



### Message from our President The Dawn of a New Era

With a resolute and united voice, the OZCF membership voted unanimously, 211 for and 0 against, to purchase a 10.1 acre parcel of land. Thanks to the community's solid efforts over the past three years, this brings to fruition a long and rewarding search for an ideal property on which to build our place of worship and cultural centre. Let there be no doubt, that this unprecedented 100% support vote, is a milestone for Zoroastrians in Canada and echoed a loud and strong message from the membership for a far sighted approach towards the sustainable welfare of our community. As tears of joy flowed at the meeting, the true philanthropy of the community was reflected when they generously donated over \$150,000 from their hearts within minutes. It was equally encouraging to see a large group of youngsters present and even donating their pocket money to the cause.

As the stunning vote of confidence was displayed, it was moving to watch everybody stand and break out into an emotional crescendo of 'Chaiye Hame Zarathushti', in an expression of true pride and passion towards this community cause.

We will now finalize the details to purchase the property. As presented at the meeting, our financial arrangements include allowances for minor expansion and upgrades to the existing facility as well as annual maintenance costs, in order to make the facility useable for our community soon.

This will fulfill the first part of our vision. With the membership's support and assistance, we can then start to develop the construction plans for the new centre. The board of directors and land committee thank the membership for your patience, financial contributions, moral support and confidence, to allow us to complete the work that we set out to do with the Almighty's blessings.

Let me emphasize that this land belongs to all Zoroastrians, Iranians and Parsis, and their families everywhere in the world. Probably one of the larger parcels of land owned by a Zoroastrian community outside of India, this land will offer Zoroastrians the opportunity to build on our deeply rooted foundations and once again secure our place in the pantheons of great religions.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite my fellow Zoroastrians of the ZSO to participate in the celebration of this new facility which is for all Zoroastrians. I would very much encourage open dialogue on the concept of unity among the two organizations. If we, on both sides, can set aside some of our personal ideologies and refrain from innuendo and false perceptions of each other, then we would certainly be able to make progress for the betterment of our society. Let us unite and embrace our accomplishments together, for our future is much stronger that way. After all, we are all of the same community.

History books will reveal that on this incredible day of June 4, 2005, a group of determined Zoroastrians sent a strong and determined message to the world - and the best is yet to come.

I encourage the membership and Zoroastrians around the world to please donate generously to the construction of the new centre. May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.

Phil Sidhwa  
President, OZCF

### Up-Coming Events

**Event:** Lamb Roast Picnic  
**Date:** Sunday, July 10, 2005  
**Time:** 11 am.  
**Venue:** Bronte Provincial Park  
**Price:** Adults: \$20;  
Children (5-12yrs.): \$10

**Event:** Jashan & Patra Nu Bhonu  
**Date:** Saturday, August 20, 2005  
**Time:** 6 pm.  
**Venue:** Galaxy 707 Club, Oakville  
**Price:** Adults: \$40;  
Children (5-12 yrs.): \$20

**Event:** Black Tie Gala  
**Date:** Friday, Nov 4th, 2005  
**Time:** 6 pm.  
**Venue:** Mississauga Grand  
See attached flyer for details

**Please Note:** The Fashion Show & Dinner will be rescheduled after September 10 as a ZSO event is taking place on the same day. OZCF has decided to change the date announced so that community members can attend both functions. Keep checking the Website or Contact any Member of the Entertainment Committee.

### 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.

Goodbye Jasavala and Sons - The End of an Era

In 1968, Nargis and Rohinton Jasavala brought their five young children to the United States from Zanzibar. Initially settling in Philadelphia, they soon decided that Canada was the place to be; and in 1972 they moved to Ottawa and finally settled in Toronto in 1974.

When both Rohinton uncle and Nargis aunty found themselves out of work, Rohinton uncle had the brilliant idea to start a catering business, and so, Jasavala & Sons was born. At first the catering was done from their apartment in Mississauga with the help of their children and their children's friends. Every function that was catered was a family affair where everyone helped. Not only did Nargis aunty cater for all the functions in the community but she also offered the service of a weekly menu prepared and delivered to your home. Many bachelors and busy families have been spoiled by Nargis aunty's "bhonna" service. By 1977, the apartment was no longer big enough to cater from so Jasavala & Sons moved to new premises on Scarlet Road. In 1990, Nargis aunty & Rohinton uncle bought their current property where Jasavala & Sons has served our community and all who have come to enjoy the wonderful foods that "Mrs. J" has so skillfully and consistently prepared over the years.

