

# FEZANA



# JOURNAL

SUMMER 2002, TABESTAN 1371 YZ

Mah Tir-Amardad-Sherevar 1371 YZ (Fasli)

Mah Bahman-Asfandarmad 1371, Fravardin 1372 YZ (Shenshai)

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Special color supplement:

## The Legacy of Zarathushtra

An Introduction to the Religion,  
History and Culture of the  
Zarathushtis (Zoroastrians)

Also inside:

**Rusi Taleyarkhan's nuclear  
experiment startles scientists**

**Events and Honors  
Zarathushti Enterprise  
Farsi Pages**

# FEZANA

Federation of Zoroastrian  
Associations of North America  
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## FEZANA JOURNAL

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## *An apology and a gift: A book to share with our "North American Neighbors"*

Dear Readers,

We apologize that this issue of FEZANA Journal is much skimpier than usual (we've held back several articles and features for next time) and does not sport the colorful art cover page. All that will resume with the next issue. Instead, this time we bring you a complimentary special supplement, "*The Legacy of Zarathushtra: An Introduction to the Religion, History and Culture of the Zarathushtris (Zoroastrians)*", edited by Roshan Rivetna, with inputs from a large number of subject matter experts.

The idea for *Legacy* evolved from the need for a simple, easy-to-read book, presented attractively, to introduce the religion of Prophet Zarathushtra and the Zarathushtris to our "North American Neighbors", as initiated in the article, "Telling Others Who We Are" by Tenaz Dubash, Khosro Mehrfar, Shahrokh Mehta and Mehrborzin Soroushian [*FEZANA Journal, Winter 2001*] and subsequently developed on the "Creating Awareness" newsgroup.

*Legacy* presents the monumental saga of the Zarathushti faith and its peoples, from ancient origins, covering doctrines and rituals, contributions to world religious thought, history, art and culture, down to contemporary practice and challenges, all packaged in an attractive, illustrated volume.

*Legacy* could well serve as "Zoroastrianism 101" for Zarathushtris and non-Zarathushtris alike. Use this book to showcase our religion and people, to your friends and neighbors; please make an effort to place it in your local, school or university library; our youth will find it useful for show-n-tell at their school or college. It is our hope that a copy of *Legacy* will be on coffee-tables in every Zarathushti household in North America (next to a copy of FEZANA Journal, of course). **THANK YOU!**

**Khorshed Jungalwala**  
Chair, FEZANA Publications

**Roshan Rivetna**  
Editor, FEZANA Journal

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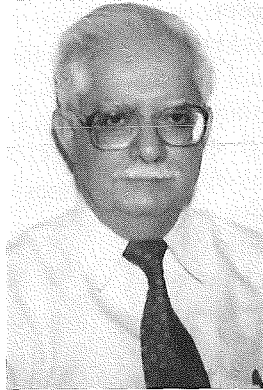
## Thank you and So long ...

This is my last message; therefore, let me thank all of you, fellow Zarathushtis, for providing me with an opportunity to serve my community. It has been a unique honor to be associated with FEZANA for so many years. Now is the time to acknowledge that the last four years have probably been the most satisfying period of my public life.

The Constitution of FEZANA, very wisely, does not bestow the powers of a Sassanian King to the office of the president. It is my considered opinion that the position of the president is not that of the 'benevolent dictator', but that of the consensus builder, an administrator who not only faithfully follows the letter of the law, but also believes that looking after the community's interest is his principal responsibility. The president, in my opinion, is the '*savant*' (Hindi equivalent of 'humble servant') of the community who recognizes that in an intelligent community like ours, there will be differences of opinion. Every western democracy has political parties that, in spite of their differences, know to put aside ideological differences for the greater good of the nation.

We have behaved responsibly while trying to practice the glorious religion of the prophet Zarathushtra, in our new homeland. It is very encouraging to know that we still practice the religion as it was practiced for so many centuries. It is possible that not all intellectuals will agree with my deeply held belief, that for a righteous Zarathushti it is not enough to understand the theological message of the prophet as espoused in the *Gathas*. Praying and participation in religious ceremony are equally important parts of religious life. It is conceivable that

my opinion could be contrary to the prevailing majority opinion, but this is my opinion, and I am entitled to practice the religion as I deem fit. There are no fundamental theological differences that divide us. In spite of different approaches, our community has been very tolerant in accommodating contrary views.



Let me expand on the issue of service. It is not an exaggeration to say that a large percentage of Zarathushtis in North America, at one time or another, have enthusiastically and willingly worked for local Zarathushti associations. In places like Chicago, New

York, California, and Houston you will hardly find any family who has not, at one time or another, served the community as an office bearer or an active participant. These righteous Zarathushtis serve as unpaid volunteers. Anyone who has been associated at the local level knows that serving as a board member requires a colossal commitment, significant financial sacrifice and time away from the family. Why do so many of us come forward to serve the community even though there is no financial reward? The answer is very clear: *it is the right thing to do. It is the Zarathushti way. Helping fellow human beings is ingrained in us, it is our second nature.*

One thing I learned very early in my term is this: it is not always possible to do what is legally right without considering the other side of the equation – what is good for the community. Your position may be one hundred percent "legally correct", but you cannot ignore what the majority of the constituency wants. It was one of my uncalled-for failures or "unforced errors" that I did not realize very early the power of the

grass roots movement. In one of the most controversial decisions of my term, I ultimately took the decision that was in the community's interest and what the majority wanted. I hope my successor will keep this in mind.

Just as you have heard the gloomy forecast of the premature death of the Zarathushti Deen, I have also heard the same unwarranted prediction. So long as we have dedicated, devoted and committed priests who will continue to perform the glorious ceremonies and impart religious knowledge to the laity, the prediction of the premature passing away is baseless.

While advising twelve-year-old Ervad Mehrnosh Bhada, (the first person to be ordained as a priest in Karachi, during the last 42 years) to continue to serve the community, Ervad Shapur Pavri, uttered the most inspirationally monumental, profound and moving words during the closing ceremony of WZC 2000. Ervad Pavri, while recognizing the contribution of the priest class over the centuries, said: "We don't have armies, we don't have an empire, we don't have a country, but the glorious religion of Prophet Zarathushtra has survived for fifteen hundred years in spite of religious persecution. Why? Because of the esteemed Zarathushti priests who kept the religion alive".

It is time to say "So Long". I want to thank my fellow administrators, Arnavaz Sethna, Diana Bulsara, Firdosh Mehta and Rustom Kevala, for their advice and wise counsel. I am proud to say that in most cases, we made decisions after deliberating the issues and arriving at a consensus opinion. It was a profound and genuine privilege to be given the opportunity to serve the community. My most sincere thanks to my family for the moral support during last so many years. I am sure I neglected family responsibility while I was too pre-occupied with the community affairs. Thank you, Armaity, Arnavaz and Pashang. Thank you, all. ■

Framroze K. Patel  
President, FEZANA

## Adult Zarathushti Deen Education Program Creating Certified and Graduate Zarathushtis

Proposal for establishment of a course of study in Zarathushti Deen for North American Zarathushtis.

By Shahrokh Mehta  
Syracuse, New York

### OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The significance of an *academic* education in the advancement of our professional lives is invaluable. The significance of a *religious* education in the enrichment of our personal and spiritual lives can also be priceless. I therefore propose the establishment of a course of study in Zarathushti Deen for North American Zarathushtis.

The goal of this program will be to provide a formal education for all interested adults of our community in topics of Zarathushti religion including doctrine and history, beliefs and practices. The creation of a structured program can be initiated by using existing structures and resources within our community with minimal cost. This will include the development of a high-quality curriculum and the implementation of a viable mechanism to make this program of study interesting and accessible to all adult Zarathushtis. This program is likely to generate excitement and renewed interest for community members who want to become knowledgeable and competent in the understanding and practice of their great religion. I therefore urge my fellow Zarathushtis in North America to pursue this program to attain a higher level of proficiency in the Zarathushti Deen.

### BACKGROUND

Members of the Zarathushti community have long championed the cause of education by actively promoting the learning process within their families, communities, and beyond. By establishing and maintaining schools,

libraries, and other institutions of knowledge and learning, by becoming excellent teachers and professors in a wide range of fields, and by creating and funding educational opportunities and scholarships, they have been ensuring access to high quality education for centuries. Zarathushti-established and community supported schools in major cities like Mumbai, Tehran and Karachi among others, continue to have reputations of maintaining high academic standards, emphasizing Zarathushti values and building character.

Educational attainment has long been a measure of success and source of pride in our community. In India, Iran and Pakistan, literacy rates of the Zarathushti community are among the highest. The importance of education has been instilled from an early age in every Zarathushti home. We put our children in the best schools available to us, participate actively in their education and celebrate their accomplishments with pride. We continue to strive because we are convinced that we can achieve more in our chosen profession and be more successful in the practice of our field with the additional educational training. Some of us continue to take professional courses and exams to ensure that we have mastered a certain body of knowledge and remain current with the advances in our field. This ambition and determination is laudable.

*So then, what about our education or further education in the Zarathushti Deen?* Many of us are content to point to an hour-long ceremony decades ago and state with certainty that we are knowledgeable

in our Zarathushti religion because we learned to recite a series of prayers for our *navjote* (*sedreh pushi*) initiation ceremony. We, as children probably remember more about the pomp and circumstance of the event than the content or its significance. Thus, most of us have at best, an elementary-level education with the memorization of our *kushti* prayers and a vague recollection of their translations. In the years and decades that have passed, we may have wondered at times if there is more to learn than the *kushti* prayers. We may have participated in some children's religious class, attended occasional lectures, and heard some fascinating stories of history and legend.

“ A comprehensive and well-conceived program in the Zarathushti Deen can help to gradually eliminate the misinformation, ambiguities, superstitions and ignorance that have clouded our understanding and practice of the religion. ”

But do we know enough as adults to teach our children or grandchildren to practice the Zarathushti religion according to Zarathushtra's vision? Can we carry on an in-depth conversation about Zarathushtra's message with our coworkers? Can we explain to our neighbors the essence and practice of the Zarathushti Deen? Do we have the same ambition and determination to master a certain body of knowledge in the area of our religion that we do in the area of professional specialization? Clearly, the rewards are different as professional educational attainments lead to employment and income, while personal educational attainments are harder to measure or may not be



considered critical to our “bottom-line” by standard measures of success. Many Zarathushti adults take on the task of teaching themselves aspects of the religion: theology, history, Gathas, or contributions to other faiths, to name a few. Some individuals do this with tremendous success. This is, however, an independent, self-directed process that takes a great deal of commitment and persistence, not to mention access to reliable sources and materials. The majority of us however, despite our best and noble intentions, do not attain that next level of knowledge and expertise in the Zarathushti religion.

It is for these reasons that I am suggesting that we formalize this process by developing and making available a structured, comprehensive and widely accepted course of study for all interested adult Zarathushtis in North America. Learning about our history, doctrine and the timeless message of prophet Zarathushtra can give Zarathushti adults, a renewed faith and deeper appreciation of our religion. In addition, it can provide a sense of personal accomplishment and the necessary confidence to be able to talk intelligently and discuss the Zarathushti religion coherently with our North American Neighbors, our children and grandchildren.

The emphasis on the education of adult Zarathushtis is in no way intended to diminish the efforts or divert attention and resources away from current educational and training programs. Children’s religious classes and camps held by dedicated parents and volunteer teachers in larger Zarathushti associations, and training programs for mobeds through traditional navar and martab programs and paramobeds through newly established courses of prayers and rituals are all worthy endeavors that should continue to receive community support. However these existing programs are geared toward different segments of the population and reach a smaller number of people than the proposed adult Zarathushti education program.

## FINER POINTS OF THE PROGRAM

I would like to recommend that in order to get certified in this program of Zarathushti Deen, in addition to an *academic portion*, students should be required to complete a *community volunteer project*. The candidate’s community service can be at one or more levels: their local Zarathushti community, the neighborhood or town in which they live, or a project related to their original homeland or hometown. This community service cannot simply be the act of writing a check, but should involve volunteering a predetermined number of hours or engaging in an approved activity that enhances the lives of others. Another component of this certification could be the *writing of a thesis* on a Zarathushti topic of the student’s own interest. This would have to be an original paper that goes beyond the material covered in the course. Yet another component could be that after completion of the academic component, the student would need to provide a *“creating awareness” educational session*. This may include, but is not limited to giving a talk at a local church or school, representing the Zarathushti religion at an interfaith session, providing a lecture or discussion session to fellow Zarathushtis and/or neighbors and coworkers, or writing a timely article for a local or national newsletter, newspaper, radio or TV broadcast.

## USING EXISTING

### STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES

This *Adult Zarathushti Deen Education Program* can be championed by FEZANA to accomplish some of FEZANA’s goals as stated in its constitution. Article II Section 1, lists: “To promote the study, understanding and practice of the Zoroastrian faith and welfare of Zoroastrian communities” (item B); “To promote, perpetuate and teach the Zoroastrian religion as set forth in the teachings of the Prophet Zarathushtra and the Zoroastrian faith” (item C); and finally, “To engage in and support any other activities that nurture and support the Zoroastrian faith and

Zoroastrian communities” (item G) as some of the purposes of the organization. All these objectives can be fulfilled in collaboration with interested Zarathushti associations.

The *FEZANA Journal* can be used to recruit ‘expert’ volunteers, announce start dates of the program, and recognize ‘graduates’. Some of the written papers, community service projects, and creating awareness components could appear in the Journal. The *FEZANA website* can serve many of the same functions when actively managed, and could also be adapted for educational purposes including web-based learning and chat-room discussions.

The *FEZANA organization* can direct and manage the program through the creation of a specific ‘working group’ and utilize the existing educational funds for this Adult Zarathushti Deen Education Program. *Associations* throughout North America can support this endeavor by publicizing the program needs and progress in their own respective newsletters. We can also use North American *congresses* and *association functions* to confer certification and have graduation ‘walks’ for candidates who complete the program.

We can take advantage of access to the *internet* (in our homes and public libraries) and *other media* (videotapes, audiotapes, CDs, printed material) to create an educational program that allows for students across North America to complete a comprehensive self-paced course with minimal disruption to their existing commitments of work and family.

To develop the curriculum for the Adult Zarathushti Deen Education Program, ‘expert’ volunteers can work from resources used in Zarathushti religion *courses at universities* as well as *existing materials* available within the community that could be adapted for adult education. Zarathushti and non-Zarathushti *scholars* and other knowledgeable and *learned individuals* in the community can help to write the curriculum. Other ‘expert’ volun-

teers skilled in web design, video production, curriculum development, manuscript editing, etc. can provide more *technical talents* and yet others can volunteer their *project management expertise* to direct and guide the program.

#### ACTION PLAN

- (1) **Inform the community** of the value of an Adult Zarathushti Deen Education Program. Generate discussion and enthusiasm at the individual, association and FEZANA levels.
- (2) **Recruit and manage 'expert' volunteers** including scholars and educators to set the curriculum and skilled media specialists to implement technical aspects.
- (3) **Develop the program.** Define goals, activities, schedule, budget and resources (people, money, facilities, materials, information, technology).
- (4) **Create academic curriculum with examinations** (assessments of learning). Set up volunteer, thesis and creating awareness aspects as well.
- (5) **Recruit students** through FEZANA Journal and association newsletters.
- (6) **Implement the program and monitor progress.**
- (7) **Confer the certification.** Publicize names in FEZANA Journal and association newsletters. Arrange graduation walks at congresses and association events.
- (8) **Review project outcomes** to make improvements.
- (9) **Repeat program** for next semester with necessary updates.

**Conclusion.** We owe a great deal to caring parents, passionate teachers, and encouraging relatives and friends for creating supportive environments and educational opportunities that paved the way for most of us to have excelled in our professional lives. If given the potential to create and participate in educational opportunities to enhance our personal and spiritual lives today, would we take it?

A comprehensive and well-conceived program in the Zarathushti

## COMING EVENTS

*For coordination of event dates, contact Firdosh Mehta, FEZANA VP and chair of the FEZANA Coordination and Planning Committee, [firdosh.mehta@primus.ca](mailto:firdosh.mehta@primus.ca).*

### FEZANA AGM 2003

The 2003 FEZANA AGM will be held in **Boston**, Massachusetts, on the Memorial Day weekend (May 2003), hosted by ZAGBA.

### Next NA Youth Congress

The next *North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress* will be held in Toronto, Ontario, July 24-27, 2003. A week of post-congress activities is also planned. Contact [nazyc2003@yahoo.com](mailto:nazyc2003@yahoo.com).

### World Youth Congress

The *Third World Zoroastrian Youth Congress*, which was planned for December 2002, in India, has been moved to December 2003. It will be hosted by the Federation of Zoroastrian Youth of India, FOZYA, with due sponsorship from the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, and will, most likely, be held in Pune. Contact FOZYA president Sarosh Palkhiwalla at [sarosh64@hotmail.com](mailto:sarosh64@hotmail.com).

### NA Congress 2004

The *13th North American Zoroastrian Congress* will be held in the San Francisco Bay area in 2004. The date is not yet set.

Deen can help to gradually eliminate the misinformation, ambiguities, superstitions and ignorance that have clouded our understanding and practice of the religion. We can all become better informed in the beliefs and practices as well as the history and doctrine of our Zarathushti faith. We can be more confident in the legacy we provide for our children and grandchildren. And as certified (or graduate) Zarathushtis, we can become knowledgeable spokespersons for the community, ambassadors of goodwill, and most importantly, competent practitioners of the Zarathushti Deen.

### 2004 Zarathushti Games

The next Zarathushti Games will be held around the 4th of July. The location is to be confirmed later.

