



NEWSLETTER THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Search of the Truth

Sept. 2006-Nov 2006

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CONTENTS

President's Message	1
FEZANA – EXISS	2
Membership Fees	2
Directors & Trustees	2
Youth Corner	3
Birth	4
Newcomers	4
Reminders	5
Seniors Picnic	5
Muktad Prayers	6
Upcoming events	7
Upcoming events (Farsi)	8

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia held its 38th Annual General Meeting on June 11th 2006 at Darbe Mehr. This year my mentor and everybody's favorite President Homi Italia finished his tenure. He dedicated nearly a decade to serve our community. We wish him all the very best with the hope to seek his guidance throughout. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing directors Percy Bhagat, Farhad Mistry, Pervin Buhariwala and Silloo Panthaky for their dedication and hard work.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. Farrokh Namdaran who has agreed to continue as Honorary Treasurer. The new Directors elected are Rostam Namdari, Mehernosh Kasad, Faramarz Soroushi, Phiroozeh Petigara and Jessi Partovi. I welcome the new directors and look forward to working with them as a team. Together, we all have a common goal and vision; to engage community members and encourage youth involvement. The new Board of Directors is determined to unify and develop our community through new and innovative ideas.

Recently, the idea of organizing Mukhtad prayers (prayers for departed souls) at Darbe Mehr was the initiative of Mehernosh Kasad. We received a tremendous response for vases from our community members. Several families volunteered to sponsor flavoursome meals for all 5 days of prayers. All of this would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work and enthusiasm of our fellow Zoroastrians. Sincere thanks to our distinguished Mobed Ervad Adil Antia and Mobed Ervad Firdos Balsara, who performed the prayers. This five day prayer event has been a thorough success and has been applauded by many eminent community members.

Last but not the least, wishing fellow Zoroastrians following Shenshahi calendars a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 1376 Y.Z.

Sharook Kapadia
President



New Board of Directors 2006

FEZANA EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG ZARATHUSHTIS

A sports scholarship, hereinafter called the EXISS Fund, has been established under the Federation of Zoroastrians Associations of North America (FEZANA). The objective of the EXISS Fund is to provide financial support to young Zarathushtis who are performing exceptionally and at highly recognized levels in all areas of sports activity. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable the recipients to get world-class training and/or study with experts in their field and thus fine tune and enhance their talent and capabilities.

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

Three (3) copies of this application form with all attachments (including portfolio items) must be submitted by October 31, 2006 to:

Khushchehr Italia

22924 KESWICK ST.
WEST HILLS, CA 91304 (USA)
TEL: (818) 274-1579
EMAIL: exissfund@yahoo.com

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:

Sharook Kapadia	President	(604) 439-3066
Rostam Namdari	Secretary/Newsletter	(604) 715-9597
Farrokh Namdaran	Treasurer	(604) 926-9733
Mehernosh Kasad	Youth & Sports	(604) 214-0578
Phiroozeh Petigara	Education	(604) 987-4229
Jessi Partovi	Social Events	(604) 232-4401
Faramarz Soroushi	Maintenance & Seniors	(604) 518-0654

ARBAB RUSTAM GUIV TRUST COMMITTEE:

Homi Italia, Noshir Balsara, Kaikhosrow Edadaliti, Farrokh Namdaran, Shervin Shahriari, Fariborz Rahnamoon.

YOUTH CORNER:

Azar Shined Like A Star

The 10th World Zoroastrian Olympics were played in Los Angeles this year from July 1st to July 4th at Loyola Mary Mount University. Our Vancouver basketball team, Azar, was the only Canadian team present between the other fourteen American teams. Team Azar had barely practiced together but yet they performed outstandingly. Our team beat the previous champions from Los Angeles in overtime during the semi-finals. However, they came short of a few points in the final game with San Jose. Team Azar were the runner-up and placed 2nd this year. Congratulations and keep it up.



Team Azar on left in blue. From Left to Right: Cyrus Mizan, Vandas Pourbarami, Rohan Daroowala, Navid Nobakht, Mehraban Poulad, Farhad Rahnamoon, and Rishad Daroowala.

Shirin In The Land Of Many Waters

One of our youth member Shirin Kiani visited Guyana (formerly British Guyana located in South America) in collaboration with a Youth Challenge International. For details of her educational and exciting trip and the challenges she faced please visit the website www.zsbc.org. Shirin would encourage all adventurous youth to take up such challenges and learn to connect with people and nature.

