



The CCVT Newsletter, which is published monthly, is intended to inform the Centre's volunteers of important news, events and meetings and, in doing so, to acknowledge the vital role they play in fulfilling the CCVT's mandate.

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The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture aids survivors in overcoming the lasting effects of torture and war. In partnership with the community, the Centre supports survivors in the process of successful integration into Canadian society, works for their protection and integrity, and raises awareness of the continuing effects of torture and war on survivors and their families. The CCVT gives hope after the horror.



United Way Member Agency

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The information provided in this publication is not controlled by the CCVT and therefore may not reflect the Centre's views.

# The CCVT Connection

## Child & Youth Program:



## MEMORIES FROM SUMMER YOUTH OUTINGS

Interview with Ed Tarter, CCVT Volunteer

In July, our children and youth went to the Toronto Zoo as one of the Summer Youth Outing activities. I interviewed Ed Tarter, a CCVT volunteer, who generously donated his time as one of the assistants for the occasion. He shares his experience of the day as follows.

**Q.** Tell me about what you did on Youth Outing Day.

**A.** About twelve students and two other volunteers met at CCVT. Our main concern was the weather. We were worried that it might rain, but thankfully the weather held off. We took the TTC all the way to the To-

ronto Zoo. It took us about one hour. When we got there, we took the African Savanna route and the Indo-Malaya route, where you can see all these exciting animals such as elephants, lions and giraffes. We also went into the Indoor Tropical Rainforest, and saw snakes, lizards and other exotic animals.

**Q.** What were the children's reactions to the Toronto Zoo?

**A.** It was hard at times to keep them together because they were so excited. They ran up to the fence with open eyes, looking at animals they had never seen before.

**Q.** Are there any "stories" you would like to share with the other volunteers?

**A.** I am sure there were a lot of stories at the time, but now I cannot remember anything specific... From a volunteer's perspective, it was a very gratifying experience. I believe it was the same for the recipients (children) - they got to experience something they never had before. From an educational perspective, it was a really good way to practice their English. Unlike a classroom setting, everyone let their guard down. The human interaction is much warmer in these natural settings.

**Q.** What was the most memorable experience?

**A.** There were Baboons at the zoo. They were swinging back and forth. Everyone loved them and they were really funny.

**Q.** Any comments to the other volunteers?

**A.** If you are in any of the matching programs (Befriending or ESL tutor), take your match out of the ordinary setting. You can go and have picnic at the park, walk to Harbour Front,, watch a free show or concert. Let them practice their English by doing something. This also forms bonds between volun-

teers and clients/students.

childrens' day very successful. CCVT appreciates the generous support from all committed volunteers like you.



A BIG thank you to Ed Tarter, Daphna Sharan, and Arturo Aguilar who helped make the



## Aftermath of 9/11 - Dark Side of the War on Terrorism

By Chizuru Nobe, Edited by Mariyate Wijayasundar and Hoda Samater

*I try to smile  
when I go and  
speak publicly  
and look cheer-  
ful, but I do  
have my weak  
moments. When  
I'm sitting alone  
sometimes and  
my stress level,  
out of nowhere,  
peaks without  
any explanation.  
I sometimes feel  
like I just want  
to do crazy  
things, like hit-  
ting my head  
against the wall"*

*Maheer Arar, Sep  
16th, 2006  
Toronto Star*

The aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup> was an international crisis that dramatically changed an ordinary Canadian citizen's life. Maheer Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian became victim and survivor of 9/11. Even though Maheer Arar was an innocent bystander, he was forced to be a victim and a survivor of 9/11. In September 2002, Mr. Arar was wrongly accused and arrested at New York's JFK airport

and deported to Syria due to prejudicial suspicions of being connected with al Qaeda extremists. Mr. Arar was held in a "grave-like" cell for ten months where he was beaten, tortured and forced to make a false confession. For 4 years, Arar and his family have joined forces with national and international human rights groups to combat the injustice. Their activism led to the establishment of

the Arar Commission by Canadian government. On February 2004 the Commission was authorized to investigate and report on the actions of Canadian officials in relation to Mr. Arar's case. On Monday, September 18, 2006, a political light was shed on the Arar predicament. Dennis O'Connor, a Federal Government appointed Justice, released a report on Mr. Arar's deportation by American

authorities to Syria. It portrayed the RCMP as being an inexperienced police force that passed erroneous information to the American officials regarding Mr. Arar's detention. O'Connor concluded that there is no justifiable evidence that Mr. Arar was anyway linked to the extremist groups. Mr. Arar expressed gratitude towards this report. However, the Canadian government has yet to implement the recommen-

dation in the O'Connor's report. Until this is satisfied, there will be no closure for those involved directly or indirectly with the Arar case. Up till now, Mr. Arar continues to wait for an apology and compensation from the federal government.