### Next World Congress

India and UK have supported the bid from Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE) to host the 8th World Zoroastrian Congress in the UK, tentatively in the summer of 2005. ■

## OPERATION EYESIGHT

### Do you have old eyeglasses to give away?

Participants at Congress 2002 in Chicago, July 4-7, 2002, are urged to bring with them old eyeglasses for which they may not have a need. These will be collected in Chicago and sent to Mombasa, Kenya, by the Lions Club, which has been very active in reversing preventable blindness. Contact [BPastakia@aol.com](mailto:BPastakia@aol.com).

Are the members of the North America Zarathushti community prepared to step up to the plate? Are the associations equipped to take up the challenge? Is FEZANA capable of providing the needed leadership and financial support? Are you, the readers of this article ready to enroll? ■

**Shahrokh Mehta** is a Certified Management Consultant and president of Integrated Technologies, LLC, a nationally recognized management consulting and training organization.

# Calendar of Festivals

<b>Zarathusht-no-Diso (Death anniversary of Zarathushtra)</b>		
<i>Mah Daye, Roz Khorshed</i>	Mon May 6	(K)
	Wed Jun 5	(S)
<b>Daye Mas nu Jashan</b>		
<i>Mah Daye, Roz Fravardin</i>	Sun Apr 28	(K)
	Tue May 28	(S)
<b>Maidhyarem Gahambar</b>		
<i>Mah Daye, Roz Meher-Behram</i>	Fri May 3 - May 7	(K)
	Sun Jun 2 - Jun 6	(S)
<b>Homaji Baj</b>		
<i>Mah Daye, Roz Govad</i>	Sat Jun 8	(S)
<b>Pir e Sabz Festival</b>		
<i>Mah Khordad, Roz Ashtad-Aneran</i>	Fri Jun 14 - Jun 18	(F)
<b>Pir e Banu Festival</b>		
<i>Mah Tir, Roz Meher-Behram</i>	Thu Jul 4 - Jul 8	(F)
<b>Maidyoshem Gahambar</b>		
<i>Mah Tir, Roz Khorshed-Daepmeher</i>	Sat Jun 29 - Jul 3	(F)
<b>Jashne Tirgan</b>		
<i>Mah Tir, Roz Tir</i>	Mon Jul 1	(F)
<b>Fravardegan/Mukhtad/Hamaspathmedayem Gahambar</b>		
<i>Five Gatha Days</i>	Wed Jul 17 - Jul 21	(K)
	Fri Aug 16 - Aug 20	(S)
<b>Pateti-Nouruz</b>		
<i>Mah Fravardin, Roz Hormazd</i>	Mon Jul 22	(K)
	Wed Aug 21	(S)
<b>Khordad Sal (Birthday of Zarathushtra)</b>		
<i>Mah Fravardin, Roz Khordad</i>	Sat Jul 27	(K)
	Mon Aug 26	(S)
<b>Fravardian Jashan</b>		
<i>Mah Fravardin, Roz Fravardin</i>	Fri Aug 9	(K)
	Sun Sep 8	(S)
<b>Maidyozarem Gahambar</b>		
<i>Mah Ardibehesht, Roj Khorshed - Daepmeher</i>	Sat Aug 31 - Wed Sep 4	(K)
	Mon Sep 30 - Fri Oct 4	(S)
<b>Paitishem Gahambar</b>		
<i>Mah Sheherevar, Roj Ashtad - Aneran</i>	Thu Sep 12-Mon Sep 16	(F)
<b>Jashne-Mehergan</b>		
<i>Mah Meher, Roj Meher</i>	Wed Oct 2	(F)
<b>Ayathrem Gahambar</b>		
<i>Mah Meher, Roj Ashtad - Aneran</i>	Sat Oct 12- Wed Oct 16	(F)
<b>Jashne-Avangan (Avan Ardivisur Parab)</b>		
<i>Mah Avan, Roj Avan</i>	Sat Oct 26	(F)
<b>Maidyoshem Gahambar</b>		
<i>Mah Tir, Roj Khorshed - Daepmeher</i>	Wed Oct 30 - Sun Nov 3	(K)
	Fri Nov 29 - Tue Dec 3(S)	
<b>Jashne-Adargan</b>		
<i>Mah Adar, Roj Adar</i>	Sun Nov 24	(F)
<b>Death Anniversary of Zarathushtra</b>		
<i>Mah Daye, Roj Khorshed</i>	Thu Dec 26	(F)

## IN COMING ISSUES OF FEZANA JOURNAL

Fall 2002:

**Zarathushti Temples  
and Worship**  
(Major contributor  
Phiroz Dastoor)

Winter 2002:

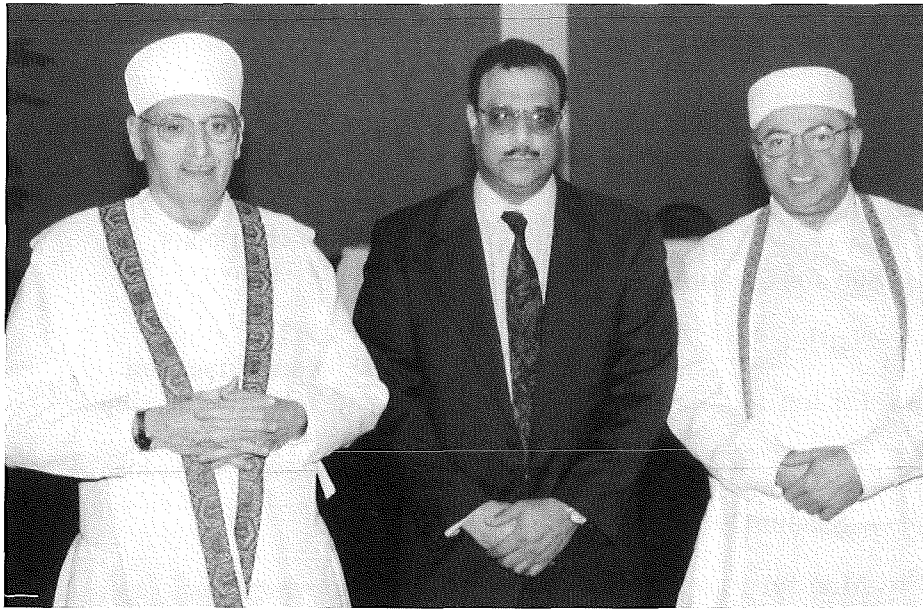
**Religious Education  
and Youth Leadership**  
(Guest Editor:  
Mehrborzin Soroushian)

## Interested in Zarathushti sports and/or writing, anyone?

FEZANA Journal is looking for a person to guest-edit an upcoming issue on Zarathushtis in Sports. Primarily involves seeking out, compiling and writing materials about Zarathushti sports figures, past and present, in India, Iran and around the world. Help with gathering materials and/or writing will be welcome. Interested persons, please contact the editor at [RRRivetna@aol.com](mailto:RRRivetna@aol.com).

**A thousand people  
cannot convince one  
by words, to the extent  
that one person can  
convince a thousand  
by action.** - Dinkerd 6.15

**Calendar of Festivals** is  
shown at left for Fasli (F), Kadmi  
(K) and Shenshai (S) religious fes-  
tivals for March - September 2002



## Recognition of ZANC

**priests.** *Dastur Jimmy Makujina* [far left] and *Dastur Kobad Jamshed* [right] were recognized for their “nearly 25 years of dedicated priestly services and guidance” to the Zoroastrian Anjuman of Northern California. At the award ceremony at the ZANC Nouruz function in the Grand Ballroom of the Historic Del Monte Club in Sunnyvale, on March 23rd, ZANC president Bomi Patel [center] awarded the two dasturs with a shawl of honor, a purse, flowers and a plaque. The ceremony ended with “Chaiye Hame Zarathushti” followed by a buffet dinner and dance.



## Mobed Bhandara felicitated.

On November 11, Dolly Malva, then president of the Zoroastrian Association of Southern California presented *Mobed Zarir Bhandara* with a shawl for working devotedly for the last ten years to enrich the spiritual needs of the Southern California Zarathushti community.

Dolly said, “Mobed Bhandara has served our community on a volunteer basis and provided guidance for moral and spiritual consciousness through prayer services for navjotes, weddings, jashans, gahambars, funerals, mukhtad, meditation and spiritual healing. He has represented our religion at interfaith celebrations and was

instrumental in including Zarathushti scriptures in the book of world scriptures published by Unity in Diversity. Recently he started religious classes to perpetuate the philosophy, history, theology and spirituality of our religion, thus quenching the thirst of the Zarathushti community in Southern California.”



## New Board at ZAGBA

Outgoing president of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area, Nasswan Dossabhoy has announced the newly elected board for the period 2002 - 2004: *Sherazade Mehta* [photo above] (president), *Farshid Bakhtyari* (VP), *Anoush Boostani* (treasurer), *Zubin Talavia* (secry) and *Kaizad Patel* (asst. secry). This young, vibrant, dynamic team, with a good mix of Parsis and Iranians is expected to bring the synergy required to manage a growing association like ZAGBA.



# “Great men show their greatness by the way they treat little men”



## ZAC felicitates the Maestro

Between magnificent performances of Beethoven and Bartok, and Berlioz' opera, *The Trojans*, to overflow audiences at Chicago's Orchestra Hall this April, Maestro Zubin Mehta and wife, Nancy [photos left] found the time to spend an evening with the Zarathushtis of Chicago at their Darbe Mehr.

The Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC) had laid out the red carpet. The hall looked festive with *chalk-toran*, flowers, ladies in their *garas* and a grand buffet laid with shrimp curry rice, Parsi stew, gravy cutlets, *boti*, *custard*, *badam-nimachi*, *sev dahi* and more. They felicitated the Mehtas and conferred upon the Maestro, the title of "Apro Zubin", and they showcased their very best musical and comedy talents.

As expressed well by ZAC president Hosi Mehta: "Great Men show their greatness by the way they treat little men." And on April 8th at the Chicago Darbe Mehr, the Maestro truly showed his greatness.

He showed his greatness when he walked up to the stage to congratulate 12-year old Carl Darukhanawala on his saxophone performance; when he posed for a photo with the littlest dancer – four year old Sherzad Press; and when he laughed heartily at remarks about his conducting skills, during Aban Daboo's hilarious short skit "ZAC Gotpit Sotpit".

He showed his greatness when he responded to the felicitations by fondly referring to the Zarathushtis as "apri community"; when he thanked Dastur Kersey Antia for mentioning his aging parents, Mehli and Tehmina's names in the Tandarosti benedictions; when he clapped to the ZAC Chorus' Sanjan March and joined with gusto in their rousing rendition of *Chaiye Hame Zarathushti* [photo left].

The Zarathushti community is surely blessed to have such a stalwart in our midst. ■

- By Roshan Rivetna



# Mobeds deliberate on weighty matters

## Report of the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the North American Mobeds Council

**T**he North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) held its two-day Annual General Meeting in Meadowbrook, Ontario, Canada, under the auspices of the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario on March 29 and 30, 2002. They deliberated on their activities of the past year.

NAMC has started a program to train young ordained mobeds and also mobedyars to carry the duties of ordained mobeds. Mobedyars (or paramobeds) are Parsi-Zarathushtis from *athornan* or *behdin* families, who are keen to serve the community in areas where ordained mobeds are either not readily available or are in short supply. The first-ever mobeds' training camp was organized by NAMC mobeds in Washington, DC in late 1998. However despite repeated efforts by NAMC there was not sufficient response to hold a training camp this year.

This year one of the members tabled several resolutions, which he urged NAMC to deliberate on. These were:

- (1) Performing mixed marriage wedding ceremonies.
- (2) Performing the navjotes of children from mixed marriages
- (3) Accepting and allowing non-Zarathushti spouses to attend religious ceremonies
- (4) Performing navjotes of a non-Zarathushti child adopted by a Zarathushti family.
- (5) Performing last rites of a non-Zarathushti spouse.

Due to time constraints, only the first two items were debated at great length. On the first item, all mobeds were of the opinion that no part of the traditional *Ashirwad* ceremony should be performed on any couple where a spouse is non-Zarathushti. However a regular *Doa Tandarosti* may be recited if a mobed so chose. For the second item, the resolution to perform the navjotes of children from mixed marriages did not pass based on the new voting system the mobeds put in place last year.

**New slate of officers.** This year being an election year the following slate of mobeds were elected to office: *Ervad Jehan Bagli* (president), *Ervad Adi Unwalla* (vice president), *Ervad Nozer Kotwal* (secretary), *Ervad Gev Karkaria* (treasurer), *Ervad Cawas Desai* (member at large).

The mobeds thanked the outgoing Executive Committee for their hard work during the past six years under their president Ervad Jal Birdy.

The two days in Ontario, Canada proved to be a stimulating and rewarding exchange of ideas and views for the mobeds. The president, Ervad Jehan Bagli thanked all the mobeds who spent their time, effort and expense to be present at the AGM. He particularly thanked the ZSO mobeds, their wives, families and the host organization ZSO for making their stay a comfortable one.

— Jal N. Birdy

## New ZAGNY Board

A new board for the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) was elected for the 2002-2005 term. Board members are: *Homi D. Gandhi* (president), *Fali Shroff* (VP), *Jasmin Kotwal* (treasurer), *Arnavaz F. Patel* (secretary), *Diana M. Dinshaw* (Jt. Secry) and Members At Large, *Goolu Baria*, *Kamal V. Davar*, *Usheen V. Davar*, *Toni Ghadially*, *Cyrus F. Hirjibehedin* and *Vispi Kanga*. The three primary mandates of the Board are:

- (1) Bring awareness of who we are, and how we can participate in enriching the well being of the local and tri-state community;
- (2) Active participation in FEZANA activities;
- (3) Encourage and invite participation in various committees established by the Board.

## ZAGNY Revlon Run/Walk

On Saturday, May 4, ZAGNY members participated as an official team in the annual Revlon Run/Walk in support of women battling breast and ovarian cancer. The event started in Times Square and ended in Central Park. Donations can be made at [www.revlonwalk.com](http://www.revlonwalk.com), or contact [Usheen.Davar@dowjones.com](mailto:Usheen.Davar@dowjones.com)

## ZAH Library Project

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston has plans for a library at their Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center. Their goal is for this to "become one of the leading research centers in North America, containing books related to the Zarathushti religion, history and culture." Their fledgling collection includes some valuable memorabilia from the collection of Dr. Dastoor Dhalla.

Estimated budget for furnishing and equipping the library is \$62,000, per plans by Houston architect Darayus Kolah. The library will be managed by professional librarian Aban Rustomji. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Major donors will be recognized with a nameplate. Please send checks (made to ZAH) to Aban Rustomji, 526 Woodbend Lane, Houston, TX 77079, tel: (281) 493-1275.

Read

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### Mural for ZHCC, Houston

ZAH's Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center has plans for a 13 ft. mural by artist Russell Erwin in their atrium. Meher Rustomji, chair of the Atrium Decorating Committee, writes: "We have built the center and have fulfilled the dreams of so many Houston Zarathushtis. Now let's decorate the place and put the "Heritage and Culture" into the ZHCC." Donations may be mailed to ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd, Houston, TX 77071 or call Meher at (713) 880-2684.

### Second organization (OZCF) formed in Ontario

Kobad Zarolia (president) and Phil Sidhwa (VP) have announced the formation of the "Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation" in Ontario. They write:

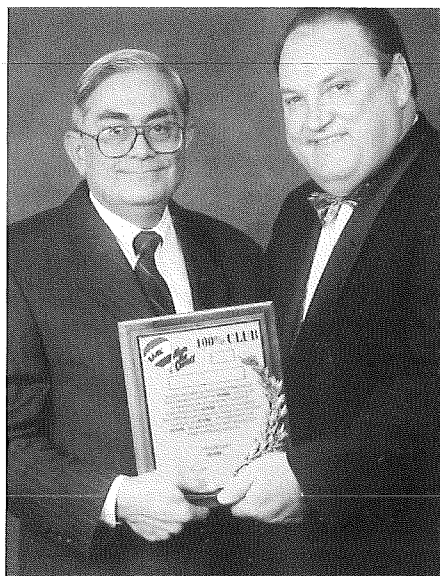
"Our objectives are to purchase a parcel of land and build a house of worship and community centre that will meet the future needs of an increasing population in the western Greater Toronto Area. This new centre will complement and enhance the existing facility and services that we value and continue to enjoy within our community ... multiple centers will strengthen the community, promote growth and provide a network of social presence and awareness of our community and religion in Canada.

"The centre will serve to promote religious, social, sports and cultural activities for the benefit of young and old. Our long-term plan is to build a seniors' retirement home and facilities to assist new immigrants ...

OZCF have circulated a brochure outlining its vision and goals, and are urging Zarathushtis to donate generously: "Buy-a-Brick (for \$1000 Cdn) and share in living the vision of building our Community Centre with passion and pride, brick by brick, for future generations." Names of donor families will be permanently engraved. The project was launched with an inaugural jashan and lunch on May 20. Contact Kobad Zarolia at (905) 542-9885, [www.ozcf.com](http://www.ozcf.com).

*[Continued on page 13]*

## Award Winners



**Rusi Gandhi** [Top, left] of RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Montville, NJ, received the RE/MAX 100% Club award, based on annual sales from co-Regional Owner Joe Ventresca at the annual Awards Ceremony in April. Gandhi was also named to the New Jersey Association of Realtors Million Dollar Club, Silver level, for 2000 and 2001. With over 25 years of real estate experience, Gandhi specializes in residential and commercial properties. He has raised considerable funds for Zarathushti organizations with his standing offer: "The sale, purchase or lease of your property or that of your family or friends anywhere in the US and 52 countries,



will earn FEZANA or your local Zoroastrian Association, 10% of all brokerage fees received." Contact Gandhi at [rusigandhi@remax.net](mailto:rusigandhi@remax.net) or call 1-800-575-6005, ext. 117.

