



Upcoming events

May 31-Gustadji No Ghotalo Natak (Michael Power/St. Joseph School, 105 Wringate Dr. Etobicoke)
Time: 7pm
Tks: \$50(VIP), \$40,\$30 (See OZCF.COM for details)

Sports committee

Please keep an eye on the OZCF web site for monthly events or contact Cyrus Gazdar, Rayomand Irani or Rumi Jasavala (phone numbers can be found on OZCF.com)

Newsletter Committee

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

Entertainment Committee
Kashmira Laher (Chair), Armaity Anandasagar, Niloufer Bhesania, Zarina Gutta, Ferzin Bulsara, Hanoz Kapadia, Natasha Kharwanwalla, Benifer patel, Coomi Sorabji

President's Message

Happy belated Navroze and Khordad Sal to all of you. The coming months promise to be exciting ones for OZCF. We anticipate getting the long awaited approval from the Town of Oakville to begin renovations so that we can have a usable space for next winter. Those of you who attended the Muktd ceremonies and other events over the past few months know the inconveniences of our current premises. I appreciate your patience and support.

I also look forward to the Natak on May 31st put on by the Toronto Parsi Drama Group led by our very own Jal and Meher Panthaky. They have assembled a stellar cast for one performance only. Tickets are selling fast so be sure to get yours soon.

On March 21st, about 400 of us celebrated Fasli Navroze. It was heartening to see so many Zarthusti's of all ages come together to celebrate this important occasion. A special thanks to our Seniors' Yoga Group who once again made a sizable donation. I omitted thanking them on the evening and so will say a special thank you in this space.

As always, I look forward to seeing all of you at the many events planned over the coming months.
Niloufer

The **Seventh ISIS Biennial Conference** will be held in Toronto, Ontario, from July 31 to August 3rd, 2008 at the Park Hyatt Hotel. See www.parktoronto.hyatt.com. They are planning an exceptionally rich conference with many cultural events. It will feature a large selection of scholarly panels, a historic symphonic orchestra performance with Shahnamah-khani and pardah-khani, a dance performance, a film festival, an art exhibition, and a book exhibit.

For more information contact Mohamad Tavakoli, Program Chair, Seventh Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies International Society for Iranian Studies. <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/iranian-studies>

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.

Religious Classes

Below are the dates for the remaining Religious Classes for this term, now held at John Fraser Secondary School (2665 Erin Centre Blvd. Near Erin Mills Town Centre, at Erin Centre and Glen Erin Drive) for children in the west end of the GTA. Class Times are: 11.30am – 1.30pm on the following dates:

May 4

May 17 & May 18 – Graduation Retreat Camp

May 25

June 15 – Joint Session – This class to be held at the MGDM

Jamshedi Navroze 2008

As we spring forward, Jamshedi Navroze offers a wonderful occasion to bid farewell to another year past and bring with it new hopes and aspirations of the New Year.

Priests Nozer Kotwal, Xerxes Bamji, Khushroo Bharda, Rishaan Bharda, Rishaad Unvala and Freyhan Daruwalla performed a Jashan to commemorate the arrival of Navroze.

As the crowd of over 400 continued to pour in at the Satkar Palace Banquet Hall in Mississauga, guests helped themselves to tasty hors d'oeuvres. An assortment of appetizers and a sumptuous main course ensured that Navroze resolutions related to dieting were set back at least another day! The room was abuzz with lively conversations, friends greeting friends they had not seen in a while.

President Niloufer Bhesania thanked Kashmira Laher, the Entertainment Committee Chairperson, and the entire Committee for organizing the event. She also took the opportunity to thank the priests for their commitment and dedication to our community for performing the Mukta prayers, and to all the volunteers for offering their assistance, donations, for preparing food and giving sukher and loban during the five-day Mukta period.

Armaity Anandsagar and Perveen Katila had organized games which kept youngsters and their parents active. Raffle, door and table prizes produced many winners on the night. Following dinner, DJ Rudra Ramlogan played a modern mix of Western and Bollywood hits, keeping the dance floor packed from corner to corner.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our entertainment committee the function was a rousing success.

