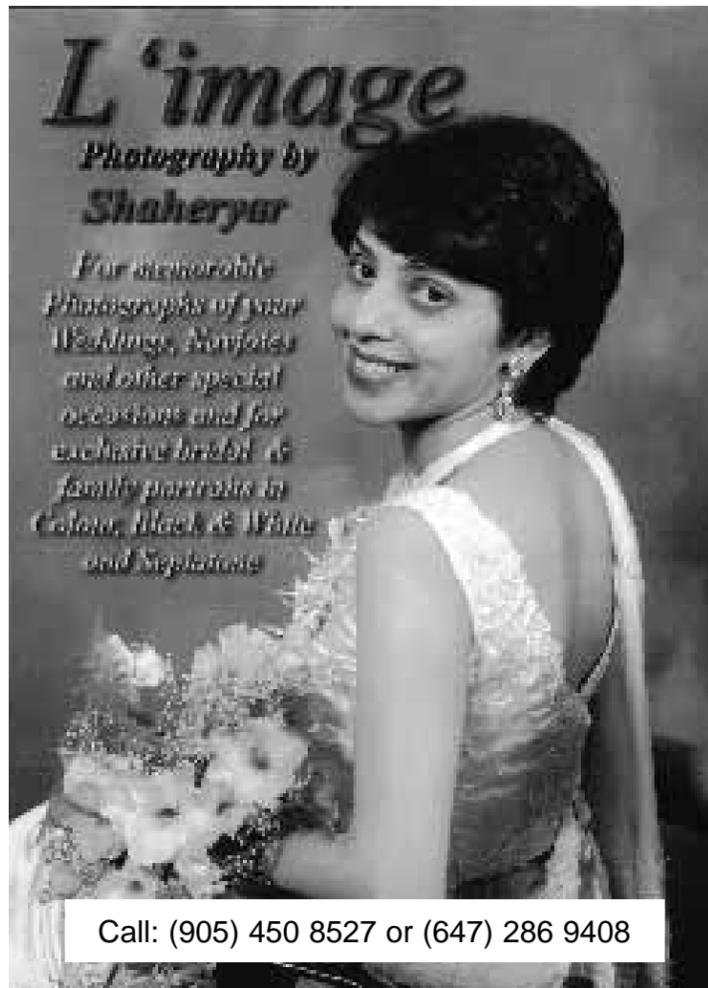


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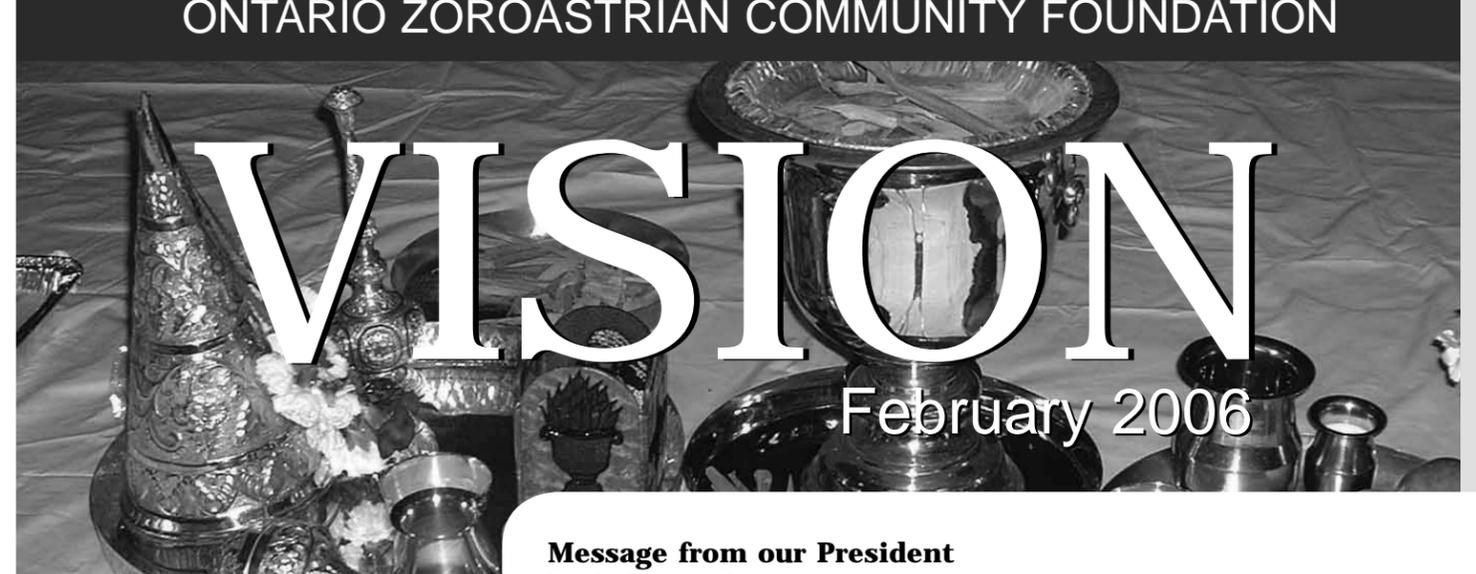
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VISION

