


FEZANA JOURNAL



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THE SEVENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS, HOUSTON, TEXAS, 1990

One way to assess the last North American Zoroastrian Congress is to seek out how it differed from previous North American Congresses. There is no doubt at all that the Seventh Congress held in Houston, the fourth largest city of the United States, from August 31 to September 3, 1990, was innovatively different. The organization of the Congress and its programme, which included not only religious but also social and economic aspects of the Zoroastrian community, was skilfully orchestrated under the able guidance of Dr. Farrokh Mistree, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Houston. It was the first time that a Jashan ceremony, a parent-child dialogue, a session on the status of Zoroastrian women, and a business network were part of a Congress programme. Zoroastrians of Houston, rated by some as a 'traditionalist group' had as the original theme of the Congress "ZARATHUSHTI: MY PAST - OUR OUR FUTURE." To this title was later added: "The Unification Congress."

The opening session of the Congress commenced with an invocation by Dastur Firoz Kotwal, followed by messages of greetings from Meherwan Boyce (Chairman of the Congress), Aaron Rustom, (representing the youth), and Rohinton Rivetna (representing FEZANA). At this time, Dolly Dastoor, FEZANA's secretary, presented a Certificate of Achievement to Dr. Boyce and the Houston Zoroastrians for the tremendous zeal and effort put into hosting this Congress.

This was followed by an unprecedented event - with a strong traditional flavour - the lighting of Divas. Four Divas (oil lamps) were lit by four ladies, three of them representing the Past, the Present and the Future, depicted by their age group, and the fourth diva was lit by the chairperson of FEZANA's Congress Sub-Committee.

The four-hour marathon session which followed was highlighted by discussions on "Zoroastrianism and Other Religions." The session was chaired by Kaikhosrov Irani, and included six internationally recognized speakers, viz., Khojeste Mistree, James Russell, Alan Williams, Jamshed Choksy, Ali Jaffarey and Farhang Mehr. In their talks they elaborated on the parallels and dissimilarities in the doctrines, scriptures and philosophy of Zoroastrianism and Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Baha'ism.

The afternoon session on "Zoroastrian Demography, Beliefs, Identity and Unification in North America" focussed on helping to understand the present, so that we can prepare for the future. The session was chaired by Dr. Farhang Mehr and the speakers were Homi Homji, Dina McIntrye and Kersey Antia. They addressed the Congress on "Demography and Unification," "Search of our Roots," and "Universality of Zoroaster's Message," respectively. The decline in our

numbers in India has caused great concern; however, in Iran, numbers have actually increased. It is quite conceivable that in the future the focus on Zoroastrianism may shift from India to North America and FEZANA may then provide a World Zoroastrian Democratic Leadership. A balance between the doctrine, the Gathas, and the rituals has been a topic of discussion, particularly in North America, for a period of time. This was discussed again and it was noticed that while we can draw nourishment from the Gathas, for successful and productive lives in North America, rituals and reason which are not mutually exclusive are complementary aspects of the human experience each with its part to play in nurturing the religious needs of the community. The universal message of Zarathushtra stressed its relevance to modern times, indeed to all times. There is nothing in the Gathas that is contrary to contemporary thinking.

"Our Present and Future in North America" was another session, unprecedented in earlier congresses. This consisted of a dialogue between the parent and child and was perhaps the most popular of the entire programme. The session was chaired by Minoo Treasurywala, a veteran communicator between the young and the old, and who has recently put in a great deal of effort to harmonize the youth and adult groups at the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario. The focus of this session was the perception of the Zoroastrian way of life by the two generations. Five parent-child teams participated in this session: two from Houston, one from Chicago, one from Quebec, and one from California.

