

ONTARIO ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

VISION

November 2007

Up-Coming Events

Children's Holiday Party (ages 3 - 12)

Sunday, December 16, 2007

Time: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Place: Clarkson Community Centre, 2475 Truscott Road, Mississauga. (South of QEW between Winston Churchill and Southdown Rd)

Cost: \$10 if names/payment received by December 2nd.
\$15 if names/payment received December 3rd to 11.

RSVP: Please send cheques made payable to OZCF to Coomi Sorabji, 3331 Fenwick Cres. Miss. Ont. L5L 2N2, or call Coomi at 905-607-2913. Email Armaity Anandasagar at armaity@rogers.com or Kashmiri Laher at fredl715@yahoo.com.

New Years Eve:

Date: Monday December 31st, 2007

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Claireport Place Banquet and Convention Centre

For further details please see the enclosed flyer.

Religious Events:

December 26th 11:00am Prayers Zarhost-no-Diso (F)

January 1st 2008 3:00pm Maidhyarem Ghambar (F)

Newsletter Committee

Roshan Byramjee, Michelle Patel, Rayomand Patel, Charis Wania.
Board Liaison: Hanoz Kapadia

Entertainment Committee

Armaity Anandasagar, Niloufer Bhesania, Zarina Gutta, Ferzin Bulsara, Hanoz Kapadia, Natasha Kharwanwalla, Fred and Kashmiri Laher, Niloufer Mavalvala, Benifer Patel, Coomi Sorabji

Message from our President

As the summer slowly fades away and we enter yet another Canadian fall and winter season, it is time to begin planning for 2008 and beyond. The Building Committee is hard at work on translating the renovation project into reality. Over the next few months, most of the focus of the Board will be on getting this work done on time and within budget.

Our other committees are also making plans for the coming year which we will share with you in the coming weeks.

In closing, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Niloufer Bhesania,
President

Elections for the Board of Directors

Do you have a strong sense of commitment to the goals of the OZCF? Do you have personal time that you would like to use to benefit your community? Are you able to relate well to and work well with people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are a good candidate for the Board of Directors of the OZCF.

We are looking for a variety of skill sets on the Board – mobeds, accountants and lawyers, fundraising experience, planning events, construction/building experience.

Every 2 years, a maximum of 13 members are elected to the Board of Directors (“the Board”) by the membership. The next election will take place at the AGM in the summer of 2008. These Board members then elect the 4 officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) from the 13 Directors.

If you are interested in being elected to the Board, please contact any Board member and let them know. Official nomination forms will be sent out prior to the AGM as specified in the By-Laws.

Membership Fees

It's that time of the year. Be sure to renew your 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 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

Help Wanted!

If you would like to read the newsletter on-line rather than receive it via regular mail, please contact any member of the newsletter committee. Help the OZCF save on postage.

Children's Halloween Party

This year marked the 1st Children's Halloween Party! One and all came out on Saturday, October 28 in the evening to enjoy games, prizes, pumpkin carving, food and fun! It was a great chance for the young ones to dress up in their favourite costumes and play small and large group games. A little wind and rain didn't stop anyone, as the crowd picked their pumpkins and enjoyed some hot chocolate, hot dogs, and snacks! A Big Thank You to the organizer, Armaity Anandasagar, as well as her team of volunteers, the Katila and Engineer families, Fred and Kashmira Laher, Zarina Gutta, Zubin Jasavala, Jimmy Bhesania, Charis Wania, Benifer and Hozi Patel, Cyrus Gazdar, and the Medhora family.



Obituaries

Khorshed Jamshed Mody, mother of Thrity Pfuetzner (Uwe) and Vera Mistry (Kersi), grandmother of Natasha, Cyrus (Roopa) and Kevin, great grandmother of Angad and Leah passed away on September 17, 2007.

Our Grandmother was everyone's "Granny". She could steal her way into hearts as only a warmhearted grandmother could. She experienced hardship early in life, losing her Mother in childhood and becoming a widow at thirty-five. Despite this, her life was filled with happiness and good fortune. One never saw any evidence of suffering. Instead, it was her eagerness for travel, her wisdom and her charity that stood out. If she had five dollars in her pocket, she believed three should be for someone else. She loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but had affection for all children. In a box in her bedroom she collected countless photos of the children she knew. They may have been cousins' children, or cousins' children's children. In her 85 years she touched and was touched by all of their lives. It is impossible to capture in words what this woman meant to us, but since her death, the words heard most often are: wise, compassionate, eager for experience, zest for life. She was patient and adaptable, she gave sound advice and she knew when to call a spade a spade. Most importantly, she lived her life till the end with eagerness and passion. Old age slowed her down, but it didn't temper her adventurous spirit. She still wanted to go everywhere everyone else was going and it appeared she was oblivious to her limitations.

