

FEZANA *bulletin*

November 2014 / VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 11



UPCOMING DATES

Through Dec 24, 2014
Wednesdays. 7:15pm. "The Zoroastrian Way of Life" An Introductory Audio-visual course. Dadar Athoman Institute, Dadar, India. [click here for details](#)

December 4-5, 2014
Humanicy: A conference on the role of Arts and Culture on Diplomacy. ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, NYC. [Details.](#)

December 13, 2014
Western Classical Music Concert showcasing accomplished Zoroastrian artists. Tickets at www.zagny.org

December 29-31, 2014
17th North American Zoroastrian Congress, Los Angeles, California www.nazc2014.org

February 5-6, 2015
Youth Assembly at the United Nations. New York City. <http://www.faf.org/main/>

March 9-25, 2015
59th Commission on the Status of Women Conference. United Nations Headquarters. [Details here.](#)

(DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

2014 FEZANA North American Zarathushti Community Awards

Committee Co-Chairs: Noshir A. Langrana and Adil F. Mistry

The FEZANA Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2014 FEZANA North American Zarathushti Community Awards.

It has been our privilege to Chair the 2014 FEZANA North American Zarathushti Community Awards Committee, and we feel especially honored to have participated in this prestigious and important biennial process that seeks to honor the best of the best from our community.

We were presented with outstanding candidates for the various award categories and we thank our panel of distinguished judges whose task to select the Award winners was not made easy by the achievements of each and every nominee that was put forth. Above all else, this is an opportunity for the larger North American Zarathushti community to recognize one of our own and we thank the various Member Associations of FEZANA for completing the nomination forms and proposing such noteworthy candidates.

Finally, we would like to thank FEZANA for the opportunity to be Co-Chairs, and Navroz Gandhi and Shehernaz Verahrami, the 2012 Co-Chairs, for their assistance. The Awardees for this year's Awards are:



*Rohinton Rivetna
Outstanding
Zarathushti Award*

SAM VESUNA



*Dinshaw Framroze
Joshi Excellence in
Performing Arts,
Painting or Literature
Award*

ARZAN GONDA



*Jamshed and Shirin
Guzdar Excellence in
Business or Profession
Award*

DR. DINSHAW J. PATEL

See full details on the FEZANA website: [Click here](#) for the announcement, and for full details of each awardee [click here](#).



*Humanitarian Service
Award*

NAZNEEN SPLIEDT



*Shirin Nariman Dastoor Outstanding
Young Zarathushti Student Awards*



PERSIS BHADHA



ERV PORUZ KHAMBATTA



*North American
Mobeds Council
Community Services
Award*

**ERVAD RAYOMAND
RAVJI**



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Archived issues of the FEZANA Bulletin are available on the FEZANA website at: http://www.fezana.org/BulletinArchives

FEZANA Bulletin is distributed to addresses listed in the FEZANA directory; to individuals included on the FEZANA group lists and to those requesting information about FEZANA. To opt out, contact: admin@fezana.org

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



SCAN HERE FOR MORE FEZANA INFO

ZAH Hosts Sarah Stewart Lectures

Photo by Indo American News



Sarosh Maneckshaw, Dr. Sarah Stewart and Aban Rustomji at the 11th Annual ZAH Library Lecture Series held on Nov 1-2, 2014.

On November 1-2, 2014, the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) held its 11th Annual Library Lecture Series. On this occasion, they hosted Dr. Sarah Stewart, a lecturer on Zoroastrianism at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SAOS), London and Curator of the recent exhibition, "The Everlasting Flame" which explored Zoroastrian history, culture and religion and also its influences on major religions of the world.

In this series of well-attended lectures, Dr. Stewart first spoke about the interweaving of three traditions (those of

Iranian heritage, those of Parsi heritage, and those that emerged more recently when Western Scholars began studying Zoroastrian texts) and how they shape the story of Zoroastrianism. In another lecture, Dr Stewart discussed topics related to her recent research on Zoroastrianism in travels to Iran.

