Recently, my family had the opportunity to participate in the Zoroastrian Games for the fifth time. The 14th Zoroastrian Games (Z Games) organized by Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) were held in Los Angeles, California from July 2-6, 2014. Approximately 700 adult/youth athletes, age 7 and older, participated in the various events, representing Canada, Iran, Germany, France, Australia, Oregon, Texas, New York, Washington DC, Massachusetts, California, North Carolina, Virginia, Illinois, Arizona, Nevada, and Maryland.

My family and more than 145 other athletes and their families resided at the residential dorms of California State University Dominguez Hill (CSUDH) where the games were held. One of my family’s favorite times is the day before the games when we check into the dorm and get to catch up on life events with other athletes and friends after so long.

This year, the Z Games Opening Ceremony commenced with a beautiful passage from the Gathas recited in Avestan language, English, and Farsi. On behalf of FEZANA President, FEZANA Secretary read her welcoming message wishing all a memorable experience at the games. Then, the members of ZSC were introduced: Niaz Kasravi, Behnaz Dianat, Behrouz Mehrkhodavandi, Bijan Khosraviani, Arsham Dianat, Katayoun Salamati, Ramin Shahriari, Shahram Ghandeharizadeh, Nima Patel, and Samira Kasravi. On behalf of ZSC, Behnaz Dianat recognized Bijan Khosraviani, founder of ZSC games, for his contributions and vision inspiring many youth and adult athletes. Bijan Khosraviani gave a heartwarming speech on how following the principles of Zoroastrianism can make the games even more special. The event continued with several Iranian dances choreographed by the youth dancers. Finally, the games officially began with the arrival of the Olympic torch. It was ignited at the California Zoroastrian Center and carried by Jahangir Mehrkhodavandi to the CSUDH facilities, who ran for more than 3.5 hours to accomplish the feat. Finally, the teams and athletes marched behind the flame, marking the beginning of four days of competition and fun.

The Z Games events included volleyball (14 teams), basketball (12 adult and 7 youth teams), tennis (>40 athletes), and Ping Pong (>75 athletes), Track and Field (100 youth and adult participants), and Swimming (>40 swimmers). Volleyball and basketball competitions were held in four adjacent courts adding to the excitement of more than 2000 spectators who visited the four day event.
Evening functions included Disco night at AmEx Stadium with DJ “AL”; a Galaxy Soccer Game and fireworks at Stub Hub Center, where several of our youth were on the soccer field to greet the pro athletes; and a “Great Gatsby Banquet” on the Queen Mary with entertainment by Persian singer, “Andy” and his band.

The Final and Semi-final matches in basketball, volleyball, Ping Pong, and tennis held on Sunday drew the most number of spectators filling the air of the gymnasium with cheering songs and excitement.

At the closing ceremony, Niaz Kasravi, ZSC chairperson, thanked all the volunteers, contributors, athletes, and spectators for their support. FFEZANA Secretary read a message on behalf of FEZANA UN-NGO Committee and, jointly with ZSC, recognized the Zardoshty Family for their support and contributions to the Z games and to the Zoroastrian community and presented Farangis Zardoshty with a replica of Cyrus Cylinder and a plaque as a token of appreciation. This was followed by a beautifully choreographed Indian dance, and then, the presentation of the medals by ZSC members and FEZANA Secretary to the winners of 1st-3rd place in each category of competition.

Over the years, the Z Games have become a source of inspiration for many athletes and families. Younger athletes have the opportunity to practice their talents and physical abilities side by side with older athletes, growing to become role models for all ages. Older adults build the pillars for making these games possible and create an environment of trust and growth not easily found at this scale. Mother/Father/Son, Mother/daughter/aunt, brothers, and other family members have the unique opportunity of jointly competing on the same team, strengthening their bonds and setting new examples. Stars are born every time the games are held. The stars simply shine via their athletic achievements, excellent sportsmanship, great attitude in any situation, and their ability to inspire -- young and old. The value of meeting an old friend or relative by surprise after many years is priceless. And finally, the friendships developed at these games are eternal and become contagious. In simple words, all participants and those present become a large family for four days and beyond. I hope more youth/adult athletes from all over the world take part in the future Z games and inspire the Zoroastrian community to move forward towards new visions. Click here to view more photos and to view event results.

