

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Good evening dear members.

I welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of the Karachi Zarthosti Banu Mandal.

As we complete 105 years of this organization, I am humbled, and at the same time in awe of all the grand ladies whose foresight combined with sheer grit and dedication has made it possible for us to follow in their footsteps today and carry on with the "Seva anay Sakhawat", our motto and aphorism.

As the community is dwindling fast in Karachi and young people are migrating to greener pastures, the ones that are left behind is our aging community with health issues.

In January 2017, with the assistance of the BMH Parsi General Hospital and under the able guidance of Dr. Cyasp Noshirwani, we introduced the Stay Healthy Initiative, Phase I. During one such initiative of breast cancer screening which was done in collaboration with AKU, some of our community ladies were detected with lumps in their breasts. Their treatment is going on. We at KZBM are going to launch Phase II of the Stay Healthy Initiative, where bone density, Vitamin D screening and much more will be done. Applications for Flu vaccines for age group 60 and above will go on till the end of December 2017. With the Stay Healthy Initiative we are doing our best to address the main health issues as the community members age. In spite of this, a few of our community members do go through serious illnesses and again, I stress upon the fact that we are blessed to be Zoroastrians and look after our own and have helped a *hamdin* out recently. We wish him speedy recovery.

Arman House is working to near full capacity and I would be remiss if I do not take this opportunity to thank some of the members of the Managing Committee who are looking after the welfare of the inhabitants and the home itself. Meher Cawasji, Roshan Mehri, Spenta Khambatta and Perinbanu Virji give their time and energy and are totally dedicated.

Thank you to Meher Doctor, who for health reasons is not helping out presently at the home. But Seema Irani and Phiroza Birdie have stepped up. Thank you all for the generosity of your time and energy. While on this subject, a special thank you to Dr. Arish Virji who visits the Arman House every Monday, without fail. He can be approached at any time of the day and night for consultation.

Thank you Dr. Virji and bless you! We would like to thank Sohrab Giara on helping the ladies out in managing the day to day affairs of the Arman House. We are grateful to the Trustees of the Feroze and Shernaz Bhandara Charitable Trust and all donors for helping us out at the Arman House.

For Higher Education the loan amount has been increased so as to facilitate the students and keeping up with the growing costs of education.

On the occasion of its 30th Anniversary, KZBM sent a message to FEZANA. On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of Independence of our country, BBC Urdu made a short documentary where the working of the KZBM was highlighted.

Dear Members, I would like to draw your attention towards a dearth of workers for our Rehabilitation Subcommittee. We approached the young ladies of our community to learn the art of stitching *sudras*. Our workers are willing to teach. So if anyone is interested kindly get in touch with Nilofer Noshirwani.

I would like to thank all the Chairpersons who head the Subcommittees for working diligently throughout the year.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

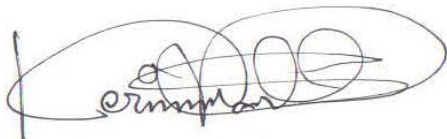
Two wonderful persons we lost recently had greatness ***within*** them.

Our dear Perin Julian Dinshaw, who was not only a philanthropist but a great well - wisher of the community. Our dear Rustom (Chum) Khursigara, who gave his time and energy again and again for KZBM.

Let us bow our heads in gratitude for having had the honour of knowing them.

May their souls rest in peace. Ameen!

Thank you.



Kermin Soli Parakh
President
6th November 2017