



NEWSLETTER OF
THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Search of the Truth

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sept 2004-Nov2004

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Past three months were quite hectic. On June 12, AGM was held at the Darbe Mehr, attendance was lacklustre. Seven directors were elected at the meeting. Since then one of the directors, Rohinton Shroff suffered a severe chest pain and has undergone major heart surgery on July 15 at the St. Paul's Hospital. With Ahura Mazda's blessings he is doing well now. We wish him a speedy recovery. Pervin Buhariwala has replaced him. I welcome the new directors Sharook Kapadia, Silloo Panthaky, Pervin Buhariwala and Farhad Mistry. I look forward to working with them. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing directors Noshir Balsara, Rustom Sasani, Khushrav Dastur and Khodabaksh Shahbandari for their dedicated service to our community.

The 9th Zarathushti Games were held from July 1 to July 4. These games took place in Canada for the first time. I had the pleasure and honour of opening the games at the War Memorial Gym at the University of British Columbia. The games were a great success. Many athletes and visitors attended from all over the globe. Volunteers are backbone to these kinds of games. My sincere thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for their hard work and dedication, many of them have worked for several months sacrificing their personal time and holidays. This is one memorable event that will be remembered forever. For colourful pictures of the games please visit our web site www.zsbc.org>z games>news>photo album. Many thanks to the host families for taking care of the athletes from different parts of the world. All in all it was a great community effort.

I am confident that these games have brought our youth together and they have made many new friends.

Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous Shenshahi New Year 1374 Y.Z.

Homi Italia
President.

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PAST EVENTS:

1. The 9th Zarathushti Games: ' a fantastic success '

The 9th Zarathushti Games, organised by The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia, were held in Vancouver, British Columbia from July 1 to 4, 2004 at The University of British Columbia.

Athletes, spectators and visitors began arriving two days before the games, and arrangements were made for the athletes to stay at UBC in the residential accommodation at Gage Towers. The majority of the athletes arrived on June 30. Pick up and drop off from the airport was very well co-ordinated by Sharook Kapadia and his wife Yasmin with other volunteers. Vancouver being in close proximity to California, some of them drove on their own.

The opening ceremony was held on July 1, Canada Day, at the War Memorial Gym. It began with a prayer recited by mobed Firdos Balsara. Vista Pourbahrami sang national anthem of Canada. The president of ZSBC, Homi Italia welcomed everyone and thanked the executive committee members Behramsha Mizan, Kourosh Edalati, Nooshin Kiani, Sharook Kapadia, Adi Desai, Ardeshir Behi, Farhad Mistry and Pouya Bastani for their tremendous contribution in organizing this event. He also thanked Bijan Khosraviani of the Zoroastrian Sports Committee for their guidance and cooperation in bringing these games to fruition. ZSBC's first President Bella Tata read out the President of FEZANA Mr. Firdosh Mehta's message who could not attend the games due to other commitments. Dance performance by ladies of the Siamak Group, songs by the Gatha Group, Hapkido demonstration by Cyrus Mizan and other youth followed this. Athletes from all over the globe held a colourful march past. Finally Homi Italia declared the 9th Zarathushti Games open. Very first game of volleyball and basketball began immediately after the opening ceremony, in front of a very enthusiastic crowd.

On July 2, track events were held at Eric Hamber School track. Athletes from Pakistan and India won many track events. In the afternoon table tennis, badminton, volleyball and basketball were held at the Student Recreation Centre. Evening dinner and dance was held at Student Union Building, ballroom. Entertainment was provided by live band performed by local Zoroastrian boys and girls. Theme of the evening "Austin Power" and music was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone way past mid-night.

All swimming events were held morning of July 3 at the Aquatic Centre in UBC. Individual and team events were well attended. After the whole day tiring play, everyone was entertained on a four-hour harbour boat cruise, which included dinner and dance. It was a beautiful evening; the sight of the rising moon was spectacular.

On the last day of the games final volleyball and basketball games were played at the War Memorial Gym in front of the cheering crowd with banging of drums and blowing horns.

Like everything, all good things come to an end, said Sharookh Daroowala M.C. for the opening and closing ceremony. Final closing ceremony began with Vista singing the "O Canada". The record number of people who attended the ceremony enjoyed Media presentation by Narius Dastur and Rokhsar Panthaky. Simultaneously chorus "We are the champions" was sung by a

group of zoroastrian youth. Finally, 9th Zarathushti Games was declared closed by Homi Italia. Neeku Amanat of Vancouver passed a small jar with a lit candle to Andia Dianat of Los Angeles as a symbol of good will for the 10th Zarathushti Games, which will be held in Los Angeles, California, in July 2006. All winners received their well-earned medals in gold, silver and bronze to cherish the memories of the 9th Zarathushti Games and all volunteers received beautiful roses courtesy of Zoroastrian Sports Committee.

