On a gorgeous June 7, in Seattle, our Zarathushti community [Zoroastrian Society of Washington State-ZSWS] gathered for a Khushali nu Jashan/Jashne Khushali. There were about 100 Zarathushtis present, young and old, Parsee and Iranian Zarathushtis alike witnessing this traditional jashan ceremony performed by Ervad Soli Dastur accompanied by our resident Mobedyar-in-training Jamshid Pouresfandiary.

The tables covered with white table cloth were filled with an abundance of fruits and beautiful flowers. Also gracing the table was malido, ravo, heap of mixed dried fruits, and delicious Iranian pastries cooked fresh on the premises. As the fragrant aroma of "loban" and "sukhar" filled the hall, it brought back cherished memories for most of us of our home-country, both India and Iran where jashans were a part of our existence.

The prayers began with both Soli uncle and Jamshid doing their kusti prayers together followed by prayers lead by Soli uncle. The prayers ended with a beautiful rendition of tandaroosti prayer recited “Parsee Udvada style” by Soli uncle followed by Jamshid reciting the same beautiful gratifying tandaroosti prayer “Iranian style”. The entire congregation joined in these two versions of the same Tandaroosti prayer. At the end of it, much to everyone’s surprise it was interesting to hear how similar these two renditions sounded.

Most of us in that hall came to a realization that even though our two cultures, each rich and strong in tradition, can learn to coexist with one another in North America. We can build on the similarities that exist between us by celebrating the differences that are within us.

We give our sincere thanks to Ervad Soli Dastoor for enlightening us about the similarities in our prayers between our two cultures. And, we appreciate NAMC for taking on the responsibility for training Jamshid as a Mobedyar.
Orlando Zarathushtis Host Annual Gahambar

In Orlando, on Sunday June 15, 144 South Florida Zarathushtis and friends gathered to celebrate the Annual Orlando Gahambar, complete with a Satum Prayer and a sumptuous home cooked Parsi Bhonu served on banana leaves!! What a great sight to see!

Prep work and cooking of the food began days before the actual event. A cast of volunteers gathered to clean, chop, and prepare the delicious dishes.

The Gahambar Day festivities began with a short Hum Bandagi led by the local children. Ervad Soli Dastur then recited the Satum prayers with all attendees also in silent prayer.

Next, a short PowerPoint Presentation about World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC), its goals, etc. was presented by enthusiastic youth, Afsaan Kermani.

After more fun, games and Father’s Day gifts to all the Fathers in attendance, the sumptuous Gahambar feast of traditional Parsi Bhonu was served on banana leaves by enthusiastic volunteers.

It is heartening to see the vibrant Orlando community taking part in such a grand community celebration and feast.

FEZANA Appoints New Committee Chairs

PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Nazneen Spliedt, from San Francisco, has accepted an appointment as Chair for the Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship Committee.

We thank outgoing chair, Sherazade Mehta, for her service in overseeing this scholarship for the past years.

Click here for details and to download this year’s application.

Nazneen Spliedt is a proud Karachi-ite where she was raised, studied and worked before moving to Canada and Curacao. She and her husband Ehler lived and worked in many different places around the world, where they did not meet any Parsis until they moved to Hong Kong. They were both involved in the local community there. Since moving to the States in 1998, Nazneen has been involved with the local association, ZANC, and has been representing them at FEZANA meetings since 2005, as President of the Association.
She and her husband are both also active in the Society for Asian Art in San Francisco and the Asian Art Museum and enjoy travelling and being involved in the local community. Contact: nazehler (@) aol.com

**FUNDS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Ratan Mistry, from San Jose, has accepted an appointment as Chair for the Funds and Finance Committee.

We gratefully thank outgoing chair, Rustom Kevala, for his service in chairing this committee.

Ratan Mistry: Ratan Mistry is a Certified Public Accountant and is a senior manager with a big-four accounting firm in San Jose, CA. Ratan is also a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (Canada) and a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Ratan was the FEZANA Treasurer from May 2010 to May 2014 when he successfully completed serving his second term in that capacity.

Ratan specializes in auditing public and private software companies and venture capital funds in Silicon Valley. Ratan is familiar with the complex accounting issues these companies face, in particular, revenue recognition, stock-based compensation, and fair valuation of non-marketable securities. He has assisted companies with initial public offerings, and acquisitions. Ratan has more than twenty years of professional experience in India, Canada and USA, and in addition to his public accounting experience, he has also worked as a finance professional in the advertising and manufacturing industry.

Ratan’s interests include reading, travel, volunteering and spending time with his wife and kids. Contact: ratanmistry (@) hotmail.com

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Arzan Sam Wadia from New York, has accepted an appointment as Co-Chair for the Information Technology Committee with Bomi Patel.

Arzan Sam Wadia: A licensed architect, Arzan practices in New York City, where he currently lives with his wife Shirrin.

Over the last 15 years, he has worked on building projects in New York, Siem Reap, Graz and Vienna, with an emphasis in sustainability and energy efficiency. Along with his architectural practice he also runs a technology consulting business providing complete solutions to the CAD and BIM industry.

A board member of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY), he was an integral part of the organizing team for the last North American Zoroastrian Congress held in 2012 in New York.

Arzan also runs Parsi Khabar (www.parsikhabar.net) an online portal about Parsis. Also, he is an active Rover of the Sethna’s 18th West Bombay, India’s oldest Boy Scout troop, and maintains the Troop’s presence in the online realm. He has been involved with the Return To Roots program since its inception and serves as its North America Liaison.

Arzan is an avid motorcyclist, and a political and current affairs junkie. Contact: arzan (@) wadias.in
FEZANA Awards Committee Seeks Nominations

FEZANA recognizes and celebrates the achievements of our community members in North America through the FEZANA Awards. Nominations for 2014 awards are now open.

