



**NEWSLETTER OF
THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

In Search of the Truth

Khordad- Amرداد 3751

June – Aug 2013

Volume XXII, No.2

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British Columbia
6900 Halifax Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2R5
Canada

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www.zsbc.org

The 26th FEZANA AGM took place from May 3 to 5, 2013 in Dallas, Texas hosted by The Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT). A lot of important matters were discussed and I would like to give you all a gist of it, for I think it is important that every one of us gets involved, if we are to succeed as a community in North America.

The fact that we are a diverse community should be recognized and we should agree to respect the diversity and work together to achieve the greater common goals. Now Rooz and Pateti, Fasli, Kadmi and Shaenshai Gatha and Khordeh Avesta, orthodox, liberal and reformist all should come together for the common good with respect for each other's views. For in the end Wisdom shall prevail.

We in North America are taking over as the second largest congregation of Zarathushti in the world. As our numbers in India and Iran are dwindling, it is increasing in North America. If we are to survive as a community we need to plan and develop an infrastructure and Rohinton Riventna as always has sown the seed. At the FEZANA AGM he presented a 13 point infrastructure need. Some of which have already been established. Like energizing the Zarathushti Entrepreneurial Spirit, through establishment of World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) with chapters all over the world, including one in BC. The FIRES (FEZANA Information, Research, and Education System) which has been set up in Huston. Other items include building more Dare Mehrs, establishing a Consecrated Atash Kadeh, a Zarathushti online shopping centre, Retirement Homes, establishment of Athornan Institute, a Learning Centre, a Services Centre for Resettlement of Immigrants, a FEZANA Centre, Demographic Studies Centre, a Museum, a Zarathushti Cooperative Bank etc. All these would cost upwards of 40 million dollars over the long term.

Demographic studies is very important for successful planning and I request all Zarathushties living in BC to register with ZSBC and if you know a friend who is not registered please request and guide them to register. Very soon we will send out a short and long census forms please fill it up and encourage other to do the same. Please note registration for the first year is free and there is no cost for inclusion of your name in ZSBC directory.

Another topics discussed at the AGM was the Return to Roots program for the youth. Please visit <http://FEZANA.org/node/309> to learn and participate in it.

A program that the youth are encouraged to participate in is (ZSF) Zarathushties Stepping Forward which originated at the youth congress in Vancouver. The goal is to collect and donate shoes to those in need. I request ZYBC to take an active part in this program.

Now about the renovation. Work on the main floor of the Dare Mehr has been started. Please keep on sending your donation cheques for the renovation, drawn on "Arbab Rostam Guiv Trust". Also please participate in the 5th Annual Walk to Renovate the Dare Mehr, at Deer Lake Burnaby on July 14th from 10:30am. I thank Homi Italia for organizing it for the last 5 years in a row.

On June 23, 2013 is our 45th AGM, please take an active part in it.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish Pateti Mubaraak to all those who will be celebrating it this August.

Fariborz Rahnamoon, President

ZOROASTRIAN RETURN TO ROOTS

ATTENTION YOUTH A MESSAGE FROM THE ROOTS TEAM Zoroastrian Return to Roots

We are very excited to announce the launch of Zoroastrian Return to Roots, a program designed to connect youth from all over the world through short (10-14 day) trips of Zoroastrian India, and eventually through Zoroastrian Iran. The inaugural trip will take place in Mumbai and Gujarat, India from Dec 27th 2013-Jan 8th 2014, and it will include participation at the World Zoroastrian Congress.

We are currently accepting applications for youth who would like to participate in the inaugural trip. We have 20 slots available. We are looking for mature young Zoroastrians from all over the world who are poised to become leaders in their local and national associations. The trip is heavily

subsidized for participants: financial considerations should not discourage anyone from applying. Furthermore, we are positioned to arrange visas for participants regardless of nationality, offering otherwise non-existent opportunities to our Pakistani and Iranian brothers and sisters.

