

## President 's Message

### You are all invited

You are all invited with your family and friends to the 9th Zarthushti Games. Opening ceremony will take place on Thursday, July 1, 2004 (Canada Day) at 9:30 a.m. The War Memorial Gym at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver is the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Let us take this glorious opportunity to encourage our youth to further their sport skills. After all our youth are future leaders of our community, the more they get involved in community events, the better leaders they will be. Let us not forget that the majority of us have immigrated to North America so that our children grow-up in an environment of free culture and religion.

My sincere thanks to the Organizing Committee, the sub Committees and all the volunteers for their dedication and commitment towards the organization of our 9<sup>th</sup> Zarathushti Games, which is being held for the first time in Canada.

My Co-Directors join me in congratulating Tandis, Yasmin and Yasaman Iranfar on their Navjote ceremonies held at the Darbe Mehr on March 25, 2004. The Board of Directors encourages all Zoroastrians to have their navjote done. Directors will be very happy to assist in anyway we can. Just approach one of the Directors and we will take it from there.

**See you all at the 9th Zarthushti Games.**

*Homi Italia  
President.*

**Dual Citizenship Bill passes for PIOs:** Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) living in 16 designated countries, including Australia, Britain, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and USA, will now be entitled to dual citizenship. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2003, which amends the Citizenship Act, 1955, provides for overseas citizenship of India to PIOs.

Dual citizenship would offer a wide range of benefits to about 20 million PIOs living abroad, including a free visa entry, permission to stay longer in India, eligibility to purchase agricultural land, but would not be allowed to contest for or vote in elections. Further, it would facilitate trade and investment by the Indian diaspora.

**India issues Nani Palkhivala postage stamp:** On January 16, 2004, India issued a First Day Cover and postage stamp to commemorate the life of legal legend *Nani Ardeshir Palkhivala* (1920-2003). The former President of India, Dr. R. Venkataraman paid tribute to this eminent jurist: "Nani Palkhivala was a multifaceted and multisplendored personality. He was an eminent lawyer, a towering intellectual, a distinguished ambassador, (Palkhivala was India's ambassador to Washington from 1977 to 1979), a doughty champion of civil rights and above all, a humanist. A brilliant orator, his review of the Budget and financial health of the nation, that he presented over a period of 4 decades, was eagerly awaited by the press and public. Author of many celebrated books, such as "Law and Practice of Income Tax" and "We the People" have become classics.

**Snapshot of our Community in B.C.** Most of us have wondered, from time to time, about the number of Zarathushtis living in B.C., the number of families, where we are living, etc. Given below is some statistical information, as at the end of February, 2004, about our community, gleaned from our Directory published in March this year.

	<u>Irani</u>	<u>Parsi</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Families (includes individuals living alone)</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>425</u>
Males	178	157	335
Females	167	168	335
Daughters	93	85	178
Sons	109	108	217
Parents living with daughters/sons			<u>24</u>
<b>Total number of Zarathushtis in B.C.</b>			<b><u>1,089</u></b>
<i>Where do these 425 families live?</i>			
In Victoria - 10,	in the Lower Mainland - 400	in the rest of B.C. - 15.	
Families living in the Lower Mainland are in 14 municipalities as follows:			
Burnaby 35	Coquitlam 19	Delta 2	
Langley 8	Maple Ridge 7	New Westminster 5	
North Vancouver 148	Port Coquitlam 2	Port Moody 3	
Richmond 56	Surrey 11	Tsawassen 1	
Vancouver 60	West Vancouver 41	White Rock 2	
There are 47 mixed marriages families.			

The number of Zarathushtis living in B.C. may be somewhat higher than the numbers mentioned above, since some Zarathushtis living in B.C. may not be listed in the Directory.