At the age of 83 she cunningly enlisted me, her granddaughter, to take her to Paris. Naively, I let her convince me we could do a mini tour - slowly. We were wrong, but only I felt it was a mistake. It took her half an hour and two rest stops to simply exit the hotel's lobby. Finally, standing on the Paris street, just outside the hotel, Granny put her hand on her back and breathed a sigh of fatigue while I stood discouraged beside her. Granny mustered a big smile, raised her hand, and with her head cocked to one side said, "Toon chalti tha, hoon ouch" (you walk ahead, I'll catch up)!

The best way to honour and remember her is to live by the examples she set for us. To pass on the love she showed us, be good to the community we belong to, be honest with ourselves and others around us, and most importantly enjoy what life has to offer us. She passed away just as she said she wanted to. Not in a hospital bed, not in a nursing home, not bedridden, but still active and full of determination. Her death was extremely sudden and a close relative describes it best: "God didn't want her to know He was taking her away. Even that pain of parting, she didn't have to endure."

- submitted by Granddaughter Natasha Mistry.

Rohinton Dara Jehangir, husband of Pervin, father of Freny, Fariha & Zaira suddenly passed away in Las Vegas on October 13, 2007. He was a wonderful man and will be missed by all.

Our condolences go to both the families. May Ahura Mazda grant them the strength to bear their loss.

NextGen 2007

The Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago was host to the 1st NG07 (NextGenNow) Workshop, from October 12 – 14, 2007 in conjunction with FEZANA/ZYNA. It is the first in a series of conferences designed to strengthen and support the perpetuation of Zarathushti communities by stimulating inter-generational dialogue, cultivating leadership, and paving a path for real-world problem solving for the youth (under 40 years of age).

Co-chaired by Jim Engineer (Chicago) and Nikan Khatibi (California), the very interactive conference addressed such issues as Education-Awareness-Perpetuation, Achieving Harmony through Diversity and Community Building-The Next Generation Blueprint. With approx 50 youth and guest in attendance, the history of the OZCF was presented by Xerxes Wania during the last session, Achieving Harmony through Diversity and Community Building-The Next Generation Blueprint. The OZCF was very well received by the audience as a well run, diversified and visionary organization focused on the next generation.

The conference ended with a community lunch and jashan and some inspirational words by Mr. Rohinton Rivetna, FEZANA, ZAC, and WZCC who focused on passing the torch.

Stay in touch online! Visit the NextGenNow Facebook group and join the 47 other Zarathushti next generation leaders throughout the world who have already signed up! Facebook members search 'NextGenerationNow' to join. To join Facebook visit facebook.com.

Keeping their faith's flame lit: Young Zoroastrians fear for the future of a religion that shaped other faiths By Ron Grossman, Tribune staff reporter, October 15, 2007

The following is an excerpt from this article, courtesy of the Chicago Tribune...to read the article in its entirety, please see www.ChicagoTribune.com

When a group of young Zoroastrian people gathered in a Chicago suburb over the weekend to plan and pray for their religion's survival, they sang a modern hymn of praise to their adopted homeland with a sentiment at the heart of their ancient faith.

Once, the Zoroastrian community numbered in the millions with its compass running from Greece through the Middle East to India. Now there are fewer -- perhaps far fewer -- than 200,000 Zoroastrians left worldwide, about 10,000 in the United States. Should that statistical decline continue, it could mean the end of a tradition influential far beyond its own boundaries: Zoroastrianism helped shape Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Yet most Americans would scarcely note its passing nor recognize the indebtedness of their own faith. "After 9/11, a boy in my high school asked if I was a Hindu, a Muslim or a terrorist," said Motafram, 20, a student at the University of Michigan who grew up in Milwaukee. In fact, she is none of those, belonging instead to a faith with a straightforward ethic: "Think good thoughts, say good words, do good deeds." Such was the teaching of the prophet Zarathustra, as explained in "My First Zoroastrian Prayer Book". The religious hymns Zarathustra composed and subsequent elaborations on his teaching answer a theological question perplexing too many faiths; If God is good, why does evil exist? The Zoroastrians' answer is that there is an evil divinity as well as a good one at work in the universe. Scholars of religion characterize Zoroastrianism as a dualism, contrasting it with the monotheism of some other faiths. Neville Vazifdar, a participant in the Burr Ridge conference, said he can't understand how others can resist his ancestors' answer to the existence of evil. "Every person, if he has a whit of sense, ought to see the logical necessity of dualism," said Vazifdar, 20, of Bolingbrook. "It's so simple, yet so complex." Vazifdar is a mobed, as the group's priests are called. "We're not fire worshipers, as some people think," said Vazifdar, an engineering student. "Fire is the symbol of the inner light we strive to realize."

