

FEZANA *bulletin*

February 2014 / VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 2



UPCOMING DATES

March 8, 2014

Annual Nowruz Celebration.
Smithsonian Museums,
Washington D.C. [click here](#)

March 10-21, 2014

58th Session of the
Commission on the Status of
Women. United Nations.
Contact [afreed.mistry \(@\) gmail.com](mailto:afreed.mistry@gmail.com)

March 22, 2014

ZANT Gala Celebration. Frisco,
Texas. [zenobiachinoy \(@\) hotmail.com](mailto:zenobiachinoy@hotmail.com)

March 22, 2014

Norouz Celebration 2014. Iran
Heritage Foundation, London.
<http://www.iranheritage.org/>

March 29, 2014

Chicago Nowruz Parade 2014.
Federal Plaza; 11:30a.m.
<http://chicago-nowruz-parade.org/parade/2013-2/>

April 6, 2014

All NA Zoroastrian Religious
Tele-Class; 11:00 a.m. (EST)
Contact [dastur @ comcast.net](mailto:dastur@comcast.net)

April 13, 2014

Persian Day Parade 2014. New
York City. Madison Ave (38th
to 26th Sts). Noon.

(DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

NAMC Seminar Enlightens Houston

by Meheryar N. Rivetna

Photo by Yezdi Engineer



[L to R] Ervad Poras Balsara (Dallas); Mobedyar Khushroo Mirza (Toronto); Ervad Faraidoon Pundole (Houston); Ervad Tehemton Mirza (Toronto); Ervad Kobad Zarolia, NAMC President (Toronto)

On February 15, 2014, the library committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston hosted the third North American Mobed Council (NAMC) Seminar at the Zoroastrian Center in Houston, Texas.

Approximately ninety people attended the lectures presented by four eminent Zoroastrian mobeds on a variety of interesting topics.

The session opened with Mobedyar Khushroo Mirza from the ZSO, Toronto speaking on "Zarathushti

Core Principles in Our Daily Lives." He lucidly explained the meanings of the Amesha Spentas which are the personifications of abstract virtues associated with Ahura Mazda. Khushroo Mirza emphasized the importance of making good choices through the application of the good mind (Vohu Manah.) The divine teachings that have come through Zarathushtra are for intellectual reflection rather than taking them as dogmatic prescription. Mobedyar Mirza also expounded on the importance of rituals. Rituals provide a continuity of the core principles and to dismiss rituals is to forget the core principles. The take away message from his talk was that while Zoroastrians have migrated to different parts of the world which may lead to adapting to different habits and cultures, the religion can still flourish if the faithful adhere to the core principles of the religion.

The second speaker was Houston's very own Ervad Faraidoon Pundole. Ervad Pundole galvanized the audience with his talk titled "Concept of Sin in Zoroastrianism." The talk engendered a lively debate with a large number of people interacting with the speaker whose provocative scenarios and what may be sin in one context may not be so in another provided ample food for thought. Faraidoon enumerated what are considered sins in the faith from the Pazand rendition of the *Patet Pashemani* prayer. The young Ervad offered an understanding of the significance of sins against polluting nature and sins against humanity. An interesting nugget that Faraidoon Pundole enlightened many in the audience with was that Zoroastrians of yore atoned for their sins by confessing their offense to a priest or someone spiritually advanced; a practice that is extant in Catholicism.

