

FEZANA *bulletin*

August 2014 / VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 8



UPCOMING DATES

Through Sept 20, 2014

A Thousand Years of the Persian Book Exhibition.
Library of Congress,
Washington D.C. [click here](#)

August 17, 2014

Powerful Women of Ancient Persia. California Zoroastrian Center. 7pm. <http://lyczc.org/>

August 29, 2014

"A Gathic View of Zoroastrianism and Ethical Life". Kersee Kabraji, Lecturer. Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, Houston. Free. RSVP to ahsethna (@) yahoo.com.

August 27-29, 2014

65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference. "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda". UN headquarters, New York City. [Click here](#)

September 1, 2014

Deadline: FEZANA Award Nominations. [Click here](#)

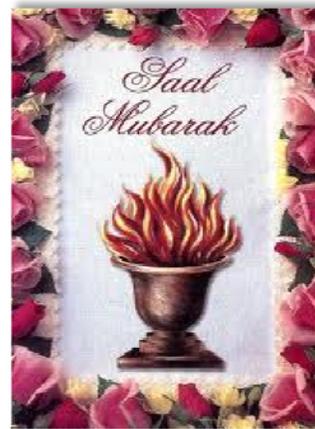
September 1, 2014

Deadline: 2015 Nowruz Banner Contest. [Click here.](#)

September 3-5, 2014

17th Microcredit Summit – Generation Next: Innovations in Microfinance. Merida, Mexico. Armene Modi, FEZANA UN NGO team member – Panelist. [Click here.](#)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



*Navroze Mubarak and Khordad Saal Mubarak
to you and your families*

*May Ahura Mazda Shower his Choicest Blessings
on the Zarathushti Community in
North America and world-wide*

*May the New Year bring good health, happiness,
peace and prosperity to Zarathushtis globally*

*Best Wishes -
Katayun Kapadia, FEZANA President*

Letters of Support Issued by FEZANA Executive

Two letters have been written by the FEZANA Executive to President Barack Obama, and to the U.N. Secretary Ban Ki-Moon in support of their efforts to safeguard the minorities being oppressed and attacked in Iraq and Syria. To view these letters, please click

<http://fezana.org/fezana-letter-in-support-of-minorities-in-iraq/> □.



Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)

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



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FOR MORE
FEZANA INFO

AROUND FEZANA: News from FEZANA Member Associations

Nurturing Community at Houston's Z-Camp



If you build it, they will come... and 78 participants came to the Zoroastrian Heritage and Cultural Center (Houston) on July 11-13, 2014. Though the majority of participants were from Houston, eighteen of them were from Austin, Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, and San Antonio.



A dizzying array of activities built round personal development, network security, and leadership development, included a treasure hunt, Bollywood dancing, cooking and sporting activities like "Nargolio" or seven tiles were offered. Participants, ages 5 -20, were divided in four teams and each team chose their own provocative name.

Cohesion amongst the groups was phenomenal and it clearly resulted in enhanced networking, improving presentation skills and engaging with others. Participants, volunteers and parents had a truly enjoyable experience while savoring a wonderful assortment of Parsi and American food that could literally be termed as a Food Fest. "No cellphones and no soda" rule was followed and all were delighted with the add-on activity to watch the FIFA World Cup final. One evaluator wrote, "Can we stay back with y'all in Houston?" and a volunteer asked, "Who had the most fun ...the participants or the planners?"

Legendary core team members Kayo Sidhwa, Sarosh Collector, Aderbad Tamboli, Vehishta Kaikobad and Kamalrukh Gandhi thank volunteers for the hours of planning, parents for their commitment and ZAH community for their unflinching support. Join us for Z-Camp 2015! □

SSZ Conference in Chicago Open to All

The Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC) is planning a one day Conference organized by the Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) as has been done for the past several years. **All families, students and scholars are invited and encouraged to attend this 2014 SSZ Conference.**

The conference will be held on Saturday September 6, 2014 at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Meher, in Burr Ridge, Illinois from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. A nominal registration fee of \$10 will cover breakfast, lunch and teas.

The Conference will begin with the singing of a *Monajat* by **Mani Rao** (in order to revive the tradition of singing of devotional songs as a form of worship) and a *Benediction* by **Mobedyar Bomi Damkevala**, followed by presentations by lay scholars, academicians, theologians (Mobeds), educationists and most importantly by our next generation practitioners who are encouraged to study a specific topic and present to the assembly to reinforce their learning. These



UPCOMING DATES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

September 6-7, 2014

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism Conference;
ZAC-Chicago.
rivetna (@) aol.com

September 11-28, 2014

Day to Serve Volunteer Opportunities.
www.daytoserve.org

September 13, 2014

Mystic India: The World Tour.
Ritz Theatre, Elizabeth NJ.
[click here.](#)

September 21, 2014

9/11 Unity Walk; Embassy Row, Washington D.C.
[Click Here](#)

September 21, 2014

The People's Climate March;
New York City. [Click here](#)

November 1-2, 2014

11th Annual ZAH Library Event. Sarah Stewart, Guest Speaker (SAOS; Curator, The Everlasting Flame Exhibition) Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, Houston. [Click here.](#)

December 29-31, 2014

17th North American Zoroastrian Congress,
Los Angeles, California
www.nazc2014.org

conferences also offer an opportunity to academicians to present and publish their works.