**Karmeen Kulkarni** [left] a certified diabetes educator and registered dietitian at St. Marks' Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, received the 2002 American Diabetes Association's Outstanding Educator in Diabetes Award. Kulkarni, daughter of Adi and Manijeh DeVitre received the Utah Diabetes Educator of the Year Award in 2001, the AADE Distinguished Service Award in 2000 and numerous other awards. She has held leadership positions including Executive Board Member and VP for the American Association of Diabetes Educators. Karmeen is married to Rajiv Kulkarni and has a 17 year old daughter, Anjali.

**Coomi Bhathena** [above] was honored at a reception by the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario to celebrate her 91st birthday. A longtime resident of Toronto, Mrs. Bhathena has, over the years, provided selfless service and financial support to Zarathushti causes in Ontario and around the world.





*Ervad Rustom Bhedwar of London, with Pope John Paul II, at the Vatican.*

## Day of prayer for world peace

**Zarathushtis participate in a historic interfaith gathering for world peace called by Pope John Paul, in Assisi, Italy**

“ With uplifted hands I humbly pray, O Mazda: First of all for the blessing of Thy bountiful spirit, that I beseech of Thee, that my actions towards all may be performed in the Divine Righteousness, and with this I implore Thee, the understanding of Thy benevolent mind, wherewith I can bring solace to the soul of Mother Earth. ”

– *Ahya Yasa Memangha prayer [Ys. 28.1]*

For three days last January, Ervad Rustom Bhedwar of London was a guest of the Holy See at the Vatican, along with representatives of 12 major religions of the world to participate in a historic Day of Prayer for World Peace called by the Pope.

Ervad Bhedwar, a member of the managing committee of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and chair of their Atash Dadgah Committee, was deputed to represent the Zarathushti community by ZTFE, who received the invitation through the good offices

of their long-serving interfaith representative Jehangir Sarosh.

On Wednesday 23rd evening, Ervad Bhedwar spoke to a distinguished audience at the Vatican on *The Zoroastrian Perspective on World Peace*. He opened with the *Ahya Yasa Memangha prayer* [see above].

The next day, all religious leaders took an early start from the Vatican railway station, which was re-opened for the special Papal Train after 26 years. The religious leaders in their robes and caps boarded the train for

Assisi, where the 13th century Saint Francis, a warrior turned friar, is buried. On its way to the hill town, the train slowed at stations for crowds to greet the passengers.

At the famous monastery in Assisi, the religious leaders offered prayers. Zarathushti, Jain and Confucian prayers were offered in a room on the outer circle of the monastery in order to enable Ervad Bhedwar to light an *afargan*. He chanted the *Atash Nyaesh*, attracting much attention from the gathered media.

After prayers, the religious leaders joined in a lunch with the Pope, after which they boarded the Papal Train and returned to the Vatican. On the 25th, the religious leaders were invited to the Papal Palace at the Vatican for lunch with the Holy Father.

The event was given wide coverage by the media – CNN and other networks as well as newspapers in Europe and around the world.

A multifaith Prayer for World Peace was also organized in London on the same day. The Zarathushti faith was represented by Ervad Farhad Sethna at this event.

### Interfaith work in the UK

The Zarathushti community is indebted to **Jehangir Sarosh**, for his assiduous work in the interfaith arena for 20 years. It was due to his efforts that in 1990, ZTFE joined the “Inter Faith Network” (IFN) of the UK. In 2001, he was elected a vice chair of the IFN, a unique recognition for the community and the first Zarathushti to be so honored. Sarosh is currently chair for Europe of the “World Council of Religions for Peace”. ZTFE president Dorab Mistry calls Sarosh “our brightest beacon for winning friends and influencing people.”

From the ZTFE Managing Committee, Malcolm Deboo, Ervad Rustom Bhedwar and past president Rusi Dalal also work in the interfaith area. Firoza Gan-Kotwal and Shahin Bekhradnia have also been active in interfaith work.

Recognition of the Zarathushti religion in the UK and Europe is now more and more in evidence. Since 1995, the ZTFE president is invited to join the Royal Procession in Westminster Abbey at the Commonwealth Day Service each year. He is presented to Her Majesty and the Royal Family on that day each year with the leaders of eight other religious communities. ZTFE is also represented at multi-faith events at Buckingham Palace as well as at St Paul's Cathedral and at the Mansion House in London when the Lord Mayor of London hosts the bi-annual banquet for archbishops and bishops.

Recently, on 17th January, Jehangir Sarosh and Dorab Mistry were received at 10 Downing Street by the prime minister and Mrs Blair when they hosted a reception for leaders of Britain's faith communities. Mr Blair accepted the strong support of the Zarathushti community in his efforts to strengthen the coalition against terrorism and intolerance.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has played a very significant role in promoting the inclusion of Britain's minorities in major state events. Jehangir Sarosh pays tribute to the work of The Rev George Carey who will retire as Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of All England in October this year: "He had the sagacity to make us feel included in all the great issues of the day." ■

## **WZO Sanatorium in Sanjan**

Situated in idyllic surroundings, next to the historic Memorial Column, in Sanjan, the WZO Sanatorium was opened in September. It was on the shores of Sanjan (a mere 3 hours train ride from Mumbai), that Zarathushtis received sanctuary when they fled from Iran 1371 years ago to preserve their faith.

Boarding and lodging is a very reasonable Rs. 175 (US\$3.75) per day. Reservations may be made with WZO Trust Funds, Shanti, 5th Fl, 6 Banaji Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### **ZWIN** **Women's Network**

### ***Sponsor a youth: Help a dream***

ZWIN (The Zarathushti/Zoroastrian Women's International Network) has continued to help Zarathushti women and families worldwide re-connect as a community. To further foster these links, ZWIN plans to sponsor and host young, deserving Zarathushti girls to come and spend a month in North America. (Plans underway last year were shelved because of September 11th). ZWIN is planning to:

- Request various Zarathushti associations and families in North America to consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring a deserving young girl with potential from India or Pakistan. (Approximately \$2,500-\$3,000 per person).
- Request families and associations to help host a youth in their community for 3 weeks (one family or three can share) during July 2003.
- Work with responsible people in India and Pakistan to identify really deserving young girls (between 18 and 25 years), who have demonstrated potential and who have been responsible Zoroastrian community members, and who could never really afford to travel abroad. We will have

a very clear and transparent process in place to ensure fair and appropriate selection, with recommendations from India and then the final selections being done in the US, and by the community and families that will host them.

- Work with the 2003 Youth Congress organizers and others to help sponsor these girls to attend the Youth Congress here next year.

This is a really noble project, initiated by Hovi Shroff of Florida. We are seeking sponsors, hosts and people who would like to assist in helping "a dream come true" for a young Zarathushti. We are working on this as a group, coordinated by Dr. Zareen Karani Araoz, including Aban Rustomji, Dr. Dolly Dastoor, Toxy Cowasjee, Yasmin Ghadiali and others.

Please contact Dr. Zareen Karani Araoz at [zareen@managingcultures.com](mailto:zareen@managingcultures.com), tel: 781-721-7546 with offers and ideas. We would value having some contribution or hospitality from each Zarathushti community in North America. We were all able to come to the US, many facing several challenges. Let us try and help someone else do the same. ■

### **ZSO response to new organization** [Contd. from p. 11]

"We cannot help feeling that a second Zoroastrian organization, rather than complementing the existing long established ZSO (Zoroastrian Society of Ontario) can have a detrimental effect on the unity of our small community in Ontario," writes ZSO president Sam Vesuna in the *ZSO Newsletter* of May 2002.

At a ZSO meeting in October, the option to build a new larger center at

the present site, was chosen by 78% of the votes. Accordingly, ZSO has circulated plans to expand the present center, "Building the new larger centre at our present location is financially feasible and we must start construction as soon as funds are collected ... financing two projects – the ZSO project and the OZCF West project – concurrently is beyond the capacity of our community and major donors." ■



# چو ایران نباشد تن من مباد

فرشته یزدانی خطیبی

زرتشت در زمان گذشته ، حال و آینده "

در روایات مربوط به زمان زرتشت اختلافات زیادی دیده میشود. علت پیداشدن این اختلافات پیشگوئی هائی درباره پادشاهان و دین آوران و ویرانی جهان و ..... از زمان قدیم نسبت به زرتشت و جاماسب داده شده بوده است و برای اینکه آنها در زمان بخصوص صدق کند یا نکند. در سده های مختلف زمان زرتشت را گاهی جلوتر و گاهی عقب تر برده اندو مطالب بروایاتی که در کتابهای تاریخی راجع باین اختلافات آمده طوری است که از روی آنها میتوان باسانی بزمان و غرض و دین جعل کننده پی برد. زمان زرتشت با رصد دقیق او و حساب کیسه ها و تاریخ های قدیم تر طوری بستگی دارد که نمیتواند اختلافی در آن راه پیدا کند. اینکه در یکی دوسده اخیر نتوانسته اند زمان واقعی زرتشت را تعیین کنند برای این است که راه پژوهش اشتباه و یا مغرضانه بوده است.

در حدود یکصدوپنجاه سال پیش ، در تورفان چین ۴ هزار نوشته پیدا شد که اغلب آنها ترجمه شاده و اصل آنها در موزه بریتانیا موجود است. این نوشته ها که اغلب بزبان دبیره (اوستائی ) نوشته شده بود خدمت زیادی به تأیید تاریخ های گذشته و از جمله زادروز اشوزرتشت و تاریخ رصد نمودن او و غیره بوده است. برابر این نوشته ها و تقویم پیدایش اشوزرتشت ۳۷۱۵ سال بعد از طوفان بزرگ است و زمان طوفان بزرگ تا زمان. اخیر ۶۴۵۲ سال است ( طوفان بزرگ در زمان جمشید شاه پیشدادی رخ داده است ) با حساب دقیق پیدایش زرتشت ( زادروز ) او ۱۷۶۷ سال قبل از تاریخ مشهور مسیحی مطابق دوشنبه ۲۰ ربیع الاول مطابق خورداد روز و ششم فروردین ۲۴۰۰ سال پیش از تاریخ مشهور به یزدگردی به جهان آمده است . امسال که ۲۰۰۲ مسیحی است ۳۷۶۹ سال از زادروز اشوزرتشت می گذرد. حضرت زرتشت در ۳۰ سالگی به رسالت مبعوث شد و در ۴۲ سالگی رصدخانه ای در نیمروز سیستان را بنا نهاد و سال و ماه شمسی را اصلاح و کیسه نمود. ( پیدایش حضرت موسی در حدود ۱۵۰۰ سال قبل از مسیح یا تقریباً سه قرن پس از زرتشت و افلاطون ۱۴۰۰ سال بعد از زرتشت است - ابوریحان بیرونی فیلسوف ، تاریخ نویس و ستاره شناس مشهور ایرانی در کتاب نجوم خود آثارالبلاقه ) چندین بار از زرتشت ، تاریخ و تقویم او و همچنین رصد زرتشتی نام برده است . اگرچه در تاریخ بیرونی نیز دستکاریهای زیادی شده ( مخصوصاً در قسمت ایران باستان و زرتشت ) ولی گویا بیرونی خود این موضوع را پیش بینی و مطالب را طوری در کتاب خود پراکنده است که نسخ یا تعویض در تمام کتاب امکان نداشته است .

زرتشت منظومه مقدس خود را مانتره ( Montreh ) و خود را مانتران ( کسی که مانتره را سروده ) نامیده و کتاب مقدس زرتشت را گات ها مینامند. مانتره و گات ها کلمه اوستائی در زبان انگلیسی هستند که بعنوان معانی بکار برده میشوند. معنی مانتره یا گات ها سخنان نغز و اندیشه برانگیز و پاک . هوخست سه گانه زرتشت ، اندیشه ، گفتار و کردار نیک هزاران سال است که زبانزد خاص و عام است . چون آئین زرتشت دینی است پاک و اخلاقی و زرتشت نخستین پیم آوری است که دین را از جادو و خرافه پرستی آزاد ساخته و آنرا به سادگی و راستی و طبیعت نزدیکتر کرد. زرتشت از تشریفات و قید اسارت و ترادادهای سنگین دوریجسته و بی واسطه و بی پرده به ستایش خدا پرداخت . در این زمان

طولانی ( ۳۷۲۹ سال ) دیانت زرتشت شهید پیروزی و شکست هائی بوده است. میلیون ها انسان از آموزشهای آن و خشور پاک بهره برده و از زندگی شایسته و آرام برخوردار شده اند. در طول این مدت پادشاهان و فرمانروایان زیادی بر آنها حکومت کرده اند. بهر حال دیانت منوی و اخلاقی زرتشت بوده که منور و قلب آن توده ها را بیشتر از قدرت حکمرانان تسخیر نموده و هنوز هم در قرن بیست و یکم میلیون ها افراد مجتذب آن هستند همان قدرت معنوی که هزاران بار قوی تر از توانائی فیزیکی است . اگر چه ۱۴ سده پیش ایرانیان مغلوب تازیان شدند و مملکت و حکومت خود را از دست دادند و جمعیت ۳۰ میلیونی زرتشتی امروز طی قرون متمادی در اثر جزید ، آزاد ، فشار ، رشوه و بی عدالتی و قانونهای نامساوی و تعویض اجباری دین خود به دویست هزار در حال حاضر تقلیل پیدا کرده است ولی در هیچ زمانی نتوانسته است به ایمان آنها خلی وارد آورد. این همان ایمان راسخی است که بر فلسفه خوش بینی و راست و درستی آموزشهای اشوزرتشت بناشده و آنها را از بدبینی و نابودی کامل نجات داده است . این تعداد کم باقیمانده همان ایرانیان اصیل هستند که تاروپودشان با مهر وطن آغشته است و به تاریخ و کارکرد ( گذشته ) اجداد خود میبالند و افتخار میکنند.

شوربخانه دیده میشود که پیروان دروغ و کری سعی می کند با تبلیغ های ناروا و اتهام و..... سعی می کنند در افراد با دانش مذهبی کم نفوذ نموده ، آنها را فریب داده و بکیش دروغی خودشان درآورن. فراموش نکنیم که اشوزرتشت خود پیش بینی کرده بود و هزاران سال پیش در گاتهایش فرموده است : ای کسی که از راه دور و نزدیک برای آگاه شدن آمده اید، همه گوش فرادهید و بشنوید حقایقی را که برایتان روشن میسازد و بایسته است که آنرا بخاطر بسپارید تا مبدا آموزگاران دروغ شما را گمراه کرده و با گفتار نادرست و فریبنده زندگی شما را تباه سازند (گاتها ۴۵ بند ۱) یگانگی ، آموزش گاتها و بکار بردن آن بهترین راه نجات زرتشتیان است .

شده است :

از نوشته های زیر بیشترین بهره گرفته

۱- ایران کرده شماره ۱۵ - تقویم و تاریخ در ایران از استاد ذبیح مهرروز (تهران)

۲- حکومتی که برای جهان دستور میبویشت دکر ذ آ بخورتاش (تهران)

۳- اوستا : کهنترین گنجینه مکبوب ایران باستان ! هاشم رضی (تهران)

۴- گاتها ی زرتشت - ترجمه موبد رستم شهرلوی (تهران)

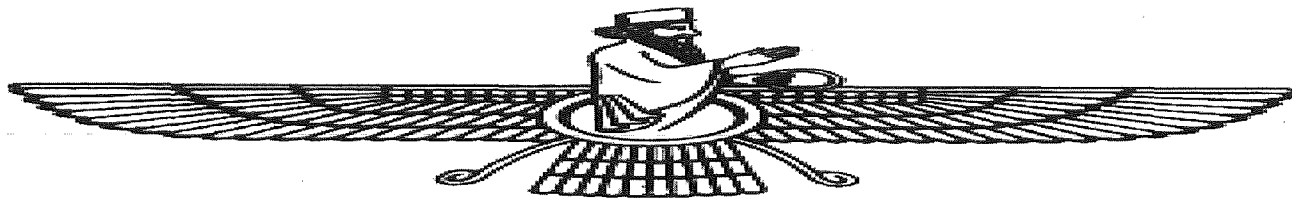
۵- تاریخ زرتشتیان پس از ساسانیان : نوشته رشید شهردلان .

نگارش و پژوهش : دکتر برزو نجمی

ای ایران ای سرزمین

اشوزرتشت دوستت داریم و

بتو فکر می کنیم



# ~ Youthfully Speaking ~

“The mouthpiece for the next generation”

“Welcome to another edition of Youthfully Speaking! Our staff is always on the lookout for ideas and suggestions for future issues. We look to the youth in the community to supply us with their thoughts on the religion and community. Take this opportunity to let others know what is on your mind. Use this journal as a tool for action. Write to us... We're waiting to hear from va'll!”

## Youthfully Speaking

~Z-Editors~

Nikan Khatibi

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Feel free to submit photos, articles, or any comments you might have to one of the editors. We love to hear from you!!

## Youth Talk

IN EVERY ISSUE OF YOUTHFULLY SPEAKING, A QUESTION WILL BE ASKED TO THE ZARATHUSHTI YOUTH CONCERNING TOPICS AND ISSUES IN OUR RELIGION. THIS TIME THE QUESTION IS...

WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT THE ZARATHUSHTI COMMUNITY IS TIGHTLY KNIT. DO YOU THINK THE FACT THAT WE ARE A SMALL COMMUNITY HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH IT, OR DO YOU FEEL OUR CLOSENESS IS A BYPRODUCT OF OUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS?

As a follower of the Zarathushti religion, I like the fact that we are small and close to one another. I feel that the fact that we are a small religion and not as huge as Islam or Christianity makes us one big family. Its good to know who everyone is.