These awards will be given out at the North American Congress in December 2014 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 Mobeds Council (NAMC) Community Services Award

Click here to download the nomination packet from the FEZANA website or visit: [http://www.fezana.org/files/drupalfiles/2014_FEZANA_Awards_Nomination_Package.pdf](http://www.fezana.org/files/drupalfiles/2014_FEZANA_Awards_Nomination_Package.pdf)

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.

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).

Reprint Project Needs Your Support

_The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra — Translations of the Gathas into English_ by Irach JS Taraporewala.

FEZANA has obtained permission from the Hukhta Foundation to reprint the _The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra — Translations of the Gathas into English_ by Irach JS Taraporewala.

At the FEZANA AGM in Seattle, Washington State, held on 18 May 2014, seed money for the reprint of this book was sanctioned. Donations are now sought from individuals, from member associations and small groups to cover the costs of publishing this very valuable religious education resource to benefit our Zarathushti community.

Checks can be made out to FEZANA (marked for “Taraporewala Publication” in the memo section) and mailed to: Nilufer K. Shroff, FEZANA Treasurer, Cherry Hill Post Office Box 3873, 1175 Marlkress Road, Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034. Nilufer can be reached at fezanatreasurer (@) gmail.com. [click here](http://www.fezana.org/files/drupalfiles/2014_FEZANA_Awards_Nomination_Package.pdf) to donate online (Please mark “Taraporewala” Publication in the memo section).
FEZANA AGM Minutes Circulated for Review

Hosted by Zoroastrian Society of Washington State, the FEZANA 27th Annual General Meeting was held in Bellevue, Washington from May 16-18, 2014. Below are some photos taken at the meeting. It is heartening to note that quorum for the meeting was met by a full 82% of eligible votes being represented with 18 out of 26 member Associations present at the meeting.

A draft document of the minutes of the meeting has been circulated to member Association Presidents, Representatives, AGM delegates, and Corresponding Member Associations for review. Please send in any comments/edits by July 31, to FEZANA Secretary, Saghar Javanshir-Behroozi sjbehroozi@verizon.net. After making any edits requested, the revised Minutes document will be distributed for review before the next AGM and will be up for approval at the next Annual General Meeting itself.

Also, a copy of the Report Book that was distributed to all delegates at the Meeting is now available online. Click here to view videos of previous Tele-classes.

All NA Zoroastrian Religious Tele-Class 17 Sunday July 27 2014, Noon (EST)

Broadcast from ZANT Center in Dallas, the next All NA Zoroastrian Religious Tele Class will be held on Sunday, July 27 at Noon (EST). The topic will be: Zoroastrianism Influence on Other World Religions.

These Tele-Classes have become a valuable educational resource available to the North American Zarathushhti community. To obtain class materials and tele-conferencing instructions contact Erv. Soli Dastur: dastur (@) comcast.net. Click here to view videos of previous Tele-classes.

BOOK AWARENESS

If you like your summer reading to take you beyond the beaten path, here is a few title that deserves your attention. Book is available at FIRES (Houston) as well as amazon.com

Sam Manekshaw: The Man and His Times by Brigadier Behram M. Panthaki and Zenobia Panthaki.

This book is written by someone who was very close to Sam Bahadur (as he was called) for many years. It reveals Manekshaw’s character, his sense of humor, his courage, and his larger-than-life personality. This book will be particularly rewarding for younger readers as it tells an enjoyable story of a national hero with just enough historical and political background to make it interesting. http://www.fires-fezana.org/

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A Chance of a Lifetime …

BE A PATRON CONDUCTOR OF
THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The World Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra unites Zarathushtis from the world over to provide unforgettable musical experiences, under the baton of its Music Director, a professional conductor, Farobag Homi Cooper of Chicago.

The WZSO endeavors to delight audiences at The XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress. However, a performance of this magnitude is only possible with support of generous donations from supporters like you!

Supporters will be recognized as members of the Conductor’s Circle and gain satisfaction in knowing that their contributions helped the WZSO to provide an enhanced cultural experience for Congress attendees, and also allowed Zarathushti musicians of varying proficiencies the opportunity to perform with professionals. The supporter who makes the largest contribution of $5,000 or more will be recognized as a Patron Conductor and have the opportunity to conduct a simply elegant, short piece, with guidance from Mr. Cooper.

The WZSO is unlikely to be able to perform at the Congress if the fundraising goals for this event are not met by December 2013. So don’t delay in showing your support for our community musicians by making your pledges today.

If you would like to sponsor this event, or contribute towards making it a reality, please contact Vira Santoke at (714) 963 1301 or vsantoke@verizon.net.

The XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress, an event sponsored by FEZANA, will be hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of California, in coordination with the California Zoroastrian Center, in Los Angeles, from December 29 to 31, 2014.
Early Bird
Registration is NOW OPEN.

Registration is quick and easy at
www.nazc2014.org/registration

Need a reason to register?
How about TEN?!

1. Topics such as: Inter-generational Dialogue, Navigating Zoroastrian Parenthood, Venture Philanthropy, Zoroastrian History, Religion, Culture and more.

2. Workshops on health, finance, social media, entrepreneurship and more.

3. International speakers with a panoply of perspectives.

4. Tracks for young adults, teens and younger children.

5. Special lower rates for youth and children.

6. An entire week of activities around LA at a nominal additional cost: LA Tours, A Day at the Getty, Santa Barbara Wine Tasting Tours, Disney, Universal and more!

7. An entire pre-Congress weekend for young adults (ages 18-40).

8. Discounted hotel rates for an extended stay in LA!

9. The New Year’s Eve Gala: the best way to ring in 2015!

10. Make new friends and reconnect with old ones from all over the world.

Register Today!