

FEZANA *bulletin*

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UPCOMING DATES

December 23-25, 2017
[Iranshah Udvada Utsav](#). Udvada, Gujarat, India.

December 31, 2017
Submission deadline for PWR proposals for FEZANA

January 7, 2018
Celebrating the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr, Washginton D.C.
[ZAMWI](#) members will attend.
www.ifcmw.org

March 12-23, 2018
[62nd Commission on the Status of Women Conference at the United Nations](#). New York City.

April 26, 2018
FEZANA Pre-AGM Sessions.
Hosted by CZC. vp@fezana.org

April 27-29, 2018
FEZANA Annual General Meeting.
Hosted by California Zoroastrian Center. vp@fezana.org

(Dates continued on page 4)

Happy Yalda/Deygan and Happy New Year from FEZANA

May 2018 bring Good Health, Peace and Happiness to all our FEZANA family and friends. May Ahura Mazda shower his choicest blessings on you and your dear ones this holiday season and throughout the New Year!

SSZ Conference Inspires in Chicago

Over 50 persons participated in the 2017 SSZ (Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism) Conference on November 3-5, 2017, in Chicago, hosted by ZAC-CHI (Zoroastrian Association of Chicago).



The vision of SSZ — to revive the tradition of learning and scholarship within our Zarathushti community, including academics, priests, educationists, lay scholars, students, and, above all, community members — was clearly evident during this gathering. All who

attended, enjoyed and came away with new insights on many topics relating to Zoroastrianism.

On Saturday, November 4, the crowd gathered for an all-day conference broken up into two main sessions.

The morning session, chaired by **Jim Engineer**, had interesting talks by: **Fariborz Rahnamoon**, presented *Time to Visit the Gathas and A Proposal for The Mazdayasni Calendar*; **Dr. Kiersten Neumann**, curator at The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, spoke on *Achaemenid Art and Artisans*; and **Joseph Peterson** gave an *Overview of Avesta.org* website.

During a delicious lunch there was a showing of the films: *Zoroastrian Heritage* and *Zoroastrianism 101*.

The afternoon session, chaired by **Jamshed Rivetna**, had equally interesting talks by: **Ervad Tehemton Mirza**, Vice President of the North American Mobeds Council, spoke about *Living Your Prayers*; **Prof. Martin Schwartz** who taught Iranian Studies at Columbia (1968 – 1970) and University of California from 1970 until his retirement as Prof. Emeritus in 2011, made his presentation via ZOOM on *Basics of the Gathas*. Next, **Fariborz Rahnamoon** gave a very interesting account with photographs of his recent visit to Kurdistan *In Search of Zarathushti Kurds*.

Later there was a *Panel Discussion on the Gathas*, moderated by **Dastur Kersey Antia** with Next Generation Panelists **Erv. Rayomand Ravji**, **Cyrus Rivetna**, **Pervin Taleyarkhan**, **Kamal Saher** and **Khursheed Ichhaporia** discussed their understanding of the Gathas, what they had learned from the Speakers, and how they could apply the teachings of the Gathas in their lives.



Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)

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<https://fezana.org/publication/bulletinarchives/>

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

On Sunday morning, several speakers, mobeds and community members gathered for a **Roundtable Discussion** and later, several conference participants carpooled for a visit to the Oriental Institute, and were given a very interesting tour of the Persian exhibits.

See the upcoming *FEZANA Journal (Winter 2017)* for a detailed account of the Conference. Also, presentations are available on the SSZ website (www.s-s-z.org) □

Templeton Prize Award Ceremony



FEZANA President Homi Gandhi, with Mani and Murali Rao and Rohinton (Secretary, Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago) and Roshan Rivetna [see photo left, taken at the Award Ceremony, with Heather Templeton Dill, President of the John Templeton Foundation and granddaughter of Sir John Templeton] were among the distinguished guests and faith leaders invited to a celebration honoring the 2017 Templeton Prize Laureate, Dr. Alvin Plantinga, at the Field Museum of Natural History, in Chicago, on September 24, 2017.

