



## NEWSLETTER OF THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### *In Search of the Truth*

Dec 2005-Feb2006

Volume XIII, No. 4

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the past few months mankind has experienced one disaster after the other. First it was hurricane Katrina followed by hurricane Rita, then the devastated earthquake of Pakistan on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia is collecting donations to be sent to Pakistan. As of now the members of ZSBC and ZSBC has contributed \$3000 that has been sent to Mrs. Toxy Cowasjee of WZO in Karachi. She has very kindly arranged to send tents and other supplies to the effected area. An additional \$1,000 has been donated to UNICEF and this amount will be matched by the Canadian Government. On behalf of the Board of Directors I thank everyone who has contributed so generously. Your contribution will go a long way in saving the lives of many survivors. Please continue sending your donations by cheque made payable to ZSBC so that further help can be provided to the people of Pakistan.

Speaking of earthquake, are you prepared for this eventuality in Vancouver? If you are not, ZSBC has negotiated a special rate for survival kits from a manufacturer in Vancouver. For details see the information on **page 2**. ZSBC will receive \$10 for every kit bought by you.

Most of you have either children or grand children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. ZSBC's Zoroastrian study classes have resumed from September 25, 2005. The classes are conducted by professional teachers and nourishments are provided at the end of each class. If you have not registered your child, please do so immediately by calling any one of the Directors. For the class schedule please look under upcoming events on last page of this newsletter.

Here's wishing everyone health, happiness and prosperity in 2006.

Sincerely,

Homi Italia  
President

### **SPORTS DAY TROPHY WINNERS**

The Sports Day was held on Sunday, September 11, 2005 and here are the winners:

The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia outstanding athlete of the year trophy - Neville Italia

Sam Madon Memorial Award - Friyana Pithawalla & Sarosh Pithawalla

Phiroze F. Balsara Memorial Trophy for 1 mile open - Farhad Mistry

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & FIRST AID KITS FOR THE HOME**

<i>Pricing:</i>		
1 Person Home Kit (excluding first aid)		\$145.50 + 14%
2 Person Home Kit	" "	\$159.50 + 14%
3 Person Home Kit	" "	\$189.50 + 14%
4 Person Home Kit	" "	\$209.50 + 14%
5 Person Home Kit	" "	\$239.50 + 14%
6 Person Home Kit	" "	\$249.50 + 14%
First Aid Module		\$ 48.50 + 7%
Fanny Pack First Aid Kit		\$64.95 + 7%
Home/Boat First Aid Kit		\$69.95 + 7%

<i>Basic Emergency Kit contains 2 person home kit:</i>		
9 Emergency Water Rations	2 Particulate Respirator	1 Safety Gloves
1 Emergency Food Rations	2 Emergency Foil Blanket	1 Safety Goggles
1 Emergency Foil Blanket	2 Emergency Light Stick	1 Rope 50'
2 Emergency Light Sticks	2 Garbage Bag	1 Tarp 6' x 8'
3 Benzalkonium Chloride Wipes	1 Personal Tiolet Tissue	1 Multi Blade Knife
1 Particulate Respirator	1 Signal Whistle	1 Folding Shovel
2 Sanitary Napkins	1 Matches Water Proof	1 Pry Bar 18"
2 Personal Toilet Tissue	1 AM/FM Radio	1 Vise Grip
1 Signal Whistle	1 Flashlight	1 Duct Tape
1 Nylon Water Resistant Bag	2 Batteries Alkaline "D"	2 Emergency Food Ration
	2 Batteries Alkaline "AAA"	18 Emergency Water Ration
	1 Water Purification Tablet	1 Water Resistant Bag
	1 Water Bag	1 Water resistant Bag
	1 Emergency Handbook	
<u><b>Get Ready NOW</b></u>		

For more details and order contact Homi (604) 438-2076 or Sharook (604) 439-3066  
 Order must be placed along with cheque payable to ZSBC before Dec. 20, 2005.  
 Kits to be picked up at the Darbe Mehr. Delivery after 15-20 days.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**ZSBC SCHOLARSHIP**

This is an important announcement to our youth who passed high school in 2004-2005. The scholarship application date has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005. All those who qualify, please send in your application which can be downloaded from our ZSBC’s website not later than **31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2005.**

**LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE AT NO COST**

Anyone young or young at heart who is interested in learning to play bridge can contact Mr. Rustom Deshmukh @ TEL: 604-948-5480.

## **BAIMAI SURTI FOUNDATION**

In 1988, 'Baimai Surti Foundation' was Registered in Canada by Mr. Dhunjishaw Surti as a Charitable Trust Fund, with the express purpose of helping the needy & dispossessed members of our community with assistance, which would allow the person or families to get their life under control by being productive members of the society, thus creating financial stability in their lives.

