



## NEWSLETTER OF THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### *In Search of the Truth*

Dec 2004-Feb2005

Volume XII, No. 4

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the last issue of the newsletter, several events have been organized by the ZSBC. Unfortunately, due to Vancouver's unpredictable weather, the senior's picnic to Harrison Hot Spring had to be cancelled due to rain. Instead, about forty enthusiastic seniors were entertained at the Darbe Mehr with bingo, card games, and enjoyed a delicious hot meal.

Our annual sports day on September 19, 2004 was well attended and enjoyed by everyone; we hope to see even more participation from our community members in the future, especially our energetic young ones.

There was a large turn out for Mehrgan/Zarathushti Unity Day, which was celebrated at the Darbe Mehr by more than 100 people. Thanks to Mrs. Parvaneh Bolandian for arranging the entire evening's entertainment, needless to say everyone who attended enjoyed it.

On November 6, 2004 we had a Pre Winter Bingo/Food Nite, which was an entertaining evening of bingo, and a delicious dhansak dinner. It was enjoyable for all who attended, and provided a chance for everyone to mingle.

Since the new youth committee has taken over, I am thrilled to see that the youth have become more involved and active in our community by taking charge of various events, the most significant being the huge task of renovating the Darbe Mehr. It is great to see that our future generation is taking the initiative, keep up the great work!

Season's greetings, I would like to wish you and your family all the best for the coming year,

Sincerely,

Homi Italia  
President

#### **ZSBC SCHOLARSHIP**

Board of Directors and Scholarship Committees congratulate Roneesha Bhagat on winning this year's ZSBC scholarship. We wish her greater success in her further studies.

#### **SPORTS DAY TROPHY WINNERS**

The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia outstanding athlete of the year trophy: *Freya Doctor*

Sam Madon Memorial award age 10 to 14: *Friyana Pithawalla*

Phiroze F. Balsara Memorial trophy for 1 mile open: *Vandad Pourbahrami*

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

Telephone (604) 420-3500  
[www.zsbc.org](http://www.zsbc.org)

## RECENT BOOKS PUBLISHED

### **1. A BOOK LAUNCHED ON THE BIOGRAPHY OF JAMSETJI TATA**

As Zarathushtis everywhere and most Indians know, Jamsetji Tata is proudly regarded in India and across the world as the "Father of India's Industrial Revolution". Yet, a worthwhile biography of this great man - whose contributions are unique and unparalleled among Zarathushtis anywhere in the world - had not been written until now. Russi M. Lala, a well-known Zarathushti journalist and author of many best-selling books (some so popular, that they have even been translated into Japanese), has just produced a superbly written and meticulously-researched biography: "FOR THE LOVE OF INDIA: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMSETJI TATA (ISBN# 0-67-005782-7).

A person no less than the President of India, launched it on July 23. By doing so, he honoured the worldwide Zarathushti community, the author and above all, Jamsetji Tata as a person who "loved with a love that knew no bounds, the land that gave him birth". This magnificent biography insightfully explores how a man of humble birth living in the 19th century when India was firmly under British rule, implemented visionary projects which laid the foundation for his nation's industrial development once it would become independent. Jamsetji did so with the unerring instinct of a man who knew what it would take to restore the pride of his subjugated nation and prepare it for a place among the leading industrialised countries once it came into its own. A century later India became the world's 6th largest industrialised nation thanks to his far-sighted endeavours.

Thanks to Russi Lala's fascinating penmanship, the saga of Jamsetji's life and his tryst with India's destiny is now available for Zarathushtis as well as South Asians everywhere to know. Both will want to share it with their young ones, to make them aware of this unique Zarathushti and his towering national achievements. If they and their children read this biography, it can only redound by creating a great image for the community.

Those in North America can order it from the Amazon website and create awareness about the biography of this great and towering Zarathushti and Indian nationalist.

### **2. A BOOK ON PARSIS: THE ZORASTRIANS OF INDIA – A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY BY SOONI TARAPOREVALA**

Sooni's book is an intimate epic. A monumental book. A twenty-four year labour of love, PARSIS is the first visual documentation of India's Parsi community, followers of the world's first prophet Zarathushtra, and the oldest monotheistic religion, Zoroastrianism. Professional photographer and award winning screenwriter Taraporevala offers a rare insider's view of how the Parsis, whose ancestors sailed from Persia to India over, 1,000 years ago to save their religion from persecution, survive today as a religious and ethnic minority of India.

### OBITUARY:

Late Mehraban Sasani, father of Rostam Sasani and grandfather of Arian Sasani of Burnaby, BC, passed away in Yazd, Iran on July 17, 2004. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Directors of ZSBC express their sincere condolences to our good friend and past Director, Rostom Sasani and his dear family on the loss of Late Mehraban Sasani.

