



JOURNAL

Vol. 1, No. 1, SEPTEMBER 1988

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

FEZANA JOURNAL is a periodical designed particularly to satisfy a fundamental need - that of disseminating information from the Zoroastrian to the Zoroastrian. History is a relation of incidents in continuity of time. This often relates to a particular people.

This periodical, we believe, will evolve from a foundation of mutual trust and respect, for assimilation of information about the global progress of the 'Zoroastrian People', of this continent.

This record shall be as accurate, objective, and unbiased as it is humanly possible. It shall be done in a manner so as to capture and captivate the 'Spirit of Asha' that pervades through the revelations of our beloved prophet Zarathushtra, and be disseminated in the same spirit to bring enlightenment to the adherents.

JEHAN BAGLI
EDITOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A chair of learning will be sponsored by Bombay Parsee Panchayat at the University of Bombay, in memory of late Dasturji Navroz Dinshaw Minocher-Homji.
2. Next World Zoroastrian Congress is being planned for January 1990 in Bombay, India.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FELLOW ZOROASTRIANS AND FRIENDS:

In the course of history, when a common purpose is self evident to groups of people, an organization is formed. In the 50 years that Zoroastrians have settled in North America, our community has grown in numbers. Our community has come of age and matured. And our community has prospered. We are proud to say, that across the United States and Canada, we now have 17 registered Zoroastrian Associations and 6 Darbe Mehrs. But with this growth, came the need to coordinate our efforts. There came the need to pool our resources. There came the need to work together, in unity, on common concerns and common goals. And so it was, that the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, or FEZANA was born.

Our success in North America is in your hands. Given our tremendous potential, there is nothing that can impede our progress, except three worst enemies: ATTRITION, INTERNAL DISSENSION and APATHY.

The gradual decline in our numbers due to ATTRITION in the old countries has reached alarming proportions. It is my suspicion that we in North America are not entirely immune. An examination of our demographics will, in all probability reveal a reproductive rate less than what is necessary to maintain our numbers. Self preservation is all important. This responsibility is not clearly understood. We must recognize that each one of us shoulders an awesome responsibility. A responsibility for the continuance of our faith, which has given so much to humanity. Each and every single living Zoroastrian bears this burden.

INTERNAL DISSENSIONS are disastrous. There are no outside forces battering down upon us. We live in countries that provide the greatest religious freedom. The dangers are from within. We should develop a common goal and direction. We should work steadfastly together, in a spirit of mutual respect and comradarie, with COOPERATION NOT CONFRONTATION.

Our third major concern is APATHY, a legacy of the past. Perhaps it may have been a formula for survival in the old countries, but not anymore. We have to step out of it, or else apathy will consume us. We have no natural leaders. We have no hierarchical church structures, we have no Pope to lead us. We have to lead ourselves. If we are to progress, you must break your long silence. You must make your voices heard. FEZANA gives you the platform and the voice to make your wishes known. Get involved.

The goal of FEZANA is to draw upon the very best talents and resources from among the Zoroastrians of North America, and to coordinate and channel this potential productively, towards a Zoroastrian Renaissance. There is tremendous potential in our people. We have a power house of almost 10,000 intelligent, resourceful Zoroastrian individuals in North America. This human resource is like a dormant volcano, but it rumbles from time to time. All that energy is just waiting to be unleashed.

We have a tremendous potential in our people. And FEZANA is our effort to channel that resource. FEZANA will grow and nourish if you make it so. Without your support, it will be for nothing. We have work to do. In our lifetime, in your lifetime, we have to build a strong foundation. Just as we have done in our mother countries, so also, we have to build a base here such that one day the word ZOROASTRIAN in North America will be synonymous with Goodness, Integrity, Industry and Charity. Our faith in Ahura Mazda is our guarantee that it will be so.

DONATIONS TO FEZANA

Our first donation came from none other than Jim Jagus of Pittsburgh. Our sincere thanks to Jim and his family for such a generous donation.

The annual dues receivable from each association are a fixed amount of \$25 or \$50 plus \$1.00 per individual paid-up member of the association. These monies will add up to about \$3,000.00 annually.

This hardly provides the financial basis needed for the great array of actions planned by the Federation. Our Treasurer, Framroze Patel and the Chairperson for the Funds and Finance Committee, Ms. Kamal Tangra will shortly initiate a campaign for mobilizing finances. Please respond generously to their efforts.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT K.R. CAMA ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The K.R. Cama Oriental Institute is venturing on its First International Congress which is to be held from January 5-8, 1989, in Bombay, India. The scope of this Congress is Indo-Iranian Historical and Cultural Studies. Nearly thirty scholars from India and abroad are expected to contribute papers and attend. The fields covered, will be archeology, numismatics, art, architecture, language, mythology, religion, philosophy, and history up to the 18th Century.