Arya and Bezan Outstanding Academic Achievement

We are proud of our two young gentlemen - Arya Zartosht Iranpour and Bezan Darayush Irani who received the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's Young Canadian Challenge Award (Gold) for outstanding achievements in community service, music, academics and sports. The award was presented to these two young men at the Fairmont Waterfront Ballroom in Vancouver, British Columbia, on June 7, 2006 by Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex, in the presence of the happy and proud parents of both Arya and Bezan. What an honour for the young men, their families and the community!

ZSBC conveys its heartiest congratulations to Arya and Bezan on their achievement, and hope they will continue to shine in whatever they do.

GREAT ACHIEVEMENT BY ZOROASTRIAN SCIENTISTS

2006 Global Award for Outstanding Cancer Organization

The 2006 Global Award for an Outstanding Cancer Organization instituted by the International Union for Cancer Control (UICC) has been given to the Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai. The Award, for demonstrated excellence in cancer control within and beyond India's borders, was given at the annual meeting of the UICC held in Washington D.C. on July 7, 2006.

The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust in February 1941 initially set up the Tata Memorial Hospital. In 1952, the Indian Cancer Research Centre was established as a pioneer research institute for basic research. The Tata Memorial Hospital and Cancer Research Institute merged as the two arms of the Tata Memorial Centre in 1966, as a classic example of private philanthropy augmented by Government support. The Centre has functioned as an organization of the Department of Atomic Energy since 1962.

While accepting this prestigious award, Dr. Ketayun A. Dinshaw, Director of the Tata Memorial Centre, said that the award was in recognition of the outstanding commitment, team-work and dedication of all staff members of the Centre to remove the shadow of cancer from many lives for over six and half decades. Dr. Dinshaw added that India could well be considered as a role model in cancer control for many other countries. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, sent a congratulatory message to Dr. Ketayun Dinshaw on this international recognition of the work of Tata Memorial Centre.

BIRTH

- **ARYANA MEHIN MEHRKHODAVANDI**, a daughter to Armitiy Mehini and Farhad Mehrkhodavandi, on July 10, 2006 in North Vancouver. Heartiest congratulations to the parents and families.
- **ARMAAN**, a son to Borzu and Niloufar Jangi on August 12, 2006. Heartiest congratulations to parents and families.

NEWCOMER

Please welcome newcomers to Vancouver Neville and Feroza Randeria and their 3 year old son Jahan.

REMINDER:

Membership Fees Are Long Due For 2006-07.

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 its members support it. The Directors urge you to pay your membership fees for the year 2006-2007, which are now due. Fees, can be paid by cash, or cheques made payable to the ZSBC. Cheques may be sent to the Dare Mehr, in an envelope marked for attention of the Treasurer.

CATERING:

For your Catering needs please contact Roshan Anklesaria – 604 3041545

- Mango Chutney or Murabba: \$ 8.00 - 500gms
- Dal Ni Pori: \$10.00 each
- Party Catering for 10-15 people

PAST EVENTS:

Seniors Picnic: Saturday, July 22, 2006: Seniors Picnic to Barnet Marine Park, Burnaby:

Seniors picnic was a great success. The climate soared to the highs of 36 degrees but those tall shady Douglas Fir trees filtered in cool air. As many as 25 "Young at Heart" participated to make this event a memorable one. How was it memorable? Well some of the participants turned out to be classmates and recognized and met each other after almost 40-45 years. They yelled and screamed and danced and chatted about "those were the days" and relished every moment together. Muffins, crackers and cheese sticks were served with tea and coffee for breakfast. Later some played badminton, Backgammon or cards. Some just chatted or took a long stroll along the beach to watch kids splatter in the warm sea water or just observe the fishing experts catch crabs and mussels, whereas some danced to the Bollywood tunes. To bring out the child in each one of them, we had organized the game of 'Tail the Donkey'. Each and every one present wanted to be a part of that game. It was fun to see our dear seniors act like kids. The ambience, the company and the arrangements were all just a perfect setting. The lip-smacking menu for lunch was Butter Chicken, Matter Paneer and Jeera rice, Potato salad, green salad and exotic fresh fruits. After lunch we declared the winner of Tail the Donkey game Paricher Sarooshi. Raffle draw of 11 prizes that collected \$ 46 /- for ZSBC funds was organised by Yasmin Kapadia. Khorshed Dastoor who was a winner of 2 raffle prizes donated her winning for another ZSBC functions. It was now time for Chai and Samosas. Every one savoured the tasty samosas and the authentic Indian Chai. It was now time to part and there was only one thing that we heard every one ask, "When is the next picnic? We want to see more of these events." Yes, we are ready to give in more time to our Senior Zoroastrians but not without the help and dedication from our volunteers. This event would not have been such a success without credits to the following:

