



NEWSLETTER OF THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of directors I wish you all a

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NOU ROOZ

This year with the sponsorship of the BC government we will be celebrating Nou Rooz at a multicultural level.

Nou Rooz is celebrated by all nations that once formed the Persian Empire and we, as heirs of the Persian Empire, need to take a leading role and present to the world the proper celebration and the real philosophy behind the festival.

As you may be aware the name of “Zoroaster” appears on the window pane in the BC Parliament building but I don't think that the BC government even knows of the existence of the followers of Zarathustra in its province. It is time we make ourselves known.

The most important component of the Nou Rooz celebration is the “Haft Sheen/Seen Table”. First we need to re-educate ourselves and then not feel shy to inform those that celebrate Nou Rooz, of the real philosophy behind the celebration. We have to realize that the Sheen & Seen is a modern invention. The very fact that one of the items on the Zarathushti's Haft Sheen table is “SHARAB” (wine) which is an Arabic word proves its age. The Persian words for wine are MAI and BAADEH.

So what is the real philosophy and what are the items that make up the Nou Rooz Table? In ancient days they placed Seven Trays (Seenee) and laid in those trays numerous items, some of which were symbolic while others were items they wished to have in abundance in the coming year. By placing it in the tray they promised themselves to work towards achieving it. So every family would have items unique to themselves. What was common among all was the Seven Trays (Haft Seenee).

These seven trays represented the “Seven Eternal Laws”. The Seven Amesha Sepanta. Unfortunately we have paganised them under Romans influence. The Gathaic rendering of it paves the path towards perfection and leads to immortality and spirituality.

1-**VOHU-MANA – BAH MAN - Good Mind** – Use your Good Mind to inquire and learn the

2- **ASHA-VAHISTA- ARDIBESHT - Ultimate Truth-** the Laws of Nature- Use them to make

3- **KASH-ATRA-VAIRYA – SHAHRIVAR- Good Rules** – Good Laws- Good Products – Which will lead to

4- **SEPANTA-ARMAITY – ESFAND- Lawful Desire** – Righteousness – which will pave the way towards

5- **HURVATATA – KHORDAD- Perfection** – Mental, Physical and Spiritual – which will lead to

6- **AMERETATA – AMORDAD- Immortality** –a) In Death being remembered for your good work for generations (b) In Life by losing the fear of Death –resulting in oneness with

7- **AHURA-MAZDA – KHOD AH- The Creator of Wisdom** – through Self Realization- KHOD = Self AH = to come.

In Search of the Truth

Esfand - Ardibehesht 3752

March - May 2014

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If the Gathas are not enough, the Bible can help. For the wise men gave the first three laws as gifts to baby Jesus. For it's meaning read (Matthew 4:3-11 - Luke 4:3-13). The others are mentioned by Jesus. Righteousness (Matthew 5:20). Khordad-You can be PERFECT like our father in heaven. (Matthew 5:1-48). Amordad-They follow me and I give them ETERNAL LIFE (John 10: 27-28). Khod-Ah-I and the Father are one." (John 10: 30) The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we stone you but for the blasphemy; because you, being a man, make yourself God." (John 10: 31-33)

Jesus learned all this from his teachers the wise men. "After three days they found him in the temple sitting among the TEACHERS, listening to them and asking them questions." Luke 2:46. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man". Luke 2:52.

These seven laws sit on the Nou Rooz Table every year in every house that celebrates Nou Rooz. Be it Persian, Afghani, Tajik, Uzbek, Kazak, Azeri, Indian or the numerous other people and countries that celebrate Nou Rooz. Will not the world be a better place if we all understood the real message?

*Fariborz Rahnamoon
President*

YOUNG TALENTED BOY

Rooyinton Mehenty is possibly the youngest boy to undergo the 'Maratab*' ceremony at the Mody Atashbehram in Surat at the age of 9!