The presentations will include a variety of topics on Zoroastrian religion, ethics, prayers, culture and history. Interestingly this year's topic "*Lessons of Tushnamaiti*" is to be presented by our young mobed, **Ervad Rayomand Ravji** who holds great promise for our community. He has recently also been elected President of ZAC and has excellent oratory skills. *Tushnamiti* as explained by *Gatha* Scholar Irach Taraporevala is "the idea of inner growth of the soul, through silent meditation" and appears in *Ushtavaiti Gatha, Yasna* 43.15. *Tushnamaiti* invokes a great deal of interest as meditation generally is recognized to be a Vedantic concept. It comes as a surprise to many that it was referred to by Zarathushtra himself as a self-cleansing and a growth process. Ervad Ravji will expand on this teaching. Other Next Generation speakers will present topics as well.

Chicago's High Priest, **Dastoor Dr. Kersey Antia**, who has kept alive the tradition of life long study and learning of our scriptures by our High Priests, will make a presentation and grace us with his presence.

In addition, **Mr. Kersee Kabraji** of Pune, a student of the Gathas, will participate and give us his insight into *The Gathas*. Mr. Kabraji, *editor of "A Gathic View of Zoroastrianism and Ethical Life,"* is on a lecture tour of U.S. and Canada, visiting several other locations during his three week visit.

Gathic scholar and author, **Dr. Pallan Ichaporla** will present his insights into "*Scriptural Understanding of the Gathas.*"

Associate professor **Wouter Henkleman** of the Oriental Institute (OI) will speak on "*The Royal Table of the Achemenids*" drawn from a study by the OI of thousands of tablets discovered in Persepolis in the 1930s.

For further information, please contact Rohinton Rivetna (rivetna (@) aol.com or Kayomars Mehta (kayomehta (@) aol.com) To register, please RSVP to Dinaz Weber (kenanddina (@) yahoo.com) by August 29. □

FEZANA Welcomes New Boards of Member Associations

On behalf of FEZANA, the FEZANA Executive would like to extend heartiest congratulations to **Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF)** and **Zoroastrian Society of Washington State (ZSWS)** on the recent elections of their new Boards for the next term.

ZSWS New Board of Directors

Atriya Salamati, Mahrukh Motafram, Farokh Yazdani, Anahita Afkham, Goli Namiranian [info (@) zsws.org]

OZCF Board, 2014-16

Percy Dastur (President); Khushroo Mirza (Vice President); Jal Panthaky (Secretary); Gus Patel (Treasurer); and the New Board of Directors: Mahveer Javat, Meher Panthaky, Minnie Mirza, Kamal Driver, Nadir Rabadi, Kermin Byramjee. [http://www.ozcf.com/]

FEZANA looks forward to working with OZCF and ZSWS, along side the other Member Associations, in the months ahead on the various Zoroastrian local, national and global activities and events to create an environment of "*Hamazori*" built upon a strong foundation of Zoroastrian values and principles. □



BOOK AWARENESS



Here's a recommendation for your summer literary reading trip.



Avestan Symbols and Concepts

by Rev. Ernestine Busch

This book is a must for anyone interested in understanding the universal laws embodied in the symbolic and figurative language of the Avestan scriptures. The Avesta was transmitted orally for generations and this was facilitated by the rich symbolism and vivid personifications, metaphors, and allegorical allusions present throughout Avestan canon. The book provides a comprehensive insight into the wisdom and interpretation of the symbolic representations in the Avesta. Book is available for check-out from FIRES (Houston) <http://www.fires-fezana.org/>, on Amazon as well as Google books.

Bridging Borders and Boundaries

By Shernaz Minwalla, President, Zoroastrian Assoc of Michigan

Amidst the global unrest under the guise of race and religion, over 200 representatives of various religious groups gathered in Detroit for the annual North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) Connect Conference from August 10 – 13, 2014. Maneck Bhujwala and I had the honor of representing FEZANA at this event, providing us with the opportunity to meet knowledgeable religious leaders, visit beautiful places of worship and sites of Detroit, and most importantly share information about the Zoroastrian faith. Our exhibition table consisted of a diva and a small set, books, some special issues of the FEZANA Journal, and many informational flyers written and provided by Rohinton Rivetna. As participants stopped to browse, Maneck and I took the time to answer questions.



The main focus of NAIN's work has been to support the growth of interfaith understanding by supporting the work of member organizations. I am proud to say

that Maneck was selected onto the NAIN Board of Directors as the representative of FEZANA. His experience with interfaith councils and organizations will enhance the excellent, ethical and engaging work of NAIN.