**Geographical Distribution of Zarathushtis in North America:**

Ontario 18.2%	California 18.2%	British Columbia 12.2%
Texas 11.1%	New Jersey 5.0%	New York 4.8%
Delaware/ Maryland 4.4%	Quebec 4.0%	Pennsylvania 3.5%
Massachusetts 2.8%	Virginia 2.4%	Illinois 2.3%
Alberta 2.2%	Others 8.9%	
North American data indicates that about 10% of the Zarathushti population is in the age group of 60 years and older.		
Pakistani data indicates that 36% of the Zarathushti population is 60 years and older		
Indian data shows that 32.9% of their Zarathushti population is 60 years and older.		
Source: FEZANA Journal.		

**2004 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BY  
THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
FOR ITS MEMBERS SEEKING ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE  
THIS YEAR.**

The Scholarship Committee of ZSBC invites members' children who are completing the Provincial Grade XII examination this year, to apply for a modest scholarship from ZSBC.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible, the applicant must have a minimum of 1425 points achieved under the British Columbia Standard Ministry Score (SMS) criteria.

**Application:** Application forms are available from ZSBC's web site at [www.zsbc.org](http://www.zsbc.org) , or from Homi Italia (604) 438-2076, or Bella Tata (604) 681-5250, or Fariborz Rahnamoon (604) 986-2077, or Dinaz Mizan (604) 270-4077, or Farrokh Namdaran (604) 684-7310.

Completed application forms, Grade XII marks, and a one page write up about your achievements should be returned by **September 12, 2004 to**

**The Scholarship Committee, ZSBC,  
6900 Halifax Street,  
Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2R5**

**FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS (2004-2005)  
And the  
MEHRABAN DORAB KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP  
FOR MERIT – FEZANA SCHOLAR.**

The scholarships are open to Zarathushti applicants who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA and Canada.

**Scholarships:** Scholarships for the academic year 2004-2005 will be awarded in September, 2004. The MDK scholarship for merit will be \$5,000.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible the applicant must complete the application form and provide documentation for: (1) Proof of status in USA or Canada, (a minimum of one year residency is required); (2) Past academic records & accomplishments; (3) Program of study; (4) Annual financial need including assistance pledged by other funds, charitable institutions or the institution of choice; (5) Other financial assistance available from family & friends; (6) Community service, including contributions to Zarathushti functions & organizations; (7) Three reference letters.

**Award Criteria:** Applicants will be rated on Merit of Scholastic Achievement (40%), Financial Need (40%), Extra-curricular Activities (10%), and Community Service (10%).

**The Mehraban Dorab Kheradi Endowment Scholarship for \$5,000 will be awarded on merit only.**

**Application:** Application forms are available from FEZANA website at [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org) or from Dr. Dolly Dastoor ([dollydastoor@sympatico.ca](mailto:dollydastoor@sympatico.ca)) and completed application forms, **post-marked latest by August 1, 2004**, should be sent to:

**DOLLY DASTOOR Ph.D, Chair, FEZANA Scholarship Program,  
3765 Malo, Brossard, Quebec. Canada J4Y 1B4.**

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Visit us at [www.bombay-bhel.com](http://www.bombay-bhel.com)

*Eddie Madon has recently entered into a partnership with the popular Bombay Bhel Restaurant chain from Toronto. Bombay Bhel exceeds expectations of traditional Indian fare. The food is charming and subtle, exotic and sultry, imaginative and delicious. This characteristic, combined with their relatively moderate price point, is the driving force behind Bombay Bhel's rapid ascent in the highly competitive Indian restaurant industry in Southern Ontario. This successful concept will arrive in the Greater Vancouver market sometime in mid-July, at 4266 Hastings St. in Burnaby. Visit them at [www.bombay-bhel.com](http://www.bombay-bhel.com) for details on menu items, franchising opportunities and other services provided, or phone Eddie Madon at 604. 980. 3402.*

**Rates for Advertising in ZSBC's Newsletter & Web Site:**

<u>Advertising Particulars</u>	<u>In Newsletter Only</u>	<u>In Newsletter &amp; Web Site</u>
Business card size ad in one issue	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00
Quarter page ad in one issue	\$ 40.00	\$ 47.00
Half page ad in one issue	\$ 60.00	\$ 75.00
Full page ad in one issue	\$100.00	\$130.00
To sponsor an issue & get recognition	\$300.00	\$300.00

On our web site, classified ads are \$5.00 per month for a personal ad and \$10.00 a month for a business ad. There is a limit of one classified ad per name, with a maximum of 3 lines. For business classified ads, the following format has to be followed:

Company's Name & address, with telephone & fax numbers and email address  
Company's web site (URL) address;  
Company's business described in 10 lines.