2. A Report on the activities in London UK:

REPORT ON CONTINUING WORLD BODY DELIBERATIONS

July 2nd and 3rd, 2004 might turn out to be epic days in the history of the Zarathushtis World wide, as the days when four major Zoroastrian organisations, the FPZAI (including BPP), the ZTFE, the WZO and FEZANA, all came to the table for the first time to contribute to the formation of ONE World Body. An organisation, which would be the FACE of the established Zarathushti communities in most of the countries of the world. With future expectations that other areas of recognised Zoroastrian populations would join soon after the acceptance of the revised drafts of the Constitutions (Articles of Incorporation, By-laws and Memorandum of Understanding) by the Executives and Members of the four constituting organisations mentioned above as its founding constituent entities. For more information visit our web site www.fezana.org

REMINDER:

- Early Bird Registration of the 13th North American Congress has been extended to August 31, 2004. Due to the success of their first wave of registrations, they would like to extend this opportunity to more of us and encourage members to sign up as soon as possible. Do look at their web-site www.zanc.org/congress for updates and news.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Announcement from Toronto:

A Toronto family is willing to pay the entire cost of the NAVAR (ordaining new priest) ceremony of any child who is interested in becoming a priest, from any part of the world, especially from Iran.

For more details, please contact Ervad Kerman Katrak at kerman@priest.com.

2. Job Vacancy message from Novzar Dastoor:

Design and Construction Northeast & Canada (DCNC) is currently seeking employee referrals for a few of our hard to fill positions. Successful referrals will result in a \$1,000 Employee Referral Bonus. We are looking for candidates for the following opportunities:

1. Designers (TC27)
2. Mechanical Engineer (EP03)

If you would like more information on these specific opportunities, please feel welcome to contact: Novzar Dastoor, CHZM HILL CANADA LTD.

Tel: 416 499 0090 EXT 545 (e-mail Novzar.Dastoor@chzm.com)

3. Volunteer Drivers required:

Volunteers are required to drive our seniors to different events. Your services will be appreciated. Please contact **Sharook Kapadia at (604) 439 3066**

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Family: Husband and wife, including children under 18\$50
Senior (65 years and over)\$15
Full time student\$15
Individuals (18 years and over, even those living with parents)\$25

A great number of our members have still not paid their membership fees for the current year 2004-05, which were due on March 21, 2004. Fees may be paid by cash, or cheque. You may contact any one of the Directors, whose names and responsibilities are given below, on any issue relating to our Society and convey your views to them.

DIRECTORS OF ZSBC AND COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Homi Italia	President	(604) 438-2076
Farrokh Namdaran	Treasurer	(604) 926-9733
Sharook Kapadia	Maintenance & Seniors Liaison	(604) 439-3066
Sillo Panthaky	Education committee	(604) 513-1261
Farhad Mistry	Youth Liasion/Sports	(604) 315-6587
Percy Bhagat	Social Events	(604) 984-0986
Pervin Buhariwala	Secretary	(604) 945-7865

NEW WELFARE COMMITTEE PROJECT FEZANA:

Over the years, the welfare committee of FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) has been committed to providing assistance and guidance to individuals & families facing temporary difficulties due to medical emergencies, natural disasters, violence, or legal issues. This year, the welfare committee has created a new sub-committee focused on promoting the welfare of **Zoroastrian families affected by domestic abuse.**

Reports of domestic abuse cases are on the rise in our community and we want to reach out to members of the Zarathushti community that may need our help. This is where we come in! The critical assistance sub-committee has set up a **confidential, toll-free, nation-wide, informational line (1-877-265-7273)** that community members may use to obtain guidance and information in relation to domestic violence counselors, shelters/safe houses, rape crisis centers, counselors and family therapists. It is our intention to work with professionals to help identify and assist in the financial and/or emotional needs of the victims.

The critical assistance committee is holding its first fundraiser on **Saturday, September 4, 2004** and needs your support. Although financial donations are greatly appreciated, we are also asking you to think of items to donate that can be auctioned off. In our experience, these sorts of auctions raise a lot of funds and nothing is too small or big to offer.

