



NEWSLETTER OF

THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Search of the Truth

June – August 2010

Volume XVIII, No.2

CONTENTS

President's Message.	1
Birth/Death	2
Info Section	2
- 2 nd Annual Walk for Darbe Mehr Renovations	
- Valley View Memorial Gardens.	
- Seniors for ZSBC.	
- NAZC	
- On wings of fire.	
Scholarships 2010	3
Appeal	3
Past Events	3
- Nourooz Function.	
- Indoor Sports Day	
Upcoming events.	4
Upcoming events (Farsi).	5
Proxy Form	6
Agenda for the 42 nd AGM	7

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How fast the time's flown by! The summer 2010 newsletter is upon us. It highlights some of the activities that have already happened and more that are scheduled into the latter half of this year.

The Annual General Meeting of the Zoroastrian Society of BC is scheduled for 20 June 2010, at 2:00 PM. Major changes to our slate of directors will take place and seven positions on our Board will need to be filled. As per our Constitution and Bylaws, four of your hard-working Board members, having served the maximum allowed two 2-year consecutive terms will retire—Farrokh Namdaran, Mehernosh Kasad, Jessi Partovi, and Faramarz Soroushi. Farhad Roueintan, Houman Abtin, and I are not sure if we will stand for re-election. Therefore, I would request as many community members to come forward and take a step on to the Board. Your new ideas and approach to issues will only strengthen the Association and its ability to move forward. Having been on the Board, I can certainly vouch that it is a part-time job. Positions demand of your time and energy, but having expended them, one is also gratified, especially when members show their appreciation and acknowledge the efforts.

If you can't step-up to the Board, you still have a role to fulfil in the organization by being a project lead for any activity you'd like to introduce to the Association's members. This is an ideal way for parents of younger children to get involved with ZSBC as you will still be making a worthy contribution to ZSBC while not being involved in structured meetings and job descriptions. So, please attend the meeting and show your appreciation for the retiring directors while re-establishing a new Board.

Our summer Food Fair is scheduled for 17 July 2010 and is sure to be as successful as the one last year. Your participation in this activity will also be appreciated. Funds generated from the Food Fair will go to the ZSBC general fund and then channelled to a worthy cause from there.

The Gatha prayers (per Shenshahi calendar) will once again be performed 15 to 21 August 2010. Member support for this event has been phenomenal in the past years and we hope to repeat the same this time around. Expect phone calls from the coordinators of this event around July as we start to organize these 5 days of prayers.

The organizing committee of the 2011 Youth Congress in Vancouver is working hard at finalizing the many details that go into putting on this mammoth event. They are still looking for youth volunteers, therefore we would like to encourage all youth to contact Zain Mavalvalla, Congress chair (604 274 4973) and get on board with the organizing committee.

The *Sharing and Caring Zarthushti Seniors* project is on schedule with monthly programs that have been extremely well-received by the attendees. The speakers and senior leads on this project have been doing a fabulous job each session. So far, two workshops lead by Dr Nahid Mehraein on Hypertension, and Mrs Armaity Hathidaru on Stress Management. The third session on Nutrition featured our renowned senior chef Mrs Statira Balaporla, who treated the seniors and Avesta class pupils and volunteers to wonderful Parsi cuisine while program coordinators provided some valuable nutritional information. We have six more valuable workshops and nutrition sessions scheduled to December, featuring exciting and informational speakers and chefs. These workshops are open to all ZSBC members.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement over the past year. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kashmira Suraliwalla
President.

BIRTH:

Ava, a daughter to Jersis and Niloufer Irani, sister to Zeyus on December 8, 2009, in North Vancouver, B.C.

Death:

Morvarid Sales-Shoghli, 79 years, mother of Manouchehr, Mehrdad, Maheen, Kambiz, Kamran and Jamshid Shoghli, in North Vancouver, on April 4, 2010.

Feraydoon Mehrayin, 83 years, husband of Shirin Khani, father of Minoo, Kourosh and Mandana Mehrayin, grandfather of Rayoumand and Vista Namdarian, Kamron and Kian Mehrayin, in California on April 18, 2010.

