

FEZANA *bulletin*

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UPCOMING DATES

March 21, 2012

Nomination deadline for 2012 NA Zarathushti Community Awards. For info visit sverahrami@yahoo.com

May 5, 2012

1st International Day of Service: Zoroastrians Stepping Out Initiative. For info visit <http://zoroastrianssteppingforward.weebly.com/>

June 2-3, 2012

Year 3750 Thus Spoke Zarathushtra Conference of Scholars of Zoroastrianism. University of British Columbia, Vancouver. For info, visit <http://www.3750z.com/conference.htm>

June 29-July 3, 2012

13th Zoroastrian Games Toronto, Canada. For info www.zso.org or zgames2012@yahoo.ca

August 2-5, 2012

16th North American Zoroastrian Congress Rye, New York. For info <http://nazc.zagny.org>

August 2, 2012

FEZANA 25th Anniversary Gala Evening; Rye New York; 7:00pm. <http://nazc.zagny.org>

August 3, 2012

25th FEZANA AGM; Rye, New York. For info <http://nazc.zagny.org> or admin@fezana.org

AROUND FEZANA...

FIRES Committee News

FIRES (FEZANA Information, Research and Education System)

The mission of FEZANA Information Research and Education System (FIRES) is to establish a centralized collection of books, manuscripts, literature, magazines, and scholarly research materials in print and electronic form, primarily pertaining to Zarathushti faith, culture, and history. And we have some great updates for you!

Digitizing the FEZANA Journal and Rare Books and Manuscripts

FIRES recently acquired a copier/scanner for use to digitize and upload rare books and manuscripts so that they are available to researchers and scholars worldwide. This purchase, thanks to the allocated funds from the FEZANA budget, has resulted in digitizing past copies of the FEZANA Journal from 1992 onwards. The searchable copies are uploaded to the FEZANA website (www.fezana.org) under FEZANA Journal Archives. We thank Shahrokh Khanizadeh for his technical expertise and Roshan Rivetna for her support in this project.

New Book Titles

Our book collection continues to grow as we add new titles. Our latest book purchases include new releases: *Laughter in the House* by Meher Marfatia, *Joyous Flame* by Rukhsana Shroff & Kerman Mehta, *Zoroastrianism: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Jenny Rose and *Why Entrepreneurs Really Fail* by Nozer Buchia. New titles are listed on the FEZANA website or at the direct link: <http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home>. The five most recently added titles are displayed on the library main page with a prompt to request more recent titles. The book collection is housed at the Zoroastrian Association of Houston but FIRES will entertain interlibrary loan requests via other Associations.

Avestan Manuscript Project

An exciting project of digitizing an old Avestan manuscript is near completion. A copy of the *Vendidad Sadeh* from Tavi agyari in Navsari with Gujarati ritual instructions, probably late 18th century, was recently gifted to FEZANA. The manuscript was in a deteriorated state. Alberto Cantera, in Salamanca, Spain, who heads the Avestan Digital Archive website, has completed digitizing the manuscript, and it will be available online at their website (<http://www.avesta-archive.com>). This manuscript establishes FIRES as a research source for scholars of Zoroastrianism. The original manuscript and the digitized version will be on display at the 15th North American Zarathushti Congress in Rye, NY.

Do you need a full text article in a journal? Or a suggestion for a program/video for your next event at your association? Would you like to donate a book to the FIRES collection to honor a loved one? We are here to help you. We want your feedback. Connect with us!

Aban Rustomji
Houston, TX
aban@coatingindustries.com ☐



**Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)**

President
Bomi Patel
president@fezana.org

Registered Address
5750 S Jackson Street
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Administrative Office
8615 Meadowbrook Drive
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Phone:
630-468-2705

E-mail:
admin@fezana.org

Web:
www.fezana.org



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Lend Your Support to FEZANA's Demographic Survey

FEZANA's 2012 Demographic Survey is underway. Survey questionnaires have been sent out to coordinating representatives of each State/Province by Roshan Rivetna, who is coordinating this project. If you have received a questionnaire, we ask that you please lend your full support to this important project so that we may gather meaningful data as a basis for developing strategies to strengthen and perpetuate our Zarathushti community. □

AROUND FEZANA...

External Affairs Committee News

External Affairs Committee Report

Reported by: Firdosh Mehta, Chair External Affairs prepared for FEZANA AGM – AUGUST 2012

Committee Activities:

WORLD YOUTH and NORTH AMERICAN Congresses:

Most of the activities of this committee continued to be around the preparation and participation at the **5th World Youth Congress in Vancouver**. The Committee continued to provide support and experience to the Youth Congress Committee in various areas. The Committee continues to provide input for the next **NAZ Congress in New York**

Meetings and activities related to FEZANA assisted projects during my visit to India from 22 Nov to 11 Dec 2011, on behalf of the EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Ahmedabad Parsi Anjuman Trustees – Meet 23 Nov 2011
"Ushta-Te" Fndtn (Ahmedabad) Mrs. Mehr Medora/Astad Pastakia – 25 Nov 2011
Delhi Parsi Anjuman & Aaraam Gah (New Delhi) – Mr. Dadi Mistry – 26 Nov 2011
PARZOR – Dr. Shernaaz Cama (New Delhi) – by phone
K R Cama Inst. – Mrs. Homai Modi (Mumbai) – Meet 1 Dec 2011
YLEP - Mrs. Homai Mehta (Mumbai) – Meet 1 Dec 2011
Vada Dastoorji Firoze Kotwal (Mumbai) – Meet 2 Dec 2011
Meherji Rana Library Navsari – Mrs. B. Gandhi (Navsari) – Meet 4 Dec 2011
Dr. Homi Dhalla – WZCF (Mumbai) – Meet 5 Dec 2011
WZCC - Mr. Minoo Shroff (Mumbai) – Meet 5 Dec 2011
Nilgiris Parsi Anjuman Aaraam Gah – Mr. Homi Sethna (Connoor) - 7 Dec 2011
WZO-Trust Funds India – Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly (Mumbai) – Meet 9 Dec 2011
YLEP / PRG - Ms. Freyaz Shroff (Mumbai) – by phone
Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia (Mumbai) – by phone
Ervad Parvez Bajan (Mumbai) – Meet 10 Dec 2011

