

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA Copyright ©2017 Federation of oroastrian Associations of North America





With Best Compliments From The Incorportated Trustees Of the Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao

# FEZANAJOURNAL

# www.fezana.org



Vol 32 No 1 Spring / Bahar 1387 AY 3756 Z

# PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

# - CONTENT-

- 02 Editorial Dolly Dastoor
- 03 Message from the President

### 04 FEZANA update

22 Emerging Leaders under 35 years



- 45 Emerging Leaders Between 36-45 years
- 72 FEZANA Scholarships
- 86 In the News
- 90 Personal Profile
- 94 Milestones
- 96 Obituary
- 99 Books and Arts
- 103 List of Associations



SUMMER 2018 PASSING THE BATON TO THE YOUTH OF THE 21ST CENTURY GUEST EDITOR SANAYA MASTER

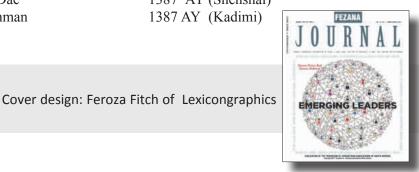
Editor in Chief Dolly Dastoor, editor(@)fezana.org Graphic & Layout Shahrokh Khanizadeh, www.khanizadeh.info **Technical Assistant Coomie Gazdar Consultant Editor** Lylah M. Alphonse, Imalphonse(@)gmail.com Language Editor **Douglas Lange ; Deenaz Coachbuilder** Cover Design Feroza Fitch, ffitch(@)lexicongraphics.com Behram Pastakia, bpastakia(@)aol.com **Publications Chair** Marketing Manager Nawaz Merchant nawaz@fezana.org Columnists Shazneen Rabadi Gandhi rabadis(@)gmail.com Teenaz Javat: teenazjavat(@)hotmail.com MahrukhMotafram: mahrukhm83(@)gmail.com **Copy Editors** Vahishta Canteenwalla **Yasmin Pavri** Nazneen Khumbatta

Subscription Managers

Fravadin – Ardibehesht – Khordad Avan - Adar – Dae Adar- Dae- Behman 1387 AY (Fasli) 1387 AY (Shenshai) 1387 AY (Kadimi)

Arnavaz Sethna: ahsethna(@)yahoo.com

Kershaw Khumbatta: Arnavaz Sethna(@)yahoo.com



Opinions expressed in the FEZANA Journal do not necessarily reflect the views of FEZANA or members of the editorial board. All submissions to the FEZANA JOURNAL become the property of the publication and may be reproduced in any form.

Published at Regal Press, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

# FEZANA Journal Vol 32, No 1 ISSN 1068-2376

(USPS 021-495) published quarterly by FEZANA 8615 Meadowbrook Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527. Periodical postage rate is paid at Oakbrook, IL 60523 and at additional mailing offices. Annual subscription US \$35 (US and Canada) and \$80 (air) for other countries; details on subscription form. POSTMASTER: send changes to Fezana Journal, 8615 Meadowbrook Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527.



It is always a delight to put together the spring issue of the FEZENA journal for in this issue we turn the spotlight on our scholarship winners. What a joy it is to read of their achievements. The added bonus this year was the cover story on the Emerging Leaders in North America, all under 45 years, co-guest edited by Edul Daver and Yasmin Pavri. The FEZANA scholarship program covers the Academic Scholarships, the FEZANA Performing Arts scholarship, the Excellence in Sports scholarship and the Religious Education scholarship. We also report on the scholarships awarded by the Fezana associations, the Chothia and the Vakshoori Foundation scholarship winners. All fantastic achievers. We congratulate all the winners and also those who did not win, which was only because we did not have enough money to give out!!!

We often hear complaints from many quarters about how there are no Zoroastrians mentioned in the Forbes list or in the other professional lists, that our students are lagging behind, that more of our Zoroastrian children are not on the National Merit Scholar lists or we do not have National Programs for Excellence for the Zoroastrian Community in North America so that they can all become CEOs of Fortune Five companies. But by looking at the accomplishments of these 39 emerging leaders you will realize that there is no dearth of talent in our community, no dearth of entrepreneurship in our community, no dearth of leadership. We only need to harness that in the right direction. Thank you to all the young men and women who allowed themselves to be profiled. Here I want to thank most sincerely our co-guest editors Edul Daver and Yasmin Pavri without whose combined efforts this issue would not



have been possible. Their tireless attention and efforts to all details was exemplary.

Sometimes the spirit of social consciousness burgeons early; read the article by 11 year old Farah Kavarana of Michigan on page 16 and you will see what I mean!! This young lady and her parents need to be commended. The month of December saw two major events in the Zarathushti world in India The second annual Udvada Utsav was celebrated with a lot of fanfare, felicitations from the government officials, with the Vice-president of India, breaking protocol; by walking through the Udvada Gam rather than driving up in his motorcade, the opening of the gate to Udvada gam, by Minister Smriti Zubin Irani, entertainment and music, thought provoking presentations by Dr. Farrouk Udvadia and delicious meals, all well orchestrated by Dasturji Khurshed Dastur and his wife Havovi.

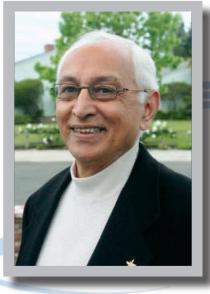
On December 25, a Dadgah, 'Asha Vahishta – The Zoroastrian Center', was inaugurated in Pune, under the umbrella of Association for Revival of Zoroastrianism (ARZ), which opened its doors to intermarried Parsis and their children. A bold move in the new direction which intermarried families were waiting for.

And finally two amazing women, Dina Pestonji and Col. Kainaz Vakharia, are profiled in this issue. Both surmounting challenges in their own special way. Read and be inspired.

I wish you all a very happy Navroz celebration and thank you dear readers for supporting the FEZANA JOURNAL which aims to inspire and educate, covering all spectrum of opinions with rigorous inquiry of subject and ideas . You deserve the best and the best you shall have.

Jolly Darlow

### Homi Gandhi, President



For society to continue to thrive in peace, every person must take on the challenge of building a society of neighbors rather than strangers. We do this on a daily basis as we go about building relationships among families at our children's schools, neighbors in our senior residences, people we work or volunteer with. Religious belief informs a person's values, which in turn, influences the causes we support and the relations we build and how we go about doing this work. So faithbased organizations like FEZANA play an important role in providing individuals with avenues to engage with people from other faith-based organizations to build bridges on a more macro level

Zoroastrian participation in interfaith activities is not new. Historical records show Zoroastrians participating at the First Parliament of the World's Religions (PWR) in Chicago in 1893. That a century passed before the Second Parliament was convened in 1993 is a testament to the fact that interfaith activities, which fell out of use in the intervening years, are experiencing a resurgence - for many different reasons - in more recent times. FEZANA facilitated Zoroastrian representation at the Second Parliament and all the subsequent ones that followed it at an interval of three to five years. Now

EDITORIAL

# **FEZANA Offers Avenues for**

FEZANA's 7<sup>th</sup> PWR Committee is actively preparing for our participation in the 7<sup>th</sup> PWR in Toronto, Canada in November 2018.

Similarly, young Zoroastrian, Shayda Sales, is currently working on the Program and Organizing Committee of "Reimagining Interfaith"- a conference taking place in Washington DC in July 2018, which aims to bring together young adults and veterans in the interfaith movement. FEZANA's past president, Firdosh Mehta, will represent us at NAINConnect 2018, a conference of the North American Interfaith Network to be held in Edmonton, Canada.

There are other examples of FEZANA member associations, FEZANA's Interfaith Activities Committee, and individuals and groups at the local level, who are engaging in meaningful interfaith work. Many Zoroastrians also represent us in the interfaith arena by holding offices in interfaith organizations.

FEZANA receives many requests for participation in interfaith activities and I encourage individuals and member associations to increase their participation in these endeavors

FEZANA aims through its interfaith activities to:

- 1. open dialogue with, and deepen our understanding of, other communities; and
- 2. encourage participation in action-oriented programs that promote social justice, religious freedom and world peace.

The objective of FEZANA's

Interfaith Actipism

participation in this arena is <u>not</u> to proselytize. It is rather to provide means by which individual Zoroastrians can participate in an activity that enhances their own sense of spirituality and their own identity as followers of the Mazdayasni faith. These activities are huvarashta! The purpose of interfaith participation is <u>not</u> to create awareness of our faith, though that may come as a by-product of our participation.

It has become increasingly clear in recent times that religious belief has an impact on our lives. Faith based activities then play an important role in reaching meaningful compromises or finding solutions to our world's problems. They nurture compassion for our fellow human beings.

A mentor friend of mine once said, "It is... crucial that we keep the perpetrator (of wrong/violent actions) in our prayers with the hope that the mind, heart and soul will feel the depth of the evil in one's actions and be guided by the divinity within to find the right path to restore the good - the true value of human life. [The] religion of Zarathushtra is the one of compassion and deeply appreciates the social and human rights of life in corporeal existence." It stands to follow that the practitioners of our good religion would have a lot to offer in this realm where compassion can lead to greater understanding and healing.

February 20, 2018

Homi D. Jandhi



Global Working Group Meet 2017, Mumbai India: Press Release

By ArZan Sam Wadia

Leaders from the Zoroastrian diaspora met for the annual Global Working Group (GWG) meeting at the Banaji Atashbehram Hall on December 20th, 2017. *Yazdi Desai*, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, and the hosts for the meeting chaired the event. Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur, gave a benediction and Yazdi welcomed all the attendees. The minutes of the last Global Working Group were read and approved. *Rohinton Rivetna (USA) and Neville Shroff (Hong Kong)* presented the code of civil conduct that has been the underlying guideline for all GWG Meetings.

Neville stressed on the importance of working in harmony and in unison for the betterment of the worldwide Zarthushti community. Rohinton gave a brief history of the various movements that have led to the current Global Working Group being formed.

*Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur and Dinshaw Tamboly* of WZOT India updated the Mobed Upliftment program and urged people to address the issue with ideas and funding to support a system for mobeds in India.

*Firoz Pestonjee*, (Australia) Chair of the 11th World Zoroastrian Congress Perth gave an update. Over 160 people had registered in the early bird phase and Firoz requested the delegqates to advertise the Congress in their regions.

Katayun Kapadia (USA) gave an update of the 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress to be hosted in 2019 in Southern California, USA. Adil Minocherhomji, Vice-Chair of the 7WZYC updated the Congress planning.



The Global Working Group had invited bids for hosting the 12th World Zoroastrian Congress 2022. *Astad Clubwala, President of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY)* a member of FEZANA, made a presentation and it was selected to host the 12th World Zoroastrian Congress in New York in 2022.

Meher Bhesania (UAE) mentioned that for the World Zoroastrian Awards there had been an overwhelming number of entries received which are now being judged. She presented an update on the Arts and Culture activities worldwide.



A book on the *Life of Zarathushtra* will be launched at the 11WZC. There were discussions about future exhibitions and potential museums for exhibiting Zoroastrian culture, religion and life.

**Rustom Engineer (USA) and Rohinton Rivetna (USA)** spoke of the need of infrastructure development especially in the diaspora. Rustom elaborated on new initiatives currently in North America, including the very first Atash Kadeh in Houston.

*Yazdi Tantra (India)* mentioned of new initiatives by the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce, (WZCC) an investor fund set up jointly with WZOT India to help young entrepreneurs in setting up or building their businesses.

*Farrokh Rustomjee (India)* briefed the gathering about new initiatives taken by the R D Sethna Trust and others in educational aid and addressed some of the current issues facing students going abroad for studies. *Behram Pastakia (USA)* offered to help connect students with professors in the USA and Canada who can help mentor these students.

*Arzan Sam Wadia (USA)* gave an update on the youth activities worldwide. Besides the 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in 2019, Arzan informed the gathering about the first ever *World Zoroastrian Young Leaders Forum, March 2018,* organized by *Zerbanoo Gifford and Sanaya Master* at the ASHA Center in UK and asked global leaders to nominate youth candidates for the 10 day program. The 4th trip of the Zoroastrian Return To Roots Program,(RTR) which he helps coordinate will be starting on Friday 22nd December. 25 Zoroastrian youth from over 6 countries are in India for a 13 day trip. Arzan showcased RTR as a project that every single diaspora organization has come together to support.

**Behram Pastakia** (USA) described the **Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders** program run by FEZANA and encouraged youth worldwide to apply for the grants from this program.

On the issues of Agiaries and Mobeds, *Sam Balsara (India)* said that a scientific study was necessary to completely evaluate the issue on a countrywide scale, in which Neville proposed forming a small subcommittee to provide possible solutions at the next GWG meeting; which was subsequently adopted *Ardaviraf Minocherhomji (USA)* expressed the challenge faced in North America to retain the youth and their services as Mobeds once they went off to college.

**Dinshaw Tamboly** announced that a book on the Parsi Zoroastrian military heroes by **Marzban Giara** will be launched at the Iranshah Udvada Utsav. He also mentioned the initiative to provide liturgical implements to new Dar-E-Mehrs all over the world.

**Rohinton Rivetna** talked of the setting of a network to aid the settlement of Zoroastrian refugees all over the world. **Homi Gandhi (USA)** mentioned that FEZANA had nominated two individuals to help coordinate this effort in North America.

Rohinton Rivetna tabled a proposal for an organizational structure for the Global Working Group to consider. After a discussion, *Neville Shroff*, was appointed as the non-executive Chairman of the Global Working Group for a 6 year term. Neville will oversee all aspects of GWG administration and coordination with the various committees and the global diaspora bodies.

Rohinton urged BPP Trustees to consider setting an International House in Mumbai, where Zoroastrian youth and adults, could stay for short durations at reasonable costs.

Dinshaw Tamboly thanked the global diaspora organizations for their efforts in raising medical aid for Aspi Sepoy and gave an update on Aspi's progress.

Vada Dasturji Khurshed mentioned the launching, at the Udvada Utsav, of a Global Fund initiated by *Meher Amalsad (USA)* to aid the Iranshah Udvada Atashbehram and its mobeds with a fundraising mechanism

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the hosts for their organizational effort.





# **BRIDGING THE GLOBAL ZARATHUSHTI EXISTENCE** ZAGNY Selected to Host the Summer 2022 XII World Zoroastrian Congress



Congratulations and thank you to the ZAGNY and FEZANA committees that worked tirelessly to secure the Mumbai-based Global Working Group AGM's approval to host the XII World Zoroastrian Congress in New York.

The process started on March 7, 2017, when FEZANA asked its member associations to complete and submit proposals to host the XII World Zoroastrian Congress. As the submission deadline of April 25, 2017, was only a few weeks away, subcommittees were quickly formed to address each of the event's programs and suggested topics: theme, goals and objectives, venue location, program details, hospitality, logistics, youth events, women's issues, legacy projects, entertainment, exhibits, and other aspects. The subcommittee members, having gained experience from previous events, provided valuable input and met the challenges of this prestigious, global event with tremendous enthusiasm, dedication, and energy. Their work product was an outstanding bid, which was honed to perfection by the core team of Arzan Wadia, Adil and Nina Mistry, and Astad Clubwala. The proposal package consisted of the bid document (a color booklet with pictures), a PowerPoint presentation, and a video presentation.\*

On April 29, 2017, ZAGNY presented its proposal at the FEZANA AGM to its member associations. As ZAGNY, was the only association to submit a bid, it was selected to

represent North America for the next selection step by the Global Working Group at its AGM, held in December 2017.

At this point, a committee comprised of Astad and Arzan (representing ZAGNY) and Homi Gandhi, Katayun Kapadia, and Mahrukh Motafram (representing FEZANA) integrated the FEZANA component into the proposal, including a brief history, mission, and vision of FEZANA, as well as a "Why FEZANA?" section. The final proposal



Astad Clubwala presents FEZANA proposal to Global Working Group AGM in Mumbai.

was forwarded to the Global Working Group. The Global Working Group AGM formally approved the FEZANA proposal for ZAGNY to host the XII World Zoroastrian Congress in New York during the summer of 2022.

We again thank the teams that prepared the winning bid; it is now up to the associations and their members to provide the resources and enthusiasm to ensure that the XII World Zoroastrian Congress exceeds all expectations.

\* To see the video presentation: https://vimeo.com/214747135

019 7TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS, LA

019 16TH ZOROASTRIAN GAMES, JULY 3-8 2018, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

20 18th NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS, HOUSTON.

# Registration Opens Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>





zoroastrian sports committee

ZOROASTRIAN GAMES

# Early Bird Registration | March 5<sup>th</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup> Second Registration Deadline | April 2<sup>nd</sup> - April 29<sup>th</sup> Third Registration Deadline | April 30<sup>th</sup> - June 3<sup>rd</sup>

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK (ZOROASTRIAN SPORTS COMMITTEE) OR VISIT WWW.ZATHLETICS.COM FOR THE LINK TO REGISTER



FEZANA Journal





IRANSHAH

# SECOND ANNUAL UDVADA UTSAV (IUU) 2017

**Dilnavaz Shroff** 

# Thousands of Hearts Resonated with Our Parsipanu

The Udvada Utsav 2017 (IUU) was held in the most holy of Zarathushti places and featured synergistic discussions of ideas and solutions affecting the global Zarathushti

community. Our enthusiastic young joined in enlightening discussions with our wise and experienced elders, who served as discussion guides. In those aspects, IUU was a thumping success... and then some!

The IUU started out as a common platform to learn and celebrate our history, our culture, our glory, and our heritage. The IUU showcased our dynamic progress in traditional and modern lifestyles, whilst upholding the cause of unity and camaraderie. It recognized and applauded the efforts of the many Zoroastrian groups and organizations on their respective initiatives.

For three days, the village of Udvada came alive with crowds on the streets, there were many lights, colourful flags and banners, wall graffiti, and a seamless flow of colourful streamers throughout the village—all in keeping with the IUU 2017 theme of *"Threads of Continuity."* 

Streets reflecting Zarathushti lifestyles led to the main grounds that were divided into two *shamianas* (main event areas). each of which was equipped with large video screens that displayed imagery that enhanced the overall



Streets reflecting Zoroastrian lifestyles led to the main grounds.

entertainment experience. The dining area seated 800 diners in our traditional lagan-style seating.

The Utsav started with a Jashan ceremony performed by 14 priests, which was followed by a *Maachi* in the *Uziren Geh* (evening) at the Pak Iranshah Atash Behram.

The opening Jashan was followed at the shamiana with a salute to our motherland thousands of attendees stood and paid their respects; this was followed by a *Humbandagi*.

The guest of honour, Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi; Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani; Member of Parliament, Dr. K C Patel; and other dignitaries graced the first day and were felicitated by WZOT Chairman, Dinshaw Tamboly and Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor.







This was followed by *Not Just Milk and Sugar*, a Jiyo Parsi film, starring Boman Irani and Rustom Tirandaz, which explained the nuances of Zorastrianism along with the significance of our rites and rituals—beautifully and poignantly explained by a grandfather tucking his grandson into bed.

The evening's performances commenced with the Bai Avabai Petit Girls High School performing, *A Journey of Devotion*, a series of monajats. This was followed by a short film, a tribute to the late Vada Dasturji Dr. Peshotan Hormuzdyar Mirza; also, a respectful silence was observed in memory of the late Er. Pallonji Dastur and Er. Jehanbux Bharda.

Next, the nine core families of Udvada\* (on a quarterly rotating basis, each core family is privileged to perform the *boi* ceremony at Iranshah) were felicitated *(read the story of the 9 Udvada mobed families at the end of the article)* 

Next was a movie that showcased the difficulties faced by our forefathers on Iranian soil, the obstacles faced during the exodus to India, and refuge granted to us in Sanjan by King Jadi Rana. The movie attributed our indomitable faith in Ahura Mazda, which led to the final consecration of Pak Iranshah at Udvada on October 28, 1742.

Later, entertainment was provided by Shiamak Davar's dance troupe, followed by a fashion show from Ashdeen



Lilaowala titled, *The Daughters of Mashyoi*. The Bai Avabai Petit school took to the stage again with a *Iranshah No Garbo*, which was followed by a presentation of the 11<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress, *Together Towards Tomorrow*, to be held in Perth in June 2018

A tribute to Freddie Mercury by Maryellen and All-Stars, an international troupe, had our Parsi vocalists, Shazneen Arthna and Rushaad Dastur, singing breath-taking popular songs like *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Radio Gaga*, which mesmerized the crowd with a nostalgic mood.

### DAY TWO

The second day started with a *Heritage Walk*, followed by a treasure hunt with participants taking to the streets, trying to find clues and win one of the top three prizes.

The morning outdoor activities were followed by a *Humbandagi* and a panel discussion on the topic of *How To Make Our Religion Relevant to Modern Times.* 

Yazdi Karanjia, accomplished thespian of Parsi drama, shared thought-provoking insights on different aspects of Zorastrianism in a humorous vein and received a standing ovation. Mobed Mehraban Firouzgary from Iran, presented a detailed description of the Zarthushti wedding ceremony and talked about rites and rituals.

FEZANA Journal





Panellists: (L-R) Dr.Shernaz Cama, Er.Dr.Ramiyar Karanjia, moderator Zarine Commissariat, Malcolm Deboo, Ketayun Kapadia

Er. Dr. Soli Dastur presented slides demonstrating the evolution of the shape of the *Afarganyu* in India since the time of the arrival and emphasized the importance and relevance of ringing the bells in our fire temples.

This was followed by the book launch of Marzban Giara's Valiant Parsis in War and Peace.

Next, Er. Soli Dastur and Er. Tehmtan Mirza extolled the virtues of the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC), which has created many exemplary priests.

FEZANA President, Homi Gandhi, and FEZANA Vice President, Arzan Sam Wadia, took the stage and described how FEZANA (with over 25,000 members and 26 active committees) plays an important coordinating role among 26 Zoroastrian Associations and 14 coordinating bodies in the USA and Canada. They presented a video showcasing FEZANA's activities over the last four decades.

FEZANA showed support to the IUU by having five of its last eight presidents in attendance! A Parzor and BPP funded Jiyo Parsi program was presented by Dr. Katy Gandevia and Pearl Mistry that highlighted their activities.

The evening's highlights included Minister of Textile, Information and Broadcast, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani's inauguration of the Udwada Gam gate and declaring it "As one of Udvada's tourist attractions (above)." She stated that, "Under the *Adarsh Gram Yojana*, I had the opportunity to adopt Udvada; but, instead, it was Udvada that adopted me to





Inauguration of Udvada Gam gate by Smt Smriti Zubin Irani minister of Textiles, Information and Broadcast (R) and Dastoor Khurshed Dastur (L).





create a model village with CCTV cameras, WiFi, and a Primary Health Clinic and, for this, the government granted Rs.8.4 crores for Udwada." This led to loud applause.

The most anticipated personality was Padma Bhushan awardee, Dr. Farokh Udwadia (below), who was one of the individuals being felicitated and his speech garnered a standing ovation for his very common sense, pragmatic, and hard-hitting approach. He talked of Zoroastrians being in a *demographic emergency*, which could only lead to disaster if we did not address the issues of our dwindling numbers. He appealed to all Zoroastrians, worldwide, to unite and come up with a solution.

Diana Marfatia was congratulated next for her contributions to the field



of education, Farzan Bharucha and Husrav Sadri for their outstanding performances in ICSE and HSC, Viraf Kharadi for martial arts, and Delnaz Jokhi for academics.

Rustom-E-Sohrab, a play brilliantly performed by the MEJMT Dharmagyan class, written and directed by Mithoo Jesia and Er. Ramiyar Karanjia, traced the glory of our forefathers.

The entertainment finale of the evening, the most awaited entertainment, the very popular and much-loved decade old, all Parsi band, The Big Red Bus, then took to the stage amidst huge applause. The band soon had the audience

jumping over barricades and dancing away with total abandon to the evergreen Bawa favourite hits sung by lead singers, Sarfaraz Irani and Huty Contractor, Current President Zoroastrian Association of California

The Udvada Utsav was an awe-inspiring event that focused on religion, community, and culture. I feel it was both an informative and entertaining showcase of our community's rich heritage. The dances, plays, and other cultural displays were breath-taking and professionally performed. A very important highlight of the event was the talk presented by the honourable Dr. Farrokh Udvadia.

Dr. Udvadia's words delivered a powerful "wake up call" for the community. He mentioned, that which does not grow, ultimately dies. Unity is the key to progress. We must always remember that "the history of the world and religion is a chronicle of change". It is time for us to stop living in the past, set aside our differences, and unite the Zoroastrian communities across the globe before it is too late". Embedded in his words is a call to action that rings true to me and should inspire Zarathushtis everywhere to come together.

Hormuz Ragina—who had dressed as Santa Claus for Christmas Eve. Shouts of "encore" and "one more" kept the band playing well into the night and left all participants going back home with huge smiles on their faces.

# **DAY THREE**

Christmas Day was the finale of IUU 2017 and was graced by the Vice President of India, Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu (below). The morning commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by *Parsi Lustre On Indian* 



*Soil*, an audio-visual featuring our legendary Parsi luminaries.

Dr. Farokh Udwadia was then felicitated and briefly encapsulated yesterday's speech to thundering applause. Our guest of honour, Mr. Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry, was unable to attend due to ill health. Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu was congratulated by the audience, he said that it was his honour to be invited and that this experience

#### Homi Gandhi, FEZANA President

"The most heart-warming part of my travels in a recent trip to India came in Udvada, where I joined 2000 other Zarathushtis for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iranshah Udvada Utsava (IUU). The event was a resounding success. For me the most inspiring part was the clarion call of Dr. Farokh Udvadia, the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr Udvadia reminded Zarathushtis all around the world "to wake up and smell the coffee" and not rest on past laurels and become involved in unnecessary controversies but come together to face realities if we all wish to continue in Huvarashta, and not just stop at Humata and Hukhata."





would be embedded in his memory forever. The Vice President broke protocol by deciding to walk through the streets and experience the sights and sounds of Udwada instead of being driven to the podium amidst cheers from the people.

A vote of thanks was offered by Hoshaang Gotla before the crowds proceeded towards the dining area for a gahambar.

Lunch and dinner was catered by the Surat-based, A-1 Parsi Food and had the Bawaji's raving about the delicious



tasty finger-licking scrumptious food (left).

A very successful Iranshah Udvada Utsav 2017 concluded by doing exactly what it had promised. It championed unity, maintained sanctity of our holy fire, paid homage to our glorious heritage, fostered bonds of friendships internationally, strengthened our community identity, and made thousands of hearts resonate with our *Parsipanu*.

#### Noshir Dadrawala

CEO, Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy and Director—International Centre for Non Profit Law, USA. BPP trustee and prolific community writer. "It is a good initiative to bring members of our community, many from around the world, together and share our history and culture. It is an opportunity for many to showcase their talents, to learn, share and above all else celebrate in the spirit of togetherness."

**Dilnavaz Shroff** brings 35 years of media experience in the editorial, event, teaching, business consulting, life-coaching, and mentoring fields. She started Women's Executive Digest, India's first corporate magazine for women in 1987. She was a Professor at Xavier's College of Communication and the Bombay College of Journalism and a panelist at various print and web media events.

She was chosen by FICCI (India's premier industry forum) as one of 50 outstanding women to be profiled in their book on women entrepreneurs titled, A Business of Her Own. She has worked for over 17 years in the US as a Global Manager/Business Development.

# Photo credits: Aarish Sarosh Daruwalla Jasmine D Driver, reprinted with permission from Parsiana

### \* UDVADA NINE SANJANA FAMILY HISTORY

Additional history provided by Ervad Soli Dastur

Mobed Neryosang Dhaval was the first known dastoor to consecrate Iranshah Atash Behram in Sanjan, around 725 CE. We have no further information on the dastoors until Dastur Khushmastaa in 1240 CE.

Following Dastoor Khushmastaa, there were three dastoors who each had three sons—this being the starting point of the nine Udvada Sanjana families. The nine families, in order of their seniority, are: Andhyaarujinaa, Unwaallaa, Bhaadhaa, Katilaa, Dastoor, Bhaaijinaa, Patel, Mirza, and Sidhwa. Each family was assigned one month to perform the Boi ceremony for Iranshah and, therefore, each family has four months to perform the Boi. All Mobeds were originally from Sanjan but migrated to Surat, Bharuch, and Anklesar to serve the Behdins who moved North of Sanjan.

These nine families were responsible for taking care of Iranshah, from Sanjan, Bahrot Caves, Vansda, and then back to Navsari.

FEZANA Journal





When Iranshah was in Vansda, almost all Zarathushtis visited it once a year, especially on Adar Maah and Adar Roj, the Iranshah anniversary. This pilgrimage was very difficult during the monsoon season.

Changa Asha, an influential Behdin from Navsari, thought it would be better for all if Iranshah was brought from Yansda to Navsari, which, around 1459 CE, was the chief Zarathushti center. The Navsari Anjuman agreed and a special place was built to house the Iranshah Fire.

An agreement was drawn up between the Sanjana and Bhagarias mobeds requiring that all Iranshah ceremonies would be performed by Sanjana Mobeds (of the nine families) and all ceremonies (e.g., Jashans, Navjotes) outside of Iranshah would be performed by Bhagarias. This agreement prevailed for almost 300 years.

However, during the 1730s, many Navsari Behdins became critical of the Bhagarias' Mobeds and their performance of prayers—many were found to be drunk while praying.

They complained to the Sanjana Mobeds and requested them to pray for them in their (behdeins') homes. Initially, all Sanjana Mobeds refused; later, some Sanjana Mobeds did so. This caused a major fight between the Bhagarias and Behdins; during which, Bhagaria Mobeds killed nine Behdins. The mobeds were jailed by the Gaekwad police, but the police chief, Desai Kharshedji, used his influence to bail out the Mobeds, stating that he would take care of them.

The relations between Sanjana and Bhagaria mobeds further deteriorated and, in 1740, the Sanjana Mobeds took the Iranshah fire to Valsad without any fanfare, leaving all else behind. After two years, they realized that Valsad was still in Bhagaria Panthak (territory), hence, in 1742, they took Iranshah to Pardi and then to Udvada.

# Since October 27, 1742, it has burned resplendently 24/7 thanks to these nine families.

# **RECOGNITION AWARDS**

TEENAZ JAVAT a senior writer with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was awarded by the City of Mississauga the "Absolutely Fabulous woman over 40 Achievement Award" on Internatiuonal Woman's day 2018. She describes herself as "by blood Indian, by bond Pakistani and by choice Canadian. Congratulations Teenaz!!!

ERVAD RUSTOM GHADIALI of Singapore received the Inter -Religious Organization (IRO) Singapore Long Service Award on March 18, 2018, the 69th anniversary of IRO. Russi is the longest serving memebr of over 30 years and was the Presidnet of IRO for three terms. He is a champion of Interfaith movement, tirelessly promoting interfaith activity in Singapore, and has represented the Zorosatrian faith at all levels. Congratulations Rustom!!

ABAN KABRAJI MARKER was conferred the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz award (Medal of Excellence) by the state of Pakistan and presented by the President of Pakistan Mr. Mamnoon Hussain on Pakistan Day, March 23, 2018 in Islamabad. This is the highest award given to any civilian in Pakistan based on their Achievements. It is a testimony to Aban's outstanding contribution and dedication to the cause of environment protetion, sustainable development and nature conservation. She is the Regional Director Asia, of the International Union for Conservation of nature and oversees function-ong of 100 environmental initiatives in 24 countries. Congratulations Aban!!

# FEZANA Update INTERFAITH CELEBRATIONS TOGETHER WE CAN ATTAIN PEACE AND HARMONY

During the World Interfaith Harmony Week there were over 800 events globally. As the founder of the Toronto Steering Committee, John Voorpostel said, the week "…is all about bringing people together to share in an event that they would never otherwise be able to be a part of. An event that teaches people something about our common humanity and shows us we are far more alike than different. It is about building lasting relationships among people and seeing the fruits of their labours turn into something very powerful." The most important aspect of these types of events is listening. Our ability to listen to each other is fundamental to our own healing and the healing of our world.

Two Zarathushtis also participated in these activities one, in Canada and the other in the US.

Mobedyar MANECK BHUJWALLA represented the Zarathushti religion on a panel of religious speakers at Loyola Marymount University on the topic of *PEACE*, on February 3, 2018. And he also represented the Zarathushtis at a Religious Leaders Gathering at the University of La Verne, California on February 5, 2018, at the invitation of its president Ms. Lieberman

The members of the *GLOBAL CLERGY ASSOCIATION of CANADA*, along with the *MULTIFAITH ACTION SOCIETY of British Columbia*, hosted an INTERFAITH CELEBRATION, Under the Theme of ... *TOGETHER WE CAN ATTAIN PEACE AND HARMONY* at the Northwood United Church in Surrey, BC at 1 PM on February 10, 2018. FIRDOSH MEHTA, past president of FEZANA, and currently a member of ZSBC represented Zoroastrians .

Short speeches were offered by the guests of Honor and nine representatives of various faiths recited Prayers for Peace. A poem for *PEACE* was offered by **Firdosh Mehta** 

The Hare Rama Temple group offered a chanting ceremony of *Haray Rama, Haray Krishna*, and the youth of the Sai Baba Center Choir in Vancouver offered devotional songs including the *GAYATRI MANTRA* and the *SURYA MANTRA*, reverence to the SUN.

The program was attended by about 60 people and was spiritually very satisfying. Refreshments were served at the end of the event. The speakers were presented with a woolen shawl as a token of appreciation by the organizers.

This is the presentation of Firdosh Mehta:

My name is FIRDOSH MEHTA, and I am currently a member of the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia .I belong to the Zoroastrian Faith, also known as Zarathushti, but more importantly us as *MAZDA YASNA or WORSHIP OF WISDOM*. So, for us, the name of my GOD is AHURA MAZDA or LORD of WISDOM.

I have been participating in various Interfaith activities over many years with offerings of prayers for Peace. Rather than recite prayers from an ancient scripture and language which no one can relate to and has to be translated into English, I would like to share my thoughts on Peace through a poem I wrote more than 11 years ago. When I was transferred by my employer from Calgary to Texas, I was returning home one evening and was inspired by an unusual sight of the countryside Water Tank lined up with the rising Moon.

# FEZANA Update

# Moon over Weatherford.

One late Friday evening, I am driving to my home, over the hills of Northern Texas, where wild horses roam.

The full moon is rising over the eastern horizon, in full glow and splendor over the grazing bison.

The twilight landscape in purple and pink, sliding under the lunar watch as I wonder and think.

I am fixated to the deep orange hue of the moon as I lumber for home to see my loved ones soon.

At times its moving, and at times its steady, standing behind Weatherford tank, straight ahead and ready.

I see an awesome sight that is so worthy to behold, the silhouette of the tank, a slender angel with an aura of gold.

Moved to say a prayer for all I am thankful for, I wonder with so much beauty around us, what are we fighting for?

Absorbing the tranquil moments in the deep corners of my mind,

I bow in reverence for PEACE ON EARTH and GOODWILL TO MANKIND.

I would like to leave you with a final thought .....

"IF PEACE IS TO BE, THEN IT IS UP TO ME"

**FIRDOSH MEHTA** 

Spring 2018



FEZANA SUPPORTS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UN SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAY-BY-TRAY



"What happens when all those school lunch trays reach the landfills?" That was exactly the question I remember asking myself two years ago, when I was in fourth grade, watching the hundreds of kids lined up in front of the trash can, waiting to throw the Styrofoam lunch trays in. I wondered if all that Styrofoam could be recycled and, if so, why didn't we recycle it? While looking for answers to my question, I found that when Styrofoam reaches the landfills, it piles up and does not decompose for hundreds of years and that Styrofoam is a recyclable plastic that cannot be recycled by our regular trash/recycling companies. Something needed to be done.

**S** o, my friends Abby Schmitz, Nadia Cherkasov and I (below) formed the Styrofoam Recycling Committee (SRC) and approached our principal, Mrs Patricia Chinn. She agreed that it would be a good idea to recycle the more than 1,000 trays that were trashed each school week. With my mom's help, we found a local company, Dart Container Corp. that recycles Styrofoam into plastic products like rulers and photo frames. The recycling specialist at Dart agreed to recycle our school trays but suggested that we also set up Styrofoam recycling for the surrounding community. The problem was that we had to provide them with our own



(L-R) Abby Schmitz, Farah Kavarana and Nadia Cherkasov standing in front of one of the Styrofoam recycling bins set up just outside their school Hickory Woods Elementary in Novi, MI.