Cyrus Daruwalla  
Lubbock, Texas

Dear Youthfully Speaking, I feel that our religion is closely knit simply because we are small in numbers. As our religion continues to grow, this chain of closeness will begin to fade and soon though we are brought up to be close to our Zarathushti brothers and sisters, we will begin to spread out.

Shirin Khosraviani  
Seattle, Washington



## *Zarathushti Migrants from India in America – how do they live?*



*By Jasmine Chapgar*

The following is a summary of a research project conducted for (and presented to) an anthropology class, Local and Global Systems, at Rutgers University. The focus was to discover how they try to keep their culture and religion alive, especially with such small numbers – what kind of practices go on, away from a large community and religious temples? How have their identities changed? What problems do they face? I wanted to find a picture of what these migrants' lives are like in America, and how they maintain their religion. With the number of Zarathushtis in North America ranging around 15,000 or less, how do they live – keeping their identity as Zarathushtis in America?

The research for this project was two-fold: an academic research portion, and a primary research portion. The academic portion consisted of information from ethnography, books on religion, migrants, websites and articles from newspapers. The primary research part incorporated 10 interviews of Zarathushti migrants, pamphlets (with first-hand essays, speeches, etc.) from congresses, the FEZANA journal, videos, and photos, all which were included in the presentation.

### **Academic Research:**

#### **A portion**

1910 - 1950: Diaspora to India because of Muslim religious persecution. Became known as the Parsees.

1970 : Slow migration of Parsees to the West.

Williams gave a census count:

Estimate **1988**, 7000 in the US.

Very few people know what the Zarathushti religion is in the US.

*“Our children need this identity so they can be proud of what they are ... At school they are sometimes ashamed to say they are Zarathushtis because people just stare at them as if they are from another planet” (Williams, 1988).*

Williams discussed 3 major problems among the Zarathushti immigrants in America and what they must do to solve them:

- 1) Must forge unity between immigrants from Iran and India. The two have different cultural backgrounds, different languages... so there are tensions and cultural divides. However Williams feels that unity is possible, since most are educated and westernized, and since immigration regulations are high, it is the most professionally advanced portion of the community that is in the United States.
- 2) Re-establishing high social standing and positive identification (acumen, honest in business, charitable). Lost the place of a highly respected community... struggle to remove the image of belonging to a poorly educated impoverished part of the world. Identity for young people is crucial.

3) Conversion, mixed marriages and children are huge and controversial issues. The young are for conversion, acceptance of mixed marriages and children, the old do not. "Widening the gap between them ..." (Williams, 1988).

### **Primary research:**

I devised a set of 27 questions that was answered by 10 Zarathushti Indian migrants living in the United States. Questions about: when and why they moved to the US, their expectations, their current relationship with India, how they feel the move of Zarathushtis to the US is having an effect on the global Zarathushti community (via intermarriages, etc.), the identity they feel living in the US, the process of 'becoming American', how to practice Zoroastrianism in the US, traditions preserved and lost, the difference and compromises from living in the US, being a minority, the religious future of their children living in the US, and other questions.

### **Some general trends found:**

*Reasons for moving* – dislike of the political system, job opportunities, freedom, economic advantages.

*Relationship with homeland* – friends and family connection, but not otherwise... no big attachment.

*Identity* - American with Indian roots. *Practice of religion* – same prayers, no temple, practices with funerals different, religious classes new and interesting. *Children* – more curiosity, and religiously aware, more informed, more material, less respectful to elders, depends on children's upbringing.

The answers were usually in accordance with the academic research.

### **Conclusions:**

Zarathushtis have survived a long time. They flourished in India, and they are doing quite well in the United States too. The majority of interviewees were doctors, engineers, or worked for some higher establishment like a university or scientific institution. In short, most were quite successful, professionally. However, in a new land where they are even more spread out than before, there are definite issues on how to keep up a community, and for some they have to deal with the immigrant status that is so unlike the status from home. However overall, since the Parses in India were very much suited to British taste and rule, they have a good deal less transition to go through culturally since their culture was a mix between East and West. What they do have to deal with, is being an even tinier, completely unknown and misrepresented people in a land where people are casually lumped into categories, including the Zarathushtis – even if they don't fit in them.

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### **About the writer:**

Jasmine Chapgar graduated in January 2002 from Rutgers University in Anthropology and Music. She is now teaching piano as well as tutoring, and seeking more employment. This is an extremely summarized version of her research; for more information contact Jasmine @ [jasneko@yahoo.com](mailto:jasneko@yahoo.com)







# Lest We Forget

By Dinaz Kutar Rogers

## Do you remember any stories or sayings?

"Lest We Forget" is hosted by Dinaz Kutar Rogers, a high-school biology teacher and published writer. Readers are invited to contribute their stories, lores, legends and memories related to our faith, community, Iran, India, that we grew up with as young children. Jot down those sayings your mother used to say, and send them in, with your version of the meanings, to Dinaz at 1240 Takena SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, tel: (541) 967-1911, email: drogerson@msn.com.

## Zarathushtra's Teachings in Today's World

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

- Edmund Burke

The old expression "times change, people don't", speaks volumes about human nature. What was taught so simply yet appealingly by Zarathushtra centuries and centuries ago, holds true even today in our difficult and unbelievably trying times. The most important tenet, the bedrock of the Zarathushti religion, is *Manashni, Gavashni, Kunashni* (thinking good thoughts, saying good words and doing good deeds). Once one starts practicing these simple yet elegant concepts, not only is one praised and admired by others, but the self-satisfaction gets so internalized, that it becomes an integral part of that person. Even though these are the truest and supreme benchmarks for a Zarathushti to achieve, one must always remember that

accomplishing these meritorious commandments is important, but to steadfastly practice *Manashni, Gavashni, Kunashni* all the time, as a constant habit is best. This is summoned up in the prayers - *Yatha Ahu Vairyo* and *Ashem Vohu*.

When one looks at the overindulgence or total denial in everyday living of some religious and secular sects or groups, one can look to the religion of Zarathushtra, which preaches neither. In fact, it *cautions against renunciation* of the physical and material worlds and enjoins the disciples to acquire, secure, and delight in life's worldly amenities.

It also asks people to nurture and cultivate *comradeship* with their fellow human beings as it benefits the body

and soul to be social and have companionship. This is attested by some of our communal festivals like the six *gahambars* and *jashans*, when after the appropriate devotionals, we relax, feast, dance, sing and mingle with and bask in the fellowship of others.

Renouncing God-given worldliness, and living like a hermit, celibate or an ascetic is not the solution and goes against our basic human nature. To live a self-imposed joyless life of total self-denial is not Zarathushtra's message, but at the same time one should temper the joys of life with *moderation* and common sense. Thus we are urged to live disciplined lives, but with an injunction against celibacy, fasting, taking vows of poverty and penance.

In addition, one of the challenges for our times that Zarathushtra addressed, is the environment. Iran's ancient founders, the Aryans, believed that pollution of the elements - air, earth, fire and water - was an abomination, and it was this basic ideology that was handed on to their heirs - the Zarathushtis. Zarathushtra fostered an almost evangelical fervor in his preachings and urged his followers to become staunch *guardians of nature's elements*. He warned his congregation of a long time ago (which today, more than ever, holds true for the modern-day assemblage) that if we were to abuse nature, there will come a time when repairing and recovering the damage will become almost impossible and the consequences will be grave. I say that Zarathushtra was the original environmentalist!

*Laws of hygiene* are an important part of the religion, as is evidenced in:

*"Next to life, the best good for man is purity."*

[Yasna 48.5, Vendidad 5.21]

I remember the unbelievable cleanliness in every Zarathushti household, the dusting of furniture every day, the morning and noon ritual of sweeping every corner with the 'Indian broom'

after which a wet jute cloth would be dipped into a bucket of water to wash the floors. For these tasks, one had to be on one's haunches. If the maid servant did not show up, one of the members of the family and even my old but spry maternal grandmother did not shirk from any of those back-breaking and rather cumbersome methods (from our modern American prospective) of keeping the house spotlessly clean. "It's a part of our religion" or "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", were the succinct explanations given to us as we were pressed into service.

“ Thank You, America,  
for granting me the privilege to be your daughter, but most of all  
Thank You, India, for  
being my mother! ”

If I remember right, there was not that much sickness in Zarathushti households. Our ancient 'Zarathushti 'Kosher laws' have stood the test of time, just as the Jewish laws of cleanliness and hygiene, for example, helped the Jews of Europe, survive the devastating Black Death (bubonic plague), in its initial stages, in the 1350s. To keep mind, body, soul and the environment clean which makes just as much sense in our contemporary times, as it has over the centuries, was indeed a vision of Zarathushtra.

Another message of Zarathushtra which is of equal importance and relevance in today's world is *love for one's own motherland*. In *Vendidad, Fargard I*, Ahura Mazda describes the sixteen lands he created, and then goes on to tell Zarathushtra that every one of those lands are dear to those who dwell in them, even though some of those lands are desolate and devoid of any beauty or charm, whether of geography, cli-

## My mother used to say...

"The old forget. The young don't know." - Japanese proverb

### "Goochvai nay ga(n)th thai gaya(n)"

*We became entangled like a knot.* Used when we are puzzled about something and are unable to find our way out of the dilemma. For example, if someone has given you incorrect street directions and you go around in circles trying to find the place, then this saying is apt to describe your predicament.

### "Jay dariyo, tay hariyo"

*The one who is afraid, is the one that loses.* Used when someone fails to reach one's goal due to fear. For example, at school I was very shy and would not ask the teacher a question even if I did not understand a point. When I came home and related my predicament to my mother she would say "Jay dariyo, tay hariyo". If I was afraid to ask I would surely lose out in the exams!

### "Ayma su mohtto wagh mariyo?"

*In that action, which big tiger have you killed?* This is a very common saying used when someone is bragging about their act, or achievement that the other person thinks is not so great. For example, if one Parsi is telling another that he can eat at least 2 dozen *boomla* (or Bombay duck) at a sitting, the other might say "Ayma su mohtto wagh mariyo, I can eat four dozen at a time!"

### "Mayree billi, mujko meeow"

*My own cat growls at me.* This saying, although not in Gujarati language, but in Hindi, typifies the Parsi penchant for small bits from other cultures. This is used when one's own child or family member turns on oneself or says something that is disagreeable. On occasions when my older sister and I would quarrel over something, she would use this saying, meaning that I, as a younger sister should not be in confrontation with her but in abeyance. I am not sure, but I think this saying comes to us from the Urdu language and Muslim culture.

### "Tara(n) mathay singra"

*You have horns on your head.* Used when someone, who is just like the rest of us, demands special treatment. It asks a rhetorical question: what is it that makes you so special to deserve extraordinary treatment? Do you have horns on your head? When I demanded from my mother an extra piece of *koprapak* (coconut fudge) than the number doled out to my sister and cousins, my mother used to make this remark half in jest and half in anger.

### "Sayr na mathe sava sayr"

*One and quarter sayr over one sayr.* A *sayr* was a measure of weight used in the British days by vegetable, fruit, sweet meats and other vendors. The next higher denomination of weight was a *maund*. This saying is similar to the one above but not identical. It roughly means that you will find your match. When someone does something extraordinary and thinks he/she is very great, along comes another and bests that person, this saying is used. In other words, one and quarter *sayr* in more is weight than just a *sayr*.

### "Vahan bhagi nay patla banavya"

*Break up a ship to make patlas.* A *patla* is a low flat stool. This is used when something majestic and valuable, like a big ship, is broken up and the parts used to make something of little value.

[Submitted by **Parvin Damania**, administrative assistant in the Institute of Toxicology at University of California, Davis. She has a BA in English literature and French from the University of Bombay and a diploma in Secretarial Practice, Bombay. Contact Parvin at [padamania@hotmail.com](mailto:padamania@hotmail.com)]

## READER'S FORUM

mate or productivity. For, if Ahura Mazda had not made all the peoples' own homelands dear to their hearts, then everyone would have invaded Aryana Vaego (Iran). So Ahura Mazda made sure that everyone's notion and conviction would be that his motherland is the best, most desirable, and without a doubt divinely magnificent. So love your homeland, do not covet others', and be loyal to your *madder vattan* (mother country) and defend it against aggression.

We still refer to the land we surrendered over 1,300 years ago to Islamic Arabs as our *maddar vattan* Iran, while remaining steadfastly loyal and true to India or whatever *maddar vattan* our modern-day diaspora has led us to. Iran may be ninety percent desert, but who cares? Iran or *Aryana Vaego* or *Airyana Vaejah* still holds much charm and an innate attraction to most of us. It is said that Israel is the Promised Land, but to most, America is Israel. It seems that for most inhabitants on this earth, it is America Vaego! And to my ancestors, fleeing Iran a long time ago, this Promised Land they were sailing toward must have been India Vaego!

On a personal note, with three wonderful lands to love (Iran, India and America) my heart, my soul and my song, go to all three – but my allegiance belongs to America. I can put it best by saying “Thank You, America, for granting me the privilege to be your daughter, but most of all Thank You, India, for being my mother!”

However, without diminishing the values of any of the many teachings of Zarathushtra, the greatest and the noblest of all our obligations as his followers is to join forces with each other in aiding and abetting good, wherever, and battling evil, absolutely everywhere and anywhere. ■

***He who knows evil is being done and does nothing to stop it, is guilty with the evildoer. St. Ambrose of Milan***

*This column is a forum to present information and opinions. Letters (under 250 words) may be submitted to the Editor. The Journal reserves the right to edit all materials for clarity and space.*

### On FEZANA Journal

The Journal is getting better and better with every issue. You are doing sterling work and I for one appreciate and recognize the hard work put in by all those connected with it. Keep it up and may it grow from strength to strength.

*Nargish Jambuserwala*  
*London, UK*

Dr. Ardeshtir Anoshiravani and Dr. Mehr Soroushian were guest editors of a very unique edition of FEZANA [Winter 2001] with articles exploring ancient heritage, transitioning in new lands, and exploring practical ideas for the future. In the article “*Telling Others Who We Are*” [pp. 64-68], by Tenaz Dubash, Khosro Mehrfar, Shahrokh Mehta and Mehrborzin Soroushian, the structure is given as to how we can become better ambassadors. There are objectives, recommended projects and an action plan. I applaud the guest editors for this very fine edition of the Journal.

*Magdalena Rustomji*  
*Houston, Texas*

Thanks a lot for the Journal [*Winter 2001*], which provided most interesting reading about the Zarathushtis, and also for the writeup [*p. 96*].

*Kersi Rustomji*  
*Lavington, NSW, Australia*

I marvel at your dedication. I had no idea there was so much involved in posting the Journal outside North America. I am wiser now; with knowledge comes wisdom, and wisdom leads to patience. I will keep waiting anxiously for the postman to deliver FEZANA Journal. Ever since I introduced my cousin to the Journal, she has been doing the same with the postman who delivers her letters as well.

*Pervin Nirumvala*  
*Burnaby, BC*

*Informal Religious Meetings*, Karachi, has republished the “*Prayer Guide – Suggested Prayers for All Occasions*” by Kersey H. Antia, which originally appeared in *FEZANA Journal*, Fall 1998 as a separate booklet, and distributed it in Karachi. Occasionally there have been demands for this handy guide.  
*Virasp Mehta, Editor, Ushao Wichita, Kansas*

We enjoy reading FEZANA Journal very much and look forward to every issue. We learn so much from all the interesting articles.

*Manijeh DeVitre*  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*

What a great last [Spring 2002] issue. Thank you for helping foster a community sense. This journal is really superb!

*Zareen Karani Araoz  
Winchester, Massachusetts*

Thank you to Dolly Dastoor for being guest editor for the issue on “Health and Healing” [Spring 2002]. I would like to commend all the authors – Dinaz Italia, Trity Pourbahrami, Daryoush Jahanian, Jehan Bagli, and others. The articles encompass a wide spectrum, which will be beneficial for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of our community. Thank you for sharing this gift of education with us.

*Meher Amalsad*  
*Westminster, California*

A horizontal line of 18 small, solid black diamonds arranged in a slightly wavy pattern, used as a section separator.

*Share your sorrow,  
and it is halved,  
Share your joy  
and it is doubled.*

# An arduous task to understand the truth

The calendar of '*fasal*' is the correct religious calendar. What are the obstacles to seeing the facts of history and to right the wrongs?

By Jehan Bagli  
Mississauga, Ontario

A detailed paper entitled "Unified Calendar – Pros and Cons" was published in *HUMATA* [Summer 1999] which conclusively established that the calendar of '*fasal*' is the correct religious calendar in consonance with the early '*vihejakik*' computation devised by Zarathushti clerics. Two years have elapsed with little visible advance to the understanding of the truth of this matter. What are the obstacles to seeing the facts of history, and to right the wrongs?

(a) Many papers on the subject of the calendar have been published, to bring the two viewpoints to the attention of community members. However, the materialistic bustle of daily life for external goals such as jobs, status, wealth and physical happiness leaves little time for people to carefully scrutinize the truth of nature that is embodied in this topic.

(b) Furthermore it is indeed very difficult to extirpate the spirituality rooted over a millennium of unenlightened following of a tradition, despite the clear visibility of the error. Over the period of the past 50 years many learned Dasturs – Dr. Maneckji N. Dhalla, Dr. Framroz Bode, Ervad Navroz Minochehr Homji as well as religious scholars such as Behramgore T. Anklesaria and others have made concerted efforts to bring this error to the attention of the community. It is indeed a challenge to the community to evaluate the proof of the facts disseminated and to arrive at a rational conclusion. More particularly the issue must and should stimulate the thinking of the younger sector of the community.