The Templeton Prize honors a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works. The Prize has been awarded to scientists, philosophers, theologians, clergy, philanthropists, writers, and reformers, for work that has ranged from the creation of new religious orders and social-spiritual movements to research about the fundamental questions of existence, purpose and the origins of the universe. Established in 1972, among the early awardees were Mother Teresa (in 1973) and Indian President Radhakrishnan (in 1975). Among the many judges for this award at various times, were two outstanding Zoroastrians – Prof. Kaikhosrov D. Irani and Ambassador Nani Palkhiwala.

This year, the Prize, a monetary award of 1,100,000 sterling, was awarded to Dr. Alvin Plantinga, an American scholar whose writings over a half century have made theism – the belief in a Divine reality or God – a serious option within academic philosophy.

John Templeton (1912 – 2008) started a career on Wall Street in 1938 and went on to create some of the world's most successful international investment funds (e.g. the Templeton Growth Fund). In later years, though, he was devoted to exploring “new spiritual information” or understanding of the deepest realities of human nature and the physical world – which drove him to establish the world's largest annual monetary award given to an individual – the Templeton Prize. □

Welcome to New ZAH Executive Committee

FEZANA congratulates and welcomes the new Executive Committee of **Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH)** and looks forward to future collaborations.

Sheroy Haveliwala (*President*)
Mitra Khumbatta (*Treasurer*)
Lyla Daroga (EC Member)
Jasmin Katrak (EC Member)

Percy Master (*Secretary*)
Jangoo Mistry (*FEZANA Rep.*)
Nozer Dungor (EC Member)
Sweta Sethna (EC Member)



BOOK AWARENESS



THE DANCING LINE

Shrivastav Dhanjibhoy Chavda
(1914-1990)

The Dancing Line
by Shrivastav Dhanjibhoy
Chavda (1914-1990),
www.spentamultimedia.com
2016

The family of the late artist Shrivastav Dhanjibhoy Chavda held a dedicated retrospective of his works at the Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, from October 24-30, 2017. Born in Navsari, India, Chavda is considered one of the pioneers of Indian modern art. This catalog is an opportunity to view a treasure trove of paintings and sketches by the master. Chavda's paintings are currently exhibited in several esteemed museums around the world and other private and public collections in India and abroad.

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

ZAC-LA Hosts Claremont College Students and Professor Jenny Rose

On December 5th, 2017, Claremont College Professor Jenny Rose visited the Zoroastrian Association of California Center along with ten of her students to learn more about Zoroastrianism and to have a firsthand experience and a dialogue with a Zoroastrian priest.

The question-answer session lasted for about 75 minutes and the students were totally thrilled. This is what the professor had to say "I am writing to thank you for welcoming me and my graduate students to the fire temple this morning with such graciousness and warmth. We all appreciated the fact that you dedicated so much time and energy to showing us around and to answering our many and varied questions. The visit was not only informative, but enlightening!" □

FEZANA Nominates Representative for GWG Demographics Monitoring and Resettlement



In response to a request made to all regional representatives at the last Global Working Group (GWG) meeting in Hong Kong, FEZANA is very proud to nominate Fariba Pirghaibi of California, to join Meher Panthaky [see *FEZANA Bulletin*, November 2017] as a FEZANA Representative for Demographics Monitoring and Resettlement of Zarathushtis in North America.

PROFILE OF FARIBA PIRGHAIBI: Fariba Pirghaibi was born and raised in Tehran, Iran. She graduated with a degree in Medical Technology from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire and currently resides in Southern California with her husband and two daughters. She has been an active member of California Zoroastrian Center (Rostam Guiv Dar-e-mehr) from the day it opened its doors in 1987 and has served the community in various capacities including serving on youth group and board of directors. For the last ten years she has been the editor of Chehrenama publication and one of the teachers of Zoroastrian Ethics for the teen class at CZC.