In an effort to mobilize financial resources, the Institute invites donations and sponsorship. Your check should be made out to:

K.R. Cama Oriental Institute-International Congress

Address: 136, Bombay Samachar Marg
Fort, Bombay 400023

In June 1987, FEZANA was incorporated as a not-for-profit religious organization; dues were collected; and the election of officers ensued. The elected Officers serve as administrators and executors. They have no voting rights. They are the Executive branch. The power of decision lies, not at the top, but at the base. The power lies in each and every one of you, through your Associations. Each Member Association is allocated from 1 to 5 votes depending on the size of its membership. Votes may be turned in as percentages, to reflect the true wishes of its individual members. Each and every one of you has a voice, and each and every one of you will set the direction for FEZANA. The objectives of FEZANA are realized through the Committees. FEZANA has currently defined 9 Committees, but additional Committees will be formed as needed.

The committee and the corresponding chairperson are as follows:

- 1) Coordination and Planning - Mr. Homi Homji (CANADA).
- 2) Zoroastrian Unity and Welfare - Mr. Kaemarz Dotiwala (USA).
- 3) Information Receiving and Dissemination/Journal - Dr. Jehan Bagli (USA).
- 4) Funds and Finance - Ms. Kamal Tengra (USA).
- 5) Census and Survey - Mr. Farrokh Dastur (USA).
- 6) Youth - Mr. Darius Captain (USA).
- 7) Education, Conference and Scholarship - Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani (USA).
- 8) North American Zoroastrian Congress - Mr. Sam Vesuna (CANADA).
- 9) Service to small groups of N. American Zoroastrians - Mr. Firdosh Mehta (CANADA).

It is critical that we channel this energy, and work with a single-mindedness of purpose to achieve our goals. We need to build a sound organizational structure, so we can work in teams, across the communities, for the collective good. It is our hope that FEZANA will provide the support structure to facilitate the work that lies ahead.

Let us resolve to stand united. Let us resolve to work in a spirit of COOPERATION NOT CONFRONTATION. Let us resolve to proceed with mutual trust and respect. Let us resolve to make our decisions today based on issues not personalities.

ROHINTON RIVETNA

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

FEZANA IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF THE ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON TO HOST THE SEVENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS IN 1990.

WANTED A HOST ASSOCIATION

The Zoroastrian Association of British Columbia has regrettably declined to hold the 1989 Youth Congress in Vancouver. So FEZANA is looking for another host Association! If any one of our Member Associations would be interested and willing to host such a Congress next year, please contact Mrs. Dolly Dastoor (3765 Malo Street, Brossard, P.Q. J4Y 1B4; telephone: (514) 656-2036).

A ZOROASTRIAN CENTRE IN WASHINGTON

Zoroastrians in Washington have begun to feel the need for a Darbe Mehr and the dedication and determination of the community will very well see this need realized. It deserves the attention of all North American Zoroastrians - a Darbe Mehr in Washington could well become a "national" place of pilgrimage and worship - and gives us an opportunity to pool in our resources and work towards achieving this objective.

In Washington Zoroastrians we have an unusual blend of extremely talented and young energetic persons, and even though they are such a small group - about 100 - their activities rival most of the other associations. A Darbe Mehr would then become the focal point of this vital community. They have both the potential and the ability to make this happen. The immediate need is to purchase a property but estimates run high, between \$65,000 and \$85,000 for land only. It is remarkable that the Association has been able to collect \$40,000 so far from its small membership, but this is hardly sufficient to fund such a major undertaking.

Since at the last North American Zoroastrian Congress held in Toronto, April 1988, special mention was made by a number of speakers about the need for a Darbe Mehr in Washington, and the idea was well received, FEZANA has adopted it as one of its action items. And in doing so this has become a North American

Zoroastrian project and any contribution and support from individuals or member associations will be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

So far suggestions received relate mostly to the design of the building — with a central "Goombez" in the true Zoroastrian model and a visitor's gallery with Zoroastrian artifacts on display. But if you have any other thoughts or suggestions on helping the Association see this project to completion, please communicate them either to FEZANA or to the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, 4524 Weyburn Drive, Annandale, VA 22003, U. S. A. Let us all help the Washington Zoroastrians see the realization of their dream.

A PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS

A Council for a Parliament of World Religions has recently been formed as an interfaith group to prepare for a Parliament of World Religions to be held in 1993 to commemorate and extend the principles of the original Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893! The Council hopes to promote an awareness of the original Parliament and to broaden the spirit of harmony among all religions.