'Sunset' if not the 'twilight' Farzin Avari, a student from Marietta, Ga., conducted a survey of the community and concluded, writing in Fezana Journal, the community's magazine, that "unless we sit up and do something, it could very well be the 'sunset' if not the 'twilight.'" Her census showed its membership fast declining in India and suggests its fate in the U.S. hangs in the balance. Forty-six percent of North American Zoroastrians marry outsiders, she found. Avari also put the demographic dilemma in personal terms. "I was the first Zoroastrian to graduate from my high school," said Avari, 18. "I'll probably be the last Zoroastrian to graduate from there too."

Fezana Academic Scholarship Program

The FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program Committee is pleased to announce the results of the Annual Competition for the 2007-08 academic year which ended August 1, 2007. This year 28 applications were received which were judged in graduate or undergraduate category. Each category was judged by 5 independent judges from across the continent on academic excellence (40%), financial need (40%), extracurricular activities (10%) and community service (10%). We thank the judges for their hard work.

RESULTS

Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowed Scholarship for Academic Excellence – THE FEZANA Scholar (\$5000-graduate student):

Fiona Petigara, University of British Columbia, School of Medicine

The FEZANA 20th anniversary Endowed Scholarship for Academic Excellence (\$3000 - graduate student):

Katayoun Salamati, University of Southern California, Industrial and System Engineering

The Banoobai and Maneckshaw Kapadia Endowed scholarship for consistent academic work and special financial needs (\$1000):

Farahad Jamshidi, University of California, Berkeley, Structural Civil Engineering

FEZANA Scholarships for academic excellence, financial need and community service: (\$2000 each)

Nazneen Irani, Penn State University, Computer Science and Engineering

Yezad Anklesaria, University of Missouri, Aerospace Engineering

Parisa Javedani, University of Oregon, Human Physiology, Pre-med

Freya Motafaram, University of Michigan, Business administration

Bahareh Abadian, Orange Coast College, California, Biology

Taronish Irani, Wright State University, Ohio, Clinical Psychology (doctoral student)

We congratulate the winners and thank all the others who submitted their applications. We wish all the students the very best in their chosen professions.

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 or Charis Wania at 2cxw@rogers.com

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **December 15th, 2007**. Information received after that date will be considered for the following newsletter.

Accommodation - London-UK

Accommodation available in a welcoming family home located in Wimbledon, only 20 minutes from the centre of London.

Walking distance to all amenities, including District & Northern Line Underground, British Rail, Trams and buses.

Guidance is provided for getting around the United Kingdom and a variety of room sizes are available at excellent rates.

Tel: 011-44-20-8542-7195 (home)

Tel: 011- 44-798-022-3874 (cell)

Fax: 011-44-20-8241-7150

Email: freny@jasavala.plus.com

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/finding accommodations.

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

Advertising Rates

We will only be putting ads into the Black and White issues of the newsletter. There will be four B/W issues per year and two colour issues. Below are the new advertising rates for 2008.

\$75 per full page

\$45 per half page

\$25 per quarter page

For more information please email Roshan Byramjee at zbyramjee@cogeco.ca

Milestones

Congratulations

Natasha Irani, has once again been selected to partake in the NTC program organized by Tennis Canada and Ontario Tennis Association to be held at the Rexall Centre, York University, October 14th 2007. Natasha continues to excel in her endeavor to become a top tennis player where her competition includes players who are 2 years older than her. Natasha recently won the girls U10 tournament played at the Niagara Academy of Tennis.

Xarius Jasavala, came in 2nd for the East Halton schools cross country run, held in early October. Xarius had his best finish ever amongst a field of 82 boys.

Raiomond Mirza, son of Khushroo and Mini Mirza and nephew of Freddy and Kety Mirza, has been making great strides in the Bollywood music industry. He has been receiving accolades for songs (Dhokha, Dhundla Jo Sama Bandha) that he has composed for the movie Manorama Six Feet Under. To read the full review of both the movie and its songs go to: <http://www.smashits.com/news/bollywood/movie-talk/6370/music-review-of-manorama-six-feet-under.html>. We wish Raiomond every success in the future. Well done.

Way to go everyone!

Thank You!

Xarius Jasavala and 3 other school buddies formed a team named 'PC running buddies' (PC=Post's Corners school) to run the 5K CIBC Run for the Cure and raised \$1400 toward a great cause. Xarius would like to thank all those who sponsored him for this run and looks forward to possibly entering an OZCF team for next year.

Donations are always welcomed.

Donations are tax deductible.

Make this Vision a Reality.

For more Info go to **www.OZCF.com**