**Books from Parsiana:**

PARSIANA has sent to ZSBC complimentary copies of the books:

- "The New World Encyclopedia of the Theory of Waves and the World of Waves" by Naryman Kaikhosrow
- "The New World Encyclopedia of the Khoorshid Nigrishin" by Naryman Kaikhosrow.

These books can be viewed at, or borrowed from, ZSBC's library. The books are available for purchase from Parsiana for Rs. 1,225.00 and Rs. 2,150.00, respectively, which covers the cost of the books and registered postage. Additional Rs. 100.00 should be added for handling charges and US\$ 5.00 for bank charges. If you would like to purchase them, please write to [parsiana@vsnl.net](mailto:parsiana@vsnl.net), Attention: Jasmine D. Driver, Marketing Manager.

### **Some of our Past Events:**

**Saturday, March 20, 2004 NouRooz:** A number of our members gathered at the Darbe Mehr in the morning to pray and greet one another on this auspicious day. We thank Arian Sasani for welcoming members to the Darbe Mehr, Mehrnoosh Sasani for tastefully setting up the “haft seen” table. Amou NouRooz distributed gifts to the children, who were all smiles.

**Saturday, March 20, 2004 – NouRooz Celebration:** As always, the NouRooz Celebration was great hit with our members, about 235 of whom attended the function. We are grateful to Shahnaz Kadkhodayan, Percy Bhagat and Homi Italia, who spent so much of their time to organize the function, Shirin Kiani and Farhad Mistry, who acted as the Masters of Ceremony and eloquently introduced the various events & artistes during the evening, to Kourosh Kavooosi for being our DJ once again, to Manek Mavalvalla for adding color & melody to the rendition of so many of the artistes by accompanying them quietly on the organ, to Mauvan Khorshidian and Natasha Kianipour for their nimble dance routines, to Vista Pourbahrami, & Burgess Dastur and Farhad Mehrkhodavandi for the songs sung melodiously, to Sharlene Petigara for her beautiful, solo rendition of “Oh Canada” on the trumpet, to Banifer Desai & her colleagues for the attractive fashion show put on, all of which contributed to a very entertaining & enjoyable evening for our members.

**Thursday, March 25, 2004 – Asho Zarathushtra’s Birthday Celebration:** A quiet evening, attended by a number of our members, on which, the Directors are happy to note, Sedreh pushi (navjote) ceremonies were performed of Tandis, Yasmin and Yasaman Iranfar by Borzoo Rostamirad.

**Sunday, April 25, 2004 - Adar-nu-Parabh:** Our sincere thanks to Mobed Firdos Balsara who came specially to perform the Jashan, in spite of his previous personal commitment. Pot-luck lunch was later enjoyed by a number of our members.

**Sunday, May 2, 2004 – Maidyozarem Gahanbar:** This spring Gahanbar was again sponsored by the Zartoshty brothers, Mehraban and the late Feraydoon, and made possible by the generosity of our Honorary Members Mehraban and Paridokht Zartoshty. The Gahanbar was very popular, as usual, with over 70 members attending. Our thanks to Mobed Adil Antia for performing the Jashan and to Siloo Panthaky for preparing the delicious lunch.

**Saturday, May 8, 2004 – Birthday Celebration of Arbab Rustam Guiv:** A very popular function as usual with a great many of our members attending to remember and pay homage to our benefactor, the late Arbab Rustam Guiv.