Arar's case spoke about the aftermath of 9/11 on issues of violation of individual human rights for the sake of national and global security. After

9/11, governments around the world further imperiled fundamental human rights and freedom of their citizens under the name of War on Terrorism. Our role as global citizens is to challenge the notion of political dichotomy. Human rights do not stand in the way of achieving "real" global security. Human rights stand at the very heart of doing so. Until we realize this, we will never see the end of war on terrorism.

*In the name of Jesus, Buddha, and Mohammed,  
armies go to war,  
urged on by the priests and theologians  
to hideous acts of gore.  
They fight pitched battles in the dark  
but no-one ever really wins;  
with their flesh and their blood  
they pay for their sins.  
The gargoyles on the roofline  
leer down with red-limned eyes  
while the human race below  
destroys itself and dies.  
Eons pass and the Earth moves on;  
cities crumble to rust;  
the terrible reign of the church finally ends;  
ashes-to-ashes and dust-to-dust.*

*Robbie Hatley, 1996.*

# Monthly Spotlight Night

Speaker:

**Dr. Norman Epstein**

*- the founder of CASTS (Canadian Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan )*



Never Again, Again! Darfur,  
Another Genocide of the  
21st Century  
*- Can Canada Make a difference?*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME! FREE ADMISSION!**

The topics include history and context to the Darfur crisis and why the world is slow to respond. Dr. Epstein will discuss what is currently happening and will indicate how Canada, as a leading middle power can be the key to providing international leadership to end the carnage. He will then suggest ways for people to get involved in the grassroots movement.

**Thursday,  
October 26th, 2006 at 7 p.m.  
At CCVT (194 Jarvis St)**

For more info or RSVP, contact Chizuru Nobe, volunteer Coordinator at 416-363-1066 or [cnobe@ccvt.org](mailto:cnobe@ccvt.org)

# New Faces at CCVT

## Welcome to Newly Trained Volunteers!

**Andrew Captan**

**Robin Wills**

**Rahma Mohamed**

**Amit Khanna**

**Saed Idres**

**Alison Mills**

**Anja Kortenaar**

**Nancy Rizzo**

**Candice Salhab**

**Darren McKee**

**Dechen Khangkar**

**Zaim Custovic**

**Hanna Caplan**

**Najwa Al Hasani**

**Donna Nicoloff**

**Dejana Milinkov**

**Maureen Neville**

**Patricia Chraiteh**

**Kimberly Murdoch**

**John Faustmann**

**Wendy Sandy**

**Trevor Lee**

**Diep Nguyen**

**Alice Schuda**

**Vongdy Un**

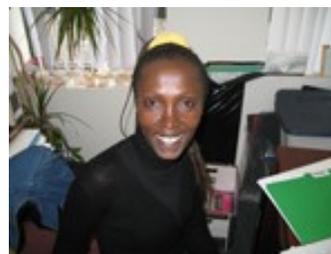
## Mariyate Wijayasundar - Practicum Student

We are fortunate to have **Mariyate Wijayasundar** as a practicum student at CCVT! She is a fourth year student at Ryerson University, and currently completing her Bachelors in Social Work. She comes with a wide varieties of experience - her first practicum was with Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto and she is also currently working for Province Health Care. Mariyate hopes to pursue a Masters in Social Work. Her interests lies in Pediatric Social Work, and she hopes to work with children and youth in a health care setting in the future. She will be working closely with CCVT counselors in which she hopes to gain skills and experiences in counseling and assessment. She is also interested in getting involved in outreach and public education in order to spread the awareness about CCVT and the human rights issues. During her practicum at CCVT, she will also participate in research paper on victims of torture. Regardless of her busy schedule with school and work, she still finds time to volunteer with Bloorview Macmillan Children's Centre and Learning Disability Association of Toronto. She finds volunteerism very important especially in non profit sector as we are heavily dependent on them. Welcome, Mariyate, we are very excited to have you!



