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/
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!

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
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 Ichaporia** 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 Kayomarsh Mehta (kayomehta (@) aol.com) To register, please RSVP to Dinaz Weber (kenanddina (@) yahoo.com) by August 29.

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**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 (ZWS) on** the recent elections of their new Boards for the next term.

**ZWS New Board of Directors**
Atriya Salamati, Mahrukh Motafaram, Farokh Yazdani, Anahita Afkham, Goli Namiranian  [info (@) zsws.org]

**OZCF Board, 2014-16**
Percy Dastur (President); Khushroo Mirza (Vice President); Jal Panthak (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 ZWS, 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 “Hamazon” built upon a strong foundation of Zoroastrian values and principles.
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 seas, 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]
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.

We also offer special rates for students and Early Bird Discounts if you register now.

Support YOUR Congress!

www.nazc2014.org  310.634.1445  info@nazc2014.org
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.