Nozer Kotwal also thanked the priests for performing prayers during the recently held Muktas, especially the younger ones who had taken time out of their March Break holidays to do so. He also encouraged more members come out and attend future prayers during these holy days. We thank the additional priests who also performed services during these special days: Jehan Bagli; Xerxes Bamji; Khushroo Bharda; Rishaan Bharda; Firdosh Bulsara; Freyhan Daruwalla; Dariyus Kanga; Nozer Kotwal; Cyrus Panthakee; Ferhan Panthaki; Gustad Panthaki, Rishaad Unwalla & Kobad Zarolia.

Soccer Night in Ontario

Zoroastrian soccer talent was evident on March 22nd and April 12th where each event was witness to the skills and athleticism from children and adults, the youngest being 5 years. The first session accommodated 30 people and the 2nd session saw 44 adults and 13 children turn out for a 3 hour indoor soccer event that exuberated passion, skill and enjoyment all round. There were dazzling displays of pace and power. The best was seeing youngsters have warm ups and a scrimmage, running around with broad smiles and having an absolute blast.

Please stay tuned to the OZCF website for future sports events and if interested on being on the sports email list, kindly drop Cyrus or Rumi an email (E-mail addresses can be found at OZCF.com)

Milestones

Births

Congratulations to Daniel and Deenah Patel on the birth of their daughter, **Miah Jade**, born February 23, 2008. Congratulations also go to the Grandparents, Gulrukh & Cawas Patel and Kermin & Marzi Byramjee.

Kiana, born to Percy and Tinaaz Mistry on April 9, 2008. Congratulations to proud Grandparents, Jimmy and Pervin Mistry, Jasmine Gadiwalla and blessings from the late Dinyar Gadiwalla.

Navjotes

Riaan & Liam Rustom Mirza's Navjote in Mumbai on December 26th, 2007. Sons of Benaifer & Rustom Mirza of Ottawa. Grandsons of Hoshang and late Silloo Surty and Norshir and Putli Mirza of Ontario

Achievements

Cyrus Cooper has recently been selected as a *Top 30 Under 30* recipient from the Ontario Hospitality Institute. The *Top 30 Under 30* is an annual recognition program that celebrates the hospitality industry's top 30 young professionals in all sectors from within the Province of Ontario. Cyrus is one of the youngest and only student recipient of this high profile recognition program that celebrates and recognizes future generations of hospitality leaders who will make a difference. Cyrus has worked for Oliver and Bonacini Restaurants for the past three years as a Server and recently as a Front of House Manager and aspires to one day own his own restaurant. For more information on the Ontario Hospitality Institute visit (www.theohi.ca) Congratulations Cyrus!

Obituaries

Aloo N. Anklesaria passed away of old age on February 18, 2008 in Toronto. Aloo was a well-loved, respected teacher who taught for many years, both in Mumbai and Winnipeg. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Banoo Damkevala, passed away peacefully in the early hours of the morning of Feb 26, 2008. She had been in a nursing home in Naperville, IL for the past year. Her condition worsened on Friday and they placed a nurse with her 24-hours a day. I came to Chicago on Saturday, and she seemed to be breathing normally and even opened her eyes when I spoke. But as days passed, she became weaker and weaker. When I saw her last night, she did not wake from her sleep. She slipped into eternal rest this morning at 2:30 a.m., Chicago time.

There were prayers for her (Sarosh Nu Patru) at 7:00 p.m. at the Darbe Mehr in Burr Ridge, Illinois. It was a beautiful ceremony with 2 mobeds and about 70 people. The funeral ceremony (Geh Sarna) was at 10:30 a.m. the following morning, at the Toon Funeral Home in Downers Grove, Illinois, followed by cremation. According to our religious custom, there were ceremonies for 4 days to help her soul travel from this world to the next.

Banoo was loved by all who knew her. Personally, I don't remember her ever scolding or punishing me or my siblings, and yet we knew when we had done something inappropriate. I learned a lot from her and my dad, who were always content with whatever was served to them. We celebrated her 90th birthday in 2004. She was born on the Shahenshai NavRoos day. In Chicago, she was surrounded by many: my brother Bomi Damkevala and his family and my sister Shirin Kanga and family, plus the large well-knit Chicagoland Zarathushti community. They were all a source of joy to her. Until recently, she also spent a few months every year with Yasmin & me and my family in Maryland and then in Florida. We will miss her. May her soul rest in peace. (obituary submitted by *Rustom Kerala*)

Obtaining Zoroastrian News via Email

Where do you get at most one E-mail a day but you learn what other Zoroastrians are doing around the world?

