

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Banus!

A very warm welcome to you all. Another year has passed for the whole world under the gloomy clouds of COVID-19. Yet we need to be thankful that vaccination commenced all over the world from January 2021 and is continuing, therefore giving a glimmer of hope to humanity. We have to be grateful that with many vaccinated, we could see the end of the pandemic soon.

I take this opportunity to thank all those in our community who engaged many *humdins*, took them to vaccination centers, promoted a vaccination drive and had them administered to many who could not manage on their own. All those who did it on their own – kudos to you.

As Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations has rightly said:

“We are in this together – and we will get through this, together.”

The 109th Annual Report and accounts are being shared with you, and here we are meeting on this forum after a big gap. This is indeed heartening.

In the meantime, let us take a moment to bow our heads in gratitude for all those in our tiny community, who came out of this terrible disease and also bow our heads in a small prayer for those who were taken away so early from us by this disease. May Ahura Mazda Bless our community and keep us safe.

Dear Ladies, healthcare has become a pressing issue for all with rising prices of medicines etc. and the aging community we have now. KZBM endeavours to do its best to help out our *humdins*. Besides financial assistance, KZBM has also looked into hospitalization, day and night care, meals, medicines and other medical care. This would not have been possible without the continuous and steadfast support of our generous donors.

My gratitude to the six Subcommittees for working tirelessly for the community. Keeping the pandemic situation in mind, all meetings have been held virtually and all work is ongoing.

My sincere thanks to Feroze and Shernaz Bhandara Trust, The Cowasjee Foundation, Sir Jehangir Kothani Trust, Sir Eduljee Dinshaw Trust, Nargise and Munchershaw Bejonji Vakharia Trust and private donors for assisting us as always.

This year three of our Subcommittee members have reached the age of 70 and are therefore retiring.

Jesmin Jamshed Chowna joined KZBM's Child Chapter (formerly called Child Welfare) in the mid 1980s and has served the Subcommittee for more than three decades. She has been the focal person in Parsi Colony to buy tickets, for many of the Mandal functions. Jesmin, I thank you for your "Sewa anay Sakhawat".

Dilshad Aspi Irani joined KZBM Programme Subcommittee twenty years ago under Nawaz Aga and later she took over as the Programme Chairperson in 2015 after Nawaz Aga retired. Dilshad, thank you for all the great programmes you and your Subcommittee have organized for the community for many, many years. Your love and enthusiasm have been reflected in each programme that brought smiles and happiness on the faces of those who attended.

Meherangiz Shahveer Byramji, lovingly known as "Merang" to all, has worked with the Programme Subcommittee for five years. She has been a fun member and on retiring says that "young blood and young guns need to take over as they are doing a great job".

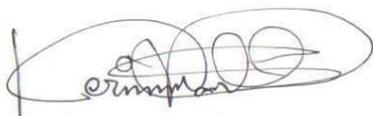
We will dearly miss Spenta Faramerz Khambatta who has resigned as the Chairperson of the Welfare Subcommittee. Spenta joined the Welfare in 2004 after the demise of her beloved mother Zarin Wania on the insistence of Julie Anklesaria. She became the Chairperson Welfare in November 2006 after Julie Aunty retired. She has selflessly served the KZBM for 17 years. We wish her happy days ahead with her family and especially with her daughter.

J.R.R Tolkien said:

"Still round the corner, there may wait, a new road or a secret gate"

Let us hope and pray for better days and better times for the whole of humanity.

Thank you



Kermin Soli Parakh
President

27 October 2021