



RATHAESHTAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE ZAV

SUMMER 2011 EDITION

Edition

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Presidential Ponderings

Dear ZAV members,
Greetings to all members and friends!

Another year has commenced for our association along with some new faces on our committee. We welcome Freny Sanjana, Freni Jal and Karl Vazifdar on board. Retiring committee members were Armin Dumasia, Arnavaz Chubb and Kurush Zaiwala. Kurush continues to be our webmaster and you will continue to receive official ZAV emails from him.

The current ZAV financial year is well under way and we urge all Zoroastrians to pay their membership dues if they have not already done so. We encourage you all to be a part of our extended Zoroastrian family as membership to your association enables us all to keep in touch, pray together, stay together and share together. As the ZAV ventures further afield in the area of inter faith connections in Victoria and Australia we hope to see unity and solidarity from our community members so that we can present Zoroastrianism and all Zoroastrians in the best possible light.

The ZAV teamed up with The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) and Ashta No Kai, a literacy, health and development project for women in rural India, to participate at the 63rd United Nations Annual Department of Public Information/Non Governmental Organisations Conference which held in Melbourne from 30 Aug – 1 Sept 2010. The Conference highlighted effective ways in which civil society can contribute to fostering global health. A very successful workshop entitled "Public Health and the Millennium Development Goals: A Paradigm Shift for Global Health Care Outcomes" was conducted by Fezana, ZAV and Ashta No Kai. Our Zoroastrian speakers at this event were Homi Gandhi and Behram Pastakia of Fezana, Armene Modi of Ashta No Kai and our ZAV delegation comprised of Jurstine Daruwala, Friyana Bhabha, Zeena Irani, Kayzad Namdarian, Nergish Udwadia and Arnavaz Chubb.

Our Navroz function – The Crown and Tiara Ball, held on 4 September was another fantastic success, with food and music enjoyed by all. Thanks to Fairuz Khadiwala for teaching our young ones the Michael Jackson dance – they put on an impressive performance. No doubt about it – ZAV's got talent!

Keki Madon represented our association at the forum conducted by the Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council to discuss the role played by the police in dealing with cases relating to communal matters. Keki participated in a group discussion on "Appropriate Police Response to Family Breakdown. How do we accommodate Cultural Differences".

We will continue to work towards raising our profile in all interfaith activities and we encourage our membership to come forward and volunteer their time and efforts towards this goal so that we can be recognized as interested and participating members of our local communities, city, state and country. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the coming year.

Sarosh Kharivala

Community Notices	<p>Births: Baby girl, Zenia born on 6 December 2010 to Tanaz & Percy Patel.</p> <p>Navjotes: Congratulations to all our newly initiated Zarathushtis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kamron Bhavnagri on 15.09.10 in Sydney ○ Karina Dastur on 14.11.10 in Melbourne ○ Freida and Amy Balsara on 14.01.11 in Mumbai ○ Friyana & Kairus Madon on 15.01.11 in Mumbai <p>Marriages: Farhad N Billimoria to Nandita Susarla in Melbourne on 28 November 2010.</p> <p>Deaths: Freany Jimmy Jungalwalla, 80, passed away in Melbourne on 17 December 2010. One of the founding members of the Zoroastrian Association of Victoria, Freany served on the ZAV committee in various capacities over the years. Freany's practical wisdom and forthright manner will be missed by all who knew and respected her.</p> <p>Achievements: Congratulations to all students who have successfully completed their VCE and University graduation in 2010. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors.</p> <p><i>We respect your privacy, so you will understand that any inclusions in "Community Notices" will be printed only if you authorize us to do so in writing.</i></p>
5th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress	<p>United We Stand – Building Bridges Across Oceans</p> <p>5th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Vancouver BC - June 30th - July 5th, 2011. Held at the University of British Columbia (UBC), in beautiful Vancouver, Canada.</p> <p>ZAV committee seeks expressions of interest from youth aged 15 - 40 who would like to attend the Youth Congress. Please let the committee know by the 22nd February 2011 if you wish to attend the Youth Congress contact Sarosh Khariwala via the ZAV website. All relevant information is available on the 5th WZYC Website for your perusal.</p> <p>They also have a Facebook page if you wish to drop in and say hi to your mates across the globe.</p> <p>www.zyouth.org/youth-congress/ www.zsbc.org/congress2011/sites/default/files/5WZYC2011-Schedule.pdf</p> <p>For the latest information, please visit: http://www.zsbc.org/congress2011/ Registration is open to all from age 15 (born on or after 30/June/1971) to 40 years (as of 5/July/2011)</p>
Senior Citizens Tea	<p>For the first time, the ZAV organized a Senior Citizens get together which was held on 5 Dec 2010 at the residence of Percy & Delshad Khadiwala. Twenty seven seniors attended for a light hearted and relaxed afternoon. Everyone got to know each other over a hot cup of tea and snacks. News and views were shared with an emphasis on meeting as often as possible.</p> <p>When asked what they would like to do, there was an outpouring of ideas for both indoor and outdoor events with going to the movies and shows, sharing their knowledge of our Zoroastrian customs & rituals and celebrating each other's birthdays attracting the most interest. The committee will endeavor to make this an ongoing event with the support and enthusiastic participation of all our Seniors.</p>
Contact details	<p>ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA PO Box 807, Kew, Victoria 3101, Australia www.zav.org.au :: committee@zav.org.au Rathaeshtar Editorial Team: Arnavaz Chubb, Sarosh Khariwala, Kurush Zaiwala</p>