ANAHITA KAVARANA & FARAH KAVARANA

recycling bins for which we needed over \$1,000! So, we started fundraising and, with our efforts, raised \$1,450 with the help of Walmart, our school PTA, State employees' credit union, and a local donor. Our principal ordered the bins and had them set up on the school grounds with the appropriate recycling labels. Finally, our Fifth-grade teacher, Ms. Burrill, helped train the kids to appropriately clean and stack the lunch trays for them to be stored until picked up by Dart.

This recycling program is running successfully since its implementation last year. Not only the students at Hickory Woods Elementary are actively recycling hundreds of Styrofoam lunch trays each day, but even the surrounding community has been depositing recyclable Styrofoam in the bins that we set up. My friends and I have since graduated to Geisler Middle School and are continuing our work as the SRC. Our next goal is to have our school district set up recycling throughout all the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools system; we have already put forth the idea to the school board.

Recently, I read about the 17 United Nations Sustainable Goals. The 11th and 12th goals clearly mention the importance of awareness-raising and education regarding sustainable consumption and lifestyles in our communities to help preserve our environment for the future generation us. The 11th goal also talks about reducing the adverse environmental impact of cities by paying special attention to waste management; in our case, the daily Styrofoam waste from our community. FEZANA supports the UN Sustainable goals and as members of FEZANA we are proud of our work towards those goals. As true Zoroastrians, we shall always strive to preserve/protect our environment.

According to a current Washington Post article, landfills and waste dumps are quickly filling. Many of the largest ones receive, on average, 10,000 tons of waste per day. If we do not decrease our waste, our future generations will drown in the ever-growing garbage deluge.

It is time we all took environmental responsibility seriously and reduce our waste and recycle more!

\**Farah Kavarana* is an 11-year-old student in the Walled Lake Consolidated School district in Michigan. *Anahita Kavarana* is Farah's mom and a practicing Physical Therapist.



AUSTRALIAN SHARMIN AVARI RECENTLY RECEIVED DEVASTATING MEDICAL NEWS, BUT HER STORY IS NOT OVER. NEITHER IS YOURS.

**AYSHA GHADIALI** 

Every three minutes a person in the United States is diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, or other life threatening blood disorders. That is 480 new patients a day. One of these patients in Melbourne, Australia is Sharmin Avari. Sharmin was recently diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia. Her future health, like many other patients, could be in the cells of a person she does not know and may never meet.

With the help of advanced medical treatments, cancer patients may continue to live healthy lives after diagnosis. However, finding a genetic match is not easy. It requires donated healthy cells from another individual whom doctors consider a match. Even full siblings have only a 1:4 ratio of being an appropriate donor. Currently, all ethnic minorities are vastly underrepresented on the national registry list, making many minority blood disorder patients face an even greater uphill battle.

In response to Sharmin's call for a donor, Zarathusthi associations and individuals from around the world have organized marrow donor registration drives. Registering is a mundane act, but it could lead to the most inspiring deed. Due to the organization of Meher Amalsad, Dr. Parmis Khatibi, Babak Sohrabian, Homi Gandhi, Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali, and others, drives have been or will be conducted by Zarathushti associations in California, New York, Chicago, DC, New Jersey, Houston, Boston, and counting. Thank you to all that registered. These association drives have inspired members to organize similar events in their offices and elsewhere, spreading Sharmin Avari's story even further. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Sharmin's story isn't over; neither is yours. You might get a call from the registry for her or any patient that needs your lifesaving cells.

# COULD YOU BE THE MATCH? HOW TO HELP:

- 1. If you are between 18 and 44 years old, the first step is to register. This can be done at a registration drive event or request an at home kit. For more information on how to do this, please visit: <u>https://bethematch.org/</u>.
- 2. Registering involves submitting basic paperwork forms and an easy, painless swab from the inside of your cheek. You cannot register to donate to a specific patient. Registering implies you are willing to donate to anyone whom needs this lifesaving treatment.
- 3. Once you are on the registry, you could remain on the list for years and hear nothing. At the age 61, you will be removed from the registry.
- 4. If you do potentially match a patient, you will get a call for another test to see if you are a viable match.
- 5. If you still match after testing, doctors will decide the best and safest way to use cells from either your bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cell to transplant to the patient.
- 6. The donation procedure takes place in a hospital outpatient facility with anesthesia at no cost. Donors never pay, nor are paid, for donating. They often return home the same day.
- 7. Donors and patients privacy is protected at all times. Donors may never know the name of their recipient unless both parties would like the information released after a set period of time.

Please visit BeTheMatch.org for more complete information.

Aysha Ghadiali is an international policy analyst for the U.S. Forest Service, based in Washington, DC. She registered for the national bone marrow donor list at a drive held by ZAGNY almost 20 years ago.

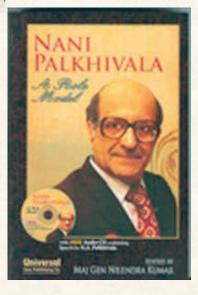


# FEZANA Update

# NANI PALKHIVALA THE CRUSADER (1920 - 2002)

### A Film Showing in Houston

# Jangoo Mistry



On Saturday, January 6, 2018, the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) Library Committee hosted an event featuring a movie based on the life and achievements of Nani Palkhivala. Directed by Cyrus Bharucha, who had flown to Houston from San Diego for the event, the movie was a fitting tribute to Nani Palkhivala and a reminder of the life of this remarkable man.

In the 1980s, Cyrus Bharucha made a feature film in India, "On Wings of Fire," with Zubin Mehta that covered the history of prophet Zarathushtra. Cyrus's accomplishments during his 40 years in media, with the BBC in London, CNN, A&E, TV-Asia, and two Public TV stations, made him an ideal person to handle this new movie assignment from the Forum of Free Enterprise in India. Alongside his creations in the art world, Cyrus Bharucha held several senior executive-level positions and was a management consultant to several large organizations including Tata Consultancy Services. Cyrus has also authored two books: *Bollywood, Beds and Beyond* and the sequel *The Tigress Returns*. Both 5-star rated books are available on Amazon!

The evening was a rare event that combined learning with enjoyment. Quoting the French philosopher Rochefoucauld: "Man does not need to be informed. He needs to be constantly reminded.", in creating this movie, Cyrus has given us a vehicle that will constantly remind us of Nani Palkhivala and preserve the memory of this great man for generations to come. After the movie, what made the evening truly memorable was when one person after another stood up to share their memories of Nani. The movie, "Nani Palkhivala–the Crusader," can be obtained from the Forum of Free Enterprise. Public showings are encouraged.

For decades, Nani Palkhivala was a name widely revered—not only in legal circles, but also in countless homes across India. His life and achievements mark him as a giant among men, a stalwart who was held in high esteem as the finest legal mind of his time.

Nani was born in Bombay to a working middle-class family whose ancestors were in the business of making "palkhis" that were fitted to horse carriages in those times. Unable to secure a job after his Masters in English, he went into law, which turned out to be a real boon for India.

His rise at the Bar was meteoric and, as his reputation quickly spread in legal circles, younger lawyers would run to the courts to listen to Nani's arguments. Soon, he was appearing before the Supreme Court of India in landmark cases involving Constitutional interpretation.

The youngest lawyer to argue cases before the Supreme Court, Nani Palkhivala was tapped to be the Attorney General, and was even asked to serve on the Supreme Court, which he declined. He was a champion of the common man and always fought for what he believed to be the right cause, never for financial gains.

In the words of a Supreme Court Judge, "the heights of eloquence to which Palkhivala had risen have seldom been equalled and never been surpassed in the history of the Supreme Court."

A fierce defender of the Indian Constitution, Nani is credited with a landmark case that is still remembered today as having saved democracy in India. An outspoken critic of the Indian government when it was warranted, he fought for the Indian princes against the Indian government in the famous Privy Purse case. And, when



then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi called upon Nani to represent her in a case, Nani withdrew as soon as she declared the State of Emergency in India.

Oddly enough, while his legal achievements would have been sufficient to guarantee him a place in the annals of legal history, Nani's claim to fame was augmented by his penchant for the laws of taxation. His book, *The Law and Practice of Income Tax*, was recognized as a "bible" throughout India, and even in Pakistan. What secured even greater fame for Nani and made him a household name was his genius in explaining the intricacies of the budget to thousands of listeners. Nani's speeches were fascinating, and his critique of the Indian budget was eagerly looked forward by so many that the audience for them easily filled entire stadiums. No sooner than the Finance Minister had presented his budget, people would say, "let's hear what Nani has to say about it." To take a topic as mundane as the budget and turn it into an event that a common man would want to witness could only be done by a genius at communication.



Indian postage stamp honoring Nani.

Through all incidents, what came across was the sheer humility of the man, his unassuming and loving nature that endeared him to the masses. Of Nani, it can be truly said that he walked with Kings yet lost not the common touch." A rather dramatic example of the man's humility was the famous incident when Nani, the Indian Ambassador to the US at that time, knelt before President Carter's mother to try a pair of slippers from India on her—a moment unfortunately captured by a Times of India reporter that hurt Indian pride and created a huge uproar in India.

Palkhivala received numerous citations and honorary degrees from various universities. The citation he received from Princeton University declared:

Defender of constitutional liberties, champion of human rights, he has courageously advanced his conviction that expediency in the name of progress, at the cost of freedom, is no progress at all. Lawyer, teacher, author, and economic developer, he brings to us as Ambassador of India intelligence, good humor, experience, and vision for international understanding....

After his distinguished legal career, Nani served on the Tata Board of Directors for many years. At the end of his life, the ailing Nani lamented the decline of values in public life, the rampant corruption, and the rise of materialism.

Nani Palkhivala was a statesman par excellence, a lawyer who created a buzz every time he walked into a courtroom, a lawyer who even judges looked upon with awe and admiration. To this day, people remember him as "God's gift to us."

The movie touched everyone and was greatly appreciated. This documentary film convinced us that even in this age of superhero movies and Star Wars, a well-made documentary on a real person can be much more interesting than any fictional hero in a commercial movie.

Jangoo Mistry worked at Ford Motor Company in Detroit for 32 years and is now living in Houston. He is a member of the ZAH Library Committee, the FIRES subcommittee of FEZANA, and is on the Board of WZCC's Houston Chapter.





N December 5th, 2017 Claremont College Professor Jenny Rose visited the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) center with ten of her graduate students to learn more about Zoroastrianism and to have an in-person dialogue with a Zoroastrian priest. The question-answer session lasted for about 75 minutes and the students were totally thrilled. This is what the professor had to say: "Dear Mobed Bhandara, I am writing to thank you for welcoming me and my graduate students to the fire temple this morning with such graciousness and warmth. The visit was not only informative, but enlightening!"



Mobed Zarrir Bhandara addressing the gathering hosted by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan on December 5, 2017

be our humble duty to follow their guidelines and just serve one and all in whatever way we could with love & unity".

New Year 2018 was started with the resonance of Mathravani prayers coupled with the sound of bells of the Bui and Machi in the Ushin geh around 12:30 am. Yes, that is exactly how the members of the Zoroastrian Association of California started 2018, thus receiving the blessings of miraculous ZAC Atash Padshah.

As if that was not enough, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Maidyarem Gahambar Jashan was performed by Ervads Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara along with ZAC President Houtoxi Mobedvars: Contractor, Jimmy Colabewalla and Maneck Bhujwalla. The Gahambar and lunch was sponsored by the executive committee and was well attended by over 100 people.

On the same day, our religion, FEZANA, and ZAC were very well represented again by our own Zarrir Bhandara at the Multicultural event "Under One Sun", hosted by the Azerbaijan Consulate. (photo left)

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, a refresher's course was conducted at the ZAC center for Ervads and Mobedyars which was very illuminating. This is what one of the of the participants wrote, which echoed everyone's experience: "We are truly blessed and fortunate to have you Zarrir to guide us and enlighten us. The few hours were not enough and we are open and willing to undergo some more refreshers done periodically. We are so grateful to you for devoting your time & effort to conduct this refresher course and for the various other unsaid unconditional services that you dedicate to all of us. Thanks to ZAC & NAMC for their support and acknowledgment. It will



From left Mobedyar Jimmy Colabewalla, Mobedyar Maneck Bhujwalla; ZAC president Mobedyar Houtoxi Contractor; Ervad Xerkxis Bhandara, Ervad Zarrir Bhandara, after performing the jashan on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017



The newly elected Board of ZAC From left Roxanne Unwalla, Youth coordinator, Hilla Machi, Treasurer, Houtoxi F. Contractor, President, Zarrir Bhandara, Officiating Priest, Sheila Madan, Secretary, Nauzer Commisariat, VP, Zubin Taraporewala, Program Chair.

FEZANA Journal

Spring 2018



Ahuna Vairya; Ashem Vohu; Yenghe Hatam

Words from the Avestas

Translated by Dr. Irach J.S. Taraporewala

Arr. by Tom Wolfe and Nicole Smile Voice 6 1. As Lords tem work their will Earth DO on by their ga-thered Ash-a tea-chers wise The gifts of Vo-hu Ma-nu come re-ward For to deeds done out of love for the Lord. A hu-ra's Ksha-tra-surc-ly will come down all who serve to love with thers zeal Our A little faster The ra diant goal Right-eous for all that's good of life Earth This Light a - ttained when we live right-cous ly the sake of high-est right-cous-ness For These men and wo-men both do Whose ev-'ry act of wor-ship is a we a - dore With Ash-a the c-ter-nal law of life These are the tru-est lea-ders of man-

Editor's Note:

The lyrics for the composition for piano for the *Ahunaver*, are from the book,

"The Divine Songs Of Zarathushtra ~ Translations of the Gathas into English by IJS Taraporewala" (3rd edition, reprinted 1994).

The prayer was sung by the ZAMWI Choir at their Jamshedi NoRuz celebration in March 2017, at the Kamran Dar e Mehr, Boyds, Maryland.

kind.

21



# GUEST EDITOR CO-GUEST EDITOR

# EDUL DAVER YASMIN PAVRI

# THE MAGIC OF LEADERSHIP

A few months ago Dolly Dastoor, FEZANA Journal Editor in Chief, Aasked if I would be the Guest Editor for the Spring 2018 issue featuring Emerging Leaders of North America. After asking a few question I willing agreed to take on the assignment. Along the way we got Yasmin Pavri to become a Co –Guest editor to help with the project. I have always felt that our youngsters are doing exceedingly well in North America and this would give us an opportunity to identify them and confirm my expectations. And wow! I was thrilled to learn that Zoroastrian Youth of today are superbly educated, socially skilled, extremely confident and can deal with kings and paupers and everyone in between.

We received 60 nominations, but some declined to submit their applications because of various reasons. We have identified 39 Emerging Leaders and separated them into two groups and here are some basic statistics:

Under 35 years (19) and between 35-45 years (20). Female 26 and Male 23 USA 31 & Canada 8.



They have already achieved a lot relative to their ages and we expect each of them will shine in their respective fields and make our small community proud.

The questionnaire we had them complete was not easy and required time and thought. Though they come from a wide range of professions some of their characteristics of what makes them "tick" and what they would like to accomplish in the future are quite similar. They are not satisfied by just working hard, they persevere, push the 'envelope' and are not afraid of change. They describe themselves as problem solvers, innovators and being able to work with others. A number of them are committed to working on women's causes, uplifting the under privileged class and into social justice. They are all passionate about what they are doing and consider themselves to be change agents wanting to make a difference and change the world in their area of expertise. A number of them are already very successful entrepreneurs and many more aim to start their own companies and be on their own. Some commented about the importance of family life and responsibility of raising children. Most of them are also active in community activities in leadership roles and aim to build awareness for the Zoroastrian community and many commented about giving back to the community

So what is leadership? In it's simplest form it is similar to management and that is, 'action of leading/managing a group of people or organization to accomplish desired objectives.' However, it has become evident that in the current environment of rapid change and business disruption, constant creativity, innovation, Entrepreneurial Leadership has become the need of the times and this is quite different to corporate management. We see Entrepreneurial Leadership more often in start-ups & small companies but it is also visible in pockets of large corporations, educational institutions, professional entities and even government. So a more meaningful definition would be, "Leadership is the art & science of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal".

Volumes have been written about Leadership and here are some thoughts and observations based on experience.

Leaders are Opportunity Driven: It starts with optimism and a 'Positive Can Do' attitude. They have a 'fire in their belly' and get it done because they did not know or believe that the objective was supposed to be impossible. Warren Buffet is known to take dead beat companies and make them successful and his recipe is simple, "Innovation & Productivity" but easier said than done.

FEZANA Journal



**Leaders provide a Vision**: They set a direction to accomplish objectives and then align people & goals by providing motivation, inspiration and incentives. They look for incremental successes which cumulatively contribute towards the Vision with a laser focus. Most importantly, Honesty and Credibility are a critical part of their Vision with the end NEVER justifying the means.

Leaders are Action Oriented: They prefer flat structures and empower employees with minimal second guessing. They view failures as a learning experience which one corrects towards continuous improvement. They welcome change and understand the role of risk and are willing to take 'calculated' risks. To them speed is money and "just do it' is a mantra. In other words they can operate with ambiguity and what some would call 'organized chaos'. Last but most importantly they lead by example.

**Leaders are Value Driven**: They are skilled and knowledgeable in their area of expertise Vs macro managers we see in large corporations. They seek creative and innovative team members, providing major incentives with a stake in the success of the company or entity. The results could be magical.

Let me end by saying to our young Emerging Leaders, "today is the right time for the right idea and opportunities are limitless for the bold and restless who are willing to dream big and work hard without fearing failure, get up and try again until they succeed and then they will find that Nothing breeds success more than success itself".

Edul graduated from the Doon School, Dehra Dun, IIT- Bombay and then attended the Univ. of Wisconsin receiving his MS degree in Powder Metallurgy in 1967. He started working for Alcan Metal Powders, did his MBA part time, and by 1987 he had become President. He then led a leveraged management buyout to from ACuPowder International in 1995. ACuPowder grew to become the #1 Copper based powder manufacturer in North America with a market share of over 50%. The company was sold to Platinum Equity in 2010 and Edul retired in 2012. His professional recognitions include IIT-Bombay Distinguished Alumnus Award, MPIF (Metal Powder Industries Federation) Distinguished Service to Powder Metallurgy Award and PMAI(Powder Metallurgy Association India) Fellow Life Time Achievement Award.

Edul served on ZAGNY's (The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York) Board during its formative years.

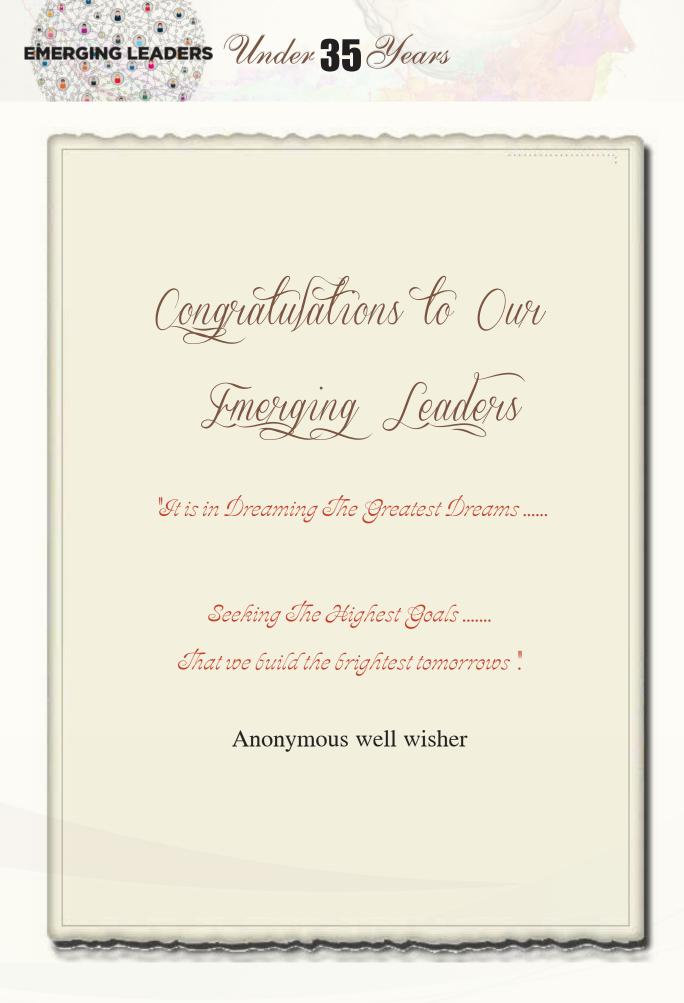
He was also involved in the development and launch of WZCC (World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce) and served as its Founder-Director from 2000 to 2006. He was awarded the Zarathushti Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2004. Edul is currently the Global President of the WZCC and passionate about promoting Entrepreneurship to our Youth. He has also been intimately involved in the building of the new New York Dare-Mehr which he describes as a truly entrepreneurial accomplishment.



e wien when he describes as a dary endepreneariar accomprismient.

He loves sports & traveling. Edul & Niloufer have two daughters and three grand children and just celebrated their Golden Anniversary.

Yasmin Pavri has been an active member of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) for over 35 years. She is a member of the FEZANA Information Research Education System (FIRES) Operations Committee.



RGING LEADERS Under 35 Years



nahita holds the distinction of being the first person to be nominated and the very next day we had her submission. Right there I knew she was a go-getter. Wow! What amazing accomplishments at such a young age.

She has two inventions to her name and has already published 81 (ves 81!) Peer Reviewed Publications and written three books on vascular surgery. Her awards include Society of Vascular Society awards for Surgical Skills, Research, Poster Awards, Travel Scholarships and the list goes on & on.

Anahita obtained a BA in Organic Chemistry from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA; an MBChB (MD) from Aberdeen School of Medicine, UK; an MS in Trauma Sciences from Barts & London School of Medicine: and an MBA from Western Governors Univ. TX. She did her Post Doc in Surgery at Univ. of Texas in Houston, TX, was a General Surgery Resident at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI, and is currently Vascular Surgery Fellowship at Stanford University Hospital, Palo Alto, CA.

Motivation. Leadership & Aspirations: "Health is the most I can perform free vascular surgery for

# ANAHITA DUA, MENLO PARK, CA (< 35 YRS)

important asset a person can possess. ; those who are underprivileged while Elements that impact health negatively can destroy not only the impacted patient's life but also the lives of those who love that person leaving them feeling alone and helpless. Guiding patients through the darkest days of their lives is what motivates me. Helping patients make it through their illnesses both from a medical and surgical perspective is what drives me every day.

I present my research at national and international meetings, have written three books on vascular surgery (trauma, veins. hemodialysis), frequently contribute articles to journals and have already entered into politics by speaking at a congressional hearing to change the way in which EMTs on the battle field are trained in trauma. I have also worked with the American College of Surgeons as a liaison to congress where a team of us went to Capital Hill to garner support via bill passage for some of the changes we wish to see in the Medicare/Medicaid community.

I feel strongly that caring for the community (globally) is a responsibility of a good doctor. To that end, I have participated in a number of medical missions across the globe including Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Afghanistan, Palestine, Chad, Cambodia, Kenya and Peru. Most recently, I was in Greece assisting with the medical care of Syrian refugees at the Oxy refugee camp.

the Zoroastrian community In specifically, I have written a number of articles for FEZANA describing my experiences abroad and how others could potentially get involved. I was also on the board of the Zoroastrian community center in Chicago prior to medical school.

simultaneously bringing cutting edge tools to the region for patient use. My ultimate goal is to become chairwoman of a surgery department, which eventually will lead to the political area. It has been an ambition of mine to break into politics and shape the way patient care is delivered across the nation by running for office or seeking out an appointment as the surgeon general of the USA."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your Leadership ambitions? "I am a go-getter by nature. The word "no" is not a part of my vocabulary and I have the utmost respect for people who are movers and

shakers. A good leader is the key to success whether that be in a small team, a company, a country or even on the world stage. But being a leader can



be lonely sometimes and doubt can easily creep into the mix and shake foundations. My strongest attribute is the ability to take a problem and find a practical solution and then actively engage in the process of "making it happen." I have never failed at anything I have put my mind to doing and when something does not go my way I course correct so that it does. I keep one foot on the ground and one foot in the stars. This way to approaching life is what makes me tick because it allows me to have a goal, set a plan, then push it to the finish line."

# ZAL BILLIMORIA, BURLINGAME, CA, (< 35 YRS)

ERGING LEADERS Under 35 Years

Zal has a BS in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Venture Capitalist (VC) and a Managing Partner of Refactor Capital, a \$50M seed-stage VC firm investing in founders solving fundamental human problems. Previously, Zal spent 10 years as a Product Manager at Google, Netflix, Microsoft, and LinkedIn, and then joined Andreessen Horowitz as a Partner where he co-led investments in healthcare, biology, and financial technology (fintech) start-ups.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "I really enjoy helping founders and CEOs build massive, impactful businesses that can scale and improve society across all kinds of sectors including healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, and much more. Along with my partner, I manage all aspects of our business, including investment decisions, portfolio company engagement, and all of the many aspects required to keep things operationally going with our firm. Also, as an investor in these earlystage companies, I provide practical guidance and coaching to our founders on a daily basis and teach them how to hire people, build a sustainable culture, run a proper sales process, marketing techniques to acquire customers, and so much more when it comes to building a new company.

I hope to have invested my time and resources in helping to build successful companies led by fantastic founders and CEOs. My aspirations include the desire for these companies to have created thousands of jobs and created real advancements for human society in the decades to come.

I've volunteered at Kiva.org, a microfinance non-profit organization. Specifically, as a Kiva Fellow, I spent three months in Ecuador during my Google sabbatical to help a new microfinance institution partner get off the ground with Kiva. In addition to helping build successful companies and supporting many founders and CEOs, I hope to be involved in the formation and/or direction of a few non-profits. I also hope to teach locally either at the high school or college level on a parttime basis, sharing my learning with students who might want to start or join a start-up later in life."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "My strongest attributes are my public speaking, curiosity, and my passion for diving into projects, businesses, and industries. My speech and debate training in high school has come in quite handy as I am regularly called upon to speak in public at various events and conferences, but it's also quite helpful when speaking with founders and helping them think through their businesses with them. As a VC, one has to be eager to know and ask questions about the world around us. When I first meet a company to evaluate its investment potential, I spend a lot of time with the founders asking questions about themselves, their desire and knowledge of how to build a successful company in the sector they're operating in, their technology, their customers, and more. Asking 'Why' questions actually put founders on the defensive – I've found that asking 'How' and 'What' questions are better in generating a friendlier dialogue. Also, my passion and enthusiasm for start-ups, technology, and these traditionally regulated industries in which Refactor invests allows me to genuinely dive into these businesses, to really understand them and their founders. Finding, picking, and winning investment opportunities are the core of our business, and you can only do all three if you're an intensely curious and passionate person who can win over founders who might have multiple other suitors who want to invest in their companies.



An analogy that I like to use might be helpful here. In investing, there are three types: seed, venture (Series A, Series B, etc.), and growth (later-stage, pre-IPO, etc.). Similarly, there are three types of sports coaches: high school, college, and professional. As we have seen, some fantastic college coaches have tried to become professional coaches and vice versa, among other combinations. For the most part, these have been tough transitions for all involved. The same goes for investing – many venture investors have tried both seed and growth investing, and seed investors have tried moving up-market to venture and/or growth. Often times, this fails given a lack of expertise and leadership in one area. With Refactor, I hope to become one of the very best seed investors in the country – in other words, one of the very best high school coaches in the country. Refactor will likely remain a seed fund for the entirety of its existence, which allow us to become true leaders in seedstage investing. This is why I hope we will be better at finding, picking, and winning investment opportunities than other seed firms who invest in fundamental human problems."



### NARIUS CYRUS MAGOL, MISSISSAUGA, ON (< 35 YRS)

Narius has a BA from Kwantlen Polytechnic University, BC, Canada and a Masters in Education from Murdoch University, Dubai, UAE. He has been a teacher and a coach, and has also helped recruit teachers and other personnel for various clients. As a Teacher for English As an Additional Language, Narius has coached business students for their group and individual projects, taught spoken, written and conversational English to immigrants and students, initiated, formed and managed an English Conversation Club, and coached professional immigrants to seek and prepare for job interviews.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "My English Teacher from high school, Ms. Jay, is my role model who helped me with choose my career. I have improved the lives of many students, including those with special needs who are dyslexic and who cannot read. I am just not any regular teacher but a life coach who still keeps in touch with my students after they have successfully graduated and moved on from schools and colleges. I volunteer my time with students in various physical, sports activities who come from unfortunate backgrounds. I hope to continue to make a positive difference without expecting anything in return and once I have groomed my students, I would like to give them leadership roles to guide others.

I hope to be a life Coach and a Trainer for not just students but for new immigrants and new comers into Canada also. With time and more experience, I can assist many people better. Because I was an immigrant who came to Canada as a teenager, I understand the challenges many individuals and families go through. This could be working for not for profit organizations and even charitable organizations. Working for prestigious organizations like the UNICEF would be my dream."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "My strongest attributes are patience, determination and being results oriented. These attributes worked for me as a successful student in university and now a similar approach is working while I teach, train and motivate my students to aim and achieve their goals in the best way possible. Furthermore, I can connect with people who share the same hardships when they first come to a new country like Canada. For example, when I was a recruiter for teachers for a few years, I met many interesting individuals who needed the job opportunity to start their careers and support themselves and their



families. I had one candidate who proved to me that failure of not succeeding in job interviews is not the end of the world. I liked her personality, her attitude and most importantly her approach of never giving up. She got hired very soon after many rejections from various employers. So, I knew what I was getting myself into when I gave this young woman the opportunity to prove her worth. Hence, the pleasure of being involved with individuals and see them excel in their careers and later in improving their quality of life gives me the greatest satisfaction as a human being first and then as an educator."



rging Leaders Under 35 Years



nahita has a BS from Cornell AUniversity with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Biology, Anthropology, and Ecology and a minor in BiologicaSciences and Anthropology. She is currently working as a Research Analyst at The Elephant Listening Project, in The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, conducting bioacoustics analyses in order to monitor forest elephant populations in the central Africa region and generate a better understanding of forest elephant socio-ecology and communication. She will be moving to the Central African Republic during March 2018 for at least 6 months to conduct field observations on the forest elephants in the Dzanga-Sangha Special Preserve.

Anahita has won several awards including the College Park Scholars award, the James and Sarah Goddard Memorial Scholarship, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Undergraduate Research Award, the Scientista Foundation: Women in STEM award.

In 2017, Anahita was a delegate with the FEZANA United Nations NGO Committee to the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. In June, she also attended the conference to discuss the impact of anthropogenic noises, such as shipping noise, and sonar, on marine ecosystems and consequently, coastal communities. She is also the owner & photographer of *Invictus Images* where she manages

### Anahita (Ana) Verahrami, Potomac, MD (< 35 YRS)

a photography business and website your leadership ambitions ? "I think located at www.invictusimages.com."

& Motivation, Leadership Aspirations: "All of my motivation comes from my passion for animals and the promise of their continued existence. Forest elephants are an especially important species to me because I find their complex animal societies and matriarchal social systems to be especially interesting. Moreover, they are a keystone species, as they eat several different types of fruit in the central African forests and subsequently disperse the seeds as they walk through their large ranges and defecate. This process, known as seed dispersal, cultivates the rainforests, which hundreds of other species rely on. The socio-ecology of forest elephants and efficiency of acoustic monitoring is what motivates me to continue to conserve them through the use of acoustics.

My photography project and art show, *Butterflies and Hurricanes*, precipitated discussion on the de-stigmatization of mental illnesses for fellow students, staff, faculty, etc. on campus and within the greater Ithaca community."

For the future my dream is to continue learning about bioacoustics and its application to the monitoring of endangered wildlife. I would like to pursue a PhD and hope to help upgrade my lab's basic gun-shot detector to be more efficient through that process. I hope to go into academia one day, hopefully at Cornell, and have my own conservation research group. I would absolutely love to be a National Geographic Explorer and be a professor of wildlife conservation at Cornell one day so I can motivate others, especially the younger generations, to get excited about conservation and wildlife!"

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain

your leadership ambitions ? "I think my strongest attribute is that I will give something my all if I am passionate about it. I am really passionate about raising awareness about sexual assault and ended up deciding to take a photo to generate conversation on the topic. My passion helped me give this my all, and the photo ended up being published online by National Geographic. I am also very motivated by what I think is 'right' and what I think is a 'good deed' if you will.

I think I can be adventurous, especially outdoors, which has helped me get to where I am within the conservation field. I have a very fond memory of getting stuck in quicksand in the middle of nowhere in Patagonia, Argentina. I could not stop laughing during the experience because of how bizarre it was, and definitely think that if I had freaked out, it would have taken me longer to get out and also made me a bit scared of being in the field.

Another attribute of mine that has helped me succeed, but can also be detrimental at times, is that I set my goals high. Whether it's how soon I think I can get a paper published or the amount of data I think I can compile or analyze by a certain point, I'm always striving to keep going and searching for the answers and getting the information I'm working on out there...I really wish I had more patience sometimes.

This field can be quite disheartening at times. I can't tell you how many times I've come across gunshots in the recordings at work that are followed by the screams of elephants. But this motivates me to change that and to make the occurrence of these terrible events close to none. It sounds really cliché, but really and truly, the one piece of advice I can give to anyone is to just do what you love. Passion is the best fuel to spark change.



# ZAMYAD MEHERJI, TORONTO, ON, (< 35 YRS)

ZamyadhasaB.COM(Specialization in Marketing), a Postgrad in Sport & Event Marketing, and a Postgrad in Advertising Media Management. He graduated with honours in all three. He has been working in Trading & Analytics for Broadcast & Digital media and in Game Operations and Marketing for Toronto FC, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) for five years.

He has been Media Buyer, on the Game Crew for Toronto FC, and an Executive for Player and Event Management.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: Zamyad is motivated by "my passion for marketing, brandassociations, emerging technological trends and sports. I have trained new hires in the buying and reporting process. I also lead a group of more than 20 adults and volunteers at Toronto FC game days with game operations, and opening and half time shows.

I have had the opportunity to be on the ZSO Youth and Sports Committee and has successfully organized events for the youth and the community. I also educate the youth on the upcoming North American biennial events such as the Z Games and Z Unity Cup or the Zoroastrian Congresses held around the globe.

I aspire to see a community which participates regularly, socializes and is cohesive in its aims. A growing population that is open to newcomers and helps each individual and give them an opportunity to enhance in every aspect of their lives."

Looking to the future, Zamyad wants into continue to improve community



participation in all events and rituals, to increase youth participation in Zoroastrian events and religious studies. Especially to educate them and promote sports, our history and rich heritage that we are all very proud of!"

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions ? "Right from my days as a kid, I have always been passionate and have exhibited the zeal to learn. My work ethic has helped me a lot. I have gotten correct guidance and my insatiable curiosity pushes me to go further and achieve success. I try to learn from new and untapped experiences by actually facing them. These attributes have helped shape my attitude and thus, aided in overcoming several obstacles and to achieve in life. Humility and respect are also important virtues that I hold close. A mix of all this and a mentality of conservatism are my strongest attributes.

My profound passion and motivation to indulge in new experiences, socialize

with new people, and the courage to move to a completely new country (Canada) and not just to survive but continuously strive to achieve more and greater things keeps me well motivated. With all these characteristics coupled with my incessant nature to keep striving until the goal is achieved, makes me tick. I don't let the fear of not succeeding deter me and that vastly helps my drive. 'Do your best and leave the rest in Mazda's hands!'

