

VISION

MAY 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

AGM June 28th, 2009
Seniors Day July 12th, 2009
Grand Opening July 18th, 2009
Cricket Day August 8th, 2009
YVP August 9th, 2009

See the full calendar inside.

Entertainment Committee:

Kashmira Laher (chair), Niloufer Bhesania, Kermin Byramjee, Shirin Chaturvedi, Zarina Gutta, Ferzin Kapadia, Pervin Kattila, Fred Laher, Benifer Patel, Coomi Sorabji.

Newsletter Committee:

Roshan Byramjee, Michelle Patel, Rayomand Patel, Charis Wania, Board Liaison: Cyrus Gazdar

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our proud community continues to show its determination and dedication towards everything we embark on. The hall is approximately two weeks away from completion and us obtaining an occupancy permit. No doubt it has been a complex and long road with obstacles to overcome but 'We did it'. Congratulations & thank you to everyone that has made this possible. Stay tuned for the official occupancy approval. We have various activities coming up this summer and the youth camp and seniors event being just two of them.

It took eight months of meetings, emails and phone calls to bring together the OZCF Diamonds are forever gala on May 23rd. A sell out event with over 420 in attendance, 106 silent auction & 17 live auctions items, great music and food culminated in a great event. Once again, it shows the strength and depth of our superb volunteers and how team work brings individual skills and talent together. We are very fortunate that the organization has members who dedicate their time and energy to all our events and projects and this is shown by our success at every project that we take on. Here's looking forward to our continued success and steady progression.
Rumi Jasavala, President

Open House

With the construction of the newly renovated building nearing the finish line, the OZCF invited its members on Sunday March 15th to view the transformation of the former garage into a modern community hall. President Rumi Jasavala, with assistance from Niloufer Bhesania and Khushnama Doctor, detailed the progression in a presentation and answered questions from the floor.

Members gave their overwhelming support of the renovations and were in appreciation of the steps taken by the Board of Directors and the Building Committee to ensure the imminent completion of the project.

The spirit of volunteerism remains high within our organization. A plethora of volunteers have been involved with the project. In particular, Farshogar Jasavala, Jal Panthaky, Cawas Patel, Dhunjishaw Surti, Phil Sidhwa and Rumi Jasavala have given countless hours of their time in working closely with the Town of Oakville, the architect, the contractors and for being on site daily in managing the workers. Indeed, our community owes a huge debt of gratitude to these tremendously dedicated members. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A grand opening of the building has been tentatively been scheduled for July 18, please stay tuned to the website and forthcoming information. We're nearly there, folks! The opening promises to be a momentous occasion in the brief but increasingly impressive history of the OZCF.

Fasli Muktd Prayers

In a prelude to Navroze, the Fasli Muktd Prayers took place from March 16-20 at the ZRCC. In what was one of the largest sessions led by our priests, no less than 18 Mobeds offered their time to pray in honour of deceased souls. It is very heartening and reassuring indeed for all in the community to discover that the number of Mobeds available to pray continues to increase. Our paragons of prayer included the following Ervads: Jehan Bagli, Xerxes Bamji, Khushroo Bharda, Rushad Bharda, Firdosh Bulsara, Freyhan Daruwalla, Jamshed Dhabhar, Darayus Kanga, Nozer Kotwal, Noshir Mirza, Cyrus Panthakee, Armaan Panthaki, Farhan Panthaki, Gustad Panthaki, Kamran Panthaki, Jal Panthaky, Rishaad Unwalla, and Kobad Zarolia.

If the achievements of our younger priests are not noteworthy enough, consider that many took time in their March Break vacation to pray and Rushad Bharda made certain to burn the midnight flame when praying into the wee hours of the morning.

A huge thank you to the multitude of volunteers (far too many to be mentioned individually) who helped in cleaning the Centre in the lead up to the prayers as well as during the five Muktd days, those who prepared and donated the food and those who generously donated Money, Fruits, Dry Fruits, Flowers, Sukhad, Loban, Tachho etc. Our special thanks to the Rusi Unwalla of the Zoroastrian Scouts group, Armaity Anandasagar & Kermin Byramjee for co-coordinating all the volunteers and Khorshed Jobani & Nergish Kotwal our resident volunteers.

