

JOURNAL

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FEZANA TURNS 20

Also Inside:



20TH ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
TEACHERS' WORKSHOP



DEFINING
MOMENT—IZA, NY



MILESTONES—
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Photo on cover:

Collage of men and women who served FEZANA for the first 20 years

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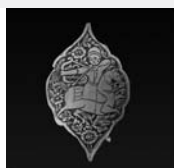
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Khorshed Jungalwala



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Winter 2007

**Preserving and
Conserving our
Books and
Manuscripts.**

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A Celebration Of Life

Khorshed Jungalwala

1940- 2007

Today we celebrate the life of a person who was loved by all, a lady of courage and conviction that few can demonstrate. She came and touched the life of the North American Zarathushti community and moved on to her spiritual domain with formidable prowess mixed with humility. A tower of strength in good health, she demonstrated true resilience and fortitude in her failing health.

Khorshed had that quality that is rare in humans: complete trust in the goodness of mankind and an openness and acceptance of everyone without hesitation. This quality endeared her to all who came in contact with her. We instantly felt that we had always known her and we felt compelled to always live up to her high expectations.



By 1998, Khorshed was in the forefront of FEZANA's activities, while maintaining her leadership in Boston. She chaired the "Information Receiving and Disseminating Committee," which is responsible for the FEZANA Journal and other publications. She was also the chair of the "World Body Working Group," charged with coordinating FEZANA's mandate to ensure that there should be only ONE World Body of Zarathushtis. She worked tirelessly to develop the ground rules and concept for a united world body that we thought would meet everyone's expectations and needs. Sadly, Zarathushtis in other parts of the world were not ready for this, and today instead of one world body, we have at least three organizations who want to represent Zarathushtis in the world arena. Hers was the voice of moderation, a voice of optimism.

Through all these activities, her love for her fellow man always shone through. She arranged many seminars and lectures on Zarathushti religion through her contacts with eminent scholars. Two years ago, FEZANA instituted the "Khorshed F. Jungalwala Lecture Series" in her honor. The first lecture in this series will be delivered by Professor Kaikhosrov Dinshaw Irani at the XIV North American Zoroastrian Congress in Toronto on Sunday, July 1, 2007. She would have been so proud to be present at this epochal event.

An avid supporter of classical music and the arts, Khorshed was on the Boards of Arts Councils and Cultural organizations; and was the president for 12 years of the MetroWest International Concerts Association. Her legacy of unflagging energy, her passion for life, journalism, music, arts, truth, decency and above all humanity will never be forgotten.

Khorshed was one of us, and there is a little bit of Khorshed in all of us. She is survived by her husband Feroze, daughter Ferzin (Rajan), grandson Davin, son Jehan (Pam).

Thank you Khorshed for sharing and touching so many lives in such a profound way.

On behalf of the FEZANA community,

Rustom Kevala FEZANA President
Dolly Dastoor,
Editor-in-chief, FEZANA Journal



A word from the Editor

Dolly Dastoor

A salute to the dedication of leaders of the first 20 years of FEZANA

Putting this issue together has been an amazing experience, to realize that the growth and achievement of FEZANA is solely due to the amount of work people over the past 20 years have given for free —for the love of the community. In this journey we meet men and women who make up FEZANA and who have created the “gift economy” by donating small and large quantities of their time and expertise. Many of these pioneer people are still with us, others we have lost either through death or they have moved on to different things after leaving their mark on the fabric of the community. But we have much to celebrate, as a whole new coterie of the emerging generation has joined the FEZANA Chorus,

If we trace the 20 year history of FEZANA we find the same common thread among all the associations: preservation of the socio-religious identity through the organization and development of religious classes, building of places of worship, some assisted by generous donations from Arbab and Morvarid Guiv, and Mehraban and Faridoon Zardoshty and some through grass root efforts from the community. But in either case a lot of community people-power and effort has gone into the creation and construction of the edifices.

As the community matured so did the vision for the future. Gone was the fear of “will we survive”, only to be replaced by a new found confidence in “This is who we are, and this is how we want our contribution in North America recognized”. The 10 year strategic Plan 1997-07 gave us the road map, the World Congress on the shores of North America, gave us the visibility as a strong voice of the diaspora, the NGO status at the United Nations recognized the North American community as a force to be reckoned with.-- 20 years later FEZANA is acknowledged as a definitive body

representing Zarathushtis on this continent.

The benefits of FEZANA'S charities and critical assistance efforts are being felt across the world, FEZANA has been in the forefront of providing academic scholarships to deserving youth, scholarship programs are being developed by associations and other private individuals based on the FEZANA model. From simple beginnings with a few hundred dollar budget in 1987 of monies collected mainly from member associations as dues, FEZANA, now has nearly a hundred thousand dollar budget with several endowed funds, with committees and working groups proliferating. FEZANA has been the catalyst for progress and for establishment of infrastructures. All this in only 20 years.!! Bravo

This incredible journey is unfolding at full speed, with new vistas, new opportunities, new talent and new challenges at every turn. This is not to say there are no road blocks along the way. The divide between the pro-birth and pro- choice for admission into the religion continues, and will continue, but the community in North America has learnt to build bridges and to live around it. And in spite of its organizational limitations FEZANA has created a climate of trust, understanding and fellowship, areas of comfort, where each association and each Zarathushti is encouraged to achieve his or her maximum potential.

Come join us as we celebrate our journey of 20 years and salute the community leaders past and present who have guided us through troubled and smooth times, who have been both visionary and reactionary and who have carved a place for the small community of ours on the North American panorama.



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A Message from the President

At the last FEZANA Annual General Meeting in April 2007, we had the distinction of having all four past presidents of FEZANA present: Rohinton Rivetna, Dolly Dastoor, Framroze Patel, and Firdosh Mehta. Their participation and the vigor, enthusiasm and fresh viewpoints of many new faces present at the AGM shows that FEZANA is alive and well and Zarathushtis are finding meaning and satisfaction through their participation. It is my great fortune to be president of FEZANA during this exciting time.



Dr Rustom Kevala
President, FEZANA

NauRooz Pirooz

Earlier in March, we celebrated NauRooz, welcoming a new year full of hopes and aspirations for success – pirooz in Farsi, fatteh firoozi in Gujarati.

And this year, FEZANA completes 20 years of its existence. FEZANA was formed in a spirit of cooperation and farsighted hopes. The vision of FEZANA's founding fathers and mothers was to develop a Zarathushti community:

- that is well-connected, well educated,
- well grounded in religious thought, values and ethics,
- respectful of diversity, strong in collective giving,
- Economically prosperous.
- A community which will be recognized throughout N. America for its contributions in all aspects of life.

Progress and Perils

Immediately, FEZANA started charitable activities and scholarship funds. The FEZANA Journal helped to develop a core knowledge base about Zarathushti religion and successes. Religious education of children became an important, though uncoordinated, activity of most Associations. And of course, the social gatherings, youth activities, sports and adult congresses helped us to build a well-knit and happy community.

Several associations were fortunate to receive seed funding from Arbab Rustam Guiv to build their centers. But, we also began to experience a clash of

cultures and viewpoints. Gulfs began to develop. Trust diminished. Obstacles materialized out of nowhere.

Facing Reality

When Dolly Dastoor was president of FEZANA, she said: "On this continent, we do NOT have the luxury of taking for granted the infrastructures that were inherited by us in our countries of origin". And fortunately, I might add, we do not have the problems of deteriorating or disused properties that our co-religionists are facing in India.

Here, we cannot expect rich Arbabs and Shethias to build our meeting halls, Agiarys, and schools. We have to create our own.

Shared Spaces

A well-conceived and practical Strategic Plan was developed, looking 5 years and 10 years into the future. Four areas called "shared spaces" were explored:

1. Leading a Zarathushti Life
2. Thousand Points of Light, which means each person must contribute,
3. Internal Infrastructures, our spiritual development, and
4. External Infrastructures.

Goals and milestones were developed for each shared space and volunteers were charged with implementing the plans.

One of the milestones was that by 2007, some large-scale entrepreneurship activities will be in place. We do have some fairly large-scale entrepreneurs in our community today, who we can count on. Among other milestones, we have a dynamic scholarship program, charities; we have obtained NGO consultative status in the UN. We published "Legacy of Zarathushtra." The Journal continues to serve the community well.

But one of the measurable milestones was: "Increase subscription of the Journal by 5% every year." The Journal committee, FEZANA executives and many others have made prodigious efforts to achieve this modest goal. But the subscriptions have not increased.

A Message from the President

And we are still lacking community infrastructure: FEZANA office, spiritual centers, consecrated temples, higher learning centers. We still do not have a cadre of professional religious scholars, and we do not have professional clergy.

We are learning to make do without a lot of things that we expected we would have by now.

Mapping the Terrain

Why have we succeeded in some areas and not in others? I believe that this is because we were, and still are, thinking in terms of *HOW IT USED TO BE IN INDIA AND IRAN – RATHER THAN CONFRONTING THE REALITY AROUND US*. Images and values of the old country are like maps -- useful so long as the terrain does not change. But the terrain has changed, and will continue to change.

The NauRooz table has a small mirror on it. We are asked to look at ourselves in the mirror. What is our self-image? Does it come from the real mirror in front of us, or does it come from the social mirror – what others are saying about us, or what we would like to think we look like?

WHAT WE ARE COMMUNICATES FAR MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN ANYTHING WE SAY OR DO! In the movie “300”, Persians are shown as misshapen barbarians. Which image should we accept -- the comic-book image of “300”, or the feel-good image that we all like and wish for?

When we think that the problem is “out there” and only if “they,” meaning others, would “shape up” and show respect, the problem will be solved! This is outside-in thinking. Lasting solutions to problems, lasting happiness and success, come from the inside-out. We need to understand the new territory. We need to understand ourselves, using our own honest mirrors; and we need new maps to negotiate the terrain. In business jargon, this is called “paradigm shift.”

New Realities

Today, we are facing new challenges in India, Iran, and North America. Indian Zarathushtis are trying desperately to hold on to their customs and beliefs that have sustained them for a thousand years. Iranian Zarathushtis are finding new ways to live under an oppressive regime. We are wondering where to turn.

Here in North America, as the second and third generations take up leadership positions, we are becoming better attuned to our surroundings. We are beginning to develop new maps, and we are making changes. I predict that progress will be rapid from now on.

Last year, we convened a workshop in Chicago to take a fresh look at three broad goals for our community:

- Build a united Zarathushti community
- Make Zarathushti presence an integral part of the N. American landscape, and
- Develop Zarathushti infrastructure.

These are worthy goals, NOT NEW, BUT VERY HARD TO DEFINE. First, we need to understand what exactly is a “Zarathushti community”? What is “the North American Landscape”? What infrastructures do we really need, and when?

To that end, we decided to do three things during the first year of my tenure:

1. Coordinate public celebrations of NauRooz
2. Increase formal public relations with the N. American media, and
3. Prepare to open a FEZANA office in a major metropolitan area.

THESE SMALL VICTORIES WILL PAVE THE WAY TO BIGGER VICTORIES.

Unity is Elusive

But let us go back to the three goals. Although we have made progress in raising our profile through a dynamic public relations program and have begun to define our infrastructure needs, UNITY IS STILL ELUDING US.

There are many factors involved: cultural differences, distrust, and more seriously, a deep divide in our understanding of what “religion” means.

A Message from the President

I believe that how we define 'religion' will shape our future. HOW WE DEFINE RELIGION TOGETHER IS THE KEY TO OUR UNITY. Only then will we be able to define what "Zarathushti community" means. This was brought home to me in a most unexpected way.

Religion and Community

In June 2006, a group called the "Church of Cognizance," based in Pima, Arizona, claimed that marijuana was the same as haoma, revered by Zarathushtis in Hom Yasht; and therefore, by smoking marijuana, they were just following neo-Zoroastrian religious practices. FEZANA and the North American Mobeds Council testified against their claims in a hearing in August. Finally in December, Judge Judith Herrera ruled that not only is the Church of Cognizance NOT a religion, but also that, even if it was a religion, the way that it is practiced by the defendants is not sincere. This was a victory for all of us – Zarathushtis as well as the U.S. legal system.

In her final statement, the judge pointed out that an established religion should have:

- Places for worship and rituals,

- Ordained priests and clergy,
- Special vestments for priests and laypeople,
- Religious celebrations, and
- A well-run organization.

We know these to be the deeply observed philosophical, metaphysical, moral and ethical underpinnings of our religion. But the judge added, almost as an afterthought, that the Church of Cognizance did not conduct any mission work because it did not profess any deep spiritual values!

This last observation clarifies how important it is for us to be able to articulate our spiritual values, what we are all about, to ourselves and to others. And in order to articulate our spiritual values, all Zarathushtis need to be together, united, speaking with one voice:

"WE HAVE A MESSAGE. WE WANT TO BE HEARD, AND WE ARE ON A MISSION TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN."

God bless our lands, our religion, FEZANA, our mobeds, and all of us!

Rustom Kevala, FEZANA President



Fezana AGM

20th anniversary

FEZANA AGM 2006, IN DALLAS, 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

The 20th Annual General meeting of FEZANA was held on April 6th, 7th and 8th at the Spring Hill Suites, Grapevine, Texas. The Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT) under the leadership of Kali Buhariwalla, Arbez Patel and Firdosh Mehta, was the gracious host. No stones were left unturned -- welcome pick up from the airport, Easter baskets in each room, delicious home made dinner, lunch and snacks. The highlight of the 3-day event was a Texas-



style celebration of FEZANA's 20th Birthday on Saturday evening. The entertainment by the community members young, not so young and very small was awesome. The only item missing was the glorious Texan Sunshine which was made up by the warm hospitality of each and every member of ZANT and the very special hand made gifts of fish (left) for all attendees by Kashmira Mistry and her group.

The Friday evening opened with member associations highlighting the activities of their associations in building tangible and non-tangible community structures. It was very inspiring and uplifting to hear of the hopes and aspirations of ZANT, ZAC-California, ZAPANJ, ZAGBA, OZCF, ZSO and AZA, translated into concrete plans for the construction of



ZANT President Kali Buhariwalla with wife Keshvar

Fezana AGM

Darbe Mehra and community centers.

The presentations were followed by a hands-on session on "communication styles," presented by Fred Sarkari, a business motivation consultant from Calgary, Canada. (see page 75...FJ). He challenged everyone to communicate more effectively to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others. He emphasized that emotion, not logic, opens and closes minds and we need to open minds with positive emotions.

Saturday Morning

After a warm welcome by President of the host association Kali Buhariwalla and a benediction by Ervad Soli Dastur, Ervad Bomansha Sanjana and Ervad Dr Poras Balsara, the meeting opened with the establishment of the quorum and approval of the agenda. This AGM was well attended, with over 50 delegates, including all the past FEZANA presidents: Rohinton Rivetna, Dolly Dastoor, Framroze Patel and Firdosh Mehta. The newly elected officers, Bomi Patel reelected as VP and Firuzi Poonevalla from Ontario as Secretary, were introduced.

STATE OF FEZANA

President Kevala outlined FEZANA's progress since its founding 20 years ago. (see President's Message, p. 5). Despite significant achievements, we are making do with a lot of things we expected we would have by now. We still lack community infrastructures such as a FEZANA office or consecrated temples and other accoutrements of an established religion.

We need to change the way we are thinking. We need a paradigm shift in our approach to understand the new reality as it applies to North America. The North American landscape is very different from what we were used to in India and Iran. The



The four past presidents holding the birthday cake

Zarathushti community here includes many cultures and viewpoints that need to be included in our collective vision. According to President Kevala, how we define "religion" together is the key to our unity. For only then will we be able to understand what "Zarathushti community" means.

Vice-President **Bomi Patel** talked of the development of the Yahoo group which goes to 60 people i.e. the presidents and committee chairs, and he talked of the maintenance of the website. He felt that the information given to the presidents is not filtered down to the grass root membership. The delegates present thought they were flooded with e-mail messages, and an unwritten protocol needs to be followed whereby we do not hit "reply all" to all yahoo group messages. All associations were thanked for sending their reports on time. Very few applications have been received for the FEZANA subsidy to the Youth Congress and the early bird period has been extended by the Congress organizers. He also announced that the AGM 2008 will be held at the California Zoroastrian Center in Los Angeles. The dates will be determined later.

Outgoing secretary **Rita Engineer** thanked the FEZANA members for giving her a learning opportunity for the past 4 years. She promised to be back in some capacity after a short break. (Photo right incoming secretary Firuzi Poonevalla and outgoing secretary Rita Engineer with hat)

Treasurer **Katayun Kapadia** presented the balance sheet of income and expenses for the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 prepared on a cash basis, showing a healthy increase in net assets. She also gave a detailed outline of Investments, managed by Integrity Investment Advisors Inc.



INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

Shahrokh Mehta, chair of the Infrastructure Working Group

Fezana AGM

presented on behalf of the group (Shahrokh Mehta, Bella Tata and Neville Rustomjee) an executive summary of the findings and recommendations. . A need for a permanent office of 600-700 sq ft in continental USA was identified to provide administrative support to the present and future leadership, and FEZANA board members, to centralize hard and electronic copies. A need for a Zarathushti administrator was also identified at an estimated cost of \$40,000 to \$60,000.per year . In addition this would allow for a central contact place for information and a presence in North America.

Though the member associations present were cognizant of the demands placed on volunteers, the major question raised was that the report lacked a business plan of how this was to be financed; and it did not provide a methodology to select the location of the offices.

On a motion moved by Zoroastrian Ass.Greater Boston Area and seconded by Atlanta Z Association it was unanimously approved that FEZANA needs a permanent office. A second motion moved by ZAGBA and seconded by ZAGNY, was carried by majority vote that there is a need for an administrator. It was also proposed by ZAGBA and seconded by AZA that the Infrastructure Working Group develop selection criteria for location by May 30th 2007. The Infrastructure Working group and the FEZANA executive were also charged with developing a business plan, a time line and the financial cost of implementation of the plan.

It was mentioned that there is a potential donor who is ready to start a 20th anniversary endowment fund of \$50,000 to support the office, provided FEZANA can match these funds by April 2008. (\$10,000 were raised from the people present at the AGM, Bravo). The goal of this endowment fund is \$250,000.

Sarosh Collector on behalf of The Zoroastrian Association of Houston, **Homi Gandhi** on behalf of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, and **Hosi Mehta** on behalf of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago made presentations for office space in their Darbe Mehrs.

Parsi Resource Group

Rohinton Rivetna, introducing **Jimmy Mistry**, an architect and the founder of the Parsi Resource Group (PRG) of Mumbai, said that Jimmy was the inspiration the community was waiting for. He had come specially to



North America to attend the FEZANA AGM and to see if there was any synergy between India and North America for the community-building projects implemented by PRG. He presented a video and gave the background to the establishment of the group in 2005. He equated the building of a community to building a structure. Being an architect he used the building analogy saying that without a solid foundation we cannot think of extending the top floors. This is exactly what is happening to the community in India. The foundation is weak and we need to fortify that. Our mobeds are in a bad state he said: **"we want them to be a CEO of the agiary, but we pay them a peon's salary and then we say why are they not functioning better?"** For the first time a data base of all the mobeds including their family has been created. This will give precise information on where they were trained, the year, and the number of children Developing educational schemes for the children's education and a Mobeds' Health Insurance scheme was put in place. Mobeds over 65 receive a Pension of Rs.2000/-a month, all India basis. 1000 Mobeds including their wives and children are covered under a unique Cashless Mediclaim Scheme, which covers all Pre-existing diseases with no age bar, for Rs.2 Lakhs per family, all India basis. A Mobeds' Children Education Scheme for children up to the age 24. where each child receives a stipend of on average Rs.2500/-monthly, for school fees, tuitions, etc. (only Mumbai.)

A job placement and a corporate mentoring program for Youth have also been implemented as well as counseling of children with disabilities. This has been possible by networking within the community.

Jimmy has received the Urban Architecture Award for renovation of the Agiary in Mumbai.

The Trust for the Cama Athornan Madressa in Andheri was going in a loss and the trustees wanted to convert this property into an International School without the community's knowledge. PRG has proposed to take it over and convert it into a house for mobeds. Jimmy was imploring the community to be on the alert for community trust properties being sold off to members of other communities and every attempt should be made to get the rented/sold property back into community hands. For the interest of the community, the individual needs should be subsumed and we should be prepared to take a loss in the sale of properties if it means the property stays in the hands of the community.

Fezana AGM

It was then pointed out that FEZANA through its welfare committee could participate in some of the schemes. Jimmy Mistry was thanked for his time and effort on behalf of the Parsi/Irani/Zarathushti community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(Chair Dolly Dastoor)

14 applications had been received and Farokh Irani was named the FEZANA scholar receiving The Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship of \$5000 and Nasha Minwalla received the Banoobai and Maneckshaw Kapadia Endowment Scholarship of \$1000. 5 graduate and 6 undergraduate students received scholarships of \$1000. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of FEZANA, a special endowed scholarship of \$3000 was approved.

AWARDS (Chair Framroz Patel)

President Kevala mentioned that the Awards should be named after people in recognition of the work they have done in FEZANA. He proposed that The Performing and Creative Arts Award should be named after Dinshaw Joshi, the first chair of the Awards Committee who brought great transparency and credibility to

the awards process. This was unanimously accepted on a proposal by ZSO and seconded by ZAMC and ZAQ. The trophies on the other hand will continue to be named after the donors. The award will be called *"The Dinshaw Joshi Memorial Award for Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting and Literature."*

Life Time Achievement Award. As and when needed the Awards committee will propose to the executive the nomination for the Life Time Achievement Award.

The Legal and Ethical Issues Working Group Yasmin Pavri ZAH, and Kersi Shroff, ZAMWI tabled a report on revocation of a given award. Based on the recommendation of this group the awards committee proposed that "FEZANA develop a set of rules stating the reasons for which an award may be revoked e.g. for conviction of a criminal offense, verified disreputable character, etc which could be included in the nomination form. The form should also state that

FEZANA reserves the right to rescind any award for the reasons stated, if the FEZANA Board believes that such action is in the best interest of the organization."

It was recommended to the officers that on the FEZANA website the names of the award winners should start from 1996 when the FEZANA awards committee was appointed. Prior to that the awards were processed and given by the association hosting the North American congress.

The awards committee brought to the attention of the member associations that strenuous objection from various members of the North American community had been received to the rules governing the awards Part A, Eligibility Conditions for Nominees; Section A.1 which states "The Nominee should have been properly initiated into the Zarathushti religion". Many of our Zarathushti brethren have not been properly initiated into the Zarathushti religion as a matter of choice or culture and are therefore disqualified from being nominated even though they meet all other criteria for a particular award.

CENSUS and SURVEY It is very difficult to conduct a census because of great reluctance to divulge personal information. Aban Bhote has agreed to take over the directory project from Noshir Jesung

SMALL GROUPS (Chair Kia Kaviani)

Kia Kaviani's report included a comment that since the members of small groups do not have voting rights, they feel that they do not have any control over FEZANA matters. It was pointed out that all small groups can provide input, but if someone wants more "control" through his or her votes, then they can join an association that has voting rights.

CONGRESS COMMITTEE (Chair Bomi Patel)

Several innovative programs of the 14th North American Congress were outlined, including the mentoring program, the meeting of the Titans and the youth sessions (limited to people under 35). The Zarathushti orchestra will not be 100% Zarathushti. Member associations and businesses were encouraged to place an ad in the Brochure or to sponsor a session for \$1000. (Photo above Bomi Patel VP with Katayun Kapadia, Treasurer)



Fezana AGM

Following a two year timetable, the 15th and 16th North American Congresses should be scheduled for 2009 and 2011; but that would conflict with the World Congress in Dubai in December 2009 and with the World Youth Congress in Vancouver in 2011. Hence Bomi was looking at a window of summer 2009 or winter 2010 for the next congress. A call to host the congress will be sent out.

The subsidy applications for the Ballarat World Youth Congress are slow in coming and the early bird registration has been extended to April 30th. It was agreed that the amount of subsidy could be increased to \$500 if there were not enough applicants.

Firdosh Mehta read out the proposal from Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia to hold the 2011 *World Youth Congress in Vancouver*. The member associations were happy to approve the proposal and offered the resources of FEZANA for its success.

The type and amount of financial support for the 2009 Dubai Congress was revisited and it was felt that we should sanction \$5000 to support some activity at the Congress which would raise the profile of FEZANA at the congress.

FUNDS AND FINANCE (Chair Jerry Kheradi)

In the past year two endowment funds were established Mr and Dr (Mrs) Firdaus Bhathena donated appreciated securities totaling \$100,000 and Dr and Mrs Hoshedar Tamboli donated funds totaling \$25,000. With these two endowed funds and the continued support of the community, the thousand points of light initiative has accumulated 5300 points or a total of \$530,000.

INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES (Chair Homi Gandhi)

The External Affairs committee was renamed the Interfaith committee. Various activities in which this committee participated in UN related events were highlighted. But the most important event was the celebration of NauRooz with distinct Zarathushti traditions and prayers. This was supported by excellent publicity co-ordinated by Jim Engineer and Tamina Davar. The NauRooz celebrations were televised on the mainstream American TV, Religion and Ethics"



a weekly program on PBS. TV channels mentioned for the first time that NauRooz was a Zarathushti New year. The Haft Sheen table was also laid out at the official residence of Mayor Bloomberg of New York City at the time of his NauRooz reception.



The Long-Term goals of this committee is to see North American Cultural and Educational Center, reflecting the ancient Persian architecture housing a library, a cultural centre similar to the Smithsonian Institution.

UN/NGO COMMITTEE (Co-Chairs Behram Pastakia and Homi Gandhi)

(Photo above). This committee strives to provide opportunities to Zarathushtis, through volunteer action programs to become world citizens. Individuals motivated in taking initiatives to reduce the gap between the haves and the have-nots of our world are invited to join their team. Once every four years, a report is submitted to the UN to maintain our consultative status. Such a report was submitted in February 2007.

The prolific activities of the committee were outlined which are anchored between the two annual conferences at the UN : the Commission on the Status of Women in late February/early March and the Department of Public Information /Non-Governmental organization DPI/NGO Conference first 2 weeks of September.

The committee proposes two time frames in the year as "Seasons for Peace" for action programs to be undertaken at a local level when Zarathushtis all across North America could be working in unison. The first is from March 21, the spring equinox and the original earth day, to April 22nd the more recently declared earth day and the second is for 10 days from 9/11, the day of the launch of the Satyagrah movement to 9/21, the day of prayer as assigned by United Nations. By being part of the Interfaith group we are getting recognition as well as giving confidence to our youth in their own faith.

The 2009 World Parliament of Religions will be held in Melbourne

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PUBLIC RELATIONS (Chair Jim Engineer).

Public Relations activities were centered on Naurooz, Congress, Standardizing Media Inaccuracies, and revising the Zoroastrian Brochure.

General FEZANA press release was distributed to the media and to associations, and PR worked directly with the editor of Religion News Service, the leading news syndicate on religion in North America.. An article "*Zoroastrians, Divided over conversion, face shrinking Future*" was published as Religion News Service's article during the week of March 27, 2007 with photographs from ZAGNY's NauRooz celebrations

Jim Engineer suggested that the website be redesigned to place more material in easily accessible format. A complete overhaul may cost \$2500 which was approved.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, SCHOLARSHIP AND CONFERENCE (Chair Lovji Cama)

No new applications were received for the Mobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship. The first Khorshed Jungalwala - FEZANA Religion Lecture will be given by Prof Kaikhosrov Irani at the 14th North American Congress in Toronto.

A very successful Teachers workshop for the east coast associations was held in January 2007 and the second workshop was held prior to the start of the 2007 AGM (see pg 17) and a workshop for the west coast associations will be held in late spring 2007

A great need has been felt for materials and teaching methods for children between 5-10 years of age. The Montessori method used by Vahishta kaikobad of Houston seems to be working very well. A new look at the curriculum prepared in 1998 is being taken as the committee progresses through the regional workshops. It is also the intent of the committee to produce age -specific materials on topics of the core curriculum. This material will be made available via the internet to all teachers.

RESEARCH AND PRESERVATION (Chair Jehan Bagli)

Activities of the committee were outlined in a written report divided into religious activities, interfaith activities Books, Articles and other Publications. A panel was organized on behalf of FEZANA for an International Conference on "World Religions after September 11, in Montreal, September 2006

ZYNA (Chair Nikan Khatibi)

ZYNA has its own website where newsletters are posted, with information on upcoming events and projects. In addition several projects have been planned, 1) providing free health care to people in remote area of the United States by volunteer student physicians, pharmacists, dentists nurses and optometrists. 25 students signed up but only 15 were selected.due to limited space. Sponsorship came from family and friends. 2) travel subsidies to youth interested in attending the 4th World Zoroastrian Congress in Australia. 3) Habitat for Humanity - building low income houses in Los Angeles area October 28 to Nov 2, 2007 4) Zarathushti Youth Leadership Conference in 2008 to provide opportunities in a real world setting to improve confidence and skills in a dynamic hands-on atmosphere.

ZOROASTRIAN UNITY AND WELFARE

(Co-Chairs Hutoxi Contractor and Hosi Mehta).

In a written report all the work done by the committee was outlined including helping in the Surat floods, the Mumbai train disaster, domestic violence cases, job skills training for individuals, help to family to defray funeral expenses for multiple tragedies. Requests are being received this year for refugee assistance. Some church groups in Europe are facilitating refugees, coming out of Iran, to settle in different countries. Those who come to North America have some family and friends contact but they need assistance to make a new start in life. The welfare committee works with the local associations to set up contacts and assistance.

SPORTS (Chair Yassi Farin).

In a written report the Sports Committee reported on the 10th Zarathushti Games of 2006 which attracted 400 participants from all over the world and from 16 states of the US and the financial statement showed a profit of \$4,459.00 . The committee is currently accepting host candidates for the 12 th Zarathushti games in 2010 to be held the July 4th weekend. Applications need to be made before January 1, 2008

INFORMATION RECEIVING AND DISSEMINATING (Chair Firdosh Mehta).

This Committee presents news and views as well as educational and inspirational articles about the Zarathushti religion, culture and practices as they pertain to Zarathushtis in North America, via direct communications with Presidents & Representatives of Member Associations, the FEZANA Journal, the Yahoo

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Group e-mail and the Website. **Firdosh Mehta** submitted his resigned from the chairmanship of this committee, effective after the AGM.

The Journal under the new team has published 4 issues, but two main items were raised by the editor-in-chief viz the drop in subscription and the slow mail delivery due to bulk mail rate. Both issues brought a lively discussion and several options were suggested including out sourcing the printing and mailing to India and printing the journal on-line.

PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP (Chair Sherazade Mehta).

Two applications have been received which will be judged in mid-April and the candidates notified at the end of May. The application forms were circulated via the ZYNA networks and through the FEZANA website.

FEZANA Excellence in Sports Scholarship Fund (Chair Khushcheher Italia). In a written report the board was informed that inspite of extending the deadline for receiving applications, none has been received, though there were queries showing interest. Due to the late start of the committee no scholarship was given out in 2006.

YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS (ZYWB) (Convenor Behram Pastakia) The terms of reference which had been previously circulated were approved by the members of the Board. This program is established to promote Humanitarian Internships by giving financial support to Zarathushti youth interested in helping the underprivileged from a ZYWB fund. The internship is intended to encourage acts of charity.

NAMC (President Ervad Jehan Bagli): In a written report Jehan Bagli informed the Board of the various activities undertaken by the members of NAMC . 500 copies of the book Understanding and Practice of Obsequies was published and "Congregational Prayers for Jashan Ceremony " is being printed. This will be distributed free of charge to all associations across North America. In response to the plea by Zarathushtis of South Africa for assistance in meeting the spiritual and ritual matters, a trip was undertaken to provide the community with sufficient material to be able to perform some of the outer liturgical ceremonies for themselves and to assure them of the connectedness with the North American Diaspora and with NAMC in particular. The President of NAMC played a significant role as an expert witness for the prosecution in the trial against the Church of Cognizance. A new award "NAMC community Service Award" for a Mobed under the age

of 35 to be administered by the FEZANA Awards committee was requested at 2006 AGM in Atlanta.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR 2007-2008 WERE APPROVED

Total budget allocation for committee activities	\$101,200
Allocations from General Funds to Infrastructure Endowment fund	\$25,000
20th Anniversary FEZANA Academic Scholarship	\$ 25,000

1. Children getting ready for the show
2. The 4 amigos Ratan Vakil Hosi Mehta, Homi Gandhi and Farrokh Mistree
3. From left Delnaaz Irani and Pearl Balsara
4. From left Dolly Dastoor, Jamshed Dubash Roshan Rivetna with ZAGB calendar
5. Past President Firdosh Mehta and Keshvar Buhariwalla Enjoying Texas style
6. Having good time in Dallas!



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THE NEW SECRETARY OF FEZANA 2007-2009

FIRUZI POONEVALLA

For over twelve years in Kuwait, before immigrating to Canada, Firuzi led the Human Resources and Administration function for Kentz, an international engineering and construction company in the oil and gas industry, with multiple international project management experience with a diversified workforce. She successfully managed business relationships with clients/partners, embassies and government bodies to ensure expeditious handling of issues. Strategically planning the management of resources, Firuzi has traveled extensively to North



America, Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and the Far East. At present she is the community co-ordinator for the Canadian Cancer Society

Firuzi's volunteer work includes

- o Canadian Cancer Society :
- o Zoroastrian Society of Ontario – Helping Hands Committee
- o Distress Centre, Durham – 24-hour Helpline and Intervention for persons in distress and in crisis situations.
- o Community Care, Durham – Friendly visitor program within the community.
- o Kuwait Zoroastrian Association (President)
- o Indian Women's Association, Kuwait (Vice-President)

Welcome Firuzi to the FEZANA FAMILY

Today, we can only attempt to define our goals in broad terms.

Once we have our goals defined, we will need a map to negotiate the terrain between Day 1 and Day 6. Unless we are all together, of one Mind, we cannot hope to find synergistic solutions that will stand the test of time. This will require a Meeting of the Minds on a global scale. All this will take time. But let us start now at Day 1.

Current Status – Global Issues

To assess what the global community is doing today, we will review the findings of the "Coming Together" session organized by **Rohinton & Roshan Rivetna** in Mumbai last January. The issues are all familiar to us: population decline, socio-political issues of being a minority, and in India, overwhelming demands for urban housing and welfare. They are being addressed through a variety of initiatives taken by organizations and individuals. Coordination is difficult. Personal agendas and inflexible positions are apparent. Rivetna reported that the youth in India are very discouraged by the doctrinal strife and personality issues that seem to pervade the atmosphere.

Firdosh Mehta next made some observations based on his recent visit to India and Pakistan. The Parzor project, funded by UNESCO, is recording oral traditions and Zarathushti culture. The Parsi DNA project will collect DNA samples from our dwindling genetic pool. The benefits of this project would be of

Meeting of the Minds Forum

Sunday, April 8, 2007

Introduction

Zarathushtis are dispersed throughout the world. Efforts to form a representative "World Body" that can address and meet the needs of all Zarathushtis have not been successful. We should have no illusions that any group, however influential or erudite, can find all the answers just by sitting together at a round table. It is a long and sequential process in which one seeks first to understand, and then be understood. Problems arise out of the unmet needs of people or groups of people. These needs are not just physical needs like food, shelter or wealth. Psychological and societal needs to understand, belong, and to be understood are at the root of most disputes and disagreements. The process of discovering these needs is what is meant by "**Meeting of the Minds.**"

Today, we are at Day 1. The first step is to try to understand the situation. Although we are concerned more with North American Zarathushtis, we are not an isolated entity. What happens elsewhere affects us too. We will review the issues and problems that the global community is facing and how they are being addressed. This is the terrain in front of us. Next, we will list the major issues that we want to and can address here in North America; and brainstorm as to where we in N. America want to arrive on DAY 6. This is a difficult task.

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worldwide significance. Navsari, Sanjan and several other historical and archaeological sites are receiving attention from several sources. Mehrji Rana library is being renovated. The K.R. Cama Oriental Institute needs funds for restoration of manuscripts, some of which date back to 1300 ACE. But the building itself needs significant structural renovation.

Karachi Zarathushti population is prospering, but has declined significantly due to out-migration. Lahore has a higher percentage of seniors. Iranian youth need funds for education.

It seems that many organizations are working independently to achieve various objectives under difficult conditions. FEZANA is providing funds for many of these projects and often local funding is adequate. But it is clear that funding alone is not going to resolve the problems.

North American Issues

In North America, we are raising the profile of Zarathushtis through local initiatives, interfaith activities and a dynamic public relations program. We have begun to define our infrastructure needs. But **UNITY IS STILL ELUDING US**. Could it be that we are not addressing the key issues that the community is facing?

There are many factors involved: cultural differences, distrust, and more seriously, a deep divide in our understanding of what 'religion' means. Rustom Kevala believes that how we define 'religion' will shape our future. And to do that, we need to be united; united in purpose, united in goals and united in our understanding of the world around us. We need to articulate what "Zarathushti community" means to us. A beginning towards that end was made on Friday during the Community Building workshop. Rustom suggested that for this forum, we focus on one issue: **UNITY**.

Discussion of the Unity Issue

Discussion followed along several paths:

- (a) Defining who we are
- (b) Places of worship
- (c) Bridging cultural gaps
 - Language
 - Conflicting priorities
- (d) Communications
- (e) Coordination with global projects
- (f) Funding

(a) Defining Who We Are

Jim Engineer stated that we have to be much more articulate about defining who we are. We have to accept that there are others who have a different view. Hosi Mehta suggested that we need to focus on goodness that is lost. We need to develop ourselves before we develop community. Farrokh Mistree wanted to poll our members on what they believe. Then we can explore how it all fits into a "big tent."

At the heart of this issue is the underlying principle of autonomy. FEZANA is a facilitating body and therefore cannot dictate what we should think and believe. Each association or Anjuman is free to choose its own definition of who is a Zarathushti, who to accept as members, and what to teach their children and youth. So where do we start? The general consensus was that we are not ready to come up with a general "big tent" definition of who we are.

(b) Places of Worship

Ervad Bomanshah Sanjana stated that we should develop a system similar to the 'Panthaks' that were created by Parsis upon their arrival in India. We should establish 5 dadgahs in different population centers with one Panthaki each. We will need knowledgeable priests. Each family will have to donate 5% of its income in support of religion.

Sam Vesuna said that the cost of maintaining a place of worship is an important issue. Individuals and families may not attend worship services regularly. Burning wood depletes forests and is very expensive. A gas fire that can be turned on and off by a devotee is economical, but the mobeds want a wood fire for its spiritual ambience.

In North America, we need trained religious leaders, teachers and teaching materials. We are thinking in terms of encouraging the research and study of Zarathushti religion at colleges and universities. There is also the issue of non-Zarathushtis wanting to learn about our religion or even join us in our beliefs. The entire religious and spiritual infrastructure in North America may look very different from the present infrastructures in India, Pakistan and Iran.

(c) Bridging Cultural Gaps

This subject required a very long discussion that showed our deep concerns in this area. We are trying to bridge four cultures: Indian, Iranian, US and Canadian. The general feeling is that the more serious cultural divide is between the immigrants who have

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come here from the Indian subcontinent and from Iran. Should we all learn to speak Farsi or Gujarati? There are other cultural differences also - dress, food habits, religious observances and even the implied meanings of words and gestures.

As the children are growing up in N. America, Farsi and Gujarati are not even their second languages, since they are not taught in schools. Iranian parents still use Farsi in their homes and want their children to be able to read Shahnameh and other literature in its original language. But Parsis generally use only English and are not so concerned about teaching Gujarati. Rustom suggested that we all learn Avesta and Pahlavi. This would help us and our youth to understand the prayers and rituals. Perhaps a start can be made by learning Farsi first. Further discussion on language did not seem to reach anywhere.

So the cultural aspects of unity were discussed. Most associations nowadays do celebrate Zarathushti Iranian festivals, which has helped to increase unity and fellowship. However, four member associations with predominantly Iranian membership: CZC, PZO, IZA and ZSWs, have often expressed their views that FEZANA is not relevant to their needs and their members do not feel welcome in 'predominantly Parsi' formal meetings. The general feeling was that unspoken messages from both sides are not being 'heard' or addressed. Rustom suggested that direct face to face communication may be the way to start. Bomi Patel, FEZANA VP, was given the charge to set up a task force to meet with these associations to explore how to bridge the divide.

It was suggested that unity can be enhanced if FEZANA adopts a single secular calendar. Having one calendar to celebrate major gahambars and communal events would have a unifying effect. The Shenshahi, Kadmi and Fasli religious calendars would not be affected.

(d) Communications

Building a community requires clear and open communications. Although the Internet has made it very easy to inform large numbers of people, we are often faced with information overload. Our busy schedules do not permit frequent study or dissemination of relevant information. A FEZANA office may provide a central point of contact for this purpose.

Each association has a newsletter, but the information may not be of interest to those who are not its members. It was recommended that all presidents should send their newsletters to other

association presidents who would then pass on relevant information to their members. Alternately, a link should be provided to the website whenever a new newsletter has been uploaded.

(e) Coordination of global appeals

Some projects, especially in India, have multiple sponsors or have multiple purposes and potential donors may be confused on whom or what to support. The number of appeals for financial assistance from individuals has also increased greatly. These appeals are often sent simultaneously to several individuals, associations and FEZANA committees. It was suggested that all appeals should be funneled through the **FEZANA Unity & Welfare committee** to avoid abuse or duplicated payments.

(f) Funding

Adi Vakharia stated that every religion requires its followers to donate a percentage of their incomes for religion. Each family should donate 2% or more to any Zarathushti cause. It was felt that 2% of gross income was not a large amount, when we are paying 12 to 25% of our incomes in taxes. **Sarosh Collector** said that his experience is that charity is an individual thing. Some high net worth families donate much more, and some donate nothing.

Conclusion

It was a very useful start, but the forum needs to continue its deliberations. The first step we need to take has been defined: face to face meetings between several predominantly-Iranian Zarathushti associations and FEZANA representatives. **Bomi Patel** will lead this task force. These meetings will also help to clarify some of the other issues such as defining who we are, and the future of our religious infrastructure, including places of worship.

Rustom invited those present and others who may read this report to come forward and volunteer

to work together in a "think tank" setting. A working group can be organized if sufficient interest is generated.



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FEZANA Teachers Workshop, Dallas, April 06, 2007.

Organized by the Education, Scholarship and Conference (ESC) Committee of FEZANA

Hosted by the ZANT at the Spring Hill Suites
Dallas DFW Airport, Dallas, TX

The workshop was attended by 25 people, 9 active teachers and a large number of observers, some of whom had been involved in religious education before but were not active at the present. The active teachers were from ZAH, ZANT and ZAGNY

Dr. Lovji Cama, chair of the ESC committee and organizer of the workshop welcomed the attendees and gave a brief background of the previous workshop held Jan 14, 2007 at the Pomona, NY Darbe-Mehr, and how the present workshop should build on the progress made by the previous one.

The 4 hour program started with a brief discussion of the teaching programs at ZANT, ZAH, ZANC and ZAGNY, where they described the set up of their classes, number of students in each class and number of teachers in the program, the kind of subjects taught in each class and the strengths and weaknesses of their programs.

A core curriculum that was agreed on at the last workshop was presented and teachers were invited to add on other subjects that they thought should be included and to point out subjects that they thought were inappropriate.

Vehishta Kaikobad (photo above) gave a presentation on the use of the Montessori method for teaching religion to 3 to 10 year old children. She demonstrated some of the specially prepared material which she uses in her classes and the idea of making children learn by touching and handling the material. (photo right bottom)

Sarosh Collector described his way of teaching teenagers by making them teach particular topics, after they had gone through a set of basic lectures. The students have to research their particular topic and teach to the class, rituals would have to be demonstrated to the class. These are followed by discussions where Sarosh leads the class if necessary.