For me, 'leadership' has always been being an example to a group of individuals striving to achieve a set goal. It's not something you get or learn, rather you earn it through knowledge, hard work and a refusal to give up attitude. In many instances it was always an uphill task for me to gain the leader's role due to my initial conservative approach, to learn the workings of the group before I give my input. I was made the scouts patrol leader, my university soccer team captain, nominated on the Parsee Club board and the ZSO Youth and Sports Board for the very same reasons – i.e. leading by example and communicating effectively. I believe my inter-personal skills, knowledge, confidence and enthusiasm have helped me forge new relationships effortlessly and create a sense of camaraderie. I intend on continuing to practice them and seek feedback from my associates, friends and seniors, in order to become better and an effective leader"

29

rging Leaders Under 35 Years



eena has a BA from Oberlin College, OH with a triple major in Politics, English and Peace & Conflict Studies, an MS with a Concentration in newspaper and magazine reporting, and a Master of International Affairs (M.I.A) with a Concentration in International Human Rights from Columbia University.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "As a journalist, I'm motivated to shatter the silence around poverty and social injustice. I've reported on human rights across the globe and worked with my colleagues to improve coverage of the stories that matter to those who are most socially marginalized and structurally disempowered. I'vereceived journalism grants from the Carnegie & Knight Foundations to report on theocracy and democracy in Iran; the Scripps Howard Foundation to report on lowcaste "untouchables" in India; and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to report on commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Thailand. My work has appeared in Time, Mother Jones, Common Dreams, National Geographic, Washington Post, Ms. Magazine, and elsewhere. I'm the author of the book Divine Rebels, which profiles religiously motivated social justice activists in the United States. In 2010, I traveled with the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, His Eminence Shyalpa Rinpoche, across Nepal and Bhutan while editing his

### DEENA GUZDER, NEW YORK, NY (< 35 YRS)

Fully. I assisted Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges with research for his book, Death of the Liberal Class. I'm also proud to serve on the board of the Blossom Hill Foundation, a nonprofit seeking to end the cycle of violence for children affected by war.

I currently work at Democracy Now!, the nation's largest public media collaboration, where I continue to work with my colleagues on covering underreported humanitarian stories. Democracy Now! is a leader in the media, providing access to people and perspectives rarely heard in the U.S. corporate-sponsored media.

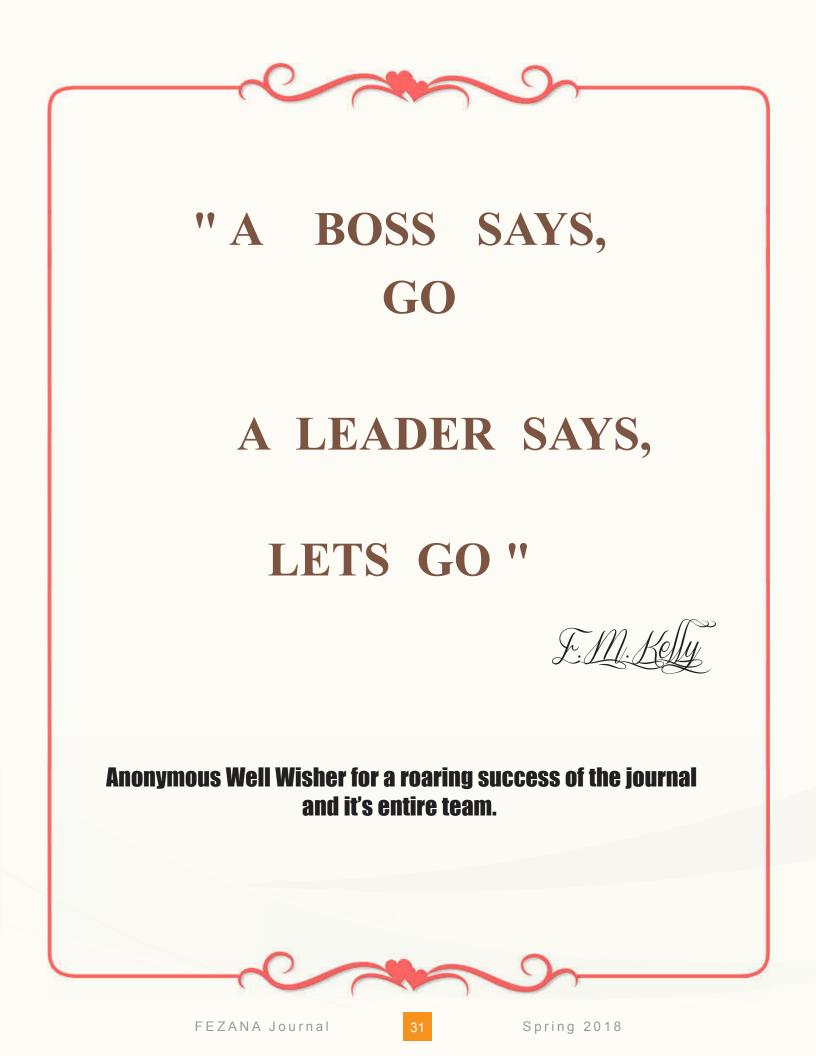
I have traveled with my colleagues to the annual United Nations summit on climate change where we are the only U.S. based national TV show to broadcast daily from the climate negotiations as well as the protests on the streets. We have also traveled annually to the Sundance Film Festival where we cover the documentary track, so we highlight films that have social impacts. And, we routinely cover stories about the movements animating our times: the anti-war movement, Occupy Wall Street, and Black Lives Matter. These are the voices that often go unheard in the mainstream media.

I aspire to continue reporting on the issues that deserve more attention - how war impacts those on the receiving end of the bombs; how cutting social services impacts those who already have the least resources; and, how eviscerating public education disadvantages those who are already marginalized

I am interested in establishing an international NGO for fledgling journalists who are interested in reporting on human rights concerns in their own communities."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "My

collection of oral teachings, Living ; interest in journalism stems from our nation's increasing disillusionment with the mainstream media and my desire to improve the situation by providing substantive coverage of issues that matter to people, especially those who are most disadvantaged and marginalized. Today, there is no shortage of substandard journalism from gaping omissions on important issues such as poverty to sensationalized stories about celebrity divorces to unsupported endorsements of hedonistic politicians' calculated statements. As a journalist, I want to shatter the silence around poverty and inequality. My strongest attributes are my work ethic, self-discipline and uncompromising tenacity. I also take pride in my ability to compassionately listen to people from all backgrounds and represent their stories with dignity in my writing. I reject any pretense of "objectivity" for the same reason the legendary writer Howard Zinn does in his landmark text, A People's History of the United States. Zinn writes, 'I know that a historian (or a journalist, or anyone telling a story) is forced to choose, out of an infinite number of facts, what to present, what to omit. And that decision inevitably reflects, whether consciously or not, the interests of the historian.' As a human rights activist first and journalist second, I use my writing and reporting to bear testimony to the horrors of poverty and inequality in hopes of raising awareness and inspiring change. The effects of today's policy decisions on environmental degradation, social security, and military interventions will reverberate for my generation as well as many more generations to come, so I want to appeal to America's youth to get involved and to speak their minds on pending policies. I also want to help lead the next generation of journalists to harness the power of the Internet to report on human rights violations in their own community and in their own voices.



rging Leaders Under 35 Years



friti is a high school student A with very impressive academic credentials: National Merit Semifinalist 2017, an Advanced placement (AP) Scholar with Distinction, Certificate of Honor-Summa Cum Laude for four consecutive years, Scholar Athlete for three years and a Member of the National Honors Society. She has received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, for over 100 hours of volunteer service in a year, twice: a Gold Award in 2016 and a Bronze award in 2017

She works at the Patel Brothers Grocery store in the summer. She has also worked with the Troy Parks and Recreation Ski Program as well as the TGA Golf Association. She has put in over 100 hours of volunteer work in each of the last two school years.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "My greatest motivation is my parents. They have always supported me and pushed me to explore new boundaries and challenge myself. I have learned the meaning of hard work and perseverance from their background and work ethic. They have taught me that true success is only reached when you truly make a positive impact in the lives of others.

As a member of the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan (ZOAM), I have attended Zoroastrian religion

# AFRITI CHINOY, TROY, MI (< 35 YRS)

student. I have participated in the Zoroastrian Youth Camp in Chicago, written for the Zoroastrian Youth Newspaper, and spoken at the Michigan World Sabbath on Zoroastrian prayers. I presented at the World Zoroastrian Scholars Conference, discussing religious significance in the modern world. I am actively engaged in raising funds for this non-profit organization by holding various raffle events, charity days, and auctions.

I aspire to attain a four-year undergraduate degree in science and then attend Dental School. During my undergraduate college, I hope to participate in research work and publish research that could help the healthcare field. I also wish to continue my community service work in college and travel to a third world country in aid for healthcare resources and sanitation growth. During my undergraduate years, I would also like to continue playing a leadership role by participating in science related organizations and actively mentoring other students.

I would like to open my own dental practice and lead a team of dental assistants and staff in helping patients with their oral healthcare. Also, I hope to help fundraise and plan charity and volunteering events for the ZOAM community. On a grander scale, I would like to write articles for Zoroastrian publications that expresses the major role my faith plays in my life. I want to travel, meet other Zoroastrians, and engage in speeches and discussions at various forums and events. I would love to travel to India, experience Parsi culture, and learn more about the roots of my religion."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "If my friends were to describe me they would

classes since I was an elementary : use the words outgoing and involved. One of my strongest attributes is my extroverted personality: I love planning outings, I am empathetic to the core, and I will always be caught smiling and energetic. The social animal I am makes me the perfect fit in small and large groups; I am readily the amiable face that makes others comfortable. To me, the most amazing thing I can learn about is other humans. I truly believe that hearing others' stories, ideas, and experiences leaves a lasting impression on my life. I see the beauty in working with others, finding their strengths and weaknesses, and becoming a trustworthy companion in their life. Beyond my social bubble, I am dedicated to giving back and helping others. The dutiful work I do to help others, now and in the future, truly mirrors the human being that I always hope to be: one who gives consistent time and effort to bring a sense of happiness and light into other people's lives. By helping others, I find a sense of importance and happiness within myself.

> To attain all my future leadership ambitions, I must continue following the core of our Zoroastrian faith - good thoughts, good words, and good deeds. By remaining kind and caring in my heart, I will speak with power and deep meaning that can lead to change and action, with a final destination of impacting other lives. I must continue learning from others and deepening my knowledge of the world around us. As I become older and more aware of my personal privileges, I see the significance of my growth and the great power in my hands to help improve the world. Last but not least, to be a complete leader, I must wake up everyday and ask myself the most significant question of all: What problems in the world am I going to solve today?"

# BEHZAD DABU, LOS ANGELES, CA (< 35 YRS)

ERGING LEADERS Under 35 Jeans

Behzad Dabu is an actor, producer, and activist based out of both Los Angeles and Chicago. He grew up in Syracuse, NY and got his BFA in Acting from Columbia College Chicago, where he also worked after college as the Senior International Admissions Officer, traveling all over the world working with students and their families on creating careers in the arts.

He has worked extensively on stage at some of the best theaters in the country, especially in Chicago, and is a proud company member at *TimeLine Theatre Company* which presents stories inspired by history that connect with today's social and political issues.

With a passion for working with playwrights and new play development, he originated the role of 'Amit' in *Samsara* at Victory Gardens Theatre, for which he was nominated for a Jeff Award - Best Actor. He also originated the role of 'Abe' in the Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony-nominated play, *Disgraced* which he performed at American Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, Seattle Repertory, and the Mark Taper Forum at Center Theatre Group.

On screen, you can see him as 'Simon Drake' on Seasons 3 and 4 of *How To Get Away With Murder* on ABC, and as 'Amir' on *The Chi*, a new series airing this fall on Showtime. He also appeared in episodes of *The Good Place*, *Chicago P.D.*, *Drive Share*, *You're So Talented*; and in the films *King Rat*, *Imperfections*, *Older Children*; as well as various national commercials.

Behzad strives to be a strong advocate for social justice and equality, particularly in regards to representation in the arts and media; and is a founding member of *The Chicago Inclusion Project*, which seeks to level the playing field and provide resources in the arts for people of color, women, LGBTQ, and people with disabilities. He is a skilled audience engagement facilitator and experienced post-show discussion leader. Behzad is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: Behzad is motivated by being a "positive representation for underrepresented communities and to creates paths for change and catharsis in people's lives.

I am one of the most working young actors in America, having been nominated for the Jeff Award for Best Actor, become a company member at TimeLine Theatre, a producer for Broadway shows, including the current hit, Hello Dolly, co-founder of The Chicago Inclusion Project (CIP), and become a regular on several popular TV shows on national and global television. I am an activist for equality and positive representation.

I aspire to reach a level of success in my work that would allow me to open up my own theatre and media company. I see myself as Artistic Director and Executive Producer on cutting edge theatre and media projects that have a global reach."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "...it is up to the artist to not be silenced. To Call out...and to Call in. To resist... and to challenge. We must give voice to the disenfranchised, and be a visible example of resistance and positive representation. The Greeks believed that the only way to achieve true change... real catharsis... that the only way to have a real profound and deep impact on a life, is that you have to go through hell. They believed that you really have to live in hell for a while, in order for true transformation to happen. But guess what? People don't like going through hell. We avoid it. So, what if an actor could do it



for you? What if one could go to the theatre... or listen to the song... or read the novel... or watch the movie, where the artist can go through it for us, by proxy, so that we don't have to. If so, we, the audience, can reap the benefit, learn the lesson, and have the change we desire, or the change we need without going through hell Aurselves. That is the value of the artist. It is a true service profession. It is easy to see how the Doctor, the Lawyer, the Construction Worker, the Architect, the Hedge-fund Manager and the Teacher impact our lives and what role they play in society. We get to see it and experience it. It is tangible... but here is a question for you... what do all those people do AFTER work? They read books! They listen to music! They go to movies! They go to plays! That is culture. Culture is guite literally, what we live for. The Arts; and Artists? We create that culture. We have the ability to shape society. We have the responsibility to do it in a meaningful and inclusive way. I take that very seriously. What we do is very valuable. Let's keep creating ... "

# BURZIN BALSARA, PLANO, TX (< 35 YRS)

ERGING LEADERS Under 35 Years



urzin is a senior in high school, **D**and has an impressive number of awards in science and engineering in local, state, national as well as international competitions. At the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), Burzin placed 3rd in the world in Engineering Mechanics (2016), and 4th in the world in Embedded Systems (2015). He has worked in the Renewable Energy and Vehicular Technology (REVT) Laboratory at the University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas). Emboldened by the desire to change the way the world looks at clean transportation, he worked to design and build a prototype electric engine block that uses linear actuators as pistons connected to a crankshaft to convert linear motion to rotary, resulting in a 'true' hybrid electric-gasoline engine.

Burzin is an ordained priest and has performed several navjote and jashan ceremonies. He was a panelist at the 17<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress held in LA in 2014 on *The Challenges and Achievements of Young Mobeds in North America.* 

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "I have always been interested in robotics and the inner workings of any mechanical or electrical device. After seeing how quickly my grandfather's quality of life degraded due to the debilitating effects of arthritis, I began to understand that science has an application outside of science fairs. I joined the LOCO Lab at UT Dallas last summer, where I worked on robotics and prosthetics that could address symptoms like the ones that my grandfather is experiencing.

In an age where technology plays an increasingly larger role daily, and social media has changed the way we interact, I believe communication is more important than ever. For that reason, I am actively involved in speech and debate as Co-President my sophomore year and now Captain of Extemporaneous Speaking. This calls for me to tutor and help new members of the team and ensuring team participation in terms of providing the news articles used for writing speeches in extemporaneous speaking.

As a sophomore, I became the President of the LASER (Learning About Science and Engineering Research) club. As I attended conferences, I learned that the largest issue that pervades the scientific community is the dissemination of research to the public. I became aware that many students had completed excellent and innovative research but were lacking in the ability to present their research. Using my experiences in speech and debate, I set up a mentorship program that began with training my LASER Chapter essential public speaking skills, such as eye contact, vocal inflection, and hand gestures. As the program became more successful, it extended to LASER clubs at our feeder middle schools and enabled many students to advance to new heights in the fair.

Within my Zoroastrian community we have led several community service projects in terms of giving back to the area around our Dar-e-Meher. As a priest, I have the unique privilege of

leading my community in small things like simple prayers before we eat or in larger events like ghambars and conducting various ceremonies.

My dream in life is to become an astronaut so I have applied to the US Naval Academy along with other schools with conventional STEM fields. Should I go the path of the Navy, in ten years I would be an active Naval Officer and hopefully flying off of Naval aircraft carriers around the world. If I end up choosing a conventional STEM school, in ten years I would hope to be working towards a PhD and leading a research group for some innovative technology. Regardless of where I am career wise in ten years, I plan on being right on the path to being selected for the next astronaut class by then."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I have always been curious as to how things worked. My greatest childhood experience with engineering came when I bumped into a gentleman who was a senior member at VEX Robotics ad looking to inspire the next generation to pursue STEM. He asked me of my future interests and offered to send me a robotics kit. One month later a package as tall as me arrived in the mail, with more glistening parts than I could acquire from taking apart all my toys.

After my first robot, I slowly began to start building more things, as opposed to taking them apart, always with the goal of creating things to make life better. This experience only confirmed my passion for engineering, and I grew to be inquisitive and curious, resulting in a relentless desire to learn more while constantly working towards my dream of becoming a mechanical engineer and, one day, an astronaut by questioning the world around me and quenching my thirst to learn."



#### ARIAN SASANI, COQUITLAM, BC, (< 35 YRS)

rian has completed her Bachelor of Kinesiology with a specialization in Clinical Exercise Physiology at University of British Columbia (UBC), one of the consistently top ranked universities in the world. She then decided to specialize within her field and pursued a post-graduate degree in Pedorthics (Lower limb, orthopedic footwear and orthotic specialist). While working in this field, she found working with seniors to be especially rewarding; so she also pursued a Post- Baccalaureate diploma in Gerontology at Simon Fraser University. She is currently a Master of Health Leadership and Policy in Seniors Care candidate at UBC.

Arian has extensive work and volunteer experience in various health-care settings such as community and longterm care. She has had the privilege of being the Chair of the Gerontology Student Union at Simon Fraser University (SFU). She has also worked as the patient coordinator and Certified Pedorthist at a foot-care and Orthotic clinic in Vancouver. She is an expert in casting, manufacturing, fitting and modifying custom foot orthoses and footwear to assist in alleviating painful and debilitating conditions of the lower limb. She has considerable experience and knowledge working with seniors and has a passion for health promotion and ageing. She has been active and eager to coordinate and present workshops for The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia with regards to foot wellness, fall prevention and nutrition.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "I have been able to positively influence and empower the lives of many of my patients. I have been able to make a difference in so many lives and that is what motivates me on my educational and professional path. I thrive from seeing positive results in my patients and seeing an individual move towards living a healthier lifestyle. I am also motivated by team members who challenge and push me to grow personally and professionally.

I am currently part of the communications committee of the Pedorthic Association of Canada and am also an academic writer of the Pedorthic Quarterly Journal. I have authored many articles within the Pedorthic industry. As the chair of the Gerontology student union, I have led many social events to promote the industry and the department of Gerontology at SFU. I am passionate about health and wellness and am an active seniors advocate. As the aging population grows worldwide, I hope to be an exemplary leader in seniors' care.

I have been an active member and volunteer with the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia. I have helped with numerous social events and helped lead the Avesta classes. I recently coordinated and led workshops specifically tailored for the seniors in our community with regards to health, wellness

and fitness. I have worked with older adults in numerous non-profit organizations as an instructor and as an advocate and educator. I am passionate about promoting a healthy lifestyle within the community.

I aspire to be a leader in seniors' care and hope to create and implement policies with regards to appropriate care of the elderly in our community. Given my health-care background, I want to create and implement programs in my community that will help reduce senior isolation and help seniors live independently in their community. I also have a passion for promoting healthy ageing and chronic disease prevention through physical activity and healthy eating.

In about ten years from now, I hope to be the director of care of my own multi-disciplinary clinic for seniors' health and wellness.

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? I hope to create and implement multiple initiatives, which will help maintain and improve senior's health and wellbeing within the community. I want to be able to make a difference by implementing policies and programs where seniors can maintain their independence at home and in the community, free of social isolation.

Two of my strongest attributes are self-determination and being goal-oriented. I strongly believe that hard work and determination will help you achieve your goal and I can personally speak from experience. I strongly believe in learning and growing individually and as a team.

rging Leaders Under 35 Years



Bahrom is a fourth year MD candidate (Class of 2018) at Texas A&M University, College of Medicine where he was awarded the Dean's award for "distinguished undergraduate achievement and prospective future goals in medicine". He has a BA in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology from Rice University. He is a student athlete and played basketball for Rice University. He was a two-time Rice University Scholar Athlete and a two-time National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court Award Recipient.

Bahrom has published seven publications, posters, and abstracts from research opportunities at the Baylor College of Medicine, the Institute of Orthopedic Research and Education at Houston Methodist Hospital, and Baylor Scott and White Hospital.

He has been a FEZANA Outstanding Scholar and has received the Zoroastrian Association of Houston's Cyrus Desai Legacy Award. True to his strong family connections, the photo he submitted is with his sister, Gohar, who is a Registered Nurse.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "Similar to the urgency of situations late in a basketball game, patient interactions require a calm, focused approach. I enjoy this role of a 'medical detective' for patients' illnesses, where I face novel clinical symptoms and must problem solve in a small window of time. At the end of the day, the team-like relationship between

#### BAHROM FIROZGARY, HOUSTON, TX (< 35 YRS)

resilient patients and persevering transitioning the rituals and cultural doctors, nurses, and medical staff values of our religion from the previous one. I am excited and determined to perform my best.

I was Student Government Officer and fundraised and hosted school-wide volunteer and social events, including the Texas A&M Health Science Center's health fair. I was also the External vice president of the Student National Medical Association at Texas A&M and member of the Emergency Medicine Interest Group and Pre-Med Mentor program.

As an active Mobed in Houston and North American community, I have participated in jashan ceremonies for over a decade, including the World Youth Congress in Vancouver and the North American Congress in LA. I am an annual speaker and volunteer for the ZAH's annual Z-Camp including coaching and hosting a group basketball and physical activity session in addition to speaking at a separate leadership seminar for youth groups. I am a public speaker at various elementary, middle, and high schools in Houston and its surrounding communities and have hosted multiple sessions on topics ranging from college preparation and the importance of obtaining higher education to the dangers of tobacco usage and teaching students various ways to say 'no' when offered.

Ever since childhood, I have wanted to be a doctor. From shadowing orthopedic and trauma surgeons, to anesthesiologists, ER and family medicine physicians, I found myself enjoying essentially any and every situation in the field that I was exposed to. Now, as my aspirations of becoming a physician are about to come to fruition, I am seeking to further increase my role as an active member and practicing Mobed in the Houston and North American Zoroastrian communities.

Over the next decade, my generation of Mobeds will face the task of transitioning the rituals and cultural values of our religion from the previous one. I am excited and determined to continue what our predecessors did for hundreds and thousands of years while also incorporating our Western culture and language. By working alongside priests in my own community and reaching out to friends and family in others, like my grandfather, Mobed Mehraban Firouzgary (in Tehran), I look forward to playing a role in preserving our religion."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "Similar to basketball, a team aspect is vital for efficiency in medicine. It facilitates quality and thorough patient diagnosis and treatment. I find that my ability to be a team player, coupled with my communication skills and warm personality, helps me empathize not only with patients but also with my peers and advisors. These traits allow for the establishment of familial, lasting patient-physician relationships that I personally strive to achieve in my future practice. Whether I need to speak Spanish with my patients or encourage a patient to make lifestyle modifications to better their health status, I find myself not only enjoying the many demands of medicine, but also thriving in it.

The most important aspect and foundation of my medical aspirations is the principle of truly seeing each patient not as another appointment on the office schedule or task on a to-do list, but as a living, breathing human being. No matter how long the days and nights, I strive to rise to the occasion to connect with each and every patient. Physicians have the fundamental responsibility of possessing integrity and the genuine desire to care for those around them, especially so for those in primary care. Utilizing my past extracurricular and clinical experiences as learning pearls, I hope to do just that for many years to come."

#### NEIL SPENTA, LADERA RANCH CA (< 35)

RGING LEADERS Under 35 Jeans



Neil has a BSc in Cyber Forensics, Information Security & Management from Murdoch University, Western Australia. He worked as a Digital Forensic Examiner for the Australian Federal Police for four years, and as an investor in stocks and businesses for over ten years. He is currently CEO of American Corporate Sedan And Limousine.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "Providing a safe, secure and high-performance environment for my employees, by implementing All-Electric Tesla vehicles in a ground transportation service and transitioning an aging and stagnating industry (ground transportation) to sustainable transportation is extremely motivating for me.

Even in my older roles, I have always been a leader amongst the team. All of my past experience has helped me take over, and reinvent a business from the ground up. Leading more than 10 employees in my small business was challenging at first as this was my first small business, but I've had to quickly adapt and have been able to take charge as the CEO of American Corporate Sedan and Limousine.

One of the goals I have very close to my heart is reducing the world's dependence on fossil fuels and transitioning to sustainable energy. Whether this is by promoting a clean, healthy lifestyle, or driving all-electric vehicles, or even installing sustainable energy solutions on buildings, I think it is extremely important to acknowledge the role fossil fuel consumption is playing in climate change, and how that is detrimental and unsustainable in the world today.

I am actually involved with a Sustainable Technology startup, for which I am a co-founder and being groomed for a Chief Technology Officer position. The startup will have many facets to it, but its primary focus is Sustainable Abundance. Sustainability by itself will not survive. It has to be the best of everything, for the most reasonable cost. A classic example of this is a Tesla Model X All-Electric SUV with 300 miles of range, and levels of unparalleled technology and luxury, vs. a Nissan Leaf Hatchback with an 80-mile range, and very basic vehicle technology and feature-set.

Through the skills developed in my business leadership, I have also been instrumental in coordinating and organizing social events within my community. I have built a rapport, and have very quickly developed deep relationships with friends and extended family in Southern California and across the USA."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "Technology has always been an interest of mine. Ever since I was a child, I have always worked to figure out how technology can improve lives. Once I finished high school, I studied Computer Forensics, with an interest in working in Law Enforcement. Early on in my career I took a very large interest in the sustainability space and how sustainable technologies were advancing so rapidly. In my spare time, I invested early in organizations including Sunpower, Solarcity (now Tesla Energy) and Tesla Motors (now Tesla, Inc). After the sustainability sector saw a huge uptake with Tesla's success, four years into my Digital Forensics Career with the Australian Federal Police, I decided to completely pivot, move to the USA, and run a business with a focus on Sustainable Energy and Transportation. I had found that my career in Digital Forensics and Law Enforcement had taken a back seat to the challenging aspects of running a small business, which is something I'd never done before.

Buying a ground transportation business in an industry being cannibalized by RideSharing (Uber, Lyft, and others) as well as rising energy and maintenance costs was an identified challenge. But my plan was quite clear. By replacing my vehicles with Teslas, I would cut my gas and maintenance costs to a minimum, while replacing those costs with fixed cost payments. Add to this the self-driving capabilities under development with Tesla and their neural networks, which in a few years will increase safety and possibly replace some of my payroll expenses, it's a no brainer. Sustainable Abundance is what makes me tick. I am engaged as the Chief Technology Officer and cofounder of a startup based on Sustainable Abundance. This startup organization will be a \$300 billion dollar organization across the world. This would definitely fulfill my leadership ambitions, and I feel it is my duty to the world to free it from its dependence on the deadly consumption of fossil fuels."

#### DINSHA MISTREE, PALO ALTO, CA (< 35 YRS)

RGING LEADERS Under 35 Years



insha has a B.S. and M.S. from MIT and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton. He was a visiting Scholar at IIM-Ahmedabad for one year and a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford for one year. He is a Research Fellow and Lecturer at Stanford Law School.

At MIT he was a John Ely Burchard Scholar. At Princeton he received several awards including: the Center for the Study of Social Organization Graduate Student Research Award and the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance Award

In 2007, he was awarded the FEZANA Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award, presented every three years to one young Zoroastrian in North America for excellence in school, career, and Zoroastrian community affairs, 2007. He has received the Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship for Academic Excellence, and the Vakhshoori Scholarship.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations : "I focus on governance in developing countries. I have several ongoing projects, from surveying bureaucrats in Brazil, India, and

South Africa to redefining corruption : revival of sorts. We do not prioritize to examining the rule of law as it relates to development. I teach classes at the law school on state building and the rule of law, global poverty, and corruption. Apart from academia, I consult for an NGO that teaches English to disadvantaged students in India and I co-founded a tea and coffee business in Delhi, India. I am presently working on issues related to improving governance in the developing world. The motivation is that if we can understand how to improve governance practices, a lot of people can lead better lives.

I have co-organized various conferences and meetings. I am running two large surveys just now with large teams reporting to me. I have been involved in community activities at the local, national, and international levels. Early on, I started writing articles for FEZANA Journal and participating in Congresses. I also helped organize a local student chapter of Zoroastrians in Boston. I have continued to write and participate in Congresses over the years, and I still meet up with local Zoroastrians wherever I am located, but I have put far more attention into community startups. In 2012, I co-founded Return to Roots, which takes young Zoroastrians on trips to India. We have run four trips so far. Also in 2012, I co-started Agiary *Connect*, which provides Zoroastrians living abroad the ability to get religious services performed in India, which helps support priests who continue to serve our temples. Today I am on the FEZANA Scholarship Committee and I mentor several students through ZYNA's mentorship network. I also give tours of Stanford to any high school Zoroastrians who are interested.

On the personal side, I look forward to starting a family and further establishing myself professionally. For the community, I want to see a

the community in our daily lives to the extent that our parents and grandparents did. Hopefully we can figure out ways to change this.

I believe that the strength of the Zoroastrian community in North America should be measured by the number and quality of interactions that our members enjoy. If we don't interact, we don't have a community. If we have regular interactions, we will have a strong community. It's that simple. I want to be involved in programs and activities that promote Zoroastrians to interact with each other."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I was recently visiting the Avari Family in Atlanta. They had a picture of my grandmother Nergesh up in the study. They spoke about her like she was family, how her warmth and kindness had helped them decide to settle in Atlanta, how she had encouraged the children to do well in school, and so on. It was very touching, but I knew exactly what they meant. I have many memories of my grandmother, but one thing I always remember is that she would make sure to cook several dishes for every Sunday school potluck. As with potlucks at local communities, there are oftentimes a few free riders, who would bring napkins and sodas instead of actually cooking. Nergesh would spend hours and hours cooking before the potluck. I remember once asking her why she was doing so much when we could just buy sodas or bring the napkins like everyone else. She said that it doesn't matter what other people do. If you want people to keep coming, if you want a community to continue, you have to do what is necessary. That has stuck with me. While I don't always put in the same time that she did, I strive to live up to that."



#### ADIL BHESANIA, MISSISSAUGA, ON (< 35)

RGING LEADERS Under 35 Years

A dil is a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) and has just recently started working in Northern Ontario and Oakville, Canada.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "Having been in dental school for almost ten years in two countries, I am extremely happy to have started working and helping people, which is the primary reason I chose this career path. Each patient presents his/her unique personality, medical condition(s) and problem(s) and applying my knowledge and skills set on a case to case basis for diagnosing and treatment is what I enjoy the most.

I aim to provide care to my patients in the least damaging way and this motivates me to keep myself abreast with the latest knowledge in this field through continuing education courses. Getting positive feedback from patients about the quality of care is an immensely satisfying feeling and motivates me to continue providing the best possible care.

During my school years, I have been a part of various committees and initiatives. I was part of the Dentantics Committee, which organizes an annual fundraising show with 100% of proceeds going to Access to Care, a fund at the school which provides free, life changing dental care to individuals who otherwise may not be able to afford it. I was part of the committee to establish the Pakistan Dental Community (PDC), a non-profit organization, which focuses energy and resources towards education and improving oral health in underserviced and remote areas in Pakistan. I am immensely proud of how it has grown and succeeded.

Having passed the National Dental Boards in both Canada and United States, I guide other international dentists who find me through mutual contacts on how to progress towards licensure in these countries. To help mentor and train future clinicians, I plan on returning to school as part-time clinical faculty in 2019.

Since immigrating to Canada, I have volunteered actively with the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) including serving as Scout Leader with the 100 Oakville Zoroastrian Scouts Group.

I have always had an interest in entrepreneurship, so in the next few years, I plan to own and manage multiple dental practices in Canada, where I can serve different populations. I plan to take courses in orthodontics and periodontal surgery to upgrade my skills so that I can provide more options and complex care to my patients. Another venture I'm looking forward to is to utilize my skills and training as a dental healthcare professional to take part in mission trips to Africa, the Middle East and back home to Pakistan to provide oral healthcare to underprivileged societies and refugees.

On a personal level, I enjoy travelling and would love to visit different parts of the world. My other interest is sports. I plan to combine these two and travel to Tokyo, Japan for the 2020 Summer Olympics and to Qatar and the Middle East for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Since I started working, I have been lucky in my professional career to have an amazing mentor who taught me a lot. I would like to mentor new graduates who are trying to find their way in private practice. I also look forward to being involved with FEZANA and WZO."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "Since a young age, I have been goal oriented and disciplined. I am organized and proactive in my professional and social life and try to maintain a constant balance between both every day.



open mindedness and a positive attitude. I try to find the better side in everything. Another habit I developed early on was self-reflection. It helps me immensely as I learn from my mistakes and assess how I could have performed differently and make a mental note of how to improve. After all, life is a process of constant learning, change and growth.

I was part of a program where high school children would visit the faculty to experience what life as a dentist entails and to be a resource for them if they wish to pursue a career in dentistry. I've spoken with a couple of high school students I mentored during the program and one of them is applying for admission into undergraduate dental school in 2020. I will be very happy if she gets the chance to pursue this career. I would love to continue this by holding workshops in schools so that students can learn about this profession.

I feel privileged to have chosen a profession which gives me options and opportunities to serve my patients, be a mentor for young individuals, help and guide other professionals with recertification when they come to Canada and the United States, and in the near future, volunteer on mission trips."

My strongest attributes are patience,

#### MALCOLM PITHAWALLA, ARCADIA, CA (< 35 YRS)

ERGING LEADERS Under 35 Years

Malcolm will be finishing his Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering in 2020. He has been a Chemical Engineering Intern at PPG Aerospace and a Hybrid Project Manager and a Lead Injector Engineer on the University of Minnesota Rocket Team.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "My motivation in Chemical Engineering is solving the energy crisis that plagues the world today. Oil shortages and price hikes paint a turbulent future that will force countries to use renewable or green energy. I want to work with innovators and trailblazers in fusion energy, a secure and plentiful source.

I was project manager for a couple of components in the University of Minnesota Rocket Team. Working with students was easy, but scheduling projects and assessing the skills of my peers was new to me. However, I've more confidence in my ability to lead and I will be overseeing future projects in our team.

I am the current Social Media Manager for the Zoroastrian Association of California. I've made it my goal to spread and reach young Zoroastrians with live updates about events in our religious community. Right now, I am working to create a library for Zoroastrian documentations from religious scripture to news articles relevant to our community. I want to work with my religious community to develop a global presence and eventually create a centralized digital library and media outlet to inform young Zoroastrians and recruit young Zoroastrians to help me carry this passion.

Ten years from now, I have leadership aspirations in my profession and my community. In my profession, I see myself traveling to different countries, coordinating global projects, and interacting with many people of different skills and knowledge to further develop my own. In my community, I want to educate young Zoroastrians and instill a sense of responsibility to carry culture and tradition."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "As an engineer, my strongest attributes are my curiosity and my passion. Curiosity pushes me to explore unknown experiences and knowledge outside my comfort zone and understand the mechanisms that drive the world to exist and operate. Coupled with curiosity, my passion drives me to continually explore and understand new interests; I have an itch when an undiscovered article, item, or any subject enters my life and I want to understand the mechanism or purpose of an undiscovered subject. A great example is my rise to engineering positions in my rocket team. I had no knowledge or experience with rockets and I wanted to join the team to learn and participate in building and developing rockets. I then joined the propulsion subdivision and took charge of researching and building the injector of a hybrid rocket motor. I was fascinated and driven to understand more about hybrid rockets and learning the additional pieces to this hybrid motor. Eventually, I decided to join the hybrid project as a leader to fit together the different components as a functional rocket motor



my passion was made possible by advice from my senior supervisors and teamwork among peers. I consulted with senior classmates to seek guidance on how to perform well in the team and what they wanted in a team member. This allowed me to assess the skills and knowledge I would have to develop before being confident to lead a team. Next, I had to gain the trust and respect of my peers in the team. I wanted to make sure that bias and differences could be ignored to focus on projects without raising unnecessary conflict. I slowly networked and used social skills to create a friendly persona and develop trust between team members of the projects. Through my experience in the rocket team, I found my strongest attributes and learned how to responsibly assume leadership to create a strong working team.