Apart from performing Vendidad and a Hama Anjuman Jashan under the guidance of Vada Dasturji Cyrus Dastur, Rooyinton also performed the Sampuran Yajasne ceremony at the tender age of eight. He's also the youngest boy to have performed the Boi ceremony at Wadaji Atashbehram's Adaran Saheb. Dasturji Dr. Peshotan Mirza fondly spoke of Rooyintan saying, "Rooyintan has broken a world record by completing his Maratab at the young age of nine without reading Avesta books and only by listening to the prayers taught to him verbally by his father, Ervad Nozer Mehenty."



Wow, Rooyinton!!!

**Maratab: a ceremony which qualifies a priest to perform higher rituals.*

ADVERTISING RATES IN NEWSLETTER

(All advertisements in ZSBC newsletter will be in black and white only)

- Business card size ad in one issue \$30
- Quarter page size ad in one issue \$40
- Half page ad in one issue \$60
- Full page ad in one issue \$100
- To sponsor an issue and get recognition: \$300

Your support by advertising in ZSBC newsletter will be highly appreciated.



SADEH CELEBRATION



We got together on February 1st 2014 and celebrated Sadeh. ZSBC had provided dinner and desserts followed by dancing till midnight. Thank you to participants that made such a great night.

What is Sadeh?

SAAD means 100 in Farsi and Sadeh is the celebration of the 100th Day of Winter as celebrated by our ancient Aryan ancestors when they lived in the Arctic region. In the Arctic they had 5 months of winter and 7 months of summer. Their winter began on the 1st of ABAN (23 of October) so 30 days of Aban 30 days of Azar, 30 days of Dey and on the 10th of Bahman (30 January) they celebrated Sadeh. (9 days in October + 30 in November + 31 in December + 30 in January = 100).

Sadeh marks the start of the preparation for farming in spring. People would go on roof tops or mountain tops and light fires signalling their neighbours of the advent of Sadeh. Even today farmers in Yazd, after the celebration of Sadeh, start preparing their farms for spring.

Sadeh is a link to our ancient history; reminding us of where our ancestors came from and how ancient our history is.

Later other events in history, some mythical, were connected to Sadeh, like the discovery of how to light a fire by Hoshang the Pishdadian Shah. According to Shahnameh, Hoshang threw a stone to kill a dragon and instead hit another stone and sparked a fire, thus discovering how to light a fire.

There is also some incorrect information being associated by scholars to Sadeh, like saying that the 100 of the Sadeh comes from 50 nights and 50 days to Nou Rooz. This theory does not have any significance and is not true.

In modern days the lighting of fire has been given more significance than the historic significance of Sadeh and its link to our ancient history.



NOU ROOZ BAZAAR



بازارچه نوروزی

انجمن زرتشتیان ونکوور با همکاری اتاق بازرگانی زرتشتیان ونکوور شما را به بازدید از بازارچه نوروزی دعوت مینماید.

زمان: شنبه 15 مارس 2014 از ساعت 11 بامداد تا 4 پسین

مکان: در مهر ارباب رستم گویو 6900 Halifax Street, Burnaby, BC

ZSBC in collaboration with WZCC-BC (World Zoroastrians Chamber of Commerce) would like to invite you to participate in the Nou Rooz Bazaar.

Date and time: Saturday, March 15th 2014 from 11 AM to 4 PM

Location: Arbab Rostam Guiv Dare Mehr, 6900 Halifax Street, Burnaby, BC

3752 NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Zoroastrian Society of BC Presents
CLASSICAL PERSIAN & KURDISH CONCERT

Kereshmeh Ensemble
Hossein Behroozinia &
Jamal Salavati

نوروز باستانی
کنسرت موسیقی سنتی و کلاسیک کردی

Saturday March 22 - 8:00 pm
Centennial Theatre
2300 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver, BC
www.KereshmehEnsemble.com

Tickets: \$35 & \$40
Info & Reservation: 604-904-8866 www.iranianpages.com
Also available at: Pars & Afra, (North Vancouver)
Moneyway (Park Royal South), Aria (Downtown), Rose (Coquitlam)
Online: Centennialtheatre.com

ZSBC Presents

Nou Rooz – E- Bastani

With classical music by Kereshmeh Ensemble

Date: Saturday, March 22nd 2014

Time: Doors open at 7 pm
Show starts at 8 pm SHARP

Location: Centennial Theatre
2300 Lonsdale Avenue,
North Vancouver, BC
(604) 984-4434

Tickets will go on sale from Feb. 18th 2014.