Nargis aunty taught herself to cook at a young age and soon learned that only the best quality ingredients would do. She never measured out recipes but her cooking was always consistent and superb. If anyone asked for "Istu," a well-known Parsi dish, it would taste just as wonderful whether you were eating it for the first time or the hundredth time. Quality and quantity were never compromised because Nargis aunty would always make more than you ordered. It was a point of pride that the food should never run short.

Over the years Nargis aunty and Rohinton uncle have taken lunches for the seniors every other Friday at the Darbe Meher. They have donated lunch for the children attending the Ava Nu Parab as well as made the Daar Ni Pori. They have given back to this community in many ways and we are truly grateful.

On May 15th, 2005 Jasavala & Sons closed its doors and took down the sign. The shop that they so carefully equipped and filled with so much effort was locked for the last time and Nargis aunty and Rohinton uncle can finally take some time to enjoy their grandchildren and relax, which they so richly deserve.

From the Parsi community, we extend a heaping heart full of gratitude to Nargis aunty and Rohinton uncle and wish them a happy and well deserved retirement. The void that they are leaving will take a long time to fill.



Our Prayers have such Meanings

In the long history of Zoroastrianism, the prayer, Ahuna Vairya, has been regarded as something of a talisman, a very potent charm, capable of producing extraordinary effects. Translations of this prayer vary widely. The following is one of them.

Yatha ahu vairyo  
atha ratush ashat chit hacha,  
Vangheush dazda manangho  
shyaothananam angheush Mazdai  
xshathremcha Ahurai a  
yim drigubyo dadat vastarem.

English Translation:

Just as the Lord [ahu] is to be chosen (in accordance with truth), [asha]  
So also the judgment [ratush] [is to be chosen] in accordance with truth [asha].  
As a result of this good thinking [vohu mano, the comprehension and choosing of asha]  
establish the rule [xshathra] of actions stemming from an existence of good thinking  
for the (sake of the) Wise One, and for the Lord [ahura] whom they [the divine aspects] established as pastor for the needy-dependents.

Something to make you Smile

A girl was visiting her Parsi friend who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The Parsi lady responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex. Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?"  
“Hellooooooooooooooooooooo” answered the Parsi Lady  
“They're watch dogs!”

Want to be in the 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 **August 15, 2005**. Information received after that date will be considered for the following newsletter.

Farwell Dinner for the Jasavalas

Nargis Aunty and Rohinton Uncle have closed the doors to their catering business after 23 years of service to the community.

On June 3 2005, nearly 200 friends and well wishers attended a dinner held in their honour. When the Jasavalas entered the hall, there was a standing ovation. They did not even get a chance to take their seats as they were showered with hugs and smiles and gratitude.

Firdosh Bulsara was the MC for the evening. He clearly expressed what each of us really wanted to say: that although the OZCF initiated this gathering of recognition, the token of thanks was on behalf of all Zoroastrians who have been touched by their generosity. He also joked that our wish would be that Nargis Aunty had rented a warehouse to store her frozen 'bhonu' for the next 30 years or so. After paying tribute to them, Firdosh offered the mike to anyone wishing to share a memory or wishing to to just say thank you to Nargis aunty and Rohinton uncle.

Khurshid Engineer then made a presentation to aunty and uncle as a token of the community's gratitude and a beautiful cake was brought out. Along with so much joy surrounding us, of course, some tears were shed for all the memories too. Although we are happy for Nargis aunty and Rohinton uncle we are worried about who will fill our tummies with all the delicious foods that no one can make quite like Nargis aunty. Selfish? Absolutely! No function will be quite the same now that the delicious aromas of a meal cooked by "Mrs. J" will not be accompanying it.