February 2006

**Message from our President
 Let's Begin Building**

Over the past several months, your board of directors has been busily working on the 2006 budget and developing short and long term plans for our new facilities at 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E. We will be calling a membership meeting soon to discuss details of the plans and for your feedback. I am pleased to inform the membership that after reviewing various thoughtful names submitted by the membership, Zoroastrian Religious and Cultural Centre was selected for our facilities and recommended by the board of directors. As the new home of the OZCF, the name incorporates the religious dimension of our tradition and the cultural theme of a community organization. We have just completed our 2006 budget and are pleased to deliver a surplus after making scheduled loan payments. At our meeting we will discuss whether we wish to pay down some of our loan or keep it for future building costs.

The next phase of our project is to create useable facilities for the membership and will involve a two stage approach:

1. In the first stage we will perform minor upgrades and immediate repairs to the two existing buildings to make them functional for a two to three year period, until new facilities are built. This will enable us to accommodate about 125 people in the house and 150 in the garage. For larger functions during the summer, a marquis arrangement will be made. We want to be careful not to invest too much in these older facilities since they will not be used to a great extent in the future. However a small capital and yearly investment will be required to meet immediate community needs until a new structure is built.

2. The second stage, concurrent with the first, will involve planning and designing the facilities and starting the construction. We have taken a close look at our vision and have interviewed architects and planners on incorporating our ideas into actual drawings, including sizes and capacities of buildings. These preliminary conceptual illustrations will be presented to the membership for feedback. Our overall vision remains consistent and includes facilities for a place of worship, banquet hall, community and recreation centre, senior's home, as well as cultural and educational activities. These buildings and uses range in timeframe from the immediate (present-5 years) to long term (5-10 years).

We are also creating a strategic development plan that will be used by the town's planning department to understand our needs and shape the new official plan of the town to meet our future requirements. We are now entering a critical phase in the evolution of our organization as we shape the future of our community here in Ontario, Canada and worldwide. I encourage everyone to participate in constructive discussion throughout this process and donate generously to our cause. To-date, the response has been terrific with heavy usage of the facilities for jashans, meetings, and many activities. Skating rinks along with soccer and cricket fields are being planned. We appreciate the services of our many volunteers and professionals for fixing-up the place and offering advice. We thank our surrounding communities for their generosity, such as the Toronto Police Force which gave us nine computer systems for use by children and new immigrants. On and on, the momentum builds, as we celebrate each day in our new home with family and friends. So let's roll up our sleeves and start working, hand in hand, brick by brick, building for the future – for tomorrow is near.

May Ahura Mazda always bless our community and bring peace and hope to all in 2006.

Phil Sidhwa, President

Renew Your Membership

It's that time of the year again! Time to renew your membership for 2006. You can pay for your membership online via PAYPAL at www.ozcf.com/Membership.htm or send your cheques to Nozer Kotwal at 4244 Taffey Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5L 2J2. Annual membership dues are \$35. Fees must be paid by the AGM, or you forfeit your privilege to vote at the meeting.

Just Think About It!

Isn't it strange how \$20 seems like such a large amount when you donate it to a fire-temple, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at the fire-temple, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Khordeh Avesta, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games, but do whatever is possible to arrive late and sit at the last row at a Jashan, Navjote or other religious ceremony?

Just think about it.....

Fees and Donations

Membership fees
 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.

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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.

Up-Coming Events

International Events

May 27-28, 19th Annual FEZANA General Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. This event is hosted by the Atlanta Zoroastrian Association. See www.fezana.org for more information.

