

FEZANA *bulletin*

June 2017 / VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 6



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- Remembering Dadabhai Naoroji · p1
- Unveiling the Freedom Sculpture in Los Angeles · p2
- A New Mobedyar for ZSWS p2
- Khatibi Scholarship p4

UPCOMING DATES

- July 4, 2017**
Unveiling of the Freedom Sculpture in Los Angeles (see page 2)
- July 8, 2017**
Shahnameh! Adventures from the Persian Book of Kings. Children's Theater in the Woods. Vienna, VA.
- July 10-12, 2017**
Spark Business Academy for Youth. Suffern, NY. Sponsored by WZCC-NY. Financial incentives available to first registrants. eduldaver (at) gmail.com
- July 15, 2017**
Third Annual Kamran Seminar. Featuring Professor Matthew Stolper Kamran Dar-e-Mehr Boyds MD.
- August 1, 2017**
United Nations DPI/NGO Intergenerational Dialogues event. New York City.
<http://bit.ly/2sBgZ23>

(Dates continued on page 4)

Remembering Dadabhai Naoroji on the 100th Anniversary of his Death

[On the upcoming 100th death anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji, Dinyar Patel, Chair of FEZANA Research and Preservation Committee, and a leading scholar on the life and work of Dadabhai Naoroji; has written the article below. FEZANA encourages Member Associations and Zoroastrian communities to share this article with their mailing lists, family and friends. FEZANA also encourages Zoroastrian communities across North America to consider marking the occasion by organizing special community service events, or readings, or lectures.

Dinyar Patel further adds: " ...When events are organized, it would very appropriate to have some community service angle. Naoroji's primary concern was the alleviation of poverty, and all his political activities, including his call for Swaraj (self-Government), were premised on this. Something like feeding the homeless, providing books or education supplies to the needy, etc., would, I think, be the most appropriate way to honor his legacy."



Article by Dr. Dinyar Patel, Assistant Professor of History, University of South Carolina, and Chair, Research and Preservation Committee, FEZANA

On 30 June 2017, many Indians will observe the hundredth death anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917), an important figure in India's struggle for independence from British colonialism and the first Indian to be elected to the British Parliament. Naoroji was a Parsi, a member of the tiny Zoroastrian community of India that today numbers only 60,000 in that country. Nevertheless, in the course of his five decades of political work, Naoroji played a vital role in uniting members of India's diverse religious and ethnic communities into a movement for political reform and colonial emancipation.

In 1825, when Naoroji was born in Bombay (today's Mumbai), the British had been a colonial power in India for over eighty years, causing famine and economic disruption in many parts of the country. Naoroji was, himself, born in relative poverty: his parents migrated from southern Gujarat as its local textile economy collapsed. Through his academic performance, however, Naoroji managed to secure scholarships for attending Bombay's best educational institutions. At the age of 28, he became the first Indian appointed as a full professor in a British-administered college, teaching mathematics and physics. He also began adopting extremely progressive positions on various social issues. At a time when most women in India lacked any form of education, he established some of the first schools in Bombay for girls. Naoroji also criticized the British government for not doing more to educate its Indian subjects.

Continue reading at: <https://fezana.org/remembering-dadabhai-naoroji-on-the-hundredth-anniversary-of-his-death/> □



**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
FEZANA Bulletin are
available on the FEZANA
website at:
<http://fezana.org/publication/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

Freedom Sculpture to be Unveiled in Los Angeles on Independence Day, July 4



Initiated by the Farhang Foundation in Los Angeles, the Freedom Sculpture set to stand in the heart of Los Angeles, will be unveiled on July 4, 2017 as part of the LA Freedom Festival. Crowd-funded from over 1 million supporters, from 50 countries, the Freedom Sculpture project has raised over \$2.2 million, making it one of the most crowd supported public monuments in U.S. history. With its design based on the Cyrus Cylinder, widely considered the world's first human rights document, the Freedom Sculpture will be a "Statue of Liberty" for the West Coast

To learn more about the Freedom Sculpture story and to donate to the crowd funding campaign, visit: <http://freedomsculpture.org/>

Those who want to participate in this event are requested to email their names to Parmis Khatibi, **parmis99 (@) aol.com**. Parmis is on Farhang Foundation Board and she had also helped us in the past to facilitate our viewing of "Cyrus Cylinder" during its visit to the USA □

Mobedyar Initiation Celebration in Washington State

By Mahrukh Motafram, FEZANA Representative, ZSWS



Zoroastrian Society of Washington State is proud to present Mobedyar Jamshid Pouresfandiary Cham!

On a glorious Northwest day, on June 3, 2017, the smell of sukhar and loban permeating the room, our burgeoning community gathered to witness Mobedyar Jamshid perform the Khushali Nu Jashan along with Ervad Soli Dastur. It was a momentous occasion with



tables laden with fruits, flowers and malido.

Jamshid has trained religiously with our beloved Ervad Solid Dastur for the last two years over Skype almost every Saturday culminating in his Mobedyarship.

Our sincere thanks to Ervad Ardaviraf Minocherhomji, President of the North American Mobed Council (NAMC) for making time to attend the initiation and bestowing the title and certification to Jamshid after the jashan ceremony.

