jasavala.

Third row: Burzin Tampal, Zaheer Bulsara, Arshasp, Me(Nasha Minwalla), Daneshvar Rohinton, Bezan Irani and Cumbysis Tampal.

Fourth row (back row): Fereshteh Bulsara, Shahzad Irani, Kershan Bulsara, Darius Dinshaw and Arzan Bulsara.

Youth Weekend 2008-From a Youth Perspective *submitted by Nasha Minwalla*

"Life at the cottage was definitely an experience that was worth living through. Meeting new people, experiencing new activities and being with your own kind, life does not get any better than that.

Being new to the cottage this past summer, I only knew three people in total out of the twenty-three people that went. I was very nervous before I went to the cottage, but once I was there, I felt at ease. The youth was outgoing and very friendly. As a shy girl, they made me feel welcome and never made me feel left out.

As for the events, there was canoeing, fishing, going out on the Seadoo, tubing and so much more. The best part was you did not need to be experienced at any of these things. Going out on the water and participating was what it was all about. Everyone was willing to help and no one was judging you and your abilities. It was pure fun.

Besides being active out of in the water, there was a night where everyone sat near a fire outside. We all introduced ourselves and told everyone something about ourselves. Not only did we put a name to a face, but we learned what that person was interested in. Therefore, telling a bit about that individual's personality - bringing everyone a little bit closer to each other.

Probably everyone's favourite activity at the cottage was tubing. Basically, you are on a tube, and the tube is attached to a string that is attached tightly to a boat. On the tube, there are hand grips where you hold onto while the boat pulls the tube. For someone who has never been tubing and cannot swim, I was terrified. However, the whole point of this trip was to meet new people and experience new things. I'd met new people, so now it was time to experience something new. I got on the tube and was instructed what to do – with a life jacket, of course. Once the boat started and the tube was moving, it was so much fun. The water splashing in your face, the speed at which we were going, the excitement – it was great!

The whole idea about the youth getting together is a great idea. Bringing us closer to each other and embracing our identity. In my personal opinion, more youth events such as this should be organized throughout the year. When you work and study hard, a break like this is deserved and just what is needed – a little getaway!

The laughs, smiles, fun, jokes and kindness make this event worth going to every year."

Interested in Networking with other Zoroastrians? Here are some great websites to check out:

- www.theparsidirectory.com
- www.theparsimatch.com
- www.theparsichronical.com
- www.w-z-o.org
- www.parsiresourcegroup.org
- www.wzcc.net
- www.oppournities.wcc.net
- www.zoroastrianism.com

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Email: freny@jasavala.plus.com

Would you like the OZCF Newsletter online?

Help save on postage costs for the OZCF and request to have your newsletter e-mailed to you – even before publication! E-mail ron.michelle@rogers.com to request an online copy.

RECAP OF OZCF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

On September 7th, 2008 the AGM was held and the new Board of Directors was ushered in. On behalf of the Board and the community, Cyrus Gazdar thanked Niloufer Bhesania for her outstanding leadership over the past two years as President of the OZCF.

After introductions of the current board members, out going president Niloufer Bhesania asked for updates on the building renovations. Farshogar Jasavala, chair of the Building Committee, indicated that the Minister's Order was finally lifted last week and that written confirmation was expected within the next few days. The architect would then prepare final drawings incorporating the changes requested by the Town of Oakville. These final drawings would be used as the basis for a final costing from the general contractor. It was expected that the costing would be higher than the information presented to members a year ago and that the increase may be as much as 12%. The Building Sub-Committee was still hopeful that the project would be completed by the end of December.

Niloufer Bhesania also provided highlights of fundraising and other activities carried out over the past two years. She stressed that they both reflected participation from a broad range of organizers representing all facets of the OZCFs membership.

Then Jang Engineer presented the treasurers report. Audited Statements had previously been mailed to the membership for the year ending December 31st, 2007. They highlighted an increase in income of \$192,696; cash-on-hand was at \$422,655 with a further \$45,000 being paid towards the mortgage during the year. The outstanding balance of the mortgage was \$245,000. Jang Engineer added that \$30,000 had already been paid towards the mortgage in 2008, thus reducing the current the outstanding balance to \$215,000. Jang thanked fellow Finance Sub-Committee members Bahram Parsi, Lily Kotwal and Hanoz Kapadia as well as the auditor, Sheherazad Talati, for their collective efforts in assisting him.

Jal Panthaky suggested that in developing the budget for the coming year, more monies be allotted for the maintenance of the renovated building. The Board had approved the appointment of Wormald and Company as the Auditor for the OZCF and recommended that the membership do the same.

At this time the new board was to be acclaimed or voted in. The Board had initially received 16 nominations for the 13 positions on the Board of Directors. However by the time of the elections five of the nominees chose to withdraw their nominations leaving 11 nominations at the time of the meeting. These 11 nominees were automatically acclaimed to the Board based on the by-laws. The by-laws provide that in the event of insufficient nominations to fill all positions on the Board, nominations may be requested from the floor. The Board had decided to ask for nominations from the floor for the remaining two positions.

Hushtasp Bhumgara nominated and Armeen Jasavala seconded Sharon Byramjee , who duly accepted. Jamshed Irani nominated and Mehernosh Bhesania seconded Farokh Pavri, who duly accepted. Sharon Byramjee nominated and Jimmy Bhesania seconded Armeen Jasavala, who duly accepted.

The nominees gave members a brief introduction to themselves and spoke of why they wanted to join the Board. Sharon Byramjee felt it was important to have younger members on the Board to represent and liaise with our youth and to have a say in the direction the OZCF was heading as that affects their futures. Farokh Pavri discussed the fact that he had been an OZCF member since its inception and had much to contribute to our organization. Armeen Jasavala stated that she is a current member on the Youth Sub-Committee and was President of her Athletic Council at university. She felt a greater representation of youth was needed at the Board level as they will be the future leaders of the OZCF.

The votes were tabulated and Sharon Byramjee and Farokh Pavri were elected to the Board. While the votes were being tabulated, the new Board members introduced themselves to the members.

In Other Business, Meher Panthaky raised the issue that there was no gala last year and since this is our single largest fundraising event. We need to nominate a Gala chair person right away and proposed Kermin Byramjee, who graciously accepted. Jal Panthaky inquired about the overall number of members. Bahram Parsi stated that there were 395 voting members prior to the AGM. Marzi Byramjee suggested a small percentage increase annually in membership fees to compensate for a surge in maintenance costs of the property and in building materials.

Rayomand Irani cautioned that an increase in fees could deter new members from joining the OZCF and/or have some existing members discontinue their membership. Bahram Parsi encouraged members to continue offering regular pledges and donations. Marzi Byramjee felt that it was prudent to raise fees should donations abate. Sam Bharda suggested an increase in fees commensurate with inflation. Hushtasp Bhumgara suggested that an endowment fund be created. Increases in the capital amount could be deployed to help offset various expenditures. Niloufer Bhesania regarded this as a good idea and added that it would be looked at by the new Board.

Farshogar Jasavala acknowledged Phil Sidhwa for all his efforts in working closely with local governments in helping overcome permit issues and making the building renovations a reality. Khurshid Engineer thanked Nozer and Nergish Kotwal for their boundless dedication to the OZCF. Both Armaity Anandsagar and Marzi Byramjee applauded the leadership and support demonstrated by the outgoing Board during their term. Marzi Byramjee applauded the colossal efforts of Farshogar Jasavala for the incredible amount of time and energy he had invested in the Building Sub-Committee, in having brought us to the brink of construction of the new building.