Her goal with Chehrenama is to engage the next generation in writing and showing interest in this publication and their community and hopefully carrying this torch forward. □

Reimagining Interfaith Conference in D.C.

[Reimagining Interfaith](http://www.reimagineinterfaith.org/) is a one of a kind conference planned for July 29-August 1, 2018 – in Washington D.C., bringing together a coalition of Interfaith communities.

Reminder: Conference Registration is Open! And, Early Registration has been extended through January 31. Religions for Peace-USA is proud to be a co-sponsor of next summer's event. Ms Shayda Sales will be representing FEZANA on the organizing committee for this event. *Reimagining Interfaith* is described as a wide-ranging and diverse coalition of religious movements and organizations working together to create a galvanizing event for interfaith activists and leaders. You don't want to miss the opportunity! For more details or to follow the link <http://www.reimagineinterfaith.org/> □



ZARATHUSHTI RESOURCE

FEZANA'S ZOROASTRIAN SHOP IS NOW OPEN

Sudrehs, Kushtis, caps, prayer books, sukhad, loban and other liturgical items available for order.

Visit www.fezana.org and click on "Zoroastrian Shop" at the top of the page, or use this direct link:

<https://fezana.org/product-category/z-shop/>

UPCOMING DATES

(continued from page 1)

June 1-4, 2018

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

July 29 - August 1, 2018

[ReImagining Interfaith
Conference](#). Washington DC

November 1-7, 2018

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

WZO Trust Update on Mr Aspi Sepoy

By Mr Dinshaw K. Tamboly, WZO Trust

The WZO Trust takes the opportunity to inform donors and well wishers that adequate funds have been collected towards the medical rehabilitation of Mr. Aspi Sepoy who met with a train accident at Udvada railway station on September 14, 2017 resulting in both his legs having had to be amputated above the knees.

In response to a global appeal circulated by The WZO Trust, 407 donors, from all over the world have supported and contributed generously in remitting funds.

Whilst Aspi is still at the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital at Mumbai, he has now begun to undergo daily therapy of learning the modalities of using the prosthetic legs being fabricated for him by Endolite India Ltd.

Life of the prosthetic legs with proper usage are estimated to be around 8 to 10 years; looking to Aspi's age (47) he is likely to require a minimum of three additional new sets during his lifetime.

After the first set of prosthetic legs have been fitted and Aspi has been able to get used to them (which should take 8 to 10 months) we will still need to continue supporting him. As the life of prosthetic legs is limited, we have made provisions to ensure that Aspi will be in a position to receive three sets of replacement prosthetic legs.

WZO Trust will therefore invest the surplus funds collected for Aspi in Govt. approved securities after the first set of prosthetic legs have been fitted. From the interest received WZO Trust will pay Aspi Sepoy around Rs.25,000 every month for his sustenance and support for his two young sons; this will need to be done till such time Aspi is once again employed and able to lead a near to normal life.

Whilst it is not possible to acknowledge each and every individual and institution that has contributed, it is essential to recognize big donors who have contributed substantial amounts towards the rehabilitation of Aspi Sepoy *viz.* Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao, and Pervin & Jal Shroff of Hong Kong, FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America), ZTFE (Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe) from London, Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund, Tata Education and Development Trust, and Mr. Darius J. Khambata from Mumbai.

WZO Trust takes this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to:

1. Drs. Jamshed Bunshah & Jehanbux Chichgar and their medical teams, for providing completely gratis treatment to Aspi;
2. Counsellor Mrs. Binaifer K. Sahukar for providing gratis counselling services.
3. Administration of Parsi General Hospital for the cooperation extended as well as the Nursing and support staff for their excellent services in looking after Aspi.
4. Jam-e-Jamshed, Parsi Times, Parsiana & Mid-Day Publications for their support and cooperation in creating awareness that has been instrumental in enabling substantial funds to be raised for Aspi.
5. Each and every donor who has supported our appeal and provided Aspi with the opportunity to once again lead a near to normal life. □



ZARATHUSHTI RESOURCE

PROCEDURE FOR
ACQUIRING SERVICES OF A
MOBED IN NORTH AMERICA

The North American Mobeds Council has published a procedure for anyone needing the services of a Mobed in North America.