The second day of the Congress commenced with an emphasis on ritual. A Jashan ceremony was performed in which some twenty mobeds from all over North America participated. It was quite a spiritual experience for all those present. This was followed by a session devoted to 'Zarthoshti Women: Past, Present and Future.' The session was directed at highlighting the contribution of Zoroastrian women to the development of the community. The session served as a basis for setting a role-model for future Zoroastrian women. It was chaired by Dolly Dastoor and the speakers were Shirinbai Kutar (U.K.), Jennifer Rose (New York), Avan Billimoria (Chicago) and Vera Mehta (Vienna, Austria). They covered a wide spectrum of professional backgrounds including medicine, psychology, social work and religious studies.

After lunch, four concurrent sessions were held. One of the sessions catered to the 'under 25' age group entitled "Rap Session for Zoroastrians." This youth-directed session was planned to generate an open-ended dialogue amongst the youth. As session chair, Aaron Rustom, said: "Growing up in a world where elders make decisions to live by, in a country that they themselves are hardly familiar with, often becomes a strain on an adolescent who is already overburdened by being a minority where majority is 'King'." The youth listened to their peers during the span of this session and generated discussion that would stimulate their minds to find some answers. The role of discussion leader was assumed by a competent Iranian youth, Mehran Sepehri. Mehran, an undergraduate from the Arya-Mehr University of Technology in Tehran, completed his Masters degree from the Sloan School of Management at the M.I.T., and his Ph.D in Engineering from Stanford University. In his prologue to the discussion he addressed a thought-provoking question: "Why marry a Zoroastrian? Doing the right thing for the wrong reasons?"

While all these uninhibited discussions were in progress in one of the rooms of the hotel, the attention, in another room, had turned to a session entitled "Focus of Religion," where three leading personalities engrossed their audience in the evolution and practice of Zoroastrianism. Kaikhosrov Irani in his usual masterful oration called attention to the doctrinal religiosity of our faith. This doctrinal core contained in the Gathas presents a fusion of world-view and a way of life. On a cautionary note, he remarked that in surveying the evolution, one must carefully examine any shift in the form of religiosity that might have come about. One can then explore the implications that emerge as contemporary Zoroastrianism. Speaking on "Consistency of Zoroastrian Rituals through the Ages" Khojeste Mistree emphasized the importance of ritual in our tradition and their purpose in the life of a Zoroastrian. The rituals in Zoroastrianism are preformed as dynamic acts of worship for the betterment of the environment - to restore the ecological balance through the enactment of Asha, the order founded within the ritual. In a paper that followed, Dastur Firoz Kotwal discussed the meaning of the word Jashan and devoted most of the remaining address to the explanation of the ancient ritual of Afringan, its meaning and symbolism, and the occasions for the performances of the various Afringan rituals.

In yet another concurrent session that same afternoon, was a discussion that has never been a part of any preceeding congresses. The subject discussed was the "Zoroastrian Business Network." This was a seed session to germinate the idea to form economic and cultural ties which would help businesses and professionals of the Zoroastrian community in North America. In order to increase the intellectual and economic wealth of the community, the following issues were addressed: (a) expand and explore business opportunities for Zoroastrians; (b) foster employment opportunities for Zoroastrians; (c) promote educational business related programmes and seminars; (d) foster and disseminate business information for the Zoroastrian community. The panel consisted of six successful North American Zoroastrians in business and profession. They were Bomy Boyce, a self-employed businessman with experience in marketing and project-viability appraisals; Minoo Dastoor, a polymer chemist turned medical microbiologist, presently a Manager of the Environment Technology Programme at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Caltech; Adi Davar, a Harvard trained lawyer with experience in banking from the World Bank organization, presently a Senior Vice-President and Board Director of two prestigious consulting forms in international economic development; Kaemarz Dotiwalla Founder President of Texfuels Inc.; Kymus Ginwalla, a chemical engineer trained at the M.I.T., and presently president of the Northern Research and Engineering Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ingersoll-Rand Co.; Ness Lakdawala, a refrigeration engineering who rose from the position of Chief Engineer at Blanchard Industries to CEO of Bohn Corporation (1972-76) and then of Blanchard-Ness Ltd. (1976 to date). Looking at the distinction of these panelists, how can Zoroastrians go wrong in a venture to assist and stimulate young business entrepreneurs in the community? As an outcome of this session, it was agreed to register, as a not-for-profit organization, a body called the Institute of Zoroastrian Entrepreneurs.