At the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Seattle on May 18, 2014, after discussions among member associations on Infrastructure Development in North America, it was decided that the Atash Kadeh projects would be handled by the member associations themselves. However, the need for a FEZANA Center continues to be recognized as important to the Zarathushti Community in North America. By May 15, 2014, we had received only one proposal from ZAC-Chicago in response to our Request for Proposals (RFP) for FEZANA Center; however, some member associations at the AGM indicated an interest to respond to this RFP for a FEZANA Center and requested some additional time to prepare and submit their proposals. So it was decided that we should resend this RFP for FEZANA Center and extend the
opportunity to member associations to respond. Hence, the reissue of the RFP is below:

**Request for Proposals for FEZANA Center**

North American Zarathushtis are the youngest of the Diasporas that has reached a critical mass for growth and sustenance. The North American Diaspora is unique in that it represents a blend of both Parsi-Zarathushtis from India and Pakistan as well as Zarathushtis from Iran. After a thousand years of separation the two streams are now together in North America. The community has developed and is developing with this mix in its own distinct manner.

Click below for the following RFP documents:
- FEZANA Center - Cover Letter
- Requests for Proposals for FEZANA Center
- Vision & Needs Statement

A complete proposal with all supporting documents should be submitted to the FEZANA President, Mrs. Katayun Kapadia, kkatayun@msn.com in electronic format on or before August 31, 2014. The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the Infrastructure Committee and the FEZANA Executive by September 30, 2014. Evaluations to be presented to member Associations in mid November 2014 for their action.

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**Fostering Hamazori in Australia**

In the spirit of Hamazori (Harmony), building relationships with other Zarathushti entities – one of the goals of FEZANA’s Second 10-year Strategic Plan – Homi Gandhi, Vice President of FEZANA, visited with the Zoroastrian Association of Victoria (ZAV) in Melbourne, Australia on June 28, 2014. Homi had the honor of presenting a brief message on behalf of FEZANA and also presented to ZAV a replica of the Cyrus Cylinder as a symbol of our unity. The event was very well received by the ZAV members. Below is an account of the meeting from Homi Gandhi:

The meeting on June 28, organized by ZAV, was a day to remember. It was great to see a very spirited gathering of about 40-50 people at the center. It included many ZAV Past presidents including Pervez Dubash and his family, Arnavaz Chubb and his family, and Sarosh Kharivala and his family.

The meeting began with a long introduction of me by Kazween Marker, ZAV president. That made me feel at home as this was my 3rd visit to the ZAV in the last 5+ years. After a brief speech, I offered to answer any questions from the crowd. Many followed on Cyrus cylinder, FEZANA, and in general how to get youth involved. I answered them to the best of my ability.

When I presented the Cyrus Cylinder replica to Kazween Marker, she graciously invited the past ZAV presidents in the crowd, to join in this celebration and photo ops. At this time, Pervez Dubash, a past president, took the opportunity to remember other contributors to these joint successes who were not present due to their other commitments.

A reception of tea, bhel puri, khaman dhokla, chutney sandwiches, and other goodies followed. During that time, I had a chance to meet many ZAV members individually and talk about the past memories. The meeting ended with good byes to all old and new friends.
FEZANA bulletin

AROUND FEZANA: News from FEZANA Committees

Funds and Finance Committee Co-Chair

Gev Nentin has accepted an appointment as Co-Chair for the FEZANA Funds and Finance Committee to lead with Co-Chair Ratan Mistry.

GEV F. NENTIN

Gev has served the community through his involvement with The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY). He has served as its Treasurer and has served as President for four terms. Gev was the Co-Chair of the past two North American Zoroastrian Congresses held in New York in 1998 and 2012. He has also served as a Trustee of the Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple for three terms.

Gev has been involved with corporate restructurings and turnarounds for approximately 30 years. As a Managing director at JPMorgan Chase he was involved with several large bankruptcies notably among them Enron, Continental Airlines, Allegheny International, L. J. Hooker (Bonwit Teller and B. Altman). He has restructured hundreds of companies throughout the world involving billions of dollars.

Gev has been through every global crisis since the early 1980s – Latin America in the 80’s, the U.S. Real Estate crisis in the 90’s followed by the Russian and Asian crises. He has also served on the Board of a few portfolio companies. At present he is a Senior Vice President at Fifth Third Bank in Ohio doing what he has done throughout his career.

About the Information Technology Committee

The Information Technology Committee of FEZANA is headed by Arzan Sam Wadia [see bio in June 2014 FEZANA Bulletin] and includes Bomi Patel and Sarosh Sepai, as its functioning members.