July 1-4, 2006 10th Zarathushti Games to be held by the Zoroastrian Sports Committee in Los Angeles, CA. See www.fezana.org for more information.

July 1-4, 2007 – Zoroastrian Youth Conference - Toronto

Winter Family Fun Day

Families with young ones are invited to come out to the 1st OZCF Winter Family Fun Day to be held at the ZRCC on February 12, 2006 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Come on out for games, tobogganing (bring your own toboggan), skating, a treasure hunt (to begin at 2:00), see a real fire engine, and a Marshmallow roast (you bring the skewer and we provide the marshmallows.!) Refreshments and snacks will be sold, you will enjoy pizza, samosas, hot chocolate, and more. Contact Hushtasp Bhumgara at 905-855-2135 or 905-822-5694 if you plan to attend! Admission is free but a non-perishable can of food is requested for the Food Bank.

Youth Variety Program

On July 30, 2006, our Zoroastrian Youth will present a matinee performance at the Meadowvale Theatre in Mississauga, followed by refreshments at the ZRCC. This promises to be an entertaining afternoon featuring singing, dancing and other performances as our youth members showcase their talents. Mark the date on your calendars! For further information, or to sign up as a volunteer, please contact: Hushtasp Bhumgara at 905-855-2135 or 905-822-5694 or email hbhumgara@hotmail.com

As always our events would not be possible without our dedicated band of volunteers. Come and show your support and volunteer today!

Daily Bread Food Bank Donations

Do you have empty printer cartridges or old cell phones sitting at home? Bring them to the OZCF Navroze Dinner & Dance on March 25, 2006. The OZCF will donate these items to the Daily Bread Food Bank. This organization delivers the items back to the remanufacturing industry, which then turns them into refurbished products for consumers. The program operates with no cost to the Food Bank so all the proceeds brought in are used directly to service those who utilize the Food Bank. We would appreciate your support and donations. We will also accept non-perishable canned food items. Let's start off our New Year right!

Want to Become a Board Member? Here's how...

The OZCF Board is looking for fresh new ideas and new faces to be on the Board of Directors. Do you have enthusiasm and willingness to work on a variety of projects? We are looking for people who want to be involved in the community and willing to come to one meeting a month.

It is important to know that there are 13 Board members, who then elect officers for a 2-year term. The elected officers include the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Send an e-mail to Xerxes Wania at xwania@rogers.com if you are interested in becoming a Board Member telling us a little about yourself and what your strengths and interests are. WE WANT YOU!!!



Clothing Drive

Thanks to everyone who donated clean, warm clothing for Earthquake victims in Pakistan. Even on short notice, our community members donated gloves, hats, sweaters and coats and brought them to the ZRCC. Arrangements had been made by Toxy Cowasjee of Pakistan and Meher Amalsad of California organized a North American effort to have UPS deliver the clothing to the villages directly. UPS also donated these services towards the earthquake relief effort. Also, thanks to volunteers like Farshogar and Jasmine Jasavala, Phil Sidhwa, Marook Sidhwa, Farokh Sidhwa, Lila Sidhwa, Danny Sidhwa, Hushtasp and Perviz Bhumgara, Marzi Byramjee and Nozer Kotwal who spent several hours getting all the donated items ready for shipping. 33 boxes of clothing were collected. Thanks to all for your generosity!



Pictures from the New Year's Eve Party 2005 - see article on next page

Announcements

Achievements

Cyrus Reporter is an Ottawa lawyer and a senior party official in the federal Liberal party. At one time he served as an assistant to Alan Rock who held many portfolios including the Ministry of health. Even then, during all election campaigns Cyrus was seconded to the PMO because the then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien always insisted on Cyrus being a prominent player in the election campaign. In the last election, Steven MacKinnon, the Liberal party's national director oversaw the communications and Brian Guest, a senior Paul Martin strategist was in charge of the war room. In the current election campaign, the Liberal party has decided to put Cyrus in charge of both, their election war room and communications. Cyrus is a member of the ZSO and the Zoroastrian community should be cognizant of the fact that Zoroastrians play such a strategic role in the affairs of the nation.

Delna Madon, a student at Deloitte, successfully passed her CA final exams (UFE) this month. Our heartiest congratulations to Delna as well as her proud parents Sheroo & Parvez Madon, of Montreal.