Mrs Freny Damji Sidpra passed away on October 7, 2004. Her funeral service was held @ Valley View Memorial Gardens on October 9, 2004. She will be greatly missed by her children Yaswant, Nalini, Rohini, Pitu, Kunj, Kumi, Viju, Tarun (deceased), Dollor. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**1. THE UNESCO PARSİ ZORASTRIAN PROJECT**

UNESCO, NEW DELHI, has initiated the “PARZOR PROJECT” as project 302 IND 70 entitled “Preservation of Parsi Zoroastrian heritage – campaigns and international conventions.” The information of the above project is made available on <http://www.unescoparzor.com>. Please do visit the “What’s New” section to see the extracts from The First Report on Religion Data issued by the Register General and Census Commission of India. The “What’s New” link will also help you to find out what Parzor has been doing recently.

**2. HOMA AND SHERVIN SHAHRIARI ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF BABY GIRL NOOSHA**

Noosha, was born on Sunday October 10, 2004 at 5:30AM! Noosha was alert & kicking, came two week early and weighed 7 pounds at birth. Meaning of Noosha (Persian): Rainbow; Sweet, pleasant, cheerful; Name of a Sassanid princess (Narsi's daughter).

To see an early picture of Baby Noosha go to [www.boyorgirl.ca](http://www.boyorgirl.ca) enter babyid: 10003200 and password: Yahsa

**3. SUNDAY SPORTS FUN**

Sporting event for all ages are held every Sunday from 1 – 3pm @ Britannia Community Centre, 1661 Napier Street, Vancouver (near Commercial Drive & Napier). Please contact: Farhad Mistry 604 315 6587 or Farah Shroff 604 221 7660 or Azadmehr Kaviani 604 986 1890

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 was 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
Pervin Buhariwala	Secretary	(604) 945-7865
Sharook Kapadia	Maintenance & Seniors Liaison	(604) 439-3066
Silloo Panthaky	Education committee	(604) 513-1261
Farhad Mistry	Youth Liaison/Sports	(604) 315-6587
Percy Bhagat	Social Events	(604) 984-0986

## YOUTH CORNER:

### **1. ZYBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It has been a few months since the new youth committee has taken over. Our goal is to get our youth excited and involved in making a difference, which will eventually get more Zoroastrian youth involved in our community.

The first event we hosted was the annual BBQ at Buntzen Lake which was a success as we had many youth attend, some that we had seen before as well as several newcomers who it was nice to meet. Since the Zoroastrian Olympics was such a success, we had many requests to continue some kind of sport activity, so we made arrangements and managed to get a volleyball court at the Volleyball BC centre. At current there are twenty people who attend practice regularly and now we have two coaches who coach us for the entire evening. Our progress has been fantastic. For the first time the Youth committee decided to help the ZSBC with their annual sports day which was a fun day filled with many different sporting events as well as food. It was great to see participants of all different ages coming together to enjoy themselves.

Halloween came along and we decided for the first time to keep the Halloween party at a banquet hall. It was a blast as over 50 youth showed up, all of who were dressed in Halloween attire. We played entertaining games and danced the night away.

At current we are in the process of doing a complete make over of our Darbe Mehr hall. This is because we want to create a warmer and more inviting environment for our community to have their social gatherings in. We have just finished the painting and are now moving onto changing the carpeting and lighting, which will soon to be followed by the prayer hall, the library and the washrooms. I am very encouraged by the response we have got from your youth and the youth committee looks forward to planning events for you all in the future. I want to thank all the committee members for their hard work as well as those who attend each function, helping to make each one a success. You will be hearing from us about our next event really soon so keep your eyes open. Best of luck in the New Year

### **2. WEBSITE CREATED BY THE YOUTH FOR THE YOUTH**

Kudos go out to three of our young Zarathushtis, Parizad Hathidaru (Vancouver), Sharon Batliwalla (Ottawa) and Narius Dastur (Vancouver) for starting the first Zoroastrian Youth Online Magazine called Zpeakerbox.

Starting in May, 2004 with a thought-provoking article written by Parizad, the creation and launch of an entire website gave Zoroastrian youth from all over the world an opportunity to meet fellow Zarthushtis and speak their minds about the issues that concern them -rather than waiting a year or two for the next congress. This website is created by the youth, for the youth.