INFO SECTION:

2nd Annual Walk to renovate our Darbe Mehr.

After a successful walk last year and back by popular demand, the Trustees of Arbab Rustam Guiv Trust have decided once again to hold the very popular walk around the pristine Deer Lake. **Date:** Sunday, July 25, 2010.

Place: Deer Lake, 5435 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby. **Time:** 10:30 a.m. **Cost to register:** \$20

There is plenty of parking as well as boating, a children's playground, and many other activities. For more details and sponsorship form log onto www.zsbc.org or call Homi Italia (604) 438-2076 BBQ will be provided.

VALLEY VIEW MEMORIAL GARDENS, SURREY, B.C.

ZSBC's Cemetery Management Committee was informed in March 2010 that with the introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) in British Columbia effective July 2010, the cost of cemetery and funeral arrangements will be impacted. As our community is probably aware, ZSBC has purchased funeral lots in Valley View, which are used for interring community members should they decide to be buried. Valley View is also able to perform cremations at their site, and have suitable facilities and arrangements for funeral services in Surrey. Currently, the 5% GST is the only tax affixed to the costs of cemetery and funeral arrangements. After July 1, the new tax of 12% will apply not only to the cost of the products and services themselves but also to any service charges that may be applicable to monthly payment plans.

ZSBC Seniors.

Here's your chance! Come join ZSBC for a fun-filled, interactive morning each month! Free door to door transportation for seniors will be provided to and from the Darbe Mehr. Program began on March 14, 2010 and runs once a month until December 2010 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Seniors needing a ride or any further information are requested to contact the program co-ordinator Kaynaaz Dhooloo at: kaynaazd@yahoo.com or (604) 270-0045 or Kashmira Suraliwalla at (604) 272-3784. The Darbe Mehr will be kept open from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM on June 27, July 18 and August 15 2010 for the Sharing and Caring Zarathusti Seniors' program.

NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS – NAZC.

The NAZC 2010 to be held in Houston from December 29 to December 31. The three-day events will showcase our theme, preserve the past, protect the present, and perfect the future. Other program items will include sessions on our social and cultural heritage, religious development and history. In addition, we will discuss issues of interest to our youth, women, and families. The Program and Entertainment Committees are at work to ensure participants will have a rich and rewarding experience, long after the events are over. Come and listen to our dynamic speakers during the day and witness the entertainment extravaganza in the evenings.

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.zah.org/nazc-10/default.htm>

ON WINGS OF FIRE.

This docu-drama was screened for ZSBC members at the Darbe Mehr, 6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 11, 2010. Mr Meherji Madan, one of the co-producers, was in Vancouver for the Canadian National Squash Championships, in his capacity as a tournament referee. Mr Madan had approached ZSBC stating he would be available post-tournament for a screening of this newly re-mastered 90-minute DVD.

ZSBC's invitation netted about 50 persons at the Drabe Mehr for the evening. Members enjoyed the presentation, and Mr Madan answered several questions from the audience. The evening ended with light snacks and enough food for thought on the drive back home. ZSBC is considering options on copying and selling this DVD to members.

A BIG THANK YOU from ZSBC to Mr Madan for taking this initiative and for making time for us in his busy schedule.

2010 SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITY:

THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ZSBC has, for over a decade, been awarding scholarships to members' children who have completed their Higher Secondary School examination. These are based on merit, community involvement and service, etc., and are available for continuation of post-secondary studies in a college, university or technical institution. These scholarships will be available soon after passing Grade XII with no less than 71% marks to be eligible for consideration. The closing date for applications is Monday, September 13, 2010. You are advised to look at the www.zsbc.org web site for the application form with criteria.

MEHRABAN & PARIDOKHT ZARTOSHTY EDUCATION FUND ASSOCIATION:

These scholarships are offered to those who are going to pursue their education in the second or subsequent year in a college, university or technical institution in Canada or the United States of America. Scholarships under this fund are based on merit, community involvement and service, financial need, etc. The closing date for applications is August 31, 2010. You are advised to look at the www.ancientiran.com website for the criteria and application form, plus other details.