To apply, please go to:

www.zororoots.org/apply/

Also, please like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ZoroastrianReturnToRootsProgram

If you have any questions, please ask on Facebook or email us at zororoots@gmail.com

*Thank you,
Dinsha Mistree
dmistree@princeton.edu
On behalf of The Roots Team*

Annual Walk

5TH ANNUAL WALK TO RENOVATE OUR DARE MEHR

Once again it is time to go on our popular annual walk. The Trustees of Arbab Rostam Guiv Trust has been holding this walk for past four years. Funds collected will be used for renovation which is badly needed for our old building.

Day & date: Sunday, July 14, 2013
Place: Deer Lake, 5435 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Registration: \$20 (includes BBQ lunch)

There is plenty of free parking. Lots of other activities like boating, Children's playground, beautiful and pristine surrounding around lake.

Register early with Behramsha Mizan (604) 270-4077 or e-mail to Homi Italia homiitalia@hotmail.com

Please download the sponsorship form and get friends and neighbours to sponsors and support your walk.

SURPRISE GIFT FOR PERSON WHO COLLECT \$200 OR MORE IN SPONSORSHIP.



Now Rooz and Asho Zarathushtra's birthday



ZSBC's annual celebration of Now Rooz and Asho Zarathushtra's birthday was held at the Executive Inn Hotel in Burnaby, BC on March 23rd 2013. The event was attended by about 210 people. The Masters of Ceremonies Mahsa Kaboli-zadeh, Kayras Irani and Fariborz Azarkeyvan kept the crowd enticed. Loads of door prizes were given out. A delicious and sumptuous buffet dinner was served. The guests danced the night away to music played by our DJs Farhad Iranfar and Parviz Rashidi.

Now Rooz Bazaar

Fabulous sunny day with the spirit of New Year!

Now Rooz Bazaar/Market was held on Sunday, March 17th in collaboration with WZCC. We had 13 vendors selling different items and services such as flowers and sabzeh, handicrafts, pastry and sweets, Avesta CD, Jewelery, and also Insurance and Realtors. More than 300 visitors stopped by and bought their needs for Now Rooz tables from those vendors.

See more photos at: <http://zsbh.homestead.com>



MEMBERSHIP

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:

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

Our Board of Directors will be available to collect your membership fees **for year ending March 20, 2014**. 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.

MUKTAD GATHA PRAYERS

The Gatha prayers per the Shahenshai calendar (1382-83 Y.Z.), will be recited at the Arbab Rostom Guiv Dare Mehr, **Tuesday to Saturday, 13-17 August 2013**.

Tuesday to Friday, 13-16 August, prayers will start at 6:30 PM and will be followed by dinner.

Saturday, 17 August, prayers will start at 5:30 PM and will be followed by a special Pateti dinner, at the Dare Mehr.

TICKETS (\$15 EACH) WILL NEED TO BE PURCHASED FOR THE DINNER ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 17th AS IT IS A CATERED EVENT.

Please mark your calendars to attend! Tickets will go on sale around mid-July and community members will be notified in advance by e-mail about this event.

DARE MEHR CAPACITY IS 100 PERSONS—FIRST COME, FIRST IN.

More information about the Prayers will be made available as plans get underway, starting June 2013. Please contact Kashmira Suraliwalla 604-272-3784 or Mehernosh Kasad 604 214-0578 if you have any questions or concerns.

E-MAIL DATABASE UPDATE

Most of you are aware that ZSBC has an e-mail database. To add/change or delete your e-mail information in our database directory, please contact Azita Dehmobed with details to ZSBC.News@gmail.com.

We advise all e-mail subscribers and community members to please add webmaster@zsbc.org and also ZSBC.News@gmail.com to their contact list to receive e-mails from ZSBC consistently.

SCHOLARSHIPS 2013

THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (ZSBC)

For over a decade, ZSBC has 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 **Tuesday, September 10, 2013**. 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 **Tuesday, September 10, 2013**. You are advised to look at the www.ancientiran.com website for the criteria and application form, plus other details.

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.