Contact:

Houtoxi Contractor -- 412-367-2948; HFMC31@aol.com

Hosi Mehta -- 630-833-6923; hosimehta@aol.com

OBITUARY:

Dastur Dr. Hormazdyar Dastur Kayoji Mirza, High Priest – Iranshah Atash Behram, Udvada.

The passing away of Dasturji Dr. Hormazdyar Mirza on Roj Ashihsvangh, Mah Adar, 1373 A.Y., 11th May 2004 ends the era of the most revered respected Dasturji and High Priest of the Parsi Community. Dasturji devoted his entire life to the cause of religious education and higher learning of religious scriptures, Iranian languages, literature and culture. He served the community as a High Priest for 59 years. Dasturji Saheb passed away peacefully in his sleep and migrated from materialistic world to the spiritual world, leaving behind a wealth of knowledge on Zoroastrian religion in invaluable books and papers published by him. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Amen!

YOUTH CORNER:

In June, the youth committee held their elections and a new committee was formed. Zain Mavalvalla, ZYBC President, would like to welcome all the new committee members. ZYBC is in the process of organizing a few new events, the first one being the annual Buntzen Lake BBQ, which will be held at the end of August. To help make each event a success, please come forward.

If you need any further information please contact Zain Mavalvalla @ (604) 319-9246 or email zain13@shaw.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS:

All events at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr, 6900 Halifax Street, Burnaby, B.C. - unless otherwise specified.

The Darbe Mehr will be kept open from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., on Vrahraum Eezad (Behram Roj) which falls on Sunday September 5, Tuesday October 5, Thursday November 4 and Saturday December 4, 2004. The Darbe Mehr will be also being kept open on Sundays when religious & Farsi classes will be held.

Religious & Farsi classes will start from Sunday, September 26 and will, thereafter be held on the following alternate Sundays-October 10 and 24, November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19, 2004.

Apart from the events listed below, which are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, **Saturday, September 18, 2004-Senior's Picnic at Harrison Hot Springs:** It's this time of the year again, that all our seniors wait for. We invite all seniors to join for a picnic at Harrison Hot Springs for some fun, food, frolic and fresh air. Meeting point: Darbe Meher at 8.30 am. The bus will leave at 8.45 am sharp. We will disperse at 4.45 pm at Darbe Meher. Lunch will be provided by ZSBC. For a nominal charge of \$5.00 per person, please register with Farrokh Namdaran (604) 926-9733 on or before September 12, 2004 as limited seats available.

Sunday, September 19, 2004 11.00 a.m. - Annual Sports Day: at Mahon Park , 16th Street & Jones Avenue, North Vancouver. All are welcome to attend. There will be various events for different categories. Food and drinks will be available at a reasonable price. For further information please contact Farhad Mistry at (604) 315-6587.

Sunday, September 19, 2004 11.00 a.m. – Registration for Religious /Farsi Classes: Registration for these classes will be done at our Annual Sports Day function at Mahon Park (see item above) by Silloo Panthaky. There are no specific fees set for these classes, but parents are requested to make donations. For further information please contact Silloo Panthaky at the Annual Sports Day function or at (604) 513-1261. Children & youths of all ages may register.

Saturday, October 2, 2004, 6.30 p.m. – Mehrgan/Zarathushti Unity Day: Food will be available and sold at \$7.00 per person. Please inform any of the Directors if you wish to attend so that appropriate arrangements can be made for the food.

Sunday, October 10, 2004, 11.00 a.m. – Death Anniversary of the late Arbab Rustam Guiv: Prayers followed by refreshments. [Event organized by the Trustees of the Arbab Rustam Guiv Trust, Vancouver].

Sunday, October 17, 2004, 11.00 a.m. – Death Anniversary of the late Mr. Jamshed K. Pavri: Prayers followed by refreshments.

Saturday, November 6, 2004, 7.00 p.m. – Pre Winter Bingo/Food Nite: Dinner will be mouth watering Masala Dal, Rice, Chicken and Kachumber with soft drinks and ice cream. Cost \$10.00 per head. Please register your names with Percy Bhagat at (604) 984-0986

Sunday, November 14, 2004, 1.00 p.m. – Carom/Backgammon Tournament: Please phone Farhad Mistry at (604) 315-6587 to register for carom and backgammon respectively, by Thursday November 11, 2004. Tourney fees \$3 per person [13 years and over] per event. Prizes for winners and first runners up.