Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund

In light of the recent devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in Texas and in Florida, FEZANA has set up a Disaster Relief Fund to lend support to Zarathushtis in the impacted areas.

Funds are needed to help purchase supplies and provide resources for victims of these storm and flood emergencies, bringing to halt many cities along the Gulf Coast and across Florida.

FEZANA Welfare & Critical Assistance Committee is collecting donations for helping the people affected by these calamities. You can donate online on the FEZANA website, or send checks by mail to: Shirin Jahanian, FEZANA Treasurer, P.O. Box 185, Gibbsboro, NJ 08026-0185, ATTN: Hurricane Relief.

Note: The funds collected will be used to help the people affected by the disasters but the final disposal of the funds collected will be at the discretion of FEZANA Welfare & Critical Assistance committee.

For further information please contact, Hosi Mehta hosimehta (@) aol.com, or Houtoxi Contractor huty.contractor (@) gmail.com

Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund

Fires Not Impacted by Hurricane Harvey

I am writing to you today in a role I have come to cherish – as chair of FIRES (FEZANA Information Research Education System) and to assure you that our collection, our holdings of printed books, journals, our special collection of archives is all safe and intact in light of the devastation Hurricane Harvey wrought on Houston. While many areas around Houston were flooded and several of our community members had significant damage to their homes, the FIRES library and the Zoroastrian Heritage Cultural Center sustained no damage.

FIRES library is the foundation of our institutional excellence at FEZANA. Support us and you are supporting our future. FIRES library committee welcomes your collection donation, your research enquiries, and encourage an opportunity to use our resources to learn and grow. Unlike schools and institutions FIRES has no alumni. But in a sense, we are all alumni of FIRES – and we should all be friends of FIRES. Your gift, combined with the gifts of others, can make a significant impact. We are counting on your support.

Aban Rustomji
Chair, FIRES
www.fires-fezana.org

UPCOMING DATES

October 13, 2017

WZCC / ZAH Library Committee Event: Yazdi Tantra, Speaker: (VP WZCC Global)

October 14, 2017

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference, Detroit, Michigan.

October 15, 2017

Annual Erach Munshi Udvada Fundraiser and Memorial Lecture with Speaker, Yazdi Tantra (VP WZCC Global).
https://zagny.org

November 4, 2017

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference, Chicago.

November 25, 2017


(Dates continued on page 5)
The 2017-18 FEZANA Academic Scholarship recipients have been selected. The FEZANA Academic Scholarship Committee had an unenviable task of sorting through the dozens of high caliber applications received. This year, seventeen recipients were awarded scholarships:

**BANOOBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Rustum Chhor (University of California - Berkeley)

**FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Bahram Kianpour (Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC)

**FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**
Behroz Chhor (West Virginia School of Medicine)
Parshan Khosravi (University of California – Los Angeles)
Delshad Shroff (Columbia University)
Natasha Dusaj (Fordham University)
Delzin Gamir (Purdue University)
Rayomand Kapadia (University of California – Irvine)

**FEZANA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP**
Katie Master (University of Texas – Austin)

**KHERADI 30th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Mahsa Kabolizadeh (Royal Road University)

**SHEROO D KOLSAWALLA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP**
Manijeh Rustomji (Texas Women’s University)

**MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR**
Ziba Colah (Baylor College of Medicine)

**MORVARID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**
Farin Yazdani (Virginia Commonwealth School of Medicine)
Friya Randelia (Rutgers University)

**PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Shayda Sales (George Washington University)

**DR. MINOCHER RUSTOM VESUNA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP**
Anahita Sharifabadi (University of Ottawa) [Scholarship funded by WZO Canada]

**DOWLET MINOCHER VESUNA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP**
Darian Bhathena (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) [Scholarship funded by WZO Canada]

[Look for full write-ups on the scholarships and their recipients in the Spring 2018 issue of the FEZANA Journal]
In celebration of the 30th anniversary of FEZANA, three new scholarships have been established:

1. Long time supporter of the Academic scholarship program, and a member of the Academic Scholarship committee, Dr Jerry Kheradi endowed another scholarship in the name of Jerry and Celeste Kheradi Endowed scholarship. This scholarship is to be awarded annually to a graduate student who has a good academic standing and a special financial need.

2. 30th anniversary Alumni Scholarship. The alumni of the scholarship program since its inception have set up a scholarship to be given annually to a graduate or undergraduate student where it is most needed.

3. Sheroo D Kolsawalla WZO/Canada Endowed Scholarship to be awarded annually to an undergraduate student who shows academic merit and has financial need. This scholarship was endowed by Dolly Dastoor in memory of her aunt.

This brings the total scholarships awarded by FEZANA and by the endowed funds including WZO Canada, to 17 scholarships (8 for graduates and 9 for undergraduates) totaling $38,000. This does not meet the demand. Each year we receive 60+ applications.

Education of our emerging generation is very important for the future prosperity of the community. Endowing scholarships is a beautiful way to perpetuate the memory of your loved ones or to commemorate a significant event. Give generously to this Fund.

Dolly Dastoor Ph.D  
On behalf of the Academic Scholarship Program Committee

The North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) has published the following procedure to be used by anyone needing the services of a Mobed in North America:

1) Call a Mobed in your state or region by visiting the NAMC website at http://NAMCMobeds.org and clicking the “Directory” tab at the top of the page.