## Jackie Gakumba - New Youth Counselor

**Jackie Gakumba** has joined CCVT as an additional Youth Counselor. Since she was a child, she has had a passion in helping people, which led her to nursing career in Rwanda. After she came to Canada, she has worked with Project French Youth Program, CANORA, and Refugee Project in French, Mugenzi for Refugee. She also completed her Bachelors in Sociology at York University/ Glendon College, and is currently taking Political Science courses. Through her studies, she has learnt many different Canadian social issues as well as at the global level. This made her want to continue her career in the helping profession. Jackie loves working at CCVT because it is similar to what she studied. She likes to deal with children and youth who need emotional and practical support. She enjoys conversing with people and has a passion to help those individuals who have come to Canada. She is interested in Women's and children's issues, conflict resolution, immigration & refugees issues. She is excited to gain experience in working with children, youth and their families so that she can help them adjust their lives in Canada. When she has free time, she like to read, bike, jog,, and spend time with her friends. Jackie's message for CCVT volunteers - "It's important to volunteer because you get great experience as well as knowledge. Please continue to give us your support. You are always welcome here and we are grateful for your help".



## Welcome Chizuru, CCVT Volunteer Coordinator

By Mia Toose

Hello! I am Mia Toose, a fellow volunteer at CCVT who is involved as an English Tutor as well as one of the members who worked alongside Paola Bresba in the Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC). One of the responsibilities of the VAC is to assist when there is a change of Volunteer Coordinators at CCVT in order to ease the transition for our new staff member as well as to ensure our volunteers don't get lost in the shuffle!

In this issue, I'd like to introduce you to **Chizuru Nobe** who has taken on her new role with the energy and enthusiasm that represents the nature of volunteers everywhere. Chizuru comes to us with a wide range of practical, educational, and multicultural experiences that has generated her strong leadership abilities and her commitment to human rights and justices.

She is a native of Japan, completing her first degree there in English with a specialty in International Studies. This was further complemented with a Canadian touch through further education when she received her Bachelor Degree in Global Studies from Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) in Waterloo, Ontario. One of Chizuru's specialized topics was HIV/AIDS – prevention and community care which she focused on during her Masters of Social Work, WLU.

Chizuru has traveled and worked in several countries, including Morocco and India and has been volunteering since she was a child; from collecting donations to assisting the elderly in nursing homes. She is attracted to the work at CCVT because of the dedication the staff and volunteers have to human rights, as well as her interest of working and communicating directly with people. As the Volunteer Coordinator, she is excited to be able to communicate with the clients, staff, and volunteers and to work as the liaison that connects them all.

Chizuru wishes to ensure that all interested volunteers are able to find their place at CCVT in order to make full use of all the valuable skills the volunteers have to offer. She welcomes our ideas and is keen on working with all of us to bridge successful and long-term matches to clients who need it.

We look forward to working with you too! All the Best!