Er. Soli Dastur demonstrated some of the power point presentations he has developed on the History of

the Zoroastrian people from the Peshdadian dynasty to the history of the Parsis in India. They have some pictures and web links if the student is interested in following up.

Lovji Cama presented the ideas of on line resources and helping families who do not have access to religion classes which were formulated at the previous workshop but lack of time prevented further discussion.

Many of the teachers (photo below Houston teachers Vehishta Kaikobad, Pearline Collector, Arnavaz Sethna,) had brought their teaching material and the textbooks they have found useful, for exhibition and sharing. Many teachers and the observers spend some time looking through this after the workshop was over and some exchange of material was arranged for.

Lovji Cama, Chair,

Education, Scholarship and
Conference
Committee of
FEZANA





20th Anniversary Celebration!

FINANCIAL PROGRESS Report & Update

With the arrival of summer our thoughts go to spending quality time with our family and friends; enjoying and celebrating the good things in life. The FEZANA family is celebrating too! This year, FEZANA is celebrating it's 20th year anniversary!! June 2, 2007 FEZANA became 20 years old. FEZANA has grown a lot in these 20 years and continues to grow. The Zarathushti community is stronger because of the formation of FEZANA and with the dedication and hard work of many individuals and families who have volunteered their time and effort over the past 20 years.

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of FEZANA, we would like YOU to join in the celebration and show your support for FEZANA by continuing to donate to the FEZANA funds. In the first few years of FEZANA, there were 4 funds to support the objectives, goals and needs of the community. Today there are 15 funds, 6 of these are endowment funds.

Scholarships are a permanent investment in people and education is the most direct route to a successful life. FEZANA has been giving scholarships for over 10 years. For the past four years, the total amount has been increased to \$15,000 a year for deserving students. The FEZANA Scholarship Fund has expanded with the generosity of the community. FEZANA now has a total of five scholarship funds given to Zarathushti students in the following categories: 1. FEZANA Academic Scholarship for merit and need. 2. Banoobai and Maneckshaw Kapadia Endowment Scholarship for need. 3. Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship for merit – The FEZANA Scholar. 4. Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship. 5. Sports Scholarship. With your support of these funds, there will be a continued investment in our youth and our community. In addition to the above mentioned scholarships, FEZANA's Religious Education Fund also has the Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship for studies or research in the Zarathushti religion.

At the 2007 AGM in Dallas, the Associations and the Executives of the Board approved a new scholarship to celebrate the 20 years of FEZANA. The scholarship has

been named **"FEZANA 20th Anniversary Endowment Scholarship for Excellence."** This is a wonderful legacy for our deserving students and youths.

The Welfare Fund also experienced tremendous growth over the past 20 years. Three philanthropic Zarathushti families created endowment funds in their family names to help the community members all over the world in times of great need. 1. The DamKevala Endowment Fund for Welfare. 2. Bhathena Family Endowment Fund for Welfare/Critical Assistance. 3. Pheroze Dorabji Tamboli Endowment Fund for Welfare. Besides the above endowment funds, we have the FEZANA Welfare Fund/ Critical Assistance Fund/Disaster Relief Fund in the Welfare category. The Welfare committee has distributed funds to victims of earthquakes and tsunamis, assisted families with extreme financial crisis, helped families with critical medical problems, etc. All this is made possible with your continued support.

The General Fund, Journal Fund and the newly formed Khorshed F. Jungalwala (Wadia) Zoroastrian Lecture Fund complete the list of FEZANA Funds. As you can see, with the growing needs of the community, FEZANA has stepped up and met the challenges facing the community and delivered solutions.

Now, it is time to thank FEZANA for the devotion, dedication and commitment to the community by celebrating the 20th anniversary with a generous gift. Please give from your heart and continue to help your community with your anniversary gift.

Kindly make your checks payable to FEZANA, indicate the fund/funds you support and mail to: *FEZANA Treasurer, Katayun Kapadia, 3 Preamble Drive, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054.* Thank you and may Ahura Mazda bless you and our community.

**Jerry Kheradi, MD, FAGC,
Chairperson, FEZANA Funds and
Finance Committee**

Committee : *Katayun Kapadia,
(Treasurer), Rashid Mehin, Behram
Irani Celeste Kheradi*



APPEAL RECEIVED

Family in Auckland, New Zealand requests financial assistance for their two year old son KHUSHRU MEHTA who is profoundly deaf in both ears, has Autistic Spectrum Disorder with global developmental delay and a rare genetic disorder called DOOR syndrome (underdeveloped fingertips and nails, developmental delay, seizures and possible vision retardation later)

Khushru needs two cochlear implants before the age of three with extensive audiology, habilitation and speech therapy. He has been approved for one by the public system in New Zealand. THE COST FOR the entire procedure, is approximately 90,000 NZ dollars per ear. (US\$66,225) CONTACT FRIAN WADIA FOR DETAILS frianwadia@xtra.co.nz

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY. SEND CHECKS FEZANA marked "Khushru Mehta Fund" , and mailed TO THE TREASURER, FEZANA, 3 Preamble Drive, Mount Laurel NJ 08054



FEZANA

List of Donations received January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007

General Fund

Aspi & Nergish Bharucha, Cincinnati, OH	\$ 125.00
Edul Daver, Green Brook, NJ	\$ 600.00
Nano Daroowala	\$ 300.00
Lyla Bharucha Aga	\$ 202.00
Phil Cooper, Gold River, CA	\$ 500.00

General Fund Total	\$ 1,727.00
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Welfare Fund

Vahishta & Shiavax Cowasji, McVillie, ND	\$ 200.00
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Welfare Fund Total	\$ 200.00
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Critical Assistance Fund

Mehran Pooladi-Darvish, Calgary, Alberta, Canada	\$ 500.00
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Critical Assistance Fund Total	\$ 500.00
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Academic Scholarship Fund

Cawas & Ruby Cooper, Macungie, PA	\$ 50.00
Parviz & Simin Ardeshirpour, Raleigh, NC	\$ 101.00

Academic Scholarship Fund Total	\$ 151.00
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Kheradi Scholarship Fund

Cawas & Ruby Cooper, Macungie, PA	\$ 50.00
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Total	\$ 50.00
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Donations for sending Zoroastrian Iranian Youth to 4th. World Youth Congress

Farrokh & Sandra Lynn Kheradi, Wayne, PA	\$ 100.00
Farangis Zardoshty, Scottsdale, AZ	\$ 4,000.00
Jamshed & Arnaz Marker, St. Petersburg, FL	\$ 2,000.00
Iranian Zoroastrian Association, Suffern, NY	\$ 8,000.00
Rustam Guiv Foundation, Kansas City, Kansas	\$ 2,000.00

Total	\$ 16,100.00
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Donation for sending Zoroastrian Youth to NA Congress

Firdosh & Rashna Mehta, Weatherford, TX	\$ 300.00
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Total	\$ 300.00
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Grand Total

\$ 19,028.00



Anniversary



COMING EVENTS

2007 YEAR OF RUMI declared by UNESCO at the request of the GOVERNMENT OF TAJIKISTAN to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the birth of Mevlana Celaled-din-i Belhi-Rumi (Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Balkhi Rumi), Persian poet and philosopher (1207-1273). A float, highlighting the contributions of Rumi was at the Persian Parade in New York to celebrate Norooz, March 2007.

JUNE 2007 STANFORD UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES
Jamshed Choksy (Indiana U)
"Minority Sociopolitics in Contemporary Iran. The Zoroastrian Case" June 5, 2007

JUNE 2007 WORLD CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL, WASHINGTON, DC
The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) announced the world's largest celebration of children's creativity and imagination will take place June 23-25 – The National Mall. CONTACT: Media Relations Phone: (202) 530-1000 Fax: (202) 530-1080 E-mail: media@icaf.org Url: www.icaf.org

JUNE, 2007, NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS, TORONTO.
The X1V North American Zoroastrian Congress IMPACT will be held in Toronto, June 29-July 2 2007, hosted by the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario.
www.zoro-impact.com

June 2007 WZCC
WZCC conference. Meet the Titans June 29, Toronto, Ontario, Contact www.wzcc.org

SEPTEMBER 2007 1st World Zarathushti Trade, Industrial & Cultural Fair. TEHRAN organized by WZCC Iran Region
All intending participants should directly contact Khodayar Attaie, irantradefair@gmail.com WZCC Regional Chapter Chair with their business activities and their space requirement.

SEPTEMBER 2007, FIFTH ZARATHUSHTI UNITY CUP SOCCER.

The Fifth Soccer Tournament will be held September 1-3, 2007.
Contact zsc@fezana.org
http://www.zathletics.com/

OCTOBER 2007 NEXT GENERATION CHALLENGES
ZYNA and Z. Association of Chicago will host "Next Generation Challenges", October 12th -14th.
Contact Nikan2@aol.com

OCTOBER 2007 LECTURE
The Library Committee of the Houston Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Centre will host Paul Kriwaczek, author of "In search of Zarathushtra", October 18th
Contact aban@coatingengineers.com

DECEMBER 2007, WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS, BALLARAT, AUSTRALIA.
The FOURTH World Zoroastrian Youth Congress "Back to the Future" will be held at the University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, December 27, 2007 to January 3, 2008 Contact Shiraz Mistry, at Smileysjm@optusnet.com.au

JANUARY 2008, WZCC AGM, KARACHI, PAKISTAN
The 2007 Annual General Meeting of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce will be held in Karachi, Pakistan, January 13th and 14th. Members are advised to arrive in Karachi on 12 January 2008 and departure should be planned for 15 Jan. 2008. Contact zcommisariat@hotmail.com

JULY 2008, ELEVENTH ZARATHUSHTI GAMES, San Diego, CA.
The eleventh Zarathushti games will be held the 4th of July weekend 2008 in San Diego. See more at
http://www.sandiego.org/nav/Visitors.

SUMMER 2008, FEZANA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.
University of Missouri, Kansas City, Details to follow. Contact Nikan2@aol.com

DECEMBER 2009, WORLD CONGRESS, DUBAI.
9th World Zoroastrian Congress "Unity Through the Sands of Time" to be held in Dubai, December 28-31, 2009.
Contact meher_bhesania@hotmail.com



Working RIGHT is more important than Working HARD or working SMART.



Calendar of Festivals

Calendar of Festivities

May to December 2007

Daye Mah nu Jashan <i>Mah Daye Roz Fravardin</i>	Sat, May 05 Mon, June 04	(K) (S)
Maidhyarem Gahambar <i>Mah Daye, Roz Meher-Behram</i>	Wed, May 02-Sun, May 06 Fri, June 01 - Tues, June 05	(K) (S)
Pir-e-Sabz Festival <i>Mah Khordad, Roz Ashtad-Aneran</i>	Thur, June 14 - Mon, June 18	(F)
Pir-e-Banu Festival <i>Mah Tir, Roz Meher-Behram</i>	Wed, July 04 - Sun, July 08	(F)
Maidyoshem Gahambar <i>Mah Tir, Roz Khorshed-Daepmeher</i>	Fri, June 29 - Tues, July 03	(F)
Jashne Tirgan <i>Mah Tir, Roz Tir</i>	Sun, July 01	(F)
Fravardegan/Muktad/Hamaspathmedayem Gahambar <i>Five Gatha Days</i>	Mon, July 16 - Fri, July 20 Wed, Aug 15 - Sun, Aug 19 (Pateti)	(K) (S)
Naurooz <i>Mah Fravardin, Roz Hormuzd</i>	Sat, July 21 Mon, Aug 20	(K) (S)
Khordad Sal (Birthday of Zarathushtra) <i>Mah Fravardin, Roz Khordad</i>	Thur, July 26 Sat, Aug 25	(K) (S)
Fravardian Jashan <i>Mah Fravardin, Roz Fravardin</i>	Wed, Aug 08 Fri, Sept 07	(K) (S)
Maidyozarem Gahambar <i>Mah Ardibehesht Roz Khorshed-Daepmeher</i>	Thur, Aug 30 - Mon Sept 03 Sat, Sept 29 - Wed, Oct 03	(K) (S)
Paitishem Gahambar <i>Mah Sheheravar, Roz Ashtad-Aneran</i>	Wed, Sept 12 - Sun, Sep 16	(F)
Jashne-Mehergan <i>Mah Meher, Roz Meher</i>	Tues, Oct 02	(F)
Ayathrem Gahambar <i>Mah Meher, Roz Ashtad-Aneran</i>	Fri, Oct 12 - Tues, Oct 16	(F)
Jashne-Avangan (Avan Ardivisur Parab) <i>Mah Avan, Roz Avan</i>	Fri, Oct 26	(F)
Maidyoshem Gahambar <i>Mah Tir, Roz Khorshed-Daepmeher</i>	Mon, Oct 29 - Fri, Nov 02 Wed, Nov 28 - Sun, Dec 02	(K) (S)
Jashne-Adargan <i>Mah Adar, Roz Adar</i>	Sat, Nov 24	(F)
Death Anniversary of Asho Zarathushtra <i>Mah Daye, Roz Khorshed</i>	Wed, Dec 26	(F)

(S = Shenshai, K=Kadmi, F=Fasli)

THE FEZANA WELFARE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

The FEZANA Welfare Committee helps the Zarathushti community members, across the globe, in crisis and determines the best course of action.

Requests are also received for medical assistance from people not qualifying for health insurance, women in abusive marriages and wanting to become financially independent to make a fresh start, from families who have lost their sole bread earner etc. The committee works diligently with member associations, community action groups and the families and individuals in need of assistance to verify the need and then determine the best course of action. Their track record has been stellar.

Please support our efforts to assist our community members by sending your donation to: FEZANA WELFARE & mail it to the Treasurer; Katayun Kapadia;

3 Preamble Drive; Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 For information and suggestion for opportunities to extend support and to work in partnership, contact

Houtoxi Contractor, Hosi Mehta, Freyaz Shroff, FEZANA Welfare Committee



YEARS



The GENESIS of FEZANA

Rohinton Rivetna, The Founding President 1987-1996

The Genesis of FEZANA can be traced to the Fifth North American Zoroastrian Congress, in Los Angeles, in 1985. Those of us who were there remember it as a bitter-sweet experience. It was a tumultuous meeting, with direct confrontation on issues ranging from conversion/acceptance and mixed marriages to the formation of a North American federation. Never before was witnessed such open hostility in a public forum. Yet, out of the storm bloomed a flower, a gift to the Zarthushti community: a consensus to form a national body, the genesis of FEZANA.

EARLIER ATTEMPTS. The organizers of that Congress, Mrs. Farangis Shahrukh and Mrs. Dhunmai Dalal, had the foresight to place on the agenda a plenary session on: "Proposal for the organization of a North American Zoroastrian Body," chaired by Rohinton Rivetna of Chicago, with speaker Mr. Homi Minocher Homji of Toronto, who presented a proposal for a well-structured, hierarchical North American Federation. Earlier papers presented by Mr. Homji projecting the idea of a federation, first at the Fourth North American Zoroastrian Congress in Montreal in 1982, and again at the Fourth World Zoroastrian Congress at Bombay in 1985, resulted in no actions. Other attempts to form a national organization, by Keki Bhote in 1965, and by Dr. Jehan Bagli and the Montreal Zoroastrians in the form of UZANA (United Zoroastrian Associations of North America) between 1976 and 1978, never took hold. Attempts made to hold organizational meetings of Association representatives, during this and earlier Congresses, had met with opposition, mainly from the smaller Groups, fearful of a "big brother" Federation squelching their voice and compromising their autonomy; or the financial commitment it might entail.

THE IDEA TAKES ROOT. But this time the idea took root. After the plenary session at the Congress, Farangis Shahrokh walked onto the stage and took a straw poll with a show of hands, to gauge interest level in the creation of a North American Federation. The response was overwhelmingly in favor, with a small but vociferous group objecting.

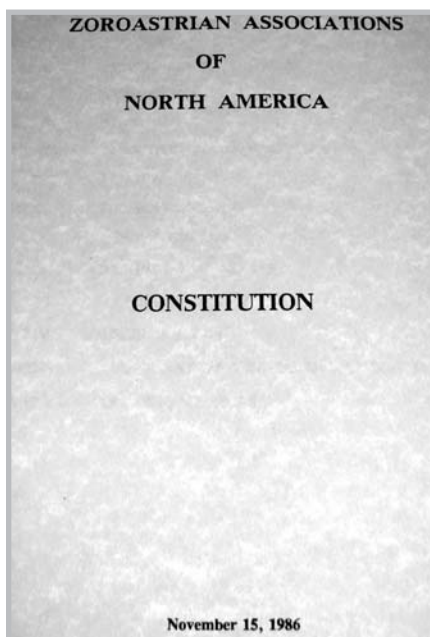


The Congress gave the mandate to Rohinton Rivetna to write a draft Constitution and carry the proposal forward. A core group was chosen to sound off the ideas, taking pains to include individuals from the objecting groups.

CONSTITUTION DRAFTED. Following the Congress, the work proceeded at full speed. Within four months, a draft Constitution was written by Rohinton Rivetna and circulated to the core group. After several iterations with the core group, a Constitutional Convention was called in Chicago in May 1986 to review the draft. Representatives from nine Associations came and deliberated round the clock for two long days.

The delegates were: Firdosh Mehta (Alberta), Furrokh Dastur (California), Bomi Damkevala, Kayomارش Mehta, Keikhushroo Mobed, Rohinton and Roshan Rivetna (Chicago), Hushtasp and Perviz Bhungara (Manitoba), Kaikhosrov and Peroja Irani (New York), Homi B. M. Homji and Sam Vesuna (Ontario), Kaemarz Dotiwala (Texas) and Rohinton Tengra (Washington, DC) and attorney Dina McIntyre of Pennsylvania, who lent her invaluable legal expertise.

Every line and every word was debated with frankness and mutual respect until a consensus was reached on the content of each section. In the end, the collective wisdom of the delegates had evolved the original draft into a strong, viable document.



TOWARDS CONSENSUS

Following the Convention, the Draft Constitution was finalized, the language polished, and the document made ready for the real test - getting signatures from the Founding Member Associations. It was a daunting task. Maintaining complete neutrality was a challenge, as one Association after another, argued their points. Finally, after many iterations of Drafts, a multitude of phone calls and mailings (Note that this was before the days of email, which would have made the convergence process far less onerous) consensus was reached.

A final parchment copy, dated November 15, 1986 was sent and signed by 16 of the 17 Associations of record in 1986; they are listed as Founder Members in the Constitution.

FEZANA was subsequently registered in the State of Illinois on June 2, 1987, as a not-for-profit religious and charitable corporation.

The first elected Officers (right) were: Rohinton Rivetna (President), Homi B. Minocher Homji (VP),



Framroze Patel (Treasurer), Dolly Dastoor (Secretary) and Sabar Balsara (Asst. Secretary).

Lessons Learned Those were the unsettled years when FEZANA was born. A community of immigrants, students and young families, barely three decades old, we were groping with our identity, seeking direction, surprised and often intolerant, to discover that we did not all think alike, and that we all had very strong, and at times, differing views. All of this manifested itself at the 1985 Congress in a crescendo.

Out of this chaos, though, came order and understanding, then convergence and finally consensus, on the need to come together at a national level. The most important lesson learned is for the leadership to be committed to listen, heed and be respectful of all sentiments, and to make a special effort to engage and involve the doubters and most vociferous objectors in the formative process.

This is a lesson that we can never forget, in North America. We are being tested again, in our struggle to form a world body, which has yet failed to bear fruit.



Perhaps we should re-focus our efforts, heeding the lessons learned from the FEZANA experience.

THE VISION AND STRUCTURE OF FEZANA

**Rohinton Rivetna,
Founding President 1987-1996**

In his cover letter presenting the final version of the Constitution, dated November 15, 1986, to the Associations for their signatures, Rohinton Rivetna wrote:

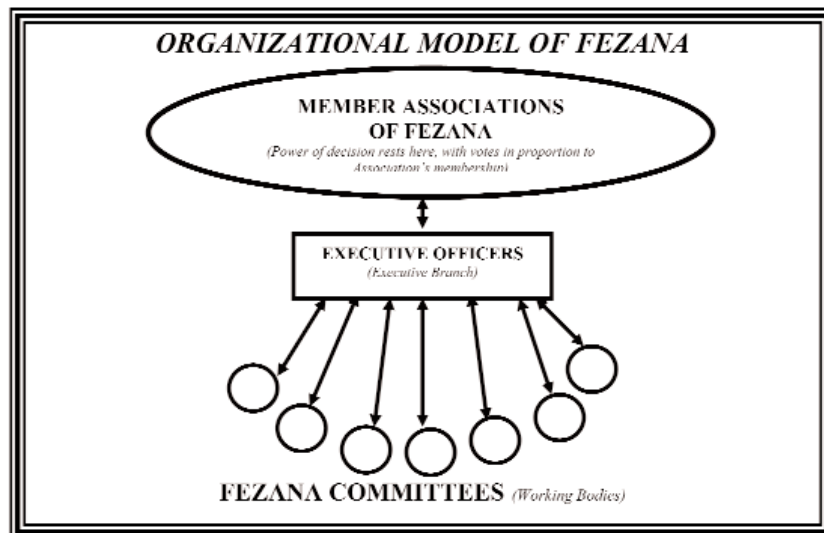
"I view the Federation as a forum to UNITE and STRENGTHEN individual Associations. The power of decision lies, not at the top, but at the base, with the people. They, through their Member Associations, will solely have the voting rights. Decisions of import are made collectively by the Member Associations who form the Board of Directors of FEZANA. The day-to-day operation of the Federation will be conducted by the five elected Officers, who will have no voting rights. For

these positions, we will need dedicated, hardworking individuals, willing to serve selflessly without reward or compensation. The objectives of the Federation will be realized through the Committees. Special projects will also be undertaken as the need arises. I view FEZANA as an OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE, to become involved and to give of our talents towards a cause that we all believe in."

THE FEZANA MODEL

FEZANA was conceived as a coordinating and facilitating body. It's model is not that of the USA model of States with an overarching Federal government. It is, rather, the

UN model of nations coming together at a common table. Great pains were taken to ensure the unfettered autonomy of its Member Associations. FEZANA does not wield any institutional instruments to force change or set policy, as was initially feared by some. Rather, it is



structured to take direction from its constituency, the Member Associations (and in turn, their individual membership, allowing every individual voice to be heard, in a truly democratic forum.

This vision is reflected in the Constitution.

The Preamble to the Constitution says:

WE, the subscribing Zoroastrian Associations of North America, recognize that:
 WHEREAS many Zoroastrians (Zarathushtis) have recently settled and been born on the North American continent;
 WHEREAS various regional Associations have been formed in Canada and the United States of America to serve the religious and charitable needs of North American Zoroastrians; and
 WHEREAS it is desirable to adopt a UNITED approach on issues facing Zoroastrians;
 GUIDED by the blessings of AHURA MAZDA and the teachings of our Prophet Zarathushtra;
 A FEDERATION is hereby formed, consisting of Zoroastrian Associations in North America, to further the cause of Zoroastrianism in North America.
 The activities of this Federation shall be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect, co-operation and unity amongst all Members, and with due regard for the principles of GOODNESS, TRUTH, REASON, BENEVOLENCE, IMPLICIT TRUST and CHARITY towards all Mankind.

And the Purposes include:

- A. To function as a coordinating organization for Zoroastrian Associations in North America;
- B. To promote the study, understanding and practice of the Zoroastrian faith and the welfare of Zoroastrian communities;
- C. To promote, perpetuate and teach the Zoroastrian religion as set forth in the teachings of the Prophet Zarathushtra and the Zoroastrian faith;
- D. To gather and disseminate information to Zoroastrian Association. and others relating to the Zoroastrian faith and communities;
- E. To foster and encourage Zoroastrian fellowship in the North American continent, and to represent the religious interests of its Membership in national and international forums;
- F. To engage in charitable activities as required by the Zoroastrian faith, and consistent with the laws of The State of Illinois and the laws of Canada and the U.S.A. pertaining to religious and charitable organizations; and
- G. To engage in and support any other activities that nurture and support the Zoroastrian faith and Zoroastrian communities.



Zarathushti Presence at the World Parliament of Religions
1-Chicago1993, 2-Capetown 1999,
3-Barcelona 2004





A new chapter in the history of our faith on this continent

20th Anniversary

First AGM of FEZANA, Toronto, April 1, 1988
and Congress Session next day.

Excerpts from President Rohinton Rivetna's address

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

This is indeed a momentous occasion as North American Zoroastrian Associations gather together at one table under the banner of FEZANA, with one single purpose in mind – to preserve and perpetuate the religion of our Prophet Zarathushtra in North America. This day will be recorded as the beginning of a new chapter in the history of our faith on this continent.

Common concerns, goals and responsibility. We share common concerns. We share common goals. We share common responsibilities.

CONCERNS We are concerned about our future. We are concerned about our children's future, and, looking beyond, at our children's children's future. Most of all, we are concerned about the future of our Zarathushti faith. From time to time we have heard that our numbers are declining. What are we to do about that? Should we succumb to the forces of history? Or should we resist and seek ways to turn the tide?

GOALS Secondly, we share common goals. Our one over-riding goal as individuals is to imbibe in our children the Zarathushtrian doctrine, and to instill in them a deep respect and love for the teachings of our Prophet, Zarathushtra. As a community, our one over-riding goal is to bring about a Zarathushti renaissance, and restore the Zarathushti faith back to its rightful place as one of the great religions of the world.

RESPONSIBILITY Finally, in this room today, we must recognize that we share an awesome responsibility on our shoulders. A responsibility for the continuance of our faith, that has given so much to humanity. Every single living Zarathushti bears this burden.

Our success in North America is in your hands. Given our tremendous potential, there is nothing that can impede our progress, except our two worst enemies: Internal Dissensions and Apathy.

INTERNAL DISSENSIONS are disastrous. There are no outside forces battering down upon us. We live in countries that provide the greatest religious freedoms. The dangers are from within. Let us resolve to stand united, to work steadfastly together, in a spirit of **COOPERATION NOT CONFRONTATION**, with mutual trust and respect.

APATHY Our second major enemy is Apathy, a legacy of the past. We have to step out of it, or else apathy will consume us. We have no natural leaders. We have no hierarchical church structures, we have no Pope to lead us. We have to lead ourselves. If we are to progress, you must break your long silence. You must make your voices heard. FEZANA gives you the platform and the voice to make your wishes known. Get involved.

The eyes of Zarathushtis around the world are upon us today. It is for this group to make wise choices and to use the precious time we have together, well. If we cast away this opportunity, we will be casting away our lifeline. As we proceed through our deliberations today, bear one thing in mind. We simply cannot afford to fail.

Never before, I may venture to say, in our living memory, has there been a period when there has been so much interest in our affairs. We are all here to express our views and share ideas. And we are bursting with energy. Our greatest wealth is our people resources. It is like a dormant volcano. From time to time it rumbles, and you feel the vibrations. But the energy is waiting to be released. It is critical that we channel this energy, and work with a single-mindedness of purpose, to achieve our goals. We need to build teams, across the communities, for the collective good. It is our vision that FEZANA will provide the support structure to facilitate the work that lies ahead.

Those of us who participated in the FEZANA Constitutional Convention in May 1986 will be able to relate to what I am saying. The camaraderie, the mutual trust and respect, and the give and take exhibited there allowed us to draft a Constitution with consensual agreement, and to lay the groundwork for a sound organizational structure. We pledge that this spirit will prevail in our interactions today.

The structure of FEZANA is young and tender. Untended, it will wither and die. But nurture it well, and, with the blessings of Ahura Mazda, we will live to see a Zarathushti Renaissance.

Defining Moment

Dolly Dastoor **President 1994-1998**

Eight years after FEZANA was founded, I was elected the second President in 1994. A lot of effort had gone into creating charters and structures for committees to function. My goal was to make FEZANA relevant to the life of Zarathushtis all across North America. By visiting every province of Canada and every State of the US where there was a FEZANA member association and small group, I made it a point to meet not only the elected officers but the grass root membership. Bringing FEZANA to the people, hearing their hopes and aspirations for themselves and for their children and their concerns on how to maintain the Zarathushti way of life, was the first step to community building. (photo above right, with some grassroots members of the Zoroastrian Association of Alberta)

The defining moment for my presidency can be branched into

- 1) for the global community
- 2) for the North American community

Global Community

Bringing the World Zoroastrian Congress to the North American Shores, persuading the Indian bastion to let go the monopoly of hosting the previous 6 congresses between India and Iran, was an attempt to reach out and connect with the geographical and cultural diversity of the world community. It was a moment which gave a message to the world that the North American community had come of age and was ready to invite the world to see how it functions. It gave a message that we were respectful of the past but were ready and prepared to be independent in the future.

North American Community

10 years after the birth of FEZANA, a 10 year Strategic Plan 1997-2007 was developed through



the combined efforts of the community across the continent.

The plan gave structure to the vision and mission of FEZANA, it generated synergy, focused the energy and channeled the growth of the community in a planned direction. With the successful completion of the Plan in 2007, the community is now ready to move on to the next stage in our evolution in North America.

Religion needs a nourishing environment to thrive in, and creating that environment of confidence and pride for all members of the community was the defining moment.

Tracking FEZANA'S Journey **Framroz Patel President 1998-2002**

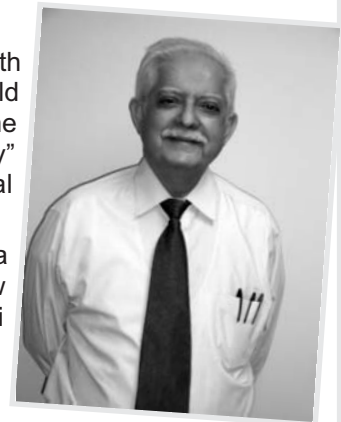
FEZANA Journal editor has limited the past presidents to reflect our association with FEZANA. By the time my term began in 1998 FEZANA was already eleven years old and well on its way to become a recognized force within Zarathushti community. The framers of FEZANA constitution had very wisely not vested 'imperial presidency' powers to the office of the president. Neither my predecessors were "imperial presidents", nor was I.

I had told my colleagues that I will rely on their "advice and consent" role. Many a times we did have consensus, however, at times I disagreed with my fellow executives. Very early in my term we started planning jointly, with Zarathushti Association of Houston (ZAH), to co-host The 7th World Zarathushti Congress. I regret to this day my vote, for casting a vote-with majority-which resulted in banning a committee.

Personally, my disappointments were:

- Appointment of FEZANA "World Body Working Group" which produced a monumental report on the issue bringing convergence between the proponents of WZO and WZCF. As in any endeavor there were many disparate and different views promoted by well meaning and righteous Zarathushti. Much progress was made; however, there was no convergence.
- I failed to grasp the intensity of grass root movement relative to the issue of inclusion and exclusion
- I did not-at all times- uphold the interest of FEZANA-relative to WZC2000.
- I did not do enough to stay current with Interfaith and NGO activities.

On the whole it was an honor to have served the community.



Defining Moment

20th Anniversary

TRACKING FEZANA'S JOURNEY



Much has happened in the life of FEZANA over the last 20 years, and many will write about it. I would like to highlight three defining moments which I have been part of.

1. THE LEGACY PROGRAM OF THE TIME CAPSULE AT THE 2000 WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS, HOUSTON

There were many legacy programs conducted successfully during the Houston World Congress. One such activity was a 50-year Time Capsule, which was interred in the atrium of the beautifully constructed community center of The Zoroastrian Association of Houston, Texas.

After some research, a company in Northern California was chosen to provide a one-foot diameter by five-foot high Time Capsule made from anodized aluminum. A call was put out to the Global Zarathushti community for articles, artifacts, books, periodicals, stamps, photographs, replicas of articles of rituals and scriptures, tape recorded community songs and prayers, and various other items of community history and achievements. They were individually vacuum-packed in durable polythene bags and placed in the Capsule which was purged with nitrogen to remove all the air to prevent oxidation and promote preservation over a long period of time.

The Capsule was then ceremoniously lowered in the concrete Chamber in the foundation of the building with a large gathering of the community. The program included a color slide presentation of all the items included in the Capsule. The covering slab of marble duly engraved with the dates of internment and suggested exhuming marked the entombment of much of our history and culture, to be opened after fifty years by the members of our community.

Many are not even born yet, who will witness the extraction of the articles with awe and wonder.

Inshah Ahura, the Capsule will survive the vicissitudes of time and give our future generations an insight into what we were all about at the beginning of the millennium.



Firdosh Mehta, President 2002-2006

2. FROM THE PREMATURE DEMISE OF ONE WORLD BODY COMES THE BIRTH OF YET ANOTHER WORLD BODY

We look at FEZANA as a two country-united body to represent the interests of mainstream Zarathushtis at a national level. It acts as an umbrella for its 25 Member Associations from USA & Canada.

Like FEZANA, the ONE WORLD BODY we envisaged, was not a pontificating Body on Zarathushti Religion. FEZANA does not promote or promulgate any one particular school of thought. It does not get involved in deciding who can or cannot be a Zarathushti. This requirement of religious authority is left to The Mobed Councils; hence no definition of a Zarathushti is included in its Constitution, and the acceptance of Zarathushtis of various schools of thought is left to the Member Associations, on principle of religious Autonomy. This stance has served us well so far, to maintain the unity amongst the diversity of its Member Associations.

FEZANA, therefore, is primarily an educational, welfare, harmonizing and community service organization at a CONTINENTAL level.

We were trying to extrapolate this successful formula of a two-country (USA & Canada) body to the global level. Knowing that at the global level, the group dynamics would be different, a group of elected leaders of different existing Zarathushti organizations from India, Iran, UK, Europe and North America, came together to create the platform at an INTERCONTINENTAL level.

Having recognized the lacunae of such a concept of Body of Bodies, not having any recognition of the INDIVIDUAL at the Diaspora level, which would remain without any representation, a tripartite vehicle of IZO/WZOI/WZOF was conceived.

This tripartite organization would NOT be a religiously doctrinal and theologically pontificating body. It would honor and respect the independence of every Member Organization's region to define and establish their meaning of the term "Zoroastrian".

This was ensured by many clauses included in the drafts of the Articles of Incorporation and Constitutions of The ONE World Body in IZO/WZOI/WZOF. It would NOT be proselytizing body, nor would it be a dictating body on religious matters. The

protection of infrastructure and property of each region was enshrined. Zarathushtis with parental lineage would become its office bearers. New members from proselytized regions could not become members, unless unanimously accepted.

Under these conditions of AUTONOMY of religious expression, we were to create a World Body that was primarily a community SERVICE organization to enhance the quality and standard of life of mainstream Zoroastrians globally.

The undercurrent of doubt, suspicion, mistrust and paranoia, instigated by the hypothetical imagination of some members of our community towards the usurping of the community infrastructure and property by members of such a tripartite organization, led to the abandoning of its support by an overwhelming majority of the largest Zarathushti Federation in the world. Thus bringing about, the premature demise of an open-minded IZO/WZOI/WZOF World Body and the birth of another ethnicity based World Body, called WAPIZ, in 2005.

3. FEZANA's EMPHASIS ON A MULTITUDE OF FUNDS

Being a community based educational and welfare organization, FEZANA has well realized the potential of its charitable status in providing funds for the community with scholarships for higher academic education and welfare assistance to its worthy and needy members.

Recognizing that there is a multitude of areas in which funding assistance is needed, and to satisfy the desires of the donors, the FEZANA Executive over the years initiated many additional opportunities for donations and benefits via various earmarked funds.

This led to the scholarship funds for Religious Education at post-secondary level with research, for Performing and Creative Arts, for World Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra, for Excellence in Sports, for assisting Youth to attend World Congress, for publishing various books and THE JOURNAL, for Natural Disaster Relief and Critical/Medical Assistance for community members primarily in North America, but also around the world.

We anticipate that with the growth and the sophistication of our community over the future years, many members will seek focused areas of funding support, increasing the need for yet newer types of donation initiatives for the development and prosperity of our people. This has been done up to now, by

prudent and conservative investments of our various endowment funds and 100% transfer of funds received to the recipients, with the support and assistance of various other registered Zarathushti charities around the world.

FEZANA is more than happy and proud to be the vehicle of choice for many generous and kind-hearted individuals who are willing to support the various funding initiatives.

We hope that FEZANA will continue to do this for 100 years, nay a 1000 years.

OUR SPIRITUAL VALUES THE KEY TO OUR UNITY

Rustom Kevala, President 2006-



At the start of my term as FEZANA president, I had presented a 3-point platform as my agenda:

1. Build a united Zarathushti community,
2. Raise the profile of Zarathushtis in North America, and
3. Develop infrastructures.

This is a sequential process: without unity, our progress in the other areas would be stunted and incomplete. Although we have made progress in raising our profile through a dynamic public relations program and have begun to define our infrastructure needs, unity is still eluding us. There are many factors involved: cultural differences, distrust, and more seriously, a deep divide in our understanding of what "religion" means.

I believe that how we define 'religion' will shape our future. How we define religion together is the key to our unity.

This was brought home to me in a very unexpected way. In June 2006, a group called the "Church of Cognizance," based in Pima, Arizona, claimed that marijuana was the same as haoma, revered by Zoroastrians in Hom Yasht; and hence by smoking marijuana, they were just following neo-Zoroastrian

20th Anniversary

religious practices. FEZANA and the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) testified against their claims in a hearing on August 22, 2006. On December 22, 2006, Judge Judith Herrera ruled that not only is the Church of Cognizance NOT a religion, but also that, even if it was a religion, the way that it is practiced by the defendants is not sincere. This was a victory for all of us – Zarathushtis as well as the U.S. legal system.

In her final statement, the judge had pointed out the importance of established places of worship, rituals, organization, religious celebrations, and special vestments for priests, which signify “deeply observed philosophical, metaphysical, moral and ethical underpinnings” of a religion. Then she added, almost as a postscript, that the church of Cognizance did not conduct any mission work and hence did not profess any deep spiritual values! This last observation was a defining moment for me, because it clarifies how important it is for us to be able to articulate our spiritual values, what we are all about, to others. And in order to articulate our spiritual values, all Zarathushtis need to be together, united, speaking with one voice: “We have a message, we want to be heard, and we are on a mission to make the world a better place to live in”.

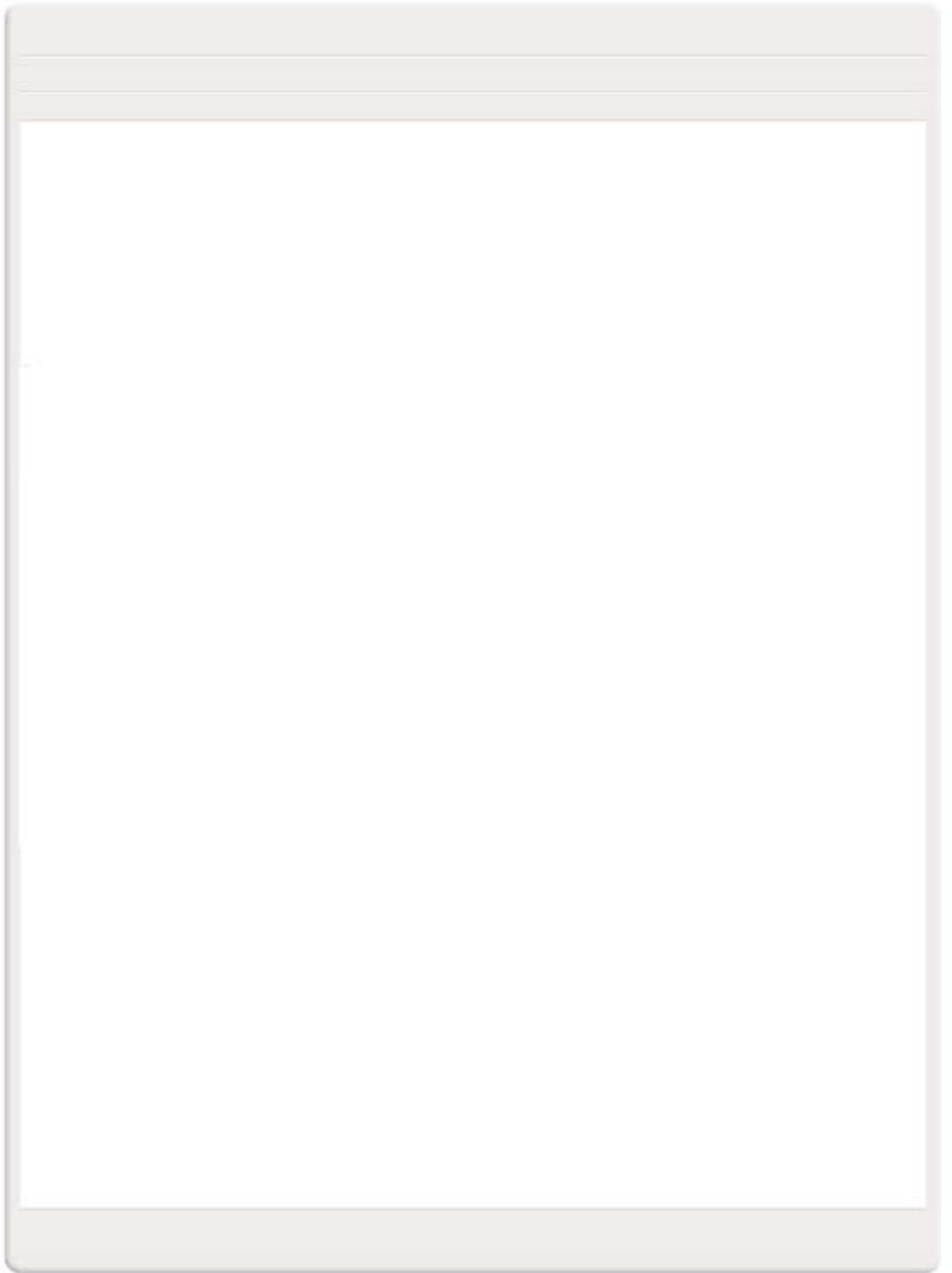
AGM/CONGRESS/ Other EVENTS

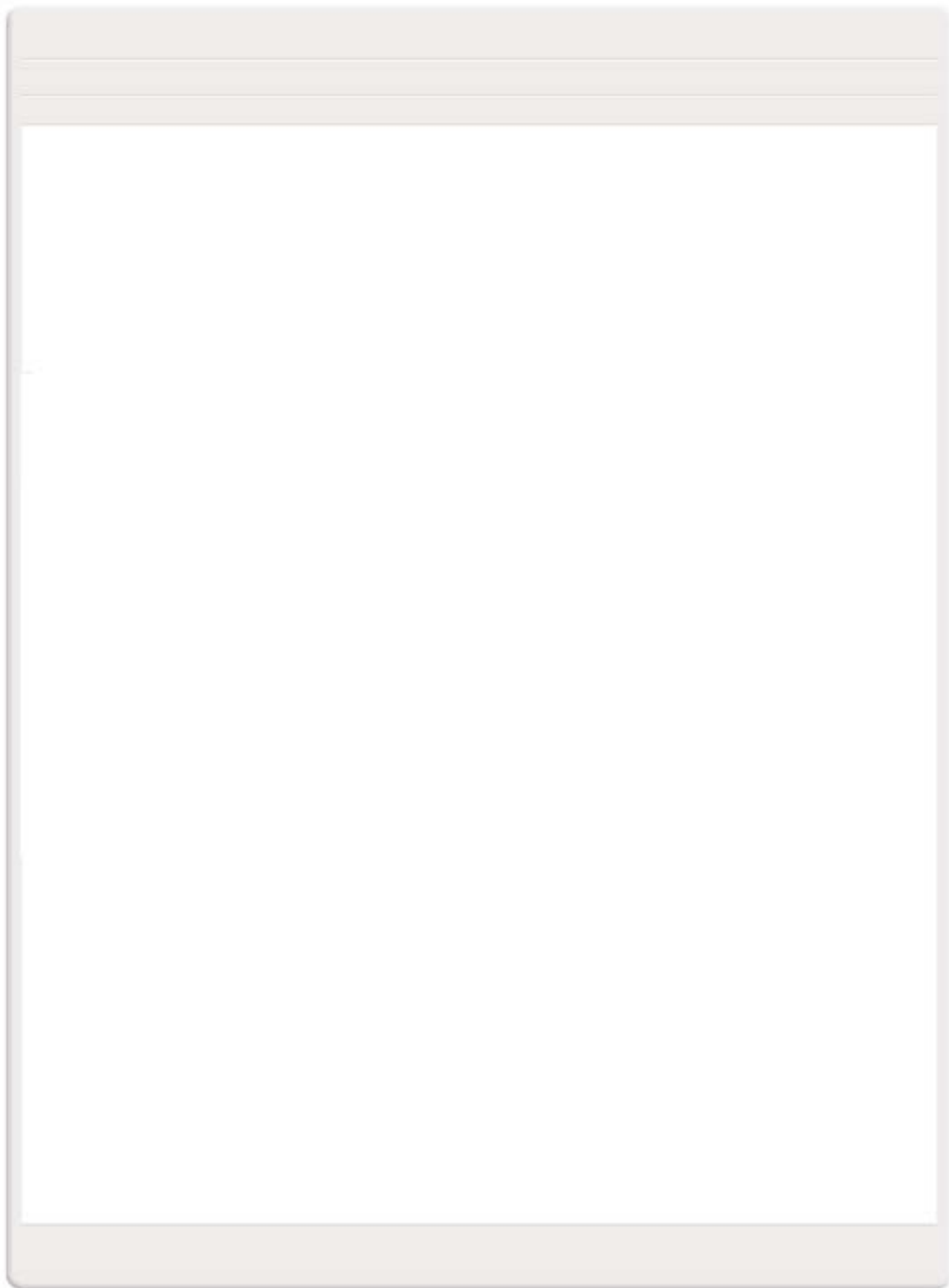
1988-89	"1st AGM, Toronto, Ontario April 1, 1988Sixth Congress April 1-3 1988 1st Z Olympics Los Angeles, CA July 1988"
1989-90	"2nd AGM, Montreal, Quebec March 24, 19894th Youth Congress, June 1990 2nd Z Olympics, LA. Nov 1989"
1990-91	"3rd AGM, Houston, TXAugust 1990Seventh Congress Sept 1990 3rd Z Olympics, San Jose, 1990"
1991-92	"4th AGM, Voorhes, NJ. July 1991Youth Congress, Vancouver 1991, 4th Z Olympics, Long Beach, CA, July, 1992. "
1992-93	"5th AGM Vancouver, BCSept. 03, 1992 and 8th Congress, Vancouver. 1st World Z Youth Congress, Los Angeles, Sept 1993. "
1993-94	"6th AGM Calgary, AlbertaJuly 03, 1993Youth Congress, Chicago 1993"

1994-95	"7th AGM, Philadelphia, PAJune 30, 1994Ninth Congress, July 1994Gatha ConferenceCosta Mesa, October 1994 5th Z Olympics, Domingo Hills, July 19"
1995-96	"8th AGM Kansas. KSSept 02-03, 1995Youth Congress, Stanford, 95"
1996-97	9th AGM San Francisco, CA Launcing of 10 yr strategic Plan, July 03-04 1996 10th Congress, San Francisco, 2nd NA Gatha Conference- August 1996, Houston, TX
1997-98	10th AGM Crestone, CO, August 09-10, 1997, 1st NA Avesta, Conference- August 1997, Boston
1998-99	11th AGM, Rye, NY., July 02-03 1998, 11th Congress, Rye, NY, 2nd Int Avesta , onference, Sept 1999, Calgary. 1st Z Soccer Tournament, Irvine, CA. August 1998
1999-2000	12th AGM, Washington, DC, June 19, 1999, Youth Congress-Montreal August 1999. 6th Z Olympics, Long Beach, CA. July 1999
2000-01	13th AGM, Houston, TX. May 27-29, 2000, WZC2000 Dec 26-Jan 01 2001 7th Zarathushti Games (World Congress) December, 2000.
2001-02	14th AGM, Los Angeles, CA May 26-27, 2001. 2nd Z Unity Cup (Soccer), Pacific Palisades, CA. September, 2001.
2002-03	15th AGM, Montreal, Quebec, May 26, 2002. 12th Congress Chicago July 2, 02, 8th Z Games, Los Angeles, CA July, 2002
2003-04	16th AGM, Boston, MA , May 24-25, 2003, Youth Congress-Toronto, July 03. 3rd Z Unity Cup (Soccer), , Torrence, CA. August, 2003.
2004-05	17th AGM, Tampa, FL., May 24-25 2004 13th Congress-San Jose, Dec 2004. 9th Z Games, Vancouver, July, 2004.
2005-06	18th AGM, Pittsburgh, PA, May 25-26, 2005, Youth Congress-Miami. Dec 2005. 4th Z Unity Cup (Soccer) Los Angeles, CA. Sept 2005.
2006-07	19th AGM Atlanta, GA. May 27-28, 2006 Conference of Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ), Chicago, IL. July 01-03, 2006. 10th Z Games. Los Angeles, CA. July 2006.
2007-08	20th AGM, Dallas/Ft Worth. TX, April 07-08, 2007, 14th Congress-Toronto, June 2007. 5th Z Unity Cup (Soccer), Redondo Beach, CA, Sept 2007.