2) If a Mobed is not readily available in your state or region, please call one of the Mobeds from the list provided below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF PRIEST</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>TEL</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ervad Kobad Jamshed</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>(650)888-7876</td>
<td>kobadj (@) hotmail.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ervad Zarrir Bhandara</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>(562)331-9973</td>
<td>zbandara (@) gmail.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ervad Jimmy Ravji</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>(630)280-1897</td>
<td>jimmy1902 (@) att.net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ervad Pervez Patel</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>(718)446-6751</td>
<td>udvada (@) aol.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ervad Nozer Kotwal</td>
<td>ONT</td>
<td>(905)820-0461</td>
<td>nozerk (@) yahoo.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ervad Jal Panthaky</td>
<td>ONT</td>
<td>(905)568-4946</td>
<td>jal_panthaky (@) yahoo.ca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the charges for the ceremonies including travel, room/board will be based on NAMC’s schedule given under the “Rates for Priestly Services” tab on the NAMC website. http://namcmobeds.org/ratesforpriestlyservices/
Hurricane Harvey caused a major disruption in Houston this summer, and many of our volunteers who work on the Journal were themselves in the area, or focused on friends and family in that area. So we know that our loyal readers will understand why this issue has been slightly delayed. Bear with us, this is a lovely issue and it will soon be mailed out.

The cover story of our Summer issue of the FEZANA Journal is on Happiness, very ably shepherded by Farishta Dinsha, our guest editor, who has assembled a group of very talented writers to reflect on this subject. But what is happiness? We all wish each other health and happiness on birthdays, on New Year, on weddings etc. What do we mean? A quote from a Syrian refugee to Canada: “I miss Happiness, I do not miss the money, I miss happiness, Happiness is the food for the soul”. This thought paved the way for our cover story for this issue – Happiness!

Guest editor Farishta Dinsha has very succinctly given us the Zoroastrian concept of happiness which is also expounded by other authors like veteran journalist Tenaz Javat, and noted social activist Dinshaw Tamboly. Niloufer Mavalwala tells us about comfort foods that bring us happiness, or it is pleasure!! We share the thoughts of contemporary Zarathushtis of all ages, writing about their interpretation of happiness.

Subscribe to the Journal at https://fezana.org/publication/fj/subscribe/ for your family or your dear ones, and share an interesting and refreshing read, bringing a smile to your face!!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The 18th Annual New York Indian Film Festival
Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC), New York
Submission deadline: December 31, 2017

most prestigious film festival screening premieres of feature, documentary and short films made from, of, and about the Indian subcontinent in the Independent, arthouse, alternate and diaspora genres.

http://www.iaac.us

Report on NAIN Conference 2017
by Maneck Bhujwala

FEZANA, a member of the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN), was represented by Maneck Bhujwala at NAIN’s annual CONNECT conference at U.C. San Diego (August 6-10, 2017), where he presented a talk on promoting harmony within and between different faith communities from a Zoroastrian perspective, besides attending meetings of the NAIN and United Religions (URI) Initiative board of directors, meeting with the new executive director of Religions for Peace (RFP) Donna Bollinger, attending several sessions of workshops, panel discussions, and lectures, as well as visits to different places of worship in the San Diego area. FEZANA’s tri-fold flyers, California Zoroastrian Center (CZC)’s flyers, and copies of CZC’s quarterly Zoroastrian Journal and Cheherenama magazine were also distributed to CONNECT attendees.

NAIN facilitates and supports the interfaith work of 46 member organizations, and provides awareness and connections between interfaith groups in USA, Canada, and Mexico, besides creating an endowment fund to help support young adults to
FEZANA has been a member of NAIN for many years under the leadership of Rohinton Rivetna and Homi Gandhi, before nominating Maneck to join its Board in 2014.

This year’s CONNECT was organized by the San Diego area Poway Interfaith group, headed by Rev. Drs. Steve and Abigail Albert. Highlights of the conference included intergenerational dialogue with youth representation in panel discussions, workshops, talks and visits to religious sites, face-to-face meetings and relationship building with interfaith leaders and individuals. Awareness about the Zarathushtri religion and the vibrant existence of its followers among conference attendees was a plus for our community whom many people think are extinct if even they have heard of them. A couple of Mormon youth showed Maneck their picture at CZC.

Since 1949, Scouts Canada has organised a national level Jamboree every 4 years. This year, about 4,200 Scout-aged youth and leaders from across Canada met at Camp Nedooae, Elderbank, Nova Scotia from July 8–15.

At this Jamboree, in Nova Scotia, 100th Oakville Zoroastrian Scouts group sent 14 scouts, which included 5 girls and 9 boys, and 4 leaders. The Jamboree was mostly represented by Scout groups from Canada, but some groups from other countries like New Zealand, Liberia, Scotland, England and Thailand were also there. They all came to celebrate Scouting and explore more about living the life of a scout. Some of our scouts even made friends with youth from a scout group from Kelowna, British Columbia.

At the Jamboree, there were 6 sub camps; Gold Rush was the sub camp for our scouts group. Our group was divided in to 2 patrols.

Over the duration of the camp, our 100th Oakville group took part in many different activities such as:

- Silver Dart, where we learnt about remote controlled airplanes
- Geocaching, which is where our tracking skills were tested
- Hiking
- Catamaran 160 – making a raft using pool noodles and twine and all patrol members had to paddle and remain afloat
- Paddle Boarding – learned basic skills and ways to stay on the board (and climb back on)

An exciting personal activity at all Jamborees is Badge trading. Scouts would go around trading badges and get the bragging rights for the numbers and quality of badges collected. During any free time, Scouts would move around different sub-camps to try and get unique badges.

Learnings: Staying with fellow scouts for a week, one learns how to adapt to a situation, work as a team and share duties so everyone can be accountable as well as enjoy the wonderful experience.

**Zoroastrians Attend Canadian Jamboree 2017 (CJ ’17)
By Vahishta and Farha Suntoke**

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