The Information Technology committee of FEZANA oversees the technical needs of FEZANA and its presence in the digital realm. The role of the committee includes, but is not limited to; the following:

1) Maintaining FEZANA’s website portal.
2) Providing technical know how and implement FEZANA’s social media initiatives
3) Assist other committees, especially Public Relations and Publications in broadcasting their messages in the online realm.
4) Suggest and implement current best practices and new trends in the online realm.
5) Safeguard FEZANA’s intellectual property rights in the digital realm.

BOOK AWARENESS

If you like your summer reading to take you beyond the beaten path, here are a few titles that deserve your attention. Books are available at FIRES (Houston) http://www.fires-fezana.org/ as well as amazon.com

Law and Identity in Colonial South Asia: Parsi legal culture, 1772-1947 by Mitra Sharafi explores the involvement of Parsis in the colonial legal system of British India and Burma. From the late eighteenth century until India’s independence in 1947, Parsis acted as lawyers, judges, lobbyists and legislators, shaping what was to become Parsi personal law in the areas of marriage, inheritance and religious trusts. It is a fascinating account, scholarly but immensely readable and interesting.

Parsi Bol by Sooni Taraporevala and Meher Marfatia. This is a rib-tickling and wicked treasure trove of Parsi Gujarati idioms, sayings, insults and endearments—ranging from those about men and women, family, money, character traits and of course even the anatomy. Packed with hilarious illustrations, 716 phrases have been given a literal and idiomatic meaning. A total laugh riot!

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Impressions of a Zarathushti in Syria
By Dr. Anahita Dua

Sponsored in part by the Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders Committee (ZYWB) of FEZANA, Anahita Dua recently travelled to the Syrian border with Jordan to volunteer her medical services at a refugee camp. Below are her impressions from her experience:

Refugees of the Syrian Civil War have been fleeing Syria with the escalation of the Syrian Civil War that began in 2011. To escape severe violence, imprisonment, torture and death more than 2 million Syrian refugees have left everything to take up refugee status in the surrounding countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, and even Iraq. Many of these countries already house refugees from the Palestinian/Israeli conflict and are therefore reluctant to care for Syrian refugees given that they are already stretched for resources caring for the Palestinian and/or Iraqi refugees that have been residing in their homelands for years. As a result, Syrian refugees have extreme difficulty obtaining refugee status and have been forced to reside in “unnamed” refugee camps that are simply collections of hundreds of individuals from a village in Syria living on any empty land they can find. Unlike “named” refugee camps that are documented by the UN and have structured support services including security, food, shelter, and access to medical care, the unnamed camps are left completely to their own devices and are hence vulnerable. They have no steady supply of food, shelter, or medical care and can be subject to whims of the government or even angry locals.

I recently had the opportunity to travel with a medical team to the Jordanian/Syrian border to provide medical care at no cost to the Syrian refugees residing in these unnamed camps. Two other doctors and I broke into teams along with a dental group to care for these refugees. The difference between Syrian refugees and refugees from other parts of the world is that the Syrians are very well educated, middle to upper class individuals who have been displaced due to severe conflict. In fact, I treated lawyers, engineers, accountants and their families while in the camp. Our group brought all the medical supplies necessary including a mobile pharmacy. When in the camp, one of the families cleared out their tent for us and we sat right on their floor mats and saw patients. We saw between 200-300 patients daily with surgical and medical complications. Patient after patient told us of their suffering in crossing the border, how they lost their homes, and how their children had never seen the inside of a classroom because the unnamed camps have no formal education system.

The Syrian conflict is complicated by the fact that there are not simply two parties at war with each other, rather there are multiple factions fighting to control Syria. But the people I met in these camps were not religious zealots or angry warriors. They were people just like you and I who just wanted food to eat, education for their children, and a safe home where they could care for their elders and enjoy their lives. One of the men in the camp, his eyes wet with tears, summed up the camp sentiment in one sentence: “We just want to live with dignity. We used to live with dignity. In Syria we had shops, houses, families. Today we are barely humans that other people want to come and take pictures of like animals in a zoo. And I wish we would be treated at least like animals because animals have the right to live, the right to be taken care of, and there are penalties for abusing animals. What about us? What is the penalty for abusing Syrians?”
As a 2-star general he had a run-in with Defence Minister Krishna Menon when he refused to snitch on the Army Chief and told Menon off. This almost brought his career to an end, but for Sam, upholding values trumped personal gain. As a 3-star general he stopped the young Indira Gandhi from entering the Ops Room of his Corps HQ in NEFA, as she lacked security clearance and risked incurring the wrath of her father, Prime Minister Nehru. In April 1971, as Chief of Army Staff, he stood up to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and offered to put in his papers rather than compromise the safety and security of his men through the misadventure of an untimely, unplanned war. In December that year, under his command the Indian army saw the creation of the new country of Bangladesh within two weeks and forever changed the map of the subcontinent. The government honoured him by promoting him to Field Marshal, a first for the Indian Army.