Donation 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

Donors of this quarter:

Khushruv & Kashmira Dastur \$110; Homi and Dinaz Italia \$200
Dr. H. Abtin \$101; Manouchehr Mehin \$33
And other donors that supported our society with their cash donations

8TH ZOROASTRIAN UNITY CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT



ZSBC intends to help the youth organize a ZSBC team and participate in the 8th Zoroastrian unity cup games. Please contact any of the directors ASAP to join the team and participate in the games or send an email to: ZSBC.News@gmail.com

What: 8th Zoroastrian Unity Cup Soccer Tournament

When: 2013 Labour Day Weekend (First week of Sept.)

Where: Beautiful beach city of San Diego

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE

Rokhsar Panthaky with Mehernosh Kekobad, children of Cavas and Silloo Panthaky and Viraf and Aban Kekobad, in Mumbai, India, on April 5, 2013



BIRTHS

Zara, a daughter to Zain Mavalvalla and Shiraz Italia, granddaughter of Homi and Koomi Italia and Darayus and Hufriz Mavalvalla, in Richmond in March 2013.

CONDOLENCES

Mehru Tavaría, 68 years, wife of Shashi, mother of Ashdin (wife Senaeya), in Richmond, BC, on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

Meher Panthaki, 52 years, in Burnaby, BC, on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Meher is survived by her husband, Keki, and sons, Rohan and Jehan

Dr. Mobed Sohrab Khodabakhshi, husband of Kharman Yezeshni, father of Taraneh and Tooraj Khodabakhshi, in Tehran, Iran.



We convey our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the departed. May the departed souls rest in eternal peace.

NEW HORIZON SENIORS PROGRAM

Under the auspices of the NEW HORIZONS for Seniors Program, there will be a cooking and baking competition on June 30th 2013 at the Dare Mehr at 12 pm, followed by financial informational session.



We need at least 3 applicants for each food. You will be reimbursed for the cost of food. Please bring the receipts to be reimbursed. Please sign up for only one food and bring the recipe to be entered in cookbook. We are going to publish a recipe book for all traditional and cultural foods with mentioning your name.



Foods could be Komach (traditional cake), Seerog (fried bread), Aash Reshteh (Noodle soup), Dhansak, Pakora, Biryani. There will be valuable prizes for the winners as well. Please RSVP via email to Mitra Sorooshi himitra@hotmail.com or by phone at [604 924 9947](tel:6049249947)

Everybody is welcome to join, taste, and vote for them. Entrance fee is by donation starting from \$2.

NOTE:

We are going to have an information session after this event for seniors about how to claim their expenses and what kind of forms and documents they have to use for reimbursement.

Being informed about your finances keeps you in control of your money and prevents fraud.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DATE		EVENT
June 8, 2013	Saturday	Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz) from 7 to 9 pm @ Dare Mehr
June 15, 2013	Saturday	Gathering at Shannon Fall, Squamish from 10:00 a.m. in the memory of Pire Sabz (Chak Chak) in Yazd, Iran.
June 16, 2013	Sunday	Z-study classes
June 23, 2013	Sunday	45 th Annual General Meeting All Zarathusthtis are welcome to attend the AGM. Registration begins at 1:30 pm. Please refer to the “Agenda of the 45 th Annual General Meeting” enclosed with this newsletter. ZYBC (Zoroastrian Youth of BC) election to be followed.
June 29, 2013	Saturday	Z-study graduation night starts from 6 pm. Our students will be graduated and celebrate with their families and other classmates and friends. In the meantime, we would like to thank our volunteer teachers for their support and time.
June 30, 2013	Sunday	Tirgan Celebration and New Horizon Seniors program. For detail please see page 6 of the Newsletter.
July 8, 2013	Monday	Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz) from 7 to 9 pm @ Dare Mehr
July 14, 2013	Sunday	5 th Annual walk for renovation of Dare Mehr, registration fee \$20 per person including BBQ lunch. Contact Homi Italia, Behramshah Mizan, or Fariborz Rahnamoon
August 7, 2013	Wed.	Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz) from 7 to 9 pm @ Dare Mehr
August 13-17	Tue.-Sat.	Muktad/Gatha Prayers. Please see page 4 of newsletter for details.
Sept. 6, 2013	Friday	Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz) from 7 to 9 pm @ Dare Mehr
Sept. 8, 2013	Sunday	Annual outdoor sports at Mahon Park, North Vancouver from 10:30am. Registration for next year Z-study class will be on the same day and time.
October 6, 2013	Sunday	Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz) from 7 to 9 pm @ Dare Mehr
Nov. 5, 2013	Tuesday	Vrahraum Eezad (Verahram Rooz) from 7 to 9 pm @ Dare Mehr



UPCOMING EVENTS IN PERSIAN

تمام برنامه ها در محل در مهر ارباب رستم گیو واقع در 6900 خیابان هلیفکس شهر برنابی برگزار میشود.