Seats are numbered.

To get the best seat, book right now.

TICKET SELLERS

Fariborz Rahnamoon 604-710-1420
FariborzR@hotmail.com

Azita Dehmobed 604-789-6936
Azita2000ca@gmail.com

TICKET PRICES

First 10 Row	\$40
Rest of rows	\$35



ZARATHUSHTRA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

WHEN: Saturday, March 29, 2014
6:30 PM Sharp

WHERE: Arbab Rostam Guiv Dare Mehr

PROGRAM: Dinner and Dance with music by
Professional DJ

TICKETS: Adults \$20 Children (3-12) \$10

CONTACT: Mitra Sorooshi @ 604-924-9947
Tickets are on sale *from March 5th to
March 15th 2014*. Limited space; First
come, first serve.



NOTE: Members who buy the ticket for Centennial Theater will pay \$5 only, so please keep your ticket stub after the show.

MEMBERSHIPS

PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES ONLINE ... NOW AVAILABLE!

A concerted effort has been made by the ZSBC Board of Directors to set up a system that will allow members to pay their dues and donations online. If you prefer this method of payment, please visit www.zsbc.org and use your credit card. The ZSBC Board of Directors urges you, your family, and Zarathushti friends to pay the annual membership fees on time. This will enable our Society to better budget projects and to continue to thrive and survive. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and generosity!

MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2014-2015:

Family: Husband and wife, including children under 18	\$50
Senior (65 years and over)	\$15
Full time student (18 years and over and not working)	\$15
Individuals (18 years and over, even those living with parents)	\$25

Become a
MEMBER
JOIN TODAY

Our Board of Directors will be available to collect your membership fees. You can pay fees by cash, cheque, or online by credit card. Please feel free to contact any of the Directors, on any issue relating to our Society and/or convey your views.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 1- Students whose parents are members in good standing can qualify for scholarship.
- 2- Children get to learn about their culture and religion & meet and make friends with community children.
- 3- Seniors get to attend programs for seniors.
- 4- Marriage Registration on behalf of the Government of Canada is available to members.
- 5- Event tickets (e.g. Nou Rooz and Parsee New Year, etc.) are available to members in good standing at subsidized rates.
- 6- Dare Mehr community hall is available for rental at a very nominal fee to members in good standing.
- 7- Reference letters can be provided to members in good standing and who have become Canadian Citizens to apply for Canadian passport.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARRIAGES

Arzan Bhagat and Roxenda Tavarria, children of Percy & Meher Bhagat and Homeyar and Neena Tavarria, in Mumbai, India, on Tuesday, December 24, 2013.

Tuzar Irani and Jasmin Mehroin, children of Nargish Irani and Fariborze Mehroin & Narges Behjat, in Toronto, Ontario, on Saturday, December 28, 2013.

DONATIONS

All donations paid to Arbab Rostam Guiv Trust to help with Dare Mehr's renovation costs are acknowledgeable by the Arbab Rostam Guiv Trust exclusively. Tax deductible receipts will be issued by the Trust. Please donate generously. With interest rates being very low the Trust has no other source of income and depends on your donation to keep the Dare Mehr in shape.



Donations made toward ZSBC will be acknowledgeable by ZSBC and Tax Deductible receipts will be issued likewise by ZSBC.

New ONLINE option to donate to ZSBC is now available on www.zsbc.org

Donor of this quarter:

Pilsa Desai \$202.00

And other donors that supported our society with their cash donations

14TH Z GAMES IN LOS ANGELES CA

The Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) is proud to announce that online registration for the 14th Zoroastrian Games will begin on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Registration for all sports and tickets for all social events are available only on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS, no exceptions! Space is limited, and once sold out; there will be no other opportunities to purchase tickets.