With this concept firmly entrenched in the Charter of the Foundation, all contributions received by the Trust Fund are 100% applied towards relieving poverty through small business start-up funds, medical & poverty assistance for the needy, education grants for promising students and for disaster relief programs. All those who are associated with the Fund's operation and administration, provide their services without any financial compensation or gain, to achieve these objectives. 'No overhead expenses are deducted from the contributions received by the Fund.'

The Trust strives to help people by financing their entrepreneurial endeavours to become self-supporting units in society. It provides financial support to children for continuing education, food and medical assistance to the aged & disabled, provides men and women with training and tools to start small business units and work projects to become self-sufficient individuals. Since its inception, the B.S.F. Trust has helped hundreds of needy individuals in the above sectors.

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS CHARITABLE FUND WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

Cheques payable to:- 'Baimai Surti Foundation / General Account'.  
Mail to:- Baimai Surti Foundation.  
1511-551 The West Mall, Etobicoke, ON. M9C 1G7 CANADA.

Canadian contributors to the 'Trust Fund' will receive tax exempt receipt.

## **FEZANA PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### **OBJECTIVES**

The FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship (P&CAS) provides financial support to Zarathustis who are performing artists in music, drama, etc. or practice other creative art forms like literature, poetry, fine arts, sculpture, painting, etc. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable the recipients to study with experts in their field and thus fine tune and enhance their talent and capabilities, **BUT NOT FOR BASIC EDUCATION IN THE ABOVE FIELDS.**

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Applicants must (1) profess and practice the Zarathushti faith (2) be high school graduates (3) be legal residents or citizens of USA or Canada. Foreign students holding legal status in USA or Canada may also apply provided they have been in North America for at least one year. Awards will be determined on an annual basis by the judges chosen by the P&CAS Committee. Applicants will be eligible to receive a maximum of two awards, which may or may not be in consecutive years.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applicants will be judged on their academic preparation, and past record in their program of study, their commitment to pursue the chosen art form, their annual financial need, the assistance pledged by other sources, extra curricular activities and services performed for the Zarathushti community.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Application forms will be available on the FEZANA website or from the members of the P&CAS committee. However, applications cannot be submitted electronically as examples and proof of the applicants work (portfolio) will be required.

Five (5) copies of this application form with all attachments (including portfolio items) must be submitted by March 31 2006 to

SHERAZADE F. MEHTA

5400 Preston Oaks Rd, #3048, Dallas TX 75354, U.S.A. Tel: (972) 385-4847

e-mail: sherazadem@yahoo.com

**WINNERS OF THE 2005-2006 FEZANA SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION  
Mehraban and Morvorid KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP...THE FEZANA SCHOLAR**

*Shirin Cama      Medicine, Harvard School of Medicine*

**FEZANA SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Jamshed Desai,                      Medicine, Queen's U Canada
- Farahad Ardeshirpour            Medicine, U of North Carolina
- Zenobia Homavazir,              Social Work, U of Toronto
- Farzad Damania                    Electrical Engineering, Oklahoma State U
- Porus Antia                         Architecture, Arizona State U
- Cyrus Havewalla                 Telecommunications, U of Maryland
- Natasha Singh                    Elec & Computer Engineering, Cornell U
- Ninoshka Singh                  Computer Engineering, Cornell U
- Behzad Dabu,                      Fine Arts Columbia College Chicago
- Freya Motafram,                  Business, U of Michigan
- Kamran Afshari,                    Electrical Engineering, UCLA

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2006-2007 COMPETITION WILL BE AVAILABLE MARCH 2006

OBITUARY:

Mrs. Dolly Merwan Irani, age 79, mother of Pervin, Ruby and Khushru Irani of North Vancouver passed away on September 3, 2005.

Mehernosh R. Darrah, age 93, passed away in Karachi, father of Rustom Darrah and Meher Mavalvala of Richmond passed away on September 17, 2005.

Mondegar Kavouspour, age 86 long time resident of North Vancouver passed away in Texas on September 25, 2005.

Behram (Behli) Balaporia, age 88, passed away on November 15, 2005. Husband of Statira, father of Zenobia and Niloufar Dubash, father-in-law of Rustom Dubash, grand father of Sherezade of Richmond, B.C.

Mrs. Perin Charna, age 79, passed away in Ahmedabad on November 13, 2005. Mother of Paruchista Patalwalla and Silloo Cavas Panthaky, grand mother of Bakhtafid & Rokhsar of Langley, B.C.

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 was 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
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

KIDS CORNER:

Hi Kids! Always remember that you are not all by yourself....there will always be that **SOMEBODY** who believes in you. So latch on, hang on and never give up!

**SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE BELIEVES IN YOU**

- Somebody somewhere is very proud of you.
- Somebody somewhere is thinking of you.
- Somebody somewhere wants to talk to you.
- Somebody somewhere hopes you aren't in trouble.
- Somebody somewhere loves you for who you are.
- Somebody somewhere needs your support.
- Somebody somewhere wants to support you.
- Somebody somewhere is happy to have you as a friend!

**Source: Internet**

**Religious Class:**

Little Zarathushtis all over the lower mainland have been busy this fall. Led by Shiraz Italia, and Phiroozeh Petigara and Fiona Petigara, the group of children attending Avesta Classes this year is a diligent one. We began with the basics: the seven creations of Ahura Mazda, the story of the life of Zarathushtra, and the significance of the Atash in our religion. The children have been having a ball getting to know each other, making exciting crafts such as a paper mache Atash, and doing skits for their peers. Most recently, we have been exploring the meaning behind some of our prayers (*Ashem Vohu* and *Yatha Ahu Variyo*) and how they can help us in our daily lives. We are trying to be good Zarathushtis by doing good deeds for those in need, not for a reward but because it is the right thing to do. Don't be surprised if you are offered help in your time of need by one of our young Zarathushtis!

ZOROSTRIAN BIOGRAPHIES:

The following biographies were taken from the book *Zoroastrian Worldwide at the Millennium* by Ruby Lilaowala and Meher Master-Moos.

**Dr. Cyrus Esfandian Oshidari**, a highly educated medical doctor, was born in 1936 in Iran. Dr. Oshidari graduated from Firooz Bahram High School in Tehran. Then he travelled abroad and attained his Ph.D in medicine while in Germany. He then returned to Iran and became a professor at University of Tabriz and

later Tehran University. Dr. Cyrus Esfandiar Oshidiari has held many high positions and has had many achievements some of which includes: Administrator in the Veterinary Science Section of Tabriz University; Administrator in the Abu Reyhan Trading Faculty at Tehran University; Assistant of research program, member of the group of Research Directors, and a member of Board of Directors of Abu Reyhan Trading Complex in Tehran University; and member of the research team for the department of Veterinary Science and Fish Department at Tehran University. In addition, Dr. Oshidari has presented more than thirty-three papers at seminars and congresses in Europe and America, representing Iran.

**Field Marshal Sam Maneckshaw** was born in Amritsar in 1914. He completed his education at Sherwood College, Nainital. On February 4, 1934 he joined the British Indian Army. He served on the North West Frontier during World War II and till 1942. Then he was stationed in Burma, as part of the Burma campaign during World War II and was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery during the war. He was given a teaching position at the Ministry Staff College in Quetta after World War II ended. He was one of the first Indian Officers to take command of the Gurkha Rifles. Field Marshal Sam Maneckshaw was appointed Chief of Staff of the Indian Army by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1969. He is probably best known for his achievements in Indo-Pakistan war of December 1971. In recognition of his achievements and bravery, General Sam Maneckshaw was elevated to the position of FIELD MARSHAL of the Indian Army on January 1, 1973. He was a great role model for the soldiers in the Indian Army and was widely respected.

**\*\*\* Your Horoscope \*\*\***  
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**\$10 each (including shipping and handling).**

**Send following data with selection of above item/s**  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth Date (dd/mm/yyyy):** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
**Time of Birth: Hour** \_\_\_ **Min:** \_\_\_ **AM/PM**  
**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** *MR. PUSI SAGAR*  
**Guidance Angle High-Tech**  
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**Ottawa (ON) Canada K2B 8S8**



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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 Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005; Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006; Feb 5<sup>th</sup> and Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006; March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 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. 5, 2005, Jan. 4, Feb. 3 and March 5, 2006.**

**Monday, Dec. 26, 2005, 3:00 p.m. – Death Anniversary of Asho Zarathushtra:** Prayers followed by refreshments. (Please note function starts at 3:00 p.m.).

**Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006, 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. 21, 2006 – Seniors’ Get Together:** Light refreshments will be served. For details please contact Sharook Kapadia at (604) 439 3066).

**Saturday, Jan. 29, 2006, 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. 26, 2006, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Annual Table Tennis & Carrom/Bagammon 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 25, 2006, 6:00 p.m. to midnight NouRooz Celebration:*** Please mark your calendar for the NouRooz Celebration. We will have dinner, dance & entertainment.

***The 2006 NouRooz Celebration will be held on March 25, 2006, at Coast Plaza Hotel, Denman St, Vancouver.***

<u>Cost of tickets</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Adults & youths 13 years & over	\$ 30	\$ 40
Youths 5 to 10 years	\$ 15	\$ 20
Children under 5 years	Free	Free

***All those who would like to perform at our 2006 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. There will be a cash bar and remember that “It is dangerous to drink and drive” and we strongly recommend that if you consume alcohol to have a designated driver to drive you or take a cab back home.***