

FEZANA *bulletin*

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UPCOMING DATES

- February 19, 2018**
2018 DC Interfaith Leadership Summit, Chevy Chase MD, 12-5pm. 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)

FEZANA at the Global Working Group (GWG)

FEZANA was prominently represented at the GWG meeting at the Banaji Hall in the Banaji Atash Behram Compound, Mumbai on December 20, 2017. The GWG is a group of elected Zarathushtis from 12 regions of the world who meet regularly to work for betterment our community worldwide.



FEZANA group included FEZANA President and Vice President, past FEZANA presidents, Committee Chairs, NAMC Presidents (past and present), Astad Clubwala (ZAGNY President) and his wife Behroz, and Adil Minocherhomjee (Vice

President of the Organizing Committee of 7th World Zarathushti Youth Congress). At this meeting, it was agreed, among other things, to continue to support our Iranshah and create a committee to unify all financial and support activities for our Agiaries, Atash Behrams and Mobed community. Also at the meeting, FEZANA was awarded the honor of hosting the 12th World Zoroastrian Congress (2022), in New York, jointly with Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York. □

Youth in the Forefront of Interfaith Dialogue and Understanding



<< Zoroastrians were represented at a Multifaith Service in Washington D.C. commemorating the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr, by Kaizad Sribnick, in center of photo in dugli and topi

supported by his friends, family and local community, on 7 January 2018 [photo courtesy of @ferdozy]

Leading an "Interfaith Expressions" segment of the program, commemorating Dr. King's teachings, Kaizad Sribnick, in a Responsive Reading, recited a translation in English from the Gathas, the Divine Songs of Zarathushtra.

*"Clear is this to all, to the man of wisdom, as to one who thinks with care:
He who upholds Truth with all the might of his power.
He who upholds Truth the utmost in his word and deed,
He indeed, is Thy most valued helper, O Mazda Ahura!"*

*"So may we be like those making the world progress toward perfection;
May Mazda and the Divine Spirits help us and
Guide our efforts through Truth"...*



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



The service was organized by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington IFC, and the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, at the historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, steps away from the White House.

President Abraham Lincoln worshipped here and the Rev Martin Luther King Jr. gave one of his last speeches in the sanctuary of this church in the nation's capital.

The event was compeered by Barbara Harrison from TV channel news 4 and featured Dr. Ben Chavis, Pastor Michelle Thomas, Rabbi Gerry Serotta, and Boy Scout Mikaeel Martinez Jaka.

Presentation by the World Children's Choir, was outstanding, as they led the closing in a rendition of "We shall Overcome" as congregants left the sanctuary emotionally charged and ready for action.

The service was followed by an MLK PEACE EXPO RESOURCE FAIR, with close to thirty tables listed in the program booklet. The peace expo provided a crowded, welcoming space for dialogue that deepens understanding, for networking, and for sharing food in solidarity and togetherness.

Plans are already underway at the IFC (www.ifcmw.org) to celebrate the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in January 2019. □

Zoroastrian Delegation to Participate in the 62nd Commission of the Status of Women

FEZANA is sending a delegation to the 62nd Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA from March 12-23, 2018.
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018>

The CSW Priority theme this year is, **“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”** and the review theme is, **“Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women”**.

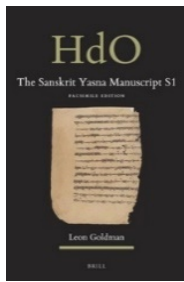
FEZANA will be represented by the following Zoroastrians at the UN this year:

Sabrina Bilimoria (Troy, Michigan) has graduated from University of Michigan, with a focus on studies in human rights, international law, and social psychology. As a Parsi, Pakistani-American woman, she is especially passionate about intersectional feminism and advocating for women's empowerment internationally. She is currently working on a women's empowerment project based in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. This will be Sabrina's first time at the CSW conference, and she feels this would be an integral and enriching experience in her career as a women's rights advocate.

Tanya Bharda (Toronto, Ontario) is a Flight Attendant and a Relief Women's Advocate. She has an undergraduate degree in Women & Gender Studies, Italian and Political Science. She is very passionate about social work and helping underprivileged women and children. She has also been teaching English to



BOOK AWARENESS



The Sanskrit Yasna manuscript S1 by Leon Goldman. Brill, 2018

The manuscript S1 is one of the chief witnesses to the Sanskrit Yasna, containing the Avestan text of the Zoroastrian Yasna liturgy to chapter 46.19, together with a Sanskrit translation and commentary. This book contains the complete, full-color set of facsimile images of S1. An introduction by Leon Goldman provides an overview of the Zoroastrian Sanskrit tradition together with a discussion of the S1 manuscript covering its physical appearance, its age and history, and for the first time, a detailed paleographic analysis of the Avestan and Sanskrit text. The manuscript S1 was restored through positive interventions of many notable scholars and FEZANA's matching contribution by Columbia University library is noteworthy.

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

children from grade 1-8 and organizing workshops. Tanya has been part of the Zoroastrian Delegation to the CSW conference for 5 years, presenting on empowering women and breaking the vicious cycle of poverty.

Diana Mistry (San Antonio, Texas) is a health care professional and an avid volunteer in her community. She is a U.S. veteran and can highlight the unique challenges of service members in the armed forces. She is a strong advocate for women's equality and empowerment. This is Diana's first CSW conference and she is looking forward to learning how women's equality and empowerment can be achieved via involvement with and access to media, IT and communications technologies.

Monaz Mistry (San Antonio, Texas) is a nurse working as a Combat Medic in the U.S. Army. Monaz is also a