Mia Toose



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS



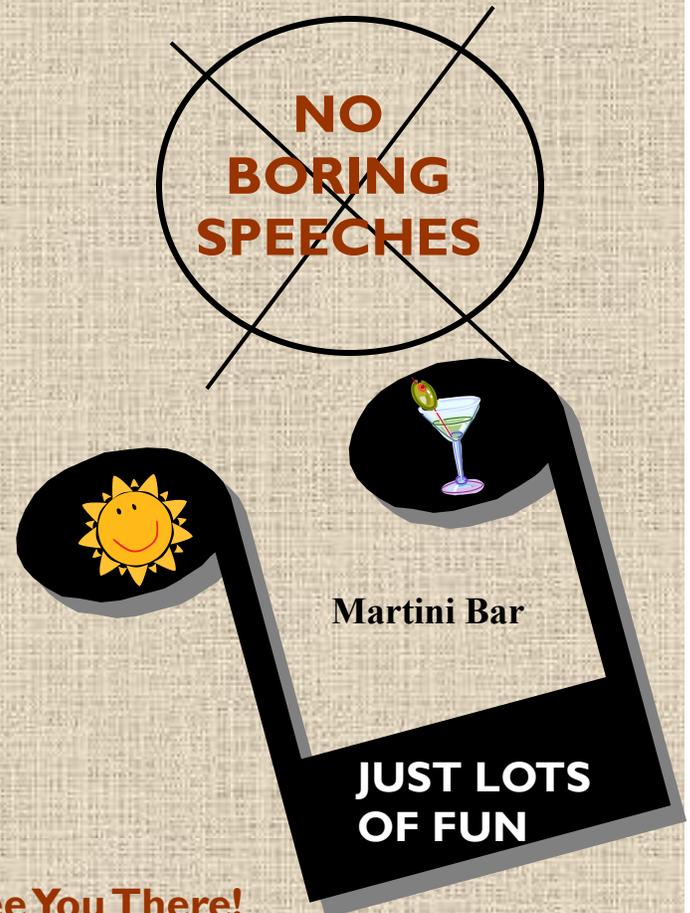
## Silent and live auction

We invite you once again to  
CCVT's annual  
First Light Celebration  
**NOVEMBER 23, 2006 at 6:00P.M.**

Remarkable Venue:  
**Enoch Turner Schoolhouse**  
106 Trinity St. (Parliament and King)  
\$100.00 a ticket with a \$50 income tax  
charitable receipt



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See You There!

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# CCVT AWARDS NOMINATION

During our annual First Light Celebration, CCVT awards will be presented. There are three awards - Trevor Bartram Award, Amina Malko Award, and Youth Award. These awards are given to recognize the valuable contributions individuals make to build an equitable and just society. If you would like to nominate someone based on the description of awards below, please let us know!

## The Trevor Bartram Award

The Trevor Bartram Award will be given to individuals who have made significant achievement in organizational development, particularly in setting up new community based organizations, consistent with the human rights mandate of CCVT. Experience in developing programs and policies, structures and success with funding initiatives.

## Amina Malko Award

The Amina Malko Award will be given to women who have made significant contribution in policy, advocacy and settlement service for new comers.

## Youth Award:

This award will be given to youth that have made outstanding contribution in the area of human rights, community service and academic excellence.

### Who is eligible?

Nominees must be residents of Canada. Self-nomination will not be accepted. No person shall be awarded post-humously unless death occurs after his or her name has been selected by the advisory council. CCVT staff and Board members are not eligible.

### When is the deadline for nominations?

Completed nomination forms for any of the three awards will be accepted no later than November 9, 2006.

### Need more information:

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mulugeta Abai, CCVT Executive Director at (416) 363-1066 Ext.25 E-mail: [mabai@ccvt.org](mailto:mabai@ccvt.org)

For Last year's Award Recipients please visit The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture Web page at [www.ccvt.org](http://www.ccvt.org)



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are no longer a volunteer at CCVT or do not want to receive the newsletter, please contact Chizuru Nobe at 416-363-1066 ext. 22. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please write to Chizuru Nobe at [cnobe@ccvt.org](mailto:cnobe@ccvt.org) from the account to which you want the newsletter to be sent. Thank you.

## Homework Club

Fall 2006 Homework club has started! We are still looking for volunteers for Homework Club. If you are available between 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays, and would like to help children with their homework, please join us!

## Conversation Circle

We are looking for a female volunteer to lead our Wednesday English Conversation Circle. If you are free between 11:45-12:30 on Wednesdays, and would like to help, please let us know.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Chizuru Nobe, Volunteer Coordinator at 416-3601066 ext. 22 or [cnobe@ccvt.org](mailto:cnobe@ccvt.org). Your support is greatly appreciated!

## English & Computer Tutor

We have new students in ESL/LINK programs. They are looking for one-on-one English tutors on weekly basis outside of their classes. We also need some computer tutors on Mon-Thurs between 10-12 for Beginners, and between 12:30-2:30 for Intermediate.

## Any Articles for Newsletter?

Would you like to share your volunteer experiences at CCVT with other volunteers? Would you like to write an article about social justice/ human rights issues that concern you? If so, we would love to hear from you!



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Victims of Torture