Dear ZSBC Community Members,

As I started to write my message, I decided to read my message in the previous newsletter. I can honestly say that I’ve never contemplated and/or experienced an event with such a dramatic impact on how we live and work as the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that you, your loved ones and your colleagues are safe and well.

During the impact of COVID-19, we started a small group of volunteers to help the most vulnerable in our society – the seniors. Since the Province of British Columbia had implemented rules regarding restricted movement and social distancing, the objective of the volunteer group was to deliver essential items such as food and/or medicine. As a community we also did undertake a fund-raising activity to financial assist an apex hospital in their fight against COVID-19. We collected $25,714 and it was well received by Royal Columbian Hospital. Let me thank the volunteers and donors. Since March, all community-based activities have ceased due to COVID-19.

However, we as a community came upon an opportunity – an opportunity that we have patiently waited for over 20 years. The property besides of our existing Darbe Mehr was up for sale. ZSBC along with Arbab Rustom Guiv and the Steering committee went into high gear and put an offer that was difficult for anyone to refuse. The community will get possession on June 19th. Stay tune for more information and details from the Steering Committee.

In these unprecedented times, ZSBC will hold its 52nd AGM virtually online. The date of AGM has not been finalized as yet. The board is finalizing its financial report and will advise the community with appropriate date and time. The details on how the AGM will be conducted virtual can be found in the newsletter.

The future of ZSBC is in the hands of the younger generation, and I sincerely hope and pray that these individuals will come forward to assist and build a strong community. If we all pitched in and worked selflessly, support one another, without motive and expectations, then I am quite certain our community will stand out strong. Our community has great talent within, and we will be able to assist others and ourselves.

Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds and may Lord Ahura Mazda guide us always.

Dineyar Buhariwala
President – ZSBC
Hello Mr. Buhariwala;

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me today. We are incredibly honoured that your society has chosen to make such a tremendous gift to Royal Columbian Hospital. Please share our sincerest gratitude with your members.

As we discussed, we want to ensure that we are directing your gift in a manner that is meaningful for your membership and that supports COVID-19 efforts at Royal Columbian Hospital. While we don’t have an immediate need for personal protective equipment (PPE) or ventilators, there are other equipment needs that will both benefit COVID-19 patients and have long-term benefits at Royal Columbian Hospital. Before the end of the month, I will draft a proposal with some equipment suggestions for you to review and consider – and we can direct your gift accordingly. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you sincerely, Mr. Buhariwala. We are truly inspired by the generosity of our community at this challenging time. Your support means so much. We look forward to celebrating your contribution with your members when we are able to gather again in the future.

Warm Regards,
Jennifer

Jennifer Atkinson, CFRE
Associate Director, Leadership Giving
Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation

**COVID-19 DONATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Name(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donor Name(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our concern for the health and safety of our members, we will not host an in-person AGM this year. Instead, please join us online, as detailed below:

**How do I connect to view the AGM?**
- A few days before AGM, we will send an email to our paid members with links to our ZOOM meeting, along with ZSBC’s audited financial statements.

**How do you know I am a member?**
- The meeting is open to all Zarathushtis residing in BC who are “members in good standing” of ZSBC [those who have paid their 2020-2021 membership fees], will be eligible to vote and participate in the AGM.
- Please send an email to secretary@zsbc.org with your full name and email address to verify if you are a member.
- If you have not paid your membership fees, please do so via PayPal by visiting zsbc.org or sending a cheque to The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia, 6900 Halifax Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2R5. Payment must be received by June 27, 2020.
- The secretary will verify each member's eligibility to participate in the meeting, vote, and ask questions. Those not eligible to participate as members will be blocked from participation.

**How do I ask questions during the AGM?**
- We encourage you to send your questions 2 days prior to the AGM to president@zsbc.org or secretary@zsbc.org.
- These questions will be summarized in topics and an answer will be provided during the AGM.
- All users will be muted in order to reduce background noise.
- You can type your question directly to Dineyar or Aurash in the chatbox during the AGM.