### **Upcoming Events outside B.C.**

**2004 WZCC Business Conference:** The World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) will hold a *Business Conference* in San Francisco on December 28, 2004 (one day prior to the XIII North American Congress). Contact Edul Daver at (732) 469-1866 or email [daver@acupowder.com](mailto:daver@acupowder.com)

**The XIII North American Congress:** will be held in the San Francisco Bay area December 29, 2004 to January 1, 2005, at the Santa Clara Marriott, hosted by ZANC in association with FEZANA. The theme of the Congress is “*Being Zarathushti: Looking at Issues, Searching for Answers*”. Early Bird registration ends on June 30, 2004. Program details, including entertainment, excursions, and other events are being finalized. Visit their web site “[www. Zanc.org/congress](http://www.Zanc.org/congress)” for particulars, or contact Nazneen Spliedt, at [nazehler@aol.com](mailto:nazehler@aol.com)

**The 8<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress:** will be held in the UK, in the summer of 2005. For information, contact ZTFE President, Dorab Mistry at [godrej@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:godrej@globalnet.co.uk).

### **Congratulations:**

#### **Births:**

To Jahangir & Behnaz Kamdar, a son Keivan, on March 14, 2004 in North Vancouver.

#### **Sedreh Pooshi (Navjotes):**

To Tandis, Yasmin & Yasaman Iranfar, on their Sedreh Pooshi (Navjote) ceremonies performed on March 25, 2004 in Burnaby.

#### **Condolences:**

Hilla Behramfram, 88, passed away on March 14, 2004, in Richmond, B.C. – Mother of Lily Umrigar of Richmond, B.C., Pesi Behramfram of Marl, Germany, Tehmi Marsh of Surrey, B.C., Silloo Mistry of Richmond, B.C., and Sam Behramfram of Richmond, B.C.

Laal Bekhradnia, 82, passed away in Oxford, England, on March 27, 2004 – wife of Shahriar Bekhradnia of Oxford, England; mother of Dr. Behram Bekhradnia and Justice Shahin Bekhradnia, of Oxford, England; sister of late Dr. Kaikhosrow Shahrivini, and Homa Shahrivini of England and of Dr. Mehraban Shahrivini of West Vancouver.

Shirin Tata, 90, passed away in Vancouver on March 29, 2004 – widow of the late Dali Tata, Mother of Bella Tata of Vancouver and Zarine Dastur of Port Moody, B.C., sister of Gool Kermani of Mumbai, India, mother-in-law of Nanu Dastur of Port Moody, B.C.

**Donations:** Donations were received from the following members, during the period March 2 to May 2, 2004, for whose generosity we are very grateful

Abtin, Houman	240.00	Antia, Adil & Piroja	101.00
Dastur, Khushrav & Kashmiri	101.00	Engineer, Homi	45.00
Farin, Homayoon	100.00	Jamzadeh, Homayoun	275.00
Jangi, Faramarz & Villoo	100.00	Kavoosi, Kamran	303.00
Khambatta, Koomi	50.00	Mehta, Dhun	60.00
Panthaky, Jehangir & Khorshed	51.00	Panthaky, Cavas & Silloo	20.00
Shroff, Hoshang & Mahrukh	500.00	Shroff, Rohinton & Sanober	50.00
Suraliwalla, Kashmiri	51.00	Tata, Bella	60.00
Turnbull, Zenobia	51.00	Yeganegi, Parviz & Parvin	300.00
		Zartoshty, Mehraban & Paridokht	2,000.00

**Upcoming Events:** All events at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr – unless otherwise specified.

The Darbe Mehr will be kept open on the Sundays, June 6 and 20, 2004 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. when religious classes will be held.

Apart from the events listed below, which are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, the Darbe Mehr will be kept open by a group of our members, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Vrahraum Eezad (Behram Roj) days, which fall on June 7, July 7, August 6 and September 5, 2004.