Whitehorse Spring Festival

Whitehorse Spring Festival was held on Sunday 24 October 2010 at which ZAV had a space to showcase our Zoroastrian faith and Persian and Parsi culture. Dressed in traditional attire, our members displayed books and artifacts and chatted to interested and intrigued visitors about our religion and way of life. A variety of different aspects of the culture and traditions of many diverse faiths was on display from delicious food to creative crafts and exotic displays of dance and music. Many thanks to Dilnaz Billimoria for arranging this event.

**Our quiet achiever**

Shahzad Billimoria of Kingswood College in Melbourne was part of the three member Australian Team Two that came 2nd in the World Chinese Cultural and Language Proficiency Competition held in Chongqing, China in October 2010. 120 students comprised 40 teams from 35 countries in four rounds of competition that showcased their ability in speaking and understanding the Chinese language and culture in a variety of situations. Shahzad had the additional distinction of receiving the individual 3rd prize. All three team members have won scholarships with all expenses paid including airfares to study Chinese language for a year at a university of their choice in China.

**Interfaith Activities**

As part of our ongoing interfaith activities, on 21 November 2010 some ZAV members participated in a guided tour of various places of worship in Melbourne. Organised by the Whitehorse City Council's Interfaith Network, a visit to Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim religious centers was arranged in an effort to encourage greater understanding of these faith traditions through learning. Places visited were: Doncaster Mosque, Box Hill Baptist Church, Pureland Learning Centre of Victoria (Buddhist) and Chinmaya Mission Australia (Hindu).

**Global Working Group**

The BPP (Bombay Parsi Panchayat) has offered to bring together community talent in the field of Western classical music and is planning to host a public concert in Mumbai on an annual basis. The first concert has been scheduled for November 26, 2011.

If this interests you please write to Sarosh Khariwala, saroshkhariwala@gmail.com no later than 28th February 2011.

Calendar
of Events

- **Jamshedi Nau Rooz - 20th March – 2 PM**
Rentoul Hall, 16 Livingston Close, Burwood.
- **Senior Citizens afternoon – 10th April – 2 PM**
Rentoul Hall, 16 Livingston Close, Burwood.
- **Gahambar with Jashan – 5th June – 2.30 PM**
Balwyn Hall (further details to be advised)
- **Informal Get-Together - 2nd July**
(details to be advised)
- **Formal Gala Night**
(details to be advised)
- **ZAV Annual General Meeting - 7th August – 1.30 PM**
Rentoul Hall, 16 Livingston Close, Burwood.



CRICKET



CRICKET

The ZAV has organised a fun **CRICKET** day for all to come and enjoy!

20th February – 11AM START.

McDonnell Park East Oval 1, Clifton Street, NORTHCOTE, VIC – Melway Ref 30 J8

This is a great opportunity for you to come along and show us your **cricket skills** or simply **enjoy a few hours** with good company! Please let us know if you would be interested in playing. If possible, please bring your own cricket gear.

If you prefer to be a spectator and watch some of us get *clean bowled*, please let us know too! Bring a “pora pav” and join in the fun. This is a **FREE event** and no restrictions to play. If you're up for it, you'll be part of a team!

B.Y.O:

- ✓ Drinks
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Cricket gear
- ✓ Chairs
- ✓ Tables

**Let's make an
awesome picnic out of it!**



Please note: All players must participate at their own risk.