As India’s first Field Marshal, after the unprecedented victory of 1971.

As much as men in uniform loved Sam, the bureaucrats dreaded him. When the Ministry of Defence proposed discontinuation of free rum issue to troops in high altitude areas, he returned the file to the Secretary with a terse comment, “Over my dead body.” Chapter closed. The welfare of his men, his officers and their families came first, always and every time. Intolerant of sycophancy and indiscipline, Sam ran amuck that he’d been spied at The Tabela, a popular discotheque in Delhi. True or false, you’ll never know, for that is the enigma that still surrounds Sam Manekshaw.

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ruled with an iron rod, but tempered his demeanour with a large dose of compassion and an incomparable sense of humour. On a visit to a formation, explaining the absence of his wife Silloo, he said she never traveled on Saturdays as she considered them inauspicious days; “you see, that was the day on which she married me!”

All of the above and much more about the life of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw can be found in a coffee table book written by Brigadier (Retd.) Behram Panthaki and his wife, Zenobia. Behram served on the General’s staff for over six years and was a witness to many of the decisions and events that impacted the contours of the Indian sub-continent. Zenobia and he shared a closeness with Manekshaw that gave them a unique insight into his ideals, his military acumen, his mannerisms and his grand sense of humour. With 200 plus photographs, citations, letters from eminent personalities like Lord Mountbatten, Prime Ministers and Heads of State, the book has a lot to offer. It transports one to a time of gracious living and high thinking.

The book was launched on April 3, 2014, Sam’s 100th birthday, by General Bikram Singh, Chief of the Army Staff, at the iconic Manekshaw Center in Delhi Cantonment. A second release to celebrate Sam’s centenary was held on April 5, at the Delhi Parsi Anjuman, and a third release took place at the Trident Hotel, Mumbai, on April 14, 2014 where former Chief Justice of India, the Honorable Sam Bharucha, while launching the book, said it was a ‘must read’ not only for those of us who saw Sam in action but for the youth, for Manekshaw’s life symbolises the highest principles of public life.

The book has received excellent reviews. Three excerpts follow:

Fali Nariman, President, Bar Association of India and Former Additional Solicitor Gen of India and Member of the Rajya Sabha: “From beginning to end this delightful narrative simply races along, providing an intimate, witty and scintillating story of a superhero….Sam’s humanism, his notations on official files, his colourful language and his doodles, which occasionally set off tidal waves of mirth through Army Headquarters, make this book simply ‘un-put-down-able’!

Lt Gen Vijay Oberoi, Former Vice Chief of Army Staff: “An excellent book that is a labour of love and a tribute to the great Sam Bahadur… A delightful tale woven with great dexterity and garnished with a profusion of photographs that brings out the well-rounded personality of a proud soldier, a military leader par excellence and a great human being. This gem of a book is a must for your coffee table.”

Lalit Mansingh, Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to the United States: “While chronicling his career, Brig Behram Panthaki, ADC to Manekshaw and Zenobia Panthaki present him … as a family man, a comrade-in-arms, a strategist and a charismatic leader of the troops. It is a story narrated with affection and admiration but never with hyperbole. A(n) …eminently readable narrative…on a remarkable military leader who changed the course of India’s history.”

The book is dedicated ‘to men in uniform who laid down their lives defending our country and to their widows whose sacrifice is in equal measure’. The authors plan to donate a portion of the royalty to the War Wounded Foundation and the War Widows Welfare Fund. The book will be available in October 2014 but can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com at a discounted price of US$33.33 (full price is US$45.) You can search by entering the full title or the ISBN No. without the dashes. For additional information contact the authors at behrampanthaki (@) hotmail.com or zmasters1 (@) gmail.com (Zenobia).

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- **Play** with the World Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra under the baton of its Music Director, a professional conductor, Farobag Homi Cooper of Chicago at the Congress this December.
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