تاریخ	رویداد
شنبه 8 جون	ورهرام ایزد از 7 تا 9 شب در مهر
شنبه 15 جون	گردهمایی در آبشار شانون واقع در شهر سکوامیش به یاد پیر سبز
یکشنبه 16 جون	کلاس آموزش دینی
یکشنبه 23 جون	چهل و پنجمین مجمع عمومی سالیانه انجمن. ثبت نام از ساعت 1:30 پسین شروع میشود. دستورکار به پیوست این خبرنامه میباشد. انتخابات گروه جوانان زرتشتی نیز پس از این مجمع عمومی برگزار خواهد شد.
شنبه 29 جون	جشن فارغ التحصیلی شاگردان کلاس آموزش دینی از ساعت 6 پسین در همین جا از همه داوطلبان عزیز که ما را در این امر آموزشی یاری نمودند کمال تشکر و سپاس را داریم.
یکشنبه 30 جون	جشن تیرگان و مسابقه آشپزی برای افراد بالای 60 سال. برای اصلاحات بیشتر صفحه 6 خبرنامه را بخوانید.
دوشنبه 8 جولای	ورهرام ایزد از 7 تا 9 شب در مهر
یکشنبه 14 جولای	پنجمین سالگرد پیاده روی برای جمع آوری کمکهای نقدی برای بازسازی درمهر. برای ثبت نام با آقایان همی ایتالیا - بهرامشاه میزان و یا فریبرز رهنمون تماس بگیرید. ورودیه حداقل \$20 شامل ناهار میباشد.
چهارشنبه 7 آگوست	ورهرام ایزد از 7 تا 9 شب در مهر
سهشنبه 13 تا شنبه 17 آگوست	ماکتاد/ گاتاها خوانی. شرح کامل را در صفحه 4 خبرنامه بخوانید.
جمعه 6 سپتامبر	ورهرام ایزد از 7 تا 9 شب در مهر
یکشنبه 8 سپتامبر	بازیهای سالانه ورزشی در فضای باز در ماهان پارک نورت ونکوور از 10:30 بامداد. ثبت نام برای کلاسهای آموزش دینی سال جدید در همین روز میباشد.
یکشنبه 6 اکتبر	ورهرام ایزد از 7 تا 9 شب در مهر
سهشنبه 5 نوامبر	ورهرام ایزد از 7 تا 9 شب در مهر



THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOTICE OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Under the terms of articles 11.6 and 12.1 of our society's by-laws, notice of the 45th AGM is hereby given as follows:

DATE: *Sunday, June 23rd 2013*

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. To adopt the Minutes of the last AGM held on June 24th 2012.
2. To receive and adopt ZSBC's audited financial statements for the year ended March 20, 2013.
3. To review and adopt the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014.
4. To appoint auditors for the fiscal year 2013-2014.
5. 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 2013-2014 membership fees, even at the time of registration for this Meeting], will be eligible to vote.

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.

Fariborz Rahnamoon
President

Attachment:

- Proxy Form

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
Sunday, June 23rd 2013.

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.

10TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS



The 10th World Zoroastrian Congress will be held in Mumbai from Dec 27th to Dec 30th 2013. The theme of the Congress is “Zoroastrianism in the 21st Century, Nurturing Growth and Affirming Identity”. Registration for the 10th World Zoroastrian Congress in Mumbai has gone alive online on the official website: www.wzcmumbai.com

The Organizers of World Zoroastrian Congress is trying to work with Indian Government in obtaining special permission/ visitor’s visa for Pakistani born (or Pakistani Passport holders) US/Canadian citizens.