At the 1893 Parliament, Zoroastrians were well represented: Miss Sorabji read Jivanji Modi's "The Religious System of the Parsees," and Ervad Sheriarji Dadabhai Bharucha, a Zoroastrian scholar, presented a paper to the Congress entitled "A Brief Sketch of the Zoroastrian Religion and Customs."

It is interesting to note that the Charter of this organization is very similar to that of FEZANA, and that both Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna are very active in the organization of this Parliament, which promises to play a crucial role in the interfaith dialogue between the East and the West.

As recommended by FEZANA's Annual General Meeting (April 1, 1988) Mr. Rivetna will represent FEZANA on the planning committee and attend the celebrations on our behalf.

FEZANA'S FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FEZANA's first Annual General Meeting was held in Toronto, Ontario, on April 1, 1988, in conjunction with the Sixth North American Zoroastrian Congress sponsored by the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario. The following member associations were represented at the meeting:

Zoroastrian Association of Alberta
Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston
Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia
Zoroastrian Association of California
California Zoroastrian Centre
Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California
Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Zoroastrian Association of Houston
Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York
Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania
Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and
New Jersey
Zoroastrian Association of Quebec
Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington

Mr. Rohinton Rivetna in his welcome address called for a united approach towards common concerns and responsibilities and hoped that by working together harmoniously and with mutual trust wise decisions would be taken and that FEZANA's support structure would facilitate the work that lies ahead. He described FEZANA's organizational structure and stressed the important role its various standing committees would play in furthering FEZANA's goal. He then announced and introduced the five elected Executive Officers of FEZANA:

Mr. Rohinton Rivetna (Chicago) PRESIDENT
Mr. Homi Homji (Ontario) VICE PRESIDENT
Mr. Freddy Patel (New York) TREASURER
Mrs. Dolly Dastoor (Quebec) SECRETARY
Miss Sabar Balsara (Ontario) ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Delegates of member associations introduced themselves and their delegations and read messages from their associations.

Since the Treasurer, Mr. Freddy Patel, was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Rivetna presented the statement of accounts and receipts up to April 1, 1988. The meeting agreed that FEZANA's fiscal year end on March 31, and that membership fees for 1988 be called for now from member associations. The Treasurer's report was duly adopted: proposed by Ness Lakdawalla (Quebec) and seconded by Firdosh Mehta (Alberta).

The meeting discussed the slate of Standing Committees as proposed by the President. Some discussion followed: questions were asked about "small groups," the function of the proposed Advisory Committee, and the general appointing and forming of such committees. The President explained that he had the power to appoint ad hoc committees. However, the meeting felt that the work of such committees should not overlap with the work of individual associations. It was also agreed that the Conference of Mobeds should not be a part of FEZANA's standing committees. In a motion proposed by Ness Lakdawalla (Quebec) and seconded by Sam Vesuna (Ontario) the slate of committees proposed (without the Seminary Project ad hoc committee and the Advisory Committee) was accepted.

The Charters (Terms of Reference) of the various Standing Committees were then reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that all Committee Charters, together with budget estimates, reach FEZANA by May 1, after which the Executive Officers would discern any overlaps in them. It was also recommended that the guidelines be broadbased objectives and not detailed functions and that they be reviewed each year.

A suggestion that a Council of Elders be created was also discussed. It was agreed that such "elders" be invited to help and guide and act as resource persons.

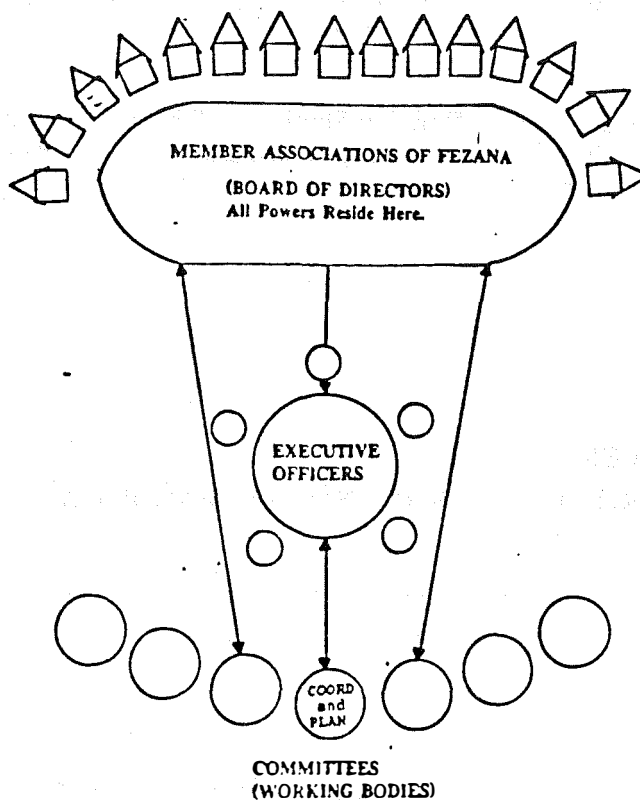
The Conveners of the Special Interest Groups -- Yezdi Antia for the Mobeds Group and Putli Mirza and Jaloo Cooper for the Religious Education Group presented a brief report of their discussions to the meeting.