A session directed towards education, and how to direct the study of Zarathushtra's religion, was headed by Yezdi Rustomji, a Professor of Socio-

logy at North Harris County College. In the session summary, he cautioned the community saying: "if a veridical revival of the religion . . . is to occur . . . every Zarathushti should have to make the ethical commitment . . . bearing in mind and heart Goethe's admonition that:

'Of two things we cannot sufficiently beware:
Of obstinacy if we confine ourselves to our
proper field,
Of inadequacy if we desert it.'

The three viewpoints presented at this session came from a clinical psychologist (Dolly Dastoor), an educational psychologist (Mehraban Khodavandi), and a sociologist (Yezdi Rustomji). As an educator, Khodavandi felt that Zoroastrianism was a meeting ground for an interdisciplinary interaction of theology with anthropology, psychology and sociology. In contrast, Dolly Dastoor in her talk traced the root of religious thought from an individual need of childhood, to a psychological need of adulthood in a sociocultural milieu.

The final session on the following morning allowed members of the community to voice their opinion on topics of interest. The chairperson, Homi Homji, selected six discussion leaders who made brief statements. This was followed by an open discussion from the floor.

The social scene of the Congress was also meticulously orchestrated to the last detail. The Congress held two banquets, one on the first day which incorporated 'Our Iranian Heritage.' This attempted at establishing the Iranian connection, with Farhang Mehr as the guest speaker. The banquet honoured our displaced Irani brothers whom we have been able to rescue to North America. Very beautiful awards - an afringan etched on a thick slab of glass, designed by Zarine Boyce, were presented to all those who had played a significant role in the refugee rehabilitation programme. Here, as we have reported earlier, our Jamshed Jam was one of the recipients of this award.

The second banquet was targetted at 'Honouring Our Own.' The dinner was highlighted by the presence of two prominent Zoroastrians, Jamshed Marker and Zubin Mehta, both individuals of outstanding stature in their own area of specialization. Marker, the guest speaker, elaborated on "Leadership and the Zoroastrian community," while Zubin Mehta outlined community achievements of Zoroastrians in North America.

The banquet ended with the presentation of Awards in seven categories, as set up by the organizers of the Sixth North American Zoroastrian Congress, Toronto, April 1988. The Awards recognized the outstanding contribution of the following individuals in the respective categories:

Outstanding Zoroastrian Award: To the Rivetnas, Roshan and Rohinton.
Lifetime Achievement Award: To Zubin Mehta.
Excellence in Professional and Business Achievements: To Meherwan Boyce.
The Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award: To Paridokht and Mehraban Zarthoshty.
Community Service Award: To Sabar Patel.
Young Zoroastrian Achievement Award: To Sarosh Kanga.
Student Achievement Award: To Neville Billimoria.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to these achievers!

The Congress concluded with reports from session chairpersons, followed by the closing ceremonies. By far the Congress delivered everything it promised. It thrilled, it educated, it brought awareness and most importantly it was full of good wholesome fellowship. At the end of the Congress, one of the 'Divas' was passed on to Vancouver, B.C., which is to be the site of the 1992 Congress. This was truly symbolic of "carrying on" of the flame of the religion of Zarathushtra!

This was the first Congress that has broadened the base of its coverage by including socio-economic aspects of the community within its programme. The 'Unification Congress' repeatedly echoed the expression of wisdom - "Let us agree to disagree without being disagreeable" - words so often uttered by the wise Dasturji Navroze Minochehr-Homji. The Congress has set new heights with standards of professional organization which will test the ability of future sponsors. Although no specific action items were developed through the Congress, seeds were sown for two Networks - for Zoroastrian women and for Zoroastrian businessmen.

