



NEWSLETTER OF
THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Search of the Truth

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mar 2005-May 2005
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Spring brings warmth, happiness and the beginning of a new year. The board of directors join me in wishing you, your family and friends NouRooz Mubarak.

It's also a time to acknowledge the volunteers who give their time and support during the entire year. I take this opportunity to thank each and everyone for their dedication and selfless service to our community, without which many events would not be possible. We are grateful and feel honoured for your services, hope to see many more volunteers; particularly the youth should come forward.

Our religious classes for children age 5 to 15 started in October 2004, we have very few children enrolled for this classes, I would request that those who have not yet enrolled to come and join the rest of the group and take advantage of this facility. You can call Silloo Panthaky to register at 604-513-1261. It is never too late to do so.

ZSBC's NouRooz celebration will be on Saturday, March 26, 2005 and I look forward to seeing you all that evening. (Details below.)

Homi Italia
President.

"Come celebrate NouRooz with your family and friends"

Dinner and dance organised by ZSBC on **Saturday, March 26, 2005, 6:30 p.m. to midnight NouRooz Celebration at Riverside Palace, Banquet Hall, 14500 River Road, (River Road/Valmont Way), Richmond.**

There will be limited quantity of beer and wine sold at very reasonable rates, please do not bring your own liquor as it shall not be permitted by the authorities.

The Zoroastrian Society of
British Columbia
6900 Halifax Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2R5
Canada

<u>Cost of tickets</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Adults & youths 13 years & over	\$ 23	\$ 33
Youths 5 to 12 years	\$ 12	\$ 20
Children under 5 years	Free	Free

Telephone (604) 420-3500
www.zsbc.org

Please reserve your seats well in advance, as seating will be allocated **table wise** on first come first served basis. Each table seats 10 people, so book with your friends and family.

Tickets will be available from 12th March up to 22nd March 2005. No tickets will be issued/on sale at the venue or after the last date. In order to avoid disappointment please book with full payment and collect your tickets from the following persons:

- Homi Italia @ (604) 438-2076
- Silloo Panthaky @ (604) 513-1261
- Dinaz Mizan @ (604) 270-4077
- Percy Bhagat @ (604) 984-0986

ZYBC'S President's Message

Back in November, a group of dedicated and energetic youth took up the big task of beautifying the main hall of the Darbe Mehr with the financial cooperation of the Arbab Rostam Guiv Trust.

This task took several weekends to complete and if you have been to the Darbe Mehr recently, you will have seen the result of their hard work. Now I call upon the rest of the community to help in completing the project. Since we want to completely redo the hall, we want to replace the twenty-year-old carpets, install new light fixtures, and redo the bathrooms. In order to do so, however, we need monetary support.

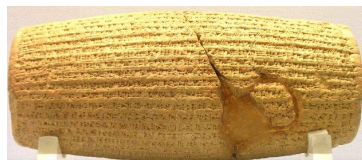
Please help to support the youth's efforts by donating any amount that you can so that together we can enjoy, and be proud of our place of worship. We really appreciate your support and look forward to having the hall renovated very soon.

If you need any further information please feel free to contact me @ (604)319-9246.

Zain Mavalvalla
ZYBC President

FEZANA UN Article (Feb 4th, 2005):

Zoroastrian Contributions to the Millennium Development Goals: Past, Present, and Future



*"I announce that I will respect the traditions, customs and religions of nations...
I never let anyone oppress any others...
I prevent unpaid, forced labor...
I prevent slavery..."*

Excerpt from the First Declaration of Human Rights by Cyrus The Great
Zoroastrian King of the Persian Empire, (590 BC-529 BC)
(Replica of the Cylinder is located in the lobby of UN Headquarters, New York, NY)

New York City – The teachings of Zoroastrianism, the world's first monotheistic religion, are still relevant in our world today. Throughout their long history, Zoroastrians have shown that they are a community dedicated to serving humanity. The devastating Tsunami of December 26, 2004 in Southeast Asia has reminded us that mankind must learn from the successes and failures of the past and work harder to end the world's problems of poverty and inequality.