The path of turning my curiosity into

#### DIANA VANIA, BATTERSEA, UK (< 35 YRS)

RGING LEADERS Under 35 Jeans

iana has an MS in Global . Health and works in health care and pharmaceutical consulting. She has been a Research Coordinator at McMaster University, Canada, an Associate Research Scientist at Precision Health Economics, USA, and is currently Research Associate, at Evidera, UK.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "I am very passionate about and committed to positively affecting health policies to influence disease prevention and access to health care. In my current role as Research Associate, every project I work on enables patients to access safer and more efficient medicines for rare or debilitating diseases. As I progress in my career, I hope to be able to influence health decision-making and improve the lives of people around the world.

I have won awards in the workplace for my work in model parameterization, analyzing and synthesizing complex qualitative and quantitative data, and creating high-quality client deliverables. I have a track record for identifying opportunities for and implementing process enhancements to increase project efficiencies.

I was the editor of the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) monthly newsletter. I represented FEZANA at the United Nations headquarters at a conference supporting the Millennium Development Goals. I organized a campaign with over 600 participants taking a pledge to end poverty. At Zoroastrian congresses in Toronto, Los Angeles, and Auckland, I have given speeches on how youth can get involved in their community, my experience in the inaugural Return to Roots program, and how youth instill a sense of pride about being Zoroastrian. I am currently Co-Chair of the Zoroastrian Youth of What makes you tick and steps you North America committee. During my

tenure, I established a North Americawide Zarathushti mentorship program with nearly 150 mentors and mentees. Through this program, we have connected established professionals with young people in the community who are entering university or are in the early stages of their career.

My hope for the future is that the youth of the Zoroastrian community take pride in being a Zoroastrian. Today, there are too many associations, both in India and abroad, with tension and conflict between members. I feel that in order for our religion and community to prosper, the current generation of local association leaders needs to lead by example, fostering a close-knit and supportive community so that the youth may want to become more involved without the worry of the drama or hostility that currently surrounds some associations. With such a small global community, we should all be working together to maintain our religion and ensure that we move forward in an inclusive and cohesive manner.

In my career, I hope to be in a position in which I can influence health policies to ensure that people have access to quality health care and medications. I would like to mentor young professionals who are starting their career in global health/health care consulting to provide them with insight, advice, and guidance on how best to achieve their career goals.

I plan to continue to be involved with the Zoroastrian community through congresses, FEZANA, and my local association. I will continue to help and guide the mentorship program, as I feel it is a valuable resource for our community. This would be a wonderful legacy for the youth of future generations."

would take to enable you to attain



your leadership ambitions? "My desire to help others has been my biggest driving force through my volunteer activities, career, and leadership roles. As I gain more experience, I will be able to drive and influence the health research that impacts many lives around the world. With increased exposure working across different global teams, I will have the opportunity to hone my leadership skills and bring efficiency and quality to my work. In addition to this, my strong work ethic and organizational skills have made me an indispensable part of the teams I work on. I aspire to further improve on these qualities to help me attain my career goals.

What motivates me to be so involved in the Zoroastrian community are the great people. At every congress I attend, I am in awe of the warm, inviting, and successful community that I am part of, and I sincerely hope that it continues to grow and prosper. The history of our religion is so rich, and I would like to see the values that our religion was built on being inculcated into today's youth. In the coming years, I will work closely with the new generation of young leaders to foster and expand the mentorship program, as well as encourage youth to participate in the Return to Roots program, which enables them to experience and learn about our history, culture, and religion.

#### TANYA BHARDA, MISSISSAUGA, ON (< 35 YRS)

ERGING LEADERS Under 35 Years



Tanya has an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto with double majors in Women & Gender Studies and Italian, and a minor in Political Science. She has worked as a Relief Women's Advocate for about seven years and as a flight attendant for ten months.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "Ever since I was a little child, I have seen the reality of poverty, and the constant reminder that I am so fortunate to have basic necessities motivates me in my profession. Another motivation is working to uplift underprivileged women and children.

I worked on an Anti-Child Labour Campaign, Child Marriage project, inculcated the value of education among the poor and taught English to street kids and conducted several home visits.

During my 15-month work experience in India, I developed and streamlined educational level-based content for street kids, developed, and conducted and monitored level-based assessments for children from Grade 1-8. I piloted an English Program for Grade 7 students. I also spearheaded an intensive English program for young adults as well as trainings and workshops. I have planned, organized, and executed multiple events for women and seniors in Mississauga, Ontario - mainly for the Mississauga Multicultural Festival.

I am very involved in my community. I am a board member at Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF), where I am the liaison for the Senior and Youth Committees. I am a Scout leader for children from the ages of 5 to 7 with the 100<sup>th</sup> Oakville Zoroastrian Scouts Group. I am also on the South Asian Advisory Council with United Way of Peel, helping with empowering women in the South Asian Society in Peel. I volunteer at various events, spreading awareness and registering for child sponsorships with World Vision Canada.

Through my experience, I have realized women are key components towards sustainable development. I want to look at the factors that hold women back from gaining equality as well as methods to break the cycle and empower women to become contributing members of society. In my opinion, it is important to learn from other countries and states to determine what issues are in common and how we can use their methods in our own practice. One main goal is to bridge the gap between policy and grassroots organizations. Policy cannot work without grassroots and vice versa. Therefore, there needs to be a way to create policy being aware of the obstacles Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) face. Ensuring a society, which is developed on all aspects is extremely beneficial towards making the globe equal on all levels.

I would like to start my own Non-Government Organization for underprivileged children and women in the future. This NGO will be focusing on how to ensure girls and boys have equality in their lives and can sustain

I also spearheaded an intensive a good future. The goal is to make English program for young adults as sure that we break the circle of poverty well as trainings and workshops. I through education and knowledge."

> What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "This spirit of service and engagement to uplift the poor is not wholly new to me. The history of Zoroastrianism is a classic example of migration, integration and contribution to the local community while still retaining cultural identity. The value of selfless and collective action has been central to my upbringing as a Zoroastrian. Besides my skills, knowledge, experience, and education, one of my strongest attributes is my passion for social work so as to make a difference in the world. Social work is something that comes naturally to me and it is not a job to me, it is something that I love do.

> One thing that ticks me off is when people use their class status. I believe that everyone is equal, and one of my main goals is to ensure that no matter where you come from, what clothes you are wearing, what your gender is, which class or caste you are from, everyone deserves a chance to get an education and deserves respect. I aim to make a change in those people's lives, that do not have a voice, through my leadership skills. Another issue that affects me is the discrimination of gender - no matter boy or girl, everyone deserves to be treated the same way and have the same opportunities.

The next steps I will take to achieve my motivation, as a leader, is to make a change in someone's life. I will continue to use my leadership skills, such as my confidence, persuasion, motivation, problem solving, supportiveness and more to fight for the rights of the underprivileged. I truly believe that Every Child needs Equality – Not Charity."

#### ZENIA SHROFF, PALMETTO, FL (< 35 YRS)

ERGING LEADERS Under 35 Jeans



enia obtained her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Finance and International Business from the University of Central Florida. She started working in the Financial Aid Office of her University. After graduating, she has been working in the financial industry at Raymond James a Financial Brokerage firm.

She was awarded the Ethics in Business Scholarship at the University of Central Florida in 2015 and the Raymond James Service 1st Blog Recognition in October 2017

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "Raymond James is a multi-faceted firm, dealing in various parts of the brokerage and banking industry. The environment provides diverse growth and learning potential and this is what motivates me the most. With an educational background in Finance, I am motivated by aspects of my profession, which push for me to learn more about the trends in my industry and in the ever-changing markets. In my current role, I work closely with Financial Advisors regarding various aspects of managing their client's accounts. This hands-on training is the first step towards my ultimate goal of becoming a financial advisor for various wealth and income levels.

Within my professional community at Raymond James, I am an active member

of The Young Professional Network : myself being the leader for this push in and Women's Interactive Network and I also volunteer as a Judge for InvestWrite, a national business essay writing competition for young adults.

I am an active member within my local Zoroastrian Community and serve as Vice President for the Orlando Chapter of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce (WZCC). Within WZCC we strive to have meetings that are not only social, but also community building. As it is a Chamber of Commerce, many of our meetings involve bringing in guest speakers from within our community who have varied business and professional backgrounds. We have had professionals from the religious, medical, literary, sports and military backgrounds come and speak on their unique perspectives. Each year we also hold a Gahambar, where the entire community gets together to plan, cook for, and serve the local Zoroastrian Community. As Vice President, I have the responsibility of ensuring that the entire event is planned and executed correctly so that the goal of community building and involvement is achieved by all.

In my profession, I aspire to pass my Series 7 exam and become well versed in structured products so that I can give sound financial advice to my clients. For WZCC, I would like to work with other chapters to brainstorm and develop initiatives for our local and greater Zoroastrian communities. I am on the WZCC Central Florida team that will be hosting the WZCC 2018 AGM in Orlando. My longerterm aspiration is to strive and become an advocate in my local community.

While growing up in the United States I realized that not many people had heard of Zoroastrianism and still to this day, have limited correct reference information. My goal is to develop a platform where our community is more known. This would include a push for more Zoroastrian community centers where people can come, learn and experience the Zoroastrian and Parsi culture. I see my area. The other community initiative would be to provide assistance, in cash and kind, to two groups that are in particular need of this support: elderly Zoroastrians and our Zoroastrian Priests."

What makes you tick, and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I believe my strongest attributes are my work ethic, my compassion and ability to listen to different points of view. Whichever task I take on, I make sure to dedicate my 100% to the successful completion of it, from the development to its implementation. On approaching a situation, I make sure to take into consideration all players and views before making any determination and taking action. I believe that I can use these three attributes to attain my leadership ambitions because my personality allows for me to complete goals with full dedication while also being mindful of all views before implementing anything.

Iwilldevelopinitiativesforunderprivileged Zoroastrians by working with other associations and chambers. I also plan to organize with my community members and the WZCC board for our presence to be increased at local community events. This type of community diversity outreach initiatives would enable us to become much more visible and known.

To develop initiatives for underprivileged Zoroastrians in India I would like to work with other WZCCs Chapters/ Regions and FEZANA as resources for knowledge and support. Developing and implementation of these initiatives is no small task and I believe coming together to share ideas, experiences and resources is the best method to achieving these goals. With more transparency and 'cross site reach', I believe the various WZCCs can work together to develop and implement initiatives successfully."

ERGING LEADERS Under 35 Years



ishad has a Psychology and KBusiness Degree from Simon Fraser University. He is a Commercial Photographer and Partner at Stav & Wander Advertising Agency.

Rishad is a self-taught photographer. He has travelled all over the world in the past five years, photographing some of the most beautiful locations on earth. He has worked with notable clients that include Google, CNN, BMW, Canon, Volvo, Redbull, TED and many more. Rishad and his two business partners own a leading digital advertising agency, Stay & Wander, based in Vancouver BC, that specializes in adventure photography and film. His agency also manages and represents some of the most talented and influential photographers around the world.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "I enjoy telling stories through photographs and sharing my travels from around the world. I have a great feeling of gratitude that I've been able to turn my passions for photography, travel and marketing into my full time career and that pushes me to keep working hard, improving my craft and continuing to explore more of our beautiful planet."

Rishad has taken on a mentorship role to numerous aspiring photographers and filmmakers in his local community

#### RISHAD DAROOWALA, VANCOUVER, BC, (< 35 YRS)

and across the web. Whether it's : living your dharma is very important through teaching people how to shoot (from beginners to experts) or sharing his knowledge and experience on how to navigate the business side of the industry, Rishad is seen as a mentor and thought leader in the photography community world wide and his hometown of Vancouver BC, Canada.

"I think at first, my goals were somewhat in the moment and rather narrow focused. I wanted to travel more, become a better photographer and grow my business. But now being a little more settled and experienced, I'm striving to do more projects that raise awareness and help underprivileged communities and to use my audience and craft for better use. Currently I'm working on a project that will see me and my brother, Rohaan (a film maker) spending time in India and giving voice, raising awareness and, hopefully, financial support to underprivileged villages and tribes that need support. While in India I want to further explore my Parsi heritage through photography and film and share it with other young North American Parsis who are also curious about their culture and roots and who may benefit from someone in similar shoes to them - living in North America with perhaps less Zoroastrian culture and family around them than most.

Hard to predict what will happen in ten years but I think I'd like to mentor youth in the future and hopefully be of more service to my community. I may not have the most knowledge, but I would like to share my experiences as well as encourage youth to create their own lifestyle and their own unique careers. I think a lot of kids (including myself) grow up being taught to associate work with pain or difficulty, which doesn't encourage them to find their talents and do things they love. I think discovering your passion and and impacts all areas of ones life.

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I think one of my stronger attributes relates to having a combination of an entrepreneurial spirit and a creative mind. I am constantly inspired by other artists, and value the opportunities I have had to not only learn and grow as an artist in their presence, but to also provide a platform from which others can share their work with the world. I believe that my exposure to various cultures and perspectives through travel all over the world has been essential in developing my vision, and this permeates in my work. While I have in the past pursued a more formal education, I have found my travels to be among my most formative life experiences - and creating my own values and measures of success is very important to me.

In reflecting on my leadership ambitions, it is my hope that through my work and mentorship I can continue to inspire youth to follow their passions and to create their own unique careers and lifestyles - not just doing things for money or because society or their parents tell them to. I do believe success (including financial success) will always follow if you put love into your vocation and have a strong plan of action. I am not afraid to fail and I believe making mistakes along the way is all part of the journey - and those are the times where I learn the most and evolve in my career and my personal life.

Giving back to my community and doing seva is something I hope I can continue to grow into in the future.

#### ERIC ENGINEER, AUSTIN, TX (35-45 YRS)

erging Leaders Between 35-45 Years

Eric has a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude* in Computer Science & Managerial Studies and a Master of Computer Science (Distributed Systems) from Rice University. He has an MBA from Harvard where he was the winner of the Venture Investment Competition. He has been a Business Executive (Technology/Marketing) and an Investor (Venture Capital) for over fifteen years.

After graduating from Rice University, Eric had a brief stint with Trilogy Software, a software company that provides offers and experiences to create buyers, and deliver sales for automotive and telecommunications companies.

He was recruited to be part of the Microsoft Leadership Program at their Redmond, WA headquarters, a highly selective, two-year job rotation and training program. At Microsoft, Eric was Associate Product Manager (Windows Embedded) and Product Manager (Windows Mobile).

He is the currently CEO of Invodo, a provider of high-scale video production services with over \$11M in annual revenue, serving the digital marketing and ecommerce needs of more than 20 large retailers and brands – including Verizon, Home Depot, UnderArmour, Dell, Toys R Us, World Market, Amazon, Wayfair, and Vera Bradley. Invodo is headquartered in Austin, Texas, and runs a custom-designed 36,000 square foot video production studio in Plano (Dallas), Texas.

Before that, Eric was a partner at Rosen Funds, a 31 year-old venture capital firm with \$1.5 billion under management — specializing in investments in early-stage technology companies. The firm typically invested between \$4 million and \$15 million in a portfolio company.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: Eric is motivated by the opportunity to learn new things, to build something new that changes the status quo and to team with and develop others.

He has been President, of TeXchange Dallas a networking organization for start-up technology community. He was Youth Director, of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce WZCC and Webmaster for the Zoroastrian Association of North Texas.

His future goal is to be a Managing Director at a Venture Capital Firm. He would also like to grow a small, startup technology company into a large, public company, start a Montessori School with his wife and start a non-profit foundation in support of education.

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "Since I was a child, I've been intellectually curious. I'm a committed lifelong learner – constantly reading about new things – especially when it comes to technology. Professionally, I'm happy and motivated if my job involves new experiences that are helping me grow. If I find myself doing the same things two years in a row, then I know it's time to move on to the next challenge.

Over the past couple years, my responsibilities have grown to include managing larger and larger teams of people in often uncertain, dynamic situations. These experiences have



taught me the importance of empathy. Companies are collections of people; and people are emotional, as much as they are logical, beings. You cannot be an effective communicator and leader if you do not make the effort to put yourself in other people's shoes. It's important to tailor how you communicate with and motivate each individual, as everyone is slightly different and what works with one person may not with another.

I believe that this commitment to learning and empathy will enable me to remain passionate, grow professionally, adapt to new circumstances, build highfunctioning teams, and be an effective leader that can drive change in the world."



#### HORMUZD EZZATI, IRVINE, CA (35-45 YRS)

Hormuzd has a BS in Bio-Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and Juris Doctor Degree from the University of West Los Angeles. He is an Attorney at Law and has been practicing for nine years as an attorney, the last seven in solo practice, with a focus on United States immigration and nationality law.

Motivation, Leadership & **Aspirations:** "Coming from а religious suppressed minority background in Iran, I have always strived to help those that are most in need of representation to protect their rights. This has been a hallmark of my career, which has also included pro bono representation of individuals who may not necessarily have the financial means for proper legal representation of their rights.

I have been recognized as a Rising Star by Thompson Reuters in *Super Lawyer Magazine- Los Angeles*, a national publication. The "Rising Star" award is given to 2.5% of attorneys that fall within their selection criteria.

I am a member of the Orange County (OC) Bar Association's Community Outreach Committee where in the past I have co-chaired and or participated in events such as a food drive for the needy, visits to the Orangewood Children's Home, Toys for Tots, Beach Cleanup sponsored by Heal the Bay, and other similar community oriented activity. The Community Outreach Committee's mission is to facilitate the provision of community services by the O.C. Bar Association, its members and affiliates.

As a hobby, I like photography, and several of my photographs from community events have been published in the OC Bar magazine. I continue to work with the Orange County Public Law Center and Veterans Legal



Institute, where my work as a volunteer has been recognized as a Volunteer for Justice.

I also volunteer my time with the California Zoroastrian Center as an attorney to assist in the preparation of policies and procedures as well as document review on a pro bono basis. As a member of a small but proud Zoroastrian community, I hope to continue my commitment to not only my work in the legal field but to also contribute in growing the tenets of seeking the truth and the good in life to benefit all.

I am driven to be the best at what I do, and in the past this drive has enabled me to achieve great success. I came to the United States at the age of 14, and since that time with the grace of Ahura, and support of my family, especially my wife, I have been fortunate to contribute to society in a positive and meaningful way. In the next decade, I anticipate to continue my contributions to our community at large in the same way, by taking on leadership roles that will provide the most benefit to those that need it. "

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions ? "All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act on their dreams with open eyes, to make them possible." T. E. Lawrence

"The first time I read this quote, it raised a sense of awareness within me. As a young teenage boy coming from Iran, where severe limitations on people's lifestyles exist even today, this quote made me realize that anything is possible, so long as you set your mind to doing it.

I began my legal career as a litigation assistant working at a boutique law firm in Beverly Hills, California. Prior to starting my career in the legal field, I worked at Devereux Institute, a nonprofit organization providing services to persons with emotional, developmental, and learning disabilities. Having such a diverse background enabled me to depend on my self-awareness, which in turn has given me an understanding on how to prioritize matters that need the most attention, and most importantly, to adapt to change. In particular, because my family came to the United States for freedom and greater opportunities, I have always strived to commit myself to be the best I can be, and along the way, learn from my mistakes. Taking initiative to make change and think about how that change will benefit those around you is perhaps the most valued hallmark of my personality.

As our prophet's words have been quoted, 'to battle darkness, do not draw a sword, turn on a light.' A reminder that at each stage in our daily life, each of us should consciously think about our actions and how we can strive to be better at practicing good words, good deeds, and good thoughts.

## RGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years

#### ZUBIN GHYARA, LOS GATOS, CA (35-45 YRS)



**7**ubin has a BE in Mechanical Lengineering from Pune University, an MS in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech, and an MBA from Cornell University. He has about 17 years experience in the tech industry, ranging from Product Management, IT, and Supply Chain Management roles. He is currently leading operations for the AI/Datacenter business segments at NVIDIA.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "Operations spans a broad spectrum of job functions and I get to manage teams that interact all the way from the Design phase through the End of Life of a product. The opportunity to learn the dynamics of entering new market segments, introducing new technologies and partnering with some of the smartest people in the industry to disrupt the status quo is incredibly satisfying and keeps me constantly motivated. Being witness to the emergence of AI and Robotics applications and being part of the core team that disrupted this space has been a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I lead the Operations team for the Artificial Intelligence/Datacenter business at NVIDIA. This segment has scaled annual revenue from \$150 million to over \$2 billion in just two years and is the driving force for NVIDIA's transformation from a Graphics Chip company to the

world's leading Artificial Intelligence : to significantly disrupt the traditional solutions provider. My role in leading this transformation is to develop the operations and supplier/partner ecosystem so that NVIDIA can transform from a Chip supplier to a Hardware and Software solutions provider.

Although I am a regular at all community events, I have not assumed a leadership role at the Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC) recently. I am very grateful for the members who have invested their time and talent to manage this active community in the Bay Area. The local chapter plays a critical role in providing the support structure for new families in the Bay Area and the time volunteered by individuals to manage the community center and Sunday school is incredibly valuable to our children.

I want to continue my career track where I can leverage my experience and lead operations to bring new products to the market and develop the organization/infrastructure to scale a business. Since I enjoy working with entrepreneurs and technologists, I have started advising and investing in startups to stay engaged in the ecosystem and I have realized that my peers in the start-up space value my insight from an operational standpoint. In the future, there is tremendous scope to invest in startups/small businesses in India with the emergence of digital currencies and advancements of point of use healthcare applications - this is an area that I want to explore further.

It is clear to me that my strengths lie in partnering with the sales/business development leaders to develop the operations capability to support new product development and volume production. I think in 10 years, I will either continue to lead operations for a mid/large cap company or join a startup in the AI/healthcare space. The combination of AI and IOT are going

job functions and business models across industries and I think there will be incredible opportunities for leaders that understand how to leverage these technologies and pivot their business models."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? The satisfaction of being part of a team that disrupts an existing market and the opportunity to interact with peers who are smart, driven and passionate about developing incredible products keeps me motivated. My success may be a result of constantly updating my skills, staying curious, and never refusing an opportunity to learn. I enjoy exploring roles across diverse functions and I tend to ignore advice from managers who have tried to box me in a specific role - nothing is more satisfying than disproving a stereotype.

Over the years - with excellent mentoring - I have developed the capability to identify areas that need my focus, so I can maximize the impact of my time and try to maintain a worklife balance. Focusing on developing soft skills like emotional intelligence and the ability to manage across global teams has helped me gain the respect of my peers. The Bay Area is unique in that it has a large concentration of leaders who are accessible and willing to share their experiences. Over time, I have realized that by reaching out for advice and keeping an open mind to learn from people who have been in the trenches allows me to maximize the probability of success by not repeating their mistakes.

These are exciting times. The combination of disruptions such as digital currencies, robotics, AI and the increased adoption of technology in developing economies is going to provide ample opportunities to explore leadership roles in a wider range of industry.

### CYRUS MISTRY, WEST BLOOMFIELD, MI (35-45 YRS)

RGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years



Yyrus received four degrees in four years from Johns Hopkins: BS and MS Biomedical Engineering, as well as a BS and MS in Computer Science. He is currently the Group Product Manager at Google, responsible for Education Platforms and Ecosystems worldwide.

#### Motivation, Leadership & **Aspirations:**

"From a young age I started tinkering with my mom's computer (she was usually less than amused!). Over time I learned several programming languages, began research in natural language processing, machine learning, and artificial intelligence and published papers to aid in the diagnosis of cancer using computers,

At Google I was responsible for a \$100 million enterprise product line and then went on to be a Product Manager for Google Drive, the lead Product Manager for Google Calendar, and then joined the founding team for Chromebooks. I decided to take Chromebooks to schools where they are now the #1 education devices in the world. One in two children in the United States uses my product every week. It has truly been an honor.

For years the motivation came from working with brilliant people from around the world and solving tough problems. However, since beginning my work over the last several years in education technology and meeting ; from someone's mobile phone. They with education leaders from around the world, my true motivation comes from my work to transform education for our children. I am fortunate to have a team of product managers and engineers that work closely with students, teachers, and administrators to launch products that increase learning outcomes and, more importantly, significantly increase excitement and engagement.

In addition to leadership roles at Google and my previous employers, I also lead various initiatives in my community. I was asked by the First Lady, Michelle Obama, to be on a think tank for her Reach Higher initiative and had meetings at the White House. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Michigan College Alliance. I am working with them to transform higher education through the use of technology so that students that can't afford expensive private colleges can attend classes online for a fraction of the cost. I also saw how much could be done even in my subdivision so I ran and was selected for the Board of Maple Creek subdivision. I have been asked to be a campaign advisor for Sanjay Gupta's (CNN Medical Correspondent) brother Suneel Gupta in his run for Congress.

My goal for the future is simple: I aspire to be a great husband, great father, and to continue to give back to the community that has provided me with so much.

One of the first things I did when I began developing technology for students was to create a Global Education Symposium where we invited the Ministers of Education from around the world to Mountain View to discuss the biggest problems facing education around the world. In 10 years I would love to lead an education revolution across the world to provide every child with access to the world's information. I've seen examples of what can happen when a child in a remote village in Africa is provided with access to the Internet

were able to research ways to create clean running water from far away streams and slowly improve the lives of everyone in the village. Children are able to accomplish astonishing things if they are only provided with access to the information."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I owe most of how I tick to my parents. Both my parents are extremely well read and knowledge so, from a very young age, they instilled in me a strong thirst for learning. That constant curiosity has stayed with me. Like most applicants (and most Zoroastrians for that matter) I am a type-A driven leader that received all A's in school and has achieved professional success. What really separates me from the pack is my strong connection to people. I've been fortunate to live in so many places around the US that I take pride in staying connected to several thousand people to this day. I am constantly connecting friends and co-workers from different parts of my world so that others can get the same benefits of networking that I received. So, my strongest attribute wouldn't be my strong work ethic or any domain expertise - it would be my desire and ability to connect with people from all walks of life. It is that, as well, which makes me tick.

My ultimate goal is to leverage the knowledge I've gained over the past decades in education and technology and my vast global network to continue to bring about revolutionary change to children's lives. I truly believe I've only just begun."

## erging Leaders Between 35-45 Years

#### NEVILLE SANJANA, NEW YORK, NY (35-45 YRS)



Neville is a scientist and a teacher. He has a BS (Symbolic Systems), and a BA (English) from Stanford University, and a PhD (Neuroscience) from MIT. He is currently on the core faculty at the New York Genome Center and is an Assistant Professor (Biology), New York University and an Assistant Professor (Neuroscience & Physiology), New York University School of Medicine.

Neville has won several awards including: the NIH Director's New Innovator Award and the Melanoma Research Alliance Young Investigator Award, the Sidney Kimmel Scholar Award, the Allen Institute for Brain Science Next Generation Leader Award and the NIH Pathway to Independence Award. He was given the MIT Brain & Cognitive Sciences Team Award for Outstanding Teaching and the MIT Angus McDonald Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "My career goals are to mentor and lead a team of scientists to make fundamental discoveries about the genetic mechanisms underlying cancer and neurodevelopmental disorders and to develop innovative therapies for these serious and often

#### devastating diseases.

I lead a lab of approximately ten scientists and physicians at the New York Genome Center, where I am a Core Faculty Member, and at New York University, where I am an Assistant Professor of Biology, Neuroscience and Physiology. I also teach graduate students from universities across New York City about how to launch new ventures in genomics, healthcare and biotechnology through my Genomic Innovation course.

I have enjoyed participating in several outreach events for the community, such as the World Science Festival for local high-school students and NYU's Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Biology for underrepresented minorities.

My lab works on gene editing technologies. These are new tools that let us directly manipulate DNA - the language of life. I hope to push forward applications of gene editing technologies to help improve human health. In addition to creating new insights and therapies for human health, I hope that the world will, through innovations from our lab and many others in the field, have greater food security through improved crop yields and greater environment sustainability through engineered microbes."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "One common misconception about science is that it is a solitary pursuit: One scientist working away for years on a problem until that ah-ha moment strikes. me to be successful is my desire to build teams of scientists that can complement the skills of each other and push each other forward faster than would be possible alone. In my lab, virtually every project has a team of two or three PhD students and postdoctoral scientists. Working together the projects themselves become more diverse and interesting. And there is the added benefit that the process of doing science - in our case, asking and answering fundamental questions in genetics - becomes more enjoyable.

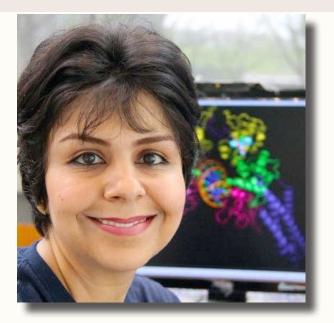
Throughout my career, I have enjoyed pursuing questions where there is also an opportunity to create new technologies and develop new methods. The great Nobelist Sydney Brenner once said 'Progress in science depends on new techniques, new discoveries and new ideas, probably in that order.' New methods let us ask new questions and insights that were not previously possible. Much of my previous work has been to engineer proteins (often, from bacteria) to perform new tasks and enable us to understand the function of the human genome. I encourage the students and postdoctoral fellows in my lab to develop an integrated skill set that includes engineering, science, rapid prototyping, programming, and tinkering. My goal is for the scientific questions that we ask to never be limited by the tools that we have at hand, but instead, if the question demands it, we can build a new tool to let us see father than before

This combination of team-based science and an emphasis of developing new tools and technologies are two elements that have helped my team and me work towards our scientific vision."

I think one attribute that has allowed

#### ANAHITA KYANI, PLANO, TX (35-45 YRS)

IRGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years



A nahita has a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry, from Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran. She has worked as a Research Associate in the Department of Bioinformatics, at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Tehran, and as a Research Scientist in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, at the University of Michigan.

She is currently Senior Chemometrics Scientist, at Authentix in Addison, TX. She has developed several algorithms and models for oil & gas, and brand authentication solutions, applied a variety of linear and non-linear Machine Learning techniques for the analysis of global petroleum data including PLS, MLR, Random Forest and Artificial Neural Networks and worked with an interdisciplinary team of scientists and engineers to deploy scientific equipment internationally.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "Interest in data analysis, modeling, and programing made me think about going to a path that does all of them together. As a data scientist I work in a multidisciplinary area and enjoy my profession.

I have been leading a group of Master and PhD students in their research projects for many years and I have been the leader in the Research & Development group in two companies.

Currently I am the secretary of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT) and lead the kids in their performances for community functions. Previously I have been an active member and director for several Zoroastrian associations in Iran. I look forward to having a bold role in the community and helping as much as I can. I also plan to be passionate and successful in my profession and try to come up with new ideas to improve current solutions.

I would like to continue to serve in ZANT and other Zoroastrian organizations and communities, leading the kids to have a stronger role in the community. In terms of my profession I would love to lead a team of scientists for designing new methods and developing better strategies."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I am a hard worker and a woman with self-esteem and these are key elements in making me successful in my profession and in leadership positions. When I start a project I will try my best to complete it in the best way that I can. I always come up with new ideas to solve problems and that enables me to think broadly and interact successfully.

I am a social person and love to work in a team. I am very comfortable working in a team with a wide range of professions and enjoy learning new things from them. I am a flexible person who is able to interact with people with different personalities and react appropriately in difficult situations.

I always try my best to accomplish my targets and never give up. I am a very focused and positive person who tries my best to reach my goals and come up with new ideas to overcome obstacles. If I can't find the answer to a question I will try other ways of solving it. Impossible only means to me that I haven't found the solution yet.

I am a religious person and always wish to have a useful role in the community. I am very passionate about leading our community to a better future and making our kids more interested and involved in it. I have an eight-yearold daughter and always encourage her to contribute in the community and participate in the religious class and performances for the functions. My ambition is to encourage the younger generation to have a stronger role in our community and support it. It is very important for me to come up with some new and interesting ideas to reach to this goal.

#### FIRDOSH BHESANIA, KIRKLAND, WA (35-45 YRS)

RGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years



 $\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{irdosh}}$  has a Masters in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has been Principal Program Manager at Microsoft Corporation for 18 years.

Firdosh has 28 US, and 15 International Patents, with 4 pending. He is a Certified Interoperability and Standards Professional by Microsoft and won the Microsoft Gold Star Awards in 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2008. In 2010 he was awarded the Outstanding Young Zoroastrian Professional by the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "I live, breath, and relish the ability to enhance and impact people's lives through computers. Whether it is hardware or software, I love to dream up ways in which we can help consumers connect, go about their business needs more efficiently and enjoy new experiences not thought possible by the previous generation. I am truly passionate about teaching the younger generation what the needs are that they will need to focus on.

I have been the Board of director's representative for Microsoft to various Industry Standards Bodies: USB-IF, Bluetooth SIG, IEEE 1394, etc. Fiduciary responsibilities included budget management,

vision establishment, chairing different : unstructured corporate startup. The sub-groups, establishing goals and targets, driving the vision of the next generation of tech 3-5 years before availability to customers. I have mentored/coached over 100 employees at Microsoft during the past 10 years. I do tech talks and presentations around computing when I visit various cities like Chicago to help motivate the youth with possibilities and educate the older generation around how to effectively leverage new technologies fearlessly.

I have chaired the FEZANA 2014 AGM Committee for hosting the event in Seattle that brought exposure to Zoroastrian Society of Washington State (ZSWS) community and connected members with FEZANA. I am a trustee of ZSWS, and my wife, Rushna, is on the board for 2017-2018. The objective is to lead by example for the younger generation

My focus for the future is always split into three fronts:

- Achievement around your passions and innovating
- A content and healthy family
- Contributions to our community

While some people state that you should try and balance your life, I personally think that you have to sway your time and opportunities across a your responsibilities. There will be times when projects at work will keep you exceedingly preoccupied, but one shouldn't lose site of family and the importance of giving to our community. We have two young boys and are expecting our third child, so the importance of them observing and learning the importance of contributing to our community is especially important to us.

I would like to spend a lot of my time mentoring the youth and helping them prepare for the business world. I try and seek out students in the engineering fields and help them (a) identify inroads to get placement in prominent positions and (b) mentor them the first year on how to transition from a structured educational setting to a vastly different and sometimes Seattle Zoroastrian community is strong, and we have a number of individuals going up the corporate ladder at large companies like Microsoft, Expedia, and Boeing. I take it upon myself to leverage our connections to help the youth start on the shoulders of experts rather than from scratch."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "We are privileged to live in exciting times. Times where humans can leverage technology to reach across the world to communicate instantly, visualize things in 3D, and solve complex diseases. However, there are still ancient qualms that hold humanity back. These include the ability to work across boundaries, be cognizant of cultural differences and have a singular focus for the human race vs. trying to promote personal wins. To move towards a sense of joint salvation, we need to disrobe our unconscious biases and learn to work together with one another. In my path towards accomplishments in life, one innate belief that I foster is focusing on the common good (the win-win-win scenario) and building a framework for team-wide collaboration. Differences will always hold people from putting in their all, but I constantly strive to help overlook differences and focus on a joint 'North Star'. The little city of Seattle is now starting to bloom with Zoroastrians. The population has doubled in under a decade and blossoming with the laughter of young kids (30 of them under 5yrs!). I have a vision to help drive unity and focus the community towards a cultural center for the Pacific North West in the next decade. I plan use my strengths around collaboration to bring us together and towards a unified mission. With that in place, we will seek the skills and support of our leaders around the world on how to efficiently get us there. With unity comes strength, and the ability to leave a legacy for the next generation."

#### TASHAN BYRAMJI, BERWYN, PA (35-45 YRS)

rging Leaders Between 35-45 Years



ashan has an MS in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University. She is a Quality Assurance Professional at Global Pharmaceutical Company.

& Motivation, Leadership Aspirations: "In an ever-changing world, the value of research and development is tremendous and innovative therapies are required for the evolving healthcare landscape. I am motivated by the role I play in bringing those therapies to patients.

Having started my career in clinical research in India. I accepted a new role as a clinical trial auditor in Pakistan. This provided me with one of my first opportunities in leadership, as I was responsible for all the clinical trial audits and quality assurance activities for Pakistan. Working in Pakistan was a challenge on many different levels - my appointment made local teams apprehensive as they felt they were under scrutiny by an 'outsider' (after all I came from India!). I was also new to the role, having to prove my capabilities and earn the trust of the local team to effectively collaborate and promote transparency along with meeting my deliverables. This role played a pivotal part in my move to

into a more senior position leading QA activities for two key therapeutic areas.

