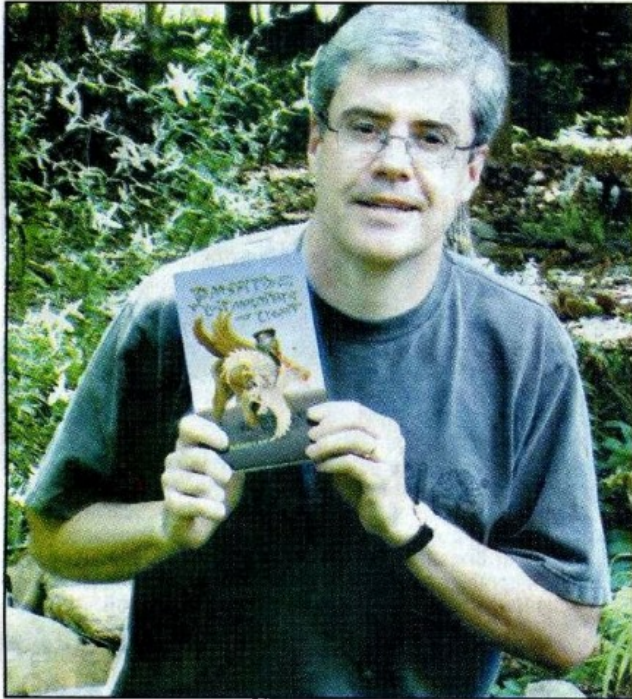


Prime Time



AFTER PERSEPOLIS — A 1998 visit to Persepolis, Iran, stimulated the Berkeley Heights author and artist Howard Lee to write and illustrate "Jamshid and the Lost Mountain of Light," a children's novel that has been named for a 2006 Persian Golden Lioness Award for Excellence in Literature.

Local author wins Golden Lioness

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Township resident and author Howard Lee has been named to receive a 2006 Persian Golden Lioness Award for Excellence in Literature. He was named in the children's book category, for his novel "Jamshid and the Lost Mountain of Light," which was self-published in 2005. The 2006 awards ceremony will be held in Budapest, Hungary, in October.

Founded by two Iranian expatriates now living in Hungary, the Persian Golden Lioness Awards recognize outstanding contributions to Persian-related arts, literature, and media. The Academy panel nominated artists from six nationalities, including celebrities as well as newcomers.

Award winners receive a golden winged lioness statuette, modeled after a 2,500-year-old ancient Persian design.

Mr. Lee, a Kenyan-born British author, was inspired to write the children's book after a 1998 visit to Persepolis in Iran, with his Persian wife and their young son. The story is set in the ancient Persian capital during the

reign of Darius the Great. The book blends fantasy and historical fiction.

Mr. Lee, wife and two sons have lived Berkeley Heights since 2000. Ms. Lee was transferred to the U.S. by her company. Initially here on temporary assignment, they were granted permanent residency last year and purchased the house they had been renting.

The author studied fine art at Cheltenham Art College before training as a geologist at London University. In the U.K., Mr. Lee worked in geological information technology, and when he moved to the U.S. he worked as an information technology consultant.

In 2003, he became a stay at home dad. He keeps his hands full looking after the children, fixing up the house, constructing web sites, managing his book, supporting a local Boy Scout troop, explaining Persian New Year to local schools and, occasionally, painting.

For information about "Jamshid and the Lost Mountain of Light," visit www.jamshid.gb.com.