At the United Nations Millennium Summit, held in September 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration, affirming its commitment to addressing such issues and to advancing in the areas of human rights, good governance and democracy. The most striking points of the UN resolution are outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of quantifiable objectives that all 191 UN Member States have pledged to meet by the year 2015. The eight MDGs are as follows: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) will present a panel discussion entitled “Zoroastrian Contributions to the Millennium Development Goals: Past, Present and Future” at the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York City, February 28th to March 11th, 2005.

This two hour interactive session will start with an introduction to the history and major tenets of Zoroastrianism, but will focus on the efforts that Zoroastrians have made – and continue to make – to meet the humanitarian objectives of the Millennium Declaration. The talk will be followed by an interactive session on how the Zoroastrian community can work with other communities and NGOs to create development networks around the world. The session will take place in March 2005 in New York City.

About FEZANA: (www.fezana.org) FEZANA, the umbrella organization for North American Zoroastrian associations, has been a registered non-profit, religious and charitable organization since 1987. It is dedicated to the task of promoting the study, understanding and practice of the Zoroastrian faith and the welfare of its followers. It also coordinates programs promoting public awareness of Zoroastrianism. FEZANA, as an NGO (non-governmental organization), maintains consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Zoroastrianism: Zoroastrianism (also known as the *Zarathushti* religion or *Zarathushtrianism*) is acknowledged as one of the world's oldest surviving monotheistic religions. Once the state religion of the ancient Persian empires (including modern-day Iran), Zoroastrianism embraces the worship of one God (*Ahura Mazda*) and is based on the revelations and teachings of the prophet Zoroaster (*Zarathushtra*) (circa 1400 B.C.E). The Zoroastrian faith calls upon its followers to pursue an ethical life through a three-fold path of “Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds.” In the past half-century, Zoroastrians have emigrated around the world, but the largest concentrations of Zoroastrians remain in India, where they are known as the Parsis, and in Iran.

Contact: Afreed B. Mistry, +1-416-302-9754, afreed.mistry@gmail.com
UN Headquarters First Avenue at 46th Street New York, NY 10017 www.un.org
www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

The Tata tradition and the attributes of JRD: This special article is now permanently featured on www.Vohuman.org under the section of prominent Zarathushtis. It can be viewed by accessing the following link:

JRD: On the Islands of Tata, In the Ocean of India.

Tatas have been at the forefront in the making of the Indian nation - not just by their monumental achievements as industrialists and entrepreneurs but also by their phenomenal philanthropic contributions in areas of medical research, higher education, aviation, culture, arts and human development. This article while highlighting the attributes of JRD Tata, encapsulates the essence of a 'Century of Trust' built on the Tata tradition of Charity, Industry and Integrity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The **Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship** application deadline remains at March 31, 2005.

Youth Participation at the World Congress -London

London is to be the host of the 8th World Zoroastrian Congress from Friday 24th June to Friday 1st July 2005. It would be great to have as many Young Zoroastrians attend this historic event as possible.

For full information on the congress see the website: www.ztfe.com/Congress005

The Indicorps Fellowship: Spend a year in India doing public service.

The Indicorps Fellowship is an intense, grassroots public service program for people of Indian origin to implement sustainable development projects with community based organizations across India. The Indicorps fellowship demands commitment and determination but offers in return an invaluable personal experience.

The structure of the Indicorps fellowship is created to rapidly acclimate fellows to India and to their specific projects.

Fellows participate in a four-week orientation program, share experiences through regular retreats, and are actively supported by Indicorps and partner organizations.

Prospective fellows must be of Indian origin with a university degree or five years equivalent work experience and must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States, Canada, or the United Kingdom.

Applications are DUE March 28, 2005. For more information about the Indicorps Fellowship: <http://www.indicorps.org> or email info@indicorps.org.

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

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 Liaison/Sports	(604) 315-6587
Percy Bhagat	Social Events	(604) 984-0986
Pervin Buhariwala	Secretary	(604) 945-7865



“Overall, this was a great dining experience - Bombay Bhel is a classy and inviting place to eat some very well prepared Indian food. We will definitely be back here again.”

Geoff Peters, FoodVancouver.com

“All our dishes sang with freshness and resounding flavours. We liked the stylish, spacious room and contemporary feel.”