Ervad Tehemton Mirza was the third speaker with a very attention-grabbing title: "Concept of Heaven in Zoroastrianism." A fascinating subject which can be rife with cynicism was deftly handled by the Ervad from the ZSO, Toronto. Ervad Mirza took the audience on a journey to what *may* lie beyond the end of physical life. He used the *Arda-e-Viraf Nameh* as one source to lend an understanding of the concept of heaven, hell and purgatory in Zoroastrian eschatology. It would not be remiss to say that Dante Alighieri drew his inspiration for *The Divine Comedy* from the *Arda-e-Viraf Nameh*. After Alexander's invasion of Persia, a rejuvenation of Zoroastrian values and



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(FEZANA)**

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NGO in consultative status
(Roster) with the Economic
and Social Council of the
United Nations



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principles was vital. An illusory account of the afterlife was put together using a fictional Sassanian character called Viraf who traverses into the great beyond and brings back an account of his observations. The book allegorically embodies the core principles of Zoroastrianism. Ervad Mirza, using the Gathas as a source, explained that Zarathustra was the pioneer in introducing the concept of heaven. What is heaven? Ervad Mirza asked the audience. How do we know what heaven is like? Ervad Mirza emphasized: Heaven is the best existence; it is the house of the good mind.

The final speaker of the day hailed from ZANT in Dallas, TX. Ervad Poras Balsara gave an interesting presentation titled "Persepolis: Rising from the Ruins." It was an archaeological study of the recreation of Persepolis with some very interesting historical nuggets. Persepolis was the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire, with three other capitals located at Susa, Babylon and Ecbatana. What was fascinating about Persepolis was its imposing architecture. The city boasted of aqueducts long before the Romans used this mode of water supply for their towns and cities. Construction of this architectural splendor was started under Darius I and completed by his son Xerxes. The talk was an interesting excursion to a glorious history of which all Zoroastrians must be proud.

Ervad Kobad Zarolia from Toronto and President of the NAMC concluded the day calling all Zoroastrian priests to coalesce in building harmony within their respective communities.

The mobeds have certainly whetted the appetite of Houston Zoroastrians for more programs of this nature. □

The NAMC seminar program is available to any North American Zarathushti community. Presenters are ready to visit your city. For more information on how to arrange a NAMC Seminar in your city, contact Kobad Zarolia (kobadzarolia (@) gmail.com)

SUMMER 2014 SUMMER 2014

SUMMER 2014 SUMMER 2014

zoroastrian sports committee

WANTS YOU
To SAVE the DATE

14th ZOROASTRIAN GAMES
Sunny Los Angeles, California
WED JULY 2nd - SUN JULY 6th

COMING SOON



SCHOLARSHIPS

FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship 2014

Applications are being accepted for the FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship 2014.

Application deadline is July 1, 2014.

To download the application, [click here](#) or visit <http://fezana.org>

RESOURCES

Religion of Asho Zarathushti and Influence Through the Ages

By Ervad Jehan Bagli

FEZANA is proud to present a complete scanned copy of this Zarathushti religious educational treasure to the public.

To download, [click here](#) or visit <http://fezana.org>

27th FEZANA AGM Will Be Hosted by ZSWS

FEZANA is pleased to announce that the 2014 FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be hosted by the Zoroastrian Society of Washington State (ZSWS) from **Friday, May 16, 2014 to Sunday May 18, 2014** in Bellevue, Washington.

A detailed agenda for the AGM will be distributed shortly.

Committee Reports and Association Reports should be submitted to Shiraz Italia and FEZANA Administrative Office by April 15, 2014.

The AGM will be held at:
Sheraton Bellevue Hotel
 100 112th Ave NE
 Bellevue, WA 98004
 (425) 455-3330
<http://www.sheratonbellevue.com/>

Contact Zenobia Damania, FEZANA Administrative Office, admin@fezana.org or Shiraz Italia (shirazitalia (@) hotmail.com) ☐

Awards Committee Calls for Nominations

The FEZANA Awards Committee is accepting nominations for our North American Zarathushti Community Awards. These awards will be given out at the North American Congress this December at Los Angeles, CA. There are 7 award categories:

- **Outstanding Zarathushti Student Award**
- **Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award**
- **Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award**
- **Excellence in Business or Profession Award**
- **Humanitarian Service Award**
- **Outstanding Zarathushti Award**
- **North American Mobed Council (NAMC) Community Services Award**

The Awards Committee would like receive at minimum 3-4 applications for each award category - for your reference, a minimum of 2 applications is required for there to be a recipient for an award category. The committee is therefore asking each association and corresponding member association to **nominate at least 2 individuals** from their community. We know that we have the talent within our community, and that a number of individuals within our North American community qualify for these awards. It is therefore up to us to recognize them for their achievement and showcase them in order to inspire the next generation.