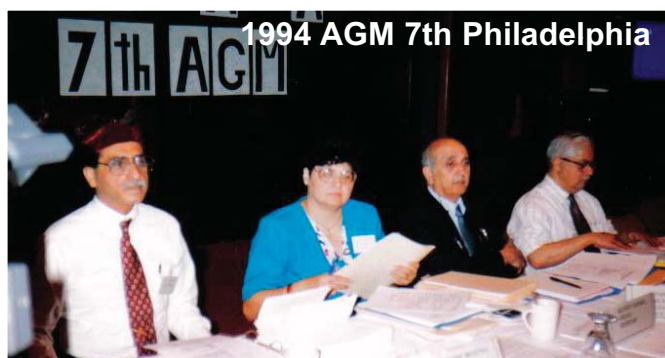
FEZANA OFFICERS 1987 - 2007 *20th Anniversary*

1988-89		1995-96		2002-03	
Rohinton Rivetna	President	Dolly Dastoor	President	Firdosh Mehta	President
Homi Homji	Vice-President	Framroze Patel	Vice-President	Mahrukh Motafram	Vice-President
Framroze Patel	Treasurer	Sarosh Collector	Treasurer	Rashid Mehin	Treasurer
Dolly Dastoor	Secretary	Katayun Kapadia	Secretary	Arnavaz Sethna	Secretary
Sabar Balsara	Asst. Secretary	Mehran Sepehri	Asst. Secretary	Farrokh Mistree	Asst. Secretary
1989-90		1996-97		2003-04	
Rohinton Rivetna	President	Dolly Dastoor	President	Firdosh Mehta	President
Homi Homji	Vice-President	Framroze Patel	Vice-President	Mahrukh Motafram	Vice-President
Framroze Patel	Treasurer	Sarosh Collector	Treasurer	Rashid Mehin	Treasurer
Dolly Dastoor	Secretary	Katayun Kapadia	Secretary	Rita Engineer	Secretary
Sabar Balsara	Asst. Secretary	Mahrukh Motafram	Asst. Secretary	Farrokh Mistree	Asst. Secretary
1990-91		1997-98		2004-05	
Rohinton Rivetna	President	Dolly Dastoor	President	Firdosh Mehta	President
Homi Homji	Vice-President	Framroze Patel	Vice-President	Mahrukh Motafram	Vice-President
Framroze Patel	Treasurer	Sarosh Collector	Treasurer	Rashid Mehin	Treasurer
Dolly Dastoor	Secretary	Mehran Sepehri	Secretary	Rita Engineer	Secretary
Bina Behboodi	Asst. Secretary	Mahrukh Motafram	Asst. Secretary	Farrokh Mistree	Asst. Secretary
1991-92		1998-99		2005-06	
Rohinton Rivetna	President	Framroze Patel	President	Firdosh Mehta	President
Homi Homji	Vice-President	Ardeshir Anoushiravani	Vice-President	Mahrukh Motafram	Vice-President
Framroze Patel	Treasurer	Rustom Kevala	Treasurer	Rashid Mehin	Treasurer
Dolly Dastoor	Secretary	Mehran Sepehri	Secretary	Rita Engineer	Secretary
Bina Behboodi	Asst. Secretary	Mahrukh Motafram	Asst. Secretary	Farrokh Mistree	Asst. Secretary
1992-93		1999-2000		2006-07	
Rohinton Rivetna	President	Framroze Patel	President	Rustom Kevala	President
Farshid Salamat	Vice-President	Firdosh Mehta	Vice-President	Bomi Patel	Vice-President
Framroze Patel	Treasurer	Rustom Kevala	Treasurer	Katayun Kapadia	Treasurer
Dolly Dastoor	Secretary	Arnavaz Sethna	Secretary	Rita Engineer	Secretary
Mahrukh Motafram	Asst. Secretary	Mahrukh Motafram	Asst. Secretary	Anahita Daryushnejad	Asst. Secretary
1993-94		2000-01		2007-08	
Rohinton Rivetna	President	Framroze Patel	President	Rustom Kevala	President
Minoo Treasurywala	Vice-President	Firdosh Mehta	Vice-President	Bomi Patel	Vice-President
Framroze Patel	Treasurer	Rustom Kevala	Treasurer	Katayun Kapadia	Treasurer
Katayun Kapadia	Secretary	Arnavaz Sethna	Secretary	Firuzi Poonevala	Secretary
Mahrukh Motafram	Asst. Secretary	Diana Balsara	Asst. Secretary	Anahita Daryushnejad	Asst. Secretary

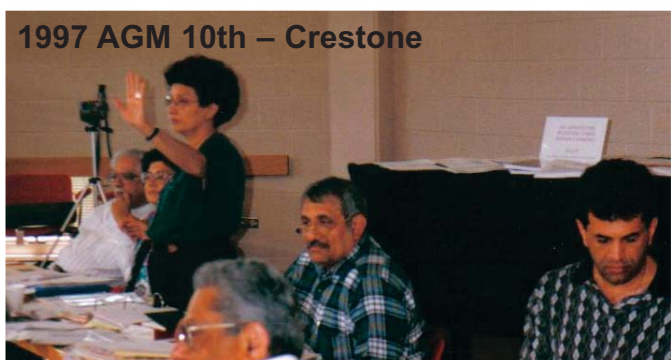




Anniversary FEZANA 20 YEARS



Anniversary FEZANA 20 YEARS



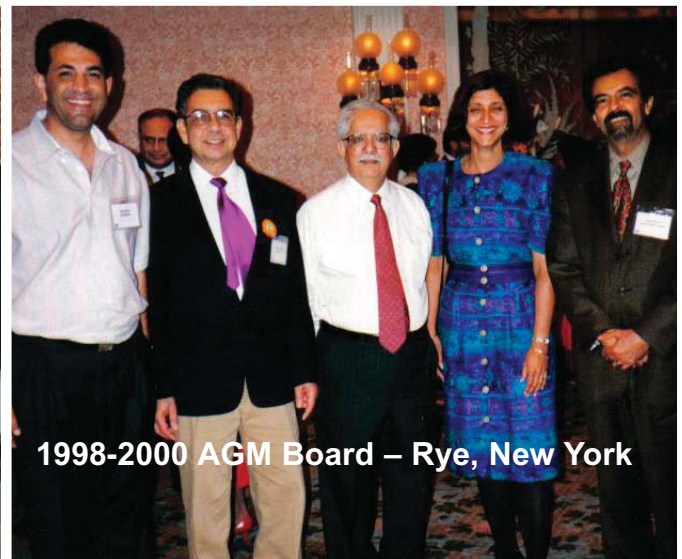
Anniversary FEZANA 20 YEARS



1998 AGM – Rye, New York



1998 AGM – Rye, New York-Handing over



1998-2000 AGM Board – Rye, New York



1998 Congress –FEZANA Award

Anniversary FEZANA 20 YEARS



1999 AGM 12th Board Washington, DC



2000 AGM 13th Board - Houston



2001 AGM 14th - Los Angeles



2001 AGM 14th - ZYNA Co-Chairs



2004 AGM Board - Tampa



2004 AGM - Group Tampa



2005 AGM Board-Pittsburgh



2005 AGM - Group Pittsburgh

Anniversary FEZANA 20 YEARS

2006 AGM Board Atlanta



2006 AGM -Atlanta



2007 AGM – Dallas



2007 AGM – 20th Anniversary
celebrations – 4 presidents -



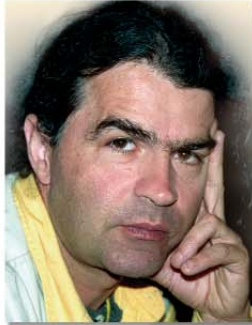
Framroz Patel not in picture

Dallas Entertainment.

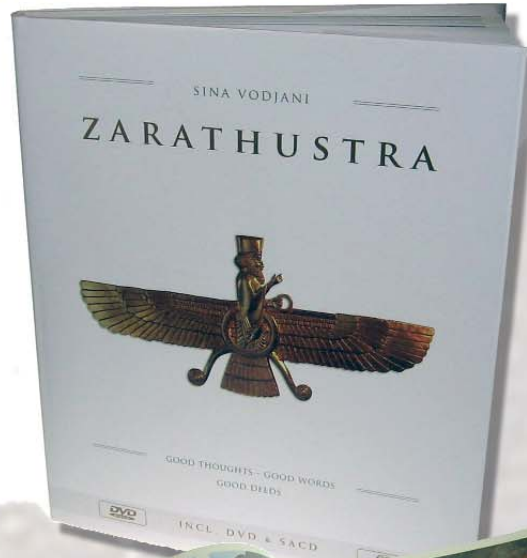


ZARATHUSTRA

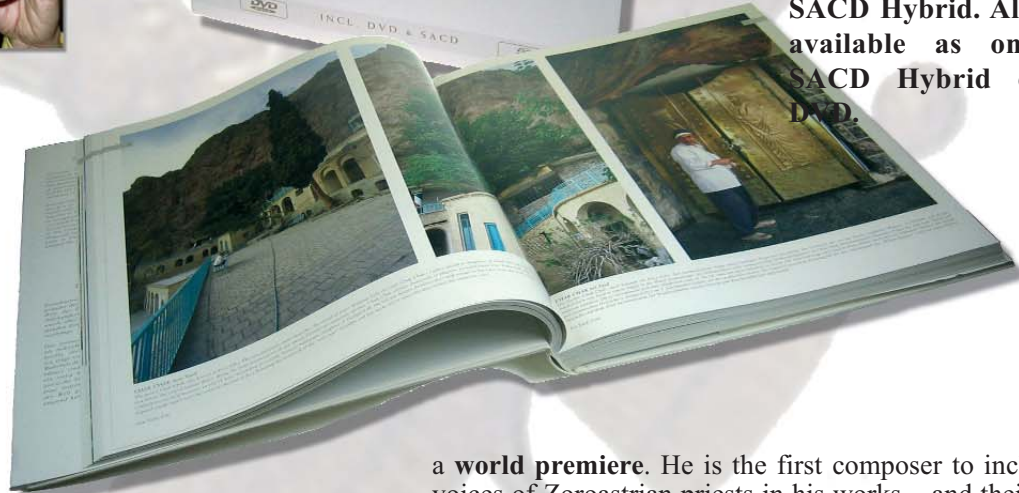
Humata - Hukhta - Huvarshtha



Sina Vodjani



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Sina Vodjani hands you the whole wealth of his musical know-how in this unusual production. Iranian instruments, such as nay, oud, daf and camanscha, voices of Persian priests, original sounds from Iran, Indian sitar and the bansuri flute played by Ronu Majumdar – unite with western harmonies to announce the message of the religions founder – Zarathustra.

GOOD THOUGHTS - GOOD WORDS - GOOD DEEDS.

The composer is so impressed by the peaceful message, that he travels for weeks through his native Iran in the footsteps of Zarathustra, where he meets wonderful artists and Zoroaster holy men, collecting music, atmosphere and feeling. The result is a new work, whose mood is one, which floats between ease and confidence to emotional longing and fascinating drama.

This book contains two more surprises: The first is a DVD. The second is Vodjani's new CD ZARATHUSTRA boasting

a **world premiere**. He is the first composer to include the voices of Zoroastrian priests in his works – and their prayer chants, coupled with Persian sounds and modern Western grooves, proclaim the peaceful message of Zoroastrianism. Last but not least, the DVD provides a kaleidoscope of visual impressions from the land of Zoroaster – set to the rhythm of Vodjani's compositions.

Sina Vodjani, son of a French mother and Iranian father, considers it his duty as an artist to deliver spiritual messages and to make a creative contribution to the dialogue between the different cultures. He was born in Esfahan in 1954 but growing up in Tehran, San Francisco and Paris he was soon confronted with the necessity for interethnic tolerance.

Following first performances of pop songs and French chansons he soon turned his attention to aspects of Middle Eastern music - inspired by his travelling experiences and fascinated by the meditative power of the music. Vodjani's goal is to communicate the essence of this analysis through his music, as a means of crossing and bringing together borders, uniting traditional sounds with electronic grooves in the creative process.

Information, tracklisting and soundclips available on our website www.guildmusic.com/shopindex.html

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FEZANA JOURNAL – Summer 2007

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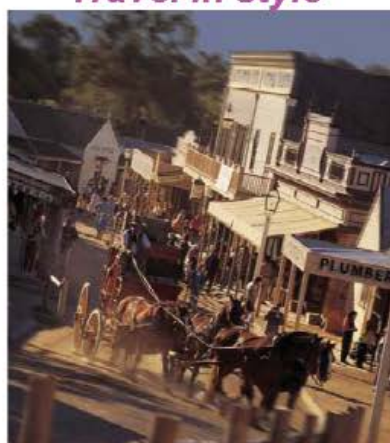


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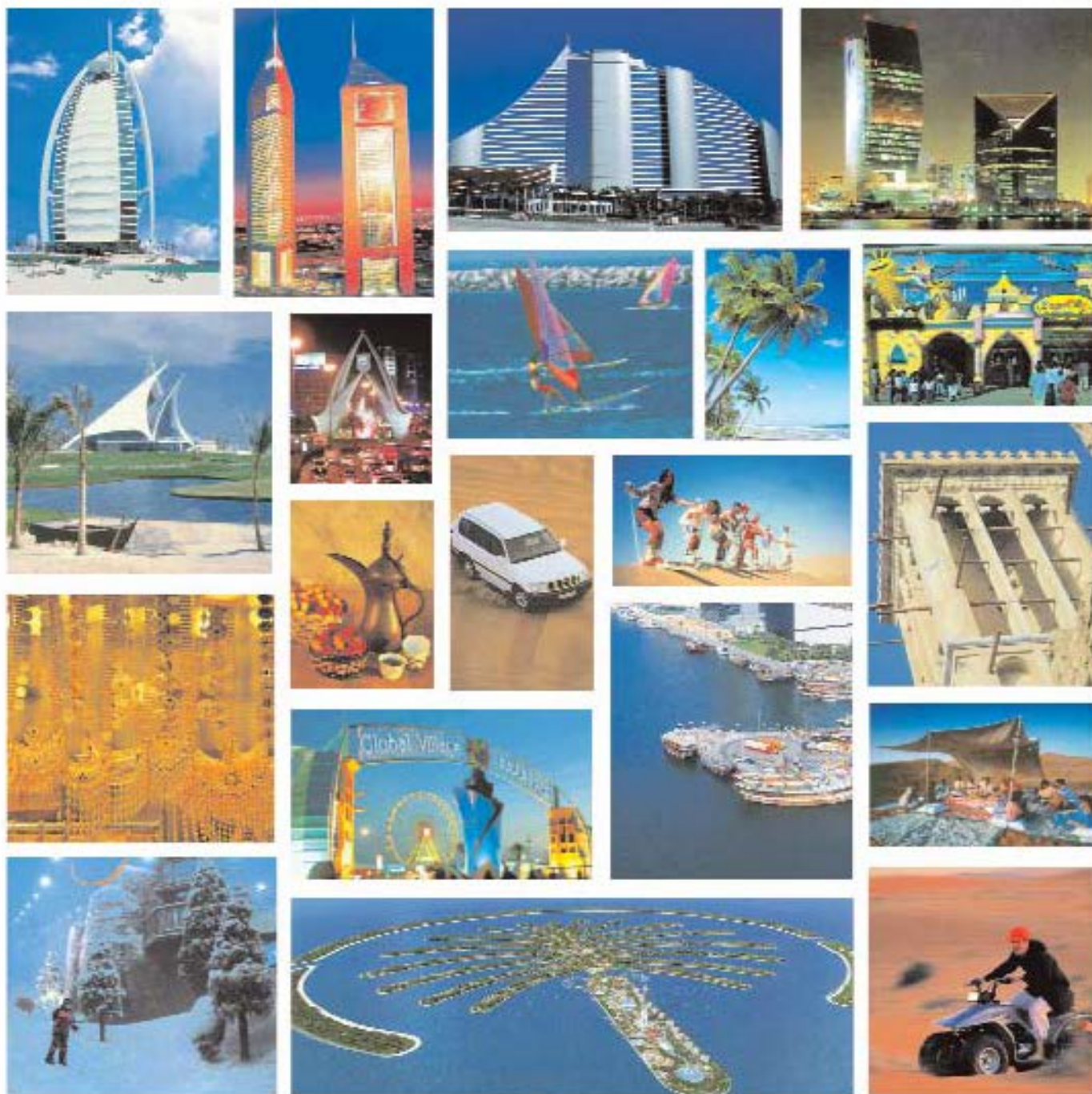
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DEFINING MOMENTS FOR FEZANA COMMITTEES

The heart and soul of fezana

Article VI of the FEZANA constitution states that “**committees shall be established to expedite the business of the Federation ...**” It was realised that “**the committees will be working bodies and their role will be to execute and implement the Purposes of the Federation**” The work of FEZANA will be carried out by and in the committees. The nine standing committees named in the Constitution are

STANDING COMMITTEES

Co-ordination and Planning

Zoroastrian Unity and Welfare

Information Receiving and Dissemination/Journal Committee

Funds and Finance

Census and Survey Committee

Youth Committee

Education, Conference and Scholarship Committee

North American Zoroastrian Congress Committee

Committee to Serve Small Groups of N.A. Zoroastrians

In 2007 with the proliferation of activities and multifaceted involvement of FEZANA spread in different areas of the world, committee work has expanded. Several AD HOC committees and working groups have been added. At the 2007 AGM, ten Ad Hoc committees and two working groups reported on the work they do. Today a cross section of the standing and Ad Hoc committees describe their defining moments. (Cont'd Page 42)

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Zoroastrian Religious Education in North America and FEZANA'S Contribution- Lovji Cama, Chair

The formation of Zoroastrian Associations in North America started in the early seventies of the last century. The immigrant community cut off from its religious institutions back in India, Pakistan and Iran and living in a society in which their religion was essentially unknown, decided that religious education of their children and the community in general was of prime importance for the survival and cohesiveness of the community. The major associations at that time Toronto, Montreal, New York, Chicago, Vancouver, The Zoroastrian Center of California and Houston started children's religion classes as soon as they were formed. Most have a continuous history of children's and adult religion classes. As newer associations were formed with the growth of the community, they also started and maintained religion classes. These classes have become the center of every association's regular activities. The associations that have Darbe-Mehrs all have excellent libraries. Two of them which stand out, belong to the Houston Association and the Zoroastrian Center of California. The North American Zoroastrian Congresses often have major religion topics on their programs. Many associations have put together course books for their religious education programs consisting of hand written or typed up pages which are photocopied and used for the classes. The Zoroastrian Association of New York put out the Good Life Book in 1982, to serve the needs of Zoroastrian Boy Scouts to earn the Good Life Medal, it also serves the purpose of a religion class text book. It is now in its third edition. A more recent addition is "My First Prayer Book" by Jamshed Rivetna. Mobed Bahram Shahzadi has put out a very good simple book "Message of Zarathushtra" that can be used for teaching children. Other books on Zoroastrianism(1), for use by adults have also been published through the efforts of members of the North American Zoroastrian Community.

WEB SITES With the advent of the internet, many websites were created by the Zoroastrians of North America. Aside from the websites of individual associations and individuals there are web sites dedicated to religious and cultural education. www.Avesta.org has an almost complete Zarathushti literature in Avesta and many Pahlavi texts, with English translation. It provides access to information on almost all the rituals of Zoroastrianism. It has links to the web pages of many Zoroastrian Associations. You can access the Zoroastrian calendars and even Avesta and Pahlavi dictionaries. It has been set up by Mr. Joseph Peterson and Ervad Soli Dastur has made some great contributions to it. www.Vohuman.org is an excellent on-line magazine with great articles on religion, history and culture with links to websites related to the articles. These websites are a tremendous resource for the community. The internet has also Zoroastrian discussion groups.

Journal As Tool For Religious Education Since its inception in 1987 FEZANA has played a significant role in the religious education of the Zarathushti Community in North America. In this activity the FEZANA Journal has played an outstanding role. Every issue of the magazine from the beginning has carried articles on Zarathushtian religiosity or history and very often the Journal has been dedicated to major religious topics. The breadth and depth of the topics covered over the years is amazing and is a testament to the commitment of the Journal's various editors and contributors to these special issues. The fine job that they have done is evident in the scholarly nature and variety of the subjects discussed. The FEZANA Journal has dedicated a number of issues on Zoroastrian Scriptures (2), Ceremonies (3), Priests (4), Temples(5) and other related topics. The Journal has also discussed the history of Zoroastrianism and its followers(6). Other topics related to religion such as Zoroastrianism and the Judeo-Christian religions(7) and Zarathushtra's Vision(8) have also been discussed. In February of 1993, the JOURNAL dedicated an entire issue to Religious Education. The articles described the efforts of the various Associations in North America to impart religious education not only to children but also to adults. The JOURNAL followed up this special issue with a subsequent one in the Spring 1994 to discuss issues facing the generation growing up in North America.

All of this knowledge has been put together in a special supplement "The Legacy of Zarathushtra" in the Summer 2002 issue of the Journal. The Bibliography and Sources section of this issue alone is a treasure trove of must read books and periodicals, for the Zarathushti who wants to understand and keep in touch with his religion and history. It also lists audios, videos and CD-Rs and websites which would be of particular interest to us.

There are fairly regular columns that deal with religion or history topics such as "Sunday Stories" by Shazneen Rabadi Gandhi, in which Shazneen relates interesting stories from the Shah Nameh for children and their parents. Previously a similar column "Stories from the Shah Nahmeh" was written by Khorshed Jungalwala. "The Prayer Corner" is another column that deals with various aspects of religion and is usually authored by different guest writers.

Aside from this remarkable contribution to the religious education of Zarathushtis made through the Journal, FEZANA has supported partially or fully a number of videos and books:

1) The Zarathushti Religion: A Basic Text, Mistree, Khojeste, P and Shahzadi, Mobed Fariborz Sohrab. Published by FEZANA. 2) *The Z Factor: Life's Driving Lessons*, Shahriari Shahriar, Published by FEZANA, a story about auto driving lessons, which weaves together Zoroastrian principles into the lessons. 3) *The Legacy of Zarathushtra*, Roshan Rivetna, Editor, Published by

FEZANA 4) *In the Footsteps of our Forefathers*, Dubash, Tenaz; A documentary video on the journey of young North American Zarathushtis through Iran, in search of their religious and cultural roots 5) *On Wings of Fire*, Bharucha, Cyrus; An historical film about the Zarathushtis from Zarathushtra to modern times.

One of the arms of FEZANA that is directly involved with Religious education especially of children is the Religious Education Committee (REC) which has now become the Education, Conference, and Scholarship Committee (ECS). In 1998, this committee put out the first curriculum for religious education in North America. It gave a very broad outline of topics that could be taught at different age group levels and listed a detailed list of reference books on doctrine, texts and prayers. It also outlined how to set up religion classes. These references could then be used by teachers to prepare their own material. Since then the Religious Education Committee has carried out a few workshops for teachers and started some dialog between teachers. More needs to be done on the religious education front for children and young adults and the ECS can play a leading role in this.

The ECS needs to develop a core curriculum with input from teachers from all over North America so that every one of them can buy into the curriculum. We also need to distill the experiences of those associations that have been running successful religion classes over a long time and suggest guidelines for running successful classes. FEZANA through the ECS needs to develop teaching tools, such as new methods of teaching, internet assisted teaching materials and innovative use of the internet to enhance the experience of teachers and students alike. FEZANA also needs to reach out to the many Zarathushti families who do not have access to the religion classes by reason of geography or other reasons by making education material easily available. This last can also best be achieved through use of the internet.

FEZANA and the member associations also needs to make sure that there is a continuing source of new religion class teachers. A majority of the present teachers are from the first generation immigrants and will soon need to be replaced. As young Zarathushtis step up to this important job, in every association, they need to be encouraged and fully supported to carry on the work of religious education.

The present ECS is committed to move these ideas forward and to take religious education of children to the next stage and FEZANA is committed by providing the necessary funding and all the necessary resources for that purpose.

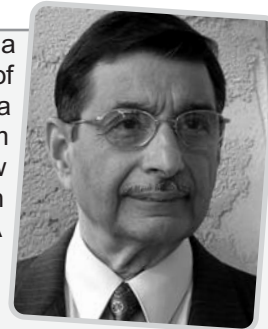
References:

- 1) a) Understanding the Gathas, Introductory Lectures on Gathic Themes, Dinshaw J. Irani, Edited by Kaikhosrov D. Irani. b) The Gathas, D. J. Irani, Edited by Kaikhosrov D. Irani, c) The Zoroastrian Tradition, Farang Mehr, e) Atas-E Dorun, Co-ordinated by Mehrborzin Soroushian.
- 2) Daily Prayers, Summer 2003; Niyayishns and Yashts, Summer 2004; Yasna, Visperad and

Vendidad, Summer 2005. The Gathas, Spring 1998; Zoroastrian Religious Scriptures, Fall 1996 and Winter 1998.

- 3) Navjote and Sedreh Pushi, Winter 1976; Marriage, Spring 1995; Death and Beyond, Winter 2005.
- 4) Mobeds and their Role, Fall 1993 and Fall 1998.
- 5) Fire and Fire Temples Fall 2002;
- 6) The Date and Place of Zarathushtra, Fall 1997; Firdowsi's Shah-Nama, Winter 1994; History of Zoroastrians, Spring 1996; Spring 1999; Summer 2000 and Fall 2000.
- 7) Zoroastrianism and Judeo-Christian Religions, February 1992; and Fall 2004.
- 8) Zarathushtra's Vision and the Issues of our Time, Summer 2001; Zarathushtra's Vision in a Lifetime of Learning, Winter 2002, Spirituality, Summer 1998.

Dr. Lovji D. Cama, a graduate from the University of Bombay, India, holds a Doctorate in Chemistry from Columbia University in New York and retired as a research scientist from Merck and Co. A long time resident of the U.S.A. Lovji is a founding member of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY),



one of its past presidents. He has served as a Trustee of the Arbab Rostom Guiv Darbe Mehr in New York,. And since 1973 has organized the religious education classes for children aged 5 to 15 years at ZAGNY, taught Zoroastrian history, culture, philosophy and religion to children of ages 10 to 15. and organized the very popular and well-attended summer camps for Zarathushti youth which were attended by the children of the New York area as well as from out of state as far away as Michigan. One of his primary areas of interest is youth related activities. He has lectured on subjects on Zoroastrianism in North America, UK and India and contributed to the text book "Good Life". He lives in Tenafly, NJ with his wife Mehru and son Kaizad.

Mehru and Lovji are the recipients of the 2004 Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award from FEZANA. Lovji is the current Chair of the Education, Scholarship and Conference Committee of FEZANA



ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM COMMITTEE - ESTABLISHED 1998

The 10 year Strategic Plan called for establishment of infra-structures on this continent, as infra-structures, which benefit the community, are important blocks in community building. Investing in the human resources and developing educational opportunities are two such important community building blocks

With this in mind the academic scholarship program was established in 1998 initially with \$5000 from the general funds of FEZANA. The terms of reference were drawn up and a very transparent judging process established. In the first year only 5 scholarships were given. Today the program has expanded,



The Academic Scholarship committee at work at Dallas AGM 07 Standing from left Jerry Kheradi, Behram Pastakia, (invited) Anahita Sidhwa, Dolly Dastoor (chair), sitting, Celeste Kheradi, Poras Balsara, Katayun Kapadia.

it now administers four different categories of scholarships. 1) to recognize outstanding scholastic achievements, and be named a FEZANA Scholar through the generous endowment of the Kheradi family, 2) a new endowed FEZANA 20th anniversary scholarship for academic excellence 3) an endowed Kapadia scholarship for exceptional need. In addition there are 4) FEZANA scholarships for a combination of academic excellence and financial need funded from donations and the general funds of FEZANA. For all these scholarships the applicant has to demonstrate proven service to Zarathushti community life. The program now administers close to \$20,000.

In the eight years that the program has been in operation 53 Zarathushti students from different countries have benefited from this program..

Hopefully this will instill in the students the respect and appreciation for the community support. On completion of her studies, and when economically viable one recipient returned the full amount of the scholarship and the parents of another returned the amount saying *"This scholarship and your award ceremony according to us plays a very important role in stamping a visual image in our younger generation, which we are sure, will bear fruit. Hopefully later on in their lives this will help them to follow this gesture"*. writes Niloufer and Farokh Bilimoria, Canada..
Dolly Dastoor Chair

FUNDS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE Thousand Points of Light and Endowment Funds The Defining Moments

5000 points in 8 years raises \$500,000

June 2, 1987 is a special day in the history of FEZANA. That is the day of the birth of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America. Can you believe that was 20 years ago! Look how far we have come. FEZANA has grown to 25 member Associations and 12 small groups.

During the initial building years of FEZANA, the organization was small and as most startup organizations, funds were minimal. 10 years later, FEZANA accounts had a total value of approximately \$100,000 in four FEZANA funds. with perseverance and determination, and the hard work of establishing FEZANA continued and by the end of 10 years the funds had grown to almost \$100,000.

At the end of the first 10 years, FEZANA had accomplished the goals of the original plan. In 1996, the Strategic Planning committee was formed, spearheaded by Dr. Dolly Dastoor, to look into the next 10 years and establish new goals and objectives for FEZANA. Under *"The Strategic Plan"* one issue was to establish financial stability for FEZANA. With the hard work of my predecessor, Dr. Keikhosrow Harvesf, FEZANA Funds had grown from \$0 to \$100,000 in the first 10 years. At that time the FEZANA Funds were: General Fund, Religious Education Fund, Welfare Fund and Scholarship Fund.

After the sad demise of Dr. Keikhosrow Harvesf, the then President, Framroze Patel, named me as Chairperson of the Funds and Finance Committee. Now came the challenge of establishing a solid financial footing for FEZANA due to the increasing demands and needs from our community. With the farsighted view of keeping FEZANA's financial status in good standing for years and years to come, I planned on forming the concept of Endowment Funds. Endowment funds need a minimum of \$25,000 in order to establish it under a family name. The concept of Endowment Funds is to preserve the principal in perpetuity and distribute annually the income generated from the funds. To jump start this concept, my wife Celeste and I volunteered to form the first endowment fund in my parents' name as *"The Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Fund for Scholarship."* *"The DamKevala Endowment Fund for Welfare,"* was the second endowment created by the generosity of the DamKevala Family.

With the stock market decline in 2001, donations dwindled and a new idea had to be developed to keep donations coming and to keep FEZANA financially stable. After brainstorming, the *"Thousand Points of Light"* campaign was born. The goal is to have 1,000

families or individuals donate \$100 each and raise \$100,000 or 1,000 points for the FEZANA Funds, each point being “a ray of light” for the good of the community.

The Thousand Points of Light campaign progressed slowly. Published quarterly, under the Financial Corner of FEZANA Journal, is the list of families and individuals who donated into the FEZANA Fund they supported, along with the running total of all the Thousand Points of Light. After one and half years, we reached the goal of 1,000 points i.e. \$100,000. This was amazing and wonderful since it had taken 10 years to reach \$100,000 previously. Just a short year later another 1,000 points was reached and hence another \$100,000 in the FEZANA funds. The Thousand Points of Light had caught on and the community was supporting the FEZANA Funds by donating to the Thousand Points of Light campaign on a regular basis. *Presently the Thousand Points of Light campaign has reached new heights of 5,000 points which translates into \$500,000.*

Over the last few years I have been fortunate to meet philanthropic families in the community who have established three new endowment funds. Our special thanks go to the following families. Behram and Silloo Kapadia of Pennsylvania for establishing the “Banoobai and Maneckshaw Kapadia Endowment Fund for Scholarship.” Firdaus and Jasmine Bhathena of Massachusetts for establishing the “Bhathena Family Endowment Fund for Welfare/Critical Assistance.” Hoshedar and Anahita Tamboli of Florida for establishing the “Pheroze Dorabji Tamboli Endowment Fund for Welfare.” Our thanks also go to the Zardoshty sisters and their families for creating the “Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarships” for higher studies/research in Zarathushti Religion at any Institution of higher education anywhere in the world.



With the grace of Ahura Mazda, FEZANA has been fortunate in having continued support from the community and presently we have grown to a total of **\$900,000** in all the FEZANA accounts, after yearly distributions which are approved at the AGM by the Executive committee and the 25 Member Association Presidents/Representatives. For example, last year a total of \$114,500 was approved and distributed for various programs and scholarships. In addition, funds are distributed regularly by the Welfare committee as well as yearly scholarship of \$5,000 from the Kheradi Scholarship and \$1,000 from the Kapadia Scholarship. The FEZANA Funds have grown from four funds ten years ago to the present list of funds: **General Fund, Religious Education Fund, Welfare Fund, Critical Assistance Fund, Damkevala Endowment Fund for Welfare, Bhathena Family Endowment Fund for Welfare/Critical Assistance, Pheroze Dorabji Tamboli Endowment Fund for Welfare, FEZANA Academic Scholarship Fund, Kapadia Endowment Scholarship Fund for Need, Kheradi Endowment Scholarship Fund for Merit – The FEZANA Scholar, Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarships, Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship Fund, Sports Scholarship, Journal Fund and Khorshed F. Jungalwala (Wadia) Zoroastrian Lecture Fund.**

In closing we would like to thank the entire Zarathushti community for their continued support and I would personally like to thank those who have served on the Funds and Finance committee over the years.

Jerry Kheradi, MD, FACG

Chairperson, Funds and Finance Committee

Welfare & Critical Assistance Committees

Defining Moments --- Awareness, Support & Donations

The FEZANA is a registered, non-profit, religious and charitable organization designed to enhance the welfare of our community. In order to accomplish its objectives FEZANA has several volunteer committees that are dedicated to sustain and enhance its integrity.

The **Welfare Committee** was created in order to **provide assistance to needy individuals and Zarthushti institutions worldwide.** At its inception it was chaired by a very humble soul Mr. Dinshawji Joshi. The committee primarily received requests of assistance from India and it fulfilled its goals by the auspices of a handful of generous individuals. The Damkevala family gave the first big contribution for Welfare fund.

Houtoxi Contractor & Hosi Mehta were appointed as co-chairs of the Welfare Committee by President Firdosh Mehta in 2002. The two of them together were able to accomplish much and as awareness of the welfare group and its work grew, requests for assistance started taking on a new shape. Women and families in crisis started requesting assistance in forms that we as a North American Zarthushti community were not equipped to handle. Thus in 2003 the Critical Assistance Committee took birth, under the direction of the Welfare Committee Chairs, and a soon to be good friend Freyaz Shroff. **The Critical Assistance Committee was designed to provide assistance to individuals, families and organizations facing temporary difficulties due to**

medical emergencies, natural disasters, violence, or legal issues.

While the **Welfare committee** provided funds and support to those who required ongoing assistance, the **Critical Assistance committee** provided funds and support to those who required temporary assistance due to a particular situation that was causing the current crisis in their lives.

With an extremely supportive FEZANA executive team and association presidents, the welfare and critical assistance teams started work to assist victims of domestic violence and children in crisis. A confidential toll free line was set up for those who wished to seek assistance, and FEZANA journal editors graciously offered us space to start our Critically Speaking column. The publicity received through the associations and The Journal generated more requests than finances required to adequately assist each victim. Thus showing us, as a community, that the need for the Critical Assistance Committee was indeed real which required work. We thank Roshan Rivetna and now Dolly Dastoor for the opportunity and exposure given to our committee in FEZANA Journal.

The turning point for our committee was a huge fundraiser held in Chicago in 2004, where the North American community at large came together to support the committees' efforts. The Chicago association generously donated their time and resources. The North American community supported the fundraiser through their attendance, items for auction and financial donations. Our successful fundraiser also raised a new level of awareness, both among victims and donors. Firdaus and Jasmine Bhathena of Massachusetts established the "Bhathena Family Endowment Fund for Welfare/Critical Assistance. Hoshedar and Anahita Tamboli of Florida established the "Pheroze Dorabji Tamboli Endowment Fund for Welfare." Numerous individuals and families also contributed to the welfare and critical assistance funds. The "points of light effort" initiated by the finance team has also helped sustain our effort.

Today the welfare & critical assistance committees are able to assist victims of domestic violence, children in crisis, families facing medical crisis, institutions in India that assists victims battling HIV/AIDS, Zarathushti refugees in North America, and victims of natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the earthquake in Iran and the floods in Surat.

Due to the urgent needs for funds during natural disasters, our committee found it prudent to start a Disaster Relief Fund where funds can be collected on an ongoing basis. Hence when a situation arises we do not

waste valuable time to raise funds before sending them. We have learned from our experience and are pro active in our approach.

We would like to thank our volunteers all over Canada and USA who have helped us with their expertise in medical, financial, counseling, immigration, legal and educational issues and others who have shared their compassion and empathy with people in need.

Rustom Kevala and the current FEZANA executive team continue to be supportive of all our efforts. Dolly Dastoor and the FEZANA Journal team are sweet friends who help us showcase the causes in our community and how the Z-community at large can help move them forward. All our association presidents, thank you for your resolve to help us grow in our efforts. Dinshaw Tamboly and all our world partners thank you for supporting us by reviewing overseas requests we receive to authenticate the need prior to fund dispersal. To our generous donors and the entire Zarthushti community, it is truly your encouragement and support that allows us to successfully continue our work! THANK YOU!

Ushta-te,

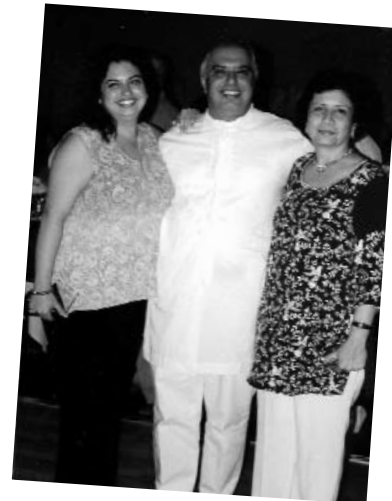
Houtoxi Contractor--412-367-2948 or HFCM31@aol.com

Hosi Mehta -- 630-833-6923 or hosimehta@aol.com

Freyaz Shroff -- 011-91-98922-73973 or freycz@aol.com

"Believe in the strength that comes from one hand holding another through times of trouble..."

-Anonymous



**No one can make you feel inferior
without your consent.**

Eleanor Roosevelt



THE ZOROASTRIAN SPORTS COMMITTEE OF FEZANA ESTABLISHED 1989

History of ZSC

The 1988 Zoroastrian Olympics which took place at Taft High School, in sunny Los Angeles, was the creation of a group of imaginative Zarathushtis. The idea was first conceived by a handful of ambitious youth. Three months later, the first ever Zoroastrian Olympics were held in sunny Southern California. A few teams and individuals signed up for a fun 4th of July weekend of basketball, volleyball, and ping-pong.