**How will my vote be recorded?**
- During the AGM, (since eligible members will only be allowed to participate in the AGM) you will be asked to vote on several items, including approving the agenda, approving the rules of conduct, and approving audit financial statements and appointment of auditors.

**How will we elect the new ZSBC Board of Directors?**
- To be elected as a Director on the ZSBC Board, you have to be a member in good standing.
- Kindly send the names of people who would like to stand for the board along with your brief bio to president@zdbc.org.
- Voting will be held if more than 7 names are received.

**What kind of computer do I need to participate in the AGM?**
- Virtually any home computer, tablet or mobile phone with an internet browser and a good connection to the internet may be used to participate in the AGM. Most versions of popular internet browsers (e.g. Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Edge, Mozilla Firefox) will work.
After several surveys had been conducted by the ZSBC and Steering Committee over several years, it was determined that the ideal location for a new Darbe Mehr would be at the present location. The property immediately adjacent to the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr, at 1841 Moore Avenue, Burnaby, BC became available after 30 years of waiting and ZSBC along with the Arbab Rostam Guiv Trust purchased the property in May 2020. With this purchase we own a land mass equivalent to three standard city lots providing our community with a variety of development options and potential.

ZSBC held a survey sent out on May 7, 2020, with 91% of votes received overwhelmingly supported the purchase of the 1841 Moore Avenue property in Burnaby (150 YES and 16 NO VOTES).

**Property deal and Finances**

We approached the selling agent of this property on May 3, 2020, who had received 6 offers on the property. We had to work long and hard to come to an agreement with the seller to purchase the property for $1.355 million. The property purchase was finalized eight days later on May 11, 2020, with a down payment of $65,000. Approximately 48% of the $1.355 million is funded by ZSBC ($400,000) and the Arbab Rustam Guiv Trust ($250,000). **We need to have the remaining amount of approx. $750,000** (includes balance payment due + closing costs) **ready by June 16, 2020**, in advance of the closing date for this purchase. **We are hoping that with the generous support from all community members, we can meet the target of $750,000.** We are looking at financing the remaining amount, but the lesser we borrow, the lower the interest that we pay. So, please open up your hearts and wallets.

Our ultimate intent is to fundraise the whole amount of $1.355 million and gradually repay these funds to ZSBC and the ARG Trust, whose coffers will need replenishing. Once that has been accomplished, further funds collected will go toward the rebuilding of the new Darbe Mehr.

Currently, we have received donations and/or pledges above $110,000 so this is a good start.

**Please send your tax deductible donation cheques payable to “ZSBC” at 6900 Halifax St, Burnaby BC, V5B 2R5, Canada; with a note in the memo section mentioning “New ZSBC Darbe Mehr Project.”**

Please contact the BC Zoroastrian Community Steering Committee at newzsbcdbmpr@gmail.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

**BC Zoroastrian Community Steering Committee**

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC)

ZSBC has been awarding scholarships to members’ children who have completed their Higher Secondary School examination or 12th Grade. These scholarships 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 Sunday, September 6, 2020. You are advised to look at the www.zsbc.org website (under Resources) for the application form with criteria.

Mehraban & Paridokht Zartoshty Education Fund Association

These scholarships are offered to Zarathushti students who are legal permanent residents of BC and are enrolled to study in the second or subsequent year in a technical institution, college or university in Canada or the United States. Also, offered to those who are not permanent residents of BC, but have enrolled to study in the second or subsequent year in a technical institution, college or university in British Columbia. The closing date for applications is Saturday, August 29, 2020. You are advised to look at the http://ancientiran.com website for the criteria and application form, plus other details.

FEZANA Scholarships

Applications are open for all the FEZANA Scholarships. FEZANA gives scholarships in various areas such as in academics, performing and creative arts, sports, religious education, and culinary arts. Get more details at https://fezana.org/scholarships/

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Zeyus Spenta on the award of 1ST Prize for the FEZANA/CZC 2020 Essay Contest. The Topic: "In your opinion what are the qualities of a good leader? Compare it to what the Gathas teach us about being a good leader."