Obituary

Behram D. Gandevia passed away in Los Angeles on Dec. 3 at age 96. He was the father of Aban Parvez Commissariat of Los Angeles, Meher Noshir Mistry of Philadelphia and Perviz Phiroz Tarapore of Los Angeles. Our condolences to the family.

Welcome

The OZCF would like to welcome Niloufer Mavalvala's brother, Hormuzshaw, his wife Shireen and their children, Jamshed and Freya, from Pennsylvania. They have settled in Oakville. Hormuzshaw is a practicing family physician and will be starting at the Halton Family Health Centre, located at the corner of Dundas St. and Walkers Line in Burlington in February 2006. Welcome to our community!

New Funeral Home

Zoroastrian Service Package Rates for Zoroastrians wishing to use the Kopriva Taylor Community Funeral Home, located at 64 Lakeshore Road West, Oakville, Ontario have been negotiated. For details on these rates, please call Nozer Kotwal at 905 820 0461.



The invocation before dinner - New Year's Eve Dinner 2005

Want to be in our Newsletter?

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 March 1, 2006. Information received after that date will be considered for the following newsletter.

Want to Advertise in the OZCF Newsletter?

Below are the prices for advertising starting in the April 2006 issue:

4 Consecutive Issues:
\$200 - full page
\$125 - ½ page
\$60 - ¼ page
\$35 - 1/8 page

One-time advertisement:
\$60 - full page
\$40 - ½ page
\$25 - ¼ page
\$15 - 1/8 page

A Pinch of Humor

Q: What is Common between: Krishna, Ram, Gandhi & Jesus..?

A: All were born on Government Holidays.

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Help our Community Grow

Do you know of a family who may have just moved to Toronto or someone who would like to become a member? Ask for a membership form and help the OZCF grow.

Feel free to copy it and give it to any of your friends or family who may wish to become members of OZCF.

As We Grow

Name Change

The "parcel of land" at 1187 Burnamthorpe Rd. has been given a new name in time for the new year! We will now refer to the land as the ZRCC, which stands for the Zoroastrian Religious and Cultural Centre. Thanks to all our members for their suggestions and input.

Black Tie Committee

If you would like to be on the Black Tie Gala planning committee, please contact Niloufer Bhesania at 416-662-4939 or nillieb@hotmail.com. We would love to have some fresh faces help us plan the biggest event of the year!

Making Winter Fun

This winter, an ambitious group of gentlemen came together to build and maintain an ice rink at the ZRCC. Though the winter wather has not been cooperating lately, we wish to applaud them for all their efforts: Rumi Jasavala, Xarius Jasavala, Rohinton Bhatena, Khushroo Bharda, Rushad Bharda, Firdosh Irani, Rayomand Irani, Sharoukh Sidhwa, Ron Patel, Harry Silliphant, Behram Dubash, Cyrus Gazdar, Farshogar Jasavala, Hushtasp Bhumgara, and Yazdi Kharvanwalla.



Items of Interest

Hug of a Lifetime

Our Dinaz Garda fulfilled her dream at the Delta Hotel in Toronto, on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 when the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Paul Martin gave her a hug of a lifetime. The poor Prime Minister just could not free himself from the grips of our strong Zarthushti lady. Her husband Keras and her two wonderful children; Dilnaz and Darius just could not believe their eyes. Her pictures appeared in "The Sault Star" of the Sault Ste Marie newspaper and in "The Vancouver Sun".



Rare Stained-Glass Panels Restored

The following is an excerpt of an article taken from Times News Network Mumbai: Almost two years after vandals destroyed rare stained-glass panels covering the canopy of the ancient Bhika Behram, the grieving family of a Parsi girl, who was killed in a car accident, came forward to restore them. In 2003, the newly-married girl was run over by a speeding car in south Mumbai. Although the police launched a manhunt, the unidentified motorist was never caught. Her family then decided to restore the stained-glass panels in her memory. The installation work was completed on Wednesday. Sources close to the family said they did not wish to be identified. The Parsi/Irani community in Mumbai was shocked when in early 2004, vandals broke the panels above the 280-year-old well in the middle of the night. For the first time in recent history, over 2,000 Zoroastrians held a candlelight vigil at Azad Maidan in protest soon after. In this case too, the police failed to trace the culprits.