By '88 the group had met its goal of bringing together a group of Zarathushti athletes and sports-lovers and to unite Zarathushtis through sports and related social activities. But, this was no longer enough for the group who had grown, both in size and experience. **So, in 1989 ZSC was officially formed under FEZANA, Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America.**

On the July 4th weekend of 1989, the group organized the next Olympics at the University High

School which was the site of all sports events, now including track and field. The Anaheim Dar-e-Mehr graciously hosted the participants.

The '89 Olympics were just as successful, if not more, than the previous ones. By 1994, ZSC had successfully organized three more game:

- 1- San Jose, California (1990) which included soccer games for children, as well.
- 2- California State University, Long Beach (1992), in which athletes from around the world participated,
- 3- California State University Domingos Hills (1994), one of the largest event ever held.

During the 4th of July weekend of **even** years: 10 Zarathushti Games have been hosted. 7 in Southern California, 1 in San Jose, Northern California – 1990,

1 in Houston, Texas The Seventh Zarathushti Games 2000, along with the World Congress in Houston Texas, 1 in Vancouver, BC – The 9th Zarathushti Games, 2004

During the Labor day weekend of **odd** years: 4 Zarathushti Unity Cup Soccer Games have been held.

Zarathushti Games have included sports such as Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Track & Field, Badminton, and Swimming for both adults and children in different age groups.

Events included elaborate cruises and disco nights. Our first event only cost \$500 as compared to what our last two Olympics cost.... \$65, 000 for each event.

THE ZSC HAS COME A LONG WAY!!

The ZSC has special funds to help Zarathushti youth both in North America and overseas with their sports activity and equipment.

While each event grew larger and larger and more and more exciting, it becomes increasingly hard to say "good-bye" on the last day. With your help and support, we have been able to hold events on a relatively regular basis, so that the friendship ties can grow stronger and stronger.

ZSC has really grown over the years. Starting with only five founders in 1988, the committee has grown to over fifty members. Mrs Behnaz Dianat, ZSC Treasurer and Bijan Khosraviani have been the only two Zarathushtis who have been with the committee since its start in 1988. (Truly dedicated volunteers, Ed.) There have been 17 officers during the past 18 years and more than 200 volunteers who have helped during different events.

There are 11 subcommittees:

Sports;

Registration/Accommodation/Bookkeeping

Security/Transportation/First Aid

Advertisement/Publication/Database

Fund-raising/Long Distance Help

Photos/Videos/Reportage

Informal Dance / Appreciation Day;



1st Zoroastrian Games
1988 Los Angeles, CA



Dinner Cruise / Banquet
 Opening/Closing Ceremonies;
 Awards/Resources Children/Statistics



10th Zoroastrian Sports Los Angeles 2006

Bijan Khosraviani was born in Tehran/Iran. Was an active member of Zoroastrian Youth Fravahar Sports Club in Tehran. BS in Electrical Engineering, MS in Engineering Economic Systems and Operations Research, PhD in Engineering Organization Management from Stanford University. Bijan has worked for 14 years in high-tech industry in research, engineering, and corporate for IBM Almaden Research Center, Kaiser Aluminium, Varian and Novellus Systems, Inc. Bijan now lives in Boston and works for his 15 month young daughter, NeeKee (his boss!), as a full-time father, and is married to Negin (you guessed - his manager)

Los Angeles, CA 90066

ZSC@FEZANA.ORG

Chronology

1 st Zoroastrian Olympics	July 1-4, 1988	Los Angeles Valley, CA
2 nd Zoroastrian Olympics	Nov 1989	West LA, CA
3 rd Zoroastrian Olympics	July 1-4, 1990	San Jose, CA
4 th Zoroastrian Olympics	July 3-6, 1992	Long Beach, CA
5 th Zoroastrian Olympics	July 1-4, 1994	Domingo's Hill, CA
1st Zarathushtrian Soccer Tournament	Aug 8, 1998	Irvine, CA
6 th Zoroastrian Olympics	July 1-4, 1999	Long Beach, CA
7 th Zarathushti Games (World Congres)	Dec 26-27, 2000	Houston, TX
2nd Zarathushti Unity Cup (Soccer)	Sept 2-3, 2001	Pacific Palisades, CA
8th Zarathushti Games	July 3-7, 2002	Los Angeles, CA
3rd Zarathushti Unity Cup (Soccer)	Aug 30-31, 2003	Torrance, CA
9th Zarathushti Games	July 1-4, 2004	Vancouver, BC, Canada
4th Zarathushti Unity Cup (Soccer)	Sept 3-4, 2005	Los Angeles, CA
10th Zarathushti Games	July 1-4, 2006	Los Angeles, CA
5th Zarathushti Unity Cup (Soccer)	Sept 1-2, 2007	Redondo Beach, CA
11th Zarathushti Games	July 3-6, 2008	San Diego, CA

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ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH OF NORTH AMERICA (ZYNA)

STANDING COMMITTEE 1994

ESTABLISHED IN 1988 AS Helping Hands Zoroastrian Youth Communication Network

It was 20 years ago that the idea of a youth group of FEZANA came about. Meher Amalsad proposed the formation of a North American Zoroastrian Youth Committee in 1987, at the 2nd North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Chicago. Youth representatives from all associations met and formed a calling tree. The word spread by each representative calling 3 other representatives and in turn they would call another 3 and so on. The group was officially formed in 1988 and was known as the **Helping Hands Zoroastrian Youth Communication Network Committee of FEZANA**.

At the FEZANA AGM in 1994 this database of youth was officially passed onto **Mazda Antia and Jim Engineer** who shortened the name to **Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA)** and embarked on having ZYNA help organize Zarathushti events across the continent, as well as promoting local community involvement.

From 1997-2000, co-chairs Mehernosh Mody, Arianne Tehrani and Trity Pourbehrami were instrumental in bringing the youth together by holding cruises, (photo right bottom) ski trips (photo right top) and in the summer of 1999 the First ZYNA organized congress in Montreal,

From 2000-2003, Co-chairs Sherazade Mehta, Armaity Bamji and Morvarid Behziz, through ZYNA, started sponsorships of individuals to attend various congresses in North America and the world. During the 2003 Toronto Youth Congress, 3 young Mobeds, one each from Pakistan, India and USA were sponsored to attend and hold a session on Youth Mobeds. Another sponsorship allowed youth from North America to attend the 3rd World Zoroastrian Youth Congress 2003 in Pune, India, and the upcoming 4th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Australia.

Along with this sponsorship program, Sherazade, Armaity and Morvarid initiated a proposal and contributed initial seed money to have a new committee of FEZANA – The Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship Fund. This new committee continues to help youth in the performing and creative arts field with funds to further their education.

Many Congresses and events have been held for the youth all over North America. These events are organized to bring youth together, especially those who grow up in areas where there is little or no contact with other Zarathushtis. **In 2000, ZYNA reached a global audience with its professional networking session held at the Houston World Zoroastrian Congress.**

In 2004, ZYNA co-chairs, Freyaz Shroff, Negin Sharyari and Afreed Mistry started an electronic database of youth members and from then onwards ZYNA communicated mainly through ASHA, a ZYNA e.newsletter. They also conducted the North American Youth Congress in Miami, Florida, in Dec 2005. Part of the



proceeds from this Congress was set aside for education of needy Zarathushti children in India and Iran.



And now in 2007, the current chair Nikan H. Khatibi (nikan2@aol.com) has made it ZYNA's goal to continue to unite generations of Zarathushti youth by creating projects that will be community beneficial and give opportunity to young Zarathushtis all across North America to participate.

To be a part of this extraordinary movement, please visit: <http://www.fezana.org/zyna.htm> to receive first hand access to upcoming events, newsletters, and more!

Contributors: Afreed Mistry, Jim Engineer, Mazda Antia, Meher Amalsad. and Sherazade Mehta, Nikan Khatibi.

Read



Send a gift subscription to family and friends

FEZANA; UN-NGO 1997-2007

Yenghe hatam, aat yesne paiti vangeho, Mazdao Ahuro, vaetha Ashat hacha. Yaonghamcho tascha taoscha yazamaide.

Mazda Ahura knows well, those men and women, whose every act of worship is living a life in accordance with highest Righteousness. Such men and women we revere.

(Courtesy: The Good Life; Published by Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York)

I dedicate this article to all Zoroastrians who incorporate the spiritual call for service in their daily lives.

FEZANA was placed on the Roster of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations in 1997. This was accomplished through the great efforts of Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani, Framroze Patel, Rohinton Rivetna and others.

In the early spring of 2002, Rohinton Rivetna approached Behram Pastakia of Metropolitan Washington DC, to see if he would volunteer to take on the responsibility of activating the FEZANA work at the United Nations, which had been lying moribund for many years. Behram's response was that a representative from the New York area should ideally take this up since the UN Headquarters was located there. However, when informed that FEZANA was likely to lose its consultative status with ECOSOC unless some activity was breathed into this effort, Behram agreed to participate in this venture.

During the 15th FEZANA Annual General Meeting (May 2002) in Montreal, I heard the same dismal story from Rohinton Rivetna regarding the impending loss of the FEZANA's NGO status. This sounded to me like climbing the Mount Everest and dying there without getting any benefit out of it. I requested more details from Rohinton and agreed to get back to him with my assessment. On my return from the AGM, I found out all the details for the registration to revive FEZANA's status at the UN and made a brief presentation to the FEZANA executive and Rohinton Rivetna in Chicago at the North American Zoroastrian Congress. At that meeting, Firdosh Mehta, Farrokh Mistree, and Rohinton Rivetna gave a go ahead to Behram Pastakia and myself to coordinate the FEZANA activities at the United Nations. This is how the revival of our continuing affiliation with the UN was born.

It has been over five years since Behram and I have been working for the FEZANA UN-NGO committee. At the outset, we made two important decisions. One that we would make it an overarching policy not to engage in proselytizing activities in keeping with our faith tradition. Second, in order to be effective, we identified "Youth

Development" and "Environment" as two priority areas to work on, within the framework of the United Nations objectives.

In these last 5 years we have facilitated the participation of over 30 Young and Adult Zoroastrians at the Annual UN- NGO conferences held at United Nations headquarters in New York. While we have provided access and security clearance to the meetings, the costs for transport, lodging and food are borne by the participants themselves; attesting to their commitment to the cause. We held the first ever seminar at the United Nations on "Microfinancing" as part of our participation at the 48th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. There was a two hour panel discussion covering the basics of Microfinancing - what works and what does not, several case-studies from developing countries, the Grameen Bank's history and success factors, and finally a Microfinancing implementation plan for the interested NGO's. These young adults have continued to participate in community work at a local level in their hometowns, in furthering the objectives of the United Nations in fostering world peace.



Additionally, this committee was in the forefront during the world celebration of 3000th Anniversary of Zarathushti Culture in 2003 and it will continue to create awareness of our community's culture and its contribution to ethics and democratic way of life. Recently, we proposed to the United Nations that it consider formally declaring a "Season of Peace" every year during the period of September 11-21. I am very happy to say that Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), United Nations, whom we met at the 2006 DPI/NGO conference, has indicated that in his opinion this is a proposal he is willing to share with his colleagues at the United Nations at the appropriate time and occasion. So watch out Zarathushtis, here is one more Zarathushti contribution at the United Nations level; and so gear up yourselves to participate in the relevant activities at the appropriate level in the near future.

Ashem vohu vahistem asti; ushta asti, ushta ahmai hyat Ashai, vahishtai Ashem.

Righteousness is the highest virtue. It leads to enlightened happiness; This happiness is attained when one lives righteously for the sake of Righteousness.

(Courtesy: The Good Life; Published by Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York)

WZC2000 The Legacy Congress



Many special projects were planned to coincide with the Congress to celebrate the worldwide achievements of our community and to chart our course into the next millennium. These special projects included book launchings, a Commemorative Volume covering 3500 years of Zarathushti history,

culture and religion, a Unity Quilt with the logos of all associations worldwide and which now has a permanent home at the Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural center in Houston. Jashans around the world; a Book Fair, a Video and Film Festival; a scholastic essay competition, a celebration of the Daughters of Mashyani, an exchange program for students where twenty-eight students from Iran, Pakistan, India and Australia were sponsored under the Zarathushti Field Student Legacy; a Millennium Time Capsule and a Business Exposition launching WZCC – The World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce.

This Congress, which was four years in planning, was in reality a Zarathushti showcase allowing for the best to come forward. WZC2000 would never have met with such tremendous success had it not been the dedication of so many folk

around this globe and their organizations such as FEZANA, ZAH, The Parsi Punchayat of Bombay, the Karachi Banoo Mandal and The Zarathushti Anjuman from Iran.

WZC2000, ended with a note where there was a clear message that we were all Zarathushtis and that when we come together, we are a force to reckon with. It is sad that Zarathushtis are a race who are forward minded and tend to stick to their beliefs. It is a well know fact that in our world we have different factions who tend to believe that there is No clear path for us to follow, there is general confusion amongst the followers, even

The Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress, "A Zarathushti Odyssey-2000" sponsored by the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, (FEZANA), and hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Houston was held in Houston, Texas from December 28, 2000 to January 1, 2001 at JW Marriott hotel in a prestigious Uptown Galleria shopping district.

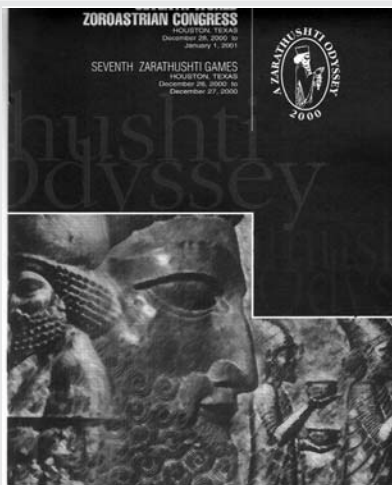
This is the first time that a World CONGRESS was held outside India or Iran, which in itself was a great honor and recognition that was placed by the world on the Zarathushtis of North America. All of us who live in North America had a heavy responsibility to ensure the success of the congress and to meet the challenge of ensuring that we share our celebrations and joy with the Zarathushtis of the world.

We introduced fresh ideas meant to revolutionize the Congress themes of the past. The talks, the human intricacies and the emotions, that are normal ingredients at such gatherings of intellectuals and just plain folk was steered away from norm. We saw the opportunity of using Congress 2000 as a leaping platform for the preservation of our community in so far as we did intend to leave behind several legacy projects which would be rich in intellectual capital, for future generations to benefit from.

For the first time ever, the CONGRESS was preceded by a World Zarathushti Sports Festival held in Houston where youth and adults alike competed in the spirit of togetherness and brought in rich sports talent from the world over. This was then followed by the four days of the Congress which allowed for the presentation of lectures, panel discussions; cultural events; exhibits, recognition of achievements of fellow Zarathushtis and of course the fun and entertainment as well.

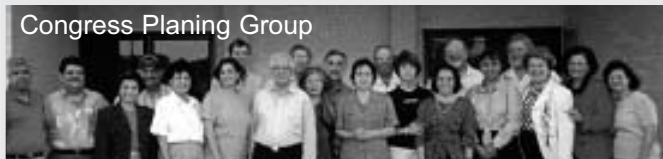
For months, the participants from Houston coordinated with numerous presenters from across the globe and they all came together with cultural events ranging from the history of our religion, piano recitals, the first Zarathushti orchestra and the Iranian ensemble.

The aim of the Seventh World Congress was to recognize, to learn and to celebrate our Zarathushti heritage through knowledge of the past which would help us to stride into the new millennium. This thought gave rise to the Legacy Projects.



our priests & scholars remain divided. But, it is this Congress 2000 that proved the fact that a division of beliefs was good insofar as it drew a clear line of understanding with a message put forth at the last session that there was no real solution at hand. However the discussions at this session clearly sent a message to the Z-World that each individual had a right to choose their own paths for following the religious practices in the hope

North America should be proud of our contribution which allowed for this to be the largest gathering of Zarathushtis Worldwide!



that someday, years from now, the two would somehow meet?

The Congress 2000, was a class act and one which is sure to stay in memory for a long time to come. We in



Homi Davier Congress Co-Chair



Dolly Dastoor Congress Co-Chair

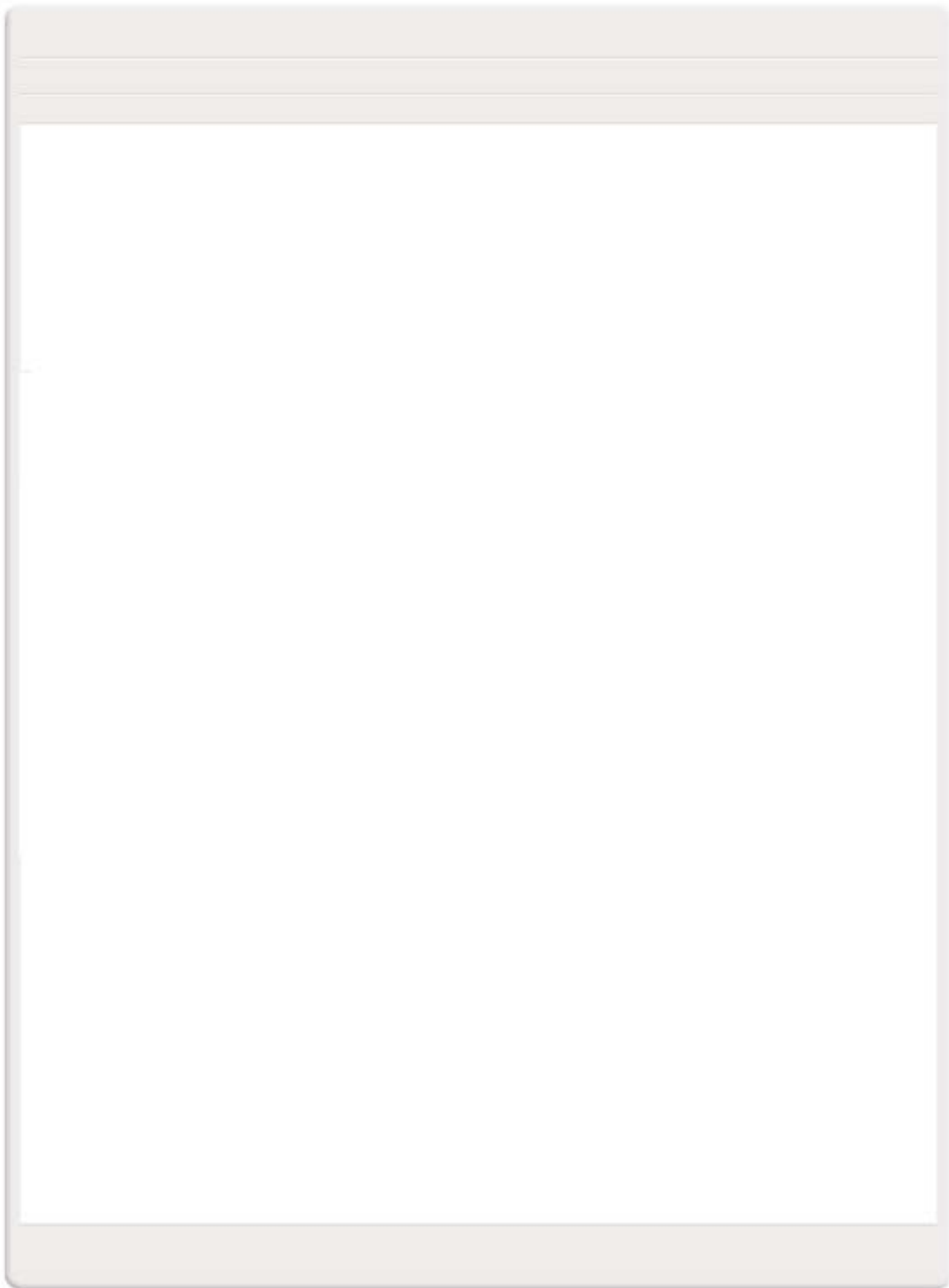
We salute the visionaries who started the tradition of organizing a North American Congress for adults and youth every two years. These congresses have served a very useful purpose in bringing Zarathushtis across this vast continent together to build new bonds and renew old friendships, to further scholarship. It has brought zarathushtis of diametrically opposite views to come together and explain their positions. It has allowed associations to showcase their organizational talents. In the past 20 years 15 adult conferences and 11 youth conferences have been organized each building on the footsteps of the previous one. To maintain this momentum is no small task. The North American community should be proud of this achievement. Congratulations to all the associations who have contributed to the preservation of this tradition.[Dolly Dastoor ED]

NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS

2007	Fourteenth NA Congress, TORONTO-June 29th to July 2nd "IMPACT U leash the Spark Within" Chair: Phee Vania	ZS0
2004	Thirteenth NA Congress, San Jose - Dec 29th 2004 to Jan 01, 2005 "Being Zarathushti: Looking at Issues, Searching for Answers" Chair: Bomi Patel	ZANC
2002	Twelfth NA Congress, Chicago - July 04 to July 07 "Advancing Communities, empowering generations" Chair: Rashna Ghadiali	ZAMC
2000	Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress, Dec 26th 2000 to Jan 01, 2001 "Zarathushti Odyssey" Co-Chairs: Dolly Dastoor and Homi Davier	FEZANA/ZA
1999	2ND International Avesta Conference, Calgary - Sept 24th to 26th 1999 "Avesta Literature, Theology, Praxis from -Y2K to +Y2K" Chair: Pallan Ichaporia	ZERS, ZAA & FEZANA
1998	Eleventh NA Congress, New York - July 3rd to 5th 1998 "The Zoroastrian Commitment in the North American Context" Chair: Gev Nentin, Co-Chair: Noshir Langrana	ZAGNY & IZA
1997	1ST International Avesta Conference, Boston - Nov. 15th to 17th "Perceptions and Reflections into Avestan Literature and Practices" Chair: Pallan Ichaporia	ZERS, ZAGBA & FEZANA
1997	Zarthushti Business conference and Expo '97	
1996	Tenth NA Congress, San Francisco - July 5th to 6th "Zoroastrian leadership, Past, Present and Future" Chair: Mr. Esfandiar Anoushiravani, Co-Chair: Dr. Jijibhoy Patel	PZO & ZANC
1996	2nd North American International Gatha Conference, Houston August 31st to Sept 2nd	

1994	Ninth NA Congress - July 1st to 3rd "Preservation of Zoroastrian Culture At The Turn of a Generation" Chair: Freny Ranji, Co-Chair: Katayun Kapadia	ZAPANJ
1992	Eighth NA Congress, Vancouver - Sept 4th to 6th "Looking Ahead to the 21st Century" Chair: Bella Tata	ZSBC
1990	Seventh NA Congress, Houston - Aug 31st to Sept 3rd "Zarathushti: My Past-Our Future. The Unification Congress" Chair: Meherwan Boyce	ZAHA
1988	Sixth NA Congress, Toronto - April 1st to 3rd "Prospects of Zoroastrian Renaissance in the New World" Chair: Kobad Zarolia	ZSO
1987	FEZANA IS BORN	
1985	Fifth NA Congress, Los Angeles - Aug 31st to Sept 1st "Preservation of the Zoroastrian Identity through Adaptation to Changing Events"	CZC
1982	Fourth NA Congress, Montreal "The Zoroastrian Challenge in North America" Chair: Dolly Dastoor	ZAQ
1980	Third NA Zoroastrian Symposium, New York, Oct. 7th "Historical perspectives on Zoroastrianism"	ZAGNY
1977	Second NA Zoroastrian Symposium, Chicago - May 22nd "Survival and Perpetuation of Zoroastrians in North America" Chair: Bahram Faradieh	ZAMC
1975	First NA Zoroastrian Symposium, Toronto "The Future of the Zoroastrian Community" Chair: Jamshed Mavalwala	ZSO
	NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS	
2005	Eleventh Youth Congress - Dec 28, 2006 to Jan 01, 2006	MIAMI
2003	Third World Youth Congress, December	PUNE, INDIA
2003	Tenth Youth Congress, July 24th to 27th "Nexus-Discover your link"	TORONTO, ON
1999	Eighth Youth Congress, August 12th to 15th "Turning Belief into Action"	MONTREAL, QC
1997	Second World Zoroastrian Youth Congress "Faith in the Future, Zoroastrian identity into the next Millennium" Chair: Kerman Jasavala	LONDON, UK
1995	Seventh Youth Congress, June 30th to July 4th "Bridges to the Future"	STANFORD, CA
1993	Sixth Youth Congress, Chicago - August 11th to 14th "A Celebration of Zoroastrian Education"	CHICAGO, IL
1993	First World Zoroastrian Youth Congress, Sept 4th to 6th "Unity, Preservation and Prosperity of Zoroastrians in the 21st Century" Chair: Meher Amalsad	LOS ANGELES, CA
1991	Fifth Youth Congress	VANCOUVER, BC
1990	Fourth Youth Congress, June 30th to July 2nd "Discovery of the Past in Search of the Future"	TORONTO, ON
1989	Second Youth Camp "Zoroastrian Crossroads: Visions and Decisions of the New World"	HOUSTON, TX
1989	3rd Youth Congress	WASHINGTON DC
1988	2nd Youth Congress	CHICAGO, IL
1987	1st Youth Congress	LOS ANGELES, CA

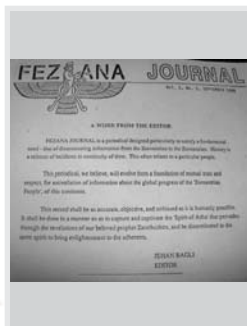




Journey of The Journal

Roshan Rivetna

(Standing Committee- Information Receiving and Dissemination/Journal Committee)



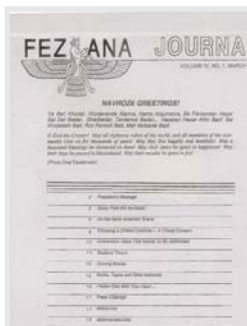
FEZANA Journal is born. Vol. 1, No. 1 of FEZANA Journal, dated September 1988, was all of ten typewritten pages of news (about dreams of “A Zoroastrian Center in Washington”), announcements (“Our first donation to FEZANA, a generous \$500, came from Jim Jagus of Pittsburgh”) and a report of FEZANA’s First Annual General Meeting (in Toronto on April 1, 1988). Jehan Bagli, editor of the erstwhile Gavashni, was persuaded to take on the role of editing the publication of the newly formed North American Federation.

In the inaugural issue, editor Jehan Bagli wrote:

“... This periodical, we believe, will evolve from a foundation of mutual trust and respect, for assimilation of information about the global progress of the Zoroastrian People of this continent. This record shall be as accurate, objective and unbiased as it is humanly possible. It shall be done in a manner so as to capture and captivate the Spirit of Asha that pervades through the revelations of our beloved prophet Zarathushtra, and be disseminated in the same spirit to bring enlightenment to the adherents.”

In his first Message from the President, Rohinton Rivetna wrote:

“The goal of FEZANA is to draw upon the very best talents and resources from among the Zoroastrians of North America, and to coordinate and channel this potential productively, towards a Zoroastrian Renaissance ... We have work to do ... In our lifetime, in your lifetime, we have to build a strong foundation. Just as we have done in our mother countries, so also, we have to build a base here such that one day the word ZOROASTRIAN in North America will be synonymous with Goodness, Integrity, Industry and Charity ...”



Assisted by FEZANA’s first Secretary Dolly Dastoor and Asst. Secretary Sabar Balsara, Dr. Bagli produced and published quarterly issues in Montreal, for almost three years covering news of the fledgling FEZANA.

THE EARLY YEARS In 1991, a new team was appointed, with Rustom Kevala as chair of FEZANA’s Publications Committee and Roshan Rivetna as editor/publisher of its Journal. Their first issue (Vol. IV, No. 1, dated Spring 1991), (photo 2 of side bar) of 20 pages, sported a modest black and white cover page, and the beginnings of regular sections such as On the North American Scene, Books, Milestones and Matrimonials.

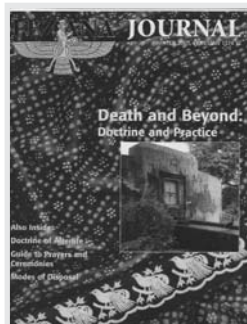
The production process advanced from a manual typewriter to a simple word-processor, and photographs were introduced, preprocessed as halftone images in a printshop. **In the early years**, the two-column text pages, and the photo images, along with fancy computer-generated page headers by team member Hooman Sotoodeh of California, were all painstakingly cut-and-pasted together manually into a camera-ready paper copy for the print shop. The first few issues were printed by Kavas Mody at his print shop in Boston.



GROWTH. Over the ensuing years, the Journal steadily grew, in size, appearance and the quality and breadth of content. Among the largest was the Winter 2005 issue on “Death and Beyond” of 160 pages. (Photo 4 of side bar)

With the help of daughter Zenobia Rivetna (now Damania), Roshan gradually transitioned from the old “cut and paste” production process to the sophisticated QuarkExpress design and layout software, with final output going to a commercial printing company, Whitehall Printing, in Florida, on zip disks or a CD.

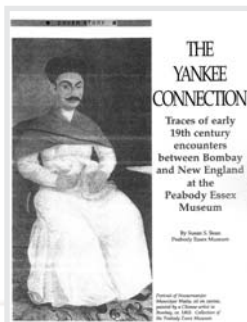
Several readers suggested a more impressive cover page: “This black and white cover may be OK for a journal of the Pharmaceutical Society,” remarked Pallan Ichaporia, a regular contributor and guest editor, “but a community magazine of this stature deserves a more attractive cover.” So it was that Zenobia designed a fancy



JOURNAL

20th Anniversary

color cover for the Summer 1999 issue (of 100 pages, on Zarathushti Music) and those to follow.(photo 3 of side bar page 55)



MISSION: TO INFORM, EDUCATE AND INSPIRE. In 1998, Khorshed Jungalwala was appointed Publications Committee chair, and continued in the footsteps of Rustom Kevala, to steer the Journal with an even keel.

Committed to its mission to "Inform, Educate and Inspire," FEZANA Journal presents news and views as well as educational and inspirational articles about history, religion, culture, customs and traditions and present-day community issues. Its success lies in its policy of uncompromising and unbiased accuracy, and fair and balanced reporting of news and views across the spectrum of ideologies.

NEW TEAM. Upon the retirement of Roshan Rivetna, starting with the Spring 2006 issue, stewardship of the Journal passes to Dr. Dolly Dastoor as editor-in-Chief, with a new team: Shahrokh Khanizadeh (graphics and layout) and Feroza Fitch (Cover Design) with printing at Marzi Byramjee's Regal Press in Toronto. Kershaw Khumbatta and Arnavaz continue to serve as subscription managers.

LANDMARK ISSUES. FEZANA Journal is unique, in that each issue is built around a special topic, guest-edited by an expert in the area, making each volume a stand-alone compendium of information. Some landmark issues, of historical value, or those that continue to serve as reference material for community members, students and scholars are showcased below:

The three issues on **Navjote** (Winter 1997), **Wedding** (Spring 1995) and **Death and Beyond** (Winter 2005) describe the traditional customs, ceremonies and prayers, and give a step-by-step guide for their practice in North America.



Tenth Anniversary of FEZANA, Summer 1996, gives the early history and startup stories of FEZANA, and each of the 21 Associations and 8 Darbe Mehrs on record at the time, presented in the order of their establishment – from Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (in 1967) to Zoroastrian Association of Atlantic Canada (1991). This **Twentieth Anniversary of FEZANA** issue (Summer 2007) will be an excellent sequel highlighting the defining moments of FEZANA and the Associations in the years 1987 – 2007.

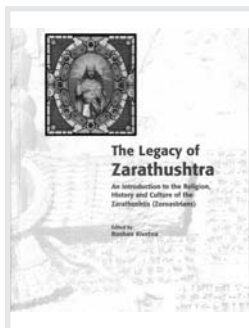
Coming to North America, Spring 1997, traces the stories of Zarathushtris in North America from earliest times (Rustomjee Hirjeebhoy Wadia to Boston in 1861, Ardaseer Cursetjee Wadia, to Salem, MA, in 1851), through the early settlers (Pestonji Davar, in San Francisco in 1892, Maneckji Javeri in California during the Gold Rush, inventor Dinshaw Ghadiali in New Jersey in 1901) to the immigrants who arrived during the 1900 – 1960s. Some heart-warming anecdotes and experiences of the early immigrants completes this well-researched compilation. (Photo 1 of side bar)

The Date and Place of Zarathushtra, Fall 1997, guest-edited by Sarosh J. Manekshaw, gives a historical review of the Date of Zarathushtra (ranging from 6,500 BCE to about 600 BCE; and the Homeland of Zarathushtra (Airyana Vaejah, Azerbaijan, Parthia, Balkh, Chorasmia, Seistan, Merv and others), as researched by several noted scholars. (photo 2,3 4 of side bar)

Zoroastrian Religious Scriptures, Winter 1998, guest-edited by Dr. Pallan Ichaporia, gives a historical review of the corpus of Zarathushti religious texts, spanning the entire landscape, from the Gathas of Zarathushtra's time, through the Yashts, the Yasna, Niyaishes, Khordeh Avesta, Pahlavi texts and the post-ninth century Rivayets. The Gathas are also separately covered in two other issues: The Gathas of Zarathushtra, Spring 1998, guest-edited by Yezdi Rustomji; and Zarathushtra's Vision, Summer 2001, guest-edited by Dina McIntyre.

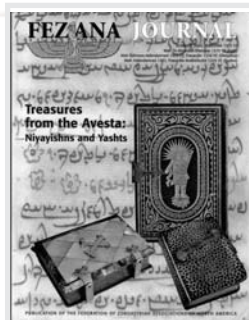
JOURNAL

20th



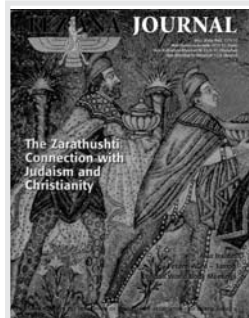
A Place in World History, Summer 2000 and Fall 2000, gives a detailed historical timeline of the Iranian lands, peoples and empires, from the dawn of civilization – the rise and fall of the Persian Empires of the Achaemenians, Parthians and Sasanians, the Arab conquest, through modern times. Alongside are landmark events in world history, from Adam and Eve, down through modern times.

The Legacy of Zarathushtra: an Introduction to the Religion, History and Culture of the Zoroastrians (Zarathushtis) was produced as an addendum to the Summer 2002 issue of FEZANA Journal. It is an excellent book showcasing the religion and community to our North American Neighbors, students and the media, covering doctrine and rituals, history, art and culture, down to contemporary practice and challenges, packaged in an attractive, profusely illustrated volume. (photo 1 of side bar)



Treasures from the Avesta: Daily Prayers (Summer 2003) guest edited by Sarosh J. Manekshaw, Niyayishns and Yashts (Summer 2004) guest edited by Jamsheed K. Choksy, and Yasna, Visperad and Vendidad (Summer 2005) guest edited by Pallan R. Ichaporia, forms a trilogy covering the significance and spiritual content of these prayers, devotional songs and rituals. (photo 2 of side bar)

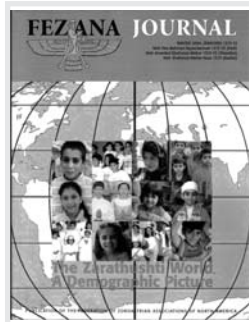
The Zarathushti Connection with Judaism and Christianity (Fall 2004) has a timeline of historical contacts between the three faiths, and articles by non-Zoroastrian (mostly) and Zoroastrian scholars on Zarathushtra's influence, and connections between the three religions; and discussions on "Who Were the Magi." (photo 3 of side bar)



The Zarathushti World, a Demographic Picture, Winter 2004 presents population survey results of the global Zarathushti population. Parsiana (March 2005) writes: "In a major journalistic coup, the remarkable FEZANA Journal has prepared the first authentic global survey of Zoroastrians, which their magazine modestly terms 'a first draft' but it is undoubtedly the most scientifically conducted estimate of the world Zoroastrian population." (photo 4 of side bar)

FUTURE DIRECTIONS. The Journal has come a long way, from a 10-page typewritten newsletter in 1988; to a world class magazine of 100 to 160 pages, highly regarded, avidly read, and widely used as reference material by community members, students and scholars.

On the wish list now is (a) a copy of the Journal on the coffee table of every household in North America; (b) a full archival set (~\$250 per set) in the libraries of every Darbe Mehr/Association and major universities/research institutions (c) and a strong web presence, with a robust search facility to enable searches and reprints of archival materials.



20th Anniversary

**Roshan Rivetna, the editor-in-chief of the
FEZANA JOURNAL 1991-2006**



Defining Moments

Member Associations

The first attempt to form an umbrella organization “ The Zoroastrian Association of America” was by 30 people in Chicago in 1965, perhaps a few years before its time. This may have been putting the cart before the horse as the first association to be formed was in 1967 in Montreal. Since then it took nearly 20 years before the associations felt comfortable to come together under the umbrella of FEZANA

With the opening up of immigration opportunities in the 60s and 70s both to United States and Canada there was a growth spurt in North American demographics which resulted in Zarathushtis feeling the need to organize themselves in associations, to preserve their identity and stability for the second generation. 18 associations were registered in quick succession till the birth of FEZANA in 1987.

In the last 40 years 29 associations with numerous small groups were formed with 8 Darbe Mehrs (Toronto, Vancouver, San Jose, Los Angeles, Houston, New York, Washington DC) and 5 more in the planning stage. (Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles Delaware/New Jersey, Ontario.) The chronology of associations

1967	Zoroastrian Association of Quebec	ZAQ
1968	Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia	ZSBC
1971	Zoroastrian Society of Ontario	ZSO
1973	Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York	ZAGNY
1975	Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago	ZAC
1974	Zoroastrian Association of California	ZAC
1976	Zoroastrian Association of Houston	ZAHO
1979	Zoroastrian Association of metropolitan Washington	ZAMWI
1979	Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey	ZAPANJ
1980	California Zoroastrian Centre	CZC
1980	Zartoshti Anjuman of Northern California	ZANC
1980	Zoroastrian Association of Alberta	ZAA
1980	Traditional Mazdayasni Zoroastrian Anjuman	TMZA
1981	Persian Zoroastrian Organization	PZO
1982	Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania	ZAPA
1983	Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area	ZAGBA
1986	Iranian Zoroastrian Association	IZA
FEZANA IS BORN June 2, 1987		
1989	Zoroastrian Association of North Texas	ZANT
1990	Zoroastrian Association of Kansas	ZAKA
1990	Zoroastrian Society of Washington State	ZSWS
1990	Zoroastrian Association of Arizona	ZAA
1991	Zoroastrian Association of Atlantic Canada	ZAAC
1994	Zoroastrian Association of Florida	ZAF
1995	Zoroastrian Association of Rocky Mountain	ZARM
1996	Zoroastrian Association of Central Florida	ZACF
2002	Zoroastrian Association of Tampa Bay Area	ZATAMBAY
2002	Ontario Zarathushti Cultural Foundation	OZCF
2004	Atlanta Zarathushti Association	AZA

The 10th anniversary issue of the FEZANA JOURNAL (Summer 1996) featured the profile of North American Associations and Darbe Mehrs. In the 20th anniversary issue, we feature what defines each association and gives them strength to carry on.

The Whole is Greater

Synergy is everything in nature. If you plant two plants close together the roots will co-mingle and improve the soil so that both plants will grow better than if they were separated. If you put two pieces of wood together they will hold much more than the total weight held by each separately. The whole is greater than the sum of parts.

THE ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEBEC (ZAQ)

ESTABLISHED 1967

The Zoroastrian Association of Quebec, the first association to be established in North America, in 1968, had many defining moments which were precursors to the founding of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America. (FEZANA) The publishing of Gavashni, the first Zarathushti newsletter of North America, distributed around the continent, the purchase of burial lots, compilation of standard procedures for funeral services, the compilation of the first North American Zoroastrian Directory, the North American congress in 1982 where for the first time 'Non-Zoroastrians in Zoroastrian precepts' were discussed, and where Joseph Peterson was invited to speak before he was accepted into the Zarathushti religion after undergoing a navjote ceremony. This association launched the discussion on the standard Zarathushti calendar and prepared a compilation of opinions from across the world on "Non-Zoroastrians in Zoroastrian Precepts: Do They Have A Place"?



Dr Jehan Bagli, the First president receiving an award from The past presidents of ZAQ, Edul Kanga, Gev karkaria, Khushroo Mirza VP Rohinton Marolia, (not in photo, Ness Lakdawala, Nari Madon and Dolly Dastoor)

THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (ZSBC)

ESTABLISHED 1968

1987-2007-. Our defining moments

One year after the "birth" of FEZANA, came the home for Zarathushtis of British Columbia. It was through the benevolence of the Guivs – Madame Morvarid Guiv – that the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr was bought in 1986, and it started being used by a happy and grateful community which has been growing since then. There have been many milestones in the history of this society, which was founded on February 22, 1968 by the late Jamshed Pavri, Homi Engineer, Jassy Bacha, etc. Two important congresses were held in Vancouver – the North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress in 1991, followed by The Eighth North American Zoroastrian Congress in 1992. In 2006 Mukhtad prayers were performed for the first time. Sports Day each year has mixed successes,



ZSBC continues to try and get engagement from all its members, and, as one of the oldest associations in North America, is proud of its ability to stay undivided by differences in culture, language or ideas. (Photo above .Darbe Mehr, photo below Youth at sports event)



ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO (ZSO) ESTABLISHED 1971

First place of worship Milestones 1966 – 2007

- 1966 ZSO started as a small fraternity and was incorporated in the Province of Ontario
- 1971 The monthly newsletter to members started
- 1972 registration of Zoroastrian priests in Ontario and religion classes for children, followed by classes in Farsi.
- 1975, ZSO hosted the first North American Zoroastrian Congress
- 1978 Arbab Rustom Guiv acquired and donated property for the Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr. After alterations and additions, formally opened in 1980. **This gave the Zarathushtis in Canada its first place of worship.**
- 1982 started observing the Mukhtad ceremonies and now have observances according to the Shenshahi and Fasli calendars.

1987 Involved in the formation of FEZANA.
 1988 6th North American Zoroastrian Congress
 1989 arrangements made for the acquisition of scattering ground for burial of ashes, surrounded by allocated burial plots for Zarathushti families.
 1990 ZSO sponsored the formation of the first and only Zoroastrian Scouts group in North America
 1990 First North American Youth Congress,
 1993 Seniors meetings (started earlier) became a regular - twice a month event.
 1994 First youth camp took place at the Darbe Mehr.
 1995 adult summer classes on religion and history started in English and recently also being held in Farsi.
 1995 The Iranian Cultural Kanoun formed to promote Iranian cultural traditions and language.
 1996 celebrated Silver Jubilee Anniversary.
 2001 decided to rebuild our Darbe Mehr at the present location
 2002, Building Capital Campaign Committee (BCC). formed for fundraising.
 2003 10th North American Youth Congress
 2003/4 celebration of the UNESCO sponsored 3000th anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture,
 2006, BCC raised (including pledges) \$2.2 million from our members and well wishers from abroad, and the Building Project Committee was set up, as we look forward to the construction of our new Darbe Mehr.
 2007 14th North American Zoroastrian Congress

With humble beginnings and the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and community generosity we have come a long way to serve the Zarathushtis of Ontario.

*We felicitate **FEZANA** on the celebration of its 20th anniversary and its services to the Zarathushti communities in North America and wish it continued success for the future.*

Ushta Te .