Following the close of the Congress, FEZANA's officers met with the organizers for a general discussion on the proceedings and the 1992 Vancouver Congress. It was felt that perhaps at the Vancouver Congress issues facing the North American community could be discussed in a workshop atmosphere. An excellent suggestion has been received from the programme co-ordinator, Farokh Mistree, that the papers presented at the Congress be discussed by the Associations at their local meetings.

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FEZANA'S THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: A REPORT

The Annual General Meeting was attended by delegates from all of our Member Associations, without exception. Notable among those present were the delegates from the North Texas Association (Dallas) who have applied for membership to FEZANA, and a delegate from Seattle, representing the newly formed Association of the State of Washington - both prospective members that will bring FEZANA's membership up to 18 Member Associations. The Phoenix based Zoroastrian Association of Arizona although now registered as an association was not represented, but we hope that it will follow soon. In addition to the delegates, there were many more observers who participated and contributed to the discussions with their thoughts and suggestions. After some brief housekeeping chores, such as the establishment of a quorum, etc., representatives of each Member Association addressed the meeting. Although it was time-consuming, it was the most productive item on the agenda. It allowed us to glean from each other a clear perspective of the North American community. These reports were followed by reports from each of the four officers, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. It was noted sadly that FEZANA's fund balance as of March 1990, was a meagre \$10,000.00. Thus approval of any Committee budgets ended up inconclusively: there were too many demands and too little money to go around. It was con-

cluded that an allocation be made based on the income, much to the disappointment of the chairpersons of the sub-committees. This was a strong signal that we must improve our finances. FEZANA's Constitution states that "the Federation shall be financed principally by contributions." In addition to the payment of annual dues, a Member Association has the moral duty to contribute to the funds of the Federation to the best of its ability and also to encourage its own individual members to do so. So far only one Member Association, the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania, has honoured its pledge by donating \$1,000.00 in 1989, and we are deeply grateful for their support. It is hoped that other Member Associations will follow this example and contribute as generously.

A number of individuals, however, have contributed; we were able to collect a fair amount last year, and this year the following donations were received at the Congress from:

Mr. & Mrs. Phiroze Dalal, Los Angeles, CA	\$1,001.00
Mr. & Mrs. Firoze Dordi, West Hill, CA	\$ 101.00
Dr. R.J. & Roshan Mehdiabadi, Lubbock, TX	\$ 100.00
Mr. Behram Baxter, San Diego, CA	\$ 301.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dinshaw F.D. Joshi, Washington, DC	\$ 201.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dinshaw Billimoria, Las Vegas, NV	\$ 50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Farokh Contractor, Kenner, LA	\$ 101.00

Our sincere thanks to all of them for their support. We specially want to thank Phiroze and Dhunmai Dalal for their very generous donation and for their fund-raising efforts. A format that has been suggested a number of times for raising funds is for each Association to hold annually a FEZANA Day when Federation matters could be discussed, reports presented and individuals encouraged to contribute a few dollars per person. Since we are now 10,000 strong, if everyone were even to contribute a mere dollar each year, we could collect a fair amount remembering that it is not "how much . . . but how many" that really counts. This is a plea for all to contribute; Associations and individuals.

Another item of interest that was discussed at the Annual General Meeting was that of lack of responsiveness of the Member Associations to communications. All Members recognized this shortcoming and agreed to respond to communications as soon as convenient. Communication with the Mobeds' Council was another matter of interest that was discussed. The Mobeds offered to have free and open communications. The only limitation of the Annual General Meeting was that although the meeting started early in the morning and ended as late as 6:30 p.m., there was not enough time to discuss all the items on the Agenda. A number of items had to be tabled. Dolly Dastoor, our Secretary, recommended that the next Annual General Meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid-1991, and possibly hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania, should be spread over two days to allow sufficient time for discussions of all items on the Agenda.