(c) Arguments such as the proscription of the one day intercalation, genealogy of *alat* and *Avardad salgah* – the 6th Gatha are all carefully con-

trived by the antagonists, to play upon the spiritual emotionality of community members. These objections were fully discussed in the detailed paper and there is nothing within them that cannot be resolved by courteous dialogue around a table. It is indeed crystal clear that those in the leadership position, have chosen to keep the truth of this matter away from community members. In contrast, basic fear is inbred in the minds of the people that changing the calendar system is a violation of religious ritual code.

(d) It is also becoming clear, that unfortunately the community lacks the spiritual strength to see the truth presented to them. While presenting themselves under the guise of dedicated Zarathushtis, little do they realize, that through the practice of erroneous computation of Shenshai and Kadmi, they are in fact violating the basic order of *Asha* – the Immutable law of Nature – and causing utter chaos and disharmony in the sacred Zarathushtrian rituals, if not vitiating them.

Those who feel the angst of moving to the calendar system of *fasal* must feel at ease and peaceful, that in doing so, they are choosing the truth, doing what is righteous, to correct an error of the past. Those who have concern about changing the *roz/mah* of memorial prayers of their dearly departed must recognize that the souls of their loved ones, are in unison with Mazda and are omniscient. These righteous souls will only welcome the harmony that such a change will restore. In the name of Ahura Mazda all the memorial prayers should be shifted to the *roz/mah* of the *Fasli Sal* that coincides with the Gregorian date of their demise. Sure it will change the *roz/mah*, but the fact is, that it will bring it to the correct one from the one that was incor-

rect. To do that is to change the wrong to right, to change the bad to the good. That is what the religion of Zarathushtra teaches us to do.

In the 18th century schism between the Shenshai and Kadmi it was the **people power that led the way**. Nothing short of the same historic courage of the will of the people can pave the way to correct this error of history.

Looking to the leadership to find a resolution of this matter is futile and fruitless. True spiritual dedication to the religion of Asho Zarathushtra resides not in ignoring but in correcting the wrongs to set right the religiosity of our sacred observances. Priesthood has an obligation to fulfill, and that is to perform the services, to satisfy the spiritual needs of the community. May Mazda be our guide, to light the Path of Asha, to the righteous choice. ■

## ■ ERATTA ■

The article "Some Noted Parsi Medicos and Educators" by Dr. Mehroo M. Patel [*FEZANA Journal*, Spring 2002] states that Dr. Keki Batliwalla was the first Parsi vice chancellor of University of Bombay. Please note that Dr. Batliwalla was never the vice chancellor, let alone the first Parsi vice chancellor. Sir Pherozeshah Mehta was the first Parsi vice chancellor, in 1915, followed by many others, including Sir Rustom Masani. It hardly befits your magazine to print such irresponsible statements.

Dr. (Smt) Nawaz B. Mody  
Head of the Department of Civics  
and Politics, University of Mumbai

I am grateful to Dr. Mody for setting the record straight. The article focussed on the achievements of Parsi **medicos** (not **all** Parsis). Memory recall of personal word-of-mouth information, caused me to err. Will Dr. Mody (with access to University resources) throw light on which position of significance Dr. Batliwalla held at the University in 1950s - 60s?

Mehroo M. Patel, M.D.  
Westchester, Illinois

# Zarathushtra in the Past, Present and Future

Zarathushtra's philosophy is ideal for modern civilization, with its social unrest, economic crises and religious upheavals. Zarathushtra has been the hope for our society in the past, as he is now, and will be in the future.

By Borzoo Nadjmi, M.D.  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

**Zarathushtra's birth date reaffirmed.** Around 150 years ago, the discovery of over 4,000 tablets and writings in the western part of China, known as Turfan, helped to reaffirm the accurate birth date of Zarathushtra. The discovery of the Turfan findings clarified many facts which were previously unknown.

Zarathushtra was born 2715 years after "the great storm". The great storm occurred 6482 years ago. Thus, using these dates, Zarathushtra was born 3767 years ago ( $6482 - 2715 = 3767$ ) or in 1767 BCE. Moses was born 1500 BCE (300 years after Zarathushtra) and Plato's birth date is 1400 years after Zarathushtra's.

Approximately 200 years ago, in response to inquiries from the Parsis of India, 72 Iranian mobeds and mobed-e-mobedans of Yazd, along with Zarathushti scholars validated this birth date of Zarathushtra as they have done for over three millennia.

At the age of 30, Zarathushtra proclaimed his enlightenment. At the age of 42, he founded the first and oldest observatory, in the city of Nimrooz (presently in the province of Seistan, in Iran). Zarathushtra also changed the old system of the lunar calendar to a new, totally accurate solar calendar. Sadly, his calendar and dates have been tampered with many times, once during the 3rd or 4th centuries CE, and then many subsequent times. Al Biruni, an astronomer, historian and philosopher, mentioned Zarathushtra's calendar and its accuracy repeatedly in his book, *Asaar-Al Baghieh*.

**Zarathushtra's holy book** is called *Manthra* or "thought-provoking" by Zarathushtra and *Gathas* by his immediate followers. Zarathushtra called himself *Manthran* or "composer of the Manthra or Gathas," and his religion "daena vanghu" (i.e. the best ethical religion). Manthra and Gathas are two Gathic words which are used in English and possess the same meanings.

**Zarathushtra's message.** Since Zarathushtra first gave the message of Mazda to the people of Iran, exactly 3739 years have elapsed. Millions of human souls have lived a happy life and died a peaceful death under the shadow of the protective wings of Zarathushtra's pristine, simple and extremely ethical faith. His immortal triad of good thoughts, good words and good deeds has kindled the religious zeal, intensified the desire and enlightened the thoughts and minds of his followers.

**Bright and dark days.** Throughout history, the religion of Zarathushtra has seen its bright and dark days. During these ages, great and mighty kings have ruled over Iran. However, Zarathushtra's spiritual teachings were stronger than the king's power over the people. Thus, Zarathushtra ruled over people's hearts and minds while the kings effected physical rule over the people. Zarathushtra's ever optimistic teachings and the ever cheerful spirit of his sublime doctrines have saved his followers from falling into the depths of despair and gloom after the Arab invasion of Iran 1400 years ago.

Although the number of practicing Zarathushtis has diminished from 30

million during the Sasanian period, to just over two hundred thousand at the present, they have proven themselves to be the true bearers of the great name and fame of their illustrious forefathers. The history of noble deeds of the forefathers still thrills their dutiful descendants who have faithfully reflected their past national glory in their small community.

“ Zarathushtra was born 3767 years ago, in 1767 BCE. ”

Unfortunately, during this long period of time, the deceivers have bribed, lied, proselytized, distorted the facts and preyed on people with little religious knowledge, as Zarathushtra had predicted:

*"Listen to these clear truths which I teach. Remember well and bear in mind lest the evil teacher destroys the peoples life once again and the followers of untruth lead them astray with wrong teachings."*

[Ys. 45.1]

**Defending the religion.** The only way to defend our religion against the followers of untruth is to increase our religious knowledge by studying the Manthra of Zarathushtra and utilize it at the time of need. Modern civilization is fraught with discontent and restlessness and renders people exceedingly sensitive to suffering. Zarathushtra's philosophy is ideal for those times.

Zarathushtra's teachings will continue to be applicable during future social unrest, economic crises and religious upheavals. Zarathushtra has been the hope for our society in the past, as he is now, and as he will be in the future.

*[This article was originally written in Farsi and the English translation has been shortened and slightly altered. Please refer to the Farsi text for sources, or contact Dr. Nadjmi at (401) 723-7216].*



## Z-LOVE -

### It's the Unconditional Light Of Valuable Energy

Copyright © 2002, Meher Amalsad  
author of "Bread for the Head®"

When my daughter Anahita was two years old, people would ask her:  
"Anahita, how are you doing today?"

And she would respond: "I am *growing* and *glowing*."

I believe that in every relationship "People like to know, if we have the *Love to Grow* and the *Light to Glow*."

The following story of Love and Light, literally transformed my life, when Anahita was about five years old.

Anahita liked to go to McDonalds and she also enjoyed playing hide-and-go-seek. McDonalds we hardly visited, but hide-and-go-seek we played all the time.

One day, we were famished so we decided to go get a sandwich from McDonalds. At McDonalds, as I was approaching the order counter, I turned around and Anahita had disappeared. After a few moments she reappeared, pretending to be playing hide-and-go-seek with me.

Now, I had made it very clear to her, that she was not to play hide-and-go-seek in public places. Just to make my point, I decided to bring her back home without buying a sandwich.

So, what do you think a five year old, who enjoys McDonalds would do in a situation like this?

Jump, yell, plead, roll, scroll? Not this child!

To my surprise, she was not only calm and relaxed, but what was truly amazing is that when we reached home she told me in a very loving way:

"Baba, you did not get a chance to eat a sandwich at McDonalds. I will make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for you, so that you don't go hungry." And you know what? This was the very first sandwich that she ever made for anybody.

I was truly touched by the spirit of her unconditional love and forgiveness. I thought that I was trying to teach her a lesson. Instead, I got a lesson of my lifetime.

The lesson here for all of us is this. Our children will love us unconditionally when they are young. We need to make sure that when they grow up and know better, that we have given them sufficient reasons to continue to love unconditionally.

This my friends, will only happen when we truly understand that "*The only condition in love is that there are no conditions.*" That is truly the spirit of Z-Love.

For years, I wondered if there was any special significance in peanut butter and jelly. Now I realize that it had something to do with:

Anahita being *Sweet*, while I was going *Nuts*!

For more Z-inspiration, visit [www.Bread4theHead.com](http://www.Bread4theHead.com). ■

## ZARATHUSHTI ENTERPRISE PRODUCTS AND ■ SERVICES ■

### Position available for Farsi speaking linguist

REEP, Inc., major provider of language services to the US Government and the private sector is looking for highly qualified Persian-Farsi linguist/translator for a government contract position. Must be a US citizen. Contact Mike Murley (910) 425-4900, [www.usereep.com](http://www.usereep.com).

### Business Announcements

#### ARSHIYA VENTURES

In a new era of global change and opportunity, *Arshiya* provides Executive Summary Editing, Introduction to Venture Investors, Post-Sept 11 Analysis, Leadership and Board Development, Technology and Business Proposal Assessment, Advocacy for Enlightened Humanistic Thought, Cultural Enterprise and Globalization. Contact Arshiya founder *Natalie Vania*, [nvania@malch.com](mailto:nvania@malch.com), [www.malch.com/arshiya](http://www.malch.com/arshiya).



*Yasmin Kotval* is now a realtor with Coldwell Banker. She will provide personalized service to sell your house, buy a new home or relocate, nationwide. Contact [yasmin.kotval@cbnocal.com](mailto:yasmin.kotval@cbnocal.com), (925) 362-2273.

#### GANJOO LAW OFFICE Immigration Attorney

*Monica Nooshafarin Ganjoo* offers a free consultation and immigration services for an extremely low fee. She writes: "I came to the US at a very young age, with my parents ... I understand how difficult it is to come here now, and not have enough money to pay for an attorney..." Contact [ganjoo@ganjoolaw.com](mailto:ganjoo@ganjoolaw.com), tel: (415) 495-3710 in San Francisco.



## WZCC Business Digest

### "You prosper, We all prosper"

The World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce envisages growth of a network of local chapters in all locations where Zarathushtis reside, with the aim of encouraging networking among Zarathushti businesses and professionals.

**Membership invitation.** All business persons and professionals are invited to become members of WZCC.

#### CHAPTERS AT WORK

The **Los Angeles Chapter** is in its infancy. With the assistance of Homi Bodhanwala and the support of local Zarathushtis, I feel that we can create a powerful, organized chapter with great entrepreneurial spirit. I have always had faith in the Zarathushti community and have learned and relearned that when united, our community though small in number, can make unprecedented achievements. Working in cooperation with the executive committee of the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC), I feel confident that the LA Chapter will grow and aspire to greatness.

*Cowas Patel,  
LA Chapter chair  
wzcc\_la@yahoo.com*

The **Chicago Chapter** is busy with three projects: (1) the Business Conference on July 3 and the Business Breakfast on July 4, during the North American Congress in Chicago, (2) Meeting with interested parties for purchase of the property next door to the Darbe Mehr, (3) Evaluating possibilities for a cooperative venture of a Parsi restaurant in the Chicago area.

*Sarosh Khambatta  
Chicago Chapter Chair  
tiger101@msn.com*

The inaugural meeting of the **Greater New York chapter** was held on March 4th at the Darbe Mehr. Rusi Gandhi was appointed Chapter Chair. Edul Daver presented WZCC's purpose and objectives. A meeting at Fali and Palm Shroff's house on July 1st, drew over 20 people. Edul Daver presented a summary of WZCC and Fali made an excellent presentation on the WZCC Website.

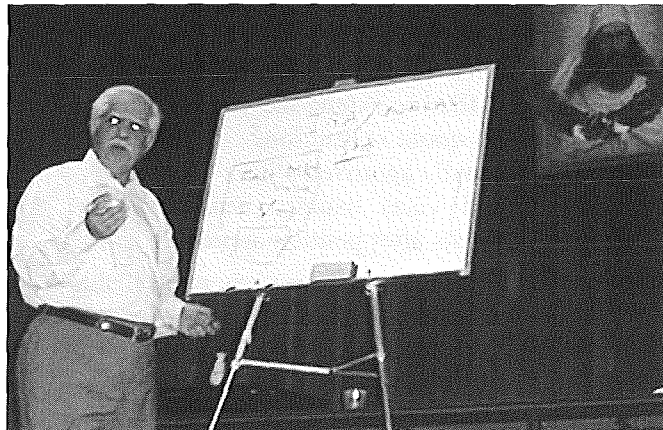
The September meeting, also attended by six members of the national WZCC Board of Directors, was very positive and constructive. It was suggested that WZCC should also address the needs of professionals, help women in business, and help bring immigrants from India, Pakistan and Iran. In January Framroze Patel gave a presentation on

"Business Valuation" and Rusi Gandhi on "Is Real Estate recession proof?" In March Edul Daver gave a presentation on "Asset Based Financing", showing how one can leverage limited financing to purchase a relatively large corporation or business. At present the chapter has 21 members. The goal is to promote entrepreneurial opportunities with networking between businesses and professionals and maximum exposure and support for our present Zarathushti businesses in the tri-state area.

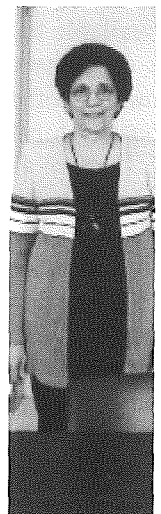
*Rusi Gandhi, rusi@garden.net  
Greater New York Chapter chair*

Visit WZCC at [www.wzcc.org](http://www.wzcc.org), write to WZCC, PO Box 3384, Hinsdale, IL 60521; or contact Secretary Edul Daver at 17 Geiger Lane, Warren, NJ 07059, tel: (732) 469-1866, [daver@acupowder.com](mailto:daver@acupowder.com).

*Rohinton Rivetna,  
President, WZCC  
Rivetna@aol.com, (630) 325-5383.*



*Left, Framroze Patel talking about "Business Valuation" at a New York Chapter meeting. Below, Chicago Chapter chair Sarosh Khambatta [seated, center] and members at a planning meeting.*



# Visa Options for Doing Business in the USA

An overview of the most popular types of visas for individuals wishing to conduct business in the US.

By Mitra Rashidi, Esq.  
Toronto, Ontario

**V**arious visa options exist for individuals wishing to conduct business in the US. The increasing globalization of world economies is resulting in a concurrent increase in international trade. For example, approximately \$1.5 billion in goods and services cross the US-Canadian border each day. Since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was ratified in 1994, trade between the two countries has increased every year to the point that the US accounts for four-fifths of Canadian exports and three-fourths of imports.

**The most utilized non-immigrant visas** are H-1B, L-1, E-1, E-2 and TN. Each visa has a different set of requirements and privileges attached to it. For example, the L-1 and the H-1B visas can lead to permanent residency. If you are interested in doing business in the US, it is wise to seek legal counsel to determine if you qualify for one or more visas, and if so, which particular one is the most appropriate for your circumstances.

**H-1B Specialty Worker** visas are available to individuals who work in a specialty occupation or to fashion models of distinguished merit. To qualify for this visa, unless you are a fashion model, you must have at least a bachelor's degree or substantial on-the-job experience that is equivalent to a bachelor's degree. Among some of the requirements are that you first must have a job offer from a US employer and the employer must have filed a Labor Condition Application with the US Department of Labor on your behalf. The quota for

available H-1B visas for fiscal year 2001 to 2003 is 195,000 and visas are usually issued within two to four months.

**L-1 Intracompany Transferee** visas are available to employees who work for a company with a parent, subsidiary, branch, affiliate or joint venture in the US. You must have been employed for the company outside the US for one continuous year out of the last three as a manager, executive or as a person with specialized knowledge and will perform in a similar capacity once transferred. You can also apply for an L-1 to open a new office, in which case your visa is initially approved for one year, after which time additional evidence is filed to extend the visa. There are no quota restrictions. Petitions are usually approved within 4 to 8 weeks and visas usually issued several weeks after petition approval.

**E-1 Treaty Trader** visas are available to nationals of specific countries that have commercial treaties with the US and who will engage in trade of a substantial nature between the US and the treaty country. To qualify, you must be coming to the US to work for a business, at least 50% of which is owned by citizens of your treaty country. E-1 visas are issued only to principal owners or key employees, provided all have the same treaty nationality. More than 50% of the company's trade must be between the US and the treaty country.

**E-2 Treaty Investor** visas are available to nationals of specific countries that have commercial treaties with the US and who will direct and develop a US business in which the individual

has invested or is actively involved in the process of investing a substantial amount of capital. Investment in stocks, land speculation or holding companies does not qualify. E-2 visas are issued to principal owners or essential employees, as long as all share the same treaty nationality. To qualify as a principal owner, you must own at least 50% of the business and show operational control through a managerial position or by other means. To qualify as an essential employee, you must be an executive, supervisor or possess highly specialized skills. There are no quota restrictions for either E visa and visas are usually issued within two to four weeks.

