



NEWSLETTER OF
THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Search of the Truth

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sept 2004-Nov2004

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The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia held its 37th AGM on Sunday, June 12, at the Darbe Mehr. Only a few people attended this meeting and those who were present discussed several new ideas. Discussion on lack of interest to attend functions and AGMs at the Darbe Mehr was one topic that dominated the meeting. Mr. Khushru Irani of North Vancouver, kindly volunteered to look into this problem. He was authorised by the Board of Directors to form a committee and call Zoroastrians in B.C. to get their input into this matter.

You are requested to co-operate and give your constructive suggestions to the committee members when ever they call you. Your valuable input will be much appreciated.

In other news, our Darbe Mehr has just been painted by our hardworking youth. They have done a magnificent job. Do make it a point to come and see it yourself. Carpet in the main hall has also been changed. The entire interior looks beautiful. Thanks to our youth for their labour, dedication and time spent. Also our thanks to the Trustees of Arbab Rostam Guiv Trust for providing the supplies needed as well as the carpet.

Wishing Zoroastrians following Shenshahi calendar a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 1375 Y.Z.

**Homi Italia
President**

Marriages:

1. Mandana Sorouchi, daughter of Bahram Soroushi with Siamak Marzbani son of Khodabaksh and Gity Marzbani of North Vancouver on Saturday, July 2, 2005.
2. Homi Italia of Burnaby with Koomi Khambatta of Victoria on Saturday July 16, 2005.
3. Armiti Mehin, daughter of Manoucher and Shirin Mehin with Farhad Mehrkhodavandi son of Sohrab and Doulat Mehrkhodavandi of North Vancouver on Saturday, July 23, 2005.

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PAST EVENTS:

Senior's Picnic at Harrison Hot Springs on July 16th, 2005:

One of the most successful events of last quarter was a Senior's Day outing at Harrison Hot Springs. The 31 young at hearts and 5 volunteers were transported by chartered bus to Harrison Hot Springs on not so sunny but dry day. It was a scintillating experience for all participants who had a great time at the Festival of Arts there full of local arts, sand sculptures, street shows, and music. A scrumptious and lip-smacking lunch was served, thanks to Yasmin Kapadia's arrangements and Manijeh Rahnamoon's delicious sandwiches. One of our very inspiring youth, Shirin Kiani, entertained our seniors with some light exercises and 'Wellness Jeopardy' game. The refreshing Indian Chai kept everyone alert in the bus on our way back to Darbe Mehr to continue the fun and frolic. But this event would not have been such a success without the participation of our community's back bones - our seniors. Lastly, we must thank our 3 Directors, Farrokh Namdaran, Sharook Kapadia and Farhad Mistry who selflessly enjoyed every moment volunteering to make this event a sure success. We ask all our "Young at Hearts" to participate in good numbers to make all such future senior events a sure sensation and unforgettable memory for years to come.

Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowships

The Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund provides fellowships for scholars whose lives and work are threatened in their home countries. These fellowships permit scholars to find temporary refuge at universities and colleges anywhere in the world, enabling them to pursue their academic work and to continue to share their knowledge with students, colleagues, and the community at large. When conditions improve, these scholars will return home to help rebuild universities and societies ravaged by fear, conflict and repression.

How the Scholar Rescue Fund Works:

Academics, researchers and independent scholars from any country, field or discipline may qualify. Preference is given to scholars with a Ph.D. or other highest degree in their field; who have been employed in scholarly activities at a university, college or other institution of higher learning during the last four years (excluding displacement or prohibition); who demonstrate superior academic accomplishment or promise; and whose selection is likely to benefit the academic community in the home and/or host country or region. Applications from female scholars and under-represented groups are strongly encouraged.

* Universities, colleges and research centres in any country may apply to serve as hosts.

* Applications and nominations should be made to the Fund's Selection Committee. Institutions interested in hosting a particular scholar should submit a letter with the scholar's application. Fellowships are awarded to institutions for support of specific individuals, to be matched in most cases by the institution or third-party. Fellowship recipients are expected to continue their work in safety at the host institution-teaching, lecturing, conducting research, writing and publishing.

Fellowships from 3 months to one calendar year will be considered with up to 25 fellowships awarded annually. The maximum award is US \$20,000.