ZAH's warm hospitality was displayed with a community dinner reception including entertainment by ZAH Dance and Choir group entitled "From Bollywood to Broadway." □

[Look for the full coverage of the lectures in FEZANA Journal, Winter 2014]

Making Interfaith Connections through North American Interfaith Network (NAIN)

By Maneck Bhujwala, Co-Chair, FEZANA Interfaith Activities Committee

FEZANA has been a dues paying member of NAIN for a number of years. It is important for our religion and community to be known in the interfaith community, especially as we are a very small community and most people do not know about us. Recently FEZANA became a member of their Board of Directors, with the election of Maneck Bhujwala (who was nominated by FEZANA as their representative) for a 4 year term. Maneck has been involved in interfaith activities and organizations for many years in northern and southern California, and is currently also on the Boards of Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council and South Coast Interfaith Council.

NAIN was incorporated in New York in 1990 and Jamsheed Mavalvala was one of the early members of NAIN.

Mission of NAIN: NAIN builds communication and mutual understanding among interfaith organizations and diverse religious groups throughout North America. Without infringing on the effort of existing organizations, NAIN facilitates the networking possibilities of these organizations and encourages cooperative interaction based on serving the needs and promoting the aspirations of all member groups. (Nov. 15, 2002)

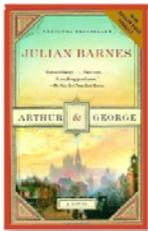
Vision of NAIN: NAIN's history holds a vision turned into reality that across North America religions can live together in peace, serve together in compassion, and



BOOK AWARENESS



Settle in with a riveting book with the holiday season approaching.



'Arthur and George' by Julian Barnes is based on an infamous case of wrongful conviction in 1903 — which took the efforts of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to resolve. George (Edalji) is wrongly convicted of a crime he didn't commit but he believes in English justice. Meanwhile, Arthur (Conan Doyle) works hard to clear the name of George and uncover the true culprit. The beautifully written novel details how the lives of two utter strangers intersected in what was known as "the Great Wryley Outrages." A contemporary novel set in the past, the book does not aim to stick closely to the historical record at every point.
<http://www.fires-fezana.org/>

INSIGHTS

Bhonu Prakash: Zoroastrians and Food in Historical Perspective

Dan Sheffield, Princeton University, as presented to the Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism Conference in Chicago in September 2014.

<http://tinyurl.com/mh2p800>
[YouTube; approx 25 minutes]

witness together to the validity of the spirit moving in us all. In an uncertain era of rapid social and technological change, NAIN's growth into the future holds for all of us a hope and a promise, that we can continue "Building Bridges of Compassion and Understanding."

NAIN Website is www.nain.org; List of NAIN Member Organizations is shown on the NAIN website [here](#). YouTube video of Maneck Bhujwala starting interfaith event with Avesta prayer in California: <http://zoroastrians.net/2013/09/18/blessing-of-the-waves/> □

Learning about Other Faiths at an Interfaith Dinner Dialogue

By Yasmin Medhora

Photos by Noshir Medhora



Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) opens its doors to 250 guests for an Interfaith Dinner Dialogue



ZAH Hosts were each assigned dinner tables where they engaged participants of all Faiths over dinner.

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) hosted an Interfaith "Dinner Dialogue" event at the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, Houston on Thursday, November 13, 2014. This event was a grand success well attended by 250 individuals. The unique dinner format was designed to encourage interaction amongst various faith traditions. Each of the 25 tables had: a ZAH host, a moderator from Interfaith and 8 other individuals from various faiths.

The Dinner Dialogue is an evening where Houstonians gather to learn about the hosts' faith, learn about one another's faith traditions and share a vegetarian meal. The dinner evening consisted of two parts. The first round was for the host family to share about his/her practices and included a brief period of questions from the participants. The second round allowed each dinner guest to reflect on one of a few prompts given to share a story from their experience of faith. The intention of the dinner is to provide an intimate, enjoyable environment for participants to learn about one another's faith traditions in a respectful format. □
[Look for full article in FEZANA Journal, Winter 2014]

Give the Gift of Sight at NAZC 2014

We invite you to engage everyone from across the continent in collecting gently used prescription eyeglasses and sending them to the 2014 North American Zoroastrian Congress in Los Angeles with your emissaries.