NAFTA created a new category, the **TN visa, for eligible Canadian professional workers**. The TN visa is available to Canadian citizens who practice certain professional occupations. You can refer to [www.ins.gov](http://www.ins.gov) for a list of professions that fall under NAFTA. A bachelor's degree, license and/or experience are required. You must have a US job offer and you must meet the minimum requirements for your particular profession. A properly completed document package, supported with authoritative proof means you can proceed to any US port of entry where an immigration officer will judge your application. When your status is approved, you are given an I-94 card and immediately admitted to the US. There are no quotas and you have status to live and work in the U.S. for one year. You can renew your status. The quick timeframe in receiving TN status makes this an appealing prospect for many Canadians.

There are many **other visa options** for individuals wishing to work in the U.S. such as the O, P and R visas. **O visas** are available to persons of proven extraordinary ability in the arts, athletics, science, business or education. **P visas** are available to outstanding athletes, athletic teams or entertainment companies. **R visas** are available to people who have

[Continued on page 30]

## FEZANA Financial Progress Report



**Dr. Jerry M. Kheradi** *chair of the FEZANA Funds and Finance Committee.*

### FEZANA ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS

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**M**y newly formed committee and I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our treasurer, Rustom Kevala, PhD for his excellent service to FEZANA. Rustom has not only served as a very efficient and hard-working treasurer, but he has been a tremendous support for me and the Funds and Finance committee. My sincere thanks, also, to the other members of my committee.

By the time we read this progress report, half of 2002 will be over and hopefully the financial markets will do better for the third and fourth quarter. (I am writing this article in the second week of April.) The **Financial Advisory Board** is now in existence. It is composed of the FEZANA treasurer, Yazdi Sidhwa, Maneck Kotwal and myself, Funds and Finance chairperson.

**Receipts and Disbursements.** During the first quarter of 2002, FEZANA sent the following donations from the welfare fund: Dadar-Matunga Association (\$301); Delhi Parsi Anjuman (\$100); WZO Gujarat Farmers (\$200); WZO Full-time Mobed Scheme (\$300); Navar Fund (\$100); Parsi General Hospital (\$100); Saronda Agiary (\$400); Sett Agiary (151). A total of \$2,100 was sent for medical assistance to two recipients in India.

Thank you and congratulations to the many Zarathushtis who are now proud members of the **Thousand Points of Light Club**. I believe this campaign has taken off on a sound footing and the community understands the importance of this project. At this time (April 2002) we are fortunate to have 256 points. The names of the contributors are listed on the next page. 256 points is encouraging, but we have a long way to go in reaching our goal of 1,000 points. **Thousand Points of Light** is a campaign directed at the future of FEZANA and the future of our youth. For those of you who are not members of the above club, kindly do so by donating \$100 or more towards this worthy cause.

Thank you for your continued support, in the name of Ahura Mazda,

**Jerry Kheradi, M.D.**, *chairperson, Funds and Finance Committee*

*Committee Members: Mitra Rashidi, Esq., Rita Engineer, Celeste Kheradi*

### "Thousand Points of Light"

"Thousand Points of Light" is a campaign, started in 2001, directed at the future of FEZANA and the future of our youth. Each unrestricted \$100 donated to FEZANA funds qualifies as 1 Point of Light. Names and points will be added as more donors join this elite group, until our goal of a Thousand Points of Light is reached. We are thankful to the many donors (shown in boldface) who recently sent generous donations in commemoration of Nouruz. Send your donations payable to FEZANA, specifying any of the FEZANA Funds (**General, Scholarship, Welfare, Critical Assistance and Religious Education**) and mail to: **Jerry Kheradi, M.D., 14 Riverview Drive, North Providence, RI 02904.**

**You may enjoy living by what you get  
But you can enjoy life by what you give**

- Fed Newsletter

# FINANCIAL CORNER

	2001	2002							
	<i>Fund Points</i>		<i>Fund Points</i>						
Anonymous, FL			Med	5	Dr Rustom & Yasmin Kevala, MD	Wel	1		
<b>A Wellwisher, MI</b>			Sch	1	Delara Kheradi, NY	Sch	1		
Dr Babak Abadi, PA	Sch	1			Celeste Kheradi, RI	Sch	15		
<b>Parviz &amp; Simin Ardeshirpour, NC</b>			Gen	1	Dr Jerry Kheradi, RI	Sch	15		
<b>Dr. Cyrus F Austin, AZ</b>	Wel	9	Wel	3	<b>Kershaw &amp; Nazneen Khumbatta, TX</b>			Gen	1
<b>Porus Austin, CA</b>			Gen	2	Jasmin & Maneck Kotwal, NJ	Wel	1	Wel	1
<b>Thritee, Soozan &amp; Trista Baxter, NY</b>			Sch++	1	Borzoo Kushesh & Mahindokht				
<b>Zazu &amp; Tinaaz Bhandara, CA</b>			RE	1	Yazdani-Bioki	Gen**	1		
Firdaus & Jasmin Bhathena, MA	Gen	1			Zenobia & Shahrookh Lala, MI	Gen	1		
<b>Rustom &amp; Sheroo Bhathena, OH</b>			Gen	1	Dolly Malva, CA	Gen	1		
Homi & Ellen Byramji, NJ	RE	1			Hosi & Kim Mehta, IL			Gen	1
<b>Homiyar Choksi, VA</b>			Crt	1	<b>Noshir &amp; Yasmin Medhora, TX</b>			Sch	2
Cyra & Lyla Contractor, PA	Gen	1			<b>Merwan and Rukshana Mehta, MO</b>			Sch	1
Houty & Dr Farhad Contractor, PA	Gen	1			<b>Shahrokh &amp; Gool Mehta, NY</b>			Wel	2
Katy & Farrokh Cooper, CA	Wel	1	RE	1	<b>Hoshi &amp; Nawaz Merchant, NJ</b>			Gen	2
<b>Tommy and Nairika Cornett, GA</b>			Gen	1	<b>Perci Mistry, NY</b>			Gen	1
<b>Tammy &amp; Behram Dalal, NC</b>			Gen	1	Tehmtan & Aloo Mistry, MO	Crt	1		
Dr Ardeshir & Parvin Damania, CA	Crt	1	Crt	1	<b>Jehangir and Olive Mobed, IL</b>			Sch	1
Diana Damkevala, CA	Wel/Crt	1			Rumy Mohta, VA			Crt	1
Maneck Daroowalla, NY			Gen	1	<b>Minoo Netervala, CA</b>			Gen	1
<b>Adil Daruwala, CA</b>			Wel	1	Percy K Nikorawalla, NJ	RE	1		
<b>Manek R. Dastoor, MI</b>			Wel/RE	2	Jamshed & Farzana Palsetia, MA	Gen	1		
Farrokh N Dastur, CA			RE	1	Farhad & Firoza Panthaki, MA	Sch/Wel	11		
<b>Meher N. Dastur, CA</b>			Wel/Crt	2	<b>Drs. Khushru &amp; Roda Patel, IL</b>			Wel	1
<b>Nari &amp; Dinoo Dastur, CT</b>			RE	1	Mr & Mrs Randolph Paulling, GA			Sch +	1
Erv Soli & JoAnn Dastur, FL	Gen	2			Dr Parvez Pohowalla, OR	RE	1		
<b>Edul &amp; Niloufer Daver, NJ</b>			Gen	1	<b>Dr. Minocher Reporter, OR</b>			RE	1
Homi & Nargish Davier, TX	Gen	1			<b>Jamshed and Tamara Rivetna, TX</b>			Gen	1
<b>Jimmy &amp; Freney Deboo family, MI</b>			Gen	1	<b>Dinaz &amp; Dan Rogers, OR</b>			RE	2
<b>Yezdi N Dordi, CA</b>			Gen	5	<b>Villoo &amp; Solee Rudina, TX</b>			Gen	1
<b>Jimmy Dubash, VA</b>			Gen	1	Purvez & Aban Rustomji, TX	Sch +	2		
A.D. & G.A. Dutia, AL	Sch	2			<b>Nargesh &amp; Aspi Sethna, TX</b>			Gen	1
<b>Tony &amp; Swati Elavia, MA</b>			Gen	1	<b>Prochy Sethna, CA</b>			Wel/Cr	10
<b>Freddy Engineer, CA</b>			Cr/Sch	1	Dr Burjis & Hovi Shroff, FL			RE	5
<b>Adil Feroz, GA</b>			Med	1	<b>Dr Nariman &amp; Parrin Shroff, FL</b>			Sch	2
Rusi D Gandhi, NJ			Med	1	<b>Zubeen Shroff, NY</b>			Gen	1
Sorab Gandhi, CA	Wel	2			Khurshed M Tengra, ID	Gen	1		
<b>Eugene Gauger, MI</b>			Gen	1	Jamshed Udvadia, MI	Crt	5		
Rashna Ghadialy, IL	Gen	1			<b>Perry Unwalla, FL</b>			Sch	1
<b>Soonu &amp; Jal Godiwalla, TX</b>			RE	1	Rayomand J Unwalla, PA	Wel	1		
Noshir L Hansotia, MO	Gen	1			Dick & Sheroo Vazir, FL	Wel	1	Wel	1
Behram K & Farieda Irani, TX	Cr/RE	3	Wel	1	Jer Vijan, AZ	Wel	1		
<b>Hormuz &amp; Shahdookht Irani, GA</b>	Gen	1	Gen	5	Parviz & Parvin Yeganegi, BC	Sch/Jour	1	RE	3
<b>Mervan and Katayoun Irani, MD</b>			Wel	1	<b>ZAPANJ, DE, PA &amp; NJ</b>	Gen	1	Gen	1
<b>Rustam H. Irani, MA</b>			Sch	1					
Jim & Homai Jagus, PA	RE	5			Farangis Zardoshty & family, AZ	RE***	10		
Khurshid & J.J. Jamadar, TX	Crt	1	Wel/Cr	1	Mehraban Zartoshty, B.C			Gen	25
<b>Rumi &amp; Kashmira Jamsetjee, IL</b>			Wel	1	Z Assoc of Alberta, Canada	Crt	3		
<b>Dinshaw &amp; Goolcher Joshi, MD</b>			Gen	1	Atlanta Z Anjuman, GA	Wel/Sch	1		
Khorshed & Dr Firoze Jungalwala, MA	Sch +	1			<b>Z Assoc of N Calif, CA</b>	Gen	1	Gen	1
Jamshed & Rita Kapadia, MA	RE	1			Z Assoc of N Texas			Gen	2
<b>Homi &amp; Shireen Kapadia, PA</b>			Gen	5	<b>Total Points</b>		<b>122</b>		<b>134</b>
<b>Dr Natasha Karanjia, PA</b>			Gen	1					
<b>Dolly Kerawalla, CA</b>			RE	1					
Mr & Mrs K.S. Kermani, NY	Med *	5							

\* in memory of Dr. Keikhosrow and Morvarid Harvesf

\*\* in memory of Irandokht Ezzati

\*\*\* in memory of Mobed Faridoon Zartoshty

+ in memory of Nargesh Mistree

++ in honor of the 70th birthday of Dr Jehangir Kotwal



## A Life Threatening Experience

Some potentially life-saving advice, based on a personal episode of anaphylactic reaction to soy milk

By Jerry Kheradi, MD, FACC  
North Providence, Rhode Island

I thought this short personal incident would help other members of our community to be aware of how some allergies can be deadly.

It all started on December 9, 2001 late in the afternoon. I decided to have a large glass of soy milk, a favorite and healthy snack. I had been following a healthy diet for the past five years and had included soy milk and soy protein shakes in my diet as a healthy source of protein. But on this December afternoon, I would soon discover soy was no longer a healthy alternative for me.

Within ten minutes of ingesting the soy milk, I began to develop red streaks in my face, my lips and eyes began to swell and I knew immediately that I needed help. My wife rushed me to the hospital, luckily only five minutes away. By the time I arrived at the emergency room, I was having difficulty swallowing and breathing. I was having an anaphylactic reaction to the soy milk.

I was treated immediately with various intravenous medications and respiratory therapy. Thirty minutes later, the medication was doing its work and I was starting to feel better. This was to be short lived, because ten minutes later, the anaphylactic reaction began again. Being a medical doctor and knowing the severity of this rebound, I knew I was in trouble. My face was swelling up (three times the size, I was told), my eyes were swollen closed, I could not swallow, had great difficulty breathing and my vital signs were very irregular. I was admitted to the intensive care unit, where I spent the next two days. The reason I am writing about this episode of the allergic

reaction is to forewarn those individuals who have multiple allergies to be extremely careful in ingesting large quantities of any allergen (e.g. soy, peanuts, shellfish, nuts, etc.). I do have bronchial asthma (which developed three years ago) and I have allergic rhinitis.

Since I had this life threatening anaphylactic reaction, I have been doing much research. The combination of asthma and allergic rhinitis increases the possibility of developing other allergies, especially to foods. If you fall into this same category with the combination of asthma and allergic rhinitis, *please carry an EpiPen (epinephrine auto-injector) with you at all times. It could save your life.*

During my research, I have consulted with doctors specializing in allergy and immunology and I am glad to pass the following information to the community. Dr. Hugh A. Sampson, chief of the Division of Allergy and Immunology, director of the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute and director of the General Clinical Research Center at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, is the top specialist in this field. Dr. Sampson's research interests have focused on food allergic disorders including work on the immuno-pathogenic role of food hypersensitivity in atopic dermatitis, the pathogenesis of food-induced anaphylaxis, characterization of food-induced gastrointestinal hypersensitivities, characterization of food allergens, and immunotherapeutic strategies for treating food allergies. He is at One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1192 New York, NY 10029; email: Hugh.Sampson@mssm.edu; tel: (212) 241-5548.

## Acknowledgments

FEZANA gratefully acknowledges donations received this year, through April, 2002. (Note: unrestricted donations listed in the "Thousand Points of Light" list are not repeated here).

**General Fund.** Hosi Amroli, CA (\$11); Parviz Ardeshirpour, NC (\$10); Navaz Behramkamdin, OR (\$21); Mezdi Birdie, FL (\$51); Usheen Davar, NY (\$50); Soonoo Engineer, BC (\$13); Minoo & Ruby Italia, TX (\$15); Nargish Jambuserwala, UK (\$20); Behram Kapadia, PA (\$10); Percy Master, TX (\$10); Farhad Minwalla, OH (\$10); Boman Najmi, FL (\$25); Burjor & Perviz Patel, IL (\$30); Homi B. Patel, IL (\$85); Rusi Press, NJ (\$10); Minocher Reporter, OR (\$25); Arish Rustomji, TX (\$60); Yezdi Soonavala, MI (\$35); Homi B. Vania, Boise, ID (\$25); Traditional Mazdayasni Zoroastrian Association, TMZA (\$50); Zoroastrian Association of California, ZAC (\$50); Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston, ZAGBA (\$25).

**Critical Assistance.** Anonymous, Hong Kong (\$20); Aspi & Zarin Bharda, NJ (\$15); Jerroo Daruwalla, CA (\$10); Homi Italia, BC (\$50).

**FEZANA Journal.** Mahtab Bhadha, ONT (\$12); Roshan Engineer, UK (\$20); Behli Hansotia, VA (\$10); Alan Hickrod, IL (\$10); Jehangir Mobed, IL (\$15 for subscription assistance); Hoshi Powwalla, BC (\$10); Parviz Varjavand, CA (\$35).

**Medical Assistance.** Dr Roshan & Perin Bhappu, AZ (\$50).

**Religious Ed.** Farida Bam, NC (\$10).

**Scholarship.** Robert B. Allen, NJ (\$75 in memory of Dr. Narges Mistree); Sam Batliwalla, ONT (\$35); Sheriaar Hormuz, CA (\$51).

**Welfare.** Mezdi R Birdie, FL (\$100); Dinshaw Contractor, AZ (\$50); Behram & Farieda Irani, TX: \$300; Mehraban & Parveen Irani, TX (\$20); Soonu Jokhi, WA (\$15); Noshir Karanjia, NJ (\$101); Noshir & Rhoda Lakdawalla, CA (\$100); Firoz & Firoza Mistry, NC (\$50); Framroze K. Patel, NJ (\$115); Mehran Poladi-Darvish, Alberta (\$13); Behram Shroff, VA (\$51); Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia, ZSBC (\$54).

# Business Opportunities in Tajikistan

Dame Dr. Prof. Meher Master-Moos, President of Zoroastrian College, Sanjan, has done yeomen work among the Tajiks of Zarathushti ancestral heritage. She writes: "The Tajik government is very serious in its desire to develop commerce and business in Tajikistan. They are giv-

ing preference to Zarathushtis to *take over factories* that are being auctioned in the global market, and to develop trade and international business. The directors in charge are Kamilov Zalolovich, email spitamen@tojikiston.com and Mr. Umarov at bmmmt@tojikis-ton.com. Their website at [www.bmmmt.tojikiston.com](http://www.bmmmt.tojikiston.com) gives details of over 22 factories which are up for sale.

Another opportunity is for *import-export* of carpets, cotton products, dried fruits and household goods by Rakhmon Ulmasov and son Jamshid at [rakhmon@ulm.td.silk.org](mailto:rakhmon@ulm.td.silk.org).