FEZANA's next Annual General Meeting would be held in 1989, and Montreal and Edmonton were suggested as possible venues.

NOTE: The invitation of the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec has since been accepted and the second Annual General Meeting is therefore scheduled for the Easter weekend, March 24-26, 1989, in Montreal, Quebec.

A Conference of Mobeds of North America is also being planned at the same time as the Annual General Meeting (March 24-26, 1989) in Montreal, Quebec. In the meanwhile, member associations are urged to submit to FEZANA the names and addresses of Mobeds residing in their area. Every effort will be made to reach all Mobeds in North America for their views, thoughts and recommendations. It is hoped that such Conferences of Mobeds will eventually become a continuing and permanent feature. More information of this Conference will be forthcoming.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FEZANA



HISTORY AND STRUCTURE OF FEZANA

The thought had been brewing for many years. Our visionary colleagues Dr. Jehan Bagli, Homi Homji, and Lovji Cama have each laid the groundwork for such an umbrella organization. The final impetus was provided at the Fifth North American Zoroastrian Congress, in Los Angeles, on September 2, 1985, when Farangis Shahrokh, with her characteristic foresight, proposed the formation of the Federation to the assembly of over 400 Zoroastrians present. The proposal was accepted by an over-whelming majority of the assembly, and the mandate to write the Constitution and to coordinate the formation of the Federation, was given to Mr. Rohinton Rivetna.

In November 1985, an early draft of the Constitution was prepared. The Constitution went through several iterations, culminating in the 3-day "Constitution Convention" held in Chicago, in May, 1986. The final version dated November 15, 1986 was accepted, and signed by 16 of the 17 Associations of North America.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION TO VISIT A DARBE-MEHR

Plans are being geared into place for the members of the American Academy of Religion to visit the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe-Mehr at Hinsdale during the Annual Meeting (12-22 November) to be held in Chicago.

The Zoroastrian and Iranian Religion Seminar will have as its focus - : "The Interpretations of the Gathas". Auditors are welcome and may register for that one day of the AAR Sessions. Interested Zoroastrians in the vicinity may attend the meeting of that program unit.

TO THE EXECUTIVES

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

It is of utmost importance to initiate a uniform system of recording marriage, navjote and funeral ceremonies on this continent. This record shall be of immense utility for posterity.

Enclosed herewith are three forms suggested for these occasions. Please make copies of these forms or their equivalent available to all the practicing mobeds in your respective area.

Copies of these documents duly completed should be mailed to the Chairman of Census and Survey Committee of FEZANA:

Mr. Farrokh Dastur
452 S. Saltair Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90049 U.S.A.



EDITOR: Jehan Bagli (New Jersey, U.S.A.)

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

Dolly Dastoor (Quebec, Canada)

Sabar Balsara (Ontario, Canada)

Aspy Deboo (Illinois, U.S.A.)

Ali Jafarrey (California, U.S.A.)

FINANCE: Gev Kerkeria (Quebec, Canada)

Published for FEZANA at

P.O. Box 35, Station Beaconsfield

Beaconsfield, P.Q. H9W 5T6

NAVJOTE FORM

NAME OF CHILD:_____

NAME OF PARENTS:_____

FATHER

MOTHER

RELIGION: FATHER_____

MOTHER-----

AGE OF CHILD:_____

DATE OF BIRTH:_____

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIATING

MOBED:-----

DATE:-----

PLACE:-----

MARRIAGE FORM

FIRST

MIDDLE

LAST

NAME: WIFE (MAIDEN)_____

ADDRESS:_____

HUSBAND_____

ADDRESS:_____

DATE OF ENTRY IN USA: WIFE:_____ **HUSBAND:**_____

DATE OF BIRTH: WIFE:_____ **HUSBAND:**_____

DATE OF MARRIAGE:_____

RELIGION: WIFE_____ **HUSBAND**_____

SIGNATURE:

WIFE:_____ **SIGNATURE OF:**_____

OFFICIATING MOBED

HUSBAND:_____ **DATE:**_____

PLACE:_____

FUNERAL FORM

NAME OF DECEASED: _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

AGE: _____

CAUSE OF DEMISE: _____

NAME(S) OF NEXT OF KIN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIATING

MOBED _____

DATE _____

PLACE _____

