

FEZANA *bulletin*

December 2014 / VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 12



UPCOMING DATES

December 29-31, 2014

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

January 15, 2015

Application Deadline for Return To Roots Track B Tour 2015.
<http://zororoots.org/apply/>

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.](#)

March 10-22, 2015

Return to Roots Track B Tour. [Apply here.](#) More [details here.](#)

May 2-3, 2015

28th FEZANA Annual General Meeting. Hosted by ZAPANJ. Details to come.

October 15-19, 2015

2015 Parliament of the World's Religions. Salt Lake City. [Click here.](#)

XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress



With the XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress about to commence in Los Angeles, the Program Schedule is available for viewing on the [NAZC 2014 website](#). Check it out and pick the sessions you plan to attend! The high caliber program is designed

to engage all delegates. Highlights include:

Khushali nu Jashan; Keynotes delivered by Parisa Khosravi and Nadir Godrej; The Khorshed Jungalwala Memorial Lecture; FEZANA Awards... and more! □

FEZANA wishes to congratulate the joint efforts of Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) and California Zoroastrian Center (CZC) in the organizing of the NAZC 2014. We thank all the dedicated volunteers for their long hours of hard work, commitment and dedication to make this event a SUCCESS. Best Wishes for a successful Congress!

North American Zarathushtis Were Bestowed Honors at Enterprise Dubai 2014

On December 18, 2014 at the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) Annual General Meeting and Gala -- which preceded Enterprise Dubai 2014 -- three awards were presented to North American Zarathushtis: Edul Daver (New Jersey) 2014 Entrepreneur of the Year; Nina Godiwalla (Texas) 2014 Professional of the Year; Shirin Kumaana-Wadia (New York) 2014 Young Entrepreneur / Professional.

More details posted on the [FEZANA website](#).

Also, during Enterprise Dubai 2014, Katayun Kapadia, FEZANA President, and Roshan Rivetna were each honored with Community Service Awards.



Edul Daver and Shirin Kumaana-Wadia received honors (along with Nina Godiwalla, not pictured) at the WZCC AGM and Gala in Dubai.

FEZANA congratulates all of the Award Winners at Enterprise Dubai. □



Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)

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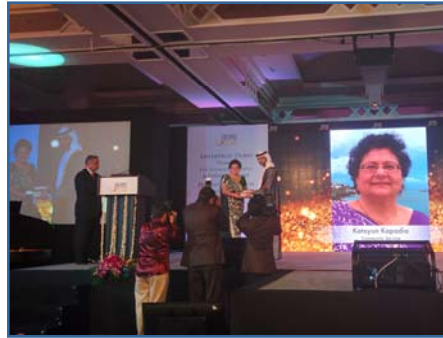
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United Nations



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Katayun Kapadia (left) and Roshan Rivetna (right) receiving Community Service Honors at Enterprise Dubai 2014.



AROUND FEZANA: News from FEZANA Committees

FEZANA Public Relations Committee Announces New Co-Chair

Mahrukh Motafram has accepted an appointment as Co-Chair of the FEZANA Public Relations Committee. She will join Co-Chair Porus Cooper on the committee.

We gratefully thank the outgoing Co-Chair, Zenobia Ravji efforts on the committee in the past years.

MAHRUKH MOTAFRAM

Mahrukh Motafram resides in Sammamish, WA with her husband Feroze. She has two grown children, Freya and Jamsheed. She works part-time for Ann Taylor stores, a major high-end women's store. She enjoys volunteering at the local chapter of Assistance League, a national non-profit organization, and is a co-chair for one of their philanthropic programs, Operation School Bell. The program provides clothing for kids from low-income families; over 3000 kids from three local school districts benefit from this program.



For most of her life in the US, she has been an active volunteer with FEZANA. She has served on the FEZANA executive board and continues to serve as a committee chair for Strategic Planning and Milestones editor for *FEZANA Journal*. At present she is Vice President for the Zoroastrian Society of Washington State.

FEZANA welcomes Mahrukh to her new position on the committee and looks forward to working with her. □

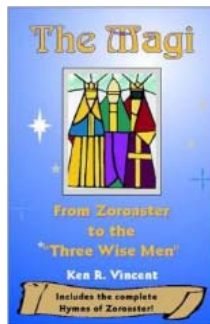
GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT!

The NAZC 2014 is collecting gently used and usable prescription eyeglasses (NO sunglasses please) to send to eye camps in countries identified by *Lions In Sight* www.lionsinsight.org 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



BOOK AWARENESS



Do you know why Zoroastrian priests are on your Christmas cards? Dr. Ken Vincent shines light on a topic previously known mainly to scholars; he provides the layperson an extremely readable but thorough exploration of a religion which predates Christianity by hundreds of years. This easy-to-read introduction highlights the parallels between Zoroaster and both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament and shows the use of Zoroastrian imagery in the Dead Sea Scrolls. An appendix includes an English translation of the complete hymns of Zoroaster.