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK (ZAGNY) ESTABLISHED 1973

The defining moment of ZAGNY and IZA between the years 1987 and 2007 was the move from the first Darbe-Mehr in North America, the gift of the late Arbab Rustam and Morvarid Guiv, in New Rochelle, NY to the new property in Pomona NY. (photos on top right)

ZAGNY and IZA were able to collect the necessary funds in a period of less than 6 months through the effort and largesse of a large number of people. Acquiring this 4 acre property with three buildings has doubled the capacity of the Darbe-Mehr and the 4 acres of property lends itself to future expansion. ZAGNY and IZA have not forgotten how it all started and the new building still bears the name of Arbab Rustam Guiv.

As an example of the activities Young peoples camp at old DM 1984



Old DM circa 1980



New DM picture 2001.

Religious Classes and Summer Camps
 1884 (photo 1 and 3) 2007 (photo 2 and 4)



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (ZAC)

ESTABLISHED 1974

ZAC is now entering its 33rd year (the 5th oldest North American Zoroastrian Association after Montreal), and our group has grown in leaps and bounds, with membership at an all-time record high.

Our community was in dire need of a hall where all could be accommodated since we have outgrown the current hall at the California Zoroastrian Center.



To that effect, a ZAC Hall Committee was appointed in 2004 to spearhead the initiative to build a much-needed new center in Southern California, where all the ZAC families can meet and comfortably host events. A donor recognition policy was initiated in 2004 at the June AGM.

Our community is growing fast, and we are proud to announce that our youth are taking a keen interest in the religion. Four new initiates from southern California had their Navar ceremony performed in 2006.

ZAC celebrated its 25th anniversary on May 8th 1999 with a gala dinner and dance, and we look forward to many more milestones to come.

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN OF CHICAGO

(ZAC-CHICAGO)

ESTABLISHED 1975

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan of Chicago (ZAC-Chicago) was established in 1975. Our Darbe Meher was built in 1983. About ten years back we added a kusti area for women and men next to our prayer hall, seven years back The Rivetna Hall was added to our Darbe Meher building, and the parking lot was extended.

About five years ago we bought the property next to our Darbe Meher with a four bedroom house on it.

We provide service to our community from pre birth to after death.

We have baby showers-Agarni, Navjote ceremony, weddings, Jashans, death ceremonies, muktad prayers.

We are blessed to have two generations of priests who perform all these ceremonies and more.

We own a section of lots in a cemetery for our community. All (photos below Children praying at the Muktad table, and Community members preparing Dal ni Pori) this and lots more in between. Our community is growing and we are in the adolescent stage as a community, learning and growing. The years gone by have been kind to our community.



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON (ZAH)

ESTABLISHED 1976

The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center was built to preserve our religious practices and our rich and varied culture for the generation born in North America. Ten years later, we celebrate a truly defining moment as the young adults of this generation take their seats on the Executive Committee.



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON (ZAMWI)

ESTABLISHED 1979

There has been no one defining moment for the ZAMWI community, just a steady evolution. Like most other North American communities, ZAMWI is the creation of hard-working and enterprising immigrants looking to maintain

their Zoroastrian traditions and culture. Today, the community is transitioning to one whose memories of the DC area outnumber those of Iran, India, or Pakistan -- but a community still steeped in those traditions and values. The children of our Avesta Class of 1999 and 2007 (pictured right) are the future of ZAMWI."



The growth in the religious classes from 1999 to 2007



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA & NEW JERSEY (ZAPANJ) **ESTABLISHED 1979**

In 1979 Initial membership 25 –

In 2007 Membership 150.

Defining moments to date:

July 1994, ZAPANJ, with a membership of only 100, successfully hosted the Ninth North American Zoroastrian Congress in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania with 500 attendees.

ZAPANJ's 25th. Anniversary in 2004 (photo below).

Religion classes that have grown from 10 children to 30 along with an adult class.



Photo Legend: Past Presidents (P) and their spouses: Left to Right: Roshan Bharucha & Jimmy Bharucha (P); Arnavaz Sukhia (P) & Diniar Sukhia; Kamal Desai & Cawas Desai (P); Katayun Kapadia (P) & Kersi Kapadia; Freny Ranji (P) & Late Jamshed Ranji; Nergish Karanja & Noshir Karanja (P); Behnaz Toorkey & Cyrus Toorkey (P).

Not Present: Late Rohinton Balsara & Gulnar Balsara.

CALIFORNIA ZOROASTRIAN CENTER (CZC)

ESTABLISHED 1980



The California Zoroastrian Center (CZC) -- a nonpolitical and nonprofit establishment is dedicated towards serving the increasingly active Zarathushti community in Southern California with the sole purpose of promoting the noble cause of the Zarathushti religion.

The Rustam Guiv Foundation provided the funds for a piece of land and other philanthropists wholeheartedly joined in to construct a building on it.

The most defining moment for CZC was March 25, 1987 when this majestic building was inaugurated by over 500-Zarathushtis with prayers, talks, and festivity under the 100-year old fire-altar (in the prayer room) donated by a philanthropist and was brought from India along with over 4000 books for the library, most of them donated by the Ancient Iranian Cultural Society.

This moment set the foundation for CZC to become an integral part of the North American Zarathushti community in the past 20-years. It paved the path for our present and future generation to celebrate religious and national festivals, hold religious, cultural and social classes in English and Farsi, arrange talks by scholars, hold music concerts and painting exhibitions, host North American as well as World Zoroastrian Youth Congresses and publish a quarterly bulletin with articles on religion, history, culture, news, and calendar.

ZARTOSHTI ANJUMAN OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ESTABLISHED 1980



Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Mehr, 10468 Crothers
Road, San Jose, CA 95127 . USA

The defining moment in the life of ZANC was the building and opening of the Atash Kadeh in 1992.

This gave a focus to the community and brought all Zarathushtis in the Bay area together for their spiritual as well as communal needs. and to celebrate this milestone in the life of the community. *We finally had a place to meet and call our own."*

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (ZAA)

ESTABLISHED 1980

ZAA was incorporated in 1980, with Chapters in Calgary and Edmonton. Its association with FEZANA has been of mutual benefit for this small community.

Many Athravans and Scholars have visited and shared their knowledge of our faith. Participation in Interfaith activities has been significant, thereby creating awareness.

ZAA hosted FEZANA AGM 1993, Second Avesta Conference 1998 and ZYNA Ski Trip 2002.

XERXES IRANI designed a commemorative stamp, issued by Canada Post.

A ZAA member has served FEZANA as Vice-President and President.



ZYNA Ski trip hosted by ZAA in 2002

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA (ZAGBA)

ESTABLISHED 1983



ZAGBA Children's Religious class with teacher
Dilnavaz Shroff. in mid-90s. These children are now
in high school and college.

"ZAGBA's defining moments are experienced regularly when we gather, learn, celebrate, and worship together: Jashans, conferences, interfaith, service, Gatha Study Group, FEZANA AGM, children's classes, student group, new members, new volunteers, new boards, new visions, creating the new Zarathushti Center of Boston, dedicated members actively committed to our vibrant community."



ZAGBA's dedicated children, parents and
teachers from the religious class - June 2006.

Iranian Zoroastrian Association (IZA)

Established 1986



Persian Parade 2007

Four years ago The Persian Parade organization, which celebrates Naurooz (a Zarathushti and Iranian tradition) by conducting a beautiful and colorful Parade in Madison Ave of Manhattan, New York, contacted IZA to participate in the parade as Iranian Zarathushtis and be the lead group in the parade. This is the only parade in US that Iranians as well as Zarathushtis contribute to and it gets publicized all over the world.

The goal of this parade is familiarizing the US as well as the western world with Persian and Iranian's culture and their real spirit.



Persian Classes

Another major activity that IZA is very proud of is the Persian and Religious classes that started 6 years ago and is progressing each year.

The classes are about Zarthushtia's teaching, Persian Language, and Persian History. They are very engaging, absorbing, and attractive classes for both the students and teachers

Mobed Noshir Hormozyar (our religious teacher) recites and discusses the Gatha and Avesta translations for his classes as well as during the IZA functions.

TRADITIONAL MAZDAYASNI ZOROASTRIAN ANJUMAN (TMZA) ESTABLISHED 1988

The defining moment for TMZA was its formation in 1988, fulfilling the desires of a number of Zarathushtis to



A TMZA Jashan in the early '90s with Vada Dasturji

Hormazdiar Kayoji Mirza officiating and Ervad Jal Birdy assisting him.

belong to a traditional organization without the pressures of giving up religious customs they followed back home.



Some of the younger TMZA members enjoying company and dinner after the 2007 Jashan and games.

Our main activities comprise of holding Jashans twice a year and being involved in charitable work.

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTH TEXAS (ZANT) ESTABLISHED 1989

The oil boom of the 1980's brought many Zarthushtis from all over the world to the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. After many years of informal meetings, the Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT) was formed in 1989 and ZANT joined the FEZANA community soon after.

Looking to the future, we hope the best is yet to come! We have been gathering funds for our ZANT Center for almost 15 years and in November 2006 we purchased a prime plot of land on which, with the grace of Ahura Mazda, construction will soon begin. In April 2007 we hosted the FEZANA AGM and Zarthushtis from all over North America enjoyed Texas hospitality with the style and substance that is characteristic of the 200 families that make up our ZANT community.

The ZANT Religious Class in 1998, conducted by Pearl Balsara, shown in the pictures with the ZANT kids.



ZANT kids attending Religious Classes in 2007. ZANT now conducts three religious classes for three different age groups and now has almost 30 kids attending these classes.



Zarathusti Center in North Texas (The ZANT Center) begins to take shape

The Zarathushtis of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area are looking forward to some exciting events in the next few months. Like other communities in North America, it has been our dream to build the ZANT Center, which will be our gathering place and a home for the community to pray and keep our traditions alive. With over 150 Zarathushti families in North Texas, and more than 100 children under the age of 20, acquiring our own building has been foremost in our minds and hearts for over a decade.

In November 2006, ZANT purchased a 2.6 acre property with a 2,000 square foot structure on it in the city of Flower Mound, Texas for \$253,000. Over a decade's worth of fund-raising by the community provided the funds to buy this property. However the building currently on the property is too small for our needs, and we want the ZANT Center to have a proper prayer room, class rooms and other amenities. Our ZANT Building Committee along with our architect Cyrus Rivetna, who has studied ancient and modern fire temples, has designed a beautiful building that will suit our needs.

Total construction cost for our ZANT Center is estimated at \$906,000 of which we already have cash and

pledges of \$310,000, leaving \$596,000 to be raised. We have designed the Center to be constructed in phases. *Phase I* is estimated to cost \$600,000 and will commence when we reach that amount by raising an additional \$290,000. Phase I will focus on the spiritual, educational and cultural aspects of our religion. It will consist of the prayer room, class rooms, library, office, kitchen and restrooms. *Phase II* will consist of a large hall for 300 people.



Our dream of building the ZANT Center is very much within our reach. Once we raise \$290,000 required for Phase I, we can begin to obtain city permits and start construction by January 2008. We hope the global Zarthushti community can help us reach our goal. Many of us who came to this country as immigrants remember the philanthropic contributions of our forefathers in India, Iran and Pakistan. The opportunity to leave a lasting legacy does not come every day, and we hope the worldwide community of Zarathushtis will consider it a privilege to contribute.

We will be grateful for your generous contributions. Please make your check to the ZANT Building Fund and mail it to ZANT, P.O. Box 271117, Flower Mound, TX 75027-1117. Your donation is tax-deductible in the USA. Any questions can be directed to Kali Buhariwalla at 972-691-5327 or president@zant.org.

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS (ZAKA)

ESTABLISHED 1990

There are 20 families and one hundred members mostly in Kansas City and the towns and cities in the vicinities. We have religion classes once a month for different age groups. One for Avesa prayers taught by two teachers, and the other is basic teachings of our religion. For the students who have finished the first two courses a class of Gathas are established in which Gathas are taught in simple language, but this is quite challenging. The Zarathushti families have different gatherings. Tonight they are invited by one of the members for NauRooz celebration and on March 31st we are gathering in the community center for celebration of the birth of Zarathushtra. Our students will have special performance and art presentation, there will be lectures as well.

In September 1995, ZAKA hosted the Eighth Annual General Meeting of FEZANA in Kansas City area and despite our community being so small, the attendants

were impressed by the level of cooperation among all the members who made this function very successful.

**FEZANA
AGM
1995**



Zoroastrian Associations Of Florida

ESTABLISHED 1994, 1996, 2002

In Florida, we have 3 separate Associations:

1. ZAF (Zoroastrian Association of Florida), established in 1994.
2. ZACF (Zoroastrian Association of Central Florida), established in 1996
3. ZATAMBAY (Zoroastrian Association of Tampa Bay Area), established in 2002.

ZAF (Zoroastrian Association Of Florida)

It was established in 1994 with Ervad Dr. Darab Unwalla as its first President. Now it has grown to be a vibrant and active group of 87 members. The current president is Ervad Khushroo Daruwalla.

ZACF (Zoroastrian Association of Central Florida)

It was established in 1996 with Mrs. Sarvar and Rustom Demehri being its main heart and soul. Currently, they have 39 members. They have a very active youth group participating in many social activities.

ZATAMBAY (Zoroastrian Association Of Tampa Bay Area)

It was established in 2003 at the Navroz Function in the home of Jo Ann and Soli P. Dastur. Its president is Hoshedar Tamboli. It

has 22 members. They hold regular Jamshedi Navroz and Pateti functions usually with a Jashan ceremony.

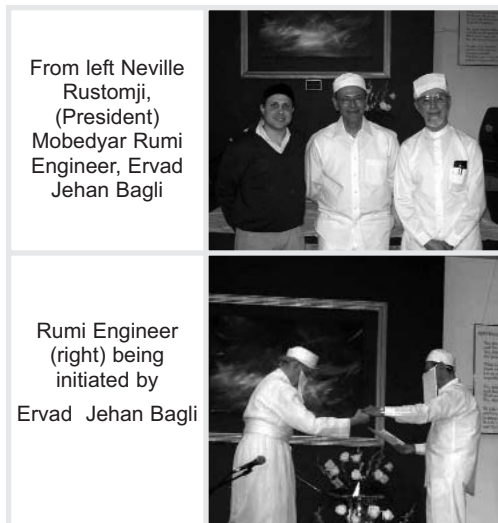


Children of ZAF performing for NauRooz

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN (ZARM)

ESTABLISHED 1995

The biggest event this year is that Rumi Engineer, a founding member of ZARM, was ordained as a Mobedyar



From left Neville Rustomji, (President) Mobedyar Rumi Engineer, Ervad Jehan Bagli

Rumi Engineer (right) being initiated by Ervad Jehan Bagli

by Ervad Jehan Bagli. The initiation ceremony took place on Sunday, March 04 2007 and ZARM co-sponsored the event along with The Church of Religious Science, which Rumi is also a member of. The Zarathushtis of Denver metropolitan area will now have a priest to perform some of the outer liturgical ceremonies.

ONTARIO ZARATHUSHTI CULTURAL FOUNDATION (OZCF)

ESTABLISHED 2002

The OZCF was established in 2002 with the objective of purchasing land to build a place of worship and community center to meet the current and future needs of Zarthushtis in the Greater Toronto Area. Longer-term objectives include a seniors' retirement complex, health and medical support services and temporary housing facilities for new immigrants.



Within 3 years, the OZCF has raised sufficient funds to purchase 10 acres of land on the border of Mississauga and Oakville. This tremendous accomplishment was

celebrated by an opening Jashan ceremony which was attended by almost 500 Zarthushtis.

For the past 2 years, the membership of 500 strong has enjoyed the Zoroastrian Religious and Cultural Centre ("ZRCC") as the property was named. During the summer months, the ZRCC is in use every weekend for organized sports days, an overnight camp for children, pot luck Sundays and many other events.

In December 2006, the OZCF was honored to be the recipient of the religious vessels (alat) and other implements from the Agiary in Zanzibar which was closed earlier in 2006. The Zarthushti families from Zanzibar who were instrumental in obtaining these articles were felicitated at a Jashan at the ZRCC in December 2006.

In order to meet the needs of a growing community, the leadership and members of the OZCF continue to focus on raising funds to build a place of worship and community center. The next critical steps include developing site plans incorporating the various elements for the longer term as well as shorter-term plans for the use of the ZRCC.



ATLANTA ZARATHUSHTI ASSOCIATION (AZA)

ESTABLISHED 2004

The Atlanta Zarathushti Association (AZA) joined FEZANA as its 25th member. In 2006

AZA was blessed with hosting the FEZANA AGM with delegates from all around North America (and 1 from India) attending. AZA was credited with hosting an extremely well planned and fun filled weekend. This major event propelled us to expand our services to our growing community. This year we have spent much time involving most members under specially developed sub-committee(s) hoping to identify strengths within us.



Our services now include a seminar for college bound students, Parsi/Indian catering services, a quarterly newsletter Hukta, a planning and fundraising sub-committee for a Darbe Mehr, and a sub-

committee compiling accurate information on Zarathushti rituals (this year emphasis is being given to the death ritual). Our adventurous Events' Calendar kicked off with a NavRuz celebration.

NauRooz 2007 was heralded with great community participation and fan fare. A 'Khushali' Jashan performed by Ervad Rustom Kanga set the mood for the evening and hopefully the rest of the year. The outdoor setting was perfect, embellished with fresh flowers and fruits brought by individual families. The aroma of sandalwood and incense permeated the air. Young and old sat together in perfect harmony praying for Ahura Mazda's choicest blessings, in the year to come.

Each family fed the fire after the Jashan, a sight that warmed every heart present. After beverages and appetizers there was a performance organized for the children/youth of AZA. Each child was given the task of explaining the day and month, they were born, according to the Zarathushti calendar. For the first time ever, in Atlanta, an authentic patra nu bhonu was served on fresh banana leaves. (see photo left bottom) AZA caterers, Ruby Umrigar, Mahrukh Avari and Aloo Irani catered their first community event to rave reviews. Lagan nu Achaar was especially flown in from Navsari, India and the rest of the menu consisted of homemade Rotlis, Sariyas, Parsi Stew, Tarela Papeta ma Murghi, Gosht Pulao, Daar and Flan. The meal was complete when a few members went from guest to guest with hot water buckets and metal bowls for table-side hand washing. The evening ended with every child receiving a NauRooz Bag filled with goodies donated by the Avaris.

NauRooz 2007 celebrations proved to be a defining moment for our community and created happy memories for all in attendance. We, in Atlanta no longer crave the memories we have of India, Iran, etc. **AZA is building beautiful memories of its own!!!**

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKY, OHIO, AND INDIANA

ESTABLISHED 2005

ZAKOI (Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana), started informally in August 1998, when we used to celebrate together special religious occasions.

2005-2006 were critical in taking ZAKOI forward into a new dimension.

In July 2005, we got registered as a formal non-profit entity with the State of Ohio, and in the same year we had our first ever Religion Youth Camp. Since then we have had regular monthly religion classes, annual camps for our youth as well as for our very young ones. By the end



of 2005 ZAKOI finally had its own website! We are at www.zakoi.org

2006 WAS A VERY BUSY YEAR.

In 2006, we came up with our own logo and ZAKOI - t-shirts! In 2006, our three Zoroastrian priests in Ohio received their license from State of Ohio to perform Zarathushti weddings which were recognized in the state. In August 2006, ZAKOI had its first ever Gatha Jashan and Muktaḍ Prayers for the beloved departed of our ZAKOI families. We plan on continuing this tradition. In November 2006, we applied to the IRS (awaiting their reply) for Recognition of Exemption. In 2006, ZAKOI became member of FEZANA!

Hence 2005-2006 have been our defining years. Together, we hope to continue on our spirited journey ahead.

Michigan

The first religion class for the Zarathushtis of Michigan was started by Jamshed R. Udvardia in 1983 which was attended by about 10 children with their parents. It was scheduled on the third Sunday of each month and was hosted by the parents in turn at their own homes. In 1987 the responsibility for running the classes was taken up by four families from the Detroit area. As the children grew up and went to the universities for higher education, the class began to thin out and came to a halt about 1988. The children from those classes, now grown, are following careers in computer systems, business administration, finance, medicine, school

education. . Most of them have families of their own and have now become teachers of the re-started classes for the current group of young children. In little over 20 years our community has grown and has come full circle. We now have about 29 children attending the classes



The defining moment was when the regular Zarathushti classes were started in 1983 amidst skepticism that they would not last; but the seeds sown then are now bearing fruit, as the first generation recognize their responsibility and pass on the information they received to the next generation.

Community Building

Who we Are One Score of Defining Years - 1987-2007

French philosopher Auguste Comte said "demography is destiny". The social, cultural, and economic fabric of a community derives in large part from its population dynamics. Scattered as the Zarathushti's were across the continents, they gradually started to form associations, build communities, and community structures. From the 1960's, one Zarathushti organization or another of some nature was started in a North American city virtually every year or every alternate year. They started building a sense of identity and

security for the second generation. (See page 58)

With the formation of the associations and communities, there was a need for an umbrella organization. FEZANA, the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America was formed in 1987. From the limited census data that we have of the population of North America of that time, the 15,000 Zarathushtis, with the population peaking in the under 18 age group, experienced some of the most fast paced and dynamic

changes. The largest concentration of Zarathushtis are in California and Ontario with British Columbia coming second and Texas third.

Today, followers of our religion, are turning to world-spanning modern technology in order to marry within their faith and this is a wonderful opportunity for us to grow and blossom culturally and globally. We, unlike most immigrants, who tend to cluster in one particular location or occupation - seek out the wealthiest cities of the English speaking world

Community Building

and go wherever a lucrative opportunity presents itself.

Most Zarathushtis on coming to North America practiced a sort of "protective insular" philosophy, which most first generation immigrants are prone to. First generations tend to keep themselves in close proximity to each other. They work hard to preserve the culture and traditions. This changes with each subsequent generation. Since the last twenty years we have taken up the challenge of going back to our heritage and ancestry and reversing the trend.

FEZANA SURVEY

In 2005, FEZANA conducted a survey of Zarathushtis amongst their membership. The object was to obtain basic demographic, educational and retirement planning information. In addition the Bombay Parsee Panchayat requested information on what percentage of Zarathushtis migrated to North America and the year they migrated. BPP wanted to corroborate that the Parsi community was not dwindling but had simply migrated to other places, which made the numbers in India seem alarming or did the results show the community was really dwindling.

This survey was conducted and the results analysed by Noshir Jessung and Farrokh Mistree who assimilated a lot of interesting data.

The FEZANA membership consists of Zoroastrian Association of North America, and in the most recent FEZANA directory 10,818 Zarathushtis are listed including children. Disappointingly only 1091 replies were received.

AGE Nearly 46% of Zarathushtis are 55 years and older and 42% are between 32-54 years of age and 15% over 65 years. Children under 18 represent 36% of the population, 8% are between the ages of 19-31, 26% between 32-54, 15% between 55-64. If we combine the age groups 55+ then the community is clearly aging with 30% of the population surveyed.

The largest population block in North America was Married

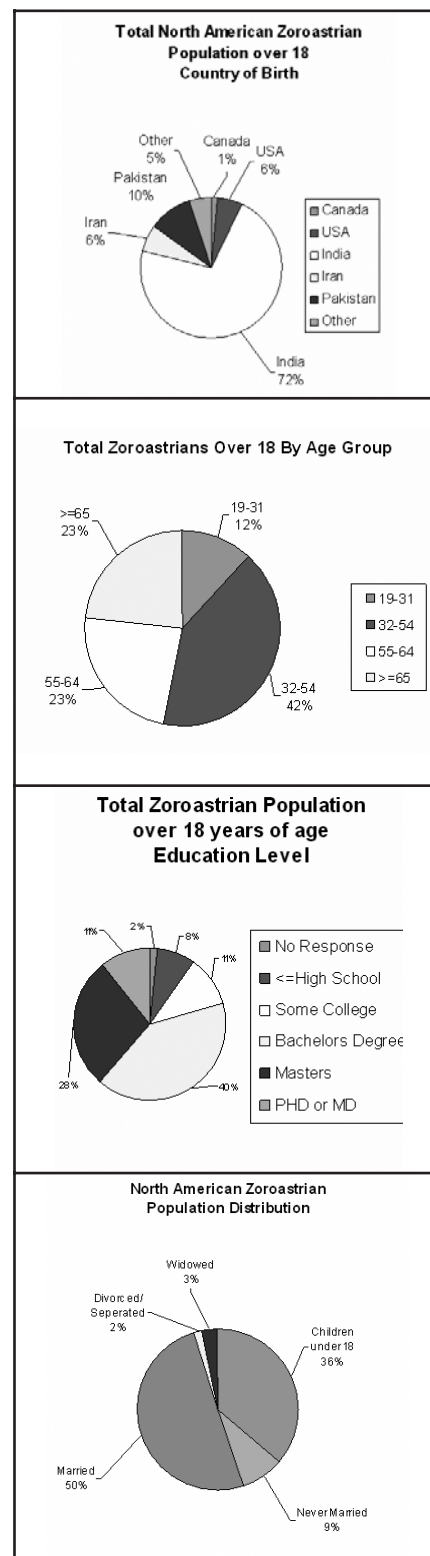
Zarathushtis (50%), with an average of 1.5 children under the age of 18. Children under 18 was the second largest (36%) group, the never married 9%, divorce/separated and widowed (2% and 3% resp). Of the married population 11% were married out of the religion and 89% married within the religion. The large percentage of children indicate a great need for religious education, which most associations encourage as we will see in subsequent reports. The report is posted on the FEZANA website www.fezana.org

MIGRATION It is interesting to note that in the survey, of the North American Zarathushti population, that 72% of immigrants over the age of 18 years, came from India, 10% from Pakistan, 6% each from Iran and USA and 1% from Canada. The balance 5% from all over the world. The biggest migration of Zarathushtis over the age of 18 to North America occurred between 1960 and 2005 with the largest number 26% arriving between 1971-1980 followed by 22% between 1981-1990, 22% during 1991-2000 and 19% between 1961-1970.

EDUCATION From the education statistics almost 79% have degrees and 11% are studying for their degrees— 51 % have either a Bachelors or a Masters degree or a PhD/Dr. Degree, thereby implying that education levels in our community is very high.

Retirement which is crucial for our community, suggests that a large percentage prefer to retire in California.

The last twenty years have especially played a significant role in bringing about a change in attitude and an understanding and joining of Zarathushti's as a force to reckon with. Since our arrival on this continent, we have faced new challenges of creating a cultural context for our religion. We have faced demographic challenges, challenges of spiritual re-awakening, challenges of tradition and definition of who we are and what we embody, challenges of our revival as one of the greatest philosophies on earth.



Community Building

WHO WE ARE Part II - 20 Who Make a Difference

So we see demography is all about change and change is all about opportunity. There are many amongst us who are movers and shakers and connectors. There are many who are recognized and acknowledged as the leaders in their profession and are national figures. And in the spirit of celebrating FEZANA's twenty years we feature twenty members who have made an impact in our communities at large. There are many more who have made their mark, and left their imprint, these twenty however are selected at random.

Houston Chronicle claimed **Bapsi Sidhwa** as the *ultimate Texan*. We rejoiced as Bapsi is proud to tell the world she belongs to the Zarathushti faith. The author who has been described by one critic as Pakistan's finest English-language novelist, writes stories that reflect her experience as a woman, a member of a religious minority in Pakistan, and as an immigrant to the United States.

Rohinton Mistry an Indian-born Canadian writer, who immigrated in 1975, whose works have been compared with that of writers ranging from master Victorian novelist Charles Dickens to controversial contemporary storyteller Salman Rushdie. When Oprah's picked his book *A Fine Balance* for her book of the month, Zarathushtis all over the world set their VCR's to tape the interview and felt connected.

The first Indian-born person to become CEO of a university in the United States of America **Dr. Beheruz Sethna** has served in leadership posts in university education development and management in the USA since 1989. In October 1999 Dr. Sethna was appointed as the interim senior vice chancellor of academic affairs of the University System of Georgia, USA. Another noted academician **Professor Farrokh Mistree's** design experience spans mechanical, aeronautical, structural, and industrial engineering. His teaching experience

spans courses in engineering design, naval architecture, solid mechanics, operations research and computer. He immigrated to Houston, TX in 1981 and was instrumental in starting Sunday School and was one of the key members who designed the long range plan for the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center.

Dynamic **Dr. Dhun Noria**, a fundraiser with business instinct and a pathologist's eye for detail heads the laboratory at Toronto's Scarborough Hospital and has chaired the C\$ 17.6 billion budget Metro Toronto District Health Council which advises the ministry of health. Her involvement in the community is far-reaching with her fund raising projects. **Dr. Khus Jeejobhoy**, Head of the Department of Gastroenterology at Toronto General Hospital who has pioneered work in hyperalimentation **Dr. Dina Mody**, director of cytopathology at Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX, presently heads a team of researchers to intercept the "cancer or pre-cancer in their earliest phases, so we can effectively treat our patients,"

Dr. Aban Daruwalla, combat specialist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, CA, serves as a role model to young students. She has received awards for promoting mathematics and science education for girls.

Rumi Engineer and **Cyrus Mehta** are attorneys practicing Immigration and Naturalization Law in Englewood, Colorado and New York. **Ayesha Nariman**, the first Zarathushti to run for US Congress lost to an incumbent but cleared 22% of the vote from her district. **Nikan Khatibi**, first generation Zarathushti, currently in medical school ran for the City Council for the city of Laguna Niguel, California, in 2004. Nikan is an editor for the Youthfully Speaking section of the FEZANA Journal.

Parisa Khosravi, Senior Vice President and Managing Editor, International Newsgathering started at CNN in 1987. After completing seven experience-rich internships during her Columbia College education in Chicago, Parisa received a bachelor's degree in journalism and immediately

secured a job as a CNN Video Journalist (VJ). Fourteen years later she has an executive office.

Lylah M Alphonse, assistant editor, Boston Globe, **Porus Cooper** veteran journalist currently working at the Philadelphia Inquirer as a business writer specializing in venture capital and small business issues. **Jehangir Poncha** is the China correspondent for *In These Times*. His articles have also been published in the Boston Globe, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Chicago Tribune, and India Today.

Dr. Rusi P. Taleyarkhan is the Arden Bement Jr. Professor of Nuclear Engineering at Purdue University. In 2002 he was a senior scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and he published that fusion can be achieved by bombarding a container of liquid solvent with strong ultrasonic vibrations.

Dr. Soroush Soroushian, Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Irvine, is respected worldwide for his knowledge on hydrology.

Dr. Daryoosh Vakshoori co-founder and Chief Executive officer of Ahura Corporations, which makes and markets Firstdefender, a handheld instrument that can identify thousands of chemicals using lasers and Raman spectroscopy. This technology has captured the attention of counter-terrorism groups around the world.

Firdaus Bhathena, president and CEO of Relicore Inc a soft ware infrastructure company, raised \$11M in its first round of venture capital funding. Prior to Relicore he had founded WebLine communications which was leader in customer interaction software. The company was acquired by CiscoSystems.

Bravo to all and many more who excel in their fields and make us all proud to be Zarathushtis.

Contributors to this article
Dilnavaz Shroff, Aban Rustomji, Noshir Jesung, Farokh Mistree.

THE ROLE OF FEZANA IN FORGING THE ZARATHUSHTI NORTH AMERICAN DIASPORA

John R. Hinnells

I have been fortunate to follow the path of FEZANA having attended the Los Angeles North American Congress (1985) when a proposal for FEZANA was brought to the floor of the conference hall, attended the Toronto Congress where FEZANA was launched (1988), and having attended other FEZANA congresses – including the millennium one in Houston (2000-1). I have also been a grateful recipient and reader of the Journal as well as looking at the enormous collection of files in the Rivetna home. So how after 20 years does FEZANA appear to a reasonably informed outsider and what has been its role? First it is necessary to look at the Pre-FEZANA years in North America, the reasons for and the path to its establishment.

PRE-FEZANA YEARS-

When I first started visiting North American Zoroastrians (the term then used) towards the end of the 1970s almost all Zarathushtis were relatively new settlers. The central issues debated were how to preserve identity in the face of the threatening melting pot, what were the key elements of continuity in the face of inevitable change in a new continent, and how to enable young people to meet fellow Zarathushtis across such vast distances when they met non-Zarathushtis daily. The case was well put by Dr Bahram Faradiel of Chicago at the Third World Congress in Bombay in 1978:

We are spread so thin across this wide land and are so heavily exposed to western culture as broadcast through the media...that unless we take positive steps to prevent it, the retention of Zoroastrian identity in the New World will be lost. Perpetuation, Survival, Assimilation are connotations which are uppermost in our minds. Nowhere are the social pressures to conform as great as in the United States. Most of our adults who have been brought up in India and Iran have an innate mechanism to resist these pressures; however, our children through their formative years are not equipped with such attitudes. Every one of you has heard the hackneyed phrase 'United States is the melting pot of cultures.'

Jal Guzder at a Toronto symposium in 1975 commented:

I come into contact with Parsis maybe once a month...we don't come home and participate in religious or Parsi activities...here we are all basically individualistic, we are integrated, and we are subject to the historical forces of the 'melting pot'

Later Zarathushti settlers do not perhaps appreciate the difficulties of the 'early settlers'. Arriving with little money

and having to find accommodation and work was hard (one family I know well, related to me how they had \$10 and the husband gave half away in sympathy to someone selling magazines to make a living!). There was the loss of home and family, a strange new land to face with few, if any, contacts to help, and no resources to enable the practice of the religion or culture. The most that could be hoped for was the occasional dinner with other Parsis in the same situation. The few who came early on, had even fewer priests, and they had not practiced previously. There was little time for social, cultural and religious events because both husbands and wives needed to work to set up home and bring up children. There was concern that long liturgies could not be expected, whether and how to shorten was a serious concern; so, too, was the fear of alienating the religious authorities in the old country.

THE MOVES FOR A NATIONAL BODY

There was an early recognition of the need for an 'umbrella' organization. The first call I can find for this was by Keki Bhote at a meeting of Zarathushtis in Vancouver in 1967. It was discussed again at the Chicago Symposium in 1977. Dr Jehan Bagli was deputed to draw up the necessary proposals, but many of the Associations did not respond and in 1980 he resigned. The work was taken over by Dr Lovji Cama. People protested that the distances were too great for them to attend meetings and that they were too busy. Behind these concerns was the fear that an umbrella organization would seek to impose change and reform on all. The proposal for a national body was rejected at the delegates meeting at the 1985 Los Angeles Congress but the matter was brought back to the floor of the Congress where Rohinton Rivetna was tasked to produce a draft constitution. I recall vividly the tensions at that congress where the 'orthodox' feared that the organizers who they considered 'reformists' were seeking to impose their views and policies. Rivetna called a 'Constitutional Convention' in Chicago in May 1986 and at the 1988 Toronto Congress all the then 16 Associations signed up to it and Rivetna was elected first President. I recall, happily, how different the atmosphere was between the two congresses.

THE WORK OF FEZANA

Realizing the deep concern that an overarching body would impose change and conformity of practice, the Constitution was so drafted that elected officers had no powers, all the power lay with the Associations and the committees [See article Vision and Structure of FEZANA] The 11 committees achieve two things. First, they

obviously carry policies and issues forward between congresses (by which they are authorized). Second, they give opportunities to the many extremely able leaders within the associations. FEZANA is thus structured to utilize as many as possible of the talents of its members across the whole continent.

There is no need in an article in the FEZANA Journal to enumerate the variety of works undertaken by the Federation. Suffice it to just point out what seems to an outsider the key activities. Perhaps the highest priority, reemphasized in FJ in 2006, is the nurture of the youth within the community. In my 1970s and 1980s visits to the various Associations, a common concern often expressed to me was that the young people were meeting non-Zarathushtis every day at school, work and play, but other Zarathushtis at most once per month. How could the parents hope that they would remain within the culture and the community? Hence the importance of youth activities from Sunday School to skiing, cruising, wild water rafting, sleep overs etc. When I returned to America in the third millennium I asked some of the former youngsters, now adults, how those fears had worked out? They all answered that school/college friendships lasted for the duration of study whereas the communal friendships lasted beyond that. The Zoroastrian Games, the Youth Congresses, youth sections of the Journal and the Congresses seem to me to be vital (and as my son found at the Houston congress, much fun!).

The importance of religion has often been emphasized, but my impression is that it has sometimes been avoided as an issue because of the danger of disputes, and it is noticeable that in the financial accounts in FJ less money is spent on religion than on most things. Nevertheless some materials have been produced and mobediyars have been appointed. Perhaps the main religious activity has been the communication of knowledge within the themed Journals on prayers, rituals, the Avesta and so on. The fact that they have been produced in such a superb format by Roshan Rivetna makes them an effective means of learning and teaching. The aspect of religion where FEZANA has been pioneering, especially in the 1990s, is in **interfaith activity**, for example in the 1993 Chicago World Parliament of Religions followed up in South Africa and Barcelona. But this has also been important at the local level because of the importance of profile for such a small minority group as the Zarathushtis. The level of ignorance in the outside world about the Zarathushti religion is a disgrace, but a reality. In various countries in 'the New World' Zarathushtis have suffered prejudice due to ignorance, for example adverse publicity depicting new communities as a 'cult' when applying for planning permission for Darbe Mehrs. If a Sikh can be shot for being mistaken as a Muslim because he had a turban and beard after 9/11 then less well known Zarathushtis are vulnerable. Once again Roshan Rivetna has risen to this challenge with her book published under the name of FEZANA, *The Legacy of Zarathushtra*, intended for outsiders as well as for Zarathushtis.

CONFERENCES AS COMMUNITY BUILDERS

From my perspective the biannual congresses and meetings seem very important for they bring people together socially as well as to debate. My survey research strongly suggests that although it is in theory possible to be a Zarathushti and live isolated from others, in practice it is when people meet and communicate that the religious and cultural spirits are up lifted. This is an integral part of community building. This was especially evident at the Houston Congress with over 2,000 present and the centre of Houston became almost a Zarathushti village. The youth congresses are no less important in making individuals more aware of their identity and their group and cultural ties, for it is important for them to associate being a Zarathushti, with being happy and fulfilled.

OTHER COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS

FEZANA has also been associated with three other important ventures. Formally the move for a world body is not a FEZANA project, although it was started by Rohinton Rivetna while he was President of FEZANA. Indeed when it became time to decide whether to start a new body or negotiate further with WZO, the matter was put to a vote of the Associations; after FEZANA organized a debate. But the shape of a new body and the negotiations with the Bombay Parsi Punchayet were conducted by leading members of FEZANA – and the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe. It is much to their credit that they were successful, though the plans foundered in the London 2005 World Congress in the face of Orthodox opposition led by Khojeste Mistree. More directly connected is the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce, which though now having chapters in several countries, was started in America as a legacy project of the World Congress under the umbrella of FEZANA. Another such FEZANA body is the Zoroastrian Congress in Houston. The Zarathushti Women's International Network (ZWIN) which is reported regularly in the Journal, was also born at the Houston Congress and has an international network.

FEZANA has, therefore, been a pioneering body. Following from its highly educated membership qualities, it is also a highly structured organization with its committees and not least its forward planning. In 1997 Dolly Dastoor, then President of FEZANA, produced a 10 year plan, 1997-2007. This had four collective goals: 'Learning to live a Zarathushti life'; 'Thousand points of light' (relating to involving more Zarathushtis on the continent and extending the readership of the journal and networking), 'External structures' and 'Internal structures' each with clearly defined Goals 'Action Plan', 'Mile Stones' and Operational Achievements assessed in 2004. Many goals have been achieved, some like a unified calendar have been put aside and others such as retirement centres are under discussion. *The overall image I have of FEZANA is of a dynamic body.*

A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF FEZANA

It would be wrong to gloss over problems. The intense debate between FEZANA and (some of) the Houston local organizers over whether an invitation to speak should be made to Ali Jafarey at the Houston Congress was a debate which quickly escalated not only nationally but internationally. At one stage it threatened the holding of the whole Congress. It was one of the most public disputes of FEZANA's history polarizing the 'orthodox' who did not want to invite him and the liberals who did. A compromise was reached whereby FEZANA held an event during but aside from the congress where the orthodox or Khshnoomist Ervad Kheikhosrow D. Dastur debated with Ali Jafarey the interpretation of Yasna 30:2, on the freedom of choice. The atmosphere before the debate was tense, indeed I saw security guards with pistols, but in fact it passed off peacefully. It had consequences however. One feature of Zarathushti communities I have always valued, is their engagement with outside academics. Speaking personally, I value greatly my many deep friendships and the kind invitations I have received from Associations around the globe. My experience contrasts with the experience of my fellow academics working in Islamic and Sikh studies who have received death threats. I do not think Houston is likely to result in a death threat for me (I hope not!) but as part of the negotiation it was agreed that there would be no outside academics, and looking through the programs of the various associations in recent years there have been fewer invitations to outside academics to speak. Of course, it is right and proper that the community gives platforms to its own, but sharing at an intellectual level had previously been a common experience. I was glad to receive the invitation to make this contribution and accepted with alacrity. I hope we will not always be kept out. (To be fair, I was allowed to launch a new book of mine at the Houston Congress. It should also be said that the whole congress was particularly well organized.) This debate is not the only one. The politicking associated with election to office can also be strong, though not as divisive as that for the Houston debate.

IF THERE HAD BEEN NO FEZANA?

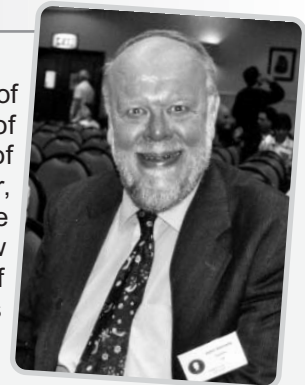
But these problems are minor compared with the good that FEZANA has done. Before writing this piece I reflected on what the place of Zarathushtis in North America would have been had there been no FEZANA. There is no doubt that the religion and the communities would have been worse off. The opportunities for the young to interact would have been far less; a local Association could not have mounted the huge range which is achieved now. No newsletter could have rivaled the Journal. The pooling of information about congresses, and not only in America, the information on where to get scholarships and for what, the matrimonial columns I am assured have resulted in a number of marriages.

North American Zarathushtis would not be so well informed about their religion. Zarathushtis would not have had the public profile at events involving the

President of the USA, NGO status at the UN, the public assertion of support for the nation following the tragic events of 9/11 – it was so important to stand up and be counted at that time. The engagement with important inter-faith events at a national level would not have been achieved. Would ZWIN and the Chamber of Commerce have started? There has been a profound attempt to live with difference, to disagree agreeably as it was put in Houston. There have been attempts to bridge the Parsi-Iranian divide not always successfully but more publicly than would have been possible without FEZANA. I have been struck by the way Presidents have emerged from both USA and Canada (though there has still only been one lady President – Dolly Dastoor). As an outsider, it seems to me that FEZANA has been a huge success and I cannot imagine how the individual Associations could have acted as effectively separately. It will be interesting to chart the path of FEZANA when the youth assume positions of leadership.

Biography

After serving as Professor of the Comparative Study of Religion and Dean of Theology at Manchester, John Hinnells became the founding head of the new department for the Study of Religions at SOAS. He is now retired but has a part time professorship in Liverpool. His books on



Zoroastrianism include: *Persian Mythology* (News Books, 1985), *Zoroastrians in Britain* (OUP 1996), *Zoroastrian and Parsi Studies* (Ashgate 2000) and *The Zoroastrian Diaspora* (OUP 2005.)

In May 2007 the Trustees and Managing Committee of ZTFE bestowed the title of "Honoured Friend" of ZTFE to Prof. John Hinnells

(John Hinnells is indeed a good friend of the Zarathushti community and a staunch supporter. ED.)