AN APPEAL:

Dear ZSBC Members,

As you know, the planning of the 5th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Vancouver (July 2011) is going strong. While we are actively working on getting Zarathushti youth participation from all countries of the world, we are presently seeking sponsors to support **between 20 and 30 Zarathushti Youth Speakers/Delegates from Iran**. The purpose is to provide a VERY SPECIAL opportunity to our dynamic Zarathushti YOUTH (15-40 years old) from Iran so that they can participate with gusto and contribute with enthusiasm in this monumental global Zarathushti event.

AFTER ALL, THESE PRECIOUS YOUNG ZARATHUSHTI MEN AND WOMEN FROM TEHRAN, KERMAN, YAZD & ISFAHAN ARE ALSO OUR FUTURE LEADERS AND TORCH BEARERS.

Thus we would like to offer them **Complementary** Congress Registration. With that communal sentiment, we humbly request your philanthropic assistance. Sponsoring Zarathushti YOUTH from Iran, will help provide them with a memorable time at this very special global Zarathushti youth event. These youth will be extremely grateful to you for the philanthropic spirit of reaching out to them. The required grant per person is \$640 CAD if registration takes place before January 15th, 2011. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REQUEST FOR VISA ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL THESE YOUTH FROM IRAN WILL BE MADE THROUGH THE CANADIAN CONSULATE DIRECTLY BY THE ORGANIZERS OF THE 5TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS.

PAST EVENTS:

Nourooz function:

ZSBC's annual celebration of Nourooz and Asho Zarathushtra's birthday was held at the Empire Landmark Hotel on March 27th, 2010. The event was attended by about 200 people who enjoyed performances by Avesta class children as well as Latin dance numbers performed by the professional dancers of Grupo America. Following a delicious buffet dinner, the guests danced the night away to the music played by DJ Pooya.

Indoor Sports Day:

On a bright sunny day about 30 people attended the first Indoor Sports event of 2010. In spite of "Mother's Day" all the regular players turned up enthusiastically for the tournament.

In a hard fought final Hoshi Powvalla defeated Rumi Mistry in three games to take the title of Carrom Singles.

There were exciting games in the Table-Tennis Mixed Doubles when Jehangir Darabna and Farzad Kasad got close encounters from various opponents from quarter finals onwards but ultimately prevailed in the finals against Faramarz Amjadi and Maharukh Darabna to take the crown.

In Backgammon Faramarz Amjadi defeated Faramarz Soroushi to take the title. In table-tennis women's singles Ava Irani fought off a determined Behroze Mistry to retain her title in straight sets.

For more information, please visit our website as it will be uploaded shortly.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

All events are 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: Tuesday June 8th, Thursday July 8th, Saturday August 7th and Monday September 6th, 2010.

The Sunday Class Children's graduation will take place on Sunday June 27th at Darbe Mehr starting at 6 pm. This event is open to all children aged 6-14 years and their parents. We have organized multiple fun activities including indoor and outdoor games, indoor sports and a movie. The highlight of the night will be a professional magic show by Ray Magic Entertainment. Dinner is Potluck. There will be a \$3 entrance fee per person. Should you have any questions please contact Houman at houman36@hotmail.com

The Darbe Mehr will also be kept open from 11:00am to 1:00 pm on the following sundays for the Seniors Program on June 27, July 18, August 15 2010 (same time as the Gatha Prayers)

Sunday June 13: Annual Pir-e Saabz event. For further details contact Feraydoon Demehri at (604) 926 9891

Sunday June 20: 42nd Annual General meeting (registration begins at 2:00 p.m.) All Zarthushtis are welcome to attend the AGM. Please also refer to the "Agenda of the 41st Annual General Meeting" enclosed with this newsletter. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Sunday, June 27 at 6:00 p.m. Zarthushtis Children Class Graduation Ceremony. Venue: **TBD**. Please await further updates either via emails or through Zoroastrian study class. You may also contact Houman Abtin or Shiraz Italia for further details.

