

FEZANA *bulletin*

October 2016 / VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 10



UPCOMING DATES

November 5, 2016

FEZANA's 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration Kick Off - Chicago.
Nostalgia filled evening recalling the founding of FEZANA.
roshni_sa [a] hotmail.com

November 5, 2016

6th Annual Farhang Foundation Gala. Beverly Hills, CA.
<http://www.farhang.org/>

November 5, 2016

Musical Extravaganza fundraiser for ZACUCE. Mt. Laurel, New Jersey
zacuce.news [a] gmail.com

November 10-14, 2016

Wisdom of the Prophets – Part III: Sufism and Zoroastrianism. With Pir Zia Inayat-Khan, Dr Jehan Bagli, and Dr Sousan Abadian; New Lebanon NY.

November 12, 2016

Jamva Chaloji. www.zagny.org

November 20, 2016

Annual Gahambar and AGM. [Zoroastrian Association of Florida](http://www.zoroastrian.org/florida). Miramar, Florida.

November 26, 2016

Masquerade Ball. ZAMWI fundraiser to benefit American Cancer Society and ZAMWI.

December 16-18, 2016

WZCC AGM. "Building the Spirit of Entrepreneurship" Hong Kong
<http://www.wzcc.net/>

(DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

FEZANA Announces International Competition to Design a New Logo

The brief of the competition includes: "The logo should have a Zoroastrian theme and reflect FEZANA's Mission. It may reflect any aspect of Zoroastrian religion, culture, architecture, iconography, social custom, tradition, philosophy, etc. that the artist chooses. It should be professional in appearance and appropriate for a North American charitable organization like FEZANA. It should have universal appeal, but be of relevance – stylistically and otherwise – in North American society, and particularly, in the North American Zoroastrian communities that FEZANA serves."

For full terms and conditions, prize money, submission info and members of the judging panel continue reading at

<https://fezana.org/logodesign/>

New Public Relations Committee Co-Chairs

FEZANA is pleased to announce that Rustom Kevala and Jim Engineer will serve as new Co-Chairs for the FEZANA Public Relations Committee:



Rustom Kevala, Ph.D. is a past-president of FEZANA. As president, his main focus was on building a united Zarathushti community with a firm footing and a viable infrastructure in North America. Under his leadership, the FEZANA office was opened in Chicago to provide administrative liaison with member associations as well as the general public; and FEZANA Information, Research & Education System (FIRES) was established in Houston to serve as the central location for the collection of Zarathushti literature and artifacts, promote

Zarathushti education and research, and disseminate relevant information to the public. Prior to his election as president, Rustom had served as FEZANA treasurer and chaired the Information Receiving and Disseminating committee, which publishes the *FEZANA Journal*.

Rustom firmly believes in effective public relations to make Zarathushti religion and activities better known throughout North America. Zarathushtis must be recognized as members of a great religion with ethical foundations and a tradition of living in harmony with people of diverse cultures and religious beliefs. And just as the first generation of Zarathushtis that brought its culture and traditions from the old world had complete freedom to practice our religion and write the charters for our institutions in North America the way they saw fit; the next generations must also be given the freedom to chart the course for their future and to ensure that our great religion remains ever relevant and spiritually fulfilling for all its followers.

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Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)

President
Homi D. Gandhi
president@fezana.org

Registered Address
5750 S Jackson Street
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Administrative Office
8615 Meadowbrook Drive
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Phone: 630-468-2705
E-mail: admin@fezana.org
Web: www.fezana.org

 Facebook: [FEZANA](https://www.facebook.com/FEZANA)

 Twitter: [@FEZANA1](https://twitter.com/FEZANA1)

Archived issues of the
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website at:
<http://fezana.org/publications/bulletinarchives/>

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



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FEZANA INFO



Jim Engineer is an award-winning public relations professional specializing in technology influencer relations, reputation management, media relations, analyst relations, crisis communications, and catapulting the image and reputation of high-growth, high-innovation emerging technology companies. Of note, Jim has represented start-up and high-growth software and services companies in the information security industry, resulting in category leadership, market capitalization and more than \$2 billion in client acquisition value since 1999. He also takes pride in his commitment to clients in related and non-related industries, including steel construction, recycling and other circular economy endeavors.