* Applications are accepted at any time. Emergency applications receive urgent consideration. Non-emergency applications will be considered according to the following schedule:

Fall 2005: Applications received by September 1; decision by November 1.

Winter 2006: Applications received by January 1; decision by March 1.

Spring 2006: Applications received by April 1; decision by June 1.

To apply, please download the information and application materials from: SRF@iie.org
Web: www.iie.org/SRF

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 2005-06, which were due on March 21, 2005. 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

Navjote:

Afshin, son of Sohrab and Mahnaz Yazdgardian in Surrey, on June 25, 2005, Ervad Firdos Balsara officiated.

Birth:

To Kourosh Edalti and Nooshin Kiani, a son Kia, born on May 22, 2005 in North Vancouver.

OBITUARY:

1. **Neil Mistry**, 65 Years of Age, At Vancouver on May 29, 2005.
2. **Silla Hormuz Irani** passed away on June 4, 2005, Mother of Behram Mazdine of Delta.
3. **Adi Homi Irani** passed away on June 11, 2005, Husband of Mahnaz, Father of Rozmin of Richmond..
4. **Pheroze Daruwala**, husband of Maki and father of Zeena and Zubin, passed away in Mumbai on August 18, 2005.

YOUTH CORNER:

Volunteer stints helped her land job

SUMMER JOB:

Sara's promoting a kids' help line

Name: Sara Sethna

Age: 20

School: Third-year psychology student at Simon Fraser University.

Job: Summer outreach and awareness co-ordinator with Kids Help Phone.

How she got her job: Volunteered as a student ambassador with Kids Help Phone since high school; applied for a summer job on the same project, but with more responsibilities.

Responsibilities: Attends community festivals, handing out pamphlets and stickers and doing arts and crafts with the kids to increase awareness about the Kids Help Phone program. Events this summer include Kidsake Day in Richmond, Discovery Days in Burnaby and the Sandcastle Com-



Sara Sethna tries to tailor presentations to the children.

petition at Spanish Banks. Also responsible for booking and making presentations in neighbourhood houses and community centres in the Lower Mainland. Has done presentations for children as young as three and as old as 15, although the calls to Kids Help Phone range from ages four to 20-plus.

Interactive presentations engage her young audience. As she says, "we play an activity or

game, and presentations are tailored to the different age groups we want to reach. For the younger kids we do a puppet show, so it's more fun for them.

"The presentations can be challenging if the kids get restless, but when they react to you positively and they understand what you're talking about and asking questions, that's rewarding." Also co-ordinates all volunteer student ambassadors.

Plans: Working toward her degree in psychology; hopes to go into counselling.

"This is a really good experience for me," she says, "because, who knows, someday I could be one of those people answering the phones."

Recently accepted to volunteer with the Simon Fraser University Nightline crisis line.

For more information about summer jobs, call the Hire A Student program at the Human Resource Centre of Canada for Students at 604-666-HIRE.

UPCOMMING 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 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., on Vrahraum Eezad (Behram Roj) which falls on Tuesday September 6, Thursday October 6, Saturday November 5 and Monday December 5, 2005. The Darbe Mehr will be also being kept open on Sundays when religious & Farsi classes will be held. Schedule of these classes will be announced later, depending on the extent of participation.

Sunday, September 11, 2005 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 11, 2005 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 Homi Italia. There are no specific fees set for these classes, but parents are requested to make donations. For further information please contact Homi Italia at the Annual Sports Day function or at (604) 438-2076. Children & youths of all ages may register.

Sunday, October 2, 2005, 7 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 9, 2005, 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 16, 2005, 11.00 a.m. – Death Anniversary of the late Mr. Jamshed K. Pavri: Prayers followed by refreshments.

Saturday, November 5, 2005, 7.00 p.m. – Pre Winter Bingo/Food Nite: Pot luck dinner

Sunday, November 13, 2005, 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 10, 2005. Tourny fees \$3 per person [13 years and over] per event. Prizes for winners and first runners up.

Zoroastrian Religious Classes

Parents – Bring your kids to Learn about our Great Religion which was founded by Prophet ZARATHUSTRA.

In our religious classes, knowledge about our religion will be imparted in story form and explain the meaning of words from our religious book KHORDEH AVESTHA. Learn about our GHATHAS, SUDREH & KUSHTI & SHAH NAMEH.