Due to the high popularity of the Games, we encourage you to reserve your spot and buy your social events tickets before the Early-Bird Registration Deadline of March 24, 2014. All prices will increase after March 24th for those events not sold out.

To register, please go to: www.zathletics.com

What: 14th Zoroastrian Games
When: July 2 - 6, 2014
Where: Cal State Dominguez Hills, Los Angeles, CA

If you have any questions, please email us at zsc@fezana.org.

ZOROASTRIAN SPORTS COMMITTEE
is pleased to announce
The 14th Z Games
July 2-6, 2014
Cal State Dominguez Hills
Los Angeles, CA, USA

**ONLINE REGISTRATION
OPENS
FEBRUARY 22**

www.zathletics.com | zsc@fezana.org
FOR UP TO THE MINUTE DETAILS, FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[@ZSports](#) [@ZSports](#) [ZSC](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are at the Arbab Rostam Guiv Dare Mehr, 6900 Halifax Street, Burnaby, BC unless mentioned otherwise.

DATE		EVENT
March 2, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
March 5, 2014	Wednesday	Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz) / NEW HORIZONS for Seniors Program from 6:30 to 9 pm @ Dare Mehr
March 16, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
March 20, 2014	Thursday	3752 New Year gathering @ Dare Mehr from 5 pm to 9 pm
March 22, 2014	Saturday	Nou Rooz Celebration (Please see page 4 for details)
March 30, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
March 29, 2014	Saturday	Asho-Zarathushtra's Birthday. Please refer to page 5 of this newsletter.
April 8, 2014	Tuesday	Verahram Izad day from 6 pm to 9 pm
April 13, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
April 27, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
May 8, 2014	Thursday	Verahram Izad day from 6 pm to 9 pm
May 11, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
May 25, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
June 7, 2014	Saturday	Verahram Izad day from 6 pm to 9 pm
June 8, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
June 22, 2014	Sunday	Farsi classes at 10:30 followed by Z-study classes at 11 am
June 29, 2014	Sunday	ZSBC's AGM
July 7, 2014	Monday	Verahram Izad day from 6 pm to 9 pm



UPCOMING EVENTS IN FARSI



تمام برنامه ها در محل در مهر ارباب رستم گویو واقع در 6900 خیابان هلیفکس شهر برنابی برگزار میشود و در صورت تغییر مکان به اطلاع همگان خواهد رسید.

تاریخ	روادید
یکشنبه 2 مارس	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
چهارشنبه 5 مارس	ورهرام ایزد همراه با برنامه سالمندان از 6:30 تا 9 پسین مکان: در مهر
یکشنبه 16 مارس	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
پنج شنبه 20 مارس	دید و بازدید همگانی به مناسبت سال نو 3752 در محل در مهر از 5 تا 9 پسین
شنبه 22 مارس	جشن نوروزی. برای اطلاعات بیشتر به صفحه 4 این خبرنامه رجوع کنید.
شنبه 29 مارس	جشن تولد اشو زرتشت اسپنتمان. برای اطلاعات بیشتر به صفحه 5 رجوع کنید.
یکشنبه 30 مارس	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
سه شنبه 8 آوریل	ورهرام ایزد از ساعت 6 تا 9 پسین مکان: در مهر
یکشنبه 13 آوریل	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
یکشنبه 27 آوریل	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
پنج شنبه 8 می	ورهرام ایزد از ساعت 6 تا 9 پسین مکان: در مهر
یکشنبه 11 می	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
یکشنبه 25 می	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
یکشنبه 7 جون	ورهرام ایزد از ساعت 6 تا 9 پسین مکان: در مهر
یکشنبه 8 جون	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
یکشنبه 22 جون	کلاسهای آموزش فارسی ساعت 10:30 بامداد و دینی ساعت 11 بامداد
یکشنبه 29 جون	مجمع عمومی سالیانه
دوشنبه 7 جولای	ورهرام ایزد از ساعت 6 تا 9 پسین مکان: در مهر