For these and other quotations see J. R. Hinnells, The Zoroastrian Diaspora: religion and migration, Oxford University Press, 2005 pp. 425-542 at 453-475, 512-22

Minutes for 8 Oct in J. Pavri, The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia 1968-1978, Vancouver, 1978, p. 24

Bahram Faradie (Chair of Proceedings Committee), Proceedings of the Second North American Zoroastrian Symposium Chicago, 1977, pp. 1f

FEZANA Journal [hereafter FJ] Summer 1996, p. 30

My 1985-86 Survey found that 50% of Zoroastrian in America were in executive level employment, and that in big centres, such as New York and Chicago, 85-90% were graduates, indeed in these two centres the majority had a post graduate qualification: Hinnells 2005 Appendix 2 pp. 741ff., Table 1.9 & 12

FJ Winter 1996: 8-10 for early planning and Spring 2004: 53-5 for a review

Community Building and FEZANA - Forging the Future with Faith and Fortitude

Shahrokh Mehta

WHAT IS COMMUNITY BUILDING

In the North American Zarathushti context, Community Building usually refers to working together in structured or unstructured, real or virtual (cyberspace) environments for common community-related projects. It has focused on perpetuating and creating awareness of the Zarathushti identity and values on the North American continent. These activities primarily take place at the local Zoroastrian association level where groups of people participate in common social, cultural, educational, religious, and service activities often based on Zarathushti values of truth (Asha), honesty/charity, and helping fellow co-religionists. The community building has more recently involved greater geographical coverage over cyberspace, however the teaching and practicing of Zarathushti values for the betterment of the community members remains a constant theme and in the process we are reminded that we are larger than the sum of our individual relationships and together we can accomplish so much more than we can individually.

FEZANA serves as the coordinating body for 25 associations (and 12 small groups) and has been successful in Community Building activities from a day-to-day or short-term perspective. Over the last 20 years, it has guided local communities, provided resources, formed action committees, establish communications (website, yahoo group, email), provided educational scholarships (FEZANA, performing arts, sports) promoted congresses, sports and youth events, publicized global events, collected and dispersed funds for adversity and need, participated in interfaith and UN-NGO activities, managed publications (Journal, basic textbook, 'Zarathushtis' brochure and 'Legacy' book) etc. All of this, as they say, is history and a good track record. Going forward, FEZANA needs to shift gears and concentrate on Community Building programs from a wider perspective with long-term strategies that will have greater impact on the overall welfare of the community. This may include but is not limited to creating and directing opportunities for political leadership at state and federal levels, entrepreneurship, and religious scholarship.

MASTER PLAN The individual North American community associations will continue to do their part in the day-to-day Community Building activities; however, I see FEZANA uniquely in a position to develop and execute an overall North American Community Building Master Plan. Limited resources, limited funds, limited population, and being a minority community have never stopped the Parsee/Zarathushti communities from establishing major business enterprises and accomplishing positions of ownership in business and politics in India and Iran. For example, the establishment of Parsee/Zarathushti hospitals, schools, airlines, places of worship, hotels, homes for the aged, steel mills, shipbuilding, and elections to political offices, are

reminders that with determination and vision great achievements are possible.

Today we have in North America among the Zarathushti community, higher levels of education, more financial resources, better infrastructure and greater opportunities than our forefathers had in India some 200+ years ago. What we need is the vision to channel these talents and resources in the right directions and make avail of the abundance of opportunities before us by setting the foundation for a long-range and wide-reaching Community Building Master Plan. FEZANA is at the right juncture and the right time in providing the right leadership to lead the North American Zarathushti community into the 21st century.

PARADIGM SHIFT NEEDED

The Parsee/Zarathushti community, in general, has an "employment-oriented" mindset, rather than entrepreneurial aspirations. We need the creation and development of more Zarathushti businesses and entrepreneurship (and the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce is a good beginning in this direction). Additional long term Community Building efforts can include: a Zarathushti satellite radio station; Zarathushti films and TV programs; TV channels/stations; youth scholarship ambassador exchange programs connecting Zarathushti's around the world; political platforms and political voting blocks for Zarathushti candidates at local, state and federal levels; a Zarathushti clinic/hospital led and managed by Zarathushti staff, but open to all; Zarathushti-owned financial, insurance, and real estate businesses; educational institutions, and so on. FEZANA should provide the leadership by guiding, investing, and supporting individual and groups of Zarathushtis towards these initiatives.

FEZANA needs to create opportunities through funding, intellectual support and other resources for the development of political leaders, businesses, entrepreneurs and religious scholars. FEZANA should be a partner and supporter in community building enterprises and initiatives. For example, Zarathushti Religious Education chairs can be established at major universities and small business loans can be guaranteed. FEZANA can become the political force in consultation with US, Canadian and foreign governments, international organizations and businesses looking after the interests of its North American Zarathushti community.

FEZANA needs to start thinking globally as the active representative of North American Zarathushtis on the world scene. If FEZANA continues to think internally, who will provide the leadership to think and work externally? FEZANA is uniquely qualified to lead the Zarathushti world (in North America and abroad) well into the 21st century, rather than functioning as just one of the Zoroastrian Associations in the world. FEZANA needs to embark on Community Building with greater impact and

longer-term consequences and aspirations for the Zarathushti community of North America in particular, and throughout the world, in general. What FEZANA has achieved over the past 20 years is just a tip of the iceberg compared to what it is capable of achieving, with the support of member associations and the community. FEZANA needs to create this Community Building Master Plan now; announce, publicize, and get community buy in at the grassroots level; and create partnerships with the community to implement major milestones over the next 10-20 years. Let us not just talk about Community Building, but rather begin developing the Zarathushti Community Building Master Plan and infrastructure for the 21st century with FEZANA leading the way!

Where Wisdom Meets Creativity

Building hope for the future, in the hearts & minds of our youth.

FRED SARKARI

How do we promote the youth to get involved into protecting and building their community for the future?

One thing is for sure, times have changed, and first and foremost we need to accept this new paradigm shift in the minds of our youth.

Our community has the benefit from the wisdom of ages and the creativity of our young minds.

We need to take the focus of what our youth are good at and more so how we think they should support their community. In order to receive support from our youth and attracting them to the community, we need to help them live the greatness that lies within them.

Every individual has what it takes to achieve the life that they know they are destined to live; therefore our purpose is to create awareness of inspiration that already exists within our youth. By instilling; desire, direction, passion and most importantly purpose, they may continue to create their own belief system. It is this belief system that will mold and grow our community as a whole as the future of our community is nothing more than the individuals within it.

Remember when, as a child you believed you could be anything you desired with no sense of fear and would one day rule the world? Unfortunately our society does not support such childhood passion, drive and vision. Creating awareness in our youth so that regardless of their life circumstances, or environment, they will be able to achieve whatever they envision for themselves.

Shahrokh Mehta is a Certified Management Consultant and President of Integrated Technologies, LLC a Management Consulting firm based out of Syracuse, New York. Shahrokh is the current District 65 Governor of Toastmasters International and provides leadership to 90 clubs and 1700+ members in 40 cities and towns in Upstate New York.



By instilling in our youth, desire, direction, passion and most importantly purpose, we will keep the dreams of our youth alive and in turn feed the growth of our community. ***The future of our community lies within the dreams of our youth.***

The greatest gift bestowed upon us is the power of choice. Let's start giving our youth the true choice of how they believe they would like to support the community.

What do the achievers in our society, those who we admire, be it a famed sports personality, wealthy business person, an Oscar winning actor or an acclaimed chef, have in common? They believe in themselves. Believing in yourself is the fundamental foundation to achieving what you want out of life, regardless of your background, education, gender, or anything else. Time and time again we see examples of someone overcoming great odds to achieve their goal, due to the fact that they believed in themselves. The list is endless... Thomas Edison, Gandhi, Terry Fox, Helen Keller, etc... Someone once said, "There's nothing stronger in this world than a heart that knows what it wants."

Our self-concept, the belief we have of our self, will be the catalyst of our actions. It will affect every decision we make in life, our ability to grow mentally, and the capacity to embrace change within generations.

In order to create a value based community we need to synergize the 'wisdom of ages and the creativity of our youth'. As parents we need to set the example of what defines leadership so our children can be tomorrow's leaders. Today's youth need to develop a way of thinking that will instill life-long values they will need in order to prosper, to fight for what is right, to fight for what they believe, to fight once again to keep our heritage alive for eternity. ***The future of our heritage lies on the centuries of wisdom and the creativity of our youth; our legacy cannot live without the other.***

Fred Sarkari presenting at the 20th AGM of FEZANA in Dallas 2007

Mumbai born Fred Sarkari, an expert in human behavior, is President of Leadership for Life, headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, that seeks to empower individuals and organizations to achieve their visions, goals and dreams. Fred coaches, teaches and provides management consultancy services for various companies including Coca-Cola, Micro-soft, Midas, Home Depot, CIBC, Royal Bank, www.fredsarkari.com



Unique Parsi Gene Pool May Guide Medical Genetic Research

Anahita Bhatena Ph.D.
Pharmacist

On March 21, 2007 Avestha Gengraine Technologies Pvt. Ltd., (Avesthagen) launched the **AVESTA GENOME** project. Who is Avesthagen? And what does this have to do with the Parsi community? Avesthagen is an Indian biotechnology company and their project has everything to do with the Parsi community.

Homogenous Parsi Gene Pool Parsis are known for their generous contributions to society. Now a biotech company is betting that the relatively homogeneous Parsi gene pool will provide a unique opportunity for the community to contribute on an even grander scale ? to contribute to medical science's understanding of devastating diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and breast cancer. The Avesthagen genome project will capitalize on two resources. The first resource fortuitously exists practically in their backyard a relatively genetically isolated Parsi population. The second resource is the advanced genomic capability that the company has built up with various collaborative efforts in Europe and North America.

The **AVESTA GENOME** project seeks to build a genetic database of Parsis. The U.S. \$30 million project will collect the medical and genealogical histories, as well as genetic data, of approximately 50,000 Parsis within the next five years. Sequencing the genomes (entire hereditary information contained on the DNA of an individual) of the Parsi population will allow scientists to make associations with diseases thought to have genetic causes.

Dr. Viloo Morawala Patell Avesthagen founded Avesthagen in 1998 with the intention of targeting preventive personalized health care. Dr. Patell received her Ph.D in 1993 in plant molecular biology from the University of Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France and followed with post-doctoral tenure from University of Ghent, Belgium. She has received prestigious grants from The Rockefeller Foundation and the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR), as well as many others. Dr. Patell and colleagues at Avesthagen have several patent applications in the fields of gene discovery, gene functionality, gene transformation, bioinformatics and biotherapeutics. Dr. Patell currently is the founder, vice chairperson & managing director of Avesthagen, Bangalore and chairperson of AQUAS, Hyderabad and Avgen Inc., USA. She is also a member of the Advisory Board for Biotechnology at Mysore University.

Many diseases have at least some genetic influence on their etiology. Populations that have descended from a limited number of ancestors possess genetic homogeneity or a relatively simple genetic background that may allow for the increased probability of detecting associations between genes and diseases. The Parsi community is particularly suited for such a study since it is a relatively in-bred community with well maintained genealogical or family tree data.

Experience From Iceland Study The isolated Icelandic population has been the recent focus of similar

genetic studies. In 1998 the Icelandic government passed a bill for the creation of a national database comprising the genealogical, genetic and medical information of all Icelanders. In 1999 an exclusive contract to the national health records in Iceland was granted to deCode genetics. Since then deCode has identified several genes that contribute to the pathogenesis of cardiovascular diseases, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer's disease, among others. deCode genetics has several therapies based upon these discoveries in the pipeline. However, over the years critics of the project have raised several ethical concerns, including the violation of personal privacy, appropriate individual consent for such studies, as well as issues dealing with the commercialization of therapies based on genetics and the potential obligation for compensatory benefits to the donors. It will be interesting to see what we have learned from the experience of the Icelanders, and how Avesthagen will work with the Parsi community in pursuing this venture.



Genetic Base and Treatment for the Parsi Community Information about the genetic basis of a disease is a big step towards identifying treatments for that disease. Initially, the **AVESTA GENOME** project will focus on diseases that are common in Parsis including ovarian disease, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and breast cancer. To establish the genetic database, Avesthagen will isolate an individual's DNA from a small quantity of blood. The genetic code or sequence of the DNA will be recorded, and data analysis will be performed to detect associations between variations in DNA sequence (known as sequence polymorphisms) and particular disease states. While the genetic association studies will be performed with genetic and medical data from Parsis, the results of such studies are applicable to the general population.

Ethical Questions For The Community As this project gets off the ground, the Parsi community will have to come to an agreement with Avesthagen regarding ethical issues of privacy, informed consent, use of and access to the data, as well as commercial issues of profit and any compensatory benefit to the community itself. Nonetheless, the project holds promise in bringing attention to our small community and, more importantly, in providing potential for a better understanding of the genetic basis for devastating diseases.

Sources: K.S. Jayaraman, 2007. Database targets Parsi genes; Nature 446:475

www.avesthagen.com

www.domain-b.com/companies/companies_a/avestha_gengraine_technologies/20070320_launch.html

<http://morningdisptach.blogspot.com/2007/03/avesthagen-launches-avestagenome.html>

HOW DOES THE GREATER ZARATHUSHTI WORLD VIEW FEZANA

Over 20 years FEZANA has interacted with Zarathushti organizations and individuals across the world on varied issues and collaborated on several humanitarian causes. Today we ask them how they view FEZANA and what impact FEZANA has made on the world community.



The World Zoroastrian Organisation

135 TENNISON ROAD, SOUTH NORWOOD, LONDON SE25 5NF

Website www.w-z-o.org

Charity No 1023334

On the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of FEZANA we offer our sincere congratulations and applaud them for their achievements over these years. Furthermore, we wish the Board of FEZANA success in all their future ventures on behalf of the North American Zarathushti community.

As a Board Member of WZO for some 15 odd years, I had to reflect on the history of both WZO and FEZANA, which seemed to run almost in tandem with WZO celebrating its first 25 years in 2005. Interestingly, some 40 years since the creation of a North American Federation germinated in the minds of the founding members, one of whom, Keki Bhote serves on our own Board, FEZANA has truly established itself and come of age.

The FEZANA model of creating a Federation of Associations and Anjumans, within North America without seeking to interfere in the practices and beliefs of individuals and associations, complements and strengthens our own position on religious and communal issues. Unlike many other parts of the world where the Zarathushti population is in decline due to political or social reasons, compounded by religious intolerance and misconceptions, there is a bright future in the United States which will give more power to the elbow of FEZANA. You have a creative, vibrant and thriving Zoroastrian population, embracing every walk of life and there are notable successes in the fields of art and music, trade and industry, science and engineering. This golden age of opportunity must be grasped and FEZANA must continue to play a pivotal role in supporting and guiding our young men & women, retaining the core values of our faith, yet being good citizens in a world far removed from the ones from which many of us came.

FEZANA should champion the case for solidarity and unity, to prevent the Parsi/Irani divide of language and culture, which can jeopardise the achievement of a solid foundation for speaking with one voice on crucial international matters. WZO has always recognised this as a major step forward without sacrificing the religious, historical and cultural diversity that exists within the community.

The desire to create another World Body of Associations and Anjumans encompassing the geographic regions of the world that include FEZANA and a World Body of Individuals (WZO) was supported after much soul searching by all sides. In spite of all the goodwill and compromises and the endless hours devoted by many, those who thought it was going to be an easy walkover have succumbed to the pitfalls and dissenting tactics that we ourselves had to endure since the formation of WZO and our own struggle to secure its long term future. Let us hope that future initiatives may bear fruit.

Past and present members of the International Board of WZO, many of whom are residents of North America and internationally recognised as enlightened leaders in the Zarathushti world, still play a crucial part in the ongoing evolution and establishment of FEZANA. This speaks volumes for both organisations. Let us therefore, in an act of true solidarity show those who seek to create divisions, that FEZANA and WZO can work together for the common good and perhaps the rest of the world will join us.

Sammy Bhiwandiwalla
Chairman WZO



HOW DOES THE GREATER ZARATHUSHTI WORLD VIEW FEZANA

View of FEZANA from the outside.....Toxy Cowasjee, Karachi, Pakistan

What is an outsider's view of FEZANA? My instant reply would be that it is an achievement to be proud of. I cannot recall when it was that I first heard of FEZANA and Rohinton Rivetna as, in my mind, the two go together, but it must have been at least 17 years ago when I was the Secretary of Karachi Zarhosti Banu Mandal (KZBM). Whenever I read of FEZANA's "doings" my reaction would be to wish that we could do the same in Karachi. I even naively wrote to Rohinton asking if KZBM could join FEZANA as a member association. Since then we have been friends, both personally and as colleagues; KZBM went on to collaborate with FEZANA on quite a few projects.

The key to FEZANA's success and consistent excellence is commitment and hard work of all the involved individuals who work as a cohesive team. FEZANA has been exceedingly fortunate to have grown under the vision and guidance of initial presidents like Rohinton and Dolly Dastoor who cast the mould for leadership for subsequent presidents. One should not forget that success does not come easily and acknowledge the struggle the pioneers went through to make FEZANA what it is today.

I hope the Zarathushtis of North America realize how fortunate they are to benefit from FEZANA's activities – congresses every two years providing them the advantage of learning from myriad scholars and an opportunity for meeting old and new friends, youth camps, Sunday Schools, and even their own Olympics. Not to be forgotten is the Journal, the flagship of FEZANA, which brings one up to date with the happenings each quarter as well as having a specific theme on a subject where scholars can share their knowledge. Zarthushtis are a new and widely dispersed diaspora in North America and FEZANA has admirably bridged the struggle to connect the community spread over the vast continent.

I congratulate FEZANA on their 20th anniversary for achieving great heights in a short span of time.

Shine on!



Homi Dhalla looks at FZEANA from across the seas.

The FEZANA Journal has been a storehouse of information about Zarathushtis settled in North America. Leafing through it, it is evident that FEZANA has nurtured a wide gamut of our rich cultural heritage from archeology to the arts and beyond. These activities indicate the vibrancy of the community, which abounds in creativity. There is a large talent pool and we should continue to tap it. It is heartening to note that youth and women are in the vanguard of certain projects undertaken by FEZANA. Honing young talent has ushered in a new dynamism. It is heartening to note that FEZANA continues to forge a deeper bond with both India and Iran.

Another positive development is the encouragement given to interfaith activities. I have been following this healthy trend with great interest and hope that this involvement grows in the years to come. In this fractured world, interfaith dialogue is most imperative. The voice of our community could certainly play a constructive role at a time when crossing religious boundaries is the need of the hour.

The story of FEZANA would be incomplete without acknowledging the stellar role played by Rohinton Rivetna. He was one of the key persons who spearheaded the formation of FEZANA. Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna have nurtured the FEZANA Journal for almost 15 long years with vision and dedication. We have no doubt that the Journal will continue to grow now that it is in the able hands of Dolly Dastoor.



HOW DOES THE GREATER ZARATHUSHTI WORLD VIEW FEZANA

Mobed Mehraban Firouzgaary reviews FEZANA's image in Iran.

Thank you for asking me to write on "An outsider's view of FEZANA", to be used on the occasion of the celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of FEZANA.

To the best of my knowledge, myself and the members of the Anjoman e Moobedan e Iran, who have been receiving the FEZANA Journal for the last fifteen years or so were about the first Irani Zarthushtis, living in Iran, who got to learn about FEZANA and all the good work that it was doing. Eventually, through the good works of your team, in the USA; other Zarathushsti organizations like the Fravahar Publications and the Kerman Z Anjuman, too, were receiving your Journal. Eventually, in community circles, FEZANA and all the good work, by the way of Social and Community related Services, that it was regularly undertaking, was becoming a topic of the day.

Even though, initially, FEZANA was considered to be an Indian Parsee based Federation, meant for the benefit of the N American Indian Parsees; eventually it became clear that the FEZANA was doing it's best in uniting the Irani/Parsi diaspora. It's adoption of the Fasli Calendar and inclusion of all the festive days and religious celebrations, as observed in Iran, adopting as close as possible the Farsi pronunciations of our religion related names and subject matters as well as the inclusion of a community related article in Farsi and regular article submissions by Iranians, living abroad, in the FEZANA Journal, changed that initial attitude of total seclusion, by the Irani Zarthushtis, towards FEZANA. The recent awarding of FEZANA scholarships to some Iranian youth and your sincere efforts for helping the victims of Iran's Bam earthquake victims have been some very recent reminders of your Federation's genuine feelings for Iran and the Iranians.

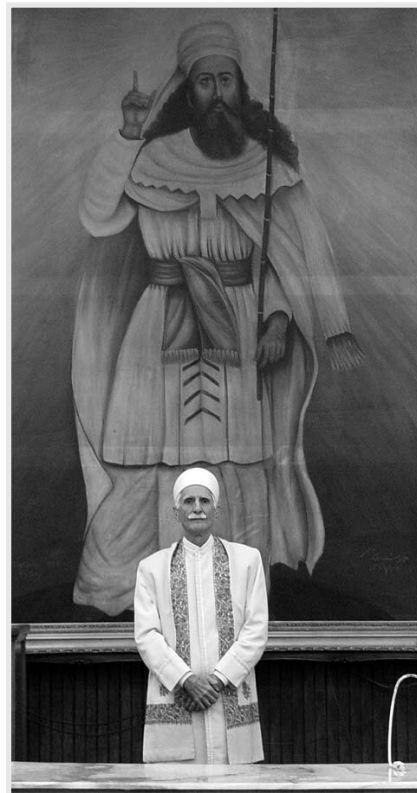
Inspite of the above a lot remains to be done, by both sides, for creating some real and effective closer ties between FEZANA and the Zarthushtis of Iran. In my opinion your best instrument for such a promotion is your Journal. Now, the main hurdle is language. If some arrangements could be made to have more articles and local Iranian community related news published, in Farsi/bilanguage, and if you could have Iranis, at your end, to communicate with the various Anjumans and Zarathushsti associations, here, in Farsi; a good start could be achieved.

By the end of this year some forty youths, (may be more) will be attending the 4th WZY Congress, in Australia. With all the stress that FEZANA has been putting in, helping the community youth, and their effectiveness in the modern world and for the community, I have no doubts that you will have an effective presence there. Arrangements may be made, even in advance of the Congress, to get the Iranian Youths acquainted with the ideal goals of FEZANA outside the NA territory. That, of course is, if the FEZANA constitution and other likely restrictions would allow, for this much desired community goal.

If there is anything that I can do to achieve such goals or, for that matter, if there is anything else that I can do, within my means, to help your esteemed Association, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

With sincere congratulations, to you and the FEZANA team for a continued shining and praiseworthy community work for the last twenty years, I remain,

Mobed Mehraban Firouzgaary



**It is not in doing what you like,
but in liking what you do
that is the secret of happiness**

James M Barrie

HOW DOES THE GREATER ZARATHUSHTI WORLD VIEW FEZANA

Dorab Mistry looks at FEZANA - 20 years of Success and Community Service

I feel very privileged to be asked to write on the 20th birthday of the founding of FEZANA. What was the defining moment in the 20 year history of this organisation ? Unhesitatingly, I shall say it was its birth.

I have interacted with Zarathushtis of North America. You are a diverse and articulate lot, and I mean it as a compliment. I have run a much more homogeneous Anjuman here in Europe for eight years. I feel I am in a very good position to pay tribute to my brethren who by sheer grit and determination brought about the foundation of FEZANA. I have interacted with Presidents of Fezana's constituent Associations and in many cases with past Association Presidents. Most of them are highly educated, opinionated people of strong character – I say this in the nicest possible way. I would compare them to being State Governors but without the holding bond of party discipline. Therefore, the post of FEZANA President is almost impossible – all work and almost no authority. The only means available to the President is Persuasion. I have often marvelled at the way FEZANA Presidents work and dare I say pull along their constituent Presidents. Somehow, the whole thing works.

It is a tribute to the sagacity of the Rivetnas who succeeded after several false starts to bring together this federation. I also pay tribute to Dr Farhang Mehr and Mr Mehraban Zartoshty who through their patience and leadership have built an indestructible bond between the Indian Parsee Zarathushtis and the Iranian Zarathushtis. And I pay tribute to the visionary and dynamic Dolly Dastoor who it will be fair to say dragged FEZANA into the 21st century. I also have a lot of respect for Faramroze Patel, Firdosh Mehta and the current incumbent Rustom Kevala.

In terms of the next great event after its birth, I would place the Houston Congress. It was a marvellous congress which did FEZANA proud. Every Houstonian must feel a great sense of pride at what the organisers achieved.

Having paid rich tribute, may I say there are a few disappointments with regard to FEZANA. I am disappointed at the complete lack of regard at FEZANA for the religious leaders of our faith. It is the Priesthood that has kept the fires of our ancient religion going through thousands of years. Sadly, FEZANA has confused religion with philosophy, personal problem with community tradition and family fortune with modernity. If FEZANA had shown a lead in upholding the practice of our ancient religion in all its past glory, North America might have been in the vanguard of a Zarathushti revival – such is its vitality.

For a few years it appeared to many of us that FEZANA and North America would emerge as the new power-house of the worldwide Zarathushti community. The rejuvenation of the economy in India has begun to change that impression. For a start, it will diminish migration from India to North America. As the Indian economy grows and prospers, our community too will regain its earlier heights of excellence and economic achievement. North America will however continue to benefit from the inflow of highly educated and talented Zarathushtis from Iran and Pakistan.

I wish FEZANA all the very best and even greater success in the years to come.

(Dorab Mistry was President of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe Inc from 1997 to 2005 and Chair of the 8th World Zoroastrian Congress in London in 2005. These are his personal views).



Mr. Minoo R. Shroff – Chairman Bombay Parsi Punchayat looks at FEZANA

I am delighted that FEZANA is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. It is an occasion for celebration and reflection.

The Zarathushti Diaspora in North America has certainly done the community proud by their dash, entrepreneurship and capacity to adapt to an alien environment. Many of them have attained not only great success in their chosen fields but national and global recognition as well. That this has been achieved without the power of wealth or family connections, is a tribute to their gift and resilience.

I have had the privilege to interact with some of your past Presidents and office-bearers and have been very impressed with their determination and self-confidence to carry the Zarathushti torch forward and steer the community to greater heights.

The acme of FEZANA's achievements was the 7th World Zoroastrian Congress at Houston, in 2000. It was superbly organized and very professionally managed. By far the best I have attended.

The FEZANA Journal chronicles the achievements of Zarathushtis in your part of the world and is read by us all with considerable interest. It is an excellent link between us. I extend my very best wishes to all our brethren in North America, to uphold our great religion and heritage in the decades ahead.



HOW DOES THE GREATER ZARATHUSHTI WORLD VIEW FEZANA

20 Years of FEZANA

Khojeste Mistree Managing Trustee ** Zoroastrian Studies Mumbai, India

Twenty years, in terms of time, is not even a blip on the radar of world history, but for the nascent Parsi-Irani community living in the diaspora of the Americas – twenty years marks a significant milestone.

FEZANA, as an organization, has in these years, matured as a powerful administrative umbrella uniting under it, its various federating associations. Distance, time and environment have led FEZANA officials and their member associations to take the lead in re-engineering the way in which Zoroastrianism as a religion is practiced, and the prism through which it is viewed. These considerable changes in the shape and form of Zoroastrianism in time mould the process of community building and impact the evolution of the community in North America. In fact, whether this new form of Zarathushtrian religion tailored to the needs and expectations of the North American Parsi-Irani community can survive, will be judged by historians, perhaps at a later date. Probably because it addresses the direct needs of the community, it may well survive, but there is little doubt that its form will be different from that practiced by the Parsi-Irani Zarathushtis, in India.

FEZANA over the years has developed into a formidable organization determined to play a global role. As an organization it has dispensed charity to many worthy causes in Iran and India, and this has helped it to increase its presence in India and as a result its leadership wields substantial influence. Its budding scholarship program has helped many young Parsis and Iranis to pursue higher education. It holds regular elections and has set in place the process which future generations will undoubtedly follow, if they are to tool efficiently, the building blocks of the community.

Perhaps the most significant and far reaching contribution of FEZANA has been in the development and formulation of the FEZANA Journal. It is this which reflects the most effective face of the community in North America. Its largely academic approach, mixed with information about the community, has surpassed all other community magazines and the media in recent years. Khorshed Jungalwalla, Roshan Rivetna and their team need to be congratulated for creating an impact oriented magazine, which represents and endorses community building in North America by focusing on academic learning and scholarship, which unfortunately has been largely neglected by the Parsi media, in India.

FEZANA must be recognized for its attempt to prioritize religious learning, in all the member associations, as one of its goal posts, but its office bearers need to give greater credence to professional religious scholarship and not base religious instruction on the perceived interests of individuals running their programs. Scholarship that has academic recognition, should serve as the guiding force in all religious courses.



The FEZANA presidents, to date, have been individuals who have found it important to maintain FEZANA's links with Iran and India. It will be interesting to see whether a new generation of American born Zarathushtis, in the emerging leadership of the future, will also continue this all important link or will they choose to move away from the traditional mother ships in India and Iran? It is this that will define the future relationship of the largest diaspora in North America, with its compatriots in India and Iran. We have before us, a historic example of how the lack of contact and communication between India and Iran from the 10th to the 14th centuries left the new migrants in India and their Iranian compatriots much the poorer for it.

We hope, that as the many North American community organizations mature, with it will increase the need to preserve and perpetuate the Parsi Irani ethnic identity and bring it on par with their over-whelming desire to preserve the Zarathushti religion. Religions such as Judaism, find themselves stronger today than ever before, because they have understood the overriding need to cherish all aspects of their traditions and practices, in order to maintain their unique identity and to experience a richer religious community life. It is this value system to uphold the traditions and practices of the faith that will bind the community to the religion, for the one without the other is an attempt to preserve the flame without the wick or the fire without any fuel.

We congratulate FEZANA and its office bearers, both past and present, for its 20 years in North America and look forward to it continuing to fulfill a constructive and positive role in the small world of Parsi and Irani Zarthushtis.

**** Khojeste P. Mistree co-founded Zoroastrian Studies (ZS) with Shehrnaz Panthaky in 1979. The main thrust of ZS is the dissemination of religious knowledge. Its expansive work base is in keeping with its commitment to preserve both ancient and contemporary customs and traditions and heritage of the Parsi and Irani communities.**

HOW DOES THE GREATER ZARATHUSHTI WORLD VIEW FEZANA

An Outsider's view on FEZANA

The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of FEZANA is indeed a matter of great joy for Zarthushtis in all parts of the world.

Our community, inspite of being very thinly spread globally has demonstrated that we have the resilience to adapt with vibrancy and dynamism. Demographic trends reveal a steady decline in India, but with the grace of Ahura Mazda the community has been growing in USA & Canada. In due course the North American continent will surely emerge as the focal global centre of the community.

The great Zarthushti odyssey began when our forebears left Iran, and reached India where we have thrived for centuries and contributed towards its development.

The Diaspora is now gradually shifting towards the North American continent. With the life force of the community veering towards North America, FEZANA has to shoulder immense responsibilities to keep the community united and growing.

The performance of FEZANA over the past 20 years indicates that the future of the community is in sound hands, for the Federation has acquitted itself most admirably in all that it has undertaken. I personally have the good fortune to be associated with the Welfare Committee of FEZANA since 2002, and am privy to the

professional, effective and efficient manner in which they reach out to assist brethren-in-distress in India. Having had the privilege of being invited to attend the last AGM at Atlanta in May 2006, I have been impressed by the 'Zarthushti leadership' of North America and am confident that the future well being of our great faith and our people will remain secure on the North American continent



I take this opportunity to congratulate FEZANA, and each and every individual connected or associated with it, on reaching the milestone of 20 years and wish them continued success over the decades to come.

Dinshaw K Tamboly
Dinshaw K Tamboly

Reflections on FEZANA

Reflections of Prof, Farhang Mehr, Professor Emeritus, on FEZANA

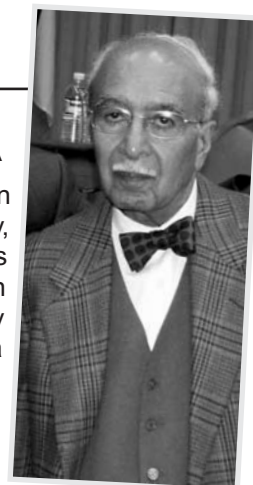
" We, Zarthushtis are numerically insignificant to be observed collectively as a contributing force, in the political arena. But we are great and noble people on the ground of intelligence, talent, assiduity, entrepreneurship humanitarianism, and philanthropy.. The ever increasing mobility in the world has caused Zarthushtis to scatter all over the world to explore new possibilities. The result in the long run may be assimilation in the larger groups unless we keep our identity and that is achievable only through unity and communication. Formation of Zarthushti Associations and their grouping into a Federation and finally in a world body are the right moves in this direction.

Additionally Zarthushtis in the Diaspora should observe the following guidelines:

1. Identify themselves fully with the people of the host country short of assimilation.
2. Have complete loyalty to the adoptive country
3. Avoid the use of term minority. We should never ask for concession or affirmative action on the grounds of being a minority. Zarthushtis must compete with the majority on the grounds of merit, irreplaceability, indispensability and recognition.

On this twenty years of establishment of FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Association of North America), I salute all those who with foresight and perseverance spent their time and energy to form and help the growth, coming of age and progress of this institution. It has been an example for other countries to follow. I wish FEZANA an even more successful future.

Farhang Mehr - "Professor Emeritus, Boston University"



Reflections on FEZANA

TWENTY GLORIOUS YEARS OF FEZANA

ERVAD KOBAD ZAROLIA
FOUNDING PRESIDENT NAMC (1983-94)

This is a milestone in the life of North American Zarathushtis and Zarathushti organizations. First let me thank Rohinton Rivetna for starting this organization and other presidents Dolly Dastoor, Framroz Patel, Firdosh Mehta and Rustom Kevala for nurturing and making it a formidable force in World Zarathushti affairs.

I had a dream to organize Mobeds of North America under one organization. As the community was growing the Mobeds numbers also grew. That brought diverse opinions regarding religious teachings and ceremonies. North American community needed one body they could go to, for Religious opinion. In 1983 the first meeting was held in Toronto to exchange ideas and get to know each other. Subsequent meetings were in 1988, 1990 and in 1992 we registered a body called NAMC which stood for North American Mobeds Council. At this time many of the FEZANA officers wanted us to become a committee under the umbrella of FEZANA. This was resisted by the Mobeds. As FEZANA gave a single voice to all Zarathushtis of NA, so did NAMC for all the Mobeds of North America.

These two bodies have worked side by side to serve NA Zarathushtis and will continue to do so. FEZANA has always invited representatives of NAMC to attend their Annual General Meetings. This helps to discuss laity's concerns. I hope these two organizations will work together for next 20 years to serve the community.

The mobeds of NA joins me to congratulate FEZANA on reaching this MILESTONE of being 20 years young.



REFLECTIONS ON FEZANA

ERVAD JAL N. BIRDY- PAST PRESIDENT, NAMC, 1996-2002

FEZANA and the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) were formed within a year or two of each other. FEZANA's goal was to unite the various Zarathushti associations proliferating on their own at the time and to be a communication channel for social and cultural needs of the community. NAMC's aim was to further the religious and spiritual aspirations of the community as well as being a uniting force among the various practicing Mobeds. It was agreed at the outset, that although the two organizations were complementary, they would function autonomously. In general, this concept has worked reasonably well for the past twenty years or so. During my tenure as President of NAMC from 1996 to 2002, there were several projects in which FEZANA and NAMC supported each other. Some instances that come to mind are; interfacing with FEZANA's Education Committee, participating in a workshop on enhancing spirituality at FEZANA's AGM in Crestone, CO., participating in the Avesta conference in Framingham, MA, sponsoring the Avesta conference in Calgary, speaking out against wrong information being disseminated in certain movies and against attempts to convert Parsi-Zoroastrians to Christianity, and canceling an event at a Kansas seminar at NAMC's request.



The 1998 Fall issue of the FEZANA JOURNAL was dedicated to the work of North American Mobeds, identifying Mobeds in various parts of the country and carrying several articles written by NAMC Mobeds.

The one instance where NAMC was let down by FEZANA was at the World Zoroastrian Conference in Houston, where NAMC's request to not hold a certain event was ignored.

It is hoped that in spite of such disappointments, mutual cooperation between the two bodies will continue and lead towards the strengthening of ties between Zarathushtis spread far and wide on this continent.

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HAPPY TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY FEZANA

ERVAD JEHAN BAGLI

PRESIDENT NAMC (2002-

It is indeed an interesting coincident that FEZANA and NAMC the two zarathushti organs of North American Zarathushtrian Diaspora are evolving simultaneously to enter their third decade. Both the organizations had their inception simultaneously and independently in 1987. On behalf of Zarathushti community we felicitate them and wish them continued success.



Both these communal organizations are religio-social arrangements, that pursue collective goals, controls their own performance, and has a boundary that separates them from the surrounding communal milieu. The basic structural difference between NAMC and FEZANA is that, while former is made up of individual Zarathushti priests, the later is an umbrella organization that is committed to the North American community via the autonomy of the individual Associations and/or Anjumans.

Despite the above difference, the common bond of oneness between these two limbs of the community is clearly apparent in their Mission statements. FEZANA defines it as "To preserve the religion of Prophet Zarathushtra" while NAMC states, "To promote the understanding and practice of Zarathushti religion in North America". It is indeed crucial that these two limbs work in concert with each other to disseminate the knowledge of zarathushtrian religion to evolve a communal body that can function in harmony, through zarathushti way of life in its thoughts, words and the actions.

The span of last few years has seen a great deal of closeness and cooperation between the activities of NAMC and FEZANA. Programs of seminars generated by NAMC are enthusiastically supported by FEZANA executives. In recent years NAMC has regularly presented a summery of their activities at FEZANA AGM. Publication of printed material has also seen financial support from FEZANA. It is clear that both FEZANA and NAMC deserve our heartfelt felicitation on their twentieth Anniversary. They have found their respective places as religious and the social arms of the community and are functioning in consonance with each other to evolve a healthy communal body. In this troubled world of present era, it is more important than ever for the religious and social leadership to work in coherence, to sow the seeds of unity within the diverse cultural background of the community. Respect, Tolerance and Moderation are the

conscience of the message of Zarathushtra. Understanding and Practice of these key attributes is the challenge that must be met through collective and collaborative effort of NAMC, FEZANA and the grass-root community.

On behalf of all the Mobeds of North America, I sincerely applaud the Two Decades of progress at FEZANA and pray for continued success in the future.

Reflections on FEZANA by Mehrborzin Soroushian

The establishment and evolution of FEZANA since its inception two decades ago is an accomplishment and a source of pride for the North American Zoroastrian community. The founders and the volunteers who have kept FEZANA moving forward must be acknowledged. FEZANA needs to evolve further to become an effective organization in furthering the interest of Zoroastrians on this continent. Here are few areas where FEZANA needs to assume greater leadership role.

Becoming an advocate for the Zarathushtis intending to move and settle in North America, especially the refugees from Iran. It is not clear if FEZANA has played any role in this matter so far.

Whenever, misinformation about Zarathushti religion/heritage/history appears in North American media and text books, FEZANA needs to go into action right away in setting the records rights. Failing to act cannot be an option.

FEZANA must assume a more outward looking mindset, and become proactive in creating awareness in main stream North America, of the contribution of Zarathushtis in the course of history to world civilization. Participation in interfaith activities, as good as they are, is not sufficient as an effective outreach program.

FEZANA's active leadership can set the right example for local associations. *While celebrating FEZANA's accomplishment to date, we look forward to new visions and greater leadership to come from it in years to come.*

Mehrborzin Soroushian was born in Kerman, Iran and attended the Kaviani, and Iranshahr Zoroastrian schools. He undertook his undergraduate studies at London University, and obtained his Masters and Doctorate in Physics and Engineering, from University of California-Los Angeles, and Cornell. Dr. Soroushian, his wife Mehrbanou and son Viraf live in San Diego.



EVENTS AND HONOURS

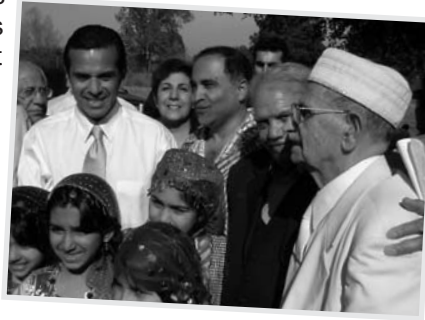
California Zoroastrian Centre chosen to represent the Persian Community to honor LA Mayor Villaraigosa and Councilman Tony Cardenas

On April 1, 2007, California Zoroastrian Center in association with Jamshid Foundation had a special ceremony for appreciation of two of the most active public servants of the greater Los Angeles area. The celebrations were on the day of Persian ancient festival of 13th of Nowruz.

Among several hundred thousand strong Persian community of Southern California and between more than 170 Iranian organizations in this area, California Zoroastrian Center was chosen to represent the large Persian community of southern California for this special occasion.

According to some estimates, between 25,000 to 30,000 people attended the gathering at Balboa Park. Dr. Khosrow Mehrfar introduced councilman Tony Cardenas of district 6, around 3:30 PM with a short bio and his recent accomplishments as the chairman of Los Angeles anti-gang committee, and a champion of initiating programs and establishing task forces to prevent animal cruelty, for clean air, cracking down on toxic businesses and bringing new initiatives to Los Angeles to take advantage of the alternative energy. Councilman Cardenas, while accepting the proclamation of appreciation spoke about his future social, economical, cultural and business programs for San Fernando Valley and greater Los Angeles.

The ceremony for appreciation of honorable Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor of Los Angeles started with a one hour delay, as the mayor was in an extended meeting with UN officials for economic assistance to Bangladesh. Dr. Mehrfar introduced the mayor around 4:45 PM with a short list of his great accomplishments, including his leadership in the very important education reforms initiatives, juvenile protection and gang cleanup programs, anti-terrorism tasks for safety and security of the citizens, high value of multi-cultural pluralism and contribution of various ethnic backgrounds to business environment, and later off stage, briefly about the summer Olympic of 2016 with Los Angeles and Chicago as the last 2 finalists. (photo above from right Bob Soofiani, The Mayor of LA



Villaraigosa,, Behnaz Partovi, Dr Khosro Mehrfar, Mr. Amini Sam and Mobed Shahzadi) On stage and next to the Mayor and Dr. Mehrfar, Mobed Shahzadi and representatives of the California Zoroastrian Center, Mrs. Mahin Sasani, Mrs. Banoo Mobed and Mr. Mehrban Homaie were present along with seven Zoroastrian young children with beautiful bright colored traditional dresses. (""photo below)

Mayor accepted the proclamation of appreciation and made a comprehensive and rather moving speech about his own personal life as a proud 2nd generation American and his vision for the future of Los Angeles as an environment of unifications for all people with diverse backgrounds. After his speech, 20 white doves from the back of stage were released in the air with the help of Mayor himself, as a symbol of freedom and peace. The whole program was broadcast on local TV stations and through satellite to Europe and Middle East. A photo opportunity with the mayor was provided to the people and the appreciation program ended at 6:00 PM. The program was broadcast by TV and satellite. was held at Balboa Park Special thanks to many people who helped organize the event and specially to, Mr. Amini Sam and Mr. Bob Soofiani. Contributors Armita Jahanian-Dallal, Goli Manoochehrpour-Vahidi and Behnaz Partovi, California Zoroastrian Center



Pioneer of modern dance in India, **Astad Deboo** was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India and presented by President Kalam (see photo). Deboo, trained in Kathak and Kathakali and in Contemporary Dance in London, New York Germany, Japan and Indonesia, has successfully created a dance theatre style of his own where he assimilates Indian and western techniques. In 1995 he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Creative Dance.



EVENTS AND HONOURS

Mother Theresa National Award for Interfaith Harmony to Dr Homi Dhalla

In recognition for his determined efforts both locally and globally over the last two decades in working for the cause of Inter Faith Harmony, Dr Homi Dhalla was presented with the Mother Theresa National Award in a special ceremony in New Delhi on April 21st 2007, by Dr Karan Singh, Former Foreign Minister of India. Dr Dhalla has been representing the Zarathushti community at International Interfaith conferences, speaking on human rights, ecological issues, peace and interfaith dialogue. He is an invited member of the Apex Body of Foundation for the Unity of Religions and Enlightened Citizenship. We wish him every success in spreading the Message of Peace.