We are very happy that you have received this award and made the ZSBC Z-CLASS proud of you.

We encourage you and all the young Zarathushtis of ZSBC to take interest in our Religion Education, attend the Z-classes and participate in such community contests and activities.
PRAYER BOOKS

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla has re-published a small prayer book "MAZDA - YASNA" "My Little Prayer Book" printed in Roman script with an added English Translation in loving memory of his dear wife Late Villoo Cyrus Poonawalla for FREE distribution within the Zoroastrian community.

This Little Prayer Book is specially re-printed for our young children & youth and those unable to pray from the Gujarati Prayer Books, to sincerely make an attempt to recite the Zoroastrian Prayers with understanding and true faith.

The Book has been widely distributed to cover maximum Parsi Zoroastrian Children within our Community across India and is well appreciated. In fact, quite a few overseas residents and some associations have arranged to get their small requirement picked up through their friends and relatives in India.

Should your Federation and the Associations under your umbrella be interested, kindly request each of these associations to revert with their required quantity along with the complete postal address and contact person, and we shall be pleased to arrange sending the books as soon as we can.

You may email Sarosh at sarosh.bokdawalla@seruminstitute.com and indicate the quantity of books you would like to order for your association. Please note that this offer is ONLY for member associations and not for individual requests. The books are offered free and the shipping shall be covered by the Serum Institute.

SPECIAL THANKS

The ZSBC Board of Directors would like to thank Mr. Narius K. Dastur who has setup and maintained the zsbc.org website. It is volunteers like him who quietly work behind the scenes without any desire for recognition, but who deserves the entire community’s most sincere gratitude. Thank you, Narius!
The following below is a message from Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali:

COVID-19 has turned our lives upside down. People all over the world are suffering medically, physically, emotionally and financially. The need is greater than ever before.

These past months, the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital (PGH) has helped many patients but experienced great hardships. On March 26, one patient was diagnosed COVID positive at PGH and transferred the patient to Kasturba Hospital. Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) stopped all admissions and shut down the hospital until April 20th. When the shutdown started half the staff went home and did not return. PGH now keeps 160 employees at the hospital covering their boarding and lodging. Staff are working in two shifts, double the normal rate for the second shift, and overtime. Like other hospitals, PGH pays gratia to all nurses and doctors on payroll, as well as RMOs, maintenance crew, security staff, and electricians. The additional expenditure for past two months is around Rs. 2 Crores ($267,000 approx.) All staff require Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Cost of one PPE is Rs 1,200 ($16 approx.) which is a one-time use. The PPEs and other equipment has cost the hospital Rs. 1 crore ($133,000 approx) thus far. **PGH’s financial needs during the global pandemic are greater than ever!**

PGH reopened on April 20th, but it is not back to normal. They have managed to take care of all emergencies and performed few surgeries. Two caesarean section deliveries were performed after a long time at the hospital and, happily, both the mothers and infants went home in good health.

There is a tremendous pressure on the hospital from BMC to hand over the hospital partially or fully and discharge all the existing patients so it can be converted into a quarantine center for COVID-19 patients. Many of the patients are old, fragile, single and in financial hardship and the hospital is trying its best to stall. PGH has created its own Isolation ward and a step-down ICU to accommodate Zoroastrian patients who have not been tested for COVID-19.

In honor of PGH, we will hold our annual jashan virtually on **Saturday, June 27th, from New York Dar-e-Mehr!** Those who wish to tune-in, kindly send us an email and we will gladly forward the link.