The Bhika Behram well is perhaps the oldest sweet water well in Mumbai, sunken way back in the year 1725. It is one of the few Parsi wells in the city which has one entrance for the community members and another one for non-Parsis to draw water. The well has an interesting history relating to a Parsi named Bhikhaji Behramji, who came to Mumbai on foot from Broach (Bharuch in Gujarat) to seek his fortune some time around the year 1715. The story goes that a penniless Bhikhaji was captured by the Marathas who mistook him for a Muslim. At that time, the Marathas were at war with the Sultans of Gujarat.

He was imprisoned in a fortress called Pandegad but was later released when he convinced his captors that he was a Parsi by showing them his religious garments of sudreh and kusti. However, according to some, it was not Bhikhaji but his grandfather Khurshedji who came from Broach to Mumbai in 1665. They say it was the grandfather and not the grandson who was arrested by the Marathas. In the course of time Bhikhaji became a successful merchant having his business at "Angrez Bazaar" now known as Horniman Circle. As a token of his gratitude, he sank the well named after him in 1725. Sunlight shines, once again, through the newly-installed stained glass panels at the Bhika Behram well. in Churchgate on Wednesday. Not necessary to put this bit in as the Wednesday came and went last month.

Making it Easier for You

The OZCF website is now accepting credit card payments. You can use most major credit cards to pay for your membership and donate online.

The secure site is run by PayPal, the most commonly used worldwide secured transaction company, for which no personal account is required. Soon you will have the choice to pay via credit card for most events... imagine that!!! Please visit www.ozcf.com/membership.htm.



OZCF and ZSO Host Joint New Year's Eve Celebration!

For the first time, the OZCF and ZSO organizations joined hands to welcome in the beginning of 2006! Held at the Capitol Banquet Hall in Mississauga, a whopping 540 people attended the event and showed a spectacular display of togetherness.

After invocation prayers conducted by Yazdi Antia and Nozer Kotwal, guests enjoyed a feast of international cuisine. The crowd was treated to a night of entertainment by the band, Goa Amigos and DJ services that were generously donated by Kaivan and Kamran Daryushnejad.

The highlight of the evening was the singing of "Chhaiye ame Zarhosti" sung by the entire crowd! The Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanoun of Ontario gave out a souvenir CD of this and other Zoroastrian songs to all that attended that night.

Some great raffle prizes such as a stained glass Asho Farohar, Team Canada winter jacket, drill set, pashmina shawl, and set of wine glasses were also generously donated.

Thanks to Regal Press for donating tickets and flyers and a huge vote of thanks to the Zoroastrian Community New Year's Eve committee members, which included Kermin Byramjee, Mehroo Chotia, Anahita Daryushnejad, Khushnuma Doctor, Katy Driver, Anahita Khory, Afreed Mistry and Gulrukh Patel.

For this event, the two associations came together and all net proceeds are to be donated to a charity still to be determined. This wonderful night of camaraderie and solidarity showed that we are all not just OZCF or ZSO members but always part of the Zoroastrian community!

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Fezana Performing & Creative Arts Scholarship Fund

Objectives

The FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship (P&CAS) provides financial support to Zarathustis who are performing artists in music, drama, etc. or practice other creative art forms like literature, poetry, fine arts, sculpture, painting, etc. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable the recipients to study with experts in their field and thus fine tune and enhance their talent and capabilities, BUT NOT FOR BASIC EDUCATION IN THE ABOVE FIELDS.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must (1) profess and practice the Zarathushti faith (2) be high school graduates (3) be legal residents or citizens of USA or Canada. Foreign students holding legal status in USA or Canada may also apply provided they have been in North America for at least one year. Awards will be determined on an annual basis by the judges chosen by the P&CAS Committee. Applicants will be eligible to receive a maximum of two awards, which may or may not be in consecutive years.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be judged on their academic preparation, and past record in their program of study, their commitment to pursue the chosen art form, their annual financial need, the assistance pledged by other sources, extra curricular activities and services performed for the Zarathushti community.

Application Procedure

Application forms will be available on the FEZANA website or from the members of the P&CAS committee. However, applications cannot be submitted electronically as examples and proof of the applicants work (portfolio) will be required.

Five (5) copies of this application form with all attachments (including portfolio items) must be submitted by March 31 2006 to: SHERAZADE F. MEHTA, 5400 Preston Oaks Rd, #3048, Dallas TX 75354, U.S.A. Tel: (972) 385-4847
e-mail: sherazadem@yahoo.com

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 or 2cxw@rogers.com for your copy and support the OZCF!