During my time in India, I was a founding member of the youth group the Zoroastrian Youth for the Next Generation (ZYNG). ZYNG played a pivotal role in connecting the Zoroastrian youth in Mumbai and helping to foster a Parsi/Irani Zoroastrian identity.

As a member of ZAPANJ, I believe the most important role I have to offer is in educating our next generation. When we moved to Philadelphia in 2013, I approached ZAPANJ to see if I could help teach Zoroastrianism to our kids and was graciously absorbed into the group. Very soon an opportunity to teach my own class came up and I have not looked back since. I believe it's fundamental for children to be given a strong foundation in Zoroastrian theology and concepts, but also in basic day-to-day practices and rituals. And to do it the fun way! I try to balance my classes to provide both the acquisition of knowledge and the ability to practice that knowledge on a daily basis to help keep Zoroastrianism relevant and alive. I am also very pleased to support and teach the joint ZAGNY-ZAPANJ-ZAGBA classes that ZAGNY has hosted in the last two years. I have also participated, both as a speaker and volunteer at World Zoroastrian Congresses in the US, India and London and at the Australian Youth Congress, where I met my husband, Zane Byramji.

Personally, I hope we can inspire the younger generations to be better practicing Zoroastrians and instill in them a Parsi/Irani Zoroastrian identity through belief, tradition and culture.

Professionally, I see my career and my role in leadership evolving as

America where I eventually moved the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries change. It is a challenge to remain relevant but still staying true to the goal of getting the best medicines and therapies to the patients that need it most in a cost effective way.

> Within the community, I would like to continue my commitment to religious education and continue to teach with the aim of keeping Zoroastrianism relevant to our future generations in belief and in practice."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "Last year I embarked on a career development and leadership program within my company where the primary objective is for participants to gain exposure to different roles outside one's area of expertise. This program evolved due to a need to create professionals with versatile skill sets who can navigate between the many changes and different challenges of a large multi-national pharmaceutical company. When the program was rolled out, some colleagues questioned the idea of learning new roles and starting as a novice. However, I saw this as an opportunity to broaden my business knowledge, gain exposure to areas out of my expertise and to use this program to strategically develop a new role for myself for the future.

Change is always a gamble. But leaders must keep evolving and rise with flexibility and resilience if they want to stay ahead. And sometimes to stay ahead, you may have to go back to the beginning and re-invent yourself. Being unafraid to make those uncomfortable changes and pushing myself to expand my knowledge and skill set are attributes that will help me achieve my ambitions and be a forward-thinking leader."



#### NIAZ KASRAVI, LOS ANGELES, CA (35-45 YRS)

ERGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years



Niaz has a Ph. D. in Criminology, Law & Society from the University of California, Irvine. She has worked in the field of human rights and criminal justice, racial justice, and social justice advocacy for 17 years. In graduate school, she received a National Science Foundation grant to travel to Iran and work with Nobel Peace Prize recipient Shirin Ebadi on the role of women in Iran's reform movement.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "I am inspired by the ability of human beings to become better. Knowing that I have the power to make a difference inspires me. I know that I have been blessed with a privileged life. All of us have had our hardships - economic, health, sociopolitical circumstances. But I know that I have a family and a community that "has my back". Many are not so lucky. This is not just a cliché those of us who are privileged have a responsibility. I have sat with mothers who have lost their sons to unjustified police killings. I have witnessed, firsthand, families devastated by the "war on drugs" - which should have always been treated as public health and not a criminal justice issue. I've worked with people who were wrongfully sentenced to die because

they didn't have the resources to hire competent legal counsel. It is my duty, and I believe all of ours, to fight for justice, to do what we can to leave the world a better place than it was when we entered it.

have worked with Amnesty International USA, supported a national organization to represent the interests of Iranian Americans, and helped build the Criminal Justice Program for the national headquarters of the NAACP. Some of my most prideful and humbling moments have been leading campaigns that led to abolishing the death penalty in the state of Maryland, and helping free an innocent man from an unjust life sentence in the state of Georgia. More currently I launched a research, advocacy, and training institute - the Avalan Institute for Applied Research - devoted to a wide range of social iustice issues

I served as a member of the Youth Committee for the California Zoroastrian Center (CZC) and served as the president of the Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) for over a decade. I currently sit on the Board of Advisors for Moms Against Poverty (MAP), and Keep Children In School (KCIS), organizations devoted to uplifting children who suffer poverty across the globe.

I hope to continue building on my work and my institute, to really make a difference for communities that deal with injustice on a daily basis. Most of all, I hope to inspire and support more young people to be deliberately engaged in justice advocacy.

I will always have my hands (and heart) in the justice advocacy space. But in 10 years, I hope much of my focus can be on passing my knowledge and training to the next generation of justice advocates – guiding them in doing the work that I currently do, and doing it better. I also hope to have more time to write!"

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I believe that my strongest attribute has been my belief that humans are inherently good, with an endless ability to be better. Perhaps this is the influence of my Zoroastrian upbringing – being taught the value of using my own free mind to choose good over evil. I look around and there is so much that gives me pause, that make me angry, that breaks my heart. Despite all of that, I don't stray from this belief.

I think just as important an attribute for me is a deep ability to empathize with the suffering of others. There is an internal sense of outrage when I am exposed to an unfair situation – not just unfairness impacting me personally, but for anyone. I believe most people have this sense, but not all of us turn that outrage into action. For me, it was having mentors and teachers who taught me that that we have the ability to make change. After all, the negativity we see around us is a result of human action, and so must be its undoing.

How will I achieve my ambitions? By trusting my instinct that I was not brought into this life for pure personal success and happiness. If I look at the world simply through that lens, I will be wasting the potential of this life that god has given me. Like everyone, I want to be happy and successful. But my goal is that my success and happiness will bring the same to my fellow humans. So, I will keep relying on these instincts and this knowledge to guide me to what the future holds, both professionally and personally."

## erging Leaders Between 35-45 Years

#### ZAREEN AUSTIN, BEACONSFIELD, QUEBEC (35-45 YRS)



Zareen has a BS in Biology from Binghamton University (SUNY), and an AEC in Computer Graphics from the International Academy of Design, Montreal. She has over ten years of experience as a graphic designer in the fashion industry and freelance design work.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "Working within a strong design team allows me to learn something new everyday. It's exciting to research the latest trends and bring them to the marketplace. Bringing design solutions to the table gives value to our clients and keeps the creative juices flowing.

Having been with the same company for over ten years, I have been exposed to all parts of the business. I think my strength lies in being a versatile team player, always ready to accept new challenges and to improve the existing workflow. I am often consulted on design strategies and special projects.

I am grateful to the leaders of the Zarathushti communities across North America. They have been my role models in wanting to give back to my

own community. I have served on the : experiences led to an awakened state board of the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec for many years. There was, and still remains, a need to get the younger generation involved. With the support and encouragement from the older members, I have been able to participate in and organize many of our functions. It's rewarding to be a part of this team.

My hope for the future is to continue to play a leadership role in the Zarathushti community and to encourage the younger generation to do the same. Another aspiration is for the North American Zarathushi community to grow, and to further open its doors to others who wish to be Zoroastrian. I would also like to work with public schools in Quebec to recognize Zoroastrianism as an important world religion and to help introduce it to students.

I would like to continue to play a leadership role in the North American Zarathushti community. Educating our children about Zarathustra's vision of a universal religion, open to all who wish to embrace it, is something I would like to continue working towards."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I can't quite say that leadership was an ambition of mine. It's just something that happened gradually within the last ten years – in all areas of my life. When my children were born over a decade ago, life required me to 'step it up' a notch (actually, a hundred notches!). At the time, I was living in a new place, didn't speak the language that well and didn't have parents who lived close by to take the edge off of new parenting. I had to figure things out for myself, which was probably the best way to learn. I think these of mind, which allowed me to focus on the importance of community. A year later, I was back at work. Truthfully, I hadn't spent much time in the fashion industry at that point. I had decided to completely switch careers a few years earlier, so it was almost like starting a new job after my maternity leave. Having more responsibility and meeting the demands of family life was not easy, but looking back, I can see that all of these experiences helped me grow and work harder. I am grateful for that.

I stepped into my role at the Zoroastrian Association of Ouebec (ZAO) around 2009. My husband, Pheroz, had been very involved with the ZAQ until that point, but having a young family didn't allow both of us to be on the executive board at the same time. At least, that was our decision. He continues to be supportive, and together, with our children, we make communitarianism a family affair.

I was lucky to serve on the committee with seasoned members, most notably, Dolly Dastoor. She and others welcomed, encouraged and mentored me wholeheartedly. As the years passed, the committee members changed and I was constantly learning, but also guiding the newer members. During this time, I revived religious classes for a few years and also organized an annual food drive to help Montreal families in need.

In 2017, I was voted President. With a fantastic team to support me, I am proud to serve the community in this new role. I look forward to continuing to contribute to the needs of the ZAQ and North American Zarathushti communities and to inspire our younger generation to do the same."

#### **BENAIFER BHADHA, BROOKLYN, NY (35-45 YRS)**

rging Leaders Between 35-45 Years



Benaifer has a MS in Social Work degree and a Master of International Relations from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. She is a Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW). She is a Clinical Social Worker, Storyteller and Educator.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "I know that my life's purpose is to create spaces where people can feel safe to embrace their vulnerability and share it authentically. Every human being deserves to be seen, heard and valued. The world is suffering from an epidemic of disconnection. My purpose is to eradicate this from people's lives, to give generous non-judgmental listening so that everyone can feel they are worthy.

I was on a four-person leadership team at my previous consulting firm. I was impassioned by this work but made a decision to leave that position after finding out that I was being paid half of a male employee who was in a more junior position. The lack of acknowledgment and systemic change at the firm led me to create my own consulting firm that is based on feminist principles. I have since expanded my work, traveling to India, Australia, and Eastern Europe, working with undocumented peoples in the United States and promoting the work of women in the United States. Being a small business owner and sole female proprietor has taught me leadership.

Being Zoroastrian and Parsi is an essential part of my identity. However, as a young person I struggled with this identity, because I did not know where I belonged. Our family travelled from Bombay to London and then to New York. My skin colour did not fit the stereotype of being Indian, my accent did not fit the stereotype of being American, and my name did not fit the stereotype of being English.

I found a vital sense of belonging when I was selected to be the Co-Director and Producer of *Yoni ki Raat*, a transformative performance project where South Asian people experiencing gender oppression share powerful and authentic stories that are often silenced or ignored. Helping others find and sense their own path to belonging and breaking down the stereotypes of what it means to be South Asian is deeply meaningful to me.

I have recently joined a clinical psychotherapy practice where I help both individuals and groups. As a psychotherapist, I aspire to create non-judgmental spaces, particularly for women and people who feel marginalized in society. I know that in order to do help people heal, I will dedicate my life to becoming a better clinician, constantly learning new and effective ways to listen and support others, creating programs and groups to empower and strengthen individuals and communities.

I have been subjected to assault, harassment and inequality. The lack of humanity and compassion that has been exposed in recent months is nothing shocking; it is simply our every day reality that finally has a light shining upon it for the world to see. I hope to be able to use my wisdom and experience to train others to continue this work. I see myself mentoring and empowering young women, elevating *Yoni ki Raat* into its 14th year, and continuing my path of deep self-reflection and growth."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I stood in front of over one hundred students and faculty members in a student lounge at Clarke University. I took a deep breath and began to tell the story of my own struggles with mental health, body image, harassment, and assault. My co-performer told stories of cancer, sexuality, tradition and violence. We each took turns telling our stories. After our performance, students rushed up to the stage. One after the other they said: "Thank you so much for you story, I thought I was the only one". I was moved, and I was deeply troubled. People sitting in that audience only needed to turn to the person next to them and share themselves to find out that they were not alone. And yet, however much we long to belong and connect, sharing ourselves is one of the scariest things we can do. We fear the judgment, we fear rejection, and we fear being unloved.

My strongest attribute is complete acceptance. There are evidence based therapeutic practices, proven to help ease trauma, to facilitate deeper self-growth and healing. An incredibly array of modalities are available to help people heal, access their strengths and continue their journey of growth. I am incredibly motivated to expand my knowledge, to experience different techniques and employ what each of my clients needs most to heal. It is an exciting time to be a healer, educator and activist and my own personal excitement knows no ounds. rging Leaders Between 35-45 Years



Daryush has a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and a PhD in Speech & Hearing, Bioscience, and Technology from MIT. He has received several awards from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and won the Hamdan International Presenter Award at the 45th Annual Symposium of The Voice Foundation: Care of the Professional Voice.

#### Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:

"What motivates me to do clinical voice research is the opportunity to build state-of-the-art technology and perform cutting-edge science to help patients suffering from a loss of one of their most vital organs, their voice. The mission of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Voice Center is to help treat and rehabilitate those who experience problems with using their voice on a daily basis. My biomedical engineering background has led me into investigating the human condition of voice disorders. My goal is to aid voice surgeons and speech-language pathologists in better understanding the mechanisms of normal and disordered-voice production to enhance the precision of surgical procedures and improve the management and treatment of human voice disorders.

I gravitated to being a clinical research scientist in an academic hospital setting through my interests in music performance (classical clarinet and jazz saxophone). Music, sounds, and speech are all around, and I have always been curious about how the sounds of language are understood by people and now, more and more, interpreted by machines. DARYUSH MEHTA, CAMBRIDGE, MA (35-45 YRS)

Medical School and Director of the Voice Science and Technology Laboratory at the MGH Voice Center I regularly publish and present research from our team to scientific communities around the world. I am a Principal Investigator on multiple research grants funded by the National Institutes of Health and train the next generation of clinical researchers in the area of voice and speech science. I help lead collaborations with international scientists and am often invited to give lectures and presentations to national and international audiences.

I would like to help develop consumerfacing technologies that interact with humans on a daily basis to provide personalized health information that they can act on themselves, toward an age of personalized medicine.

I am the Zoroastrian representative as part of the boards of multifaith chaplains at Harvard and MIT. My predecessor, Dr. Cyrus Mehta, the first Zoroastrian Chaplain on these campuses, asked me to take on the Zoroastrian Chaplain role after I graduated from MIT. My main role is to lead interfaith dialogue and service projects on campus.

As a student at MIT, I helped co-found the Zoroastrian Students of Boston (ZSB), was the Youth Liaison to Zoroastrian Association of the Greater Boston Area, and helped co-lead and organize a local Gatha Study Group. I continue to serve as liaison to the youth and students who move to the area and work with ZAGBA to put on fun service projects for the community.

I hope to continue to provide mentorship and leadership as a representative of the Zoroastrian faith on college campuses and in the local community. My goal is to strike that delicate balance between being local and 'on the ground' and broadening my capacity to serve national and international outreach efforts. Academically, I see myself in important leadership roles in the academic research community to train research scientists and collaborate with the best engineers

: in the public and private sectors."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I see my experience and skill set - at the nexus of medicine, engineering, healthcare, and science - as my strongest attribute. I am a trained speech and hearing scientist and electrical engineer specializing in interdisciplinary research for clinical voice and speech assessment. I play significant research roles in multiyear NIH-funded projects and have established independent lines of investigation through funding from multiple sources. My principle scientific contributions are investigations into the clinical efficacy of high-speed imaging and wearable sensors with an emphasis on voice disorder assessment through a detailed characterization of voice physiology. The overall goal of these lines of research is to guide future development of improved voice surgery techniques and voice therapy paradigms with clinically relevant imaging and noninvasive, ambulatory sensors.

I actively collaborate with international colleagues to produce several publications spanning engineering, medical, and scientific disciplines. I currently focus on translating three-dimensional vocal fold imaging technologies to clinical practice and leading the design and development of a smartphone-based ambulatory voice monitor to study behaviourally based voice disorders. In 2015, I received the prestigious Award for Early Career Contributions in Research presented by ASHA that recognizes outstanding earlystage investigators. I strive to conduct high-quality clinical and basic research, to teach and mentor the next generation, and to collaborate with the best scientists and engineers in the field of clinical voice and speech assessment. Through my lecturing, written work, and involvement with professional societies, I seek to improve clinical care for patients who have been diagnosed with voice and speech disorders."

As an Assistant Professor at Harvard

RGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years



Yyrus obtained his B.S. in Physics & Computer Science from Stanford University and an M.A & M.Phil and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Cyrus joined the IBM Almaden Research Center as a Postdoctoral Scientist. He taught at UCLA as Assistant & Associate Professor before moving to University College London as Full Professor. He moved back to the US and joined the Technical Staff at MIT Lincoln Laboratory.

Cyrus has published 47 research publications, given over a 100 presentations, has one patent and numerous awards including the Bravo Team Award and Outstanding Innovation Award from IBM Almaden Research Center; Award of Merit from Stanford University.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "In the late 1800s, scientists began to believe that they were close to having a complete understanding of all of the fundamental laws of physics, though a small number of troublesome inconsistencies remained. Only a few decades later, the exploration of these problems led Einstein and others to a series of revolutionary breakthroughs and resulted in the development of quantum theory, which has implications that are as profound as they are counterintuitive. While quantum theory has been spectacularly successful at describing nature, scientists and engineers have only recently been developing the technology to harness its full potential for practical applications. My goal professionally is to help drive this process forward in two ways: to illuminate more of the beautiful fundamentals of quantum theory and to develop practical applications that use quantum theory to benefit humanity. In addition, I also believe that it is equally

#### CYRUS HIRJIBEHEDIN, NEWTON, MA (35 – 45 YRS)

of scientific and technological advances to a variety of audiences, from experts in relevant fields to members of the general public.

I led highly successful research groups at the University College London, with an appointment in the London Centre for Nanotechnology, to study the extraordinary quantum mechanical properties of structures made one atom at a time. Over the past decade, my collaborative and multidisciplinary approach has enabled me to successfully obtain over \$21 million of funding from a broad range of sponsors, and to produce and disseminate high impact research results that are relevant to physicists, chemists, and material scientists.

I have been active in the Zoroastrian community in all three places that I have lived for extended periods of time: New York, the Bay Area in Northern California, and London. Currently, I participate in events organized by the Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area (ZAGBA), including a recent Interfaith Thanksgiving Meal-packaging Service Project. While in the UK, as a board member of both Stanford and Columbia UK alumni associations, I arranged a cross-cultural event to let both Stanford alumni and local Zoroastrians go on a guided tour of the amazing Everlasting Flame exhibition on Zoroastrian culture and heritage at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

My professional aspiration is to drive the scientific community to make discoveries that will have a revolutionary positive impact on people's lives. At a direct level, this involves continuing to do cuttingedge research and also taking that research through the development process to turn it into practical applications. On a broader scale, I also hope to continue training and mentoring the next generation of scientists, whether in local schools, universities, or companies. Some of them will go on to make the next series of research discoveries, while others will become leaders in both industry

important to communicate the importance ; and government. All of them will have equally important roles to play in ensuring that science and technology continue to have a positive influence on human lives, and that the broader non-scientific community appreciates the importance of these endeavours."

> What makes you tick, and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "Beyond dedication and hard work, I believe the keys to leading a successful venture - in research or any other area - are having a broad and inclusive perspective, building diverse partnerships, and clearly communicating ideas. Although my own academic training is primarily in the areas of physics and computer science, I have found that some of the most exciting opportunities for research come at the boundaries of different fields. The questions at these interfaces are often too complex to be solved within the framework of a single discipline, and therefore require strong collaboration with people from different communities. My personal research interests now span multiple fields – including physics, chemistry, materials science, and nanotechnology - and I have initiated and managed more than 20 partnerships in the U.S., Europe, and Asia to provide access to novel materials, perform complementary experiments, and produce advanced theoretical calculations.

> communication Successful with different team members, as well as with other stakeholders such as senior management and funding agencies, requires understanding their different backgrounds and perspectives as well as learning to speak in different 'languages' (physicists and chemists often use completely different words to describe the same concept) and within the context of different cultures and motivations. By leveraging these basic concepts, I plan to continue to successfully pursue my leadership ambitions in both my professional and personal life."



FEZANA Journal



#### NARGES KAKALIA, SOUTH ORANGE, NJ (35 – 45 YRS)



Narges obtained her BA (Hons) from Oberlin College and JD from Fordham University School of Law, New York.

Narges, on graduation, joined the law firm of Mintz Levin and is currently a Partner. Her practice focus is on general commercial litigation and insurance law. Her focus is on complex business disputes, with expertise in securities litigation, contracts, corporate governance, executive protection, insurance coverage and risk management. She is committed to promoting social justice and is a member of the firm's Pro Bono Committee and manages the pro bono practice of the New York office. She is also Board Vice-Chair, Womankind.

Narges has excelled at her work and received many Recognitions and Awards. She has received the Mintz Levin Pro-Bono Award and Pro-Bono Star Award for Excellence in Legal Advocacy; New York Super Lawyers Rising Star Award for General Litigation; and was recently included on Crain's NY Business Leading Women Lawyers in New York City.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "Two primary motivations drive me: first, the desire to solve complex problems; and second, the desire to achieve social justice.

Over the years, I have held several different leadership positions, but the one consistent one has been as director of our New York Office's pro bono program. I also currently serve on the Women's Initiative Steering Committee, and am the Firm's Ombudsperson. I was recently recognized by Crain's Leading Women Lawyers of New York City for being one of a handful of women attorneys who juggle 'both distinguished careers with exceptional civic and philanthropic activities.' At our local Dar-e-Meher (NY) I teach kids religion classes, and have recently spearheaded a group with other parents to think about activities and curriculum enhancements for our kids. Separately, I am also the Vice Chair of the Board of a NY-based non-profit called Womankind, which provides vital services to victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault.

Like many other parents, I aspire to have children who put their socks and shoes in their proper place, and do homework without being nagged! On a more serious note, I also aspire to participate in social change at a more macro level."

What makes you tick, and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "As a girl growing up in Karachi, Pakistan, I was often frustrated by the marginalization of women in professional Pakistani life. Imagine my dismay at discovering that women in certain professions in the United States – including my own – face similar challenges.

As I mentioned above, one of my goals is to work on social justice issues, especially those involving women's participation in professional and civic life. My strongest abilities include solving seemingly intractable problems. A problem that has defeated us thus far is the question of why women are so seriously underrepresented in the practice of commercial law, and how to increase their numbers. The practice of law at big law firms has historically been, and continues to be, led almost exclusively by men. Among the 200 largest law firms in the country, fewer than 15 have a woman at the helm, and only approximately one fifth of all law firm partners are women.

There are many reasons for the lack of female representation at the highest levels, including family commitments and the desire to step out of the corporate rat race and opt for a gentler pace of life. Unconscious or implicit bias against women, however, also plays a leading role in perpetuating the problem and keeping women from advancing to the pinnacle of their career. In the next ten years, in addition to continuing my law practice, I want to lead efforts to discover and implement ways of interrupting unconscious biases against women in law, in order to make the legal profession more hospitable to women, and therefore, more diverse and inclusive."

## ierging Leaders Between 35-45 Years

#### NAVROZ GANDHI, ANNAPOLIS, MD (35 - 45 YRS)



Navroz obtained his BA in Economics from Brown University and MBA from Harvard University.

Navroz started with Chase Manhattan Bank and spent a year as Aerospace Finance Syndication Analyst in London, UK. This was followed with a stint with J.P. Morgan, NY focussing on Latin American Mergers & Acquisitions, and Private Equity. He finally found his calling with Constellation Energy Group (now Exelon Inc.), Baltimore, MD managing a portfolio of power generation, wholesale and retail loadserving contracts, and renewable energy portfolio within New England, New York and Southeastern United States. His leadership skills took him from Associate to Vice President to Managing Director in eight short years. Since 2009 he is an independent investor and non-profit consultant.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "My motivation comes from the fact that there are many good ideas and worthy causes in our world. However, in my experience I have learned that there are three essential elements to getting things done: passion, money and good management. I enjoy being able to bring these elements to the projects and organizations that interest me in order to make an impact in my local community."

Navroz's leadership qualities helped make him Managing Director and Portfolio Manager of Constellation assets in New England, New York and the Southeast US - at the time, one of the two largest electric generation and load-serving portfolios in the US competitive electricity markets.

He also serves on the Community Council of WAMU – the local NPR station for the metro-Washington, D.C., area and is a Board Member for The Studio Theatre.

Navroz is very active in the community. He has helped fundraise for the new Dar-e Mehrs located in NY and Washington, D.C. He was previous co-chair of the FEZANA Awards Committee, past president of ZAMWI (2013-2017). He is a current member of the Dar-e Mehr Operations Committee (DOC) for the Kamran Dar-e Mehr.

"I aspire for World peace -or at the very least, to continue to make a difference in my local community and to be a positive role model. I'd also like to figure out a way to continue my activities but scale them up to have a larger positive impact."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "My strongest attribute is my perseverance. As a college freshman, I knew the world of finance interested me. However, I was unable to land a paid summer internship to pursue this interest as they were primarily being offered to juniors as a recruiting tool for permanent employment upon graduation.

Nonetheless, every day, from the end of January through March, I'd come back from class and research internship opportunities, eventually mailing out over 100 applications and resumes. In April, I finally got my one and only interview - at Chase's headquarters on Wall Street. When I left the interview, I was promised an internship only for it to fall through when they realized I was a freshman. As a result, I returned home to NJ with two part-time jobs - working at Roy Rogers and selling knives door-to-door.

I wasn't ready to give up. I called the Brown alumnus at Chase who interviewed me and asked if I could work with him part-time and unpaid. He agreed. And like a scene from a movie, a few weeks later my boss received a request from his boss for an intern to work full-time on a specialized project at Chase's headquarters on Wall Street. I was selected over the other two interns. And so began my professional career.

However. the financial crisis of 2008 taught me that hard work and perseverance are sometimes insufficient. Despite starting, growing and running a very successful group within a Fortune 500 company, I found myself beholden to a corporate leadership that placed the company close to bankruptcy. Disillusioned, I decided to work for myself and help organizations on a singular basis. While rewarding, comfortable and providing great personal flexibility, I have found that my impact is limited in scale and that I miss the dynamic of growing a business. My goal is to now figure out a way to merge my interests, to find the right individuals to join me, and to learn how to translate my experience and knowledge into a successful venture"

## rging Leaders Between 35-45 Years



inyar has a B.A. in International Relations from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in History from Harvard University. He is currently an Assistant Professor of South Asian History at the University of South Carolina.

During college, he completed two internships with the US State Department, one in Bangkok and one in New Delhi. After college, he worked for two years in a Washington, DC foreign policy consulting firm. At the University of South Carolina, he has taught courses on Indian history, the Indian nationalist movement, the British Empire, and historiography.

Leadership & Motivation, Aspirations: "Both in the classroom and while interacting with Zoroastrian community members, I am most motivated by a desire to use history in order to challenge preconceived notions about the past and present - and thereby help people understand contemporary problems in new ways.

I have volunteered as a member of various university department committees that look after internal departmental governance as well as public outreach. I have tried to encourage historians to better engage with the public beyond the ivory tower - I have, myself, become a freelance contributor to Scroll.in, an Indian news portal, and BBC.com. I have also been quite vocal about the

#### DINYAR PATEL, COLUMBIA, SC (35-45 YRS)

in India, and have helped the National Archives of India with preservation and digitization of the Dadabhai Naoroji Papers.

I have had a long relationship with FEZANA and am a frequent contributor of Journal articles. I have been invited to speak at a few FEZANA-organized conferences and I have been invited as a guest speaker by several Associations. In 2017 I became the chair of FEZANA's Research and Preservation Committee. In India, I have worked with the UNESCO Parzor Project, written regularly for community publications such as Jame Jamshed and Parsiana, and have spoken on Parsi history at numerous community functions.

I have long been troubled by the degree of apathy and disinterest amongst Parsis (I cannot say the same for Iranian Zoroastrians) towards their history, heritage, and religion. In my opinion, this is a fundamental factor behind our community's steady disintegration and disappearance - especially in North America. I aspire to change this process. In both India and North America, I would like to cultivate stronger interest in and attachment to the community's past and present. I am particularly keen to do this amongst the youth, where the bonds that tie together the community are the most frayed and fragile.

I aspire to continue playing an active role in matters of heritage and history within the Zoroastrian community. After getting tenure, I will also be much more vocal about systemic problems within academia: the critical lack of job opportunities for PhDs and the need for academics to engage more broadly with the general public."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "While teaching my students, I emphasize how history helps us better understand the present. My prime motivation as a professor is to help people understand

need for better historical preservation ; how particular historical forces have influenced current-day political, economic, and social conditions and how such historical forces have operated in similar ways regardless of time and geographic location. At the University of South Carolina, I have tried to make India relatable to my students by pointing out similarities between colonialism in India and the US South's slave economy, or outlining commonalities between the struggles of Dalits and African-Americans.

> APh.D. in history imparts three important skills: firstly, a healthy scepticism about common narratives and beliefs (be they historical or otherwise); secondly, the ability to undertake solid empirical research in order to establish more nuanced perspectives on the past; and, thirdly, a strong desire to make the past relevant for the present. All three skills, I believe, are particularly relevant with regard to working with the Zoroastrian community. History is an inescapable feature in community discussions. I have employed my own historical research in order to both challenge common beliefs and cultivate broad community interest and attachment in our heritage. What "makes me tick," in short, is trying to help the community establish a clearer understanding of our history and then assist with its proper preservation. To this extent, I have worked with institutions such as the Meherjirana Library in Navsari to broaden public knowledge of its historical collections. I was the co-organizer for a conference in 2013 that brought guests and professors from around the world to the Meherjirana Library. I am currently authoring a book that will be the first comprehensive biography on Dadabhai Naoroji to appear in nearly a century. In the future, I would like to broaden these activities to help with heritage and historical preservation in India in general - where there remain grave problems in archives, universities, libraries, and museums."

RGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years



S arosh has a BS in Engineering and an MBA, both from Cornell University. He is a builder and has worked for Clark Construction, US General Services Administration (GSA), Norcross Boldt, and the Government of the District of Columbia

Motivation, Leadership x Aspirations: "I am motivated by the sense of accomplishment and pride in developing and constructing physical manifestations of the urban core. I enjoy buildings and I enjoy building them. In addition to the physical structures, real estate is unique in that it is one of the few commercial professions (distinct from professional ones such as doctor, professor, etc.) that have such a major impact on people's socioeconomic wellbeing and equity. A few well-placed and well thought out real estate projects can start to redress environmental, social and economic disparities and injustice - that level of impact is unique and motivating.

At Clark Construction, I started their High Performance Buildings Division that led the industry in sustainable and green building practices. Subsequently, I worked with the team that created the Office of High Performance Green Buildings at the US GSA, and now I am the Director of Real Estate in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development

#### SAROSH OLPADWALA, WASHINGTON, DC (35-45 YRS)

for the District of Columbia with over : step to socio-economic equity. 60 public projects valued over \$10 billion in my portfolio.

I was an avid volunteer firefighter; I joined at 16, was President of the Fire Company at 20, bunked in a Fire House in college and ran with a rural department in graduate school. I was President of the Zoroastrian Association of Washington (ZAMWI), which was an incredible experience.

In the real estate industry, I was a co-founder of the DC Building Industry Association (DCBIA) Young Leaders Group, which was founded to welcome people new to the industry, help them meet their peers, and learn the ropes in an otherwise very competitive and insular industry. We started the group because we realized how difficult it had been for us to break into it and how mutually beneficial it would be for everyone to have a greater diversity of individuals. Currently, I lead a group of more than 25 public servants in our mission to provide affordable housing, jobs and opportunities to the underserved and overlooked residents of the District.

I aspire to continue to use my opportunities to help provide opportunities for others. I used to help from the rear, then from within the group and now I see myself as helping by taking the lead, taking the risks, and making decisions that better the whole.

I see myself in multiple leadership roles because my industry and community do not necessarily overlap, though their missions and the goals of my leadership certainly do. I would like to continue to effectuate change in the real estate industry by leading an organization that finances affordable housing for all income bands and enables our service workers, our first responders, our firefighters, police, teachers and nurses to live in the communities in which they work. Housing equity is the first

Within the Zoroastrian community, I would like to try and find common ground and bring people together. We are such a beautiful people - the generosity, the hospitality, the sharing of lives and experiences. I want to lead, cooperatively and collaboratively, with others to celebrate the community and help us find a path for the next two millennia."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "At my core I am a doer, a pragmatist who wants to get things done. I am logical and confident; but nothing I do is individualistic. My strongest attribute is collaboration, working with and for the team. From sports, to firefighting, to construction, development and now government, whether in play, service or work, I do best when I work with a team. I continue to hone my leadership skills by stepping into uncomfortable situations, looking for opportunities and making the difficult decisions. I support my leaders with unwavering support and loyalty, and I support my team with the same.

My work in government, where I am appointed by the Mayor and am responsible for billions of dollars of public value and benefit, has cemented my leadership ambitions and my determination to continue to stand up for those who do not have the means or methods to do it themselves. Who that is or how I do it does not always conform to the standard model - or the current mainstream American one - but it conforms to my sense of self, rooted in my experiences, my culture, my history and inexorably intertwined with my religion, an ideology, clear and definitive, basic and uncomplicated. Choosing the right path is not just my choice, it is my personal responsibility."

# EMERGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years

#### HORMUZD KATKI, KENSINGTON, MD (35-45 YRS)



Hormuzd has a Ph.D. in Biostatistics from Johns Hopkins University. He is a Senior Investigator at US National Cancer Institute. He has been a cancer researcher at the Institute for 19 years.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "My research focuses on developing risk calculations to help people make decisions about undergoing cancer screening or genetic testing. I helped develop the risk calculations for US cervical cancer screening guidelines and helped make the official guidelines App. I also work on developing risk calculators and criteria to refer people for lung cancer screening. My work has appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and other journals.

The most gratifying achievement in my profession is when my work affects medical practice. I have been fortunate that my work has been influential on medical practice guidelines for cancer screening.

I have mentored 12 junior researchers (5 for Ph.D., 3 as post-doctoral fellows). I was Chair of the Regional Advisory Board of the International Biometric Society, Eastern North American Region.

I have been part of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington (ZAMWI) since I was four. My

wife, Megan Guenther, and I have taught at our Children's Avesta class since 2010. ZAMWI has only a single practicing Mobed, and when he is out of town, there are no services. Thus, over one and a half years, I undertook Mobedyar training with Ervad Soli Dastur of Florida, remotely via Skype. I am grateful to Soli uncle for taking time to train me, not just on performing rituals, but also on a deeper understanding of how our faith affects every part of life and to have courage to face uncertainties and disapproval. I was ordained in July 2017 and have helped conduct private and ZAMWI community Jashans, as well as death ceremonies. At the beginning of each Avesta class, I lead the community in a Humbandagi focused on the explanation of a selected prayer. I hope this kind of Humbandagi, combining both ritual prayer and spiritual meaning, can point us toward a mode of worship that is meaningful to us living in the West and brings the ZAMWI community together.

I hope that we in ZAMWI can develop a regular worship ritual. That is, the community would meet regularly (say every other week, as does the children's Avesta class), participate in a ritual ceremony of some type, along with community building activities such as lunch and sports. I hope that I can be part of this evolving process, especially to guide the development of a participatory ritual that is meaningful to the community."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I want to listen and understand the needs of people in the community, especially those who do not attend community gatherings. Many people confess to me that they do not find the traditional modes of worship to be meaningful. Finding creative new ways to serve spiritual and community needs is critical. The first step is to listen with sympathy and not negatively judge those who do not attend.

Everyone has opinions on what should be done, but it is harder to find people who cooperate to do the hard and frustrating work to accomplish what they think should be done. I try to subordinate my opinions, offer suggestions only when it seems appropriate to offer ideas, all in the spirit of serving the larger community."

#### JEANNIE KENKARE, CHESHIRE, CT (35-45 YRS)

erging Leaders Between 35-45 Years



Jeannie is a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and has been practicing for 18 years. She has worked as a Family Practitioner early in her career and later as a Hospitalist. Ten years ago, she and her partners started an Urgent Care Center in Connecticut and have since expanded to seventeen centers in three states.

She has received the Garden State Scholarship for Academic Excellence; the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellowship; a UMDNJ-SOM Alumini Award for excellence Honors for Outstanding Achievement in Surgery; and a " 40 under 40" Award recognizing young professionals in Connecticut by CT Magazine.

Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations: "About 10 years ago, I was working at a community hospital in Connecticut where the Emergency Room utilization was very high, sick and injured patients were waiting long hours to be seen by a physician, and when the patients were finally seen, they were feeling much worse than when they came in. During that time, my physician partners and I believed that we could create a medical practice that would allow patients with urgent illnesses and injuries to be cared for by a team of highly skilled practitioners outside of the emergency room, thereby reserving the emergency rooms for the sickest and most critical patients. Further, we knew, that we could provide that high quality care in a comfortable, clean, state-of-the-art environment, at convenient times, at a fraction of the cost of care in the Emergency Rooms. From that vision, we created our first Urgent Care center in Connecticut in 2008 and have since expanded to 17 centers across Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts. Today, our patients feel better before they even walk out the door. I believe that is because we have taken the confusion, fear and expense out of the experience and have replaced it with compassionate care at every step of a patient's journey with us, as expressed by our Mission Statement, 'We provide uncompromising, convenient care with a team of friendly and compassionate professionals that treat our patients with the kindness and respect they deserve.'

I have been Chief Resident, and later, Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer of PhysicianOne Urgent Care. I have been appointed to the Mobile Integrated Health Working Group committee by the Connecticut Department of Public Health on behalf of urgent care centers in the state. I hope to continue to contribute in novel ways to providing accessible healthcare to patients at the right time, in the right location, for the right price.

In 10 years, I hope that my company, PhysicianOne Urgent Care, has realized its vision: 'To be the first choice in urgent care by delivering an exceptional experience to every patient, every time.' And that I have a key role in continuing to guide and shape the ongoing growth and development of the company at that level."

What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "First and foremost, the greatest satisfaction I experience in my career is when I directly care for patients. At these moments I feel truly privileged to interact, provide care and guidance to so many people. As a leader in my organization, the other hats that I wear continue to allow me to impact patient care in less direct and obvious ways. As Chief Medical Officer, I direct and guide the breadth and scope of care to ensure the highest quality care is delivered by each of my Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Medical Assistants, Radiologic Technologists and Patient Service Associates. I continue to be driven by the strong desire to improve how we deliver medical care, and how patients access that care. Even though the field of Urgent Care medicine has continued to grow since we first developed the concept in Connecticut, there continues to be a need for accessible, affordable, high quality medical care in these communities. For this reason, I believe that continued growth is in the cards for PhysicianOne and that we will be able help shape the future of medicine in the region."

ERGING LEADERS Between 35-45 Years



A rzan has a B. Arch from the University of Bombay and an MS in Urban Design from the Pratt Institute, New York. He has worked in Architecture, Urban Design, and Information Technology Consulting for 20 years. He is currently the Chief Information Officer at COOKFOX Architects, overseeing Digital Design, Media and Technology for a 100 person architectural office. He is also Principal and Owner of Wadia Kumana Arch Tech, a company that provides managed Information Technology consulting and services to over 20 businesses spread over three countries.

Arzan has designed One Bryant Park (the First LEED Platinum Certified Commercial Skyscraper In the World), Stephen Sondheim Theatre (the First LEED Gold Certified Broadway Theater), and Historic Front Street (restored landmark buildings and modern structures that set new directions in sustainable architecture and design). All these projects received numerous awards. He also received the 2016 WZCC Outstanding Professional Award.

**Motivation, Leadership & Aspirations:** "The profession of architecture allows my passion for design, problem solving skills and collaborating with large teams to all come together. The resultant designs improve the quality of life for residents and users alike in ways they may not even perceive. This brings an immense sense of gratification and fuels the passion in what is a very demanding profession.

The technology business allows me to innovate, test ideas and push the boundaries at the confluence of architectural design and technology. This acquired knowledge is used to enable small and medium business to function at the cuttingedge of technology with a relatively small financial imprint.

#### ARZAN WADIA, BROOKLYN, NY (35-45 YRS)

Working through the corporate structure of an architecture firm, I took a leadership position as the CIO of the firm. This position had not existed before. My combined experience in having designed small and large architectural projects, and a large global vision on the technology that keeps design firms at the cutting-edge of sustainable technology, enables me to shape and mould the mission and vision of the firm and my own clients towards a better, more sustainable environment in the realm of architecture an design.

I am:

- Founder of Parsi Khabar (www.parsikhabar.net), the oldest internet news aggregator website about Parsis and Zoroastrians worldwide.
- Serving my 4th term on the Board of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York.
- Building Committee and Design and Architectecture Committee Member, involved with various phases of fundraising and construction of the new Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E-Mehr in New York, the home of ZAGNY and IZA.
- National Coordinator for the Good Life Program that is one of the electives for the Eagle Scout Badge of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Vice-President of FEZANA.
- Invited to participate at the first ever World Zoroastrian Young Leaders Forum at the ASHA Center in March 2018 in the United Kingdom.

In the future, I am looking to continue to push the envelope in the sustainable architecture and design realm. I would like to continue to grow my technology consulting business to allow small and medium businesses to seamlessly adapt and manoeuvre the continuously changing business landscape, especially within the realm of remote work and co-location collaboration.

I hope to be a citizen of the world, comfortably placed in both my city of birth and my city of residence. I look forward to having a professional arrangement that allows me to seamlessly roam in these two cities and anywhere in between. I also hope to be the social agent of change within our community here in North America. I hope to have a better work-life balance - and most importantly be happy."



What makes you tick and steps you would take to enable you to attain your leadership ambitions? "I feel my strongest attributes are connecting a myriad dots and bringing diverse sets of people to collaborate and work on causes that are larger than any single individual.

In the years to come I would like to change gears and get involved professionally in areas that have a larger impact at a global level. Over the last two decades the world has shrunk, and technology now allows us to experience, and therefore influence, conditions and problems worldwide. The limits that the previous generation of architects had are no more.

On the community front I hope to motivate the Zarathushti

youth by action. I hope that through my actions I can help provide our youth the access and the leverage they need to get more involved. Take the initial steps, don't feel disheartened that you don't see results, and continue at it. Even if one in ten sees your vision, it's game on. For a successful game, one needs spectators and players. Always try to be a player. Without players there is no game. Our good religion has survived for 3500 years and will continue to do so. What may not is our culture... the "Parsipanu"... and that is my biggest worry and where I try to channel most of my energy. The culture we know today needs to be passed on to the next generation, not just as notes in a diary, but as a living breathing "being" and that is what I would love to see and do in the years ahead."



TASHAN AND DINSHA



We admire your being so recognized by FEZANA

#### PARENTS: Firoza and Khojeste, Yash and Farrokh

#### **SPOUSES: Zane and Fareeza**

**BROTHERS AND SPOUSES: Kaiyan and Shireen, Behram and Kristen** 



Emerging Leaders

## "It is in Dreaming The Greatest Dreams .....

## Seeking The Highest Goals .....

That we build the brightest tomorrows".

Anonymous well wisher





## **TO OUR ACHIEVERS**

### DAULAT AND PESHOTAN KOTVAL



America's premier 55+ communities in the Tampa Bay area offer year round sunshine and homes for every price range plus the convenience of nearby airports, dining & shopping, cultural & entertainment venues, golf, sports, world class beaches and more!

\* Understands **multicultural** needs -80 Indo-American retirees live in Sun City Center.

- \* Limits Client numbers for focused attention and leaves nothing to chance.
- \* New Home Specialist. Includes 2-10 year warranties.

Senior Real Estate Specialist, Sparkman Realty Inc.

More details at: suncitycenter.org and kingspointsuncoast.com

all une tor

Yasmin Kevala

813-380-0064 vasminhomes@tampabay.rr.com

to find a home for v

#### PARSI DELEGATION MEETS PM NARENDRA MODI ON NAVROZ

On March 20, 2018 a delegation from the Parsi Community met the Honorable PM Narendra Modi at his request at the Parliament House New Delhi. They had a very good interaction during which they exchanged NoRuz greetings and gifts. The PM complimented the Parsi community for being a peace loving community and asked that members of the community should remain that way and that the younger members should marry and multiply. The Pm said he enjoyed Parsi theatre. The community presented a few requests among them was the conferring of Bharat Ratna on Field Marshall Sam Maneckshaw, and a prominent road in New DelLhi named after him.



(L-R Standing) Hoshaang Gotla, Natasha Dubash, Zubin Khapoliwala, Tina Patel, Cyrus Engineer, Adil Nargolwala, Ashdeen Lilaowala, Xerxes Master, Niloofer Shroff, Areez Patel, (L-R Seated) Homai Engineer, Sam Bulsara, Narendra Modi, Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor, Havovi Dastoor, Dr. Shernaz Cama, Er. Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia

#### Greetings from the PM of England



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

I would like to wish everyone celebrating Jamsheedi NoRuz a very happy year. Although NoRuz is celebrated by many communities, its origins and religious significance are, of course, Zoroastrian.

History records that the Zoroastrians have celebrated the joyous spring festival of Jamsheedi NoRuz for over 2500 years. It continues to mark the first day of spring and has special significance as a time for the restoration of peace and the renovation of the world. It is also a celebration of the revival of nature, bringing with it warmth and prosperity after the cold winter months.

May the spirit of renovation that symbolizes the ancient Zoroastrian festival of Jamsheedi NoRuz be emulated by all people and nations, where friendships are renewed and quarrels are set aside to usher in peace, tranquillity, well-being and the rejuvenation of happiness and all that is good in the world.

The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe is the oldest Asian faith-based voluntary association in the UK, and together with the Zoroastrian community has contributed to the progress, wellbeing and prosperity of our country. I wish you all peace and joy on this day of NoRuz.

IZr ().

#### **Greetings from the Premier of Ontario**



March 26, 2018

#### A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating the birth of Prophet Zarathustra.

Prophet Zarathustra was an Iranian religious reformer and prophet who is regarded as the founder of Zoroastrianism. He is also a major figure in the history of world religions.

This province's multiculturalism is among our greatest assets and has given us an enriched world view. We derive strength from the fact that we come from all parts of the globe, practise many faiths and celebrate varied traditions.

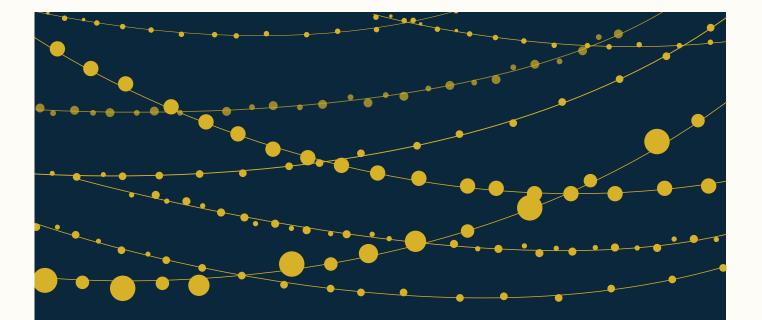
I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Zoroastrian community. As an integral part of our multicultural success story, members of this diverse and dynamic community continue to help make Ontario even stronger. I am grateful for their many enduring contributions to the social, economic and cultural life of our great province.

To everyone celebrating the birth of Prophet Zarathustra, please accept my best wishes for a meaningful observance.

Kathlin Uupme Kathleen Wynne

Kathleen Wyi Premier

21 March 2018



# Best wishes for Jamshedi Navroz



# A GLOBAL FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOUTIQUE

www.avestarcapital.com

FEZANA Journal

71

Spring 2018

FUNU FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS (2018-2019

Applications are invited for the FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI (MMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR. FEZANA 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP MORVARID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP BANOOBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA (BMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS DR MINOCHER RUSTOM VESUNA AND DOWLAT MINOCHER VESUNA, WZO CANADA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP SHEROO DARABSHA KOLSAVALA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

# THE NAMES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON FEZANA.ORG, IN THE FEZANA JOURNAL, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ONLINE ACCESS.

All scholarships are open to Zarathushti applicants who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA or Canada.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**:

Scholarships for the academic year 2018-2019 will be awarded in September 2018.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Applicants must complete the application form and provide documentation for:

- (1) proof of USA or Canadian citizenship. (For non citizens a minimum of one year or two semesters residency in USA or Canadian academic institution is required)
- (2) past academic records and accomplishments (attach documentation of the past four years only)
- (3) program of study
- (4) annual financial need including assistance already pledged by other funds, charitable institutions or the institution of choice
- (5) other financial assistance available from family and friends
- (6) community service including contributions to Zarathushti functions and organizations three reference letters (one preferably from an association nearest to you).
- (7) AWARD CRITERIA: Applicants will be rated on Scholastic Achievement (40%), Financial Need (40%), Extra-curricular Activities (10%) and Community Service (10%).

The Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowed Scholarship of \$5000 and The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FEZANA Scholarship will be awarded to post graduate students for scholastic excellence.

The Purvez and Aban Rustomji Endowed Scholarship of \$5000 will be awarded to qualified undergraduate students who demonstrates financial need and academic achievement.

The Yasmin and Shapur Pavri Endowed Scholarship of \$5000 will be awarded to qualified undergraduate student The Morvarid Guiv Endowed Scholarships of \$1000 will be awarded to one graduate and one undergraduate student who demonstrates financial need together with academic excellence.

The Banoobai and Maneckshaw Kapadia Endowed Scholarship of \$2000 will be awarded for undergraduate studies to a student with good academic standing who demonstrates financial need.

Dr Minocher Rustom Vesuna and Dowlat Minocher Vesuna WZO Canada Endowed Scholarships of Can \$3000 will be awarded to a graduate and an undergraduate student with good academic standing who demonstrates financial need.

The Sheroo Darabsha Kolsavala Endowed Scholarship of Can \$1000 will be awarded to an undergraduate student with demonstrated financial need and good academic standing

APPLICATION: Application forms are available from the FEZANA website at www.fezana.org or from Dr Dolly Dastoor academicscholarship@fezana.org. COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY BY AUGUST 1, 2018 (11.59 EST) to academicscholarship@fezana.org.



ZÜNÜ Scholarships

## FEZANA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS—2017

**Dolly Dastoor PhD** Chair, FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program

Education is one of the most important predictors—in fact—the most important predictor-of many forms of social participation—from voting to association membership, to chairing a local committee, to hosting a dinner party, to giving blood, in short, education is an extremely powerful predictor of civic engagement.

-R. Putnam

Education and training continue to fuel the engine of social mobility and contribute to social cohesion and integration in our ever more diverse societies and cultures. The benefits of education go beyond the economic returns–contributing also to better health, citizenship, and lower crime rates.

Investment in our youth is an investment in the future of the Zarathushti community. The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope. You have given hope to our youth. Your faith and trust in the FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program—as demonstrated by your support and endowments—are appreciated by your committee and the recipients. Thank you.

This year we have a new endowed scholarship, the Sheroo Darabsha Kolsawala WZO Canada Endowed scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for an undergraduate student who has a great financial need. We are grateful to the donor for the trust placed in FEZANA scholarship program.

Your continued financial support and your encouragement is of the utmost importance to maintain this program and sustain the hope of the next generation.

## MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP—THE FEZANA SCHOLAR (\$5,000)

# ZIBA COLAH, MD Program, Baylor College of Medicine



My name is Ziba Colah and I am a first-year medical student at Baylor College of Medicine pursuing an MD with the goal of a career in Internal Medicine and medical education. I attended the University of Houston with a full

ride and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Biophysical Sciences with minors in Chemistry and Medicine and Society. While completing my undergraduate studies, I received a research fellowship through the University of Houston to study prostate cancer and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society for being in the top 10% of students in the university.

During my time in the youth group at the Zoroastrian Association of Houston, I occupied many leadership roles including historian, secretary, and vice president. I am honored to have received the Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship for Academic Excellence, which allows students to focus on their academic goals without having to worry about the financial costs of

zana Scholarships

achieving them. As a member of an active and vibrant Zoroastrian association, my vision for the Zoroastrian ccunity to have youth members further involved in religious discussion, education, and practice.

# FEZANA 25TH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC



EXCELLENCE (\$3,000)

# BAHRAM KIANPOUR, Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry, University of Southern California

I am extremely grateful and honored to be a recipient of the 25th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship for

academic excellence. In addition to the financial assistance, this award is yet another example of the Zoroastrian community's generosity and support of the younger members of the community who are pursuing higher education. FEZANA contributors are role models and have inspired me and many other young Zarthushtis to pursue their passions and give back to the community.

I was born and raised in Tehran, Iran and immigrated to the United States in 2007. I graduated from the University of California Irvine in 2015 with a Bachelor in Biological Sciences. Currently, I am a first-year dental student at Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry. The Scholarship will go a long way in supporting my education. My goal is to utilize my skills to make a significant positive impact in the lives of those in and outside the Zoroastrian community.

#### MORVORID GUIV ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (\$1,000)



# FARIN YAZDANI, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

My name is Farin Yazdani and I have recently started my first year of medical school at the Virginia Commonwealth

University School of Medicine. I am extremely grateful and feel incredibly honored and grateful to have received this award. I earned my Bachelor of Science from University of California Los Angeles.

Among other projects, one of my academic accomplishments was a four-year research project in the UCLA Molecular, Medical, and Pharmacology department, where I analyzed the intoxicating effects of alcohol on GABA receptor protein subunit composition and sub-cellular localization, correlated with behavioral pharmacology. I am one of the first authors of a publication that compared anxiety behavioral responses produced by acute and chronic alcohol treatment leading to dependence in rats in the Molecular Pharmacology Journal.

I am devoted to working with other highly motivated Zoroastrians to contribute our time and efforts towards improving our Zoroastrian community. I was part of a newly established Zoroastrian committee where I worked with a group of dedicated members to select and reward local Zoroastrian members who have greatly contributed to the Zoroastrian community.

# FEZANA SCHOLARS (\$2,000) GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS



#### PARSHAN KHOSRAVI, UCLA, Luskin School of Public Affairs, Master's in Public Relations

"A thousand people cannot convince one by words to the extent that one person can convince a

thousand by action." (Dk6.e15)

As I continue my journey of connecting to my roots, culture, and community, I am beginning to find myself more and more determined to give back to my Zoroastrian community. I believe that I, as well as every other Zoroastrian youth, have a responsibility to act in defining a future that is bright and welcoming for future generations. That is why I have taken the task of chairing the 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress, where I hope to bolster the foundation of this vision. I am fully aware that this path of action is not going to be easy. However, I am confident that, with the help of my fellow Zoroastrian youth, we can direct our community toward the path of acceptance, love, and righteousness.

I am humbled to receive my second FEZANA



Scholarship award and for supporting me; and, in return, I vow to make FEZANA proud of me and my actions.



# **DELSHAD SHROFF, Columbia** University, Developmental Psychology, Master's Program

My name is Delshad Shroff and I come from a Parsi family in India. I am currently in the second year of my master's program in Developmental Psychology at Columbia University. My goal is to facilitate the creation and

implementation of effective early childhood programs that create a safe environment for children's intellectual and emotional development.

I received a scholarship from FEZANA for my first year; during which I grew as a person and academically, and published a paper on children's executive functioning. I am indebted to FEZANA for providing a scholarship for my second year; it will enable me to further pursue my passions and goals. I want to make sure the Parsi community's investment in my education will enable me to help it to become a pioneer in education. I will also always be willing to be a career mentor to other Parsi students and give back a fraction of what my amazing community has given to me.



### BEHROZ CHHOR, West Virginia University School of Medicine, First Year Medical Student

Behroz graduated with Honors from UC San Diego where she received her degree in Physiology and Neuroscience. She received the UCSD Provost Honors 11 times and was

accepted into the National Phi Betta Kappa Honors Society in her senior year.

Behroz volunteered over 1,000 hours at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital and she conducted research on the relationship between traumatic brain injuries and Alzheimer's Disease. In June 2017, Behroz received her Master's Degree in Public Health from UC Davis. Behroz is currently a first-year medical student at the West Virginia University School of Medicine, where she is exploring different fields of medicine and hopes to choose a specialty by the end of the year.

This scholarship will help Behroz and her family to fund her education so that she can give back to the Zoroastrian community. Her goal is to ensure that all members of the Zoroastrian community will lead long and healthy lives through preventative medicine.

# UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (\$5,000)



SHAYDA SALES, The George Washington University, International Affairs and Middle East Studies Undergraduate

My name is Shayda Sales and I am a junior at The George Washington University majoring

in International Affairs and Middle East Studies. I am so honored to be awarded the Purvez and Aban Rustomji Endowed Scholarship through FEZANA because it is an investment my religious community has made in me. Throughout the years, the Zoroastrian community has repeatedly supported me emotionally, mentally, and spiritually; which I now want to give back. I believe my education is the most impactful way I can do so.

As a history minor, I hope to spend my life doing research on my ethnic and religious communities to better understand and document our complex history. Misrepresentation and misunderstanding is an urgent issue our community is facing; to address this, we must begin by highlighting the massive diversity within the Zoroastrian community. Although at times it is difficult to embrace this because of cultural, language, and generational barriers, when we are successful in doing so, the outcome is incredibly impactful.

I believe the strength of our community is rooted in this diversity, and, embracing this in tandem with our oneness under God, is a strong vision I hold for

75

ZUNU Scholarships

Zoroastrians around the world.

# KAPADIA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND ACADEMIC STANDING FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT (\$2,000)

#### **RUSTUM CHHOR, University of California** Berkeley, Computer Sciences



It is a great honor to be presented with the Kapadia Endowed Scholarship. As a student at UC Berkeley studying computer science, this scholarship, along with my grants from UC Berkeley, will enable me to reach my goals. They also reduce the financial pressure of paying for college and allow me to pursue further education past my bachelors.

My interest in computer science

sparked when I began working with robots at a young age. I then captained a robotics team throughout high school and won numerous competitions including the West Coast Championship that allowed us to compete at an international level.

Upon completion of my navar, I began working with Ervad Kobad Jamshed to perform ceremonies for the Bay Area congregation, including helping to open the Sacramento Daremehr. I was also invited to attend a North American Mobed Council seminar to help strengthen my skills. My greatest vision for our community is to ensure that it maintains its unity and interest in its culture.

# MORVORID GUIV ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000) UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

## FRIYA RANDELIA, Rutgers University, Business School, Finance and Minor in Critical



**Intelligence Studies** 

I am studying accounting at Rutgers University-New Brunswick in the Rutgers Business School and the Honors College. I am also pursuing a concentration in Finance and a minor in Critical Intelligence Studies.

This scholarship will allow me

to advance my studies and help my family with sending two siblings through college at the same time. I am motivated to continue working diligently to pursue my goal of working at an intersection between business and government, possibly in forensic accounting.

My vision for the community is to see generations come together and take the time to understand and listen to each other's perspectives. There must be a balance between tradition and adaptation in today's rapidly changing world. I also hope to see the younger generations have a larger, more prominent place in the community. This can be online or at in-person meetings, where they participate in decision-making and planning of events, celebrations, and more.

# JERRY AND CELESTE 30th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

### MAHSA KABOLIZADEH, Royal Roads University, Victoria, British Columbia, Educational Leadership in Management Masters Degree

As the recipient of the Jerry and Celeste Kheradi 30th



76

anniversary Endowed Scholarship, I feel extremely fortunate to continue my studies towards a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership and Management.

I'd like to thank the FEZANA selection committee for their consideration as a recipient of this scholarship. My vision is to be a leader, an educator and show

dedication to my Zarathushti community by educating the young. This will result in the continuation of the cultural teachings. My dedication to the future of our Zoroastrian community has given me the drive to pursue a master's degree in Educational Leadership, which will allow me to apply my education to the greater practice of my workplace and community.

Over my education career I have had many leadership opportunities that helped me develop my professional and communication skills, which led to my involvement on the Board of Directors of the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia.

My academic achievements include a bachelor's degree in science majoring in chemistry, life sciences and earth and oceans sciences. My second bachelor's degree is in Education, specializing in middle school math and science. I have been the recipient of local awards for my dedication to community service, (Mehraban and Paridokht

FEZANA Journal

Zana Scholarships

Zartoshty Education Scholarship), as well as academic scholarships and honors for high achievements in the academic field. This scholarship will allow me to further contribute to my community, as well as maintain a high academic start for myself.

#### **ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **KATIE MASTER, University of Texas, Austin, Biochemistry**

I am attending the University of Texas at Austin to



obtain a degree in biochemistry, which focuses on the chemical reactions inside the human body. This scholarship provides an enormous help for me to defray costs of such items as access codes for online learning and textbooks. This scholarship also means that people in my community have recognized the hard work and effort I have put forth into maintaining my grades, while supporting my community. This feeling of recognition is

just as satisfying, if not more so, than winning a monetary award. My hope for the community is that they will foster the education of our youth inside and outside our religion so that more people can succeed and bring back what they have learned and apply it to help our own Zoroastrian community thrive.

### SHEROO KOLSAWALA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000)



Sheroo Darabsha Kolsawala M.A. (September 21, 1915–February 2, 2000) devoted her life to education. She attended Wilson College in Bombay and graduated with a master's degree in French. She supported her education and that of her younger sibling with tutelage, she continued doing this to the day she died. She even donated her eyes, which benefitted a young man who was able to continue his education. This scholarship is dedicated to her by her niece who benefitted from many years of her aunt's tutoring.



#### MANIJEH RUSTOMJI, Texas Women's University, Interdisciplinary Studies

My name is Manijeh Rustomji and I am currently a student at Texas Woman's University. I am majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies EC-6 with an English as a Second Language Certification. I aspire to use my degree in the field of education to teach students in Texas public schools. During my time at the university, I was fortunate enough to research Persian literature and its effects on young Persian children at my local Zoroastrian Association. The Sheroo Kolsawala Endowed Scholarship that I have been awarded will help me pay for a portion of my tuition and I am thankful for the award. As a proud Zarathushti, I hope to see the community become more accepting of individuals who may or may not be Zarathushtis. As the Zoroastrian community is small, a welcoming attitude would help attract and retain members.



77

## FEZANA SCHOLARSHIPS UNDERGRADUATES (\$2,000)

RAYOMAND KAPADIA, University of California, Biology Currently, I am a first-year

undergraduate student studying

biology at the University of California, Irvine(UCI). I graduated from Winter Park High School with Advanced Placement(AP) Scholar with Distinction by passing more than 12 AP exams. As far as my future, I plan to attend a top medical school and become a neurosurgeon, which has been my dream.

During my high school time I received The President's Volunteer Service Award for doing more than 300 hours of



community service. Additionally, I have received awards from more than 15 clubs, many of which I served as a club president or vice-president.

This scholarship means a lot to me. As with so many expenses incurred while attending college and medical school, all support helps and is truly appreciated.



Additionally, being recognized by the community means a lot. This scholarship and the community's support has caused me to want to provide similar support to future generations.

## NATASHA DUSAJ, Fordham University, Physics Major

My name is Natasha Dusaj, and I am a sophomore at Fordham University. I am a physics major currently enrolled in the 3-2 Physics Engineering program between Fordham and Columbia University. With a background in Engineering, followed by a graduate degree in Law, I hope to practice as a patent attorney.

I am both humbled and honored to be a recipient of the prestigious 2017 FEZANA Scholarship.

What has always struck me growing up in my Zarathushti community, at ZAGNY, is its willingness to put aside differences. Whether it is the inclusion of non-Zoroastrian spouses and their children, or the cohesiveness between Parsi and Iranian Zoroastrians, ZAGNY is a very inclusive community. With such a positive environment and forward-thinking role models, I am optimistic for the future and believe that our progressive community will continue to grow and prosper.



## DELZIN GAMIR, Purdue University, Mechanical Engineering

My name is Delzin Gamir and I am a freshman at Purdue University. I plan on doing Mechanical Engineering.

Throughout high school I was involved in the Math and Chemistry club. I worked closely in the Beta club and National

Honors Society to volunteer around school and help tutor students in classes like Math, Science, and English. I received the AP Scholar Award in high school. As a part of community service, I volunteered at the Norton Hospital by shadowing doctors and at the Kentucky Science Center as a science camp counselor.

At Purdue, I am involved in the Women in Engineering

Program. My hope is to pursue a high-level degree that will help me benefit the Zoroastrian community and bring new ideas and innovations to help our Zoroastrian community.

### DR. MINOCHER RUSTOM VESUNA WZO CANADA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (\$3,000)



# ANAHITA F. DEHMOOBAD, Univeristy of Ottawa School of Medicine.

I am grateful to have received the Vesuna/WZO Canada Endowed Scholarship to support my education at the University of Ottawa. I graduated from McMaster University with a Bachelor of Health Sciences and am currently a second-year medical student.

Academically, my passion lies in mental health, clinical epidemiology, and preventative medicine. I have a passion for learning about health issues through a systems level lens in epidemiology and promoting healthy lifestyles in preventative medicine. I have conducted various research studies at leading institutions. Another one of my interests lies in mentorship; I am involved in directing mentorship programs for medical students to ensure students have appropriate guidance and insight into their career choice.

This scholarship has been an incredible financial help in my studies, but also makes me extremely proud and fortunate to be a part of a community that is invested in the future of youth. It is inspiring for me, as I hope to one day similarly contribute to the future generations of Zoroastrian influencers.

# DOWLAT MINOCHER VESUNA–WZO CANADA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (\$3,000)

## DARIAN BHATHENA, Computer Science and Engineering . Mass. Institute of Technology

I am honored to have received the Dowlat Minocher Vesuna WZO Canada Endowed Scholarship. I am very proud of my Zarathushti upbringing and consider it to have played a leading role in shaping the person I am today. Receiving the

scholarship is confirmation to me that, even as I grow older, get busier, and take on more responsibility, my Zarathushti faith and culture is still strong in my heart.

zana Scholarships

# PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Jall Cowasji- studying Film Arts and Cinematography at New York University's - TISCH School of the Arts, in New York, NY.

**Ms Jasmine Baetz-** pursuing her MFA, specializing in the Ceramic Arts at the University of Colorado in Boulder, CO

Applications available on the Fezana website. Deadline August 1, 2018 Application forms to be sent electronically to Nazneen Spliedt-Chair <u>nazehler@aol.com</u>. Visit <u>www.Fezana.org</u> for more information

# THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA Scholarship Program

The Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia was proud to present scholarships to four very deserving candidates who had completed Grade XII:

Cyrus Rupa, Arshan Batliwalla, Shirin Zohrabi, Natasha Chow

The Mehraban & Paridokht Zartoshty Education Fund Association was pleased to award scholarships to:

Natasha Kianipour, Farhad Udwadia, Afshin Yazdgardian, Thea Udwadia



79

zana Scholarships

### FF7ANA'S FXCELLENCE IN SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP (EXISS) FUND FOR YOUNG ZARATHUSHTIS

The FEZANA Excellence in Sports Scholarship (EXISS) fund was established to provide financial support to young Zarathushtis who have performed exceptionally well in a sport and have become recognized as such. The Fund's purpose is to provide financial scholarships to enable the recipients to get world-class training and/or study with experts in their field; thereby fine tuning and enhancing their talents and capabilities.

#### **ANAHITA ANTIA**

I am grateful and excited for having received the EXISS scholarship from FEZANA! Since I was four, I nurtured a passion for the sport of gymnastics. So far, the height of my achievement has been to win first prize at the Arizona State Championship (age group 10) in all four categories.



No other girl at the meet USA GYMNASTICS achieved the same. Gymnastics is hard work, I train four hours every day-in addition to my studies and homework. I hope to achieve the dream of every sports person and compete in the Olympics some day and make my community proud. My parents show me the achievements of other Zoroastrians in various fields and I am surprised that, despite our small numbers, our

achievements are by no means small. I hope to make my own contribution to this impressive list. Thank you, FEZANA, for your trust in me.

#### **ANUSHKA OAK**

My table tennis journey began at nine. The highspeed rallies resonated well with me and taught me to execute



a precise stroke in a fleeting The sport combines moment. a strategic aspect, like chess, with an ever present, though lesser regarded, physical aspect. Many hours of practice unite to create the correct technique and timing. Of course, school is always a priority, but my love and dedication for this sport is like no other. I would like to thank FEZANA for this scholarship that acknowledges all my efforts. I hope to continue representing

the Zoroastrian community in competition platforms such as the US Open, US Nationals, and, hopefully, the Tokyo Olympics. At international tournaments, my Faravahar necklace is an instant conversation starter and I am accustomed to explaining its significance. I hope to continue increasing awareness of Zoroastrianism in non-Zarathushti communities throughout various avenues in my life.

#### **DILSHAD ELAVIA**

First, I would like to thank the FEZANA committee for giving me the Excellence in Sports scholarship. Receiving the scholarship is an honor; it was surprising news to me that



I was one of the candidates to receive the scholarship. The scholarship will help me as it will cover gas expenses for when I travel to another city to play at badminton tournaments and will enable me to upgrade my badminton equipment. In my province, badminton is not popular, but to play in major tournaments, I need to travel far from home to other Canadian provinces to play at big

events. In the future, I want to see my community prosper; I am looking forward to helping it achieve its goals.

#### ZANE PATEL

I am 11 and started playing squash when I was eight. I loved the sport from the very first lesson, even though I could barely hit the ball. I enjoy the fast pace of the game and the chance to be competitive at the national level. My mother's family has played the game for four generations.



My dad was a nationally-ranked junior player growing up in India. I was very excited and thankful for the scholarship because I love squash and want to play it for a long time to come. I am happy and proud that I had my Navjote ceremony two years ago. I hope to see the Parsi community increase in number in the coming years.

# **CHOTHIA SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships

ZÜNÜ

The Fali Chothia Charitable Trust was established in 1988 to provide scholarships and interest-free loans to needy Zoroastrian students. Awards are based on financial need, educational achievement, and community service. The Trust was established under the auspices of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Inc. (ZAMWI) and, over the past 30 years, has awarded scholarships to students from the U.S. and Canada.

In the spirit of solidarity and trust between organizations while serving common community causes, the U.S. chapter of the World Zoroastrian Organisation has once again contributed to the Fali Chothia Trust's Scholarship Program. Their participation has enabled us to increase all scholarships by 50 percent. The Trust is grateful to the WZO U.S. chapter and is thrilled that its support has enabled us to provide a significant increase in the assistance we provide to our young scholars.

**Please remember that this wonderful program wouldn't be possible without your donations.** Please send your check, made payable to ZAMWI/Fali Chothia Charitable Trust, at 10300 Farnham Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814.

All donations made to the Trust are tax exempt and go directly into the fund—the Board of Trustees' members absorb all administrative, mailing, and other fund-raising costs.

**KASHMIN DALAL** is working toward a degree in Psychology at Kent State University. Her goal is to obtain a Ph.D. and work as a clinical child psychologist. She has been involved in community service from a very young age and last year went on a medical mission to Haiti. This year, she volunteered at Standing Rock reservation, running a camp for adolescents and children, and helping to build housing for their families. (recipient of a FEZANA Scholarship)

**TANAZ KARAI** is enrolled in the Master's program in Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Elementary Education at the College of New Jersey. Ever since she can remember, Tanaz has wanted to be a teacher and make a difference in the lives of young children. She has participated in numerous workshops and is affiliated with various campus organizations. She has been a dedicated volunteer teacher at the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York since she was in high school. She was awarded the Good Life Emblem Award from ZAGNY in 2013.

**DILSHAD PATEL** is working toward an MS in Exercise and Health Science at the University of Houston, Texas. After studying classical Indian dance since she was 5, she became an instructor at the Shiamak Davar Institute for the Performing Arts. Her teaching experience led her to pursue dance as a means of therapy and healing. She has spent the last decade studying movement therapy—simultaneously incorporating its principles in new programs and workshops to help athletes, children, patients, seniors, and a host of other populations.

**KHUSHMEEN SAKLOTH** is pursuing an MS in Chemical Engineering at the University of Washington and hopes to work as a computational or data scientist in the clean energy sector. She completed her prior education in India, always at or near the top of her class. She was active in various Zoroastrian youth activities in India and is currently involved in several professional activities on campus.

**DELSHAD SHROFF** will complete her Master's program in Developmental Child Psychology at Columbia University's Teacher's College in May 2018. Delshad was one of two students who earned merit scholarships to study at the NY University of Abu Dhabi and has been an active volunteer with several schools and special needs programs, as well as local Zoroastrian organizations in Chennai, India, and in New York. (She is the second-year recipient of a FEZANA scholarship.)