If any Zoroastrian of Pakistani origin wants to attend the congress, please let us know by June 15th latest so further arrangements can be made to facilitate the process.

The World Zoroastrian Congress is a forum for discussion on all issues pertaining to the community, including social, economic, cultural and religious. There are academics and experts from other communities who will share their knowledge and views as in past Congresses. In that, it is an open forum.

The Organising Committee of the 10th World Zoroastrian Congress has received many queries whether non-Zoroastrian spouses of Parsi Iranian Zoroastrians and their children can register as delegates at the Congress. In light of the above, it stands to logic and reason that the Congress should not be exclusionary but be inclusive for all those who have an interest in the community, its affairs and in its future.

Accordingly, the Organising Committee has decided that non-Zoroastrian spouses and their children (16 years and above) can register as delegates for the Congress.

Early Bird Offer till July 31, 2013

Indian Delegates: Rs. 8,000 + Rs. 990 service tax per attendee

Foreign Delegates: US\$200 + US\$25 service tax per attendee

Regular Offer from August 1st 2013

Indian Delegates: Rs. 12,000 + Rs. 1,485 service tax per attendee

Foreign Delegates: US\$300 + US\$37 service tax per attendee

To ensure participation of the younger members of the community to the 10th World Zoroastrian Congress and its deliberations, especially as it pertains to the future road map of the overall growth of the community, the Organising Committee is pleased to announce a special rate for youth delegates. This is applicable from the age group 16 years to 25 years i.e. individuals born after 26th December 1988 and those born before 26th December 1997. To avail of the special discount, you will need to send us a scanned copy of your age proof on info@wzcmumbai.com OR courier it to us at the office of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet.

Special Registration Fees for persons under 25 years of age:

Indian Delegate: Rs. 5,000 + Rs. 618 service tax per delegate

Foreign Delegate: \$125 + \$16 service tax per delegate

This offer is valid only till July 31, 2013

CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MESSAGE



Dear Community Members:

Our Cemetery Management Committee members are ever ready to assist our community whenever there is death in the family and depending on the availability of the volunteers at that time. These volunteers have provided assistance and guidance at very short notice. The guidelines on dealing with death in a family, which were prepared some time ago, continue to be incorporated in the ZSBC 2012 -2014 Directory pages 46 & 47.

In the past, we have used the facilities at Valley View Funeral Home, Surrey, Hollyburn Funeral Home, West Vancouver, or at Hamilton Harron Funeral Home, Vancouver. There is now another funeral service provider which has been recommended below.

Only Valley View Funeral Home has their own cremation facility on site and also the ZSBC purchased burial plots for those who would like to bury their beloved departed souls.

All the other funeral homes can arrange for the body to be taken to a crematorium or burial ground of the family's choice.

GENERAL

All funeral service providers arrange for the deceased's body to be taken from the place of

death to the funeral home. The funeral home has a hall where the prayer service can take place, and usually some adjoining rooms for the family members to view the body, etc. The funeral home may or may not have burial or crematorium facilities as part of their property.

Valley View Funeral Home, Surrey: Call 604-596-7196.

Hollyburn Funeral Home, West Vancouver: Call 604-922-1221.

Hamilton Harron Funeral Home, Vancouver: Hamilton Harron has been used by us for the longest time possible. Vancouver Crematorium is just across the street from them in the midst of a burial ground. Call 604-325-7441.

An Affordable Cremation, Coquitlam: Another alternative for cremation is now available at An Affordable Cremation and, depending on the requirements of the family; the cost could be lower than those charged by the other facilities mentioned above. For the prayer services, the Burquitlam Funeral Home in Coquitlam is used and the cremation takes place at the Maple Ridge Crematorium. If you wish to have more information on this, please go to www.anaffordablecremation.com or call 604-936-9987. This funeral service provider was recommended to us by a member of our community, and we are grateful to him and his wife for passing on this information to us.

Current members of the Cemetery Management Committee of ZSBC are:

Homi Italia	(604) 438-2076
Behramsha Mizan	(604) 270-4077
Khodarahm Foroughi-Biuki	(604) 204-0654
Bella Tata	(604) 912-0115