In 2011, Jim was awarded the *Bulldog Reporter Stars of PR Media Relations Professional of the Year (Silver)* for his work with client Mandiant; and earned a *2013 Bulldog Digital/Social PR Award for Excellence in Online Communications – Best Use of Digital in a B2B Technology Campaign* for client, ITinvolve. He has been cited as *One of the True Cybersecurity Influencers on Twitter* by leading technology media analyst Sam Whitmore, and is a proud member of the Public Relations Society of America. Jim graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in Journalism.

On the Zoroastrian scene, Jim will serve as co-chair of FEZANA's Public Relations Committee and as a board director at the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago. He has been inspired by the leadership and mentorship of Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna and Rustom Kevala, among other stalwart North American Zoroastrian leaders. His background and contributions to the North American Zoroastrian community span two decades, most notably: in 1988 he started *FEZANA Journal's* Youthfully Speaking section to foster youth dialogue; served as an at-large contributing writer and guest editor for *FEZANA Journal*; in 1993 represented Zoroastrian youth at the Congress for a Parliament of World's Religions; served three FEZANA presidents as Public Relations Chair or Co-Chair; attended, coordinated and facilitated next generation focus groups and programming at youth and North American Zoroastrian congresses; co-founded NextGenNow, a next generation leadership incubator; co-chaired the Chicago Chapter of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce; served as a board director for the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago; and most recently was responsible for marketing and communications for the 15th Zoroastrian Games in Chicago.

FEZANA welcomes Rustom and Jim into their new roles. □

FEZANA Journal Youth Contest Winners

Over the summer, the *FEZANA Journal* held a **Youth Contest** to encourage youth under 16 to submit their original poems and anecdotes on topics related to Grandparents or Age. The winning entries for Best Poem were: First Prize awarded to **Carina Daruwala** (Age 13) and Second Prize to **Sanaya Irani** (Age 11). **Rashni Katki** (Age 8) won First Prize for Best Anecdote. Check out their award winning reflections in the upcoming Fall Issue of the *FEZANA Journal*.

Learn how to become a healthy centenarian in the Fall issue on "Aging Gracefully – Opportunities and Challenges"! Enlivened with personal stories and advice you can use, this engaging issue is a resource for seniors and those caring for seniors. Subscribe at www.FEZANA.org (North American subscribers pay only \$35 per year).

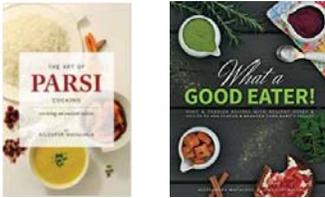
□



BOOK AWARENESS



A good cookbook is the total package: it has delicious recipes that work, beautiful photography, writing that inspires and intrigues, and, most importantly, it covers a type of food that people are excited to eat. This month we are proud to herald cook books from two of our FEZANA members. We thank the authors for their donation to FIRES.



The Art of Parsi Cooking: reviving an ancient cuisine by Niloufer Mavalvala.

Macauley Publishers, 2016. \$35.95 hard cover \$27.95 pb.

Born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, Niloufer's love for food combined with extensive world travel from a young age inspired her to experiment with world cuisines. Author of 10 e-cookbooks, she also writes for the Huffington Post, assorted magazines and journals from around the world.

What a Good Eater! By Amy Godiwalla. Kentucky, Lexington, Self Published, 2016. \$29.99

Amy was born and raised in in Houston, Texas. Her book primarily aimed as a baby and toddler cookbook, with healthy herbs and spices to add flavor, is equally appealing to adult taste as well. Amy's exposure to different foods at an impressionable age is welcome and customary.

Visit our website at

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

A Young Zarathushti Scientist's NASA Project



Garshasb (Gary) Soroosh studies Physiology and Neurobiology as a senior at the University of Maryland, College Park, and has been conducting biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health for 5 years, leading projects that ranged in focus from molecular neuroscience to microbial pathogenesis.

After having been selected finalists in the UMD Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Mission 10, in February 2017, Gary and his team will send an experimental capsule of bacteria (to study the effects of space on it) on a rocket destined for the International Space Station. Analysis after receiving the bacteria back from space will be key.