**FERIN YAZDANI-BIYOUKI** is seeking a medical degree at VCU School of Medicine. Ferin moved here from Iran when she was quite young, and remembering the sacrifices her family made for her, is determined to support her community as a medical professional. She has been heavily involved in the activities of the California Zoroastrian Center LA, the Persian American Society for Health Advancement (for which she led an effort to collect \$30,000 to provide eye treatments to visually impaired people in Tajikistan), and the 7th World Youth Zoroastrian Congress. (She is also the recipient of the FEZANA Morvorid Guiv Endowed scholarship.)

ana Scholarships

# VAKHSHOORI FOUNDATION PROMOTING LEADERSHIP AMONG ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH IN ACADEMIA, PUBLIC LIFE, AND THE ARTS

We are happy and honored to announce the Vakhshoori Scholarship Recipients for the 2017–2018 Academic Year:

Ms. Farin Yazdani: \$5,000
Doctor Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia, USA
Ms. Shirin Asgari: \$3,000
Doctor of Optometry, Southern California College of Optometry, California, USA
Ms. Farin Bakhtiari: \$3,000
PhD in Human Development and Family Science, University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA
Ms. Michelle Anya Anjirbag: \$2,000
PhD in Education, University of Cambridge, England
Mr. Zarius Jamshed Dubash: \$2,000
BA Technology, Entrepreneurship, Babson University, Massachusetts, USA
Ms. Mahsa Kabolizadeh: \$2,000
MS in Education Leadership, Royal Roads University, British Columbia, Canada
Mr. Jamshid Kavosi: \$2,000
PhD in Material Science, Texas A&M University, Texas, USA
Mr. Zaal Panthaki: \$2,000
B.S. Electrical Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology, Massachusetts, USA
Ms. Nusheen Goshtasbi: \$1,000
M.S. Physician Assistance, Yale University, USA
Ms. Dilshad Khushru Patel: \$1,000
MS Dance Therapy, University of Houston, Clear Lake, Texas, USA
Mr. Aurash Soroosh: \$1,000
MS Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, USA

Each winner has shown exceptional leadership in his or her respective academic field, community, and life; summarized below in their biographies. We invite you to visit **www.vakhshoori.org** to view video clips of several winners' personal views and life experiences.

# 2018-2019 Call for Applicants

The Vakhshoori Foundation invites young Zoroastrians to apply for scholarships for the academic year of 2018-2019. These awards range between \$10,000 and \$1,000. For more details and application form please visit the foundation web site at www.vakhshoori.org.

Koorosh Vakhshoori Member of the board of directors Vakhshoori Scholarship

zana Scholarships



**Farin Yazdani** is the recipient of the Morvorid Guiv Endowed scholarship 2017, please read her bio on Page 74.

Shirin Asgari is a first year Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) student at Marshall B. Ketchum University, California. Born in Tehran, Iran, and brought to the United States when she was 14-years-old, she attended high school in San Diego, California, and was admitted to the University of California Irvine in 2012. She did independent research

in the Developmental and Cell Biology field and in 2016 she received her Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences.

She was one of the cofounders of the Zoroastrian Student Association at UC Irvine. In summer 2017, she was one of the counselors at the Zoroastrian Youth Camping event held in Santa Barbara, hosted by the Southern California Zoroastrian Center (SCZC). She is an active member of the Southern California Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) and has volunteered at the Anaheim Annual Health Fair in Orange County and Glendale Annual Health Fair in Los Angeles, where she provides vision services to the needy.



Upon graduation, she plans to pursue a post-doctoral clinical training in Ocular Diseases Residency Program. She plans to have her own practice to serve her community in Orange County in the immediate future, then travel overseas to help those in need.



**Farin Bakhtiari** was born and raised in Kerman, Iran. At 19 she moved with her family to the US. Over the years, the Zoroastrian community played an essential role in development of her identity, skills, and goals. In Iran, as a teenager, she volunteered at the Zoroastrian recreational center (Ardeshir Hemati) in Kerman. Before moving to the US, Farin lived in Tehran for a short time where she was an active member of the Society of Zoroastrian Students or Kanoon-e Daneshjooyan-e Zartoshti (Kanoon), where she shared her newly found passion for delivering Shahnameh recitals at Zoroastrian events.

After moving to the US, Farin joined the California Zoroastrian Center's youth group in Los Angeles, where she acted as the master of ceremonies and recited poems at many events during her first four years in the US while working on her Bachelor's in Psychology degree at California State

University Northridge (CSUN). While pursuing her master's degree in general experimental psychology at CSUN, she focused on her education, remaining an active member of the community. Farin co-authored a comprehensive report\* that shed light on the strengths of Zoroastrian families and some of the challenges that Zoroastrian young adults face.

Currently, Farin is a doctoral student at University of Texas at Austin working on her PhD in Human Development and Family Sciences, and she continues to research family qualities in relation to well-being of youth in minority and immigrant families.



**Michelle Anya Anjirbag** is a first-year PhD student at the University of Cambridge, working on Children's Literature. She is interested in diversity and representations of agency in children's literature and film, cultural and national identity, and the adaptation of fairy tales, folklore, and cultural epics. She is a Rotary International Global Grant Scholar and obtained her BA from the University of Connecticut in English, with a creative writing concentration and double minors in anthropology and Native American and Indigenous studies. She obtained her MSc in Literature and Society: Enlightenment, Romantic, Victorian at the University of Edinburgh as a Rotary International Service Above Self Scholar. She is a published essayist and journalist.



**Zarius Dubash** grew up in nearby Shrewsbury Massachusetts, where he attended the Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School in Marlborough, graduating in 2017 with honors. Zarius is currently a first-year student at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, studying technology entrepreneurship.

While in high school, Zarius was elected to three consecutive terms to represent his class in the student government. He has held other leadership positions and participated actively in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Ten80 Racing, and the school's Speech and Debate team, where he competed and excelled in the Group Discussion category. In his senior year, Zarius was the recipient of the school's engineering award.



Zarius has been active in ZAGBA (Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area) throughout his life by helping at Jashan Gahambar events, participating in youth activities and performances for Norooz, and attending religious education classes. He has led and participated in numerous volunteer events. Zarius has been to three Zoroastrian North American Congresses and three Zoroastrian youth camps in Houston, Texas, where he made lifelong friends.

Zarius' passions include technology, cars, music, tennis (captaining his school's varsity team during his senior year), skiing (and giving ski lessons to kids and adults), and biking. At Babson, he is active in several clubs and the Community Action Program, in which he works with underprivileged children as a friend and mentor. Zarius wants to use his education, experience, and Zarathushti faith to change the world and make a tangible impact.



Mahsa Kabolizadeh is the recipient of the FEZANA 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jerry and Celeste Kheradi Endowed Scholarship. Read her bio of page 76.

**Jamshid Kavosi** born and raised in Tehran, Iran. He attended Sharif University of Technology for his undergraduate studies and, in 2013, got his Bachelor's in Materials Science and Engineer There is never a wrong time to do the right thing" ing degree. He then came to the US and started his master studies in mechanical engineering at the University

of Southern California (USC). The focus of his studies has been to investigate the behavior of composite materials under large deformation. In 2016 he started his PhD studies in Materials Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University. In the first year of his PhD studies he was awarded the Kozik-Harvey Fellowship from Mechanical Engineering department of Texas A&M University. His main subject of research at Texas A&M is carbon nanofiber composite fabrication for energy storage applications in flywheels, which could revolutionize the aerospace and automotive industries.



He was an active member of Zoroastrian Youth Association (Fravahar) and Zoroastrian Students Association (Kanoon) during his undergraduate studies.

Zaal Farhad Panthaki was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and is currently studying electrical engineering



as a freshman at the Rochester Institute of Technology in upstate NY.

He has always been very active with his family in their local Zarathushti community, ZAGBA. He was ordained as a mobed in Mumbai seven years ago. Since then, he has given back to the community by performing Jashans, weddings, and navjotes for the ZAGBA community with his father and other local mobeds.

Zaal enjoys skiing and serves as a certified volunteer member of the National Ski Patrol at the Blue Hills Ski Area in Milton, Massachusetts. He is an Eagle Scout and has learned valuable leadership skills as a Senior Patrol leader. Last summer he attended the Zarathushti Summer Camp in Houston and enjoyed interacting and getting to know other Zarathushtis.

zana Scholarships

Nusheen Goshtasbi is a first generation Iranian-American pursuing her Master of Medical Science in Physician Associate studies at Yale University. She was born and raised in Southern California by her Iranian immigrant parents, who involved her within the Southern California Zoroastrian community at an young age.

Nusheen graduated with Latin honors from UC Irvine School of Biological Sciences in 2015. During her time as an undergraduate student, she conducted EEG trials on patients and helped the team investigate dorsal and ventral stream language processing in the Neurology Brain Circuits Laboratory. She developed her own experimental paradigm in 2014, which was awarded university funding under the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). She is also a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society.



From a young age she attended Sunday classes at the California Zoroastrian Center (CZC) and

actively participated in community events including plays, camps, fundraisers and dances. She worked as the typesetter and designer for the English section of the ChehreNama Zoroastrian publication from September 2009 to January 2014. She served as the co-vice president for the Zoroastrian Student Association at UC Irvine.

She aspires to be a physician assistant who will work with underserved populations in the United States. She hopes to radiate happiness, or *ushta*, to her patients and to help them heal and improve their quality of life. She has an interest in addressing how the healthcare system can make care more accessible and affordable to marginalized populations.

Dilshad Patel, from Mumbai, was trained in Movement Therapy at the Harkness Dance Center, New York. She has worked with people, such as street children, prisoners, elite athletes, and patients with chronic illnesses to improve their physical and psychological well-being.

She has taken Movement Therapy to the medical realm in India, where she conducted a pioneering research study on Movement Therapy for lung patients at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai.

Her contribution to the field is highlighted by her ground-breaking innovations to Movement therapy with her pioneering MTS® program (Movement Therapy for Sports), the first ever Movement Therapy program adapted as a training method for performance enhancement by sports professionals.

She was appointed Movement Therapist for Sharmila Nicollet-the youngest Indian golfer to qualify for the Ladies European Tour' and as Movement Therapist by McCann health for a project which is India's first health related dance fitness video "Pump Start" choreographed by Remo D'souza and performed by Bollywood super star Varun Dhawan. At University of Houston, Clear Lake, TX.

Aurash Soroosh attended culinary school and started his own catering business after graduating from high school after he realized he had a passion to learn more about food preparation and went back to school to study horticultural science.

After graduating from San Francisco State University (SFSU in the Didactic Program in Dietetics, he worked in clinical nutrition settings at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) and The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco (VAMCSF). SFMH is in a unique part of San Francisco, as it borders one of the poorest areas in the city, one of the wealthiest, and one of the most culturally diverse. At VAMCSF he interacts exclusively with veterans. The disparity between patients is staggering and a social problem he would like to see change in his lifetime; these experiences drove him to pursue a career in the public sector. He focused on determining whether nutrition education would positively influence a person's dietary habits. The results showed an apparent lack of nutrition education in the community, which highlighted a need for organizations to provide needed knowledge for people to develop healthy eating habits by focusing on food systems,

He is grateful to have been accepted into the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, whose motto is: "protecting health, saving lives, millions at a time." He believes that through this program he will be able to make a difference in the world.



\* See https://zoroastriansnet.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/2015 bakhtiari plunkett zoroastrian report.pdf

cooking, nutrition, health, and the effect of external factors.

# HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, DR. HASSAN ROUHANI & THE TOP RANKING DELEGATES IN MEETINGS WITH PARSIS OF INDIA



From left The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif Khonsari, The Hon President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Hassan Rouhani, and Mr Hassan Shoaejel, Deputy Ambassador.

The HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, DR. HASSAN ROUHANI accompanied by his foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif Khonsari was on a three-day official visit to India February 17-19 2018. He expressed a desire to meet with the Parsis of India **as** he had been in contact with the community 20 years ago The Embassy of Iran contacted Dr. Shernaz Cama, of ParZor to send invitations to representatives of the Zoroastrian community. Invitations went out to prominent members of the community, including the Bombay Parsi Punchayat and the Delhi Parsi Anjuman. Due to a very short notice, many members could not attend.

The meeting took place at 4 p.m. at Hotel Maurya Presidential Suite . An important point made by the president was that he wanted all Zoroastrians / Parsis in India and the diaspora to still maintain regards and build relationships with Iran. Iranians have great respect for the Zoroastrians, he continued and would like toinvite Parsi industrialists to Iran.

The Parsi delegation consisted of

- 1. Dr. Shernaz Cama, Director, UNESCO Parzor Foundation
- 2. Keki Daruwalla, Renowned Poet and Ex-Member of the National Minorities Commission of India
- 3. Cawas Panthaki, Bombay Parsi Punchayat
- 4. Ava Khullar, Acting President, Delhi Parsi Anjuman
- 5. Dr. Niloufer Shroff
- 6. Dr. Noshir Shroff, Padma Bhushan, Renowned Ophthalmologist
- 7. Ashdeen Lilaowala, Author and Fashion Designer

86



2 Shernaz Cama standing with mike giving opening remarks



www.president.ir

Shi and and and a shi and a shi and a shi a shi

- 8. Dadi Pudumjee, Noted Puppeteer
- 9. Adil Nargolwala, Hony. Secretary, Delhi Parsi Anjuman
- 10. Homa Mistry, CEO, Trail Blazer Tours India
- 11. Mahtab Irani, Researcher, Parzor Foundation
- 12 Cyrus and Kaenaz Engineer, Partners India Boilers, VAPI, Gujarat
- 13 Farzan Mazda , INTACH, Maharashtra

Dr Cama gave a brief introduction of the attendees from various walks of life who were present to meet the President. When she mentioned about Bombay Parsi Punchayet, the Hon'ble President said that 20 years ago he had been to Bombay when he had interacted with the BPP Trustees. She expressed to the President of Iran that many of those present had visited Iran at different times. Mrs. Ava Khullar also expressed her pleasant experinces in Iran especially for smooth roads, praising the infrastructure in Iran Mr. Keki N. Daruwalla, Ex-Member of the National Minorities Commission of India stated that the Irani/Parsi Zoroastrians are well looked after by the Indian Government and as a matter of fact, all the 3 defence services viz., Army, Navy, and Air-Force have at some time been headed by a Parsi.

In his response Dr. Hassan Rouhani, Hon'ble President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, touched upon the development of tourism, healthcare and cultural exchanges between India and Iran stressing to boost cultural relations. He expressed a desire that we all could speak Farsi. He emphasized that Farsi is your mother-tongue, therefore, we have a common interest to develop it. Iranians respect Parsis not only in India or Iran, but be they in America or any part of the world. He was pleased to observe that the representatives present were from different walks of life The Iran President wants to build a good relationship with India for the mutual growth of both countries and promised to relax the visa restrictions. The Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in India Gholamreza Ansari expressed a desire to have festivals organized in both countries and in particular hold a food festival.

The meeting ended on a pleasant and cordial note exchanging good wishes.

Photo credit: ISNA Photo, Mehdi Ghasemi

# ASHA VAHISHTA ZOROASTRIAN CENTRE WAS INAUGURATED IN PUNE

Just over a month ago, on December 25, 2017, a *Dadgah* (*Asha Vahishta*— The Zoroastrian Center) was inaugurated in Pune, under the auspices of the Association for Revival of Zoroastrianism (ARZ), which opened its doors to intermarried Parsis and their children, as also to Zoroastrian neophytes who seek greater insight into Zoroastrianism. Within a short period after its inauguration, the Center has already performed numerous religious rituals and has been visited by many Zartoshtis—not just those married outside the community, but also within the community!

The Asha Vahishta Zoroastrian Centre is a place of worship and a venue for Zoroastrian social and religious ceremonies, such as navjotes, weddings, jashans, machis, and



the four days of obsequies for those who opt for burial or cremation—which non-Parsi family members and friends can attend. Headed by brothers *Vispy Wadia and Kerssie Wadia*, the Dadgah is located at Pune's NIBM Road (Kondhwa). It was built at a cost of Rupees two and a half crores, via a trust started by the brothers in 2005. The Center's primary objective is to provide a place of inclusion and provide a dignified alternative to Parsi/Irani Zoroastrians who had been excommunicated or barred from entering Zoroastrian religious places of worship; specifically, those Parsis and their non-Parsi spouses, to ensure that their family could worship as one family.

So far, the Center has performed over six *Jasans*, with four more outsourced; two navjotes, with *Machis* and *Tandarosti* prayers offered practically daily; and, additionally, other prayers, including *Afargan, Farrokhshi*, and *Satum*. But, it is the catharsis-like experiences of visitors that have been most instrumental in justifying the establishment of the Dadgah. The very first public function, which went super-viral on all social media platforms, was the navjote of two children—Sanaya and Cyrus Hoffman—whose mother, Shireen Hoffman, is married to a non-Parsi Australian. The entire family came from Australia for the childrens' navjote to be performed in India. Speaking to Parsi Times, Shireen's mother, Roshni Dumri, who resides in Australia, said, "We were going to have the navjote of my grandchildren performed at a friend's house, but when we read about the inauguration of the Asha Vahishta Center in Pune, we immediately decided to have the ceremony done at this very center as there is a holy fire there and it gives us the very feeling of an Agiary. We requested our priests, Er. Khushroo Madan and Er. Fali Madon to initiate our children into the religion at this center in Pune, and we loved the entire experience." Yet another touching story was of a non-Parsi spouse who was finally able to perform the death prayers for her late Irani Zoroastrian husband. In fact, on January 31, 2018, worshippers of Avtaar Meher Baba had a *Ruwan-ni-Machi* performed at the Asha Vahishta Zoroastrian Center that permitted all Meher Baba followers (regardless of their religious background) to attend the ceremony.

Speaking to Parsi Times, Vispy Wadia said, "I've been astonished to witness innumerable excommunicated Parsis

and Iranis literally break down here—it's truly a catharsis of sorts for them. They sob out of a sense of relief, gratitude and happiness to be able to worship at our paak Dadgah, alongside our priests and other fellow worshippers. We have also witnessed three generations of Parsis walking in! It is so satisfying and heart-warming to be able to facilitate this kind of joy in hearts, of those who simply wish to pay homage to Ahura Mazda."

At more than 5,500 square feet, the two-story Asha Vahishta houses the holy Dadgah fire lit from the inaugural jashan fire, a community hall, a prayer hall, and a library that is currently being stocked with books and periodicals on the Zoro-astrian religion for those people passionate about studying and understanding the religion. The Center is also equipped with 24/7 CCTV surveillance and includes an elevator for the convenience of the elderly and people with mobility problems. It is open for visits every single day. It has been catering to a constant stream of happy visitors ever since its inauguration during the last week of December 2017—in fact, within the very first week, the Center started receiving queries and getting bookings for performing various religious ceremonies.



Full House of worshippers attending religious functions

Soon, the Asha Vahishta Zoroastrian Center will conduct Gatha classes and lectures by eminent religious scholars from India and abroad. Additionally, the Center will organize tours to notable international Zoroastrian venues.

### GATHA HYMN PROJECT --- ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

A Gatha Hymn Project is being undertaken by some of our well renowned Zoroastrians.

The vision for this initiative includes the following:

- Present the Zoroastrian Religion in the form of Songs and Hymns
- Incorporate the knowledge of professional song writers and Musicians.
- Singing and learning the Gathas with music.
- To Bring Joy and Hope at Zoroastrian congregations.
- Establish the power of music and connect to our scriptures.
- An overall effect of our Zoroastrian Religion on all Humanity.

It is a very expensive undertaking, we request your financial support for this initiative by your donation



to WZO CANADA (World Zoroastrian Organization) and mention "*Gatha Hymn Project*". All donations are tax deductible, so please provide your address and phone number for tax receipts. Cheques can be made payable to WZO CANADA and mailed to: Shahram Bastani, <u>30 Nicklaus</u> <u>Drive Aurora, Ontario L4G 0C8. Canada</u>. (<u>shahrambastani@gmail.com</u>)

# Personal Profiles

## **COLONEL CAINAZ VAKHARIA, UNITED STATES ARMY**

#### KESHVAR BUHARIWALA Dallas, TX

Colonel in the United States Army! Cainaz Wakharia has many valued titles—friend, Colonel in the United States Army! Cainaz was born in Bombay, India and lived her early years in Tehran, Iran. In 1980, her family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated from Tulane University in 1994 as a Distinguished Military Graduate, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Today, Cainaz holds the title Colonel Vakharia, a rank very few attain, just one rank shy of General! Cainaz's military career spans assignments to Germany, Turkey, South Korea, Defense Services Staff College in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and, currently, she is the Army Attaché in the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. Her stateside assignments include the Pentagon and the State Department and, over her 23-year career, Cainaz has received numerous meritorious commendations, and achievement awards.

Cainaz also holds a Master's Degree in South Asian Studies from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University. She is married to Michael Heaton, a retired Army officer with over 25 years of service. The Heaton-Vakharia family resides in Olney, Maryland, and they have been active members of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc. (ZAMWI) for the past 15 years.

# TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EARLY YEARS, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR UPBRINGING.

I grew up in Iran until we moved to the U.S. when I was about seven. I remember a very happy childhood, sharing every memory with my twin sister, Keshvar. Our dad was a Captain in the Indian Merchant Marine, but he stopped sailing and took a job in Tehran after we were born. Our parents, Adi and Arnavaz Vakharia, always speak about Iran as the best of the East and West. I also have a younger sister, Mazarin, who was born in Tehran. Our parents always taught us to work hard, to help others, and to practice our Zoroastrian heritage. Dad made us write our goals each year, for each of three important categories—physical, spiritual, and mental. Mom worked hard both at home and outside, she set the example for her girls. Our parents made many sacrifices for us and emphasized the importance of education, service, and community. We even moved so I could attend a specific high school in New Orleans.



#### YOU CHOSE TO ATTEND TULANE UNIVERSITY ON AN ARMY ROTC SCHOLARSHIP, WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO MAKE THAT DECISION?

Well, I was applying for all kinds of scholarships and, to be honest, I was really surprised when I was selected for a four-year ROTC scholarship. Military service had not occurred to me—in fact, I could not do a single pushup when I started the ROTC program. But, over the course of four years, I gained a lot in terms of physical fitness, mental toughness, leadership development, and overall personal growth. The summer after my freshman year, I attended Airborne School. This was my first exposure to the real Army and, as part of the training, I did five jumps. After that, there was no turning back. I think there is some of this in my blood, as my dad having served in the Indian Merchant Marine. He worked his way up from the cadet ranks to the highest rank, Captain.

#### WHAT WERE YOUR EARLY YEARS LIKE BEING IN THE US ARMY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CORPS

As has been the case throughout my Army career, my early years were fun and exciting. I was stationed in Germany for my first assignment and I got to see a lot of Europe. Just over a year into the posting, I deployed to



Turkey in support of Operation Provide Comfort, where I was the most junior officer on staff. On several occasions, I participated in the daily briefings to generals from the United States, France, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Our input directly supported the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq. I gained tremendous experience working in a multi-national environment and at a high-level staff position.

# WHAT WERE/ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE MILITARY?

Serving as a company commander was truly challenging and very fulfilling. I commanded over 50 troops, including soldiers and officers assigned to the  $2^{nd}$  Infantry Division in South Korea. As the commander, I was responsible for the training and combat readiness of all assigned personnel, including a contingent that patrolled the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea.

More recently, I served in Dhaka as the Senior Defense Official and direct military advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh. I led a team of more than 25 in a demanding and challenging environment in the aftermath of a terrorist attack in Dhaka. I provided the Ambassador and senior policy makers with insights on the Bangladesh military's counter terrorism strategy and capabilities. My input informed US foreign policymakers during a time of regional crisis and allowed US officials to better understand the imminent terrorist threats in South Asia.

#### TODAY, YOU HOLD THE RANK OF COLONEL, THAT IS A MILESTONE ONLY A SMALL PER-CENTAGE OF YOUR GRADUATING CLASS HAS EARNED, TO WHAT DO YOU OWE YOUR SUC-CESS?

My success is not mine alone—it is the success of my family, friends, and all those I have served with over the past 23 years. My husband served in the Army for 25 years. Throughout our successful careers we supported each other—albeit, remotely when we couldn't be posted together. My husband could not join me on my first posting to India, so my mom came with me and took care of our five-month old Kashmira. Without this support, my career would not have progressed.

I think one of the most important ingredients for success is enjoying what you do. I feel a deep passion for my

work, and I still feel motivated to achieve the next milestone in my career. Hard work, dedication, commitment, sacrifice, selfless service—these are the other ingredients of success. But, if you truly enjoy your profession, then these are easy to incorporate. So, simply put, I would say I owe my success to my family's support and my picking a field that I have thoroughly enjoyed working in.

#### WHAT ACTIVITIES, OUTSIDE OF YOUR MILI-TARY CAREER, HAVE YOU PURSUED?

For over a decade I volunteered my time weekly to assist two women who had survived the Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Balancing home and family life became more difficult when my career became more demanding. As our family grew to three children, each child joined me in this endeavor. I continued this engagement with the two women until their death, over ten years after our first meeting.

For almost eight years I served as a teacher for our youngest religious class (Avesta Class) in ZAMWI. I revamped the curriculum and incorporated it into the overall learning path we sought for our youth. After we built our own center, we began teaching our classes in our Dar-e-Mehr. I developed and implemented a fund-raising mechanism to allow the Avesta Class families to fully fund all the classes.

My most important roles outside the military are being a good wife and mother. I have an extremely supportive family and my main goal has been to show our kids that following your passions, working hard and helping others are really all the same thing—they are life's greatest joys! I hope my example will light my kids' passion the same way that my parents did with their three daughters.

#### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR YOU?

I aspire to give back to my community, my family, and to humanity, in general. This would take the shape of dedicated work to bring more opportunity, a sense of equality, and a more fulfilling life to those who do not share our privileged lives. I would like to focus on those Zarathushtis who are not as well off as others. I also want to continue to focus on the spiritual, physical, and mental well-being of me and my family. This requires setting goals and aligning priorities to achieve them.

Cainaz has demonstrated leadership through her actions, not through words. Her military career, her accolades and achievements, they speak for themselves. Her pursuit of service to others is evident in her long-term commitment to the causes she is passionate about. Leadership has many faces, for our community, Colonel Cainaz Vakharia represents it with determination and conviction.

# Personal Profiles

### DINA PESTONJI AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY OF HOPE AND DETERMINATION

#### FARISHTA MURZBAN DINSHAW



Dina Pestonji is an author and motivational speaker. She was born and raised in Toronto, in a loving close-knit family. Her parents, Shahnaz and Soli Pestonji, are from Mumbai and Hyderabad, respectively. They immigrated to Canada over 35 years ago. After graduating from the University of Toronto with a BSc in Psychology, she went on to pursue business studies at the Rotman School of Management, eventually earning a Master's Degree at the European School of Business in London, UK, and Paris, France.

In December 2012, at the age of 29, Dina suffered two strokes, which changed her life in ways she had not previously imagined. She was unable to talk or walk and underwent intensive rehabilitation therapy. On August 25, 2013, only a few months after major brain surgery, Dina completed her first duathalon [running and cycling].

In this interview, Dina talks about the two strokes that incapacitated her and the incredible journey that led her to develop five key principles to overcome personal and professional challenges.

#### IF YOU DON'T MIND, PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR STROKE. WERE YOU AWARE OF ANY PRECIPITATING FACTORS THAT LED TO YOUR STROKE?

During the Christmas holidays in 2012, I started experiencing shooting pains up and down my body, followed by massive headaches. Within a day I started slurring my speech and was taken to the hospital for a CAT scan where they discovered a 2cm mass in my brain.

I was then transferred to Toronto Western Hospital where they performed every imaginable test on me—MRI, CT, Angiogram, Spinal tap, and so forth—but nothing was detected so no one knew why I had a mass in my brain. After seven days of repeated testing and concluding there was nothing wrong, they had to let me go home.

The next morning, I couldn't feel my right arm, and the right side of my face began to droop. I had convulsions in the ER and fell unconscious. I was put into an MRI machine that constantly monitored my brain. A few days later, my neurosurgeon told my parents the pressure in my brain was building up at such a rapid rate that she needed to perform emergency brain surgery, without which I would die.

No one knew at the time that I had a stroke. I am extremely active, healthy, have never smoked or done any drugs. I had no risk factors, so it was very surprising to both my family and medical team that such a healthy young girl (I was 29 years old) could have not one, but two strokes—one ischemic stroke and one hemorrhagic stroke.

#### WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE A LITTLE INSIGHT INTO WHAT YOUR REHABILITATION WAS LIKE?

#### WHAT WERE THE LITTLE EVERYDAY THINGS THAT YOU RELEARNED HOW TO DO? WHAT FRUSTRATED YOU?

Initially, no one knew what my capabilities would be or even if I would wake up. Would I have any brain functions? Would I function like an adult? Would I have any memory of who I was?

It took four weeks before I could even wiggle my toe and over six weeks before I made my very first sound. It was only then that rehab could begin, specifically learning how to move the entire right side of my body, which was paralyzed, learning how to speak, and to use all my cognitive functions.

As I was right-handed, I had to teach myself how to use my left arm and hand to do the simplest things, like brushing my teeth, holding a pen and writing, and feeding myself. Even today, I do not have full dexterity in my right hand.

Speech—now that was very hard! In the weeks after surgery, I was dying to tell my family how much I love them or ask them what had happened, but since I didn't have a voice, that was a tough period. I said the letter "T" only six weeks after my brain surgery. I had to learn (how a child would) every letter of the alphabet, then small words like cat and dog. It was incredibly frustrating to have a sentence that I wanted to say out loud be forgotten before it reached my vocal cords—by the time the message was formed in my brain I had completely forgotten it.

After a stroke, the connections between the brain and all the muscles required to formulate a sentence take time and considerable practice to get re-established. Therefore, it can be frustrating when people finish your sentences, because you are not only feeling rushed, it feels like the person is **Personal Profiles** 

cutting you off. I often felt dejected or sad because it made me feel like I wasn't good enough or fast enough and that takes a toll emotionally. The biggest tip I would give any friends or care-givers is to please be patient, very patient.

#### A JOURNEY LIKE YOURS CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT CAREGIVERS. WHO HELPED YOU? WHAT DID THEY DO THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE?

My parents and sister Yasmin were monumental in my journey. They were with me every single day in the hospital, were there to encourage me along after every therapy session, made me believe in myself, and stayed positive for me when I was not sure if I'd ever be a "normal 29-year-old."

# AS A ZARATHUSHTI, DID FAITH PLAY IN YOUR RECOVERY?

I am more spiritual than religious and have always believed someone is watching over me. I have always kept faith that Ahura Mazda is with me, no matter what.

#### OFTEN, A SERIOUS PHYSICAL ILLNESS CAN BE AN EYE-OPENER TO THE GIFT OF LIFE. ANY COMMENTS ABOUT YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE?

I just wanted to be the same person as I was before the stroke. I went right back to corporate life, had my same go-go-go mentality and never felt like life had changed. For the first few years after my recovery, I hid my stroke because I didn't want any pity. I didn't want other people to think of me just as a "stroke survivor."

#### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO CHOOSE RUNNING AS A GOAL IN YOUR RECOVERY? COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR MARATHON EXPERIENCE?

I've always been very athletic and have loved running. Before the stroke I had completed six half-marathons. When I thought I may be paralyzed, the half-marathon became my goal because it was my way of proving to myself that if I do this, that I am the same person I was before the stroke.

Training for a half-marathon is never easy, but I will say that the feeling of getting both my legs back and being able to do something I love made training easier—at least on a mental level. Crossing the finish line was a moment I will never forget because I proved to myself I still could run—when the brain and body work together, it is a miracle that makes anything possible.

#### DO YOU FEEL YOUR PERSONALITY HAS CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE STROKE? YOUR VALUES? YOUR GOALS?

My personality and values did not change after the stroke, but they did change after I wrote my memoir. You see, having a stroke was not my first life-altering setback. I



have battled eating disorders since the age of 11, and in my late 20s, I was the victim of a near-fatal car crash.

While I managed to fight my way back from these three major brushes with death, there was always one persistent battle I could never seem to win: the battle against myself. Consumed by a misguided obsession with "fitting in," being "exceptional," and ultimately "perfect." Starting over from scratch, after my stroke, forced me to acknowledge lingering feelings of shame and self-loathing and begin the process of true healing.

#### THANK YOU FOR SHARING THAT. YOU NOW SPEAK TO AUDIENCES ABOUT HOW TO OVERCOME ANY CHALLENGES THEY MAY FACE—PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL. WHAT ARE THE KEY MESSAGES YOU GIVE THEM?

Yes! Companies and schools around the world ask me to speak so that their audiences can be inspired, feel empowered in their own ability to tackle challenges, and gain a completely new perspective on how to look at obstacles, which are opportunities! I discuss key themes, such as perseverance, setting clear goals, and surrounding yourself with positive people.

#### WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

My memoir will be published soon and available worldwide (updates and a link to pre-order will be on my website soon). I'm very excited for this launch because the book illuminates global themes and will resonate with each person. At some point in our lives, we all have felt different, alone and have experienced hardship that requires one to find the strength and faith in themselves to make it to the other side.

Note: If you would like Dina to speak at your company or school, you can email her at dina@ dinapestonji.com. You can also follow her on Facebook and Twitter (@dina\_pestonji) or visit her website www. dinapestonji.com

# **MILESTONES**

# **MILESTONES Spring 2018**

**<u>CORRECTION</u>** (Birth

announcement in FALL 2017) Asha Rahnamoon, a boy, to Atousa Mojgani and Farzad Rahnamoon, grandson to Manijeh and Fariborz Rahnamoon and Manijeh and Farhad Mojgani on August 14, 2017 (ZSBC).

#### BIRTHS

- Sebastian Neville Cooper, a boy, to Farrah and Neville Cooper, brother to Arianna and Julian, grandson to Aniheeta and Kersi Cooper and Farida and Dara Bhesania in Markham, ONT on November 3, 2017.
- **Cyraa Bharucha**, a girl, to Parvana and Burzin Bharucha, sister to Cyrus, Arnaz, and Aryan on January 17, 2018. (ZSO)

#### **NAVJOTES**



- Arish Firdaus Dotiwala, son of Azita and Firdaus Dotiwala, grandson of late Major Zareen (Dotiwala) Cyrusi and late Major Feroze Dotiwala and Shapur Cyrusi and Manouchehr and Firouzeh Dashtaki in Boca Raton, FL on December 16, 2017. (photo above)
- Yashna Irani, daughter of Thrity and Zubin Irani (Redmond WA), sister of Ava, granddaughter of Farida and Marazban Irani and Sunnu and Rusi Kasad in Mumbai, India on December 17, 2017.
- Shireen and Ariana Anklesaria, daughters of Zia and Rustom

Anklesaria, in Houston on December 22, 2017.

- Annika, Norman, Zoe, triplets of Natasha Desai and Norman Furlong, in Houston, TX, on December 23, 2017.
- Freyana Bharucha, daughter of Jarafreen and Darius Bharucha, in Houston, TX, on December 30, 2017.

#### **WEDDINGS**

- Ervad Cyrus Mirza, son of Zenobia and Ervad Tehemton Mirza, to Jehan Moos daughter of Roxanna and Pervez Moos in Toronto, Ontario Canada on August 20, 2017.
- Arshish Tarapore, son of Armin and Rohinton Keki Tarapore to Julie Bharucha, daughter of Ninaz and Xerxes Bharucha in Lexington, VA on September 9, 2017.
- Darius Byramji, son of Bakhtawar and Kershaw Byramji to NaseemAlavian daughter of Barbara Miller and Vahid Alavian in Chattanooga, Tennessee, November 18, 2017.
- Anahita Desai, daughter of Thrity and Rohinton Desai to Rutton Kavasmanek, son of Aban and Darius Kavasmaneck, in Houston, TX, on December 23, 2017.
- Nikita Bhappu, daughter of Villi and Ken Bhappu, to Brandon Abbaspour, son of Ada and Dave Abbaspour in St Petersburg, FL, on December 31, 2017.
- **Ervad Adil**, son of Hootoxi and Ervad Arda-e-viraf Minocherhomjee (California), to **Rhea**, daughter of Sherali and Kurush Contractor,(Singapore) in Mumbai on January 1, 2018.
- Azin Yazdani and Odinn Helgason, children of Rostam and Behin Yazdani (North Vancouver, BC) and Mr. and Mrs. Helgason in Vancouver, BC on January 20, 2018.

