

VISION

April 2005



Up-Coming Events

Book these events on your calendars today!
Details to follow.

Sunday, May 15, 2005
Event to be Announced

Date TBA
Annual General Meeting

Sunday, July 10, 2005
Lamb Roast Picnic

Saturday, August 20, 2005
Navroze Patra nu Bhonu

Friday, November 04, 2005
A Passage to India - Black Tie Gala

Saturday, December 31, 2005
New Year's Dinner & Dance

Entertainment Committee

Gulrukh Patel 905-542-0237
Kermin Byramjee 905-845-3480
Perin Screwvalla 905-607-0574
Coomi Sorabji 905-607-2913
Charis Wania 905-274-9525

Newsletter Committee

Farida Bhesania (Chairperson), Michelle Patel, Roshan Byramjee and Daniel Patel
Board Liason: Niloufer Bhesania
For advertising contact Roshan Byramjee at zbyramjee@cogeco.ca.

Message from our President Navroze: A New Beginning

The spring festival of Navroze brings with it the birth of a fresh new year, filled with hope for peace and unity amongst people of the world. What a glorious Navroze function we celebrated in honour of our youth. If their participation is any indication of our future, then my friends, it is in good hands. With the hall brimming with youngsters, a large group of our young mobeds conducted the Jashan prayers with great pride and emotion. A young choir resplendent with pomp and pageantry, assembled to sing beautiful melodies through the ages, such as 'Soli Saklat', '21st March' and 'Khudavand'. It all brought back memories of a time past and optimism that the future of our rich heritage is here to stay in these caring hands. Let us continue to encourage our younger generation so that they can carry our everlasting flame with dignity, pride and unity.

On the land front, we are looking closely at four properties and have placed offers on two of them. The Board of Directors, along with our membership, is very motivated to close a deal soon so that we can start planning for our future. We will do so responsibly and at the earliest, with the community's interest in mind. We will keep you informed of progress.

On a somber note, the world celebrated the lasting legacy that Pope John Paul II left us as the world lost one of its great heroes. One of his greatest attributes was tolerance and respect for all people of the world, no matter their religious background or place of origin. Let us also, as Zoroastrians in Canada, be tolerant and accepting of our neighbours and unite in hope for the betterment of mankind.

On behalf of the Board I wish you and your families, here and abroad, a very happy Navroze and all the best in the New Year. May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.

Phil Sidhwa
President
OZCF



Jamshedi Navroze

On March 26th, 2005 nearly 300 members gathered to celebrate Jamshedi Navroze at Payal Banquet Hall in Mississauga. This event raised almost \$3,000! The evening began with a wonderful jashan conducted by our young dasturjis ranging in age from 8 - 18. We thank Ervad Farhad Bulsara, Ervad Zaheer Bulsara, Ervad Freyhan Daruwala, Ervad Rishad Unvala, Ervad Behram Antia, Ervad Rayomand Antia, Ervad Cyrus Panthakee for their service. How very inspiring to see our young priests setting such a wonderful example of our culture evolving through generations!

The crowd was charmed by some music sung by our Children's Choir comprised of 18 children. Thanks to Benifer Patel, Pervis Bhumghara, Hosi Patel and Khurshid Engineer for leading the choir in some delightful songs - even one about Parsi food! The children were entertained by a clown who made balloon animals and hats and gifts were given to every youngster in attendance.

Payal Banquet Hall provided a delicious meal of largely traditional Parsi dishes. Sev and Dahi donated by our members was also served. Throughout the evening raffle tickets were sold for such lovely items as sari 'kores', outfits and a DVD. The festivities continued with the DJ who had the crowd on the floor for the rest of the evening. The entertainment committee did a fabulous job as always and we thank all its members for all their efforts - what a great way to kick off Spring 2005!



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

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **May 25, 2005**. Information received after May 25, 2005 will be considered for the following newsletter.

Indian Music Night

The Indian Music Night, held on February 19, 2005 at Payal Banquet Hall, was a huge success and a memorable night! Guests enjoyed music by Afzal & Munni Subhani, a famous husband and wife team who have performed all over Canada & U.S.A. Afzal Subhani has been proclaimed as Toronto's "Mehdi Hasan."

We thank the Entertainment Committee along with Katy Mulla, Khurshid Engineer and Meher Panthaky for this enjoyable night of Indian music. The OZCF raised just over \$3,000!