Sunday June 27 at 2:00 p.m. The *Sharing and Caring Zarthushti Seniors program* at the Darbe Mehr. Guests speakers to be decided.

Sunday July 17 at 12:00 Noon: The Summer Food Fair. Venue: Darbe Mehr. More details to follow via phone calls and emails.

Sunday, July 18: Seniors Day at the Darbe Mehr from 11:00 a.m. onwards.

Sunday, July 25 10:30 a.m. "2nd Annual Walk for Renovation of Darbe Mehr" – About 3 km walk will be at Deer Lake in Burnaby. Plenty of parking and beautiful surroundings. Registration fee \$20 including a BBQ lunch. Register by July 1, 2010. For further details call Homi Italia (604) 438-2076 or Behramshah Mizan (604) 270- 4077.

Saturday, August 14 to Wednesday, August 18: Weekdays at 6.30 p.m. onwards, Saturday and Sunday, August 15 & 16, at 11.00 a.m.: Muktd/Gatha Prayers – Vase spot can be reserved for \$50. Please note that maximum of 3 names per vase will be recited during prayers. Please register with Mehernosh Kasad (604) 214 0578 or Kashmira Suraliwalla (604) 272 3784 to book a vase spot, sponsor meals and/or volunteer.

Sunday, August 15: Seniors Day at the Darbe Mehr from 11:00 AM onwards

Saturday, August 21: 6:30 p.m. to midnight: Pateti/Navroze Celebration. Directors of The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC) invites you all to celebrate the Pateti/Navroze function on Saturday, August 21 from 6:30 pm. Venue TBD. Further details to follow.

Sunday August 29: ZSBC Annual Outdoor Sports at Mahon Park North Vancouver. More details will follow closer to date.

Sunday, September 19: Seniors Picnic: Time and Venue to be announced later. For details please contact Socials Director, Farhad Rouentien (778) 232 4456.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FARSI:



THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOTICE OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Under the terms of articles 11.6 and 12.1 of our society's by-laws, notice of the 42nd AGM is hereby given as follows:

DATE: *Sunday, June 20th, 2010*

PLACE: *Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr
6900 Halifax Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2R5*

TIME: *1:30 pm Registration
2:00 pm Commencement of Annual General Meeting*

1. World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (WZYC) 2011 in Vancouver; Presentation by Zain Mavalvala.
2. To adopt the Minutes of the last AGM held on June 21st, 2009.
3. To receive and adopt ZSBC's audited financial statements for the year ended March 20, 2010.
4. To review and adopt the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011.
5. To appoint auditors for the fiscal year 2010-2011.
6. To elect 7 Directors to the Board of ZSBC for a term of 2 years, i.e. until ZSBC's 2012 AGM.
7. To elect 5 members to the Cemetery Management Committee for a term of 2 years, i.e. until ZSBC's 2012 AGM.
8. To elect 4 Trustees to the Board of Arbab Rustam Guiv Turst for a period of 2 years, i.e. until ZSBC's 2012 AGM.
9. Any other business that may arise at the meeting.

The meeting is open to all Zarathushtis and their family members. However, only Zarathushtis residing in BC who are "members in good standing" of ZSBC [those who have paid their 2010-2011 membership fees, even at the time of registration for this Meeting], will be eligible to vote.

A member who is interested in standing for the position of Directorship of ZSBC may send in his/her nomination form, together with a short biographical note, to the President by June 15, 2010. **To be eligible as a candidate, the individual must be a Zarathushti in good standing with ZSBC for at least 1 year prior to meeting date and be at least 19 years old.**

If you are unable to attend the AGM, please exercise your right to vote by completing, signing and giving the attached Proxy form to a member who will be attending the meeting so that he/she can register it with the Secretary at the meeting on your behalf.

Kashmira Suraliwalla
President.

PROXY FORM

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

This is to inform you that I /We will not be attending the Annual General Meeting called on June 20,
2010. I/We hereby appoint _____

as my/our proxy at the meeting.

Date : _____

Signature(s)

Print Name

Address: _____

Note: A Member shall not hold more than three proxies.