Once again the Navroze Jashan was performed solely by our young priests (Ervads Rushad Bharda, Freyhan Daruwalla, Cyrus Panthakee, Armaan Panthaki, Farhan Panthaki, and Kamran Panthaki) in front of a congregation of nearly 330 guests, so gracefully lead by our young budding Mobed, Ervad Farhan Panthaki, who took on the role of the Zaoatar.

All in all, it was a beautiful community event we can all be proud of. We are, indeed, blessed by Ahura Mazda.

Navroze Function

The Candles Banquet and Convention Centre was lit up on Saturday March 21st by nearly 330 Zoroastrians celebrating the arrival of the vernal equinox which signals the start of the Fasli New Year.

Navroze always heralds high hopes and expectations for the coming year, yet it was the events of the past year which were brought to light in a running slideshow. The highlight of the past year has been the near completion of the new congregation hall at the ZRCC. What a remarkable achievement for the OZCF and its members in its brief but impressive lifespan! Rightfully so that we should all feel a great sense of pride and achievement!

President Rumi Jasavala thanked members for their continuous support and reminded members that with spring having arrived and summer to follow, the bulk of planned events were just around the corner.

The Senior's Day luncheon and the annual Lamb Roast picnic to name a few, are just some of the events which will be occurring. Let's all attend these events in large numbers and make this a summer to remember!

To help remember the evening, attendees had an opportunity for a photo op with family and friends with some of the proceeds going to the OZCF. And let's remember that this event would not have been possible without the planning and hard work of the Entertainment Committee and its volunteers.

Navroze Mubarak to one and all!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 28	AGM	ZRCC
July 11	Lunch to Honour Senior's	ZRCC
July 18	Grand Opening of the new building	ZRCC
August 8	Cricket Game / Dhansak	ZRCC
August 9	Youth Variety Program	
August 14-18	Muktd Ceremonies	ZRCC
August 19	Navroze Jashan and Dinner	ZRCC
August 22 or 23	Lamb Roast Picnic	ZRCC
Sept. 12 or 13	OZCF Golf Tournament	TBA

Note:

Other events will be forthcoming. If interested in receiving notification / reminder of events via email, kindly contact a board member and supply your email address.

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SENIORS DAY

July 12th, 2009, from 12 noon to 4 pm the OZCF is celebrating our wonderful Seniors.

This event is free for Seniors. Adults are \$15 and children 3-12 are \$7.50 - see flyer for details. In addition to food, there will be music and entertainment, and even Bingo!

NOTE - Registration ends on June 15th, so please register with Parish Bhungara 905-855-2135 or e-mail ozcf seniors@gmail.com. Cheques should be made out to OZCF (with Memo field showing *Seniors Day Event*) must be mailed to Parish Bhungara at 1646 Clarkson Road North, Mississauga, L5J 2X3.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR FEES?????????

Remember to please to send in your OZCF Membership as soon as possible (please see attached form).

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
Student	\$10	Full Time Student - age 18 – 25 years old

Donations are always welcomed and are tax deductible.

Make the Vision a Reality! For more information visit our website

www.ozcf.com

Milestones

Passing Away of Pervin Bhathena

In very sad and tragic circumstances, Pervin Bhathena died in the early hours on Thursday March 19th. She was the wife of Darius Bhathena and mother of Roxanne, Shiraz and Cyrus, and daughter-in-law of Coomi Bhathena.

Homi Rustomji Billimoria

November 7, 1925 - May 7, 2009

Loving and beloved husband of Lily Billimoria for 53 years. Loving and proud father of Rukhshana (Porus) Dinshaw and Binaifer (David Archibald) Billimoria. Loved by grandchildren Darius and Rayomond Dinshaw. Predeceased by mother Tehmina and father Rustomji Billimoria, brothers Jamshed and Minoo. Dearly missed by sisters Sheroo, Roda, and brother Soli. Also missed by dearest nieces, nephews, friends and relatives across Canada, US and India. Homi touched and enriched the lives of many, he drew strength and passion from prayer, meditation and positive visualization. His biggest joy was being surrounded by family and friends, sharing laughter and good times. We graciously thank all those who have shared our sorrow and have supported us so generously with their time and kindness. Special thanks to Rusi, Gover, Noshir, Maloo and their families who travelled thousands of miles to be with us and hold our hands. Homi will live in our hearts forever. May Ahura Mazda bless his noble soul eternally, Amen.