Gary had represented FEZANA at the United Nations at the World Summit of the Information Society, (WSIS +10) at the UN Headquarters in New York in December 2015. Details of this participation are reported in the *Fezana Journal* --summer 2016 issue (which is themed on "Mehregan"). In addition to research, Gary dedicates much of his time as a leading member of RAD-AID International, a global health nonprofit committed to improving access to radiology in developing regions of the world. On campus, he is president of the American Society for Microbiology Student Chapter, Quality of Care Representative to the University Health Center, and a member of the Student Health Advisory Committee, in addition to volunteering at free clinics in the College Park area.

The Space Project

Not knowing exactly how and why bacteria behave differently in space poses a serious risk for astronaut safety. The project goal is to understand, on the molecular level, how bacteria change the expression of their genes in space, focusing on why they move more easily in microgravity. In February, these young scientists will send an experimental capsule containing dormant bacteria to the International Space Station. The bacteria will grow in space, where they will adapt to this microgravity environment, and then will be returned to Earth for analysis. A powerful technique called RNAseq will be used to analyze bacterial gene expression patterns; by running the same experiment in parallel on Earth, scientists will essentially be able to observe any and every difference in bacterial gene expression caused by microgravity. This work can contribute to astronaut safety on long-term voyages. [Click here for details, or to donate to this project](#) □

CONNECTIONS AND YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Grants Available for Innovative Youth Initiatives

More than 42 million people living in the U.S., including 13 million children, are at risk of hunger. If you're a student between the ages of 5 and 25 and you're finding innovative solutions to fight hunger, now is your chance to apply to be part of the next Hunger Squad.

Applications for the 2017 Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarships are open now until **December 5, 2016**. Winners receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a \$5,000 grant for their hunger-related charity.

Learn more and apply at HelpStopHunger.org



UPCOMING DATES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

January 15-18, 2017

UN World Data Forum Cape Town, South Africa.

www.undataforum.org

March 13-24, 2017

CSW61 (Commission on the Status of Women)

Conference. *United Nations*, NYC. [CSW61](#)

April 28-30, 2017

FEZANA Annual General Meeting. Hosted by Zoroastrian Association of Houston.

admin@fezana.org

April 29, 2017

FEZANA's 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration - Houston.

Details to be circulated.

October 21, 2017

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference.

Detroit, Michigan.

June 1-4, 2018

11th World Zoroastrian Congress, Perth, Australia

<http://11wzperth.com.au/>

Call for Participation at the United Nations World Data Forum – South Africa

United Nations World Data Forum Dates: January 15-18, 2017
Application Deadline: November 15, 2016

The first UN World Data Forum will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15-18 January 2017, hosted by the Government of South Africa and Statistics South Africa.

The Forum will bring together key experts from governments, businesses, civil society and the scientific and academic communities to discuss opportunities and challenges and showcase the latest innovations to improve data and statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

FEZANA, in its capacity as a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has been invited to send delegates.

Information on the Forum is available at: www.undataforum.org

Zarathushtis interested in participating in this event are requested to send their curriculum vitae and a letter of intent to both the following individuals:

Afreed Mistry Mistry.Afreed (@) [gmail.com](mailto:Mistry.Afreed@gmail.com)

Behram Pastakia bpastakia (@) [aol.com](mailto:bpastakia@aol.com)

Deadline for receiving applications is 15 November 2016.

While FEZANA will make entry available to the **selected** candidates to the United Nations event, the responsibility of cost of travel, visa, and accommodations in Cape Town, will be that of each individual to bear.

Afreed Mistry,
 Behram Pastakia
 Co-Chairs, FEZANA UN-NGO Committee

Send us your news to share!

FEZANA *bulletin*

In keeping with part of FEZANA's mission of serving the North American Zoroastrian Community, *FEZANA Bulletin* – which is published monthly – is used, among other things, to spread good news from its Member Associations, Corresponding Members and the achievements of outstanding individual Zarathushtis of our community. The sharing of ideas can inspire others across the FEZANA community.

If you've got some news to share please email it to admin@fezana.org for possible inclusion in the *FEZANA Bulletin* before the 10th of each month.