We wish the Jasavalas a happy and healthy retired life. Thank you for looking after the community for so many years. You have always greeted us with a smile on your face and we hope that, now, life will smile back at you and offer you a peaceful and enjoyable retirement.

Oxford University gives 1st Place to Zarathustra

The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy places ZARATHUSHTRA number one (#1) in the chronology of philosophers. According to Oxford University, the Chronology of philosophers begins with Zarathshtra. Thus Zarathushtra is the first Philosopher and the person who originated this field of study and is therefore considered the founder and father of the Rational System-philosophy (Mazda-Yasna).

The ZARATHUSHTRIANS worship wisdom and they educated the Greeks in this area. The Greeks later used a similar word to the Iranian one, the word philosophy in Greek means "Love of Wisdom" and the Iranian word is Mazda-Yasna (Worship of Wisdom). The Zoroastrians Worshiped Wisdom and the Greeks loved Wisdom.

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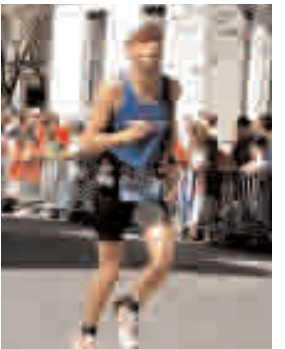
### Messages of Thanks

"Nergish, Lily, Sorab and I once again thank you all for your prayers & support during our turbulent days. We would not have survived without you all. All's well that ends well; with your prayers my Lily is recovering amazingly well. Her therapists are very happy with her progress. As I had mentioned earlier we are really blessed with a very kind, loving & caring bunch of Zarathustis here in Greater Toronto. Please don't ever change. Thank you and God Bless you all" - Nozer Kotwal

### 2005 Boston Marathon

I would like to thank the OZCF for their incredible show of generosity. Their sponsorship allowed me to compete in the world's most prestigious marathon, and to have one of the best races of my career. I was able to place 352/18319 overall, 18/1629 in Canada, and 1/17 in Newfoundland. I am sincerely grateful for all of the support and good wishes from the Zoroastrian community. Your emails and phone calls were truly inspiring. I thank you for allowing me this opportunity, and I promise that it will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,  
Merzi Dastoor



Chisty, Firdosh, Zaheer and Farhad Bulsara would like to thank everyone who rallied around them, in their hour of grief, when Chisty's sister Freny passed away in India. The family would like to thank everyone who called to express their condolences or sent food or came to the prayers held at the Darbe Meher. They were deeply touched by the strength and support that was given by so many friends.

### Yasna 28.1 (Bodledian MS J2)

The Avesta is a collection of the sacred texts of ancient Persia belonging to the Zoroastrian religion. They are preserved in two languages, the more ancient, referred to as Zend Avesta in the Avestan language, the oldest attested Iranian language still very closely related to Sanskrit. The younger texts are in Pahlavi, a Middle Iranian language.

The Avestas were collated over several hundred years. The oldest portion, the Gathas are the hymns thought to have been composed by Zoroaster himself. The later portions constitute elaborations of Zoroastrian thinking along with detailed descriptions of ritual practices. The texts were transmitted orally for centuries, with the earliest written fixation known dating to 1278.

According to a Parsi legend the full text of the Avesta was burned by Alexander the Great at Ecbatana when he invaded Persia. It was later only partly reconstructed from the memories of Zoroastrian priests. This story is not generally accepted by scholars now, but it is acknowledged that the existing text of the Avesta is a fraction of the full texts that existed in antiquity, before the decline of the Zoroastrian faith.

### 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. Please see the attached Pledge Form.

### New Members

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.

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**Email:** kerman\_jasavala@compuserve.com

June 4th, Extraordinary General Meeting

On June 4th, 2005 an extraordinary general meeting was called to vote on the purchase of a parcel of land to accommodate the new OZCF community center. Our illustrious President explained the process that the board of directors and the land committee went through to look for land and the criteria that were identified to meet the needs of the community. He explained that the land committee had carried out an intensive search over the past three years and had viewed over thirty sites in seven municipalities (Mississauga, Oakville, Etobicoke, Brampton, Milton, Caledon and Halton Hills). The parcel of land had to be at least 5 - 15 acres in size to meet the future needs of the community, be as close as possible to the geographic centre of the membership of the OZCF, and have easy highway and all season access. Existing buildings on the property would be a plus as well as having the ability to build in the future. The property should also be aesthetically pleasing and be in an affordable price range. All of these criteria were met by the parcel of land to be purchased.