<http://www.fires-fezana.org/>

E-Course on Zarathushti Religion Offered

With the goal of providing sound knowledge of the fundamentals of Zarathushti Religion, the **Zarathushti Learning Center of North America** will offer an **E-Course on Zarathushti Religion** starting in **January 2015**. This e-course will be emailed free of cost to all interested individuals, one lesson each month.

The lessons are based on the teachings of Dastoorji Navroze Minocher Homji. These lessons were developed by Kayomarsh Mehta in Chicago over the last 30 years. They continue to be in use in the Religion Education Programs at several locations worldwide. The lessons concentrate on understanding the fundamental concepts of our religion, as expressed in our daily Avesta Prayers. Mastering these concepts will enable us to recite our prayers intelligently with full understanding of what they mean. They will teach us as to how to live our daily life according to the teachings of our religion.

Mere muttering of Prayers without understanding their meaning might indicate faith in them; but, such muttering leaves the Spiritual Thirst of our Soul unquenched. Let us mend that mode. Let us discover that there is more to our religion than just Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds.

If you are interested in receiving these lessons of the **E-Course on Zarathushti Religion**, please send an email to **kayomehta (@) aol.com** expressing your desire to register for the course.

Zarathushti Learning Center of North America was established as an independent Foundation in 1999 by Nergish and Kayomarsh Mehta of Chicago, Illinois, USA. The Foundation is committed to serve the educational needs of Zarathushtis worldwide.

Kayomarsh Mehta is a Religion Education Teacher, Chair of Religion Education, a Director, a Trustee and the past President of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago. Kayomarsh has also served as the Chair of Religion Education of FEZANA and is a recipient of the Outstanding Zoroastrian Award of FEZANA. Kayomarsh is currently serving as the President of World Zoroastrian Organization (WZO) US Region. □

2015 Parliament of World Religions Update

CALL FOR PROGRAMS DEADLINE

The Parliament of the World's Religions to be held on October 15-19, 2015 in Salt Lake City Call for Programs Deadline is approaching: **January 15, 2015**.



FEZANA encourages all interested

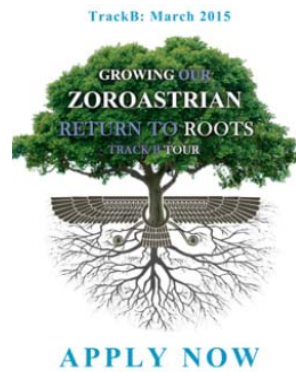
Zarathushtis to participate in the momentous 2015 Parliament. This is a great opportunity for the Zarathushtis of North America as well as around the world to participate in this world class event. FEZANA will be participating and presenting several programs. We would like to get your input. [Click here to review detailed Call for Program information on the parliament website.](#)

FEZANA Interfaith Committee will be the primary FEZANA contact for this Event.

Please contact: Shernaz Minwalla at [sjminwalla \(@\) gmail.com](mailto:sjminwalla@gmail.com); Maneck Bhujwala at [mbhujwala \(@\) socal.rr.com](mailto:mbhujwala@socal.rr.com); Rohinton Rivetna at [Rivetna \(@\) aol.com](mailto:Rivetna@aol.com); Homi Gandhi at [homidgandhi \(@\) gmail.com](mailto:homidgandhi@gmail.com) □



Return To Roots Track B Tour: March 2015



The Return to Roots (RTR) is accepting application for its Track B Tour which will run from March 10-22, 2015. Deadline for applications is January 15, 2015. For details visit <http://zororoots.org/apply/>.

On the Track B Tour, Return to Roots participants will tour historic and cultural Zoroastrian significant sites in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Gujarat, with world-renowned experts and local guides explaining the cultural and economic significance of the places being visited. Participants are expected to attend all days of the Program.

The RTR Track B Tour is accepting applications from people between the ages of 20 and 35. However consider applying even if you fall outside of the suggested age range. □

Adult Avesta Choir Performs at 35th Annual Interfaith Concert in D.C.



Photo Credit: Jack Gordon

On November 20, 2014, the Adult Avesta Choir, consisting of members of ZAMWI, sang at the 35th Annual Interfaith Music Concert at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. They performed: **Yasna 28** - Based on the Edition of Karl F. Geldner's, "Avesta, the Sacred Book of the Parsis" (Stuttgart, 1896); and **Jashn-e-Sadeh** (*Winter Festival*) By Khodi Kaviani and Nooshafarin.

Director: Sima Sekhavat. **Pianist:** Yasna Goshtasbi.

Choir: Anne Khademian, Parisa Mazdeyasni Izadyar, Shahrzaad Nasrabadi, Shahrzad Yazdani, Shirin Bavafa, Behram Pastakia, Farzad Aidun, Jamshid Parsinejad, Mehran Khadivi, Mehrdad Izadyar.

Soloist: Yasna Khademian