(submitted by Rohinton Rivetna, President, FEZANA)

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ZAGNY'S RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 23, 1990

A conference on "Issues of Concern for the Zoroastrian Community in the Western World" was held on September 23, at ZAGNY's Darbe Mehr.

In the morning, presentations were made by Darius Antia on "The Elements of the Zoroastrian commitment - the fundamental choice and the responsibility;" Eruch Munshi on "The Nature and effect of prayer;" Lovji Cama on "The Declaration of faith in the Kusti prayers and ritual, its understanding and its implication for the initiate and the adult;" Pallon Ichhaporia on "A Summary of Zoroastrian Rituals, their historical significance and role in a contemporary setting;" Pervez Patel on "The place of Rituals and Religious practices in the life of the community with a plea for maximum maintenance of tradition" and Professor Kakhoosrov Irani on "The importance of Understanding the Core of the religion so that there may be rationale judgements on what must be maintained and what adapted."

The afternoon session was devoted to presentations from a panel of youth from the community: Shahaz Bardoliwalla, Shanaya Deboo, Natasha Gandhi, Anita Langrana, Jeannie Mody, Nenshad Bardoliwalla, Xerxes Kotwal and Merzban Morris participated. They raised questions about understanding our practices, personal and social, with implications regarding adaptations and adjustments. The session was followed by general discussions and very useful dialogues.

The conference concluded with a positive direction towards our prayers. It was decided to actively involve the congregation in reciting prayers and also to recite (or to provide for such recitations) the translation of the same prayers at ZAGNY meetings. Towards this goal, Jasme-Avange-Mazda prayer was recited by the group and Framroze Patel provided the translation of the same.

Members present also acknowledged the efforts of three individuals - Kaikhosrov Irani, Lovji Cama and Pervez Patel, for organizing and making the Conferences and the religious classes successful and most meaningful. Arnavaz Patel was awarded the Goodlife Emblem for organizing youth groups and planning such a successful session in the afternoon. The organizers also thanked Ivy Gandhi for making the necessary arrangements for lunch.

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A HISTORIC MILESTONE

An event of historic importance took place at the Fourth North American Youth Congress held in Toronto, Ontario. In an unprecedented meeting of the delegates from the various Zoroastrian organizations, it was resolved to launch the publication of a Newsletter of the Zoroastrian Youth of North America). This will be the first North American publication of its kind by the youth for the youth on this continent.

"It has come into being in response to a need for an effective communication medium for the Zoroastrian Youth of North America," says Arnavaz Patel of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York. Those who wish to submit articles, artwork, comics, essays, etc., may contact Arnavaz at ZAGNY's address (249 Weyman Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10805).

درگرد هم آیی چهارمین کنفرانس جوانان زرتشتی آمریکا شمالی در تورنتو توافق شد که جوانان از یک خبرنامه یا رسانه بزرگی در سطح جهانی برخوردار گردند . این نخستین رسانه ی جوانان زرتشتی خواهد بود که در سراسر جهان منتشر خواهد شد و هدف آن باطنی است برنیا ز جوانان برای ارتباط گروهی خانم ارنوا زها تل از انجمن زرتشتیان نیویورک (زاگنی) اظهار داشت آنها بیکه مایل باشند میتوانند مقاله یا موضوع یا کارهای هنری و فکاهی تهیه کرده و بنمائی زیر ارسال دارند .

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THE COUNCIL OF PARLIAMENT FOR WORLD RELIGIONS SOME NEWS ITEMS

Theosofest: The Dialogue Committee of the CPWR was delighted to be able to work with Dr. Tony Lysy of the Theosophical Society in organizing a panel discussion designed to be a key focal point of the first Theosofest, a day-long open house and festival held on the beautiful grounds of the Theosophical Society on July 21, 1990.

Panelists presented lively, informative, and inspirational discussions on the basis of religious tolerance from their own faiths. Represented were the following traditions: Native American, Baha'i, Buddhism, Evangelical Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, and Christian Creation-centered spirituality.