Over the years, the money raised through the Club's several fundraising committees, has been used to send doctors to remote villages in India with life-saving drugs and medical equipment. Cataract operation camps have been set up in rural areas and hospitals have received several surgical machines and financial aid.

Zoroastrianism Represented in Hospital Fundraiser

On December 3rd, 2005, Noshir and Katy Mulla took part in "Utsav" (multi faith festival), a Trillium Health Centre Fundraiser, directed by Dr. Shiva.

As part of the festival, Dr. Shiva had asked that a Parsi couple join him on stage during the performance of "Chaiye Hume Zarhosti" to act out a vignette and create a "nice Parsi atmosphere". So Katy and Noshir, with true showmanship, dressed in "dagli and gara", set aside their evening plans and went to the Metro Convention Centre and did us proud.

"Utsav", a fundraiser whose net proceeds went toward the new cardiac centre at Trillium Health Centre in Mississauga, was a celebration of Toronto's vibrant multi-faith community and we are delighted that Zoroastrians were recognized as an important tile in its mosaic. It was a two-hour spectacle that presented originally scripted and composed music representing most of the well known and some lesser known festivals in a spectacular multimedia interactive choral format. Thank you Noshir and Katy for representing us with such dignity and grace and for making sure that Zoroastrians were represented in this important fundraising effort.

Zoroastrian Cricket Club News

The Zoroastrian Cricket Club plays competitive cricket in division 2 of the Etobicoke District Cricket League. Playing at this level provides us with an opportunity to play in a competitive environment, plus it allows our members to meet and socialize with other Zoroastrians in the community. We are always looking for new players to join the club, so if you are interested or know someone who is, please do contact Rumi Jasavala (see contact info. below). ZCC took a team on a tour of the UK in 1989 and a team from the UK came on tour to Toronto in 1990. The time has arrived for us to go on tour again, as this will provide a great opportunity for the many young Zoroastrians on the team to play in the UK and to meet and make friends in our UK Zoroastrian community.

We have arranged a tour from July 27th to August 14th, 2006 with 11 games. We are looking for various forms of support for the tour and if anyone or any company would like to help / support sponsor the team for this UK Tour, please contact Rumi Jasavala at 905-257-7864 or rumi.jasavala@mdsinc.com

OZCF Youth Enjoy Miami Youth Congress

Many Ontario youth members traveled to the "Zeestan 2005" Youth Congress in Miami Florida, held from December 28-30. Armeen Bhesania summarized one of the highlights of the Congress, a seminar hosted by Perry Unwalla, called "The One-Minute Zoroastrian Millionaire."

"Some may have found it difficult to rise for the morning session, as they had stayed up quite late the night before (reading the dictionary and tidying up their hotel rooms, no doubt). However, attendees were not disappointed, as Perry spoke of fundamental money managing skills, the virtues of compounding interest, and methods of wealth-building via leveraging.

His seminar was a Zoroastrian twist on the book "The One-Minute Millionaire" by Mark Victor Hansen and Robert Allen. For example, the book refers to the Enlightened Millionaire: someone who uses their wealth to increase the standard of living on the planet. This concept ties in nicely with Frasho - Kereti (literally "making wonderful"), where one is working towards perfection and rehabilitation of the world. As well, many appreciated that Perry tailored his speech to the youth demographic by emphasizing the importance of mentors, investing, and taking advantage of wealth-building vehicles such as IRA's (USA) or RRSP's (Canada). Attendees finished off the seminar by discussing the charitable activities in which individuals and their respective Zoroastrian association are participating.

At the end of the session, attendees were pleasantly surprised when Perry offered everyone a copy of the book mentioned above. Thanks Perry!"

Innovative Fundraiser for OZCF

Want another way to remember your "good thoughts, good words and good deeds?" Our very own Sanobar Zarolia has executed and acquired silicon wristbands with the famous Zoroastrian motto inscribed on it. They will be selling for only \$2.00 and will be available at the ZRCC and at any upcoming function.





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We Appreciate Your Support

Thank you to all our members and friends of OZCF for making the dream of building a community center a reality. Your generosity has made it possible to purchase land and now we will need your continued support to build on that land. Your donations are tax deductible and always welcomed.

Want to be a Reporter for OZCF?

Anyone out there attending the Youth Congress in Miami? If so, we would love to hear about your experience. Please send us your report on the Congress, including the highlights of the weekend, the social activities, and what topics were important to you.