**Saturday, June 5, 2004, 11:00 a.m. Clean Up of the Darbe Mehr:** Every year, in June, a group of volunteers dedicate their time & effort to properly clean our Darbe Mehr so that we, as members, can take pride in its cleanliness and appearance and also preserve for our children this facility so graciously bequeathed to us by Arbab Rustam Guiv. Our youths & adults are again requested to volunteer some of their time for this purpose, as cleanliness of the Darbe Mehr is the responsibility of all our members. Please call Khushrav Dastur at (604) 524-4343 or email him at [kdastur@shaw.ca](mailto:kdastur@shaw.ca) to find out how you may help and what cleaning materials you can bring.

**Saturday, June 12, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (registration at 4:30 p.m.):** All Zarathushtis are welcome to attend the AGM, but only those who have paid their membership fees for 2004-2005, even just before the commencement of the meeting, can vote. Please also refer to the “Notice of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting” enclosed with this newsletter. Light refreshment will be served after the meeting.

**Sunday, June 13, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – Peeri Sabz Memorial Day:** will be celebrated at Shanon Falls, near Squamish, with group prayers at the site, songs, games, music, making Sirog, etc. Please bring your own food & refreshments, blankets, etc. and come to Taylor Way (British Properties) by 10:00 a.m., so that we can all try and leave together for Shannon Falls. For additional information call Jamshid Gustavsp (604) 278-4089 or Azadmehr Kaviani (604) 986-1890 or Feraydoon Demehri (604) 926-9891.

**Thursday, July 1 to Sunday, July 4, 2004, The 9<sup>th</sup> Zarathushti Games:** Join Zarathushti youths from Canada and around the world, as a participant or as a spectator, in the various sports events over 4 days, at UBC. Zarathushti youths will be competing in various sporting events viz. basketball, volleyball, swimming, track & field, table tennis, badminton, etc. ***The Opening Ceremony will take place on Thursday, July 1, 2004 at the War Memorial Gym at the UBC campus at 9:30 a.m.***

**Friday, July 2, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Dinner/Dance at UBC's Grand Ballroom:** This is an "Austin Powers" themed dinner & Dance, with a live band and Persian & Indian music also. This will be an opportunity to party & socialize with Zarathushtis from across Canada and around the world in Vancouver for the 9<sup>th</sup> Zarathushti Games. Tickets are just \$25.00 per person. Contact Farhad Mistry at (604) 315-6587 for tickets. The dinner/dance will be at The Grand Ballroom, University of British Columbia, Student Union Building, 6138 Student Union Boulevard, Vancouver.

**Saturday, July 3, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Harbor Cruise & Dinner/ Dance:** Spend a cool evening with your friends, old & new, cruising around beautiful Vancouver harbor, aboard the majestic *Britannia* dining & dancing the night away. Tickets are \$59.00 only, and are available from Farhad Mistry at (604) 315-6587. Youths under 13 years should come with a guardian. Boarding at 7:30 p.m., with sailing at 8:00, p.m. from No. 1, North Foot of Denman Street, Vancouver.

**Sunday, August 15, 2004, Ahunavad Gatha, (1<sup>st</sup> Gatha), 11:00 a.m.:** Jashan, followed by light refreshments.

**Saturday, August 21, 2004, 7:00 p.m. to midnight – Pateti/Navroz Dinner/Dance:** Our Navroz celebration function will be held at the Richview Banquet Hall, 14500 River Road, Richmond. Tickets will be sold on a "first come, first served" basis. ***Could you please arrange to purchase your tickets by Saturday August 14, 2004,*** as tickets will not be sold after that date and arrangements cannot be made for picking them up from the check-in desk at the function.

<u>Cost of Tickets</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-members</u>	<u>Tickets Can Be Purchased From</u>	
Youths (12 years & over and adults	\$20.00	\$30.00	Meher Bhagat	(604) 984-0986
Youths 5 to 11 years	\$10.00	\$20.00	Homi Italia	(604) 438-2076
Children under 5 years	Free	Free.	Hufriz Mavalvalla	(604) 274-7349
			Shirin Sethna	(604) 421-7591.