Audio tapes of the panels are available from: Dr. Lysy, Quest Book Shop, Theosophical Society, Box 270, Wheaton, IL. (708 - 655-0130).

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Caring for Creation: The CPWR was ably represented by Jim Kenney at the May 16-19, 1990, conference on "Caring for Creation," which was held in Washington, D.C. Under the sponsorship of the North American Conference on Religion and Ecology (NACRE). NACRE is an inter-faith organization designed to help the North American religious community enter into the environmental movement of the 1990s with a dynamic sense of environmental ministry. NACRE has joined with 30 environmental organizations, key scientists, educators, and leaders to launch its "Caring for Creation" Campaign.

Plans for this conference germinated when His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, expressed interest in having an "Assisi Event for North America." At Assisi in 1986, representatives of five major world religions made declarations on humankind and nature.

The Conference was held on the 60-acre grounds of the Washington National Cathedral and the nearby Omni Shoreham Hotel. Over 350 people took part in the Conference, which featured a varied programme of audio-visual presentations, liturgies, talks by noted speakers on environmental issues, and receptions. Among the main participants were HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, who is President of the World Wide Fund for Nature; Carl Sagan, author; Langdon Gilkey, University of Chicago Divinity School; Lester Brown,

President, Worldwatch Institute; Jessica Matthews, Vice President of World Resources Institute, and Bill Moyers who hosted the banquet. The Conference concluded with an interfaith service and blessing of the Cathedral and oak grove.

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THE ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH OF MONTREAL

Natasha Dastoor of Montreal has sent us the following note about the Zoroastrian youth of Montreal.

"During the past two years a new spirit of camaradery has been evident among the Zoroastrian youth living in Montreal. They get together often socially for movies, dancing, skiing and just 'hanging around'. There are approximately 75 young Zoroastrians in the Montreal area, of which about 30 participate in informal 'get togethers'.

"In addition to initiating a student society, the Montreal youth have finally formed an official Youth Committee to provide some sort of structure for them. Previously, they simply had one representative on the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec committee who would inform all the youth about Z-Ski trips, Congresses, etc. This new committee, formed July 21, 1990, consists of youth who want to be responsible for planning and organizing activities. Their first project was to organize a camping trip.

"The youth of Montreal used to meet only at functions organized for the community or at private family parties: this new interest to 'get together' was created by their reunion at McGill University. Presently, there are 15 Zoroastrian students at McGill. They meet so often that they have decided to form a Zoroastrian Student Society. This society was granted interim status in July of this year. Any Zoroastrian university student or professor, as well as non-Zoroastrian McGill students can be a part of this association.

"The Zoroastrian youth in the Montreal area are a great bunch of friendly and fun loving people. Any Zoroastrian youth from elsewhere who visit Montreal, should feel free to call and meet them. For details, ask the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec, P.O. Box 35, Station Beaconsfield, Beaconsfield, Quebec H9W 5T6, Canada."

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HELP TO FIND A FRIEND

Mrs. R.G. Gandhi (1055 Escalon Avenue, #414, Sunnyvale, CA 94086) is interested in locating her college friend, Piroja (Pilloo) Irani, now married to a well-known lawyer Mulla (of Mulla and Mulla, Bombay). Any one who has any information on the whereabouts of Miss Irani (Mrs. Mulla), please contact Mrs. Gandhi at the above address.

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PUBLICIZING A BOOK

Jer D. Randeria, M.Sc., Ph.D. (U.K.), who has authored a little book - "Fresh Enquiry into Eternal Themes" - says it is a book on philosophical thought suitable for all communities. The book has been published through the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and can be obtained from the Bhavan's office (K.M. Munshi Marg, Bombay 400-007) for the price of Rs. 45.00. The book can also be obtained from the Bhavan's New York office (65-09 Queens Boulevard, Woodside, N.Y. 14377. Mrs. Randeria's manuscript on "The Parsi Mind: A Zoroastrian Asset to Culture" with a Foreword by Professor Irani, is awaiting publication. Mrs. Randeria continues her research and study and is in the process of producing three monographs on "Some Unique Concepts in Zoroastrianism."

