

## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Dear Ladies! I welcome you all.

2020 has most certainly been a different year. I would not be wrong when I say that it has been a difficult year for all humanity. Someone shared with me a message on WhatsApp:

*“There is a reason why perfect vision is called 20/20 vision. 2020 is the year that all is being revealed for those who have EYES TO SEE”.*

Indeed, so!

We have been shown that **hygiene** is of utmost importance.

**Cleanliness** must not be taken lightly.

**Mother nature**, and taking her for granted, is unacceptable.

**Climate change** is real and not a hoax, as some world leaders would have us believe.

The world has been shaken up by the virus called COVID-19. With 1.3 million deaths worldwide, 55 million infectious people worldwide and still counting, the whole of humanity is waiting with abated breath for a vaccine and its effectiveness.

Our minuscule community in Karachi was also not spared. All throughout April and to date, we have been inundated with COVID-19 cases and some unfortunate COVID related deaths too. I must applaud the Medical Subcommittee, ably handled by Dr. Bakhtawar Rabadi for their compassion and care. Even during the COVID peaks, Dr. Rabadi has made personal visits to the patients and their families seeking their well-being. Not only were their medical needs looked after by KZBM but, all were provided with support staff, meals, home and hospital care.

So, our gracious thanks to the Welfare Subcommittee for supporting the Medical Subcommittee with every day comfort, food and general assistance to all the family members, whose loved ones were and are affected by COVID.

It is heartening to mention here that, to-date, no member of our Arman House has been infected with COVID-19. We are grateful to the Arman House team for such care. Kudos to Meher Cawasji and her day to day, if not hour to hour, management of the elderly, the support staff and the amenities at the House.

During these difficult times the Rehabilitation Subcommittee has kept the Mandal doors open now and then to facilitate the buyers and encourage our ladies to sew.

We have also managed to connect our children in Karachi via internet to other Zoroastrians all over the world for some activities. It is heartening to note that Child Chapter has made it possible to keep the children busy during the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic we have not been able to have our monthly programmes, organized by the Programme Subcommittee however, we did manage a befitting *Maan Patra* in November, 2019 for the ladies who have served the Mandal with zeal and fervor.

To put on record, I wish to reiterate that all dues that KZBM owes the KPCHS are regularly being paid by us. The Mandal believes that *“Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance.”*

I take the opportunity to thank Trustees of the Hommie and Jamshed Nusserwanjee Charitable Trust, the Rajkotwalla Trust, Mehroo and Noshir Soparivala Endowment Fund, the Kandawalla Trust, the S & F Bhandara Trust and Friends' Medical Helpline for their regular support in our endeavors of helping the Mandal. Their generous assistance towards the needs of our community is highly appreciated as has made our financial burden a bit lighter.

I also thank my team for their support and sagacity in dealing with matters of KZBM, the six Subcommittees and all the ladies who are silent workers behind the scene.

**GIVING IS NOT ABOUT MAKING A DONATION; IT IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

Thank you all for being that wonderful change and making a difference.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Kermin Soli Parakh'.

Kermin Soli Parakh

President

15 November 2020