Nominations are due September 1, 2014. Please notify committee by August 1 of your intent to submit any nomination. Electronic submissions may be sent to: awards@fezana.org . Alternatively, submissions may be mailed to: Noshir Langrana, FEZANA Awards Committee, 19 Brookfield Way, West Windsor, NJ 08550-3510. (Note postal submissions must be postmarked no later than August 20, 2014.)

[Click here](#) to download nomination instructions and application or visit <http://www.fezana.org>

Contact Noshir Langrana [nlangrana @ aol.com] or Adil Mistry [afmistry @ gmail.com] ☐



UPCOMING DATES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

May 1-4, 2014

Faiths Coming Together Through Awareness, Compassion and Justice Conference. Edmonton, Alberta.

www.edmontoncpwr.ca

May 16-18, 2014

FEZANA Annual General Meeting, Bellevue, WA.
Hosted by ZSWS

July 2-6, 2014

14th Zoroastrian Games. Los Angeles, CA.

<http://www.zathletics.com/>

December 29-31, 2014

17th North American Zoroastrian Congress, Los Angeles, California

www.nazc2014.org

COMMUNITY TIES

ZANT RAFFLE

ZANT has coordinated an amazing raffle to celebrate its 25th Anniversary. The raffle is open to all nationwide. The winners will be drawn and announced on March 22, 2014 at the ZANT Gala function. [see right]. The Raffle Prizes include: 1st Prize: Hand Embroidered Gara Sari by NAJU DAVAR (valued @ \$1200) and much more...

For more information on contact [adaroon @ gmail.com](mailto:adaroon@gmail.com)

ZANT Celebrates 25 Years

In honor of their 25th anniversary and Norouz, the Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT) is holding a gala event like no other in its history.

The formal 'dinner and dance' event will include a fashion extravaganza showcasing the history of Zarathushtis from Gayomard to modern day times, followed by a traditional dinner on a patra consisting of a host of Parsi and Irani favorites. Once everyone has eaten to their hearts' content, they are free to dance the night away till the wee hours.

Mark your calendars – The event will be **Saturday, March 22, 2014, 7:00 pm** at the Frisco Discovery Center, Frisco, Texas.

For tickets or more information on the Gala event, please contact Zenobia Chinoy at [zenobiachinoy @ hotmail.com](mailto:zenobiachinoy@hotmail.com).

WELCOME TO ENTERPRISE DUBAI

A mega event offering endless positives and an excellent platform for networking and exploring business, leisure and pleasure opportunities in Dubai.
Win prizes worth Thousands of Dollars at the event!



Sometimes the world's biggest stories come from smallest nations. This story began 40 years ago. From a small fishing village, Dubai has transformed itself into a world class business destination and won the bid to host the World Expo in 2020. Hence the coming years will be very progressive for Dubai. Also the vision for UAE is strong so mega projects are being unveiled. 277,000 jobs are expected to be created and 25 million visitors are expected to visit Dubai in 2020. Needless to say, the World Expo will provide a boost to tourism, hospitality, construction, real estate and retail sectors. There will be a great demand for ancillary services in areas relating to airlines, health and medical services, insurance, restaurant business, property, education and much more...

So what will Enterprise Dubai offer from 19th to 21st December 2014?

Enterprise Dubai will offer an unrivalled platform to Businessmen, Professionals and Youth to explore business, leisure and pleasure opportunities that Dubai has to offer. The whole event will be conducted in the form of a festival.