May Ahura Mazda bless their souls. May He give strength to their family members during this most difficult period and grant them the ability to overcome their loss and celebrate their loved ones' lives.

Building update

The building work has progressed and we are at the final hurdle. We currently have two portions of major work that needs completion before we can apply for our occupancy permit. These are the Firepond and the ramp for wheelchair access at the front entrance of the building. All other inspections have been completed. We anticipated the remaining two portions of work to be completed within the next 10 days and the occupancy permit available by early June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have volunteered their services and donated specifically towards the building costs.

Sports update

This summer will see us holding the sporting events at the ZRCC. Soccer, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Cricket and we are even planning a sports day for all ages. Please do send an email to Rumi Jasavala at rumijas@hotmail.com if you are interested to be added to the sports email distribution list.

The Cricket-Dhansak event is a big event with many festivities and you are encouraged to submit your names to Rumi Jasavala for this event, playing or as a spectator.

VISION NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Would you like optimal exposure of your business to Zoroastrian members of the GTA? Advertise in the VISION Newsletter!

\$ 80/issue for full page

\$50/ issue for half page

\$30/ issue for quarter page

We will be putting ads only in the black and white issues. We ask that you let us know how many issues you wish to advertise in and you will be billed accordingly. Contact Roshan Byramjee for more information at (905) 849-4684.

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.

Would you like the OZCF Newsletter online?

Want to help save on postage costs for the OZCF and do your part for the environment? Request to view your copy online – even before publication! E-mail ron.michelle@rogers.com for a notification when the newsletter is available on our website.

Two little Parsee **Dosi Mais** (ladies) were visiting the museum. While looking at an Egyptian mummy one of them said to the other:

Dosi Mai 1: Baaprey! Look, he has so many bandages. Must have been a lorry accident case.

Dosi Mai 2: Arrey, you are so right! Look the lorry number is written here... BC 1760!!!

Pestonji Padumji Powala goes for a job interview.

Boss: I am giving you a job as my driver. Your starting salary will be Rs.2000/-, is that o.k. with you?

PPP: Yaar! That sounds great Bosee! My starting salary is fine...but...how much is driving salary?

The world is a mirror so smile and the world will smile back at you!

The Open House and Jamshedi Navroze Function.



Diamonds are indeed forever! Q the comeback of the OZCF's 6th Black Tie Gala which will leave a long-lasting sparkle in our minds and a twinkle in our eyes.

Over 400 guests (members of the OZCF both local and from the US and the UK) "Bonded" together and regaled the return of our glamorous gala at the Burlington Convention Centre on May 23rd.

The glitterati were decked out in full regalia – in sizzling suits and glistening gowns, tailor-made tuxes and dresses to make you drool! Rubies and sapphires sparkled from the bejeweled! A diamond, a solitaire that raised many an awestruck stare! Belles of the ball abounded accompanied by dapper dudes that looked oh so debonair!

Emcees Rahnuma Panthaky and Cyrus Khory had a few heads shakin', but stirred much laughter in hosting the evening. President Rumi Jasavala praised the efforts of the community in having transformed a well used garage into a beautiful reception hall. He thanked volunteers for the countless hours they had given to community service and encouraged even greater community involvement as we moved forward in our journey.

As lavish and grandiose galas tend to be, they take an enormous amount of time with months of meticulous preparation and precise planning to ensure the evening is a success. We are indebted to Gala-planner extraordinaire, Kermin Byramjee and her team of organizers, for leaving no stone unturned in putting together a gem of an evening.

Seasoned auctioneer Don Stewart kept the crowd's interest piqued as he tempted guests with live auction items and kept the dollar figures running up at Aston Martin-like speed.

A spectacular evening in all and it was the OZCF which sparkled the brightest on the night. Approximately \$120,000 was raised with all the proceeds going directly to the organization.

Our champagne wishes continue to be fulfilled evidenced by the resoundingly prosperous Gala. We will carry on sipping the bubbly of success and look forward to realizing our caviar dreams of a fully complete Centre and Place of Worship. For now, however, let's rejoice, raise our glasses and toast ourselves! Cheers!

To see all the pictures from the Gala in colour visit our website; www.ozcf.com