Other opportunities include production of *Curative Mineral Water* from the abundant natural mountain glaciers and development of *tourist health sanatoria and resorts*. Contact K. Zukhuriddinov, President "Avesto", in Dushanbe at [esankaes@mail.ru](mailto:esankaes@mail.ru) or [firuz\\_13@tojikiston.com](mailto:firuz_13@tojikiston.com). For information, contact Dr. Moos at [mazocol@vsnl.com](mailto:mazocol@vsnl.com). ■

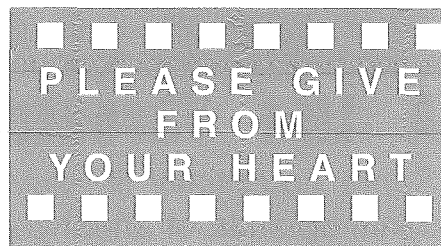
## Visa Options

[Continued from page 26]

been a member of a religious denomination for at least two years and have a job offer in the US to work for the same religious denomination.

The above is a brief listing of the most popular visas for conducting business in the US. For assistance regarding individual circumstances, it is wise to seek the advice of an experienced immigration attorney. ■

**Mitra Rashidi, Esq.** is a lawyer and lives in Toronto with her husband, Rashnavad. She may be reached at [msn5@hotmail.com](mailto:msn5@hotmail.com).



Please make checks payable to "FEZANA", and send to the address in the appeal, or to **FEZANA Welfare Committee, Jamshed Ghadiali, 2686 Belcher Street, Baldwin, NY, 11510, tel: (631) 378-4516, email: [ghad@aol.com](mailto:ghad@aol.com)**. Please indicate the intended purpose of the donation clearly.

## Computer Equipment for Zoroastrian College

Prof. Rustom Fuzaylov of Tajikistan is at Zoroastrian College in Sanjan for six months, transcribing the entire Avesta into the Tajik Cyrillic script on an electric typewriter (the only one available in Mumbai). Unfortunately, it is now broken down and Zoroastrian College is looking to complete the work on computers. They are in

## Would you like help getting things done in India?

We are offering the following services in Mumbai and Pune, especially for NRZs (non-resident Zarathushtis):

- Delivering flowers and gifts for all occasions.
- Delivering sweets, mithai, and "winter specials".
- Full navjote and wedding arrangements.
- Full catering and party arrangements.
- Email letters and fax documents received and replies forwarded.
- Verification services.
- Airport pickups.
- Tourist cars and buses for Udvarda and other towns.
- Locating relatives and friends.
- Making purchases for you in Mumbai.
- Magnificent etched glass Zarathushtra and Farohar.

Contact Farida or Darius Mistry. Tel (Mumbai) 91 22 305 0109, email: [darius.mistry@zoroastrian.net](mailto:darius.mistry@zoroastrian.net). Visit us at [www.zoroastrian.net/parsi\\_bazaar](http://www.zoroastrian.net/parsi_bazaar).

## Domestic Violence Survivor

I am a Zarathushti women married to a Zarathushti man. My husband started to slowly but surely control my life. He isolated me and controlled the finances ... It started with verbal abuse, putting me down, blaming me, threatening and intimidating me. I was terrified and began to confide in friends. When he found out, he beat me up. This was my turning point. Criminal charges were filed and now we are in the process of filing divorce ... the vicious custody battle is now financially debilitating. My husband took off with our joint funds...The court-ordered support until divorce, is minimal and does not suffice.

I hope that a progressive community like ours will shun such abusers and reach out to help...I need the children (one of whom has a disability) to be safe and protected, which takes legal work and cost, and there are costs of medical and daily life..."

If you can offer financial or any other type of help to this young woman, please contact FEZANA Welfare Committee [see above]. Please mark your checks "Domestic Violence Survivor".

urgent need of computer equipment: a computer with Pentium II, HP laser-jet printer, CD copier, zip drive, scanner, digital camera, voltage stabilizer and UPS power supply. They will accept used equipment in good working order or donations of US\$2000 which will cover the cost of purchase in Mumbai. Contact Dr. Meher Master-Moos at mazacol@vsnl.com. Please send checks to FEZANA Welfare Committee [see above], marked "Zoroastrian College equipment".

### **"Racing for India"**

**Sarosh Hataria**, 22, of Chennai, India, achieved the title of National Champion in Formula Indian motorsport in 2001, making him the first Zarathushti to achieve this distinction. He hopes to pursue his career through "Formula Asia 2002" series in Phillipines and the "Asian Festival of Speed" and F-3 in UK to eventually reach F-1, which is the pinnacle of world racing. There is little infrastructure in India to support motor sport, hence Hataria is seeking financial assistance from corporate sponsors and Zarathushti associations and individuals worldwide. Contact hataria@vsnl.com, tel: 8264352.

### **WZO Navar and Martab Fund**

Four years ago, the WZO Trust Funds with the Athornan Mandal embarked on a project to encourage young athornans to embrace mobedi as a full time profession, and to make the profession economically viable. WZO Trust Funds have now sown the seeds for the "**WZO Navar and Martab Fund**" to reimburse or subsidize indigent arthornan families who cannot afford the expenses of initiating their progeny as navars or martabs. Preference will be given to those candidates who have studied *sampoorna* (complete) yasna and visperad texts. Donations are sought to launch this scheme on a firm footing. Please send checks to FEZANA Welfare Committee [see above] marked "Navar-Martab Fund".

## **Donations and volunteers sought for documentary film on Zoroastrianism in North America**

A contemporary, character-driven, documentary film about Zoroastrianism in North America is now in production. The project focuses on the assimilation of the Zarathushti community in modern North America. It will shed light on our little known but highly influential community and underscore the challenges facing immigrant groups in the 21st century. Feature interviews with Zubin Mehta, Bapsi Sidhwa and other prominent Zarathushtis, the experiences in the film will help us understand the Zarathushti place in North American society.

We are currently working on generating interest and acquiring institutional funding for the film. We aim for national distribution on public television and/or cable, and have planned a strong outreach and educational component. Funding is also sought from within the community. Initially, seed funds of approximately US\$8000 are needed in order to move forward to the next step – location shooting at three events: (in Canada in May 2002, North Carolina in June and the Chicago Congress in July). The funds will be used for camera equipment rental, cinematographer's fees and travel expenses. A detailed breakdown is available for those who are interested.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to ZAGNY or FEZANA [see address on previous page].

**Thank you for your cooperation and support!**

The team:

Zahra Sethna (z\_sethna@hotmail.com)

Tenaz Dubash (TDubash@aol.com),

Tushna Kandawalla (Tushna.Kandawalla@hbo.com)

Aaron Rustom (ayrustom@hotmail.com).

**Davier Agiary**, that celebrated its 147th anniversary in April is seeking funds for the celebratory jashan and for upkeep of the agiary. Homi Davier of Houston writes: "A part of the Davier clan and having spent many happy days there, I request that you be generous with fundraising for this terrific moment in our Davier agiary's history. I personally know the two trustees Rohinton and Marzban and one could not find a more dedicated group of individuals." Please send checks to FEZANA Welfare [see p. 30] marked "Davier Agiary".



## Thanks from Dinaz Navdar

Dinaz Navdar, wife of Er. Farhad Navdar, who suffered a paralytic stroke [see FEZANA Journal, Winter 2001, p. 86] writes: "Thank you very much for all the help. Regarding Farhad's health, he is doing slightly better. He is responding better to our commands and is also swallowing better. Hoping things will be fine soon." ■

## PERSONALS

My wife Mehroo and I have lived in Casale Monferrato, Italy since 1977. We have a family business of retail sales, language school and consultancy services. Our daughter Sherrie is a doctor in Milano and daughter Roxanne runs the languages and multi-media school. We would like to make contact with our good friends **Rusi and Gaver Sanjana**, who lived in New York in the 1970s. We'd also like to contact anybody who is a **Khursigara** (from Quetta and Karachi). In my twilight years I'm trying to retrace my origins! Aspy Bhoori, email: bhoori@caol.it.

## ■ MATRIMONIALS ■

FEZANA will coordinate initial contacts between interested parties; we do not assume any responsibility for verifying credentials. Contact Roshan Rivetna.

**Male, computer software engineer**, 29, 5' 6", working in New York. Contact [ruzhere@yahoo.com](mailto:ruzhere@yahoo.com). [M02-13]

**Attractive Parsi female, 38, 5' 3"**, arts graduate, with certificates in travel & tourism, beautician and interior design. Living in Pune, India, willing to settle abroad; two sisters settled in USA. Call Pune, 687 5825. [F02-14]

## Marriage websites

[www.ozemail.com.au/~zarathus/soulmate.html](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~zarathus/soulmate.html)  
[www.matchmeup.com](http://www.matchmeup.com)  
[www.marriagetoday.com](http://www.marriagetoday.com)

## ■ ■ ■ MILESTONES ■ ■ ■

### Births

**Rohan Dorabshaw**, a boy, to Pourroochisti and Shahzad Dorabshaw, brother to Daryus, grandson to Freny and Firoze Dorabshaw and Shirin and Dara Wadia, in Columbus, OH, on March 2.

**Shehrezad Irani**, a girl, to Behram and Kashmira Irani, in Los Angeles, on November 25.

**Vista Khosravi**, a girl, to Bahram and Louisa Khosravi, on October 27 [ZSBC].

**Zahan Meyer**, a boy, to Zarin and Michael Meyer, granddaughter to Homi and Altaf Kotwal, on December 9 [ZAPANJ].

**Shiavux Mistry**, a boy, to Pervez and Zenobia Mistry, brother to Kerfehger, grandson to Pervin and Jamshed Mistry, and Katy and Dara Panthakee, great grandson to Godrej Kapadia, in Auckland, New Zealand, on February 13.

**Kyle Ross Mobed**, a boy, to Shahriar and Laura Mobed, of Winfield, IL, brother to Sarah, and grandson to Keikhosrow and Parvine Mobed of Westmont, IL, on February 21.

**Davin R. Patel**, a boy, to Ferzin and Rajan Patel, grandson to Firoze and Khorshed Jungalwala of Sudbury, MA, and nephew to Jehangir Jungalwala of Hudson, MA, in Pomona, NY, on March 27.

### Navjote, Sedreh-Pushi

**Khubiar Behramsha**, son of Percy and Roshan Behramsha of Houston, TX, on May 26.

**Cyrus Mistry**, son of Rashna and Jehangir Mistry, of Houston, TX, on January 3.

**Viraf Nariman**, son of Manek and Khushrav Nariman, of Houston, TX, on December 16.

**Zubin Shokrekhuba**, son of Fauziya and Khushnood Shokrekhuba, of Houston, TX, on December 29.

**Farzan Umrigar**, son of Aban and Mehernosh Umrigar, of Houston, TX, on January 1.

**Daanish and Zaal Wania**, sons of Farzana and Darius Wania, of Houston, TX, on December 23.

### Weddings

**Rustom Appoo** of Edmonton, Alberta, son of Maneck and Jamshed Appoo of Japan and **Daneesh Adajania**, daughter of Zenobia and Zarir Adajania of Mumbai, in Mumbai, on December 21.

**Kaiwan Bharucha** and **Serena Vania**, in Karachi, Pakistan, on January 7 [ZAH].

**Trity Pourbahrami** and **Peter Capak** were married in Vancouver, BC, on May 19. Gavah ceremony was performed by Er. Mazda Antia.

**Paurushasp Jila**, Hon. Jt. Secy. of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, London, UK, son of Sheru and Bomi C. Jila of London, to **Marzbeen Todywalla**, daughter of Farokh and Yasmin Todywalla of Mumbai, in Mumbai, on April 4.

**Pedram Kadkhodian**, son of Niroomand and Farima Kadkhodian, to **Shiva Mondegarian**, daughter of Hooshmand and Shahla Mondegarian, on February 17, 2002. (ZAC).

**Friaan** and **Xerxes Kotval**, on March 2 [ZAGNY].

**Hinata Jambusarwala** of San Francisco, daughter of Nargish and late Shapur Jambuserwala of UK and **Jehangir Mehta** of New York, son of Kolli and Petras Mehta, in Mumbai, on March 2.

**Darius Surveyor** and **Nilufer Durgor** in Mumbai, India, on December 9 [ZAH].

### Anniversaries

**Bahadur** and **Soonie Patel**, parents of Syavux and Freny, Mahrukh, Lilly and Terry celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 6 [ZSO].





*Left, **Jamshed Engineer**, son of Firoza and Adel Engineer of Naperville, IL, was married to **Yasmin Bhajiwalla**, daughter of Freny and Neville Bhajiwalla of Mumbai, at the Colaba Agiary in Mumbai, on February 14. Above, **Burzin Daruwala**, of Hillsboro, Oregon, son of Kety and Aspi Daruwala, was married to **Perzin Bharucha**, daughter of Farokh and Franak Bharucha, in Ahmedabad, on December 24.*

**Mehroo and Minu Patel**, parents of Cyrus and Deena, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary and Minu's retirement, with over 350 family, friends and co-workers, at the Darbe Mehr in Chicago, on May 4.

#### Deaths

**Khorshed Bamji**, mother of Pervez Bamji, Dinshaw and Veera, in Mumbai, on February 20 [ZAGNY].

**Mithoo Jehangirji Bharucha**, mother of Yezdi and Sarosh Bharucha in Toronto, on March 11.

**Minoo Billimoria**, 73, husband of Homai, father of Havovi and Kaizad, brother of Homi Billimoria of Toronto, and Sheroo, Rhoda Pakka and Soli, in Mumbai, on February 23.

**Khodadad Bonshahi**, 76, father of Mehraban and Homa of Yazd, Iran and Manijeh Bonshahi (Rahnamoon) of North Vancouver; father-in-law of Farobooz Rahnamoon of North Vancouver, in Yazd, Iran, on January 14.

**Dhanji Byromshaw**, brother of Goolbai Homi Patel, Mani Soli Divecha, Mary Mullins, Arnawaz Nanavutty, Jal, and Homi, in Toronto, on February 16.

**Freny Cama**, mother of Mani Rustom Doctor of BC, in Mumbai, in February.

**Shiwax Pallonji Damania**, husband of Susan, in Toronto, on March 8.

**Vada Dasturji Kekobad Dastur**, of Iranshah Atash Bahram, Udveda.

**Eady Eduljee**, father of Arnavaz (Dara) Elavia and Jimmy (Mahzabeen) Eduljee, grand-father of Rohena, Eric, Kevin, Cyrus and Sam, all of Chicago area, in Mumbai, on March 16.

**Bomanji Jal Guzder**, 99, father of Jal Guzder of Houston, in Mumbai, on February 16.

**Khatoon Hakim** of Calgary, Alberta, mother of Shabbir (Aban), and grandmother of Amie and Farah (Chad) Haws, all of Calgary, on March 4.

**Banoo Homi Ichaporia**, 92, mother of Mehroo Langrana, grandmother of Navzer Jal Langrana and Nawaz Percy Daruwalla of North Vancouver, BC, in Mumbai, on January 26.



**Khorshed Khudabaksh Irani**, mother of Freny (Dara) Sagar, in Mumbai, on February 5 [ZAGNY].

**Dinshaw Jinwalla**, 83, husband of Aloo and father of Sarosh Jinwalla of Bharuch, India, and Sherna Udwadia of Delta, BC, in Bharuch, on November 4.

**Goolbai Kanga**, 97, mother of Adul, Perviz and Rustom, grandmother to 7 and great grandmother to 11 children [ZAQ].

**Shirin Kavouspour**, 72, wife of Mondegar Kavouspour of West Vancouver, and mother of Dinyar and Daryush, in West Vancouver, BC, on January 25.

**Edulji Pirojshaw Mehta**, father of Arnavaz Jimmy Sidhwa of Toronto, and Vispi and Renaz Mehta of Karachi, in Toronto, in March.

**Freny Mistry**, mother of Cyrus, Kerban, Noshir and Khushroo, grandmother of Sanobar, Feroza, Zal and Jasmine [ZAPANJ].

**Noshir Mistry**, husband of Meher Mistry [ZAPANJ].

**Perin Panthaky**, 69, sister of Jal Panthaky of Toronto, and Rustomji, Jehangir, Jeroo Nargolwala, Mani Gamir, and late Gustad and Dinyar Panthaky of India, on March 5.

**Gool Rustomji Patel**, 76, mother of Percy Patel of Houston, and Dilshad Doongaji, in Nagpur, India, on March 17.

**Sehra Patel**, 86, widow of late Kekee Patel and mother of Neville and Maharukh of Mumbai, and Katy Dastoor of Westminister, BC, in Mumbai, on November 7.

**Banoo Pavri**, 82, mother of Shapur Pavri of Houston, in Mumbai, on March 7.

**Gohar Pirian Rahatabad**, 82, wife of Jamshid Behziz, mother of Parichehr, Keikhosrow, Farkhondeh, Banoo, Khodamorad and Khorshidchehr, grandmother to 13, and great-grandmother to six [ZANT].

**Gool Dara Toddywalla**, mother of Farokh (Freya) Dhunjishaw of

Chicago area, grandmother of Feroze and Tinaz, in Mumbai, on April 17.

**Jamshidji Zartoshty**, 76, a long time resident of Boston, husband of Paridokht; father of Shirin, Parinaz and Esfandiar; brother of Mehraban (Homa) of West Hills, California, Rostam (Parvin) of Vancouver, BC, and Morvarid Yeganegi of Vancouver, BC; nephew of Mehraban (Paridokht) Zartoshty and late Fareydoon Zartoshty; passed away after a short illness in Boston, on May 7. ■

### Obituary



*Pervin and Nozar Satarawala, in Arak, Iran, in 1979.*

**Pervin N. Satarawala** of Munroe, NC passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, February 17. She was surrounded by her loving children at the moment of her last breath.

Our mother, known in India as Perviz, was born on January 3, 1929, in Bulsar, India. Her husband of nearly 50 years, Nozar B. Satarawala, passed away on August 1, 2001.