Over the past decade, people from around the world have turned to the Internet as a way of meeting new people and voicing their opinions on the issues that arise within society. It is certainly no different amongst our Zoroastrian youth! Zpeakerbox has over 200 members since its launch this May and the numbers are increasing steadily. News of this website has reached all over the world including Canada, United States, Germany, London, Australia, Dubai, India, Iran and Pakistan. Until now, the only form of advertisement has been through word of mouth and e-mails.

Members can participate in both serious and light-hearted discussions of various topics, as well as share

jokes, articles, pictures and even join a live chat. Zoroastrian youth can keep up with upcoming activities within their area and association and receive information regarding future congresses and Zarathushti Games.

Sharon, Parizad and Narius have dedicated their time and effort to see this site succeed. They do this on a voluntary basis, as Sharon is a full time nursing student at the University of Ottawa; Parizad is a Social Sciences student in Vancouver; Narius is a full-time computer science student at Simon Fraser University.

Excellent job - keep it up! Good luck with the website!

Registration is free and only takes a matter of seconds.

For more information visit the website: <http://www.zpeakerbox.narius.net>

### **3. ZYBC Halloween Dance**

Friday October 29<sup>th</sup>, ZYBC sponsored Halloween bash was an unforgettably scary experience. Many of the attendees slept Friday night with their bedroom lights on, baseball bat in one hand and cell phone with their fingers on 911 in the other.

Much thanks to the new ZYBC executives: Zain, Shiraz, Freddie, Mahzad, Armin, Kaveh and Cyrus Mizan they did a fantastic job with the decorations, the music, the games and the food. Youth danced away to English, Spanish, Persian, Punjabi and Hindi songs.

Also Special thanks to Farnoush for “De Dutch” gift certificates, Eddie for “Bombay Bhel” (604-299-2500) certificates and Castle Fun Park.

If you want to go for a tantalising breakfast or lunch go to “De Dutch” on Robson & Denman – make sure you ask Farnoush for “De Dutch dance” also for mind blowing tasty lunch or dinner go to “Bombay Bhel” on Hastings & Madison Ave. Please support our enterprising youth!

All pictures are available at: <http://zpeakerbox.narius.net>. Thanks to those that attended and supported this event. If you weren't able to make this event we look forward to seeing you at our next event!

### **4. FOURTH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS IN AUSTRALIA**

Under the guidance of Ahura Mazda the 4<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Australia with a captivating theme “Back to the Future” is scheduled to be hosted in December 2007. Shiraz Mistry and his Steering Committee in Australia spearhead this monumental event.

The Congress Organisers would like to invite our Global Zarathushti youth to actively participate in this monumental Zarathushti Youth Event.

For more Z-INSPIRATION visit: <http://bread4thehead.com>



*HAPPY NEW YEAR -- 2005*



*To*



*OUR*

*ZOROASTRIAN FAMILIES*

*OF*



*BRITISH COLUMBIA*



UPCOMMING EVENTS:

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

The Darbe Mehr will be kept open on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on those days when Religious and Farsi classes will be held.

Apart from the events listed below, which are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, the Darbe Mehr will also be kept open from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Vrahraum Eezad (Behram Roj), which falls on **Dec. 4, 2004, Jan. 3, Feb. 2 and March 4, 2005.**

**Sunday, Dec. 26, 2004, 3:00 p.m. – Death Anniversary of Asho Zarathushtra:** Prayers followed by refreshments. (Please note function starts at 3:00 p.m.).

**Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005, 11:00 a.m. – Maidyarem Ghambar:** Jashan, followed by light refreshments.

**Sunday, Jan. 9, 2005, 11:00 a.m. – Death Anniversary of Madame Morvarid Guiv:** Prayers followed by refreshments. (Function organized by the Trustees of the Arbab Rustam Guiv Trust, Vancouver)

**Saturday, Jan. 22, 2005 – Seniors’ Get Together:** Light refreshments will be served. For details please contact Sharook Kapadia at (604) 439 3066).

**Saturday, Jan. 29, 2005, 6:30 p.m. – Jashne-Sadeh:** One of the great Persian Feast Potluck party. Please bring your food to celebrate this great Persian Feast.

**Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Annual Table Tennis Tournament:** Please register with Farhad Mistry at (604) 315 6587. Fee \$3.00 per person per event (children 13 years and under - FREE).

***Saturday, March 26, 2005, 6:00 p.m. to midnight NouRooz Celebration: Please mark your calendar for the NouRooz Celebration. We will have dinner, dance & entertainment. The 2005 NouRooz Celebration will be held on March 26, 2005, at Riverside Palace in Richmond.***

<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

***All those who would like to perform at our 2005 NouRooz function are requested to contact Percy Bhagat @ (604) 984-0986. As we would like to have a mixed entertainment program, everyone who indicates interest may not be requested to perform.***