(Photo Dr Homi Dhalla, Dr Karan Singh and Dr Khwaja Iftikhan Ahmed, Convenor South Asia Interfaith Harmony Conclave.)

CZC Community Service Award for dedicated involvement in local, national and international Zarathushti Community Affairs. (March 24, 2007), TO MEHER AMALSAD



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

MANIJEH ARDESHIRI , CZC BOARD OF DIRECTOR, ARMITI YAZDANI, CZC BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND MEHER AMALSAD

At the same ceremony ANAHITA AMALSAD was also recognized for winning the 2006-2007 FEZANA Scholarship. Anahita was unable to attend as she was writing her finals at the University of California Riverside

DR MEHROO D. BENGALEE APPOINTED TO NATIONAL MINORITIES COMMISSION, INDIA

Government of India has appointed Dr. Mehroo Dhunjisha Bengalee as Member, National Minorities Commission in the vacancy caused by the passing away of Lt. Gen. Adi Sethna. She has assumed charge effective April 11th 2007.

Born in 1931, Dr Bengalee has a doctorate in Psychology, and a Masters degree in Economics, and in Statistics, as well a post graduate Diploma in Guidance and Counseling. In addition she holds a Counselors training Certificate from Michigan State and a Diploma in Professional Counseling, from the International Academy of Professional Counseling and Psychotherapy, Kentucky, USA For 28 years she was Professor of Psychology and in charge of the Teachers' Training program at St Xavier's Institute of Education, Mumbai

In 1986 Dr Bengalee was appointed Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University, a post she held till 1992. She was then appointed member of the Maharashtra State Minorities Commission 1992-1995. In 1986 she came in unopposed as a trustee of Bombay Parsee Panchayet, a remained in that position till 1996 when she was defeated in the elections by Dinshaw Tamboly Dr Bengalee's greatest contribution to the BPP was the very successful Annual Holiday Home Program which is now completing its 21st year.



Dr Bengalee is the founding member of WAPIZ

PARENT OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

MEHER AND KATHY AMALSAD were nominated by their daughter Anahita for the 2006-07 Parent of the Year Award for "modeling personal sacrifices to benefit children and whose lives have been an inspiration to their children and to others" reads the citation of the University of California Riverside Parents Association. Anahita wrote "Over the years, my parents have sacrificed their own lives to put me through private school....Both my mother and father Meher and Kathy, are selfless human beings who put others before themselves" Congratulations to the Amalsad family.

EVENTS AND HONOURS

PTC Honors Jussawalla with Named Award

Meheroo Jussawalla, East-West Center senior fellow emerita, was recently honored by the Honolulu-based Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) by creating a new award in her name, the Meheroo Jussawalla Research Paper Prize.

Jussawalla is internationally-known in the field of the economics of telecommunications. She has published 15 books, including a recent autobiography titled *On Six Dollars to America, a Tale of Adventure, Courage and Reward*, and has garnered several national and international awards for her work. In 2006 she received the Technology Industry Award from the State of Hawaii and the Mayor's Award of Recognition from the City of Honolulu for being named a 2006 Top 50 High Tech Leader.

Richard Taylor, Palmer Chair in Telecommunications Studies at the Pennsylvania State University, says of Jussawalla, "Meheroo has been a mentor, colleague, editor, co-author, and adviser for many of us working in telecommunications research. We are greatly pleased that PTC is honoring her."

Jussawalla has taught and lectured in the United States, Germany and India, her native country. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from India's Osmania University. Jussawalla sits on the editorial boards of directors of several industry publications and organizations. She can be reached at (808) 944-7329 or via email at jussawam@EastWestCenter.org



Minoo Wadia Receives Tennessee University's Top Teaching Honor

Dr. Minoo "Mickey" Wadia, professor of Languages and Literature at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, was awarded on April 23, 2007 the National Alumni Association's Distinguished Professor Award for 2007 by vote of alumni, students and faculty of the University.

Born in Calcutta and a graduate of St. Xavier's High School and College, Minoo received his Bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Calcutta and his Master's degree from Jadavpur University, Calcutta. He came to the United States in 1982. and earned his Ph.D. in Shakespeare studies from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1987. After several teaching positions he joined Austin Peay in Clarksville, TN, in 1993. In 1996, Minoo received the coveted Socrates Award for Excellence in Teaching by junior tenure-track teaching faculty and in 2002 he was presented with the Pioneer Award for being among the first group of faculty to teach web-based courses.

Minoo is a strong advocate of study-abroad programs and regularly takes Austin Peay students to London where he teaches a course in British theatre. He has published on Shakespeare in refereed periodicals, on line publications and has made many presentations at national and international conferences, on a variety of topics including the Holocaust, study abroad, diversity, composition, multiculturalism, technology and Shakespeare.

Minoo is the great grandson of the noted Zarathushti scholar Sir Jivanji Modi, whose book *Religious Ceremonies and Customs of the Parsees* is world-renowned as the definitive voice on the subject. Minoo lives with his wife Kayomin, and sons Rustam and Cyrus in Clarksville, Tennessee. He can be reached via email at wadiah@apsu.edu



Nerina Rustomji awarded two fellowships for Research in 2007-08

Nerina Rustomji began a position at St. John's University in Queens, New York where she is an Assistant Professor of History. Recently, she was awarded two fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan for the 2007-2008 academic year. She will be researching a project entitled "The Politics of Female Companions (houris) of Islamic Paradise in Contemporary American, European, and Arab Discourse."

EVENTS AND HONOURS

Young Achiever –Pervez Asli

22 year old Pervez Mehernosh Asli, from Mumbai graduated from Imperial College, London with a Master's Degree (M.Eng.) in Aeronautical Engineering. He was placed in the first class in his final year which included a dissertation on "The Finite Element Analyses of Residual Stresses in Aircraft Panels".

Pervez did his secondary schooling in Cathedral & John Connon School in Mumbai, and his A-Levels in Ashbourne College, London. Before joining the masters program, he took his practical training with ROLLS ROYCE, UK for 2 years, and at present he is working with TOYOTA MOTORS, Europe based in Brussels.

Pervez is an ordained priest trained in Mumbai.



Shapur Irani (of Irani Tea Co.) of

Indianapolis held his annual presentation for about 30 friends, neighbors and scholars in the area. on "Books, Writings and Language of the Zoroastrians". The presentation started with a benediction and recitation of Gatha Verses by Ervad Dr Kersey H. Antia, followed by short history with maps and readings from the Avesta and other texts by Shapur.



RUMI MOHTA TAKES ON LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE COMMUNITY IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS

Gov. Hon. Tim Kaine , Virginia has reappointed Rumi Mohta as Commissioner on Community & National Service Board, in Virginia. Rumi has been elected unanimously for a 2-years term as Chairman of the Asian American Society of Central Virginia (www.aasocv.org). and he currently serves on the Executive boards of India Association of Virginia and Filipino American Association of Central Virginia. As the Zarathushti representative on ICGR Rumi has been working with them for the 2007 conference of NAIN (Photo Rumi and family with Gov Kaine)



His goals for 2007 are working with inner city community and working for humanitarian causes as well as hosting the 10th Annual Asian American Celebration on May 5, 2007 an event which drew over 12,000 attendees in 2006

Rumi states "Hopefully, we can inspire our youth through FEZANA and other organizations to take on leadership roles in the community and serve others".

A CAPELLA COMPETITION - SUFNA GHEYARA WINS BEST SOLOIST AWARD.

Sufna Gheyara, (third from right in photo below), a senior at Michigan State University, (MSU) won the best soloist award of the 2007 a capella Midwestern region competition ICCA, held on March 31 at Chicago..Eight A Capella groups competed.

A capella is a form of performing arts very popular at university, where a group of people or a single individual sings without any musical instrument. Since 2003, Sufna has been a part of her university a capella group (7 girls and 7 boys) " CAPITAL GREEN, ". She has performed at numerous competitions, charitable organizations and educational institutions. A human biology/psychology major, Sufna intends to pursue medical school in the footsteps of her brother Naasha.



EVENTS AND HONOURS

SOONI TARAPOREVALA AND RONNIE AND ZARINA SCREWVALA -- ZARATHUSHTI CONNECTION TO NAMESAKE

"The Namesake", based on the novel by Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri is Mira Nair's latest film making to the North American Top 20 in only its second weekend of limited release with \$ 1.1 million at the box office.

The Zarathushti connection to this movie: (a) Sooni Taraporevala , screen writer

See the article:
<http://www.harvardmagazine.com/2007/03/godmothers-of-the-namesake.html> [b] Executive Producers for "the Namesake" is Ronnie Screwvala and Zarina Screwvala. Ronnie was honored at the WZCC Annual General Body meeting held in Mumbai in January 2007 at the West End Hotel.

At the New York Premiere Mira Nair, gave a special lengthy thanks to Sooni, who could not make it because she is about to direct her first film in Bombay. Tamina Davar attended the premiere as a special guest of Sooni Taraporevala.

Check the website Harvard Magazine: Godmothers of THE NAMESAKE

<http://www.harvardmagazine.com/2007/03/godmothers-of-the-namesake.html>

"In Fall 2004, while Taraporevala was in seclusion, finishing the final drafts of THE NAMESAKE, simultaneously, her coffee table photography book PARSIS:

THE ZOROASTRIANS OF INDIA- A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY was being published (Overlook Press, 2004)."

Tamina has been working on a documentary on Sooni. A three minute trailer and website has been created by trailer editor Bindi Mehta (NYC), composer Raiomond Mirza (London), and website designer Ari Moore (NYC), who all put in many hours, with great attention to detail, and really positive spirit.

<http://www.avanprojects.com>

Raiomond Mirza is a noted ethnomusicologist whose work on Zarathushti prayer, *"The House of Song,"* was written about extensively in three Hamazor issues. His site is:
<http://www.mirzamusic.com>

CHARITABLE SITES VISITED BY PORUS DADABHOY OF CHICAGO

The Bel Air Hospital in Panchgani built on a land donated 100 years ago by late Dorab Tata was originally for treatment of patients with tuberculosis by Dr Rustom Bomanji Billimoria. After many changing fortunes, and almost on the verge of closing down , it was rejuvenated by donations from Mr Lala and Mobed Mehrban Zaroshty and today it treats over 300 patients of HIV/AIDS and has a School of Nursing. President Kalam of India visited Bel Air and called it "God's work in Progress".

FEZANA donated \$3000 in September 2006. It is an inspiring story of collaboration between the Parsis, a Christian order, and many dedicated doctors and nurses. Several individuals in the US are involved in the project -- notably, Dr. Mehroo Patel and Porus Dadabhoy of Chicago.

The Bel Air Hospital story is now available on a video (19 minutes) at:

<http://www.veoh.com/videos/v259531Md5yFp6s>

Sir Shapurji Billimoria Foundation established and registered in 1998 promotes integrated education and undertakes research and training for fostering this

ideology. The guiding principle is the belief "A child is first and foremost a child and the ability disability or giftedness is secondary". And all children are special.

The foundation has developed a 2 year diploma course in Integrated Education and proposes to start a comprehensive Institute of Integrated Education.



EVENTS AND HONOURS

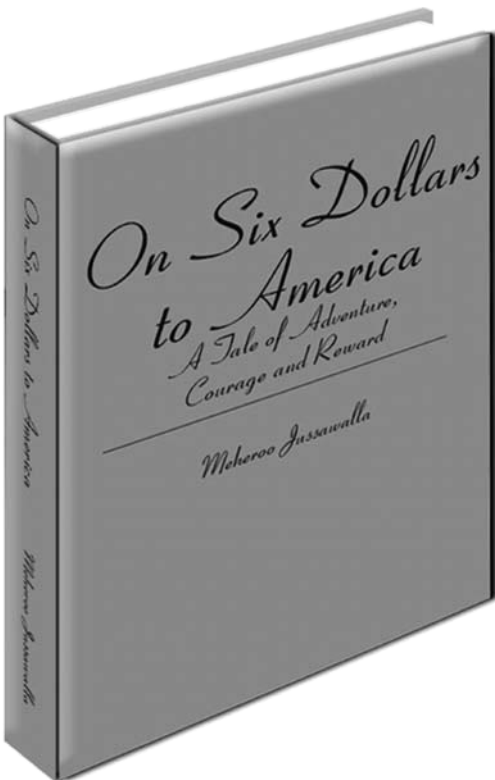
ZAH Library hosted a dinner at the Center on Sunday, April 1st to meet and greet Zarawaar Mistry following his performance of his one-man play "Indian Cowboy" in Houston. An enjoyable evening was spent listening to Zarawaar and his interesting career in the creative arts and having dinner with a compelling artist as he wound up his show in Houston.

Photo:Zaraawar Mistry (in black hat) and ZAH members at Stages Theatre in Houston, TX



On Six Dollars to America

by Meheroo Jussawalla



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"In clear Insightful prose-the strength of this book comes from the author showing us why freedom is not just an American ideal but a worldwide need"

YOUTHFULLY SPEAKING.....

RESURRECTION

Have you ever wanted to start life over again? I did.

Each year, millions of people attempt to make some sort of change in their lives at the start of the new years – but many get caught up in the momentum of a busy January, and find they are unable to find a quiet moment to think about their goals for 2007. Many in fact are still "working on" or ruminating over resolutions they just haven't found time to write down and eventually just give up for the year.

Take heart!! It is never too late to set goals. You can initiate change in your life at any time, and now, in the month of May is as good a time as any. In fact, some people find the spring months a great time to cuddle up and figure out what it is they really want from life this year. Plus, if you have a desire to make 2007 the year when you successfully create the changes you desire, you better start working towards that end now. Otherwise, 2007 will be no different than any other year.

While many people don't even bother to set goals for the New Year, only one out of five people who do actually achieve their New Year's resolutions. So many people fail because they force themselves to try and change quickly. Then they give up when they don't see immediate results. In addition, many people rush to make big changes. If you tend to feel you must make your resolutions and take action upon them during the first days of January, slow down. You're more likely to achieve the results you want if you move towards your goals slowly and deliberately. Plus, you have to be ready for change, and you have to possess a desire to change in order to actually implement change that sticks. You will be more motivated if you "go with the flow" and plan and take action when the time feels right and you feel ready to move forward.

Also, don't expect change to happen in large leaps forward. If you do, you'll be discouraged when your changes don't manifest quickly and in large quantities. If you want to lose 50 pounds, for example, you can't expect to do so in one week. See all change happening like weight loss - one pound at a time, a little each week, until one day you step on the scale and you weigh 50 pounds less than you did when you first set your weight-loss goal. Plan to take baby steps towards all your goals, and you'll see your resolutions manifesting into reality a little bit at a time.

To successfully create change, you need to approach change differently. See change as a seed you are planting. Just as seeds take time to grow - in

fact, you can't force them to grow- so change happens in its own time. By cultivating the soil, planting the seed, and then watering, fertilizing and weeding around it, you allow the plant to grow strong and bear fruit. In the same way, we must nurture and cultivate change in our lives - rather than just wishing for it or expecting it to happen overnight.

Whether you set your resolutions on January 1st or May 1st makes little difference as long as you are serious about achieving your goals and have a true desire to create change in your life. So, stop using the excuse that it is too late to write resolutions, that you are stuck in the winter doldrums or that you don't know how to change. Make 2007 the year you set and keep your resolutions by carefully planting seeds of change and watching them grow and bear fruit.

Nikan H. Khatibi, MBA, Nikan2@aol.com, Tel: (949) 842-9628 Graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor in Science (B.S) in 2004 and then spent a year earning his Masters in Business Administration (MBA), Nikan is currently in medical school pursuing a career as a physician. In the future, he envisions himself practicing medicine for some years before taking on a position as a member of the United States Congress.



A different kind of life dreams?

Many times it takes the experience of circumstances starkly contrasting those of your own life to radically change your perception of life. Most people, regardless of religion, have at one moment felt a sense of belonging to the community they proclaim to be apart of. For Zarathushtis, in order for our faith to survive, we need to understand where we have come from and what the future can entail. To comprehend the meaning behind the prayers Zoroastrianism is based on, and to identify with communities outside of our own is the best type of freedom. It is this type of freedom that I came into contact with on my winter vacation to Mumbai, India. As my first night in this metropolis, unfolded before my eyes with the noisy cars and beggars on the streets, I felt winded not because I was tired or

homesick, but because of something else. As I grasped the fact I was no longer in my hometown of sunny Las Vegas, I felt like I was home, in a spiritual sense. To see an Asho Farohar sticker placed on a car window and to look at people walking in and out of Agiary were all foreign scenes to me. And as each day passed, I began to love Mumbai and how this city showed me a part of myself that I didn't know existed.

To enter an Agiary for the first time at 17 years of age seems like a long time to wait to pray in an actual temple, but it is one experience I will never forget. It is one thing to lack a community, but when introduced to one it can become increasingly hard to fit in. Meeting other Zarathushti teenagers made me quite nervous not because I am anti social, but for the fact of being accepted.

To grow up with a community of fellow Zarathushtis is one that teenagers often take for granted, but in my case I traveled half way across the world to embrace that type of belonging. In fact, I would have not had it any other way. Going to India and finding my spirituality was the best gift of all. An even better gift was being able to visit Udvada and be in the presence of the sacred fire that had burnt for thousands and thousands of years. It is said that a Parsi only reaches Udvada if they are called by God and meant to pray there. This makes me believe that every Zarathushti should visit Udvada not just to pray, but to see our ancestors' struggle and victory in the flames of the sacred fire. The most important truth I discovered on my journey was that as long as one is able to let go of their past and try to learn from life, there is no obstacle too strong to overcome. No matter where one finds their calling, it is crucial to appreciate that the best message of all is to look at life and understand that it is not just about I or me but about us and we.

Farah Minwalla, is a free lance reporter working full time for five different magazines that circulate around Nevada. An award-winning journalist in column writing for her articles, she is the editor-in-chief of her high school newspaper and an intern and a reporter for a magazine based at the university of Nevada Las Vegas. She is a passionate public speaker. Her motto: what goes around comes around, which is how karma and fate play on her life.



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Parsi Weddings, Navjotes, and other Traditions

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A step –by-step guide of how to prepare for a traditional wedding , navjote and other ceremonies including engagement, adarni, agharni, etc. together with brief description of the meaning and history behind the ceremonies. A book most people would want to keep handy and pass down to the younger generation. Cost US \$8.00; Cdn \$10.00 (shipping extra) part of the proceeds donated to Zarathushti charities





قسمت از این دهکده اثر نامطلوبی در قسمت دیگر این دهکده جهانی خواهد داشت. همانطوری که میدانید بسیاری مردم گرسنه در جهان وجود دارند که احتیاج به غذا و کمک دارند. 2- بسیاری اشخاص معلول در اطراف دنیا هستند که احتیاج به تشویق دارند تا بتوانند به زندگی خود ادامه دهند. 3- بسیار افراد مسن در این جهان بهناور وجود دارند که احتیاج به دوست و همدم دارند احتیاج دارند تا افرادی در اطراف آنها باشند تا آنها احساس تنهایی و بی کسی ننمایند و به زندگی روزمره خود ادامه دهند. (باید بخاطر داشته باشیم که در گذشته سن بیری 45 سالگی بوده در صورتیکه سن بیری در حال حاضر میتوان گفت 85 سالگی است). 4- افراد زیادی در دنیا تنها هستند (چه جوانان و چه بزرگترها) که احتیاج به راهنمایی و هدایت دارند و انسانی با داشتن خصایص بنادر نیک کردار نیک و گفتار نیک میتواند سرمشق خوبی برای آنان باشند. 5- بعضی از افراد در این باور هستند که در هر کشور دولت مسئول بر آوردن احتیاجات افراد مستمند میباشد. عده ای دیگر در این باور هستند که سازمان های خصوصی که با کمک افراد خیر بر با میشوند مسئول کمک به مستمندان میباشد اما شخصا بر ان عقیده هستم که از کار نیک انجام دادن بهر طریقی که باشد نباید کوتاهی نمود. بس در نتیجه این باور هم دولت ها و هم موسسات خصوصی مسول کمک رسانی به افراد نیازمند هستند. نباید فراموش نمود که با در اختیار گذاردن وقت خود به موسسات خیریه کردار نیک خود را که وظیفه هر فرد زرتشتی میباشد انجام داده اید. داوطلبانه در موسسات کار کردن و به دیگران کمک نمودن به خود ما فرصت میدهد که خود را بهتر بشناسیم و به مهارت های خود واقف گردیم و همچنین مهارتهای بیشتری فراگیریم و عضو تیم و گروه جدیدی شده دوستان جدیدی پیدا نموده و همچنین به خودمان شانس بیشتری داده ایم تا ببینیم در چه کارها بهتر هستیم و از انجام چه کاری بیشتر لذت میبریم. از شما خوانندگان گرامی میخواهم که در این مورد کمی بیشتر فکر نمایید آینده زرتشتیان و جهان در دستهای کوچک من و شما میباشد با هدیه نمودن مقدار کمی از وقت خود به سازمان فزانا میتوانید در زندگی زرتشتیان موثر باشید و این درخت تنومندی را که با زحمت و از خود گذشتگی اجداد ما به دستان رسیده است ایاری نمایید تا زرتشتیان بتوانند در آینده به بهترین نحو از ان استفاده نمایند.

ایدون باد

In Service to One. In service to All.

Zaratushtra said that helping others, and doing good deeds is important. The message of Zaratushtra has to be carried on with us and our children. Community service, not only within our community, but to our outside surroundings is one of the messages of Zaratushtra wants us to carry with ourselves. One of the three great commandments of Zaratushtra was Good Deeds. Performance of Good Deeds is equally important. The supreme Power of God, in the aspect of Kshatra Vairya comes to Him who engages himself in Good Actions. Good actions include Sraosha or service. Remember that in giving....you connect with others.



فزانا بیست ساله شد

آموزگار دانشمند و پیامبر بزرگ زرتشت میگوید کمک به دیگران و داشتن کردار نیک یکی از وظایف اصلی زرتشتی بودن است. این پیام زرتشت باید توسط ما و فرزندان ما ادامه پیدا کند. وظیفه ما بعنوان یک فرد زرتشتی نه تنها کمک رسانی به جامعه زرتشتی بلکه کمک رسانی به جامعه بزرگ بشری میباشد. یکی از نصایح اصلی زرتشت کردار نیک داشتن است. با نیروی توانای اهورامزدا باید همیشه خود را مشغول کارهای نیک بنماییم و سروسا عمل کرد رفتار نیک است. زمانی که منطقه ای در این جهان بهناوردچار آسیب های آسمانی میشود افراد آن جامعه آسیب دیده دچار بی سروسامانی میشوند و معمولا این افراد از جامعه جدا شده و منزوی میگردند. حتما شما از خود پرسیده اید که کاشک منم میتوانستم به آنها کمک نمایم. داوطلب شدن برای کمک به دیگران این امکان را بشما میدهد که در زندگی دیگران موثر باشید و زندگی دیگران را برای بهتر شدن تغییر دهید. مخصوصا اگر شما انسانی عصبانی و نگران و گوشه گیر و حساس هستید داوطلب شدن برای کمک به دیگران به شما هم کمک میکند که از نگرانی و ناراحتی و عصبانیت بیرون آمده و زندگی بهتری داشته باشید. کمک رسانی فقط از طریق پرداخت بول و نقدینه نمی باشد شما انسانهای خوب میتوانید با هدیه وقت گرانبهای خود به همان اندازه کمک های مالی در زندگی دیگران موثر باشید. داوطلبانه خدمت به دیگران نمودن قسمت مهمی از زندگی امریکاییان میباشد و آن را جزیکی از وظایف اصلی زندگی خود میدانند. همانطوری که آگاه هستید سازمان فزانا 20 (بیست) ساله شد. زحمات عده کمی از زرتشتیان گرامی و مسئول باعث رشد و نمو این سازمان شد و تعداد بی شماری از جوانان و دیگر زرتشتیان از خدمات این سازمان بهره گرفتند. مسلم است که این سازمان میتواند بیشتر و بیشتر انجام دهد اگر ما همیار این گروه داوطلبان بودیم و از ایشان وقت و بول خود کوتاهی نمیکردیم. بعضی ها میپرسند چگونه میتوانیم کمک نماییم شما ابتدا باید بدانید چه کار و عملی شما را در زندگی خوشحال مینماید آیا دوست دارید به افراد بیمار و کسانی که گرفتاری های پزشکی مانند سرطان و اچ ای وی (و یا دیگر امراض) بيشرفته دارند کمک نمایید. چنانکه به کودکان علاقمند هستید فرصت های بسیار زیادی وجود دارد که شما میتوانید به آنها کمک نمایید. از طرق مختلف میشود به دیگران و سازمانها کمک نمود عده ای از افراد دوست دارند کمک های مالی انجام دهند و عده ای دگر دوست دارند وقت خود را همراه با قلب خود تقدیم این سازمان نمایند. هدیه بول خیلی از مشکلات را حل میکند اما هدیه نمودن وقت هم داوطلب را خوشحال مینماید و همچنین زمانیکه جوانان و کودکان متوجه میشوند که بزرگسالان داوطلب کمک هستند در نتیجه سرمشق خوبی را در مقابل خود مشاهده مینمایند و یاد میگیرند که در آینده باید بصورت داوطلبانه وقت خود را در اختیار اجتماع مخصوصا جماعت زرتشتی قرار دهند.

چرا باید داوطلبان به جامعه خدمت نمود؟؟

بعضی از خود میپرسند چرا باید داوطلبانه و بصورت مجانی برای سازمانها خدمت نمود. دلایل بسیار زیادی وجود دارد که همگی ما باید بصورت داوطلبانه انجام وظیفه نماییم. امروزه دنیای ما بصورت یک دهکده جهانی در آمده است که گرسنه و از رده بودن یک

INTERFAITH INTERALIA

My Experience at the United Nations

Being a Delegate for FEZANA at the 51st Session of the CSW

Regions Working for Peace and Justice



The United Nations is a place that brings together different countries from around the world to promote international peace, security, and economic development. I was lucky enough to be invited by the FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Association of North America) organization to attend the 51st CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) Conference on February 27. At this conference, I attended workshops and panels at which I was able to share my thoughts about issues affecting women and also learn a great deal about the important issues affecting women in other countries.

Upon arriving at the CSW, I first attended a WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts) Breakfast. There I met two friendly girls just about my age, one was from Uganda and the other one was from Antigua. (picture above) Both of these girls told me that they wanted to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence on the girl child. As girl scouts they say they organize fundraisers and events to help the poor girls in their country in whatever way they can. "We do more surface work" the girl from Uganda told me. From this first encounter at the CSW, I learned that even girls my age and younger are trying to make a difference in their countries and succeeding.

At the CSW, I also attended a very fascinating workshop. The workshop's focus was on *"Reversing the Spread of HIV/AIDS Among Women and Girls"*. The guest speaker in this workshop was Nyaradza Gumbonzvanda from Kenya. "I am a sibling of 12 and have had to bury 2 of my brothers due to AIDS between a two week span", Gumbonzvanda told us emotionally. It has been a proven fact that this virus is mostly in Africa and especially in women. Many women in Africa cannot negotiate unsafe sex because of legal issues, becoming an outcast in society, getting raped, trying to earn money etc. It is practically a lifestyle for women in these countries to be trafficked and use their bodies for sex. How do we try to prevent this? We can start by keeping girls in school

and if that does not happen they should then get some kind of education that will warn them about transmitting HIV/AIDS from unsafe sex. This will help girls not to keep quiet. When Gumbonzvanda finished talking she told us to break up into groups of 5-10 people and answer a series of relevant questions. My group was very small, it consisted of 6 other people. Our group discussed how we can make people here in America get educated on what is happening in Africa. We also thought of ways to educate the people in Africa. If women need money, instead of trafficking and using their bodies for sex, they should instead get a job such as making candles or baskets. I had never thought that I would learn so much about such a heavy topic in such a short amount of time.

Finally, I attended a very informative panel that was discussing the current problems in Darfur. Darfur is a region of far Western Sudan, bordering the Central African Republic, Libya, and Chad. The conflict began in July 2003, when rebel groups began attacking government targets. Darfur citizens have had many problems with the government and Janjaweds. Many people from Darfur have been dislocated and are dying from disease and rape. The panel gave us some shocking and horrifying facts that showed us that action must be taken. For example, we were informed that the youngest person raped was an 8 year-old girl and the oldest was an 80 year-old woman. Along with that, the people in Darfur are suffering from AIDS and malnourishment. It is quite apparent that the world needs to unite and take action.

"Tina Dukandar is 14 years old and is an eighth grader at Herbert Hoover Middle School in Edison, NJ. Since she was young, she has attended ZAGNY (Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York) religious classes once a month and has helped out with various ZAGNY events and fundraisers such as the Nau Rooz Function, Pateti Function, Pedals for Progress Bicycle Drive, and the Stand Up Against Poverty Event."



INTERFAITH INTERALIA

Our Trip to the United Nations

Religions Working for Peace and Justice

Gordiya & Yasna Khademian

Did you know that more than 41 million girls never finish their primary education? When we went to the United Nations we learned a lot about the problems girls and women are facing around the world. All around the UN we saw statistics, graphs, and pictures on the differences in health care, education, rights, and opportunities of women and girls in different countries. We also saw the Security Council and the General Assembly and some other chambers. Our tour guide gave us background information on the different chambers and discussions that have taken place there. The United States has a lot of opportunities for girls and women, but it is not necessarily a leader in all of this and other issues.

We also went to the Asia Society, and saw an exhibit on Sassanian Iran. Sasanian Iran had a major impact on world civilizations through the Silkroad at that time. Ideas and technology were shared and improved as they passed from east to west across the empire.

We had a great time in New York City too.

Things that we remember most about the UN:

- WOW!! Leaders from around the world meet here!
- WHERE DID ALL THESE FLAGS COME FROM??!! When we entered the United Nations there were all the flags from around the world.
- WE ARE REALLY LUCKY!! Girls and women don't have nearly as many opportunities in other countries as they do here in the United States!
- WHAT WAS THE UNITED STATES THINKING??!! In the UN there was a display on

what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the United States dropped the atomic bombs there. Many people died and many were injured.

- THESE CHAIRS ARE OLD!!!! All the chairs in the chambers were old and in need of repair because a lot of people from all over the world sat in the chairs for many years.
- THIS IS VERY COLORFUL!! All over the UN there were graphs and charts in bright Red and Blue showing information about girls and women around the world!

Gordiya and Yasna live in Chevy Chase, MD. They are members of ZAMWI. Gordiya is in 6th grade and is 12. years old. Yasna is in 2nd grade and is 7. years old. Yasna would like to travel to Egypt one day. Gordiya enjoys reading books, playing outside, and writing. (photo below)



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OF ZAGBA provides a very satisfying and uplifting experience

December 2006

The ZAGBA Community undertook a Canned Food and Clothing Drive during their Holiday Costume Dinner Party. They delivered two large crates of canned foods and other supplies to the Greater Boston Food Bank. They also delivered gently-used clothes to: Dadar Athornan Boy's Boarding School, Bai Avabai F. Petit Girl's Boarding School, and Happy Home and School for the Blind, all in Mumbai.

February 2007

On February 24, - a group of 14 ZAGBA members volunteered for the Winter Community Service project at the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB). Along with 60 other volunteers for the 4-hour shift, ZAGBA helped GBFB Operations at their central warehouse facility in Boston. After a quick training on various jobs, the volunteers did an impressive job, as a team, by inspecting, sorting, and packing 11,000 pounds of food



Zarathushtis Without Borders

Operation Eyesight in Vera Cruz, Mexico

items on the assembly line and lastly doing quality control and scanning the arranged boxes. These boxes were then distributed to local hunger relief agencies from GBFB. Volunteers included students, individuals and couples, from 20 year olds to 70 year olds. All who participated wanted to know when the next GBFB volunteering event would be held since it was definitely a



LEFT: A visit to the Happy Home and Blind School by ZAGBA President Jamshed Dubash



RIGHT: Team ZAGBA Volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank

very satisfying experience and all left with a greater awareness of food and hunger issues facing the greater Boston area.

April 2007

ZAGBA created a first-time ever community calendar as a fundraising and a community-building project. Members and friends provided photos and captions for dates throughout the calendar and donated money to reserve their spots. The calendar includes birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, and greetings. It also contains Fasli and Shenshahi dates, Gahambars and Jashans, and information about the Zarathushti religion for every month. The calendars were unveiled at the AGM in Dallas. This was a successful fundraiser and continues to bring the community together as they celebrate and remember other members and friends throughout the year.



The ZAGBA calendar

RELIGIONS FOR PEACE SEED GRANT MONEY

Multi-religious youth from six continents launching action plans At Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in New York.

US\$200,000 was awarded to **Religions for Peace** global youth network to advance their work. This was announced in February 2007 to develop pilot programs to confront some of our most urgent challenges—building peace, addressing environmental issues, and coping with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Concrete success in mounting action programs among six regions has inspired donors to award this seed grant opportunities when fifteen members of the International Youth Committee (IYC) gathered together in New York to develop concrete strategies for the next five years and to deepen their commitment to work together.



The FALL 2006 cover of FEZANA Journal

featured Zarathushti women with uplifted hands, praying at the Washington Monument grounds in front of a fire, as they celebrated a season of peace on September 16th 2006.

The Prayer Vigil for the Earth, invites members of all faith communities to join again.....to create a culture of peace.....beginning at sunrise on Saturday, October 20th and ending on Sunday, 21st October 2007.



<http://www.oneprayer.org>



Women



INTERFAITH INTERALIA

IN THE
RELIGIONS
for PEACE



Commission on the Status of Women

Religions Working for Peace and Justice

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York for a period of 10 working days (late February-early March) to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

The Commission was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 with the aim to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields.

Zarathushtis interested in participating in the fifty-second session of the CSW forum Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women in February/March 2008 are requested to send their curriculum vitae and a letter of intent to Homi Gandhi homidgandhi@gmail.com; and Behram Pastakia bpastakia@aol.com; Co-Chairs of the FEZANA UN-NGO committee.

Dialogue Brings Minds Together; Action Brings Hearts Together



A Job well done! - Jenny Presswalla and Urvaksh Patel, exult after planting a tree at the Habitat for Humanity site in North East Washington DC.

April 28th 2007- [photo credit: Dariush Jamasb]



The beneficiaries! [photo credit: Dariush Jamasb]

Energy and Enthusiasm Fuel Days of Interfaith Youth Service

The Inter Faith Conference of Metropolitan Washington DC www.ifcmw.org, brought energetic, young volunteers for two weekends picking up trash, weatherizing a house, planting trees and helping build a home DC Habitat for Humanity for the 4th Annual Days of Interfaith Youth Service (DIYS) in cooperation with National & Global Youth Service Day and many local environmental co-sponsors.

On Earth Day, April 22, high school age kids of different faiths swept up brush and picked up trash along the shoreline of the Anacostia River, DC's "forgotten river," which runs through historic African-American neighborhoods. Working with IFC, the Earth Day Network and Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GW IPL), they also weatherized the home of a low-income family.

On April 28, with Casey Trees, www.caseytrees.org, college youth and young adults planted small, hearty saplings and helped build a Habitat for Humanity Home.

Zarathushti volunteers included Zal Damkevala, Erv Jimmy Antia, Jenny Presswalla, Urvaksh Patel, Ardeshtir and Vida Bakhtiani with their daughter Arshya. Ardeshtir Bakhtiani is the newly elected president of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington DC.

After their work on both days, the volunteers, ate together and talked about the connection between their faiths and community service. They learned about affordable housing and environmental issues plaguing DC, while discovering more about different religions and cultures.

Roshni Kasad informs us

Efforts are underway to improve India-Pakistan relations through various youth-focused activities. The youth are in the process of organizing a large concert that will occur on Aug 14th at the India-Pakistan border and they are sending a petition to Prime Minister Singh persuading him to allow it to happen.

Visit the one minute video (http://www.friendswithoutborders.org/plea_india.htm)

Personal Profiles

Jehangir Behboodi: Flying High



Interviewed by Farishta Murzban Dinshaw

Jehangir Behboodi has seen many dreams come true in a life spanning over seven decades. As a child growing up in Bombay, he dreamed of becoming a pilot and realized his dream in 1943 when he was one of only four candidates to be selected to train as fighter pilots for the Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF). In 1947, he moved to Iran where he became the first, and perhaps the only, Zarathushti to fly as an "agro-spray" pilot, a highly dangerous job because the pesticides blinded several pilots and flying low between high tension wires caused many crashes. In 1958, he became the first Zarathushti to join Iran's national airline. During his 24 years with Iran Air, he was often selected to pilot prestigious inaugural flights such as the first direct 13-hour non-stop flight from New York to Tehran, and to fly dignitaries such as General Charles De Gaulle for the 2,500 year celebration of Iran's monarchy.

Jehangir Behboodi and his family moved to Toronto in 1977 and soon became involved in Zarathushtian community affairs with the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO). He is a trustee of the Rustom Guiv Foundation Ontario (RGFO) from its inception and he is active in organizing events, functions and lectures that promote the Iranian Zarathushtian heritage. One event that he masterminded that received widespread media coverage was a three-day 152 kilometre walk-a-thon from Toronto to Niagara Falls. Enroute Jehangir and his team distributed over a hundred pamphlets

about Zarathushtra's message, collected over 20 large garbage bags of recyclable items, and were able to raise funds to purchase a mahogany bookcase and over 50 books on religion and culture for the Darbe Meher library.

Recently, **Farishta Murzban Dinshaw*** sat down for a chat over tea with Jehangir Behboodi and in keeping with his *joie de vivre*, he talked about his dreams for the future.

A UNITED COMMUNITY

I would like to see our community unified. There should not be a division between the Iranian Zarthushtis and Parsis. I won't hesitate to say we share the best religion in the world. But still the Iranian Zarthushtis are treated as "backwards" very similar to the way we were treated by Parsis in Bombay. As a boy, it would hurt when we were playing and boys shouted "Hey, Iroon khachar, your turn" or they would say "Iroon junglee". The very culture and religion that Parsis believe is only theirs is owed to our ancestors who suffered massacres, torture and humiliation to preserve it. In 2007, what Asho Zarthosht said is still acceptable and timeless. He talks about equality, righteousness and deciding for yourself, which is democracy at its best. Unity and equality should be the themes of our conferences and congresses. One of the ways to unify is to come together, let logic prevail and have just one calendar that follows the seasons. Gahambars have specific meanings dependent on the season. The Shehenshai calendar is so off it has lost its meaning. It doesn't make sense to have a mid-winter gahambar in summer.

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

One of the problems facing us is that we are getting lost in the West. Our numbers are so small and we are losing numbers when our young people drift away. We need to keep our identity solid. Many parents in North America are concerned about their children marrying non-Zarthushtis but if boys and girls got to know one another, go out together, this would change. It's a simple idea. We should have a Zarthushti colony wherever there are a thousand Zarthushtis in an area. The idea is similar to Baugs in Bombay, but would be more than just residential. They would be complete self-supporting, well-organized colonies that could take care of all our needs to survive and at the same time they would be model, clean, peaceful, friendly communities according to Asho Zarthosht's teachings. We have so many cultural festivals, we could do one a month to bring other people to the colony.

SPREADING ZARATHUSHTRA'S MESSAGE

We have such a beautiful religion, but we don't tell it to others. I am not for mass proselytizing, but completely for "acceptance" of those who realize who we are, study the philosophy and then come to us. Asho Zarthosht wanted his teachings and philosophy to be worldwide and not just for a few hundred thousand followers. We need to find ways to introduce who we are to the world. A new community of Zarthushtis is coming, no one can stop it. You see it in Europe, you see it here. If we get lost ourselves or keep them out, the new Zarthushtis won't have the history. We need to preserve our core heritage. We are the originals and we shouldn't lose who we are.



****Farishta Murzban Dinshaw is an author and a novelist residing in Toronto***

The Story Of Zal (Part 3)

A Persian Fable From The Shahnama Of Firdausi

Dr Ardeshir N. Irani

Persian Fable From The Shahnama Of Firdausi

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But Saum's lament seemed in vain,
As no sounds travelled up, above the wind and rain,
Up above the clouds, where Simurgh's nest lay,
Up where the first rays, herald a new day.
There sat Zal alone, on a rocky ledge,
Shooting arrows at stones, lined up on the edge,
Blind to the fact, that his soulsearching sire,
Was calling out his name, unable to climb higher.

At this time to Simurgh, the Wise Lord spoke,
Deliver to Saum his son, help him cast off this yoke.
For these long years of pining, have left him a shadow,
His repentance is complete, it is time for a new tomorrow.
For though you have cared for Zal, as one of your own,
His destiny awaits him, now that he is grown.

Upon hearing these words, Simurgh took flight,
Circling the mountain tops, until she caught sight,
Of lonesome Zal, on a rocky outcrop,
And out of the heavens, like a stone did she drop,
And landed beside him, light as a feather,
As Zal tenderly embraced his foster mother.

Then did Simurgh address Zal, most valiant and strong,
"O my nestling, I have sheltered you much too long."
"For now the time has come to return to your own,"
"Your future awaits you, it's seeds are well sown."
"Go forth bravely hence, to your longing father,"
"To your own land and home, to your grieving mother."
"And fill forever their days with joy and laughter,"
"May you be happy and fruitful till everafter."

Upon hearing these words, sorrow brimmed Zal's heart,
For he loved his mountain home, of which he felt a part.
No gilded palace, no fine castle did he desire,
But Simurgh's nest on a rock, surrounded by stones of fire.

Overcome by emotion he embraced his foster mother,
Who reaching into her downy breast, plucked out a golden feather.

Handing the feather to Zal, she softly said,
"If ever you are in danger, or feel afraid,"
"If ever you need help, or are much in pain,"
"If your enemies are advancing, and consequences seem dire,"
"Then cast this golden feather into a fire,"
"And to your succour I will appear,"
"No more dangers then will you need to fear."

Then with a heavy heart did Zal climb,
Onto Simurgh's back one last time,
As she spread her golden pinions with gentle grace,

And with a great rush of wind took off from the rocky face.
And wheeling around in the turquoise sky,
Dropped down to where Saum stood, from up on high.
Bowing low in respect, before the great warrior,
As Zal dismounted and embraced his long lost father.

Then did Saum address Simurgh, with respect and awe,
"O Bird of Marvel, who resides at Heaven's door,"
"O Mazda's favorite, you Bird of God,"
"Who has flown over lands where no men have ever trod,"
"I thank thee with all my heart's fullness,"
"For rearing my son, who was cast in the wilderness."
"Forgive me for my sin, for which I repent,"
"And pledge to care for Zal, not a hair of his will be bent."

So saying Saum bowed his silvercrowned head,
The head before which many armies had fled,
The head that had worn many a golden crown,
Was now bare, except for silver locks crowned.
For Saum had removed his jewelled diadem,
Forged of precious metals with many a gem,
And placing it on young Zal's head he said,
"From now on you will be King instead."

Upon hearing these words, Simurgh's heart did well,
With emotion, and from each eye there fell,
A golden teardrop onto the ground,
Which lay there for many years until it was found,
A nugget as big as any man's fist,
A true reminder of Zal and Saum's tryst.

Thus united were they, both father and son,
Their days were long and happy, many battles were won,
And Zal lived on to become a great hero,
Shining bright as any star in the heavens we know,
And went on to father Rustam, the Greatest Champion of all,
Who guarded the Land Of Persia, and made her enemies small.