#### **DEATHS**

- Zenia Minwalla, wife of late Rohinton Minwalla, mother of Ardeshir and Jamshid, grandmother of Armaity and Zarine in Karachi, Pakistan on September 20, 2017. (ZSO)
- Nergesh Surti, sister of Dadi Surti, aunt of Vera Parekh, Niloofer Rommell, Neville Surti, Yazdi Shroff on November 1, 2017. (ZAC-LA)
- Khodabandeh Jamshidian, husband of Firoozeh Arghavani, father of Houshang, Mehran, Mitra, Meherdad Jamshidian, father-inlaw of Mehernaz, grandfather of Mehershad Jamshidian in North Vancouver, BC on November 28, 2017.
- Purviz Batliwala, wife of Daraius Batliwala, mother of Armaity, Rohinton, Behram, mother-inlaw of Alec, Marukh, Kashmira, grandmother of Sherazade, Cyrus, Zeenia, sister of Noshir and Shehrnaz (CA), Villie, Godafrid, Pesi (India) on November 28, 2017. (ZAC-LA)
- Ervad Sohrab (Soli) Nariman Panthaky, husband of Diana, father of Navroze, Vispy, Daisy, father-in-law of Tracey and Peter, grandfather of Victoria and Jason Panthaky and Natasha and Sean Eisenhardt in Navsari, India on November 30, 2017.
- Bakhtavar Daruwalla, wife of Dorab Daruwalla, mother of Zarir and Nilufer, mother-in-law of Parveen and Rohinton, grandmother of Freyhan on December 12, 2017. (ZSO)
- Shawak Hira, 100, husband of late Roshan Hira, father of Farokh and Jamshed, father-in-law of Mharukh and Dinaz, grandfather of Cyrus, Tashan, Neville, brother-in-law of Mani and Jalu Divecha in Toronto, ONT on December 15, 2017.
- Meherwan Boyce, husband of Zarine, father of Phiroz and Anita, in

# **MILESTONES**

Houston, TX, on December 21, 2017.

- Imroze Ardeshir, daughter of Marzban and Daisy Ardeshir, sister of Farah Cyrus Maneckshaw in Milton, ONT on December 27, 2017.
- Homa Jahanian Jamshidi, wife of late Fareidoun Jamshidi, mother of Shahryar, Shahram, Shahrzad in Tehran, Iran on December 29, 2017.
- Jer Pochara, 93, wife of late Maneck Pochara, mother of Hormazd, Peri, Bomi, Billy, mother-in-law of Mezabin, Maki, Yu, grandmother of Shania, Nozer, Cyrus, Persis, Diana and Neville on January 1, 2018. (ZAPANJ)
- **Ervad Dara Sethna**, husband of Homai Sethna, father of Dinaz Bengali, son-in-law Minoo, grandfather of Shawn and Pearl in Tom's River, NJ on January 3, 2018.
- Pervin Behram Billimoria, wife of late Behram Billimoria, (Multan) mother of Dr Thrity Rohinton Desai, (Houston), Cavas (Diana) Billimoria (Michigan) Kashmira (Yezdi) Kharas, (Michigan), Farah (Pakistan) in Peshawar on January 4, 2018.
- Jehangir Mobed, husband of Olive Mobed, father of Susan and Pervine, brother of late Bahman (Nahid) Mobed, Keikhosrow (Parvin) Mobed, Mahinbanu Mobed (Shahzadi) in Oak Park, IL on January 10, 2018.
- Meher Dubash, 94, wife of late Sam Dubash, mother of late Veera Bharucha, Kamal Dubash, Jamshed Dubash, Gulmohar Bharucha, Rayomand Dubash, grandmother of Lyla Aga, Alysia and Sam Dubash, Danesh and Danielle Dubash, Kiyan and Charlene Bharucha, Lillian Irani, great grandmother of Darius and Xerxes Aga, Vivian and Veera Irani, sister of Aban Patel (Houston, TX), Roshan Sethna (Houston, TX), late Khorshed

Ghadially, late Freny Limki in Houston, TX on January 15, 2018.

- Khoshnoud (Shirin) Ardashiri Mobarakeh, wife of late Bahram Bastani, mother of Farshid and Feraydoun on January 20, 2018. (ZSO)
- Behroze Sam Wadia, wife of Sam Wadia, mother of Arzan Sam Wadia, Mehernaz Shovir Irani, mother-in-law of Shirin Kumana and Shovir Irani, grandmother of Ava in Mumbai, India on January 31, 2018.
- **Parirokh Sharvini**, wife of late Keykhosro Sharvini, mother of Bahram Sharvini in San Francisco, CA. (ZSWS)
- **Esfandiar Feredoon Bastani** in California. (CZC)
- Sirus Aflatooni on February 11, 2018. (CZC)

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Ervad Nekzad Illava, 14, son of Tanaz and Aspi Illava had his Martab ceremony on December 23, 2017 at the Bai Motibai Wadia Agiyari in Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari, Mumbai. He performed the boi ceremony in

Ushahin Geh (after midnight) in the same Agiyari. Ervad Nekzad was trained for his martab ceremony by Ervad Jal N Panthaky of Mississauga,

Ontario.

Ervad Nekzad is the first and youngest mobed of his generation, in the whole of Canada to achieve the martab status.

PLEASE SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR MILESTONES TO MAHRUKH MOTAFRAM TEL 425-961-0298 MAHRUKHM83@GMAIL.COM

FEZANA Journal will coordinate initial contacts between interested parties. We do not assume any responsibility for verifying credentials. Contact Roshan Rivetna at roshanrivetna@gmail.com.

**Male, 33,** 5' 7", Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering, working in Missouri. Enjoys music, movies, photography and sightseeing. Contact kattyhoshang@ yahoo.co.in. [*M18-4*].

**Female, 31,** B.Sc. (Hons), Assistant Director (Creative) Print, Ramp and TV, reputed commercial model, based in Mumbai. Enjoys painting, piano, music. Interested in meeting a kind, sensitive, compassionate partner. Contact kayatuli@gmail.com. [F18-8].

Male, 28, marine engineer based in Vancouver, Canada. Financially independent. Interested in meeting an educated, pleasant looking and good natured Parsi girl. Contact yezdi29@ hotmail.com. [M18-9]. Male, 36, 5' 8", completed high school and University in Canada. CIM (Chartered Investment Manager Designation) and CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst Designation). Canadian citizen, working for a financial institute in Toronto. Contact Roshan44@ hotmail.com. [M18-13].

**Female, 22**, 5' 2", fair, good looking, in her final semester of Bachelor in Architecture, a five year degree course from a leading Institution in India. Travelled extensively around the world. Selected for a 5-month Erasmus Scholarship from EU at Universidad Politecnica de Cartagena, Spain. Enjoys listening to music and travelling. Contact parents at persi13@hotmail.com or by whatsapp on 0091 9825 0540 95. *[F18-18]*.

# Obituary

# Dr. Faruk B. Presswalla: A Coroner With a Purpose



A n eminent forensic pathologist, Dr. Faruk Behram Presswalla passed away in Chester, Virginia on November 1, 2017 at the age of 76. In his distinguished career as a coroner, he served as chief medical examiner in southeast Virginia and State of New Jersey.

Born in Mumbai on February 6, 1941, Mr. Presswalla was a graduate of Seth G.S. Medical College and University of Mumbai Law College. In 1967, he came to New York City with his new bride Daisy to complete residencies at the Coney Island Hospital and New York University Langone Medical Center Hospital. The newly weds rented a room in a garage where his wife cooked simple Parsi meals for the couple and other Zarathushti medical resident friends. After completing his residencies, he returned to India but was unable to get a coroner's position there due to prevailing bureaucracy and nepotism. In 1971 Dr. Presswalla worked as a Commonwealth Medical Fellow in U.K. for Scotland Yard London, followed by a fellowship in the US at New York University Langone Medical Center Hospital in 1972.

In 1973 Dr. Presswalla then came to Norfolk, Virginia, as Chief Medical Officer of the Tidewater Region. In his job as the coroner for two decades, he performed autopsies,

# (February 6,1941- November 1, 2017)

determined cause of death and testified in court, when necessary, to convict killers. In Virginia, he joined the US Navy Reserve working once a month, proudly wearing his uniform. He was well known among his neighbors for writing letters to the editor in local newspapers on various topics.. A few months after his retirement in 1996, the governor of New Jersey asked him to become the state's chief medical examiner, a position he fulfilled for five years. In his coronary career in Virginia and New Jersey, he was involved in many controversial cases and often did not see eye to eye with his superiors. He was a man of principles and did not bow to political pressure.

After his retirement he was occasionally called during national emergencies. During his medical training in India he had treated anthrax and smallpox victims. In 2001, the FBI called him to look at a suspicious skin lesion a surgeon had removed from a New Jersey postal worker. Presswalla recognized what he saw in his microscope as anthrax. At ground zero in New York City shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the federal government brought him to help identify human remains. Presswalla also was called on to help after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Having no children of their own, Dr. Presswalla and his wife Daisy were surrogate parents to many in the Norfolk and Richmond area. Friends often called him for medical advice and discuss medical conditions. His childhood friends, Shapur Pavri of Houston, Texas, and Farrokh Deboo of New Caanan, Connecticut remember him as one of the brightest individuals they had met who could converse intelligently on any subject, especially world affairs.

He leaves behind his wife Daisy; sisters, Hilla D'souza and Zarine Shah of Austin, Texas; a brother, Cyrus Presswalla, of Toronto, Canada; several nieces and nephews; and myriads of friends whom he touched through his generosity and enriched by imparting his vast knowledge.

Prepared by Rashna Ghadialy who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah with her husband..She met Faruk and Daisy Presswalla while residing in Richmond, VA. She considers herself fortunate to be one of their many surrogate children.

# Obituary

# **Dr. MEHERWAN BOYCE**



Dr. Meherwan Boyce was born in Mumbai, India and at age 18 came to the USA to study engineering. He got a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines. He earned his Masters degree and did PhD coursework in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering by attending night school as well as working full time during the day, and finished his PhD program at the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife Zarine have been residents of Houston, TX and active members of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) for almost 40 years.

Meherwan had an illustrious career, both as an educator and as an entrepreneur. He was a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&MUniversity (TAMU) for fourteen years. He started and was Chairman and CEO of Boyce Engineering International. He also founded Cogen Technologies, and was Chairman and CEO of Boyce Consultancy Group, LLC. He was widely recognized as an expert in the field of turbomachinery in both academia and industry and authored several books on the subject. As a consultant to the Aerospace, Petrochemical and Utility Industries Dr. Boyce was a muchrequested speaker at Universities and Conferences throughout the world. He taught hundreds of short courses internationally and in the U.S., attended by thousands of students representing over 400 corporations.

Meherwan was much more than a scientist, educator and businessman. He was passionate about giving back to the community - both the Zarathushti community and to the city of Houston. He was a founding member of the Houston Chapter of the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) and a long time committee member of the World Zoroastrian Organization (WZO). He was a patron of the arts and music in Houston and on the Boards of innumerable organizations, including the Houston Symphony. Wanting to pass on his love of music to the next generation, for the last seventeen years Meherwan was a board member and

#### July 25, 1942 - DECEMBER 21, 2017

Chairman of the Virtuosi of Houston, an organization that nurtures young musicians from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Although they have given to many charitable causes, the Boyces had a special place in their hearts for children. They hosted many youth activities at their home and factory before ZAH had a Center; many of our first youth group members fondly remember the good times they had there. Throughout his life, Meherwan was a very avid and well-decorated boy scout, a member of the Board of Directors, Sam Houston Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Meherwan Boyce put his considerable talents as an educator and philanthropist to use on many endeavors. His generosity of spirit will be missed by the many organizations he served.

Prepared by Yasmin Pavri, member of ZAH

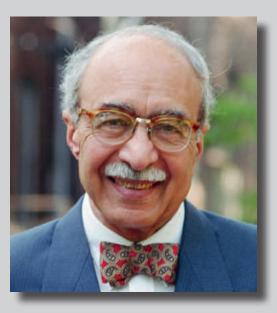
THE TEST OF OUR PROGRESS IS NOT WHETHER WE ADD MORE TO THE ABUNDANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE MUCH.

*IT IS WHETHER WE PROVIDE ENOUGH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TOO LITTLE.* 

#### FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

# Late Announcement

Prof Farhang Mehr



**P**rof FARHANG MEHR, passed away early morning March 4, 2018 in Carlsbad, California. He is survived by his wife. Parichehr (Naderi) Mehr, his children Mehrdad and Nairika (Varza) Mehr, Mehran Mehr, Mitra (Mehr) and Esfandiar Sorouchyari, grandchildren Roxana and Cyrus Soruchyari, Nakhostin and Mahvash Mehr. FEZANA extends our most sincere sympathies and condolences to the family.

Farhang Mehr had an illustrious career in Iran before he came to the US in early 1988. He was involved with FEZANA since its inception and also with local Zoroastrian associations wherever he resided in USA.

He was one of only six recipients of the *FEZANA Lifetime Achievement Awards* presented to him for a lifetime of service to the Zarathushti community worldwide.

# KERSHAW K. KHUMBATTA, P.C. Certified Public Accountants

Business and Individual Tax Planning, Accounting and Tax Preparations, Federal and State Payroll Processing & Tax Audits,

TRUE DE LE CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRACTÓR DE CONTRACTÓR DE LA CONTRACTOR DE L

Kershaw K. Khumbatta, CPA Nazneen K. Khumbatta, Office Manager.

1455 HIGHWAY 6 SOUTH Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Tel: 281-313-8006 Fax: 281-313-8036

cpa@khumbattapc.com



In Hot Blood

The Nanavati Case that shook India

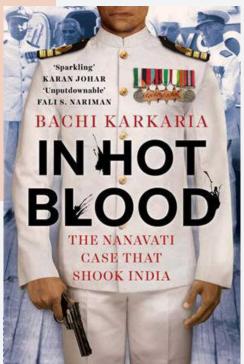
By Bachi Karkaria; reviewed by Jamshed Kapadia Pps: 302 Price: Rs. 699 Publisher: Juggernaut Books ISBN: 978-93-8622-827-7

"In Hot Blood" is a true story of love, honor, infidelity, and deceit. This real-life drama has all the key elements of a best-seller fiction-a hero who spent months on the front-lines, a wife who fell under the hypnotic spell of her playboy lover, an honorable husband who tried to keep his family intact, a sleazy womanizer who preyed on lonely women, and a protective sister who looked the other way while her brother engaged in illicit alliances with married women. Even Bollywood could not resist this classic story of the hero and villain. Three movies were made: Yeh Raastey Hain Pyar Ke (These Are the Paths of Love), 1963; Achanak (Suddenly), 1973; and, recently, Rustom.

Hailing from an upright lawabiding Parsi family, the young handsome naval commander Kawas Nanavati was a decorated rising star in the Indian Navy, destined for greater heights-perhaps Admiral Chief. He was hand-picked for training at the prestigious Royal Naval College in England and quickly caught the eye of the powerful-Krishna Menon, Nehru, and Lord Mountbatten-for his officerlike Qualities. Sylvia, the beautiful English woman, was a devoted wife and a doting mother. She had integrated well within the Nanavati family, even teaching Zarathusti prayers to their children for the Navjote.

At the time of his birth, astrologers had predicted that Kawas would shake up the world one day. What happened on a fateful afternoon in April 1959 did shake it up. It pitted the most brilliant legal minds of the day—many of them luminary Parsi lawyers-in a court battle that took strange twists and turns. It put the Indian judiciary on a collision course with the executive branch, which tested the limits of executive power. It rang the deathknell of the jury system. It pitched two Parsi-owned tabloids (Blitz and Current) into a ferocious media battle reminiscent of Ramayana's epic of right and wrong. And, it pitted the small law-abiding Parsi community and its many supporters against the Sindhi community, which the older elite of Bombay regarded as nouveau riche vulgar. The case made its way all the way to the Supreme Court and even involved the most powerful-Prime Minister Nehru, Defense Minister Krishna Menon, Governor Prakasa, Vijayalakhsmi Pandit, and Admirals of the Indian navy-who were rooting for Nanavati.

In April 1959, Kawas had just returned from an assignment aboard INS Mysore, where he was secondin-command. Everything seemed to be going well for him until his wife, Sylvia, confessed that she was having an illicit affair with a Bombay playboy,



#### Prem Ahuja.

After getting the devastating news, Kawas went straight to INS Mysore. Earlier, he was warned by Sylvia that Ahuja owned a gun. Kawas signed out a Smith & Wesson from the ship's armory and headed to Ahuja's swanky apartment. Behind closed doors, a fight broke out. Three shots rang out, and Ahuja was dead. What really happened in those fleeting moments behind closed doors no one will ever know. Both men have taken their secrets to their graves. But, to learn what happened in the frenzied streets of Bombay, the hallowed halls of Supreme Court, the corridors of power of the government and Indian navy, and the shocked Nanavati family-you need to read Bachi Karkaria's book.

The book is well-researched, which is its greatest strength and, ironically, its Achilles heel. If you have read Bachi's editorials in Times of India, you will not be disappointed. The style is witty, edgy, humorous, and, sometimes, a little pompous. Initially,

the book is very engaging-almost gripping. While the subject-matter is serious, zany anecdotes lighten the book. Amazing details are masterfully interwoven like an intricate tapestry. But, as the book progresses, it becomes burdened with an overload of peripheral information, which she has laboriously intertwined with the relevant. The courtroom drama, the memorable oneliners, the frenzy of the crowds outside the court-room, and their roller-coaster emotional rides are captured with vivid brilliance. Later, the minutiae of legal arguments become overbearing.

To write a good book of this genre—thriller, legal history, courtroom drama—is a challenge. The author has done a remarkable job but did not stop at that. Also included were descriptions of the titillating lifestyle of Bombay socialites, with veiled strains of morality, philosophy, and feminism. Details of the two Parsi tabloids covering the case and their owners were also squeezed in. Even the gory details of criminal cases of the rich and famous have been included for good measure. All this makes the book a little rambling and longer than needed—it could have been shorter and more succinct.

The final chapter, aptly titled Closure, includes rare insights into the lives and ordeals of Kawas and Sylvia after they migrated to Canada. The edginess of earlier chapters gives way to mellow reflection: "Sylvia too had long lonely years to think about how much her husband had once meant to her, and come to value that legitimate warmth so different from the heat of clandestine passion."

Both protagonists have passed away, but the story continues to live in the public-eye and on Bollywood's silver screen. Reading the brash headlines of Blitz, while growing up in India as a teenager, I did not understand complexities of the Nanavati case. Bachi Karkaria's "In Hot Blood" provides a much better understanding of this real-life drama that destroyed an illustrious career, put the family in shame, impacted innocent children, pitted two branches of Indian government against each other, and ended the jury system. Karkaria's coverage of the unlikely outcome—testing of the boundaries of power between the judiciary and the executive branch—is brilliant. She has also done a marvelous job shedding light on the fierce independence of the higher Courts of India. The reader is bound to get a better appreciation of the Indian judiciary. This is a book worth reading.

Jamshed Kapadia grew up in India. After earning a BTech from IIT-Bombay he came to the US for postgraduate studies. Upon completion, he settled in the US, working for Fortune-100 hi-tech companies in senior technical and management positions, pioneering new areas of technology and business. He is active in the local community, having been a founder-member of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston (ZAGBA), and currently leading its Endowment, which provides scholarships and charitable aid.

#### 50th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.

2018 is the 50th anniversary of one of the most tragic, catalytic and meaningful events in American history: the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Individuals and organizations around the globe will honor Dr. King on April 4, 2018 and throughout the year. 2018 also marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center) The King Center will be a home for global and national commemoration. In coalition with select partners, The King Center seeks to spark dialogue on some of the most pressing issues facing the US and our world.

April 4th will launch a world wide campaign of completing fifty acts of kindness or service during the time period that has a positive impact on their community. These can be done individually or in conjunction with major civil organizations

For the activities to mark the 50th Death Anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington DC *Hormuzd Katki*, Mobedyar from ZAMWI, will provide the Zoroastrian contribution in interfaith prayer service on the National Mall in the nation's capital.

In Chicago Zoroastrians will be participating in a service arranged by Cardinal Cupich on April 4. **PLEASE INFORM THE JOURNAL OF ANY ACTIVITIES BY YOUR ASSOCIATIONS.** 





# THE PARSIS OF SINGAPORE HISTORY, CULTURE, CUISINE

By Suna Kanga and Subina Khaneja Epigram Books, Singapore **Published**: April 2017 Pp 260 **ISBN**: 9789814655958 **Pages**: 260 Price Sing\$60

## **Reviewed by Jeroo Darius Captain**

The late journalist Suna Kanga of Singapore was once asked to put together a book of Parsi recipes. The project took on an entirely new dimension when she realized the book would need an appropriate introduction to Parsi history and culture. With a grant from the Singapore National Heritage Board, she carefully researched the National Library and Archives. The result is a well-documented, delightful book showcasing the amazing contributions of the miniscule Parsi community of Singapore. At the time of publication, there were 350 Parsis out of a total population of six million Singaporeans. A CARCOLOUS DE SINGAPORE LISTORY, CULTURE, CUISINE

Unfortunately, Suna passed away in 2015 before the manuscript was completed. Her husband, Rustom Kanga, decided the book should be published as a tribute to Suna's passion for writing. So, he sought the help of artist and writer Subina Khaneja. Although Subina had never met Suna, Rustom and Subina's efforts produced a seamless work. Combining the artistic use of illustrations and rare photographs in a pleasing layout, this book is a collectible, not just for Singaporeans, but for anyone interested in the social history of this incredible community.

The book opens with a simple definition of "Parsi" and "Zoroastrian," and traces Parsi history from the time of Zarathushtra. It discusses the Parsi migration from Iran to India, followed by the travels of Parsi merchants to China during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The reader is introduced to the salient teachings of Zoroastrianism—with its simple and practical philosophy. The customs of the Parsis and rites of passage are explained clearly and concisely.

The book is peppered with anecdotes of Parsi pioneers as they trickled into Singapore, starting in the mid-1900's merchants, ship owners, and traders looking for new opportunities. Fortunes were built and lost with the ebb and flow of time. Interestingly, the first recorded Parsi to set foot on Singapore soil, in 1827, was a convict named Muncherjee. (The island at first served as a penal settlement under the British.) When Muncherjee became ill and died, the Parsi traders in China looked for a plot of land for his burial. Funds were raised and a plot was purchased in what is now a prestigious banking area of Singapore. Alongside the burial ground a bungalow was built called Parsi Lodge. Later, as the area developed with a booming banking business, the graves were shifted to a more remote location. The stretch of road where the burial plot was located—originally owned by the community—was named Parsi Road, a name that still stands.

A chapter on "People with Heart" brings to life the amazing fortitude and charitable disposition of the Parsi pioneers, as well as more recent Parsi immigrants. Is there perhaps a recessive gene of generosity deeply embedded in the psyche that manifests in certain environments? If so, Singapore certainly appears to be one of those fertile spots. The story of Navroji Mistri is specially heart–warming. He arrived in Singapore in 1909 with 10 Indian rupees and amassed a fortune through his hard work and perseverance. Hospitalized during the last year of his life, he was alarmed to see children lying in the corridors of the General Hospital.

"There was not enough room in the hospital," he was informed. "If you give me the money I will build a ward for the





children," his physician said. Navroji inquired about the cost. "A million dollars," was the answer.

A week later Navroji donated one million dollars to the General Hospital to create a children's wing. At that time, this was the single largest charitable sum given by any person in Singapore. The children's ward, called the Mistri Wing, was opened in 1953. A plaque commemorates this spontaneous act of philanthropy.

Generosity, it seems, was not limited to financial donations. The book recounts the story of Dorab Mistry, a champion blood donor. In 1964, when there was an urgent need for blood donors in Singapore, Dorab donated blood more than 60 times and received a Public Service Gold Medal from a grateful country.

The book also traces the genesis of the Parsi Zoroastrian Association of Singapore and the recently inaugurated Zoroastrian House in Little India. This quaint three-story building has its own story of generosity of the donors: Homiyar Vasania and, his wife, Vidya. In 2009, Homiyar's father passed away while travelling to Singapore. That was when the couple learned there was no permanent place for the community to hold prayers regularly or in time of need. So, they searched and found a "heritage shophouse," which they purchased and donated to the community. Renovated with the help of community members, the Zoroastrian House was inaugurated in 2011.

In addition, the authors describe innumerable outstanding contributions in the field of sports, music, as well as the arts. Particularly beautiful is the section on *Gara*—saris with exquisite embroidery, originally created by Chinese craftsmen. The authors trace the history of this unique embroidery and the birth of the *tanchoi* fabric, apparently named after the three (*tan*) Parsi brothers who learned the art of this intricate weave from the Choi master weavers of Shanghai.

The authors also touch upon the little known Parsi contributions to the theater scene in and around Singapore. *Bangsawan*, which is like opera, is popular in Malaysia. The origin of *bangsawan* can be traced to *Wayang Parsi* (literally, Parsi drama) introduced to Singapore by Parsi travelling theater companies in the late 1800s. A lucrative business, this type of theater performance incorporated comedy, drama, music, and dance. The popularity of the form, which combines ancient Indian and Persian myths with modern techniques, inspired local companies to start their own *tiruan wayang Parsi* (Parsi imitation theater) that later evolved into the popular *bangsawan*.

The book concludes with a small, but sumptuous, collection of traditional Parsi fare, including some vegetarian and vegan dishes. These are family recipes, each with its own variation—a great way to introduce budding cooks to Parsi comfort food.

It is hoped this endearing book will encourage aspiring writers among the diaspora to chronicle the contributions of Zoroastrians in other parts of the world.

Jeroo Darius Captain, RN, MA, holds a Master's Degree in English with a gold medal from Nagpur University. She served as Managing Editor for Nurseweek for several years, currently works in the Department of Child Psychiatry, Kaiser Permanente, and resides with her husband Darius in Granite Bay, California.



# FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

FEZANA Office: 8615 Meadowbrook Dr., Burr Ridge, Il 60527 Administrator: Zenobia Damania <u>admin@fezana.org</u> tel 630-468-2705 Registered address: 5750 South Jackson Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521 USA www.fezana.org

FEZANA OFFICERS

President., : Homi D Gandhi, 12411 W Fielding Circle, Apt 1502 Playa Vista CA 90094. Tel 201-410-8963 <u>homidgandhi@gmail.com</u>

Vice-President Arzan Sam Wadia, 195 Willoughby Avenue, #1113, Brooklyn NY 11205, USA +1 917 548 3747 arzan@wadias.in

**Treasurer:** Shirine Jahanian, P.O Box 185, 65 Kirkwood Rd, Gibbsboro, NJ 08026-0185 USA fezanatreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary Percy Master 11414 English Rose Trl, Missouri City, TX 77459. Tel: 281-778-0506 PercyMMaster@gmail.com

Asst. Secretary: Afreed Mistry 20 Linstock Drive, Brampton, Ontario Canada L6P1E2 416-302-9754 Afreed.mistry@gmail.com

FEZANA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Zoroastrian Association of Alberta, (ZAA): President: Marzi Mehta zaacalgary@gmail.com http://www.zaab.ca ZAA Rep Neelum Austin bapaiji@shaw.ca

Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC): Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr, 6900 Halifax St., Burnaby, BC V5B 2R5, Tel: 604-420-3500, President: Anahita Kaviani; akavdes@yahoo.de

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF): 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road, East, Oakville, ON L6H 7B3, President Cyrus Gazdar Tel 647-294-6462 president@ozcf.com

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO): Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, 3590 Bayview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2M 3S6, Tel: 416-620-9284, President: Russi Surti, president@zso.org

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ): President: Zareen Austin, P.O. Box 26735,Beaconsfield, QUE H9W 6G7 514-505-3087 z\_creations@hotmail.com Rep Farhad Fereydoonzad farhad.fereydoonzad@hotmail.com

California Zoroastrian Center (CZC): 8952 Hazard Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683, Tel: 714-893-4737 <u>info@czc.org</u> President: Arman Ariane; armanariane@gmail.com Rep Fereshteh Yazdani Khatibi; hana33@gaal.com Traditional Mazdayasni Zoroastrian Anjuman (TMZA): President: Tahamton Aresh Rep Vira Suntoke <u>byhm.santake@verizon.net</u> tel 714-963-1301

Zarthushti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC): President: Bomi Patel, 4296 Mountcastle Way, San Jose, CA 95136, Tel 408-264-4395 bbtes9@gmail.com

Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) President Hutoxi Contractor 1260 Cliff Dr. Laguna Beach CA 92651 Tel 412-445-1533, huty.contractor@gmail.com

Persian Zoroastrian Organization (California) (PZO): 10468 Crothers Road, San Jose, CA 95127, Tel: 408-272-1678, President Delbar Jahanian delbarj@yahoo.com

Sacramento Zoroastrian Association (SACZA) President: Mehran Torki,10528 Armstrong Ave Mather CA 95655 Tel 916-521-2188 mehran.torki.76@gmail.com; board@sacza.org ; www.sacza.org Fezana Rep Darius Captain dariuscaptain@gmail.com ; 916-791-1249)

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Inc. (District of Columbia and Washington DC suburbs) (ZAMWI): President Anne Khademian president@zamwi.org Tel 610-348-8586 rep Shehernaz Verahrami Tel 301-355-8460 sverahrami@vahoo.com

Zoroastrian Association of Florida (ZAF): President: Firdaus Dotiwala, 4199NW, 28<sup>th</sup> Av. Boca Raton, FL 33434, Tel (917)589-07771 ffd@rocketmail.com; www.zafonline.org

Atlanta Zarathushti Association (Georgia)(AZA): Representative: Cyrus Aidun: Tel 404-894-6645 <u>Cyrus aidun@me.gatech.edu</u>; Farzan Bharucha, President, farzan.bharucah@kurtsalmon.com

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (Illinois) (ZAC-Chi): Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr, 8615 Meadowbrook Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, Tel: 630-789-1983, President: Rayomand Ravji rayomand.ravji@gmail.com

Zoroastrian Association of Kansas (ZAK): President: Dr Farrah Zaery, <u>Nfao12@vahoo.comFez</u> Rep Dr Daryoush Jahanian diahanian@amail.com Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana (ZAKOI): President: Bakhtavar Desai Tel 513-829-7818, <u>bfdesai@aol.com</u> www.zakoi.org

Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area (Massachusetts) (ZAGBA): President: Zubin Talavia, 81, Sherman Street, Belmont, MA 02478 Tei: 978-857-5946, zubin@talavia.net

Zoroastrian Association of Michigan (ZAOM) President: Adi Sholapurwalla: <u>adishola@aol.com</u> Rep Shernaz Minwalla Tel 586-216-3341

Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania, New Jersey & Delaware (ZAPANJ): President Meenaish Damania, 526, Doral Circle ;Berwyn, PA 19312 Tel 610-933-2268 meenaishd@yahoo.com

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (NY City Area) (ZAGNY): 106 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY 10901, Tel: 845-362-2104, President Astad Clubwala 973-238-0630, President@zaanv.org

Iranian Zoroastrian Association (New York City Area) (IZA): 106 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY 10901, Tel: 845-362-2104, President :Shirin Khosravi, Tel: 212-757-1679, sherrykiamane@hotmail.com

Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania (ZAPA): President : Farahad Cama; 284 Casa Drive Pittsburgh. PA 15241 tel 724-941-3665 f.cama101@gmail.com Rep Sarosh Sepai, Tel 724-234-2228

Zorastrian Association of North Texas (Texas)(ZANT): President Jamshed Jamadar president@zant.org

Zoroastrian Association of Houston (Texas) (ZAH): 8787 West Airport Blvd, Houston, TX 77071President Aderbad Tamboli axtamboli@windstream.net ,Rep: Roshan Sethna, Tel 713-856-9359 rosh@sbcalobal.net

Zoroastrian Society of Washington State (ZSWS): President: Atriya Salamati <u>atriys@gmail.com</u> <u>info@zswa.org</u> Fezana rep Mahrukh Motafram <u>mahrukhm83@gmail.com</u>

#### FEZANA CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (SMALL GROUPS)

Zoroastrian Association of Atlantic Canada (ZAAC): President Firdaus Bhathena <u>bhathena@amail.com</u>

Zoroastrians of London Ontario Fezana rep Zahin Khatow, 788 Oak Crossing Road, London, ONT N6H 5V9 <u>zahinkhatow@gmail.com</u>)

Zoroastrian Association of Arizona (ZAAZ): President: Jamsheed Mehta Tel 602-243-1311; jamsheed@yahoo.com

San Diego Zoroastrian Community: Chair: Hoshang Khambatta, Tel: 858-450-0190, <u>khambatta@sbcglobal.net</u>

Central Florida Zoroastrian Community: Chair: Sarvar Demehri, Tel: 407-509-6918, 1<u>sarvar@gmail.com</u>

Zarathushti Association of Tampa Bay(ZATAMBAY): Chair: Soli Dastur, Tel: 941-351-2240, dastur@comcast.net.

Zarathushti Association of New Orleans: (ZANO): Chair: Rohinton & Armin Tarapore, Tel: 504-443-1929, rktarapore@cox.net

Minnesota Zoroastrian Community: Chair: Jehangir Rudina, Tel: 952-898-2980, jerudina@aol.com

St.Louis Zoroastrian Community: Chair: Persis and Minoo Mehta, Tel: 314-569-1828, pmhelix@yahoo.com

Cleveland Zoroastrian Community: Chair: Kamal Mehta, Tel: 440-944-1181, <u>knmkersi@aol.com</u>

Zoroastrian Contact in Austin Texas: Ketty & Aspi Wadia, Tel: 512-263-3131, <u>kettywadia@gmail.com</u>

Zoroastrian Association of Virginia: Chair: Rumy Mohta, Tel: 804-639-6977, <u>richtrvl@aol.com</u>

Zoroastrian Association of Rocky Mountain (Colorado) (ZARM) President Neville Rustomiee Neville rust@hotmail.com

Spring 2018

# FEZANA JOURNAL Order Form

FEZANA Journal depends on your subscriptions, donations, advertisements, or sponsorships for its printing and distribution costs, as well as, its charitable programs. All FEZANA Journal's staff and management are volunteers; they do not receive any remuneration. All rates are in US Dollars (USD). Please note that FEZANA Journal has a no refund policy.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION\*

Name				
Company				
Company Street Address				
City	State/Province	ZIP/Postal Code		
hone				
mail Address				
( If the is in a share as a final due		athree@unker.com.co.coll 1 201 400 1022		

\* If this is a change of address, please send it to Arnavaz Sethna at ahsethna@yahoo.com or call 1-281-499-1832.

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

(Please send all payments and/or credit card information for subscriptions, advertising, and sponsorships to: Kershaw Khumbatta, 1455 Highway 6 South, Ste A, Sugarland, TX 77478 or FAX credit card information to 1-281-313-8036, after 6PM Central Time.)

\_\_\_\_ USD Check, please make checks payable to FEZANA and enclose with a completed Order Form.

New

Credit Card ONLINE at www.FEZANA.org

Renewal

# PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

	1 year	2 years	3 years	
DIGITAL COPY (anywhere in the world)	USD 25	USD 25 USD 50		
PRINT COPY via First-class mail in North America	USD 35	USD 70	USD 99	
PRINT COPY via mail-air International	USD 80	USD 160	USD 240	
Single issue (Circle one)	North America address (USD 15 includes mailing cost)		Single issue, airmail International (USD 25)	

Gift\*

\* If this is a gift subscription, please provide the recipient's name and complete mailing and email addresses with this Order Form.

#### **Advertising Opportunities**

All Fees in USD	Full Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page	1/8 Page	Inside Front	Inside Back	Outside Back
Per Issue	200	100	50	30	350	300	500
Four Quarterly Issues	800	400	200	120	1,400	1,200	2,000

Advertising Contact: Dolly Dastoor (1-450-656-2036) or dollydastoor@sympatico.ca

#### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

\_\_\_\_ Issue sponsorships are available for USD 6,000. Sponsorships may be from a single entity or from a consortium of sponsors. Sponsors will receive prominent acknowledgements in the Journal.

Sponsorship Contact: Dolly Dastoor (1-450-656-2036) or dollydastoor@sympatico.ca

Thank you very much for your continued support of FEZANA Journal. Please consider signing up for a multi-year subscription. This will ensure uninterrupted delivery of your FEZANA Journal and it will help us to reduce our administrative overhead. Thank you.

FEZANA Journal

























































WE SALUTE THE AMAZING YOUNG EMERGING LEADERS OF NORTH AMERICA WE WISH THEM CONTINUING SUCCESSES...AND REMEMBER

> " IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT " Niloufer & Edul Daver







19 Readington Road Branchburg, NJ 08876 Phone: 908.707.1122 | Fax: 908.707.1575