1.) Call a Mobed in your region by consulting directory on the NAMC website.

<http://NAMCMobeds.org>

2.) If a Mobed is not readily available in your region, contact one of the Mobeds below:

Ervad Kobad Jamshed (CA)
kobadj(@)hotmail.com

Ervad Zarrir Bhandara (CA)
zbhandara@gmail.com

Ervad Jimmy Ravji (IL)
jimmy1902@att.net

Ervad Pervez Patel (NY)
udvada@aol.com

Ervad Nozer Kotwal(ONT)
nozerk@yahoo.com

Ervad Jal Panthaky (ONT)
jal_panthaky@yahoo.ca

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](#).

Winter Issue of FEZANA Journal

Available in digital version shortly!

In this issue we honour the erstwhile internationally known author Bapsi Sidhwa, of Houston TX, who has given us insightful glimpses of lives of ordinary people. We salute her and thank her for all the recognition she has brought to the Zoroastrian community internationally through the power of her pen.

Read about two youth speakers Afriti Chinoy and Sarosh Irani, both of Detroit, who delighted the audience at the conference of the Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism in Michigan in October. Also in this issue you will find scholarly articles on Ancient land of Iran by Dawood Rahni and by Kaveh Farroukh on the excavations in China and in Turkey and the implications of those excavation on the spread of the Zoroastrian religion from Anatolia to China. Can we then rightly say that the Zoroastrian religion belongs only to the Iranian people?

The *FEZANA Journal* is now available as a Digital Copy! Subscribe now and get a free cookbook (North America only, while supplies last). Subscribe at <https://fezana.org/publication/fj> □

Scientific Advances Provide New Possibilities in Combating AIDS / HIV

Lack of awareness of new treatments to address the pandemic hobbles progress



<< **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [NIAID] makes a point during a panel discussion organized by the Washington Post newspaper on 5 December 2017.

The event marked the 30th Anniversary of the World AIDS Day, held on 1 December 1988, with the express purpose of creating awareness of how the pandemic affects global health.

Significant progress made in Swaziland in Africa, and in San Francisco in combating AIDS / HIV, are shining examples of what can be accomplished when civil society comes together with economic, political and national will, in deploying new treatment and preventive measures.

In contrast, the picture is not as heartening in many of the southern United States and in many parts of the world.

Progress remains patchy. A vaccine is not yet ready; clinical trials are underway. Controlling the AIDS / HIV Pandemic remains a Herculean task and will need collaboration from all sectors in the decades ahead to see measurable success.

Photo Credit: Behram Pastakia, Co-Chair, FEZANA UN-NGO Committee.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



**FEZANA
Supports the
United Nations
Sustainable
Development
Goal 3
(Good Health
and Well Being)**

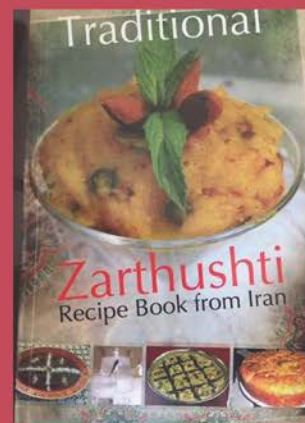
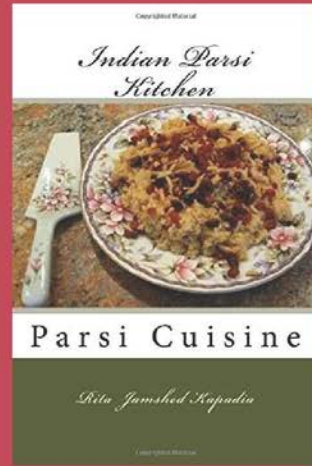
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