The property identified has two existing buildings. One is a house and the other is a four-bay building with a mezzanine floor and attached office. There is ample space for future growth and the property may be accessed by any of the four major highways (QEW, 403, 401, 407). Hydro is already in place. With the land already earmarked for future growth, water and sewers will likely be brought in by the town within the next 5-10 years. Currently there is a useable well and septic tank system in place on the property. The conditions of the offer that were made to the owner, to completely protect the interests of the community, were explained in detail. The offer is conditional, subject to the approval of the membership. The town of Oakville planners and politicians have been consulted and they are very supportive of our project. Under current zoning, the property can be immediately used as a place of worship. Jang Engineer informed the membership of the funds that are currently available for the purchase of this property and further details of the financial position.

At this point the resolution to approve the purchase of the land was read by the secretary, Xerxes Wania, and a vote was taken. It was UNANIMOUS! The membership voted "YES" to purchase the land. A second resolution was then put forward, that the membership would empower the board of directors to arrange for the necessary financing required. Before a vote was taken it was put to the members present that if we all put our hands in our pockets that day we would not need to borrow as much money. An incredible snowball began to roll at that point and the members and their families, Iranians and Parsis, spontaneously stood up and gave cheque after cheque and even our youth (the ones actually classified as youth-not anyone at or under Phil's age) got into the act by collecting cash amongst themselves. In total the members donated over \$150,000. The room was electrified by the positive energy that flowed that day and when the second resolution was voted on, it once again was unanimously a resounding "YES".

It was an extremely emotional moment when those gathered there realized that the dream was actually becoming a reality and that they had been there to witness and be part of this momentous occasion. Even more gratifying was the knowledge that our next generation had taken some ownership of the challenge to raise this new community center. The members burst out in a rousing verse of Chaiye Hume Zarthusti at the end of the meeting which brought tears to many an eye. It was an emotional and electrifying end to a momentous meeting.

Two unanimous approvals and the moving forward towards a dream-it doesn't get much better than that!



Fees and Donations

Membership fees  
Family: \$35  
Single and Senior: \$10

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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.

International Events - Upcoming Congresses

The 2005 North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress will be held from December 28-31, 2005 in Miami, Florida. The theme will be "ZEESTAN - Living a Zoroastrian Life." Visit the ZYNA page at [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org) or contact ZYNAangels@aol.com for more information. Register before July 31 to receive early bird registration.

The Tenth Zoroastrian Olympic Games will be in Los Angeles in Summer 2006. Contact the Zoroastrian Sports Committee of FEZANA at [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org)

Start saving now for The Fourth World Zoroastrian Youth Congress will be held December 27, 2007 - January 3, 2008 at University of Ballarat in Victoria, Australia. E-mail [Smileysjm@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Smileysjm@optusnet.com.au) for more information.

Academic Events

The Centenary Conference on the Iranian Consitutional Revolution will be held July 30 - August 2, 2005 at Oxford University in London, UK. Contact the Heritage Foundation at [info@iranheritage.org](mailto:info@iranheritage.org) for more info.

Zoroastrians are invited to participate on the FEZANA team in future UN/NGO activities. The World Summit on the Information Society, Phase 2, in Tunis, Tunisia from November 16-18, 2005. If you are interested, contact Homi Gandhi at [homi\\_gandhi@usa.net](mailto:homi_gandhi@usa.net) or Behram Pastakia at [bpastakia@aol.com](mailto:bpastakia@aol.com).

The Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, organized by the International Society for Iranian Studies, Iran Heritage Foundation and London Middle East Institute, will be held at SOAS in London from August 3-5, 2006. See [www.iranheritage.org/sixthbiennial](http://www.iranheritage.org/sixthbiennial).

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