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act:

During my visit to India it was revealed to me in discussions with Dr. Homi Dhalla and Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly WZO-India Trust funds that the Govt. of INDIA is now enforcing the requirements of the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act** with greater emphasis to Institutions, organizations, NGOs etc. to Register under this act to be able to receive any Foreign Contributions.

Individual recipients of charitable contributions are NOT yet governed by this. But other Foundations and entities such as Schools, Colleges, hospitals, Libraries etc. will need to register.

GLOBAL WORKING GROUP(GWG)[a.k.a.COMINGTOGETHER ROUND TABLE]

With the view to give the CRT a more positive role played by the elected officials, the CRT was handed over to the elected representatives of FPZAI, FEZANA, ZTFE

and Tehran Anjuman post Dubai Congress. These four organizations met in Mumbai in Jan 2011, for further deliberation of the CRT and named it the Global Working Group (GWG).

The review of an M o U under which this group can operate on global issues in an informal way, duly respecting the autonomy of each region, continues and agreements to use the term "Zarathushti" are being worked out.

Very cordial relationships were reported by Bomi Patel and Behram Pastakia as a result of their meeting of the GWG in October 2011 in London. More information regarding this is available via this meeting's report. Please review the reports and minutes in Bomi's posting via FEZANA Web groups, newsletter and the JOURNAL for recent updates.

Vancouver World Youth Congress Subsidy Award

5WZYCongress Subsidy Committee

Firdosh Mehta – (Chair)

Shiraz Italia (Youth Congress Committee)

Ferzeen Chhapgar (ZYNA Co-Chair)

Zenobia Damania (FEZANA Executive Liaison)

We are very pleased to report that there were 15 applicants from outside of ZSBC who received the full subsidy of \$200 each and there were 15 applicants from ZSBC who received \$100 each. This completed the program within the budget allowed.

All the recipients have confirmed receiving the check for the subsidy, from Shiraz Italia (5WZYC Committee & Subsidy Committee) and Sherazade Mehta (past ZYNA Co-Chair) who jointly presented these checks on behalf of FEZANA at a special gathering of the awardees, as organized by the ZSBC Congress Committee. FEZANA thanks the members of the Youth Congress Committee and ZSBC for their support to complete this program successfully.

WZCC

Part of the External Affairs Committee work is closely associated with the WZCC. I was unable to attend the January 2012 pre-AGM, AGM and post-AGM meetings in Mumbai as I had just completed my visit to India a month ago. However, I participated in the Skype meeting of the Board of Directors of WZCC prior to that to review changes in by-laws, etc. Further information on details of these meetings can be obtained on their web-site www.wzcc.org or http://www.wzcc.net/mailefiles/global_agm_programme2012.htm

We are thankful to FEZANA and ZAGNY, the hosts of the next North American Congress, for assisting us in the organization of a WZCC meeting during that event. The cooperation between these organizations is very fruitful and advantageous for our North American Community.

Young Adult Members of External Affairs Committee:

The Committee has added 3 young Zarathushtis to its membership, who have started taking part in the awareness of the committee activities to be prepared to take on more responsibilities in the future. As Chair, I will step down at the end of the term of the President at the next AGM. The Chair highly recommends that the next President include the other 3 members of this committee in its structure for the next term.

There are no expenses to report for this Committee work as so far it has been undertaken on a voluntary basis. No operating expenses for the rest of the term are anticipated.

The External Affairs Committee would like to thank the FEZANA Executive and the Members Board and all the other committees involved, for their continued support.

Firdosh Mehta

External Affairs Committee, Chair

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Zarathushti Community Awards Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 North American Zarathushti Community Awards. Awards will be presented in seven categories at the 16th North American Zoroastrian Congress in August. Details can be found at www.fezana.org or for more info, contact sverahrami@yahoo.com or navroz_gandhi@yahoo.com. Nomination packages can be downloaded at: <http://www.fezana.org/files/Awards/2012%20Nomination%20Package.pdf> □

Academic Scholarship Update

The Kapadia Endowment Scholarship Fund has received a donation of \$15,000 from Cawas Kapadia. This will allow an increase in the scholarship amount to \$2000 to a candidate who demonstrates financial need. Thank you to the Kapadia brothers. □

25th FEZANA AGM to be held in New York

Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY), FEZANA's 25th Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on August 3, 2012 at the Hilton Rye Hotel, Rye, New York. The AGM is open to the public. For details or more information contact: admin@fezana.org. Also, visit <http://nazc.zagny.org/schedule/> to see the full NAZC XVI schedule. □

**FEZANA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
AN EVENING OF DINNER AND DANCE
CELEBRATING FEZANA'S SILVER JUBILEE**

**AT THE XVI NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS
HOSTED BY ZAGNY IN NEW YORK
AUGUST 2, 2012 — 7:00PM**