The Congress will work with other local like-minded organizations to ship the eyeglasses collected to eye camps in Mexico or Panama or other places identified by *Operation Eyesight* where there is a need for them.

Let's come together: Our united actions can make a difference in our world today! www.nazc2014.org



UPCOMING DATES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

March 10-22, 2015
Return to Roots Track B
Tour. [Apply here](#). More
[details here](#).

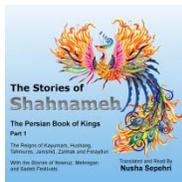
October 15-19, 2015
2015 Parliament of the
World's Religions. Salt Lake
City. [Click here](#).

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH GARDENS

Deadline: December 31

Katie's Krops is offering grants to youth between the ages of 9 and 16 to start vegetable gardens with the harvest donated to feed people in need. The winners will be awarded a gift card to a garden center in their area, support from Katie's Krops, and a digital camera to document the garden and the harvest [Apply](#) on the katiekrops.com website.

AUDIO RESOURCE



Stories of Shahnameh

Now Available -- An audio book in English and Persian languages, created by Afshin Sepehri and Nusha Sepehri, with the goal of introducing the beautiful stories of Shahnameh.

www.shahnameh-audio.com

Zoroastrians of Beijing Read the *FEZANA Journal*

By Homi D. Gandhi



In Beijing. From left: Mehernosh Pastakia, General Manager of The Taj Pavilion; Homi Gandhi; Aaftab and Kairaz Contractor. Contractor children in the photo are getting tired as it is long past their bedtime.

In fact there are only two long time resident Zoroastrian families in Beijing, China, Pastakia and Contractor. But they love reading *FEZANA Journal* as they say, "the *Journal* gives them a good perspective of what is happening in the new Diaspora." They said that some Zoroastrians come for work for a short period but they have not stayed there for long periods, or at least they are not aware of other Zoroastrians in their area.

Mehernosh Pastakia has been in Beijing for 20+ years, lives with his wife, Wen, and teenager son, Kersi, and owns and runs three Indian restaurants under the name of Taj Pavilion. His restaurants and cuisine are so famous that almost all Indian

groups travelling to Beijing make this place as the first stop. On the night of my visit, there was a group of 170+ Indian doctors, enjoying "the home cooked Indian food." Mehernosh has taken care of the food requirements of many dignitaries including Indian Prime Ministers Narendra Modi, Man Mohan Singh, and Indian President Dr. Abdul Kalam.

Kairaz Contractor is in China for 10+ years (last 5 years in Beijing) with his wife, Aaftab, and two young daughters. Many in the northeast US might remember him when he was studying at Syracuse University at the turn of the century. Kairaz was with Nokia when he moved to Beijing but now he works for Microsoft as that part of Nokia was taken over by Microsoft in the recent history.

Mehernosh welcomes Zoroastrians visiting Beijing. I would recommend anyone visiting Beijing to experience the restaurant and enjoy the sumptuous food. Mehernosh has also offered to help any Zarathushti who would like to do business in the area. Here is an opportunity for WZCC members to spread your wings! ☐

PERSPECTIVES

Iran: The Land of Devotion

An exploration of Zoroastrianism in Iran with a discussion of its history and roots in Iran. Documentary Style.

[approx 21:30 minutes]

[YouTube](#)

TRAVEL RESOURCE

Private Tour of Iran

Now Booking
May 12, 2015 – June 2, 2015.

Visiting Tehran, Shiraz, Persepolis, Nagsh-e-Rostom, Pasargarde, Yazd, Isfahan, Damavand, Azargoshnasb Fire Temple, Caspian Sea, Hamedan, Kermanshah and many more. Includes Hotels, 3 internal Air flights 2 Boat rides and 1 cable car ride.

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