Jamshid is married to Anahita Afkham (Director, ZSWS Board) and has two children, Arvin Pouresfandiary Cham

and Andia Pouresfandiary Cham. □



BOOK AWARENESS



Holy Wealth: Accounting for This World and the Next in Religious Belief and Practice.
Festschrift for John R. Hinnells
 Hintze, Almut and Williams,
 Alan, eds. (2017) Weisbaden:
 Harrassowitz. (Iranica; 24)
 9783447107464

This volume, presented to John R. Hinnells on his 75th Birthday, focuses on the interface between material and spiritual wealth, a theme that runs across many religions and cultures and that incorporates a major strand of John R. Hinnells' particular fascination with the Zoroastrians of ancient and modern times, and his more general interest in the positive and life-affirming aspects of religious traditions across many domains. The volume includes seventeen studies by leading scholars exploring ideas of and attitudes to material wealth and its use for promoting spiritual benefits in Zoroastrian, Mithraic, Christian, Buddhist and Islamic traditions.

Visit our website at

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

Zoroastrian Return to Roots 2017 Tour, Call for Applications



FEZANA recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Return To Roots PARZOR at the 30th Annual General Meeting in Houston, in April 2017.

FEZANA has been a supporter of RTR since its founding. RTR has just announced the 4th tour coming up in December 2017. The itinerary will take participants to Mumbai and Gujarat, India and will overlap with the Iranshah Utsav gathering in Udvada.

The Zoroastrian Return to Roots Program is pleased to announce the opening of applications for Return to Roots 4 Trip scheduled to take place from 22nd December, 2017 to 3rd January 2018. This will be the fourth tour after the first three very successful tours in 2013-14, 2015 and 2016.

Return To Roots website for more details, or to apply: www.zororoots.org

Member Associations and Zoroastrian communities: Please circulate this announcement to your association mailing lists, so that potential youth participants can be made aware, and encouraged to apply to this unique program. □

Zoroastrian Representative on the Host/Organizing Committee of the InterReligious conference



A wide-ranging and diverse coalition of Religious movements and organizations are working together to create a galvanizing event for local interfaith activists and leaders. The InterReligious Conference is likely to take place from Sunday July 29, 2018 to August 1, 2018 in Washington DC

Co-sponsors include Religions for Peace-USA, United Religions Initiative (URI), International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) and multiple faith communities. Zoroastrian community was invited from the beginning to participate on the Host/Organizing committee.

Shayda Sales of Persian Zoroastrian Organization (PZO) has been nominated to represent FEZANA and the Zoroastrian community on this Host/Organizing committee. Shayda attends George Washington University where she is getting a degree in International Relations. Shayda also helped start George Washington's Interfaith Council in her freshman year. This past semester she interned with the National Iranian-American Council's (NIAC) DC office, focusing on public policy. Shayda had joined the 2016 Interfaith Harmony Week celebrations at the UN and she will be a great representative of the North American Zoroastrian community.

Congratulations to Shayda and welcome to the Interfaith Activities of FEZANA. □



UPCOMING DATES

(Continued from page 1)

August 6, 2017

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ) 50th Anniversary Celebration. **Saint-Laurent, QC.**
<http://www.zaq.org/50years>

August 28-30, 2017

67th United Nations DPI/ NGO Conference. New York City. UN Headquarters.

September 2-3, 2017

[10th Zoroastrian Unity Cup Soccer Tournament](#); Redondo Beach, CA

October 14, 2017

[Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism \(SSZ\) Conference](#). Detroit, Michigan.

November 3-5, 2017

ZAH Library Lecture. Guest Speaker, Dinyar Patel. Topic to include Dhadabhai Naorji. Houston.

December 14-16, 2017

WZCC Annual Global Meet. Bangalore, India.
wzccglobalmeet@gmail.com

December 23-25, 2017

Iranshah Udvada Utsav. Udvada, Gujarat, India.

June 1-4, 2018

11th World Zoroastrian Congress, Perth, Australia
<http://11wzcpertth.com.au/>

July 29 - August 1, 2018

InterReligious Conference. Washington DC (see page 3)

November 1-7, 2018

[Parliament of the World's Religions](#), Toronto.

Khatibi Scholarship Accepting Applications

The "Dr. Houshang Khatibi Scholarship" awards \$1,000 each to 15 deserving Zoroastrian applicants residing in the USA who are in pursuit of higher education and have shown or are willing to show commitment to the Zoroastrian community. Applicant must be a full time student at an accredited US college or university.

Scholarship Deadline: July 31, 2017

For application and for more details:

https://www.yczc.org/Resources/Documents/Dr_Houshang_Khatibi_Scholarship.pdf

Or email: khatibischolarship (@) gmail.com □

Dr Poras Balsara Receives the 2017 Provost Award for Faculty Excellence



Dr Poras Balsara, professor of electrical engineering and associate dean for academic affairs at University of Texas-Dallas, was recently honored with 2017 Provost Awards for Faculty Excellence in Research Mentoring. The awards recognize faculty members who guide and support UT Dallas students in their research endeavors

Poras Balsara who is an active member of the Zoroastrian Association of Northern Texas (ZANT). □

Congratulations to Armene Modi, past FEZANA Academic Scholarship Recipient



Armene Modi, 2015-16 FEZANA 25th Anniversary Scholarship Recipient, has recently been selected to the Echidna Global Scholars Program, along with three others from Kenya, Jamaica and Mexico.

The Echidna Global Scholars Program is a visiting fellowship hosted by the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The program aims to build the research and analytical skills of NGO leaders and academics who have substantial experience and ties to developing countries.

As an Echidna Scholar, Armene will spend four to six months at the Brookings Institution, pursuing research on global education issues, with a specific focus on improving learning opportunities and outcomes for girls in India. Following her time in residence in Washington DC, Armene will have the opportunity to implement the activities planned as part of her research.

Armene joins a growing network of global leaders working to change the lives of young women in various countries throughout the world.

FEZANA congratulates Armene for this achievement and wishes her continued success in her fellowship.

Read more about Armene and the FEZANA 25th Anniversary Scholarship in the Spring 2016 issue of the *FEZANA Journal*. □