Tim Pawsey, Vancouver Courier

“Ed Madon is spicing up the Heights with his new Bombay Bhel Restaurant”

Mia Thomas, Burnaby Now

“The dishes I tried were delicious. The sauces simmer for hours but they’re light and fresh. Dishes are cooked with a firm handle on oil and spices.”

Mia Stainsby, Vancouver Sun

BOMBAY BHEL
4266 E. HASTINGS, BURNABY
604.299.2500, www.bombay-bhel.com

OBITUARY:

Tehmina Maneckji Jokhy, (affectionately known as "Granny" to quite a few Zarathushtis in Vancouver), 92, passed away peacefully in Vancouver on January 21, 2005. Mother of Sheraz Bhesania, mother-in-law of Behram Bhesania, grandmother of Delna-Barry Ward, Tanya-Carl Best, Anita-Michael Traquair and great grandmother of Zoe & Zara Bhesania-Ward, Liam Best and Maverick Traquair."

YOUTH CORNER:

Friday nights ~ **Volleyball nights** @ Harry Gerome center, 7:30-10pm. Contact ZYBC President Zain @ zainmavalvalla@shaw.ca

Sunday mornings ~ **Squash at SFU**, start at 8:30 ends at approx. 11am. Contact Farhad @ fmistry@alumni.sfu.ca.

ZYNA, Zoroastrian Youth of North America, will officially be spending NouRooz in Vancouver this year.

Thursday March 24th evening: People arrive in Vancouver from all over NA.

Friday March 25th morning/afternoon: Head to Whistler for a day of skiing/snowboarding/tubing/bungee jumping.

Friday March 25th evening: Since we will all be tired from the above, we can watch a movie, play some pool and generally just hang out.

Saturday March 26th morning/afternoon: Will be spent sightseeing in Vancouver.

Saturday March 26th evening: Attend the ZSBC NouRooz celebration at Riverside Palace in Richmond. Tickets for ZYNA visitors will be the same as for ZSBC members, \$23.

Sunday March 27th: Visitors heads back home.

Please let Farhad Mistry know if you plan on attending and more importantly we need 2-3 host families. He can be reached at: fmistry@alumni.sfu.ca or @ 604-315-6587.

Vasanu & Badampak

HOMEMADE AUTHENTIC

DELICIOUS DELIVERED

CONTACT: EREEN/MEHER

(604) 214 0231

(604) 780 3793

UPCOMMING EVENTS:

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

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) March 4, April 9, May 9 and June 8, 2005**

Sunday, March 20, 2005 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - NouRooz: Prayers & get together for members and for children to meet Amou NouRooz. Parents may bring gifts for their children (value not to exceed \$10.00) to be handed out by Amou NouRooz.

Saturday, March 26, 2005 10:30 to 1:00 p.m. - Asho Zarathushtra's Birthday Celebration: The Darbe Mehr will be kept open during these hours for prayers. Other celebrations will take place in the evening along with NouRooz Dinner Dance at Riverside Palace, Richmond.

Saturday, March 26, 2005 6:30 to midnight - NouRooz Celebration: Details on page 1

Saturday, April 2, 2005 11:00 a.m. - Sizdeh Bedar: Potluck party at Whytecliff Park, Horseshoe Bay. Please bring your own food & beverages.

Monday, April 25, 2005 11:00 a.m. - Adar-nu-Parabh: Jashan, followed by potluck lunch.

Sunday, May 1, 2005 11:00 a.m. - Maidyozaem Gahanbar: Spring Gahanbar - Jashan followed by lunch, courtesy of the Zartoshty brothers Mehraban and the late Feraydoon.

Saturday, May 14, 2005 7:00 p.m. - Birth Anniversary of Arbab Rostam Guiv: Celebration of the life of a great philanthropist. Dinner will be served, courtesy of the Trustees, Arbab Rustam Guiv Trust - Vancouver.

REMINDER:

Membership Fees Are Due For 2005-06.

ZSBC's fiscal year is for the period March 21 to March 20, of the following year. A society can function only to the extent that it is supported by its members. The Directors urge you to pay your membership fees for the year 2005-2006, which are now due. Fees, can be paid by cash, or cheques made payable to the ZSBC. Cheques may be sent to the Darbe Mehr, in an envelope marked for attention of the Treasurer.