

FEZANA *bulletin*

May 2015 / VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 5



UPCOMING DATES

June 7, 2015

Geet aur Ghazal: An Evening with Penaz Masani. Rolling Meadows, IL. Zoroastrian Assoc of Chicago fundraiser. ZACpenaz@gmail.com

June 21, 2015

International Day of Yoga; National Mall, Washington D.C.

July 6-17, 2015

Introduction to the Avestan Language; Bhandarkar Oriental Institute, Pune India. Parzor in collaboration with SOAS. shrikant.bahulkar@gmail.com

August 5-7, 2015

[Youth Assembly at the United Nations](#), NYC.

Sept 5-6, 2015

Zoroastrian Unity Cup Games. Redondo Beach, CA. www.zathletics.com

October 15-19, 2015

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

December 18-20, 2015

World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) Annual General Meeting. Panaji, Goa, India. <http://wzcc.net>

Dec 28, 2015-Jan 2, 2016

6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress. Auckland, NZ <http://www.6wzyc.co.nz/>

FEZANA Subsidy for Young Zarathushtis to Attend 6WZYC2015 – Deadline Extend

The extended application deadline (June 10) is approaching for the FEZANA Subsidy for Zarathushti youth from USA and Canada to attend the 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (6WZYC2015) in Auckland, New Zealand in December 2015. FEZANA will provide a subsidy of a minimum of \$500 per person up to \$1000 depending on the number of applications received.

Subsidy applicants need not preregister for the Youth Congress. Subsidy awardees will register after July 15. [Click here](#) to download application from the FEZANA website.

Contact Sherazade Mehta (sherazadem @ yahoo.com) or Saghar Javanshir (sjbehroozi @ verizon.net) for eligibility details and information. **Application deadline is June 10, 2015.**

FEZANA encourages its Member associations to match or exceed the FEZANA subsidy. □

FEZANA Annual General Meeting Convenes in the Philadelphia Area

By Porus Cooper, Co-chair FEZANA Public Relations Committee

Every year, elected representatives of the Zarathushti community from across North America, serving as delegates to the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA), gather to look back to tasks completed and ahead to tasks unfinished or yet to be undertaken.



Delegates gather in King of Prussia, PA, at the FEZANA AGM to look back at the year and to plan for tasks ahead

In this respect, FEZANA's Annual General Meeting, much like a birthday or anniversary, is an opportunity for the community to both, celebrate and take stock – celebrate the accomplishments of the year past and take the measure of the distance yet to be traveled.

FEZANA President Katayun Kapadia touched on both aspects as she kicked off the organization's 28th Annual General Meeting, which was held in King of Prussia, Pa., May 2-3, with the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey being generous and ever-attentive hosts.

Among the accomplishments:

- The Return to Roots program that for a second year in a row took a group of Zarathushti young adults on a tour of places in India of historic, cultural, and religious significance to the community. "The idea of a Zoroastrian Return to



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



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Roots program was born out of the increasing disconnect between those Zoroastrians in the Diaspora with their ancestral communities in Iran and India,” Kapadia said.

- The successful staging of the XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress in Los Angeles, Calif., in December 2014.
- The creation of a new curriculum by the Religious Education Committee.
- FEZANA’s presence at the Global Working Group meeting in Dubai in December 2014 where topics of common concern were on the agenda, including a mobed upliftment program.
- The extension of the Zoroastrian Studies program at Stanford University for three more years, through 2018.

Among tasks in progress:

- Continuing to advance the goals of FEZANA’s second 10-year strategic plan, including fostering “hamazori” – harmony – among various Zarathushti groups and ensuring economic stability through fund-raising and prudent investments.
- Assessing and finding ways to bring to fruition the infrastructure needs of the community in North America, a difficult task given funding challenges.
- Developing a strategy to subsidize the participation of youth in North American and world Zoroastrian congresses.

Two dynamic pre-AGM sessions were held on May 1, each aimed at providing tools essential for success to FEZANA member associations.

Arzan Sam Wadia, FEZANA Webmaster, led an informative presentation titled “Take Your Association Online,” which addressed the topic of creating and maintaining websites. “Keeping your web presence current keeps your community informed and involved,” he said. Wadia provided guidance on a range of web-related ideas, from setting up websites to integrating and making more efficient use of the association mailing list. He also offered to assist FEZANA member associations build their web presence.