As the need for the Zoroastrian community to keep in touch with its members globally is rapidly on the rise, we have set forth to establish the Zoroastrian News Agency (ZNA), which will cover unbiased news related to all aspects of our greater community worldwide.

The news may be of local, national and global interest on events and issues affecting the community. This information may include but will not be limited to a wide variety of topics such as births, engagements, weddings, great achievements, Sedreh Pushi/Navjotes, deaths, community events, public service announcements, celebrations, ceremonies/Jashans, media links, etc.

There will not be any personal forums, discussions, arguments, articles, or public feedback on this portal, as there are numerous other appropriate groups, weblogs and venues available on the internet for interactive discussions.

The default message delivery option is "Daily Digest", so at most one email that includes all Z-News for any particular day, if any, will be received by subscribers. In addition, readers can choose to receive the news at a preferred email address if Yahoo is not one's primary or default account. Instructions for changing these options shall be provided upon request.

Please pass on the news to your friends and family. Let us work together and establish something good for a good cause that will help secure the future of our community.

To subscribe please send an E-mail to: zna-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Persian readers send an E-mail to: izna-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Note: For faster response, when you join please include your: **First Name, Last Name, City, and Country.** Current Moderators: Ardeshir Behi Bijan KHosraviani Fereidoon Demehri Manchester, UK Boston, US Vancouver, Canada

Donations are always welcomed.
Make this Vision a Reality.

Donations are tax deductible.
For more info. go to OZCF.com

Zarathushti Brings Crowds to Their Feet

Cyrus Bahrassa (17), a Senior and the Student Body President of the Little Rock Central High School, delivered a powerful speech at the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the integration of the Central High in Little Rock, opening and dedication of the new Central High School National Historic Site Museum and Visitor Center, and that speech drew a standing ovation from nearly 2,000 people.

Fifty years ago, on September 25th, 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower ordered troops of the 101st Airborne Division to escort 9 black students into Little Rock Central High School and protect them for their full day in class. Among the dignitaries that attended the commemoration ceremony were former President Bill Clinton and his wife Sen. Hillary Clinton (both of whom embraced him at the ceremony after the speech), President Eisenhower's granddaughter Susan Eisenhower, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, and several other officials.

Cyrus is the son of proud parents Drs. Feraydoon Bahrassa and Persis Shroff and brother of Farhad and Nazneen.

To see and hear Cyrus Bahrassa's speech, go to <http://tinyurl.com/28ew7s>

Celebrating TEN YEARS of pride – the Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center Houston

The Zarathushti Heritage & Culture Center of Houston is celebrating our Zarathushti history! They would like to invite everyone to be a part of their celebrations. The schedule of events is as follows;

Friday, May 23, 2008 PERSIAN NITE
Saturday, May 24, 2008 JASHAN

ZAH GALA NITE

Sunday, May 25, 2008 WZCC – HOUSTON CHAPTER
Session I 10:00 am
Session II 11:30 pm
Lunch 12:30 pm
Sunday, May 25, 2008 "Lay all your love on me" -A two act comedy play

For more information, please see <http://www.zah.org/events.htm>

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), 011-44-798-022-3874 (cell), 011-44-20-8241-7150 (Fax). Email: freny@jasavalaplus.com

The Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) and San Diego Host Committee cordially invite you to join them for the **11th Zarathushti Games**, to be held on 4th of July weekend in beautiful San Diego, California. To take advantage of early-bird prices and ensure your space at the Games and at the social events register ASA. Due to popular demand, all social events and team registrations were sold out by the first deadline at the 2006 event. This year's Games promise to have a much larger turnout. So don't wait, reserve your spot today! Come one, come all...spectators, athletes, friends, and family alike!

What: The 11th Zarathushti Games
When: July 2 - 6, 2008
Where: The Beautiful University of San Diego, in Sunny San Diego, CA

To register online and find out more about this event please visit us at: <http://www.zathletics.com/>

Please tell your friends and help us spread the word.
If you have any questions, contact us at: zsc@fezana.org