This original poem written by Ardeshir Irani is serialized in three issues. This is the third and last part. All rights reserved. Copyright 2006

Dr. Ardeshir Namdar Irani, MD born in Mumbai, obtained his MBBS, DCH and MD before moving to the US in 1995 after training for 2 years in the UK. as a pediatrician. Fascinated by Firdausi's Shahnameh, he took up writing poetry as a hobby and through the medium of verse, hopes to stimulate an interest and appreciation of our great past and glorious culture. Ardeshir is involved in the religion classes of the Zarthushti Youth Group Of Michigan(ZYGOM). He lives in Farmington Hills, Michigan with his wife Shekufa and children Sanaya and Sarosh.



14. Rustam & Sohrab

The young Sohrab had been brought up by his mother, Tahmineh, a Turkish princess, among the Turks. When he became a young man and a powerful warrior, he learned that his father was the great Persian warrior, Rustam. Ambition took hold of Sohrab's young heart: he wanted to find his father, join forces with him and overthrow the King of Iran, Kay Kavus, so that he and Rustam could rule the world together. He did not realize the importance of loyalty and the strong friendship between his father and his ancestors with the Kings of Iran.

Sohrab had conquered the White Fortress and made it his court. Now, the Persian army had arrived and set up camp in front of the Fortress. In the camp, Kay Kavus held a conference with all his chieftains, including Rustam. None of them had much knowledge about the mysterious young warrior, Sohrab, who was leading the Turks. "Let me go into the Fortress so that I can see just who this young hero is and who accompanies him in battle. I shall go unarmed so they will think me one of their own courtiers," said Rustam. The King and his council agreed.

Rustam Spies on Sohrab

Rustam dressed like a Turkish courtier and set out for the White Fortress. As he got closer to the Fortress, he could hear music coming from the great hall. The Turks were celebrating their conquest with music and dancing. Rustam knew his way around the Fortress very well. He made his way into the great hall without being noticed. There he saw the young Sohrab seated on a throne, surrounded by courtiers. Rustam walked in the shadows of the great hall, and stood carefully behind one of the grand pillars, to get a closer look at Sohrab.

It startled him to see that Sohrab looked very similar to his own grandfather, Sam. "No. It cannot be my son," thought Rustam. "My son is still only a child. And anyway, why would he wage his war against Iran? I must be imagining things." Soon the Turkish generals started to make toasts and speeches about the prowess of the young Sohrab and his many prior conquests. Rustam listened to them for a while and then left the Fortress. When he returned to his camp, he told the Persians what he had seen.

Sohrab Search for Rustam

The next day, Sohrab rose with the sun. He put on his battle armor and went to the tower of the Fortress. As

SUNDAY STORIES FROM THE Shahnameh



far as his eye could see, Sohrab saw the Persian camps. He summoned Hejir, the old Persian guard who had surrendered the Fortress. "Hejir!" he said, "Answer truthfully these questions of mine. If I find that you are true, I shall make you rich. If I find that you have lied to me, I shall throw you back in the dungeons." Hejir promised to be

truthful. Then Sohrab pointed to the various banners in the Persian camp and asked Hejir to identify each one. Hejir pointed out the King's banner, then that of each of his chieftains and allies.

"See the green pavilion, where all the infantry is standing? Where the banner of Kaveh is; look, a resplendent throne shines there, and on it is seated a hero who's head and shoulders taller than all those who stand in front of him. A magnificent horse, with a lariat slung across its saddle, waits next to him and neighs toward its lord every now and then. There is a dragon on his banner and its staff is topped with a golden lion. Who is that?" Sohrab asked.

"That's some lord from Tartary who's recently joined forces with the King," replied Hejir. "But I don't know his name."

Sohrab continued to ask Hejir about all the other generals in the camp, but Hejir did not identify a single one as his father, Rustam. He even asked Hejir again about the strong general he had said was the lord from Tartary, but Hejir assured Sohrab, he did not know his name.

"But this cannot be right," Sohrab said. "You've made no mention of Rustam. The greatest warrior in the world could not stay hidden in this army camp. You said he was the foremost of their heroes, the keeper of the country, and the ward of the marches. Where is he?"

"Perhaps he has returned to Zabolestan for the spring festival," replied Hejir, hoping that Sohrab would not figure out that the general he had said was the lord of Tartary was really Rustam.

Now Sohrab was annoyed. "Don't talk foolishly!" he said, "His King has led his forces on to the field. If a world

champion such as Rustam was just sitting at home celebrating the spring at a time like this, the world would laugh at him. Tell me which of these generals is Rustam and I will make you rich. Keep him hidden from me and you will lose your life. Now choose which it is to be.”

Hejir was frightened. But the old guard thought, “If I tell him who Rustam is, he will challenge Rustam to a fight. Rustam is strong but he is old now and surely this Turk will defeat him. Then there will be nobody left to avenge Rustam, and Iran will be lost. I must not tell him who Rustam is. It is better to die honorably than to aid the enemy.” So Hejir said to Sohrab, “Why are you so hasty and irritable? You talk of nothing but Rustam. It’s not him you should try to fight with; he would prove a formidable opponent on the battlefield. You wouldn’t be able to defeat him and it would be no easy matter to capture him either.” Hejir’s words angered Sohrab. He hit the old guard and rushed out of the Fortress.

Sohrab Issues his Challenge

Sohrab rode out on to the battlefield. The Persian soldiers saw him approach and thought, “My God, he’s another Rustam! Who would dare to oppose him in combat?”

In the center of the battlefield, Sohrab roared out his challenge to the Persian King, “What prowess do you have on the battlefield? Why do you call yourself King when you have no skill or strength in battle? I have taken an oath that I would not leave a single warrior living in all of Persia. Is there one from among all of Persia’s fighting champions who will oppose me on this battlefield?”

Not a sound was heard in the Persian ranks in answer to Sohrab’s challenge. Sohrab bent low in his saddle and rode into the enemy camp. Swinging his lance vigorously, he tore down several pavilions and the Persian army dispersed in disarray. “Tell Rustam that our warriors have no answer for this Turk! I ask his help!” cried the King.

Before long, Rustam had mounted Rakhsh and was leading his soldiers on to the battlefield. Once again, he was struck by Sohrab’s resemblance to Sam. “Let’s move to the open ground and face each other man to man,” he said to Sohrab. His opponent took up his position before the other soldiers. He saw his challenger was none other than the one Hejir had called the lord from Tartary. Still suspicious, Sohrab called out, “Leave the others. You and I will fight alone. But answer me this first: Are you Rustam, from the clan of the warlike Sam and noble Nariman?”

Rustam was puzzled by the question, but did not want to give the arrogant, young Turk the satisfaction of knowing who he was. So he said, “I’m not Rustam, I claim no kinship with that clan or noble name.” Sohrab was disappointed that he would have to battle



Shazneed Rabadi Gandhi lives in Marina Del Rey, CA. She writes as a hobby

Notes: Photo Assault on a Castle. Attributed to Behzad c. 1475-1500. Courtesy of the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, Bequest of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller (1960.99)



Photo appears on pages 229 and 250 of The Lion and the Throne, Stories from the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi, Vol 1 2005

someone other than Rustam first. Still, as their armies watched, the two giant warriors took up their positions on the open ground and unbeknownst to both, the battle between the father and the son began.

The Battles of Rustam & Sohrab

Rustam and Sohrab fought for the entire day, and yet, neither defeated the other. At sundown, both were exhausted and wounded from the fight. “Evening draws on, but when the sun unsheathes its sword again, on this plain we shall see who will die and who will triumph. Let us return at dawn with swords ready for combat; go now, and await God’s will!” said Rustam. The two warriors retired for the night. In their camps, both warriors were downcast and expected to be defeated by the other the next day.

When the sun rose the following day, the two warriors rode out on to the battlefield again. Sohrab wanted to try again and find out if the mighty warrior he was fighting was Rustam. He offered to make peace with Rustam: “Let’s make a truce, and feast as allies here. I know that you’re of noble ancestry – Tell me of your lordly lineage.” But Rustam thought that all this talk of a truce was a trick, so he refused to reply to Sohrab and urged him to start the battle.

The battle between father and son resumed. At midday, Sohrab struck Rustam with a violent blow and felled him. He drew a glittering dagger and held it at Rustam’s throat. Just as he was about to end Rustam’s life, the old warrior said,

“O hero, lion destroyer, mighty lord,
Master of mace and lariat and sword,

Our customs do not count this
course as right;

According to our laws, when
warriors fight,

A hero may not strike the fatal
blow

The first time his opponent is laid
low;

He does this, and he’s called a
lion, when

He's thrown his rival twice – and only then."

Sohrab wanted to act honorably and he believed Rustam, so he let Rustam go. The two warriors retired from their battle for some food. Back in his camp, Sohrab discovered that Rustam had actually tricked him into letting him go. He was furious with himself for believing the old warrior. Meanwhile, Rustam went to a stream nearby and rested. Then he prayed to God for help against the young man.

When the two returned to battle, Sohrab was furious, but he seemed as if he had lost all his strength. Rustam finally had him on the ground and plunged his dagger into the young man's heart. Sohrab realized he was dying. He said:

"I brought this on myself, this is from me,
And Fate has merely handed you the key
To my brief life: not you but heaven's vault –
Which raised me and then killed me – is at fault.
Love for my father led me here to die.
My mother gave me signs to know him by,
And you could be a fish within the sea,
Or pitch black, lost in night's obscurity,
Or be a star in heaven's endless space,
Or vanish from the earth and leave no trace,
But still my father, when he knows I'm dead,
Will bring down condign vengeance on your head.
One from this noble band will take this sign
To Rustam's hands, and tell him it was mine,
And say I sought him always, far and wide,
And that, at last, in seeking him, I died."

When Rustam heard these words, he realized that he had mortally wounded his own son. He asked Sohrab to show him the sign from Rustam. Sohrab showed Rustam the clasp that Tahmineh had given him, which he had worn on his arm every day in battle. It was the same clasp that Rustam had given her, when he had left her and returned to Persia.

Rustam was in agony. He called one of his soldiers and said to him, "Go quickly and take a message from me to the King and tell him what has befallen me. Say that I have mortally wounded my own son and that I curse my life and long for death. Tell him, if he has any regard for all I have done in his service, to have pity on my suffering and to send me the elixir he keeps in his treasury, the medicine that will heal all wounds. If he will send it, together with a goblet of wine, it may be that, by his grace, Sohrab will survive and serve Kavus' throne as I have done."

But the King was worried that if Sohrab lived, he and Rustam would be most powerful and would conquer his country. So the King refused to send the elixir to Rustam. Sohrab died. And Rustam returned to his home a broken man.



LIGHTNESS BRINGS BRIGHTNESS

Through the darkness I see a light
The light of Asha to determine what's wrong or right
I live my life with good thoughts, good words, &
good deeds
Discovering how my soul reaches happiness
through divinities
The Gathas say that turning to good mind &
righteousness
places one to live with Ahura Mazda in the "house
of song"
But only the souls of the righteous
can cross over the sorting bridge chivat pul without
doing any wrong
The soul grows strong through purity, honesty, &
attains "good happiness"
by consulting Vohu Manah, the good mind
And from up above, our Ameshaspands guide us
on a path for everlasting sparkle & shine
By: Gulshan A. Bharucha



Born in Ohio Gulshan is the daughter of Nergish & Aspi J. Bharucha. After graduating with a B Sc, Biology from University of Cincinnati with a full scholarship Gulshan is presently working in a third-party administrators office. Her motto in life is :

Ushtaa Ahmaai Yah maai Ushtaa Kahma aichit
"Make others happy, & you'll also be happy"

MILESTONES

Rumi Engineer the new Mobedyar reflects on his experience

He was confirmed as Mobedyar on March 4, 2007
Shahenshai Mah Meher, Roj Sarosh.

Rumi Engineer Mobedyar



The importance of prayer has never been an issue in my life. Since my childhood I had always wanted to participate in our prayer ceremonies, whether I had the fortitude then to go through the mobed training, I don't know. It has been a purely academic speculation because I am a behdin by descent. However, some years ago, I realized that with the lack of any Zarathushti priests in our little community, we would be at a disadvantage if the necessity arose to have a geh-sarna ceremony. This became more important when my elderly mother moved in with me. When NAMC decided to ordain interested persons as mobedyar, I took the opportunity to ask Ervad Jehan Bagli if I could be accepted and he readily agreed. I am also a licensed practitioner in Religious Science (which has nothing to do with Scientology or any of the "new age" religions) which I find has many common threads with the Zarathushtrian philosophy (not necessarily the dogma). Ultimately, my becoming a mobedyar has added to my practice as a religious science practitioner (which involves spiritual counseling and prayer work) and my studies in religious science has brought me closer to the teachings of Zarathushtra. While it may seem an achievement, I must hasten to add that this is but one more step I have taken in my spiritual journey which started 35 years ago and probably will only end when I return home to my Source.

I have been fortunate that I did not have to have any particular training besides the ritualistic aspects. If anything I might say my training started at the knees of my beloved grandmother who taught me my first prayers and the rest of my family whose first response to the vicissitudes of life (of which they seemed to have a fair share) was to PRAY. And during my years in India

Finally, I would like to add that prayer cannot be confined to a privileged few but is a matter of each person's faith and communion with GOD. And it is always a privilege when one prays for others for the blessings that we give out are the blessings that we receive.

Rumi Engineer, founding member of ZARM, is a practicing immigration lawyer in Denver, Colorado ..ED

1st International Avesta Conference, Boston 1997

Speakers with Dasturji Dr Firoz Kotwal



Photo below: From left Khorshed Jungalwala, Dasturji Kotwal, Arnaz Marker, Ambassador Jamshed Marker, Dr Pallan



20
YEARS
Anniversary

M I L E S T O N E S

as of MAY 15, 2007

BIRTHS

Arman Shahroukh Sidhwa, a boy, to Riah and Shahroukh Sidhwa, brother to Jahan and Kashmira in Oakville, ONT on September 14, 2006.

Artimis Jouyban, a girl, to Farin Shahriari and Bahram Jouyban on September 22, 2006. (ZAMWI Newsletter)

Mira Natasha Bamji, a girl, to Zubin Bamji and Shannon Smith in Georgetown, ONT on October 4, 2006.

Niki Rateshtari, a girl, to Atoosa and Dariush Rateshtari on November 11, 2006. (ZAMWI Newsletter)

Shania Pochara, a girl, to Mehzabin and Hormazd Pochara in New Jersey on November 28, 2006.

Dina Aria, a girl, to Soonoo and Porous Aria, granddaughter to Katy Aria and Roda and Eruch Sumariwalla (Mumbai) in New Jersey on December 22, 2006.

Marcus Jafrabad, a boy, to Jimmy and Samantha Jafrabad, grandson to Aspi and Baktu Jafrabad in Mississauga, ONT on December 31, 2006.

Zakary Ariz Maneckshaw, a boy, to Seema and Zahin Maneckshaw, grandson to Yasmin and Banished Maneckshana on January 3, 2007. (ZAPANJ Newsletter)

Iyanah Kaiwan Suntok, a girl, to Armene and Kaiwan Suntok, sister to Ava and Sanaea in Oakville, ONT on January 18, 2007.

Iyanah Mehta, a girl, to Cyrus and Liley Mehta, sister to Yohan Mehta, (born on August 13, 2005) in New York, NY on January 20, 2007.

Maya Kairas Mehta, a girl, to Delna and Kairas Mehta, granddaughter to Dolly and Soli Mehta and Behroze and Adi Anary in Mississauga, ONT on January 23, 2007.

Zubin Panday, a boy, to Sorab and Mahrukh Panday, brother to Zen in Reston, VA on January 29, 2007.

Anaita Maya Beesley, a girl, to Zenobia Homavazir and Blair Beesley, granddaughter or Mehroo and Dara Homavazir, great granddaughter to Freny

Degamwalla, niece to Armaity Homavazir in Ontario on February 8, 2007.

Darian Bharucha, a boy, to Serena and Kaiwan Bharucha in Houston, TX on February 12, 2007.

Kaiyan Zubin Talavia, a boy, to Nicole and Zubin Talavia, brother to Julia in Arlington, MA on March 4, 2007.

Darius Shams Oden Parsi-Semlali, Maryland, born on March 5, 2007.

Aiden Sorabji, (below) a boy, to Delna and Zahin Sorabji, grandson to Roshan and Jimmy Ghadiali (Montreal, QUE) and Pervin and Parvez Sorabji (Toronto, ONT), nephew to Carmin Ghadiali (Montreal) in Calgary, Alberta on March 24, 2007.



Anjalee Patel, a girl to Alvia and Ronnie Patel in Houston, TX on March 27, 2007.

Kamran Kothari, a boy, to Reji and Yasmin Kothari, brother to Lila and Sohrab, grandson to Yasmin and Kanti Kothari (Romeoville, IL) and Katy and Kersi Bhathena (Glen Ellyn, IL) in Aurora, IL on March 29, 2007.

Neville Sukheswalla, a boy, to Farzeen and Zubin Sukheswalla, grandson to Kashmira and Rohinton Sukheswalla (Mumbai) and Pervin and Ronnie Ogra (Chicago, IL), great grandson to Amavaz Irani (Chicago) in Dallas, TX on April 8, 2007.



Kayvan Bhedwar, a boy and Kaila Bhedwar, a girl, to Kurush Bhedwar and Karen Rogers, grand children to Roshan and Kersi Bhedwar, and Kathleen and John Rogers, in Montreal on May 2, 2007

NAVJOTES, SEDREH-PUSHI

Zane and Stefan Todywala, sons of Sam and Lyla Todywala, (Florida) (photo below) grandchildren of Dhun and Jangoo Batiwala and Minnie and Erach Todywala at the Colaba agairy, Mumbai on December 26, 2006. Dastur Jamaspasa and Dastur Kotwal performed the navjote ceremony. Dastur Jamaspasa had performed the navjote ceremony of their mother, Lyla Batiwala, thirty-five years ago at the Colaba agiary and her marriage ceremony to Sam Todywala also at the Colaba agiary. This was an honor and family tradition that will always be cherished.



Jasmyn Ava Irani (age 7), (photo below) daughter of Jal and Shiraz Irani, granddaughter to Behman and Dolly Irani and Hoshi and Arnavaz Daruwala, in Tampa, FL The ceremony was performed by Ervad Soli Dastoor of FL. at the Marriott Westshore Hotel on Dec 23rd 2006. Congratulations Jasmyn on your initiation into the Zarathushti Faith!



Darius Chikliwala, son of Mahbi and Shazad Chikliwala (Attleboro, MA), brother of Zubin in Mumbai, India on December 30, 2006.

Cyrus and Arman Luczkow (Boston, MA) and their cousins Sam and Maya (Seattle, WA) in Mumbai, India on January 6, 2007.

Cyrus and Sharmaine Commissariat, children of Feroz Commissariat, grandchildren of Aban and Parvez Commissariat in Pasadena, CA on February 25, 2007.

Rayhan Nariman son of Manek and Khushrav Nariman, in Sugar Land, Texas, on March 3, 2007

In attendance were six young mobeds taking part in their very first Navjote Ceremony (Viraf Nariman, Noshir Khumbatta, Bahrom Firozgari, Rayomand Katrak, Vispi Katrak, and Kyrus Buchia). (Photo below)



Friyana Karai, daughter of Gulshan and Roomie Karai (Toronto, ONT) in Mumbai on March 18, 2007.

Nash Baria, son of Franak and Hoshang Baria. (ZAPANJ Newsletter)

WEDDINGS

Adil Shroff, son of Dilnavaz and Hoshang Shroff (Massachusetts) to Nazneen Talati, daughter of Arnavaz and Rohi Talati (Los Angeles, CA) in Mumbai, India on December 1, 2006.

Zia Farrokh Bhaisa, daughter of Nina Bhaisa (Cupertino, CA) to Minoo Battiwala (Buffalo, NY) in Mumbai, India on December 29, 2006.

Shiraz Buhari, son of Dr. Fram and Behroze Buhari (Stockton, CA) to Farita Khambatta (Australia) in Mumbai, India on January 28, 2007.

Cyrus Aidun, son of Khodaram and Paridokht Aidun to Else-Marie Ulrika Egertsdotter, daughter of Else-Gret Oddving Karlsson and Ernst Egert Karlsson, in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 6, 2007 (photo right above)



Parizad Nowsherwanji, daughter of Yasmin and Kerman Nowsherwanji (Toronto, ONT) and granddaughter of Khorshed and Zal Nowsherwanji (Mumbai, India) to Meherzad Elavia, son of Vira and Filly Elavia (Toronto, ONT) in Mumbai on March 4, 2007.

Natalie Vania, daughter of Yasmin and Hormuz Vania (Springfield, IL) to Rusi Gandhi in Chicago, IL on March 17, 2007.



Michelle Bamji, daughter of Ervad Soli and Farida Bamji (Ottawa, Ontario) to Ervad Farzad Mirza, son of Faredoon and Katy Mirza (Toronto, Ontario), in Toronto on April 21, 2007 (photo above)

DEATHS

Khorshed Dudha, wife of late Homi Dudha, mother of Jamshed Dudha and late Rustam Dudha in Karachi, Pakistan on August 24, 2006.

Narges Pese Mehta, mother of late Villy Gandhi, mother-in-law of Homi Gandhi (New York), grandmother of Hanoz and Navroze Gandhi in Pune, India on December 7, 2006.

Peroja Freedom Watcha, mother of Behroze Maneckshana, mother-in-law of Temus Maneckshana, grandmother of Bejon Maneckshana in Mumbai on December 10, 2006. (ZAPANJ Newsletter)

Zarin Nariman Wadiwalla, 85, mother of Freny Mehrerouz Rabadi, mother-in-law of Ervad Dr. Meheroz Rabadi in Karachi, Pakistan on December 21, 2006.

Fariborz Kaovasia, 65, father of Azita Samya, uncle of Rostam Kaovasia, grandfather of Neda and Saum Samya on January 7, 2007. (ZAMWI Newsletter)

Boman Cowashaw Dalal, husband of Kaity Dalal, father of Yasmin Dalal (Houston, TX), Vera Daneshwar Dinshaw (Karachi, Pakistan) and Rashna Ferzad Daroga (Mississauga, ONT), grandfather of Tanya, Rustom (Mississauga, ONT) and Nerine and Hormazd (Karachi, Pakistan) in Karachi on January 14, 2007.

Faramrose Dadabhoy Karanjia, father of Darius and Pervez (Karachi, Pakistan) and Anita Rustom Asli (Mississauga, ONT), grandfather of Natalie (Karachi, Pakistan), Tanaz and Cyra (Mississauga, ONT) in Karachi, Pakistan on January 16, 2007.

Burjor (Baji) Patel, husband of Perviz, father of Deenaz and Rushna, brother of Arnavaz (Adi) Vakharia (Dallas, TX) and Viloo (Viraf) Darukhanawalla, Dara (Mahrukh) Patel, "bhai" of Minu and Dr. Mehroo Patel, uncle of Urvaksh, Cyrus, Cainaz, Keshvar, Binaifer, Mahazabeen, Dilshad and Deenaz in Chicago, IL on January 18, 2007.

Jal Faramroze Daruwalla, father of Taruna Tehsildar, father-in-law of Tehemton Tehsildar, grandfather of Simone Kakar and Zarine in Niagara-on-the-lake, ONT on January 30, 2007. (ZAPANJ Newsletter)

Keykhosrow Mehraban Mehrabani-Farsi, 75, husband of Homayoun, father of Mehran, Mehrdad, and Parviz in Austin, TX on February 1, 2007.

Homai Bahman Aga, sister of Godrej and Sam Randeria in Karachi, Pakistan on February 16, 2007. (MANASHNI Newsletter)

Esfandiar Mavandadi, husband of Soltan, father of Shahbahram, Shahram and Shahrard, father-in-law of Homa, Mahsu, and Camellia, grandfather of Sam, Askhan, Sepand, Shahin, Neema and Veesta in Toronto, ONT on February 19, 2007.

Kamal Dhalla, 61, wife of Homi Dhalla, mother of Darius and Anaheeta Kurush Sidhwa, daughter of Freny and late Khurshed Sidhwa, sister to Rustom, Meena Birdie (Florida), Pari Polad, on Roj Marespand, Mah, Meher in Mumbai, March 16 2007.

Brian Shroff, son of Beji and (late) Rona Shroff, brother of Sandra Dhunjishaw Master and cousin of Yasmin Kharas in Toronto, ONT on March 23, 2007.

Shahbahram Yazdgerdi, father of Homa Abesteh (Bahman, Shireen, Parisa) and Sima in Tehran, Iran.

Jer Jijina, wife of Nari, mother of Dina and Sanaya, in Elmhurst, IL.

Dr Parvin Toranji Soroosh, California

Aloo Sethna, mother of Persis Behramsha (Houston, TX) in Mumbai, India, on April 4, 2007.

Nergish Pavri, mother of Ronnie (Zarine) and Dinyar (Freny), grandmother of Jenny, Katie and Vera in Toronto, Ontario, on April 9, 2007.

Mani Savak Banker, mother of Cyrus (Persis), grandmother of Alisha and Darius, in Mississauga, Ontario, on April 13, 2007.

Perin Augustus Ferrao, 80, wife of Augustus Ferrao, mother of Gerry, Majella and Nirmala, sister of Hosy Surti (Toronto), in Montreal on April 15, 2007.

NAVAR CEREMONY

Kyrus Buchia, son of Nozer and Persis Buchia of Houston at the Sodawaterwalla Agiary in Mumbai.

Rayomand and Vispi Katrak, children of Percy and Jasmine Katrak of Houston at the Vatcha Gandhi Agiary in Mumbai.

Rumi Engineer was initiated as a Mobedyar on March 4, 2007 at Denver, Colorado (see article)

Looking for a Soul Mate?

Try these matrimonial sites and services, <http://matrimonial.zoroastrianism.com> - www.TheParsiMatch.com

www.shaadi.com, Mrs Gool Banaji, Parel, Mumbai goolpesi@gmail.com,

Mrs Serah Kotval, Dadar, Mumbai

Tel 91 22 2142 3570

Please send all submissions for "Milestones" to Mahrukh Motafram, 2390 Chanticleer Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045, mmotafram@msn.com, Tel: 262-821-5296. NOTE: If no year is specified, it implies "within the past 12 months."

Matrimonials

FEZANA Journal will coordinate initial contacts between interested parties. We do not assume any responsibility for verifying credentials. Contact Roshan Rivetna at rrivetna@aol.com.

Parsi male, 27, 5' 10", B. S. and Computer Information Specialist working as a Cognos consultant at a private wealth management company in New Jersey. Loves music and movies, enjoys outdoor activities, part time DJ and soccer coach at the local YMCA. Eager to meet Parsi young lady. Contact dknynj@gmail.com . [M07-03].

Young-at-heart widow, in early sixties, US citizen, loves life, great sense of humor, looking for a compatible Zarathushti partner. Contact: 2007happyendings@gmail.com, [F07-04].

Attorney, female, 34, slim, 5' 3", JD law degree from Cornell University, professionally well-placed with a Law Firm in New York; intelligent, compassionate, honest and friendly, from traditional Parsi family with good moral values. Enjoys reading, cooking, music, home decoration. Interested in meeting Parsi gentleman, doing well in his profession, living in USA. Contact dilnavazg521@hotmail.com. [F07-05].

Male, 39, 6' tall, kind and handsome, BS (Mech. Eng) from University of California, Canadian resident, presently living in Iran, planning to come to US for business, willing to relocate. Contact peitco@gmail.com. [M07-06].

"Male, 44, MBBS, appearing for MRCP-I (London), well-placed as medical officer at hospital overseas; good natured, caring and sociable, from respected, well-to-do family. Contact smartaqua62@yahoo.com. [M07-07].

MILESTONES CENSUS 2001-2006

	BIRTHS			NAVJOTES			MARRIAGES	DEATHS		
	BOY	GIRL	TOTAL	BOY	GIRL	TOTAL	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
2001	38	26	64	25	23	48	23	42	31	73
2002	32	23	55	29	33	62	41	50	46	96
2003	26	26	52	40	16	56	37	31	25	56
2004	29	27	56	20	19	39	40	50	51	101
2005	26	28	54	24	22	43	43	50	43	93
2006	42	42	84	21	21	42	51	61	44	105

These data are generated from what has been received and what we have been able to gather since 2001. We realize that this is not an exhaustive list but the trend can still be seen. The more information is supplied to Mahrukh Motafram, editor Milestones, the better statistics we will be able to keep.



World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce

REPORT on the APRIL 6th, 2007 meeting of the WZCC – North Texas Chapter

On Easter Sunday more than 35 people attended the 4th meeting of the WZCC - North Texas Chapter at the Spring Hill Suites Hotel in Grapevine, Texas.

After a sumptuous lunch following the FEZANA AGM, the meeting began at 2 pm, with a benediction appropriate to the commerce theme, by Ervad Poras Balsara, followed by a welcome speech by the Chair - Firdosh Mehta and introduction of WZCC members present. He introduced Behram Irani and recognized Homi Davier for their support for the start of this chapter and extended his gratitude to Rohinton Rivetna and WZCC for their support from the Chamber during the formative days.

Rohinton Rivetna gave a resume of the WZCC AGM in Mumbai/Pune., spoke about the Mission & Vision of WZCC, which was to energize the Zarathushti entrepreneurial spirit. There are now close to 20 chapters with 1300 members around the world. Each chapter is an autonomous, linear organization with no hierarchy. He also requested every member of the community to join their local chapters, since it is not exclusively for those who are self-employed or own a business.

At the meeting the WZCC – NT Chapter decided to showcase their local entrepreneurs and have the “PANEL of 7” share their experiences and observations as entrepreneurs. — Parivash “PARI” Foroodi. Feroze Sidhwa, Jamshed Rivetna (Treasurer of WZCC – NT Chapter) Barjis Ghadially, Soli Engineer, Kashmira Mistry. Jimmy Mistry from Mumbai & Cyrus Rivetna from Chicago, shared and compared Architectural business opportunities in the east, with that in the west.

Parivash “Pari” Foroodi, a realtor said the reason she entered the real estate industry was because of the flexible time it afforded her to be with her children. She started her career at Merrill Lynch & then moved to Ebby Halliday Realtors where she earned the distinction of Start Achiever. In March 2007 she was selected as one of the 100 best agents in the Dallas Fort Worth area by D Magazine.



From left, Cyrus Rivetna, presenter, Behram Irani, Founding President, ZANT, Kali Buhariwala, President ZANT, Firdosh Mehta, chair WZCC, NTC Chapter, Jimmy Mistry, presenter from Mumbai

The first 10 years of her career were tough but she believes in trying to find the best product for her clients. She emphasized that her children are more important to her than monetary success or fame.

The second speaker **Feroze Sidhwa** was introduced by Firdosh.

Feroze has a Masters in Electrical Engineering from Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. Till 1980 he worked at Mid America Pipe Line Co, Geophysical Corporation in Tulsa, Oklahoma. From 1980 to 1995, he was employed with Mobil Oil during which time he was awarded 3 patents. In 1995 when Mobil Oil went thru a downsizing exercise, Feroze conferred with his wife Anahita, and decided to start his own business *PRECISE CIRCUITS* which designs, develops, manufactures & tests extremely specialized electronic assemblies, that operate at high temperatures and in rugged environments. He went on to say that to him customer satisfaction was paramount. He had brought for the audience to see what the device could do, the Digital Control Unit for the drilling rig that he had manufactured.

Jamshed Rivetna (Treasurer of WZCC – NT Chapter)

Jamshed is the founder and President of Ensoft Consulting, a software reseller and consulting firm specializing in the areas of facilities maintenance and maintenance management software implementation. Jamshed services various organizations, like schools, hospitals, industrial complexes and downtown office buildings, helping them realize true value from their maintenance management software by instituting improved management practices and operating policies. Convincing his potential customers of the value his services bring to the organization, and identifying their needs and requirements, are some of the major challenges he encounters in his consulting projects. Drawing heavily on his experiences as an ex manager with Deloitte and Touche, he is always exploring opportunities to expand his sole proprietary business.

Firdosh then introduced his long time Sangli College Class-mate: **Soli J. Engineer**

After 25 years of distinguished service with Schlumberger Inc. Soli is currently the President of SJE Consultants and Associates, a management-consulting firm he founded. Soli's forte lies in effective senior management, production and inventory management, value analysis and implementation of management information systems. Soli holds a Master's degrees in Business Administration and Electrical Engineering and attributes his success to being very principled and always believes in earning his clients respect. All his consultancy contracts come through referrals. He has written a book on 'Progressive Manufacturing'. Life, according to Soli, is like juggling without gravity!!

Barjis Ghadially, the next speaker is a Director at WorldLink, Inc. since 1999, a company which was started by Adil Adi in 1998.. He has positioned the company as a leading provider of business & technology solutions and a true service oriented organization. When it was realized that there was a shortage of Engineers, they started out-sourcing them from India and China. Today they have over 100 billable consultants with 7 Zarathushtis working for them. They all believe in the principle of honesty. Barjis is very proud that they have survived the downturn and hopes to double their consultants in the coming years.

From the local Medical field, he introduced: **Dr Birjis Chinoy**



World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Chinoy came to the US from India, 15 years ago to study medicine. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine & Allergy & Immunology and now has his own practice in Frisco, Texas.

Birjis spoke about his challenges in creating a business plan, especially since he had no business acumen and was unaware as to how difficult it was to establish a line of credit. He advised the audience that a part time practice was not a good idea and also how he had spent money on advertising in the yellow pages and print media with no ROI to show for it. In this day and age, especially in the Frisco area, which has a lot of young professional residents, it was Internet advertising that actually paid off. His wife Zenobia, who does the marketing for him, always comes up with innovative ideas e.g. she has created the clinic décor in such a way that it has a "spa" like feeling, with flat screen TV & entertainment center, massage chairs and a full breakfast buffet counter.

The final entrepreneur and the mentor for the making of clay FISH candy trays was: **Kashmira Mistry**

She arrived in the US in the early 1980s with her husband Kavas, 2 young sons and a degree in Economics. But it was not till her youngest son was in school that she decided to pursue a career in Real Estate, as it would allow her to manage both her family needs & work requirements.

She has been a Realtor since 1987 and developed a corporation dealing with income producing properties, both residential & commercial. Her business is through referrals & has worked at times with 4 generations of the same family of clients. According to her there is fierce competition and unpleasantness in the business and advised those embarking on a career in real estate, to find a mentor, who can guide & advise them. She believes that achievements come through honesty & integrity. She loves to cook and entertain, and studies pottery & sculpture at the Country College. Her success is in the success of her husband & her children.

WZCC



Panel of 7, Standing from left Dr Birjis Chinoy, Feroze Sidhwa, Soli Engineer, Kashmira Mistry, Parivash Foroodi, Barjis Ghadially

Sitting from left NTC Executive Jamshed Rivetna, Treasurer,

Firdosh Mehta Chair, Kashmira Contractor, Secretary

Kashmira Contractor, WZCC-NT Chapter Secretary, presented all the local entrepreneurs with a thank-you gift as a token of appreciation..

A short break followed, with refreshments of Kopra-Paak, Bhakhra, Battasas, Tea, Coffee and Cake.

The second half of the session continued with **Jimmy Mistry** from Mumbai & **Cyrus Rivetna** from Chicago, sharing and comparing Architectural business opportunities in the east, with that in the west.

Jimmy, the Managing Director and Principal Architect of *Della Tecnica Group* has 900 + employees and works with architects, interior designers & developers. Jimmy has a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. His first business was in Pest Control and he then moved into interior design contracting and started manufacturing his own furniture and supplying it to companies like HDFC, Coca-Cola, etc. Today Della Tecnica is a Design & Build Company, which has offices in 6 cities in India & one in Dubai. His clients and designs include the biggest names in the country from Vijay Mallya of BAJAJ Industries, STAR TV, NDTV, ESPN etc. He is also building the 1st Parsi Tower called Della Towers in the Dadar Parsi Colony. He does not refuse jobs to Zarathushtris and at present he has 45 Parsis working for him. He believes in keeping the core competencies in-house and in creating an "element of surprise" in designing. He anticipates his turnover of Ind.Rs. 250 crores, to double this year.

Cyrus Rivetna, Chicago based architect is a one-man show. His work experience includes a year and a half with "SANGATH", the Indian offices of the noted architect Shri. B.V. Doshi, and consultancy with various architects on his return. One of his current projects is the design of the new Zoroastrian Community Center for ZANT in Flower Mound, Texas. He spoke about the various architectural aspects in terms of small vs. large & theoretical vs. practical. He believes it is a profession that respects history & it impacts on the way people live by incorporating technology & nature, art & business.

The evening ended with Jimmy Mistry presenting a slide show of the Persian Festival that was held in Mumbai where Jimmy had his talented team recreate the grandeur of PERSEPOLIS. All the sets were locally made and the ambience, décor and cuisine depicted the Persian Achaemenid Empire.

Jimmy and Cyrus were presented with pictorial books on *TEXAS* by Kashmira Contractor.

Kashmira Mistry, Arbez Patel and all ZANT members who helped in the arrangements were thanked. Special thanks go to all the speakers for their presentations. Thanks to Kashmira Mistry and her assistants for the unique ZANT FISH oven fired clay candy dishes, which were given out as a welcome gift to all out-of-towners.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm and all those who attended found both the sessions very informative.

Report prepared by Kashmira Contractor & Firdosh Mehta

For more information on WZCC and its worldwide activities, please visit <http://www.wzcc.org>

Arms and Armor from Iran

Pages 776

Price 140 Euro

Author: Manoucher Moshtag Khorasani

Published by Legat ISBN-13 978-932942-22-8

Reviewed by Hoshang B.Shroff, Vancouver, Canada

BOOKS

ARTS



Manouchehr Moshtagh Khorasani comes with impeccable qualifications both of mind and body, a very rare combination indeed. He has majored in English and Business Administration and minored in Spanish from the University of Giessen (Germany), University of Wisconsin (USA), and the Universidad de Salamanca. (Spain) He is also an instructor in Iaido and Kenjutsu. He holds a black belt in full contact karate and a black belt in Nam Wa Pai.

Please refer to Khorasani's excellent article in an equally excellent issue of Summer 2006 of the Fezana Journal under the title "Arms and Armor of Achaemenians and Sassanians". The article reproduced many of the illustrations in the book under review. In fact, the front cover has a beautiful picture of a bronze sword with "Ohrmazd" engraved in Old Persian. The sword dates back to about 1000 B.C. and is housed in the National Museum of Iran.

Apart from the very beautiful reproductions of arms and armor, the book contains various historic pictures: for example, the statue of King Darius originally placed at the entrance of the royal palace in Susa now kept in the National Museum of Iran. The picture shows Darius wearing an akenakes under his belt. The akenakes is a short double-edged sword.

Iran has been affected by several conquests of its territory throughout its history.

- The Assyrians, who resided in what is today called Iraq, perpetually invaded Iran's western frontiers starting about 900 B.C., destroying cities and continuing their raids until the Achaemenian period.
- In 350 B.C., Alexander attacked Iran and destroyed Persepolis.
- In 450 A.D. the Huns and Ephthalities invaded Iran from the north, penetrating to the heart of Iran and causing significant destruction.
- In 650 A.D., the Arabs conquered Iran,
- In 1250 A.D., the Mongols attacked and conquered Iran destroying many cities. This attack was followed by the attack and conquest of Iran by Timur.
- In 1714 A.D., the Afghans attacked Iran and overthrew the last king of the Safavids.

Small wonder that over the period of years Iran developed a warrior tradition. What is noteworthy is that despite all of these incursions, Iran retained its national identity and culture, particularly its language. This is in stark contrast with advanced civilizations such as Egypt and Syria which both adopted Arabic as their national language.

In his review of Paul Kriwaczek's "In Search Zarathustra" Jehangir Pocha stated:

The simple purity of Islam could not completely stamp out the cultural richness of Persian culture. "Iran was a Zoroastrian country 2000 years before it became Islamic. Zoroastrianism is still ingrained in the Iranian psyche even though it goes by different labels these days," Kriwaczek said to me when I called him in London to discuss his book. "When you walk into gift stores in Tehran you don't see little replicas of mosques like you see in Pakistan or Egypt. What you see are carvings of Farohars and other Zoroastrian themes. As one Iranian proudly said to me "When the Arabs went to Egypt they Arabized Egypt, but when they came to Persia, they got Persianized".

Kriwaczek speculates on how and why Zoroastrianism continues to underpin so much of Iranian life: "New converts don't just give up their former spiritual and ethical world-view; they usually bring them along, transferring the old wine into the new bottle." While Persians accepted Islam as their new faith they found ways to preserve their heritage and distinctness from the conquering Arabs.

"Just as in Europe the Holy Roman Empire - 'neither holy, nor Roman, nor or an empire,' as Voltaire said - was actually a way for baptized German warlords to repackage their pagan traditions in Christian wrapping, so Iranian

Hoshang B. Shroff, Q.C.: Completed his early schooling in Gujarati, in Navsari before going to Karachi. He was refused ordination as a priest as he was not from a priestly family even though he stood first in his class for reciting navar and martab prayers. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, England and practiced law for 10 years in Nairobi, Kenya. Came to Canada in 1968 and is Queen's Counsel in British Columbia where he has been living and practicing. He is married with 2 daughters and three grandchildren. He enjoys classical music, both Western and Indian, literature, particularly Shakespeare, yoga and racket ball.



Islam came to incorporate Iranian national consciousness, Iranian national pride and, yes, Iranian Zoroastrian beliefs," Kriwaczek writes.

In other words, both Khorasani and Kriwaczek assert the same proposition, that despite all of the conquests, Iran has retained its national identity and culture, including its language and religious beliefs.

It is interesting to note that the Avesta contains many accounts of arms and armor testifying to the long warrior tradition of Iran. A very popular martial art in Iran over the centuries has been wrestling which played an important role in preparing the warriors. The art of wrestling is so deeply rooted in Iran that its origins reach back to the beginning of Zoroastrian religion. The kusti, which a Zarathushti child wears after formal initiation into the religion, was called kustic in Pahlavi but in Farsi Dari was called kusti. The term kusti which was later called koshti was the belt used by wrestlers and grabbed during wrestling matches. The book devotes an entire chapter to khosti (wrestling).

This book reminds me of the two good books by Mark Kurlansky; "Salt :A World History" and "The Cod's Tale". Although Kurlansky's subjects are salt and cod, the reader acquires a unique understanding of several countries in which cod and salt played important roles. In the same way, Khorasani, whilst writing on the subject of arms and armor of Iran enlightens the reader by scanning different periods of Iranian history.

A totally unintended benefit of this book for me with my Gujarati language background has been the reference to many words from Farsi. As a person fond of words and their origin, I found some of the words very intriguing. Most Zarathushtis of the subcontinent will understand the word khoshti (wrestling), kaman (bow), or tir (arrow). Some of our readers may also understand the idiomatic expression in Parsi Gujarati "Mari kaman chhtakse" meaning "I'll get mad at you". The Parsi Gujarati also uses the word " mawali", meaning an eccentric person. According to the author Khorasani, the word mawali was used to refer to the Iranians who converted to Islam, meaning "the slaves" who had no right to obtain any state or military positions. It intrigues me how a word originally referring to slaves, when used by the Zarathushtis in the subcontinent, lost its original meaning in entirety.

The reader will acquire a valuable insight in the history of our original madar vatan (motherland) by reading this book.

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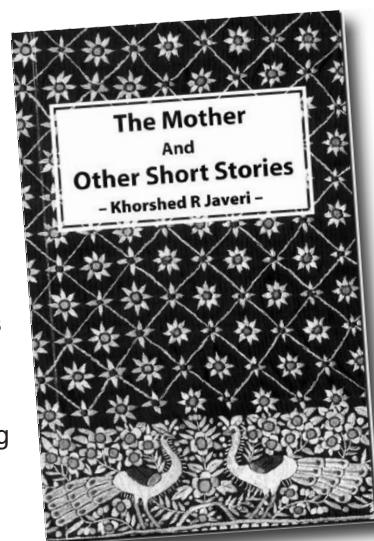
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