- Dinaz Partovi & Sherna Kasad: For providing picnic chairs.
- Farrokh Namdaran: For accounting and entertainment.
- Dinaz Mizan: For photography, preparations and wrap-ups.
- Binaifer & Hormuzd Dolasa: For donating Samosas and helping hand.
- Ron Modi of Bombay Bhel: For 10% discount on catering order.
- Yasmin Kapadia: For raffle prizes and organizing the event.

Muktad/Gatha & KhordadSaal Prayers – August 15 to 19, and 25, 2006

The new board of directors of the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia led by President Sharook Kapadia organized for the first time in many years the annual Muktad/Gatha Prayers at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr in Burnaby (Vancouver) from Tuesday, 15th of August to Saturday, 19th of August to great enthusiasm and excitement from Zoroastrian members. This event was the initiative of our new director Mehernosh Kasad.

Prayers were conducted by Mobed Ervad Adil Antia who has been serving the community for many years and Mobed Ervad Firdos Balsara who also has been serving the community in recent years. The prayers invoked blessings for the entire congregation that participated and also commemorated the departed members of the community. It is believed that during this festival the departed souls (Farohars) visit their near and dear ones in the physical world. The priests perform special rituals over cooked food, fruits and fresh flowers during which the souls of the departed are invoked in order to seek their protection and blessings, in this world.

After the prayers the mobeds led the congregation in reciting "Humbandagi" prayers. It was heart warming to see not only the old but youth and children participate eagerly in the prayers. Special food was prepared and sponsored by members of the community which in turn was eaten in religious fellowship by people who attended the prayers. President Sharook Kapadia in his address to the congregation urged members of the community to donate sandalwood, loban and sandalwood chips (Tacho) to support such ceremonies in future. ZSBC Ex-President Mrs. Perviz Madon in her address urged the youths of the community to take an active role in the affairs of the community and to volunteer their services.

Statistics of this 5 day event:

- Number of Vases for Muktad : 36 vases
- Number of names recited during prayers: 180 names daily
- Number of dedicated volunteers : 20 persons
- Number of people attending the prayers: 650 in 5 days (avg. 130 persons per day)
- Number of sponsoring family for meals : 30 families (avg. 6 families per day)
- Number of people catered : 600 in 5 days (avg. 120 persons per day)

Similarly, Khordaad Saal (Prophet Zarathustra's Birthday) was celebrated with a jashan ceremony at Darbe Mehr on Friday, August 25, 2006. Approx. 120 people attended the function followed by dinner.

We thank all the volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts to make this event a thorough success.



UPCOMING 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 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on **Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz)** which falls on Wednesday September 6, Friday October 6, Sunday November 5 and Tuesday December 5, 2006.

The Darbe Mehr will be 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 10, 2006, 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 Mehernosh Kasad at (604)-214-0578.

Sunday, September 10, 2006 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 Shiraz Italia/Dinaz Mizan. There are no specific fees set for these classes, but parents are requested to make donations. For further information please contact Sharook Kapadia at the Annual Sports Day function or at (604) 439-3066. Children & youths of all ages may register.

Sunday, October 1, 2006, 7 p.m. – Mehrgan/Zarathushti Unity Day Potluck
Further details about the entertainment will be provided later.

Sunday, October 8, 2006, 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 15, 2006, 11.00 a.m. – Death Anniversary of the late Mr. Jamshed K. Pavri:
Prayers followed by refreshments.

Saturday, November 4, 2006, 7.00 p.m. – Food and Fun Night.
For further details contact Jessi Partovi (604) 232-4401

Sunday, November 12, 2006, 1.00 p.m. – Carom/Backgammon & Table Tennis Tournament: Please phone Mehernosh Kasad at (604) 214-0578 to register for above tourneys respectively, by Thursday November 09, 2005.

Zoroastrian Religious Classes

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

In our religious classes, we impart knowledge about Zoroastrianism in story form and explain the meaning of words from our religious book KHORDEH AVESTHA. Learn more about our GATHAS, SUDREH & KUSHTI & SHAH NAMEH.