The second pre-AGM session was a workshop on fundraising. It provided useful tips for success in fundraising, using case studies and success stories. The discussion was led by Kavasji Dadachanji, Gev Nentin, Ratan Mistry, Sarosh Collector, Rohinton Rivetna, and Edul Daver.

The AGM that followed heard reports from various FEZANA committees, all of which have been compiled in a report book that is available online at FEZANA.org.

It also heard from Rohinton Rivetna, a former FEZANA president and widely considered a community visionary, who made a case for designing sacred spaces and *dadgahs* as focal points for worship.

On the evening of May 2, ZAPANJ, in collaboration with the New York Chapter of World Zarathushti Chamber of Congress (WZCC), hosted a dinner banquet at Milestone Events in West Chester, Pa., that heard from keynote speaker Homi



ZAPANJ volunteers (L-R): Havovi Jokhi, Khorshed Unwalla, Hutoxi Sarkari, Tanaz Daruwalla



Delegates representing fifteen FEZANA Member Associations attended the FEZANA AGM

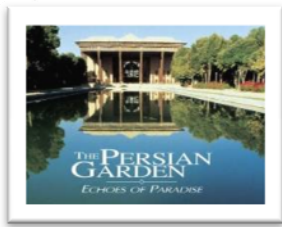


COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jashan in the Baug

On Sunday June 21, 11:00am, the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) will showcase North American Mobeds in a grand *Khushali nu Jashan* on the grounds of OZCF. Jashan and lunch \$10. <http://www.ozcf.com/event-1890233>

BOOK AWARENESS



The Persian Garden: Echoes of Paradise by Mehdi Khansari, chronicles the history of the Persian garden. For more than three thousand years, the Persian garden has influenced art, literature, and even religion. The Persian garden's inspirational role has, however, extended far beyond the land of its origin; its precepts have exerted a profound influence on garden design around the world. It was seen as a kind of earthly paradise (the English word paradise has its roots in the old Persian word pairi-daeza meaning a walled space). To an astonishing extent, that vision seems justified.

Visit our website at <http://www.fires-fezana.org/>

Kapadia. The speaker, a principal at Deloitte Consulting LLP, vice chairman and National Life Sciences Leader there, emphasized that constant innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit were needed to be successful in today's ever-changing business environment.

The AGM was attended by representatives of 15 member associations, representing 70 percent of FEZANA qualifying votes. Also in attendance was the complete FEZANA executive – President Katayun Kapadia, Vice President Homi Gandhi, Treasurer Nilufer Shroff, and Secretary Saghar Javanshir. Also participating were representatives of 18 FEZANA committees and working groups. □

Join Us at the Parliament of the World's Religions

At the 2015 [Parliament of World's Religions](#) from October 15-19, FEZANA representatives have been invited to lead and participate in panel discussions entitled: The Interfaith Model – does it need tweaking; Relationship with the Divine as Manifested by Various Faiths; A Petition for the Establishment of a Religious Arm of the United Nations.



We will also have an opportunity to participate in other events focusing on climate change, violence, and the wealth gap with attention to women, indigenous communities and youth.

This promises to be an enlightening experience. FEZANA has two Parliament Registration tickets available at a discounted rate of \$425 if you register between now and June 30 (the regular registration fee is \$475). Individuals are responsible for their own travel and accommodations expenses.

Through presentations, display tables, prayer, and participation, FEZANA representatives can educate others about the Zoroastrian religion, culture, and customs at this international interfaith forum.

If you have further questions regarding the parliament or are interested in joining us in October, please contact Shernaz Minwalla, co-chair of the Interfaith Activities Committee at sjminwalla@gmail.com. □

Call for Nominations: WZCC Awards



Every year, the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) honours individuals with Recognition Awards in three categories:

- Global Outstanding Zarathushti Entrepreneur
- Global Outstanding Zarathushti Professional
- Global Outstanding Young Zarathushti Entrepreneur / Professional (up to age 35 years)

Nominations should be submitted before **31 August 2015**. Further details are available on WZCC Website <http://www.wzcc.net> – under "Nomination Package – 2015".