19th and 20th December, 2014	Interesting programs across multiple disciplines will take place, giving ample opportunity to delegates to interact with the who's who from around the globe. World's top 10 speakers and more have been invited. You will also be able to meet the Royalty. Lavish breakfasts, lunches and dinners will be served on both the days. Entertainment programs will be held in the evenings. Time will be allocated to see the renowned wonders of Dubai. Gala Awards ceremony will also take place.
21st December, 2014	Scrumptious breakfast will be served at the Burj Khalifa Park, (world's tallest tower) followed by a city tour to landmark locations including the glittering Gold Souq. A dhow cruise will take place in the afternoon with lavish buffet. Exclusive packages will be offered to visit the Global Village or go on a Desert Safari in the evening.

Registration

The registration fee is US\$215 for two days and US\$ 255 for three days. It includes breakfasts, lunches and dinners and entry to all sessions including entertainment, dhow cruise etc... Registration facility is open through the website: www.wzcongress.org/enterprisedubai.

Hotel Accommodation

Special rate for accommodation is offered by the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Shaikh Zayed Road Dubai. It is \$90/- per night for two adults and two kids. One bedroom unit and two bedroom units are also available at very good rates. December being a peak period please register fast to avoid disappointments as rooms are limited.

Competition

Four mega competitions will take place: 1) Business Competition - Idea, Innovate, Implement; 2) Who wants to be a Millionaire; 3) Masters of the home kitchen; 4) Cricket Quiz. The First Prize for Business competition is Aed. 30,000/- (US\$ 8000/-) and Second Prize is: Aed.12,000/- (US\$3000/). Bumper

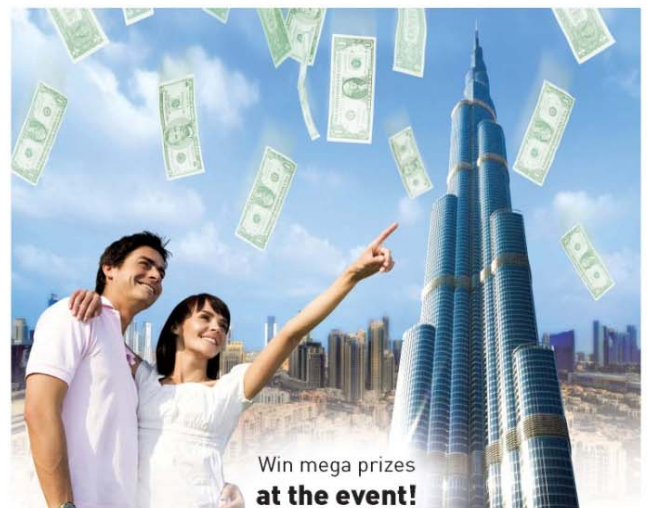
prizes worth thousands of dollars will be given away during other competitions.

For more details visit:

www.wzcongress.org/enterprisedubai

So get ready to visit the City of Dreams, Gold and Wonder and enjoy yourselves!

Early Bird offer ends on 30th April, 2014.



Win mega prizes
at the event!



Los Angeles, California
December 29-31, 2014



• Register • Attend • Sponsor • Meet • Learn • Share • Enjoy



Discounted Early Bird
Registration to open soon!

Tiered pricing available
for families!

More information about youth
and teen tracks coming soon!

Find out what else is in store
for you:

www.nazc2014.org

**SUPPORT
YOUR CONGRESS**

Contact us: (310) 634-1445
or info@nazc2014.org

crazy little thing called **LOVE**

The North American Zoroastrian Congress
have facilitated:

- ♥ 9675 introductions
- ♥ 9675 friendships
- ♥ 88 lifelong romances

Really?? 😳 Who knows? 😊

JUST GO to the Congress anyways to
reconnect with old friends, make new ones,
and ring in the New Year LA-style with your
peeps.

Not to mention giving Zarathushtis of all ages
the opportunity to engage with their religion,
culture and community on their terms.