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A NEWSFLASH FOR THE YOUTH

The Fifth North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress will be held in Vancouver, Canada, in the late summer of 1991. The Youth of Vancouver invite all of you to join them in renewing old friendships and making new ones. Plan ahead to spend a few unforgettable days in Beautiful British Columbia. And watch for more details.

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ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH SKI TRIP

Once again, it is time to get together and celebrate the winter months with fun-filled days of skiing and being together as a community. Past Z-ski trips have been so successful and unforgettable that it has now become an eagerly awaited annual event. This year's ski trip is to one of America's largest ski resorts, Killington Mountain in Killington, Vermont, during the week of January 1-6, 1991. There will also be on-mountain competitions, fireworks displays, skating parties and other nightly events.

Accommodation will be at the Mountain Green III Condominiums within walking distance from the ski lifts. Our slope-side stay will include arcades, shops, health clubs, saunas, jacuzzis, swimming pool, fireplace and kitchen facilities. The cost for the week, which will include lodging and lift tickets, will total \$289.00 U.S., for college students and college IDs will be required upon arrival. For adults and others the cost will be \$299.00 U.S. You must be at least 14 years of age or older to be able to join this trip. Meals will have to be paid for individually, but since we have the use of kitchen facilities, it has been a custom in the past to cook dinner in the condominium and go out for dinner on the last few nights.

Payment for this trip (in U.S. Currency) should be mailed as soon as possible to:

Ferzeen F. Jungalwala
Zoroastrian Ski Trip 3
40 Florence Street, Apt. 1
Worcester, MA 01610, U.S.A.
(Telephones: 508-799-3802; 508-443-6858)

This is a wonderful opportunity for the youth to get together and meet other Zoroastrians. Even if you are a beginner, take this opportunity to learn to ski - there are ski schools available, and ski equipment can be easily rented. So sharpen your skis, polish your boots and get down to the ski slopes!

If any further information is needed, please free to call Ferzeen Jungalwala of Shernaz Bamji in Toronto, Canada (416-824-6515) or Zal Karkaria in Quebec, Canada (514-630-6065).

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AU REVOIR

For me, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to initiate and put into motion FEZANA's Journal, but the time has come to yield and inject some fresh thought and input into this periodical.

I shall, therefore, be stepping down from the office of Editor of the Journal, as also terminate my mandate as chairperson of FEZANA's Information Receiving and Disseminating Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the members of the Committee and add my special thanks to Sabar Balsara and Dolly Dastoor for their valued assistance and support in helping to promote the success of this publication.

With best wishes, and Blessings of Ahura Mazda,

Dr. Jehan Bagli
Editor, FEZANA Journal

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Editor: Jehan Bagli (New Jersey, USA)
Associate Editors: Dolly Dastoor (Quebec, Canada)
Sabar Balsara (Toronto, Canada)
Aspy Deboo (Illinois, USA)
Ali Jaffarey (California, USA)
Committee Member: Shavak Katrak (New York, USA)
Finances: Gev Karkaria (Quebec, Canada)

PUBLISHED FOR FEZANA AT:
c/o P.O. Box 35, Station Beaconsfield
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ADDENDUM

7TH NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS - HOUSTON, 1990

At the Banquet on Friday August 31, held during the Congress, commemorating our Iranian Heritage, special thanks were extended to the Iranian Refugee Committee and the U.S. State Department Representative.

Awards were presented to the following individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions towards the U.S. and Canadian Iranian Zoroastrian Refugee Programmes:

Dr. Ada Adler
Mr. Joe Coleman
Mr. Khojastee Mistree
Mr. Farshid Salamati
Mrs. Susan Varjavand
Mrs. Parizad Panthaky-Bankwalla
Mr. Jamshed Jara