Achievements

Zubin Surkari, son of Katy and Eruch Surkari of Toronto, an avid cricket player represented Canada (Canadian Cricket Association) recently participated in a tournament at the ICC Intercontinental Cup 2004 in Sharjah, U.A.E. Zubin hit an impressive 139 runs in a match against U.A.E. and Canada went on to win the match series. He is also the Captain of the Toronto Cricket Club Premier Division team.

OZCF was a proud sponsor of Merzi Dastoor, son of Sarosh and Noshir Dastoor of Ontario, who participated in the Boston Marathon on April 18, 2005. The 42 km race was televised on Outdoor Life Network. Merzi started running in marathons and triathalons 5 years ago and started a running club for his students when he moved to Newfoundland.

We wish both these athletes continued success!

Congratulations to Jang Engineer for being one of the five proud recipients of the Public Accounting License from the Public Accountants Council for The Province of Ontario. Out of approximately 35,000 Certified General Accountants and Certified Management Accountants in Ontario, the Council has so far deemed fit to grant these licenses to only 5 outstanding applicants, who could demonstrate special circumstances to warrant this privilege.

In the World

Just a reminder that the 8th World Zoroastrian Congress is to be held in London, UK from Friday, June 24 - Friday, July 1, 2005. It's not too late to register for this 8-day event! Entertainment events include a variety of Parsi, Iranian, Indian and Western performances and Singles/Couples/ Family Night. Topics of discussion include History and Heritage, Commerce and Enterprise, Zoroastrians of Iran, Rituals Culture and Literature, Youth and Current Issues and much more! Do your best to book by May 21, 2005! Check www.zffe.com.

FEZANA is conducting a survey of Zoroastrians across Canada and the U.S. to collect information for future directories and to procure correct statistical information about all Zoroastrians residing in North America. **Check www.fezana.org**

Announcements

Births

Big sisters Rayna and Farah would like to announce the arrival of Mila Shivani Madon on February 11th, 2005. Proud parents are Cyrus and Shilpa Madon. Proud grandparents are Shavak and Freny Madon of Oakville and Soam and Shashi Soni of Winnipeg. Congratulations to the family and welcome Mila!

Big brother Darius Dalal would like to announce the arrival of Rohan Noshir Dalal on March 10th, 2005. Proud parents are Tauzer and Tina Dalal. Proud grand parents are Romi and Homai Sapurji of Mississauga and Jimmy and Katy Dalal of India. Congratulations to the family and welcome Rohan!

Welcome Newcomers

We welcome Farhad and Rohda Sethna to Canada. They have recently immigrated from England and are making Oakville their home.

Also relatively new to our land are Sharyar and Dalaera Hirjikaka from Pakistan. Sharyar is a professional photographer and has a studio in his home.

We wish both families good luck and extend a hearty OZCF welcome.

Engagements

Congratulations to Pearl Panthaky, daughter of Jal and Meher Panthaky on her engagement to Kerman Merwan, son of Kersi and Khorshed Merwan. The happy young couple plans to marry in 2006. Congratulations to both families.

Anniversaries

Congratulations to our number one photographer and his lovely wife. Sam and Dhun Gazdar are celebrating 40 years of wedded bliss.

Congratulations to Rohinton and Nargis Jasavala on the celebration of their golden anniversary.

Congratulations to Kersi and Ruby Bhesania who celebrated their 40th anniversary.

We wish all three couples many more happy years together!

Get Well Soon

We wish Lily Kotwal, daughter of Nozer and Nergish Kotwal of Mississauga, a speedy recovery from recent surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lily and her family.

Retirements

It is the end of an era! Jasavala and Sons is closing its doors and we will no longer have the delicious, mouth-watering foods that we came to rely on for our weddings, navjotes and happy occasions. Thank you, Nargis Aunty and Rohinton Uncle, for serving our community so well for so many years. You will be sorely missed but we wish you many happy and relaxed years in the future. (Please see attached flyer for further details)

Obituaries

Fali Framji, husband of Roshan Framji of Mumbai, father of Havovi Tavadia of Detroit, Michigan and Homai Framji of Mumbai, and brother of Jeroo Chinoy of Detroit, passed away on March 29, 2005 at the age of 65. We pass our condolences to his family.

Fees and Donations

Membership fees are now due.

Family: \$35

Single and Senior: \$10

Send cheques payable to:

OZCF

4244 Taffey Crescent

Mississauga, ON L5L 2J2

Donations are always welcomed.

Donations are tax deductible.

Make this Vision a Reality.

For more Info go to www.OZCF.com

Rates for Ceremonial Observances

A lot of Zarthushti families have inquired about the rates for religious ceremonies.

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.