What can you do? **Please send your donations made payable to ZAGNY - Critical Assistance Fund in the memo enter PGH and mail the checks to us at the address given below.** You can also make the payments on ZAGNY website [www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org). This appeal is sent once a year but the fundraiser is open throughout the year. Given the tremendous need, we want to send the funds out ASAP - no later than Parsee New Year. Every donation irrespective of the amount is very much appreciated by the hospital. **We hope you will reach deeper into your pockets and give more to assist PGH’s health care in this global crisis.**

Last year we collected and sent $ 36,000/- to the hospital. Thank you very much for your generous donations. We thank our friends from USA and Canada for your tremendous support, encouragement and generous donations for a very worthy cause - taking care of our sick and needy. Please do visit their revamped website [http://bdpettiparseegeneralhospital.org](http://bdpettiparseegeneralhospital.org) - some of the recent testimonials from patients and relatives will warm your hearts.

Ushta te,

Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali
2686 Belcher St.
Baldwin, NY 11510- 3937
516-378-4516; ghad@optonline.net
Our beloved long-time volunteer Bella Tata and her husband, Farrok Namdaran, along with her sister Zarine Dastur and husband Nantu J. Dastur have provided a very generous donation of advanced telecommunications systems to the St. Paul’s hospital. This generous donation has given the hospital an advantage in enhancing its teaching abilities and sharing of information to 300 other hospitals throughout Canada during a time when social-distancing and inter-provincial transportation is very restricted.

Bella Tata is an outstanding volunteer, who has served for decades for ZSBC, FEZANA, The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, West Vancouver Community Centre, and St. Paul’s Hospital to name a few. We are very fortunate and blessed to have a lovely volunteer like her with us.

**CONDOLENCES**

Directors of The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia regret to inform you that the following individuals have passed away:

**Dolly Rustom Patel** age 94 passed away on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 in Vancouver.
She is the wife of late Rustom Patel, mother of late Cherag Patel and Villoo Balsara of Vancouver, mother-in-law of Pesi Balsara, and grandmother of Yazdi Balsara.

**Jehangir Tehmurasp Parakh** age 87 passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2020 in Richmond, BC
Husband of Rita, father of Eddie and Neville, father-in-law of Nazneen and Mehernaz, grandfather of Iyana and brother of Gulnar Karanjia (of Mumbai)

**Aflatoon Sohrabi** passed away on March 23rd, 2020 after a long battle with COVID19. He was the son of Noshirvan Felfeli and Homayoun Falahati, and husband of Mahvash Namdarian.
Aflatoon was born in 1947 in Yazd, Iran. He was the father of Nasim, Navid, Arash and Afroz, father-in-law of Dariush Farazmehr, Azadeh Namiranian, Ramtin Shahriyari, grandfather of Yasna, Aria and Deeba, and brother of Parichehr, Parvin and Manouchehr.

**Ms. Zenobia Batliwalla,** 42 years old; daughter of Late Shavar Batliwalla,
Mrs. Doli Batliwalla, sister of Darius Batliwalla, sister-in-law of Zia Batliwalla; in Mumbai on March 26th, 2020. She will be deeply missed by her family.

Our deepest condolences go out to all of the family members and friends of the above-mentioned individuals.
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 2018

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<tr>
<td>Full-time student (18 years and over and not working)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals (18 years and over, even those living with parents)</td>
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Our Board of Directors is always 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 the 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 for at least 3 years and who have become Canadian Citizens to apply for Canadian Citizenship and passport.

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 the ZSBC newsletter will be highly appreciated.
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

Donations for the New Darbe Mehr are not being announced in this newsletter but we are very thankful to these donors!

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

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<th>Amount</th>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Ruby Batliwalla</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>Adi/Homai Wadia</td>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, activities held by ZSBC have been suspended since March 2020 and continue to remain suspended until we receive further guidance from our provincial and federal health authorities.

SENIOR’S DAY

Ms. Berjdis Bahrami continues to conduct her fitness classes for the seniors via zoom every Sunday from 11am to 12 noon during the pandemic. To learn how to join, please email Ms. Bahrami at berdjjsb@gmail.com. The ZSBC Board of Directors would like to thank her for her long-time service with the community.