They are survived by four children, Soonu, Pearl, Zarin, and Zerxis; and ten grandchildren. Our mother was a very loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was an extraordinary lady of great courage, strength, grace and dignity. Our parents lived all over the world – in India, England and Iran, and finally moved to the US in 1980.

We would love to hear from our parents' old friends who may be reading this. Please contact us at Satarawala@aol.com. ■

### EVENTS AND HONORS

**Ervad Jimmy Antia**, son of Dr. Kersey and Dilshad Antia was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to work on "sustainable development" for 1 year at the University of Costa Rica. Jimmy has a BS in Urban Planning and Journalism from University of Illinois.

**Rohit Bansal**, son of Percis and Rakesh Bansal of New York area, was inducted by a court of honor as an Eagle Scout, the highest honor that a scout can achieve.

**Fredy Rusi Guard**, of the Kelley School of Business of Indiana University, stood first in the final round of the All-America Inter-University Owens @ Vanderbilt Strategy Contest for MBA students and bagged the grand prize of US \$25,000.

**Councillor Filly Kaikhushroo Maravala** of London, who recently stood for local government elections

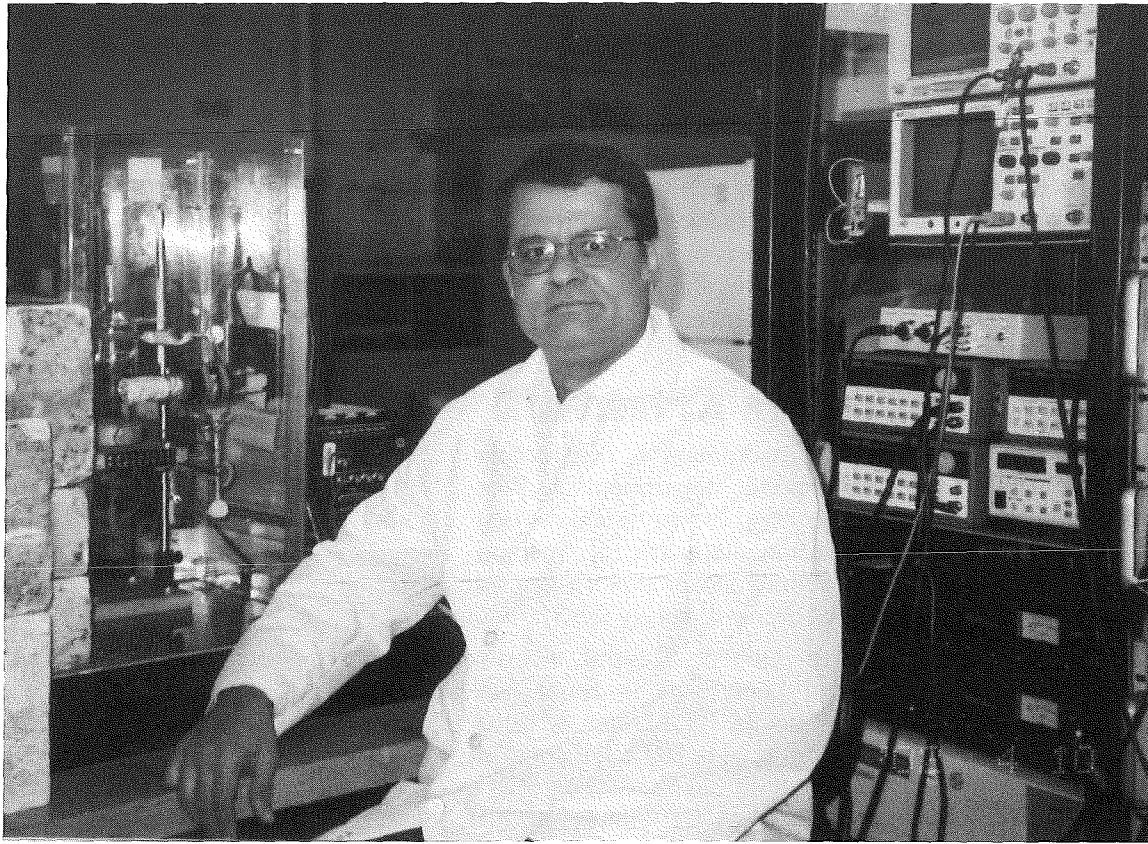


as a Labour Councillor, has been elected to serve his ward of Loxford in the London Borough of Redbridge for a third successive term.

Councillor Maravala was the first Zarathushti Mayor in Greater London during the Millennium Year.

**Dilshad Marolia**, who was the first FEZANA scholar some years ago, has been accepted at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. She will go to Oxford in September for her LLM degree.

**Ratan N. Tata**, chair of India's Tata Group, has been honored with the Asia Pacific Community Building Award by the East-West Center of Honolulu, for "significant contributions toward building better relations between India, US and Asia-Pacific countries."



*Rusi Taleyarkhan, Distinguished Scientist and Program Manager at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, by the tabletop experiment, where his team has reported evidence of achieving nuclear fusion. If confirmed, and authenticated by peer scientists, such a fusion could become the source of cheap, clean and limitless energy, and could change the world.*

# ORNL physicist Rusi Taleyarkhan's fusion experiment startles Scientists

In March this year, Taleyarkhan, 49, attracted worldwide attention and articles with his team's 'breakthrough' experiment that could potentially lead to harnessing nuclear fusion as a viable energy source for humankind.

*Excerpted from "The Times", London, March 03, 2002:*

## **Cold fusion 'breakthrough' heralds clean nuclear power**

BY JONATHAN LEAKE, SCIENCE EDITOR

Nuclear scientists will this week announce they may have achieved a controlled form of cold fusion, a technology that potentially offers humanity a limitless source of clean energy. The researchers are to publish evidence suggesting they have successfully fused the nuclei of hydrogen atoms, so recreating the processes that take place within the sun ... It is understood that Rusi Taleyarkhan from the American government's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Fred Becchetti from the University of Michigan and their collaborator, Robert Nigmatulin, of the Russian Academy of Sciences, have repeated their work and subjected it to extensive peer review.

If confirmed, the discovery could rank among the most important since the dawn of the nuclear age. The scientists are, however, extremely cautious at this stage, saying only that they have detected all the signs of fusion, rather than categorically confirming it ... This research has major implications for other fusion projects ...

*Excerpted from Associated Press (AP) release, March 5, 2002:*

## **Possible Nuclear Fusion in Experiment**

BY PAUL RECER, AP SCIENCE WRITER

A phenomenon that may be nuclear fusion was created in a laboratory bottle by researchers who zapped tiny bubbles with sound waves, which triggered a flash of light and a brief surge of superhigh temperatures ... Harnessing nuclear fusion, the power that lights the sun, has long been a goal of researchers who view it as the ultimate energy source... Some scientists disputed the claim. Two other Oak Ridge researchers said the results were not accurate ...

Excerpted from *The Times of India*, March 5, 2002

## Indian scientist claims holy grail of physics

BY CHIDANAND RAJGHATTA

An Indian-American scientist ... caused a stir in the world scientific community by claiming to have achieved nuclear fusion in a small table top experiment...the possibility that a team might have cracked this problem is considered so remote that the announcement has been greeted with scepticism in the academic community ... The journal *Science* itself was non-committal: "In this instance, we see no good reason for suppressing the paper, and even less for attempts to discredit it in advance. The premature critics of the result, and those who believe in it, would both do well to cool it."

### IN THE GLARE OF WORLDWIDE ATTENTION

Ever since the embargo was lifted and preliminary (and controversial) results were published in *Science* magazine on March 8 ("Behram roj" writes Rusi with pride), after months of an unprecedented and thorough peer review process, Rusi Taleyarkhan has been besieged by friends, colleagues and the press. "The phone hasn't stopped ringing" says wife Navaz, who is handling Rusi's sudden fame with remarkable composure, while he is on the talk circuit, presenting his discovery to packed and critical audiences, and traveling to Europe to continue experiments with his Russian collaborators.

"The stress of dealing with a multitude of entities (technical and more importantly political, since many international collaborations and multi-billion dollar government programs are likely to be affected) has been intense these past several months," says Navaz, "But with the grace of Ahura Mazda, truth will prevail, and Rusi will strive to do what is right."

"The local *Knoxville News* has been carrying Rusi's photo and story on the front page for days," says Navaz, "people now recognize and congratulate him on the street!"

These are well-deserved accolades for Taleyarkhan, who has received over 25 patent/invention awards and has over 150 publications in his fields of research – nuclear fusion, nuclear reactors, nanoscale explosive-implosive burst generators, vapor explosion technologies, variable velocity weapons, advanced explosives and metal processing technology.

In 1999, Taleyarkhan invented a non-lethal, adjustable velocity "stun gun"

that the government is considering using in police departments and for airline security. Earlier he had devised an environmentally friendly method for preventing steam explosions [see *FEZANA Journal*, Spring 1998].

Born in Dohad, Gujarat, Rusi's ancestral home was in Surat. A B.Tech from the IIT, Madras, he came to the USA at 24 in 1977, and pursued graduate studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic, NY. After completing his MBA and PhD in Nuclear Engineering in 1982, he worked for two years at Westinghouse Electric in Pittsburgh, and joined ORNL in 1988.

Rusi married Navaz in 1983. They have three daughters, Pervin 15, Manaz 14, and Meher 8, and live in Knoxville, TN. While in Pittsburgh, in the 1980s, Rusi and Navaz served as VP and secretary of the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania.

Rusi encourages young aspiring Zarathushtis: "Never underestimate your potential to achieve any goal you set for yourself. Keep challenging the status quo, keep looking for the unusual and keep your ears open to ideas, especially when they come from kids. Once you've convinced yourself, stay focussed and persevere to the end despite trials and setbacks.

"Miracles and monumental discoveries do happen unexpectedly, but usually are a result of one's own dedication. As Albert Einstein stated with humility, "Any major discovery at first seems indistinguishable from magic." Rusi generously offers: "Feel free to contact me (at [rusitale-yarkhan@msn.com](mailto:rusitale-yarkhan@msn.com)) with any ideas you wish to discuss or pursue."

- By Roshan Rivetna

## Choksy appointed to Sri Lanka Cabinet

Attorney and President's counsel **Kairshasp N. Choksy**, 70, was appointed this January to the Cabinet position of Minister of Finance in the Government of Sri Lanka. In the 1990s he was Minister of Constitutional and State Affairs, and later a Member of the Opposition of the Sri Lanka Parliament. Choksy is the son of the late Nariman Choksy, a Queens' Counsel and a justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon. Kairshasp is the father of noted scholar and author Professor Jamsheed Choksy.



India's attorney-general **Soli Sorabjee** [right] received the prestigious **Padma Vibhushan** award, from President Narayanan of India, at an investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The brilliant Sorabjee, a man of many dimensions, whose advocacy as leader of the Bar is matched by his shining commitment to human rights, has also served as United Nations High Commissioner.

Two Zarathushtis of Pakistan were honored at an investiture ceremony by President Pervez Musharraf. **Deena M. Mistri**, principal of the BVS Parsi Boys High School was presented the "Pride of Performance" and her nephew, **Maj-Gen Kaizad Soparivala** (the first non-Muslim to reach that position) was presented with the "Hilal-i-Imtiaz" (Military). ■

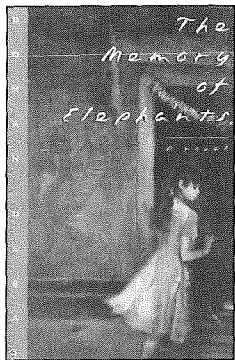
## BOOKS & SUCH

# THE MEMORY OF ELEPHANTS

By Boman Desai

Paperback, 413 pages. ISBN 0-226-14381-3, \$16. University of Chicago Press, USA 2001.

Review by Saros Cowasjee  
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada



Boman Desai's purpose in *The Memory of Elephants* is to encompass within the framework of a novel the culture, religion, customs and history of the Parsis. He has done exactly that. Moreover, he has written a book of significant merit as its publishing history confirms. First published by Andre Deutsch in 1988, the book has been reprinted in paperback by Sceptre

Books, Penguin India and Harper-Collins India. The present edition by the University of Chicago Press is meant for American readers.

Given his subject matter, the author had three obvious narrative modes open to him. He could have used the straight first person narrator, the witness narrator of the Jamesian kind or the omniscient third person narrator. But none of these modes would have provided him the means that the contraption "memoscan" does. Not only does it help to bridge time and space between three generations of his characters but it also helps to interweave different narrative voices essential to the novel's success.

Linked to his "memoscan" (an invention to activate memory), Homi Seervai feels impelled to replay his night out with the blonde Candace in a small university town in Pennsylvania. The mechanism malfunctions and he is plunged into the "collective unconscious" of his past. Here he meets his ancestors and relatives, both dead and alive, and the story gradually unfolds.

After a succinct account of the Arab invasion of Iran and the arrival of the Zarathushtis in India, we are ushered into the lives of two upper class Parsi

families. We learn of Parsi religious practices and customs, their anglicized ways, the interaction between members in the community, their attitudes toward non-Parsis and much else. But the reader must proceed with caution while drawing conclusions. Bapaiji and Granny, two unforgettable characters, show how different Parsis can be from one another and how difficult it is to stereotype them and their beliefs.

Boman Desai's adroit use of irony contributes much to the book's triumph. We see Granny, the grand dame now turned into a frightened old hag, plying the Bombay streets in fear and loneliness in her chauffeur driven car. There is the proud father, Ardeshir Seervai, striving in vain for his son's affection; and there is the son himself, a "genius", who sets his powerful invention to work so that he might relive the happiest moments of his life—his one and only sexual encounter and that with a slut!

**Saros Cowasjee, MA, PhD,** professor Emeritus of English, University of Regina, Canada, is a widely published writer and author of short stories, novels and more. Contact [saros.cowasjee@uregina.ca](mailto:saros.cowasjee@uregina.ca).

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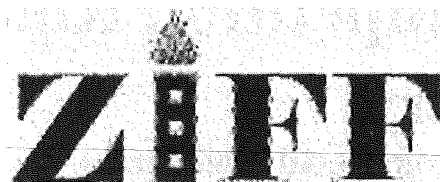
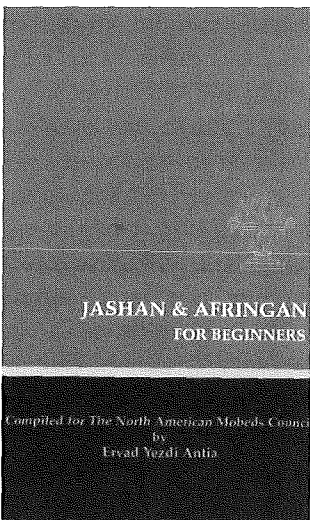
Compiled for the North American Mobeds Council

by Ervad Yezdi Antia

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This book is an attempt to help young mobeds and other persons desiring to perform a jashan or an afringan for their dear departed. It will be especially useful for those young boys who have returned to Canada or the US after being ordained as navars in India. This concise guide leads one step by step into the preparation, the prayers to be recited, the recital of names, the performance of the flower ritual and finally, the prayers themselves, in the English script. This 'manual' features: 14 color photos explaining the ceremony; a chapter on recital of names; all the prayers including Atash Nyaesh, Doa Nam Setayashne and Tandarosti; the small Gahs and Ahmai Raescha, Hazangarem, Jashme Avanghe Mazda and Kerfeh Mozd. All the afringans are given in their entirety, so the novice will not have to go back and forth or refer to any other book.

All recommendations for changes in the way afringans are performed, as given by Dasturji Kotwal, Dasturji JamaspAsa and Dasturji Mirza have been incorporated in the text. A note on the significance of the ceremony is included to help in explaining the ceremony. The final chapter gives suggestions for involving the assembly in the ceremony.



The Second International Film Festival (ZIFF) will be held in October 2002 in Vancouver, BC. Please forward your videos/films, old and new, amateur and professional. Contact Feraydoon Demehri at (604) 926-9891, ziff@oshihan.org, www.oshihan.org/Pages/ZIFF.htm.

## Film about Zarathushtis in North America

The team of Tenaz Dubash, Zahra Sethna, Aaron Rustom and Tushna Kandawalla have started production of a documentary film about the religion of Zarathushtra in North America. For further information, see page 31 of this FEZANA Journal.

## Rohinton Mistry novel

Rohinton Mistry's new novel *Family Matters* was released in Canada this April and is scheduled for Fall release in the US by Knopf. It is a sweeping story centered on a Parsi family, set in modern-day Bombay. ■

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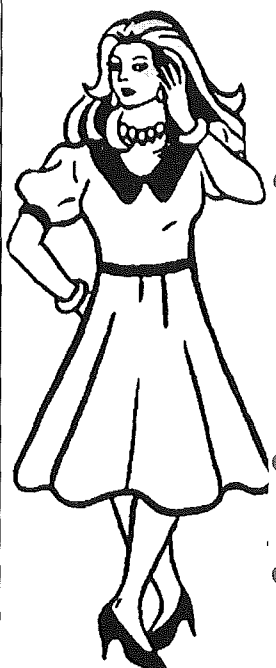
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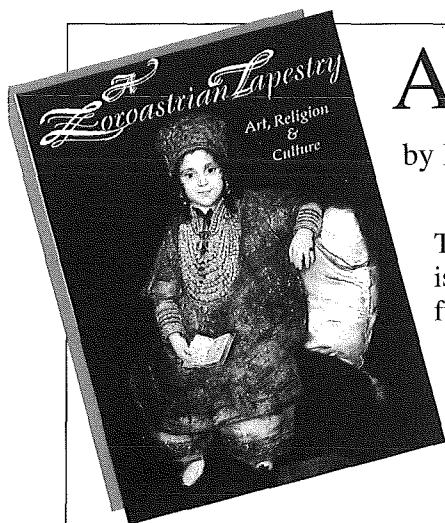
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