As a local resident of a Detroit suburb, I was able to learn about various initiatives around the city to promote interfaith awareness amongst our youth. As a school teacher and one of our Zoroastrian religion teachers, this network provided some great ideas. The ZAOM Youth Connections group will take part in the interfaith council's World Sabbath in January and will meet with another interfaith group in Ann Arbor later in the year. More opportunities given to our youth to highlight their religion will strengthen their faith, identity and sense of community.

I thank FEZANA for giving me this great networking opportunity, and I look forward to participating in future interfaith activities.

[For more on this story, see upcoming FEZANA Journal, Fall 2014] □

FEZANA Award Nominations Deadline Approaching

The Deadline for Nominations for 2014 FEZANA Awards -- recognizing and celebrating the achievements of our community members in North America – is near. **The deadline to submit the packet via e-mail is September 1, 2014.** If sent by US mail, it must be postmarked on or before August 20, 2014.

[Click here](#) to download the nomination packet or visit:

http://www.fezana.org/files/drupalfiles/2014_FEZANA_Awards_Nomination_Package.pdf

The awards committee always welcomes qualified individuals to serve on the committee to select the awardees. All inquiries are to be directed to Noshir Langrana (nlangrana (@) aol.com) or Adil F. Mistry (afmistry (@) yahoo.com).

**This year at
the Congress,**

**We have
something for
everyone!**



Bring your kids to our Mini-Congress!

- **Babysitting for the Littles:** For our youngest delegates aged 4 and under.
- **Religious Education for Children ages 5 to 12:** A [religious education program](#) that will engage young minds while they learn about their heritage.
- **Teen Track Sessions for ages 13 to 18:** What matters most to our teens in these very formative years? Find out as they respond to these thought provoking sessions designed to inspire them.
- **Young Adult Sessions for ages 18 and up:** Interactive sessions from [navigating parenthood](#) to [looking toward the next generation](#).
- **Young Adult Social Mixers:** Excursions, sightseeing and more!

We even have Puppy Party and an Ice Cream Social on December 31st 2014. Yes, with *real* puppies!

To find out more about these wonderful activities visit www.nazc2014.org and browse through the **Young Adult and **Program** sections.**

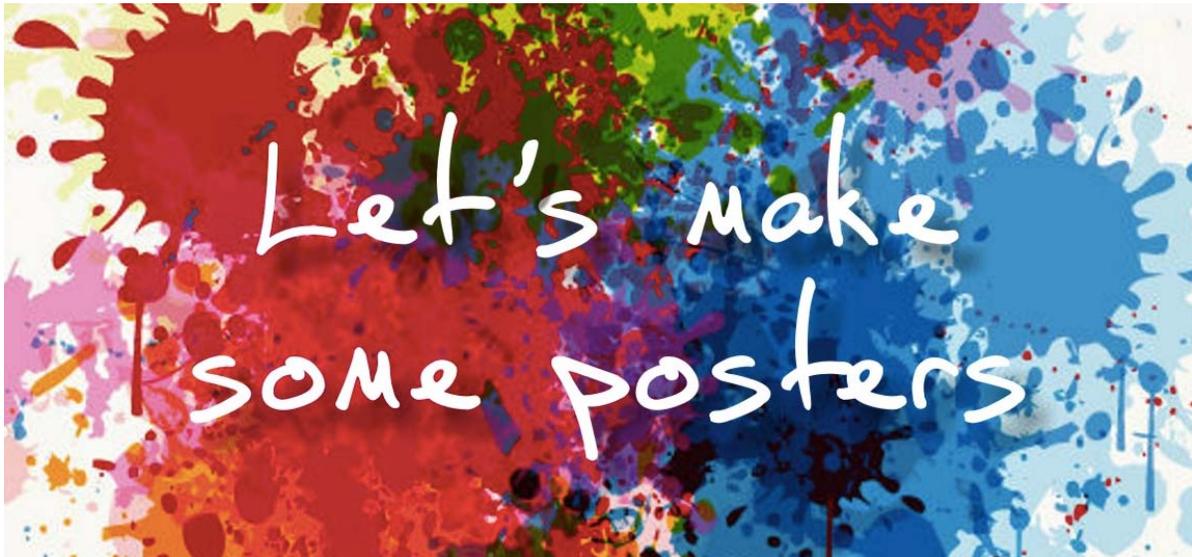
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Get Creative!



Dear Friend,

In an effort to engage young Zoroastrians attending the Congress, we invite you to participate in the XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress' Poster Session. The session will allow young Zoroastrians to engage with their heritage in an environment that showcases and celebrates their creativity.

A few requirements are set forth below, but we encourage you to follow your bliss in the creation of your poster and presentation!

For additional information, please contact Trity Pourbahrami, at poster@nazc2014.org

Prizes are in the offing and we wish all our participants the best of luck with their artistic endeavors!

Best wishes,
The XVII North American Congress Committee

Poster Session Requirements:

- Age of Participants: No limit, but we encourage student participation.
- Subject Matter: Anything related to Zoroastrianism.
- Poster Size: 22 x 28 inches or larger.
- Registration Deadline: September 30, 2014
- To register, please email a short description of your poster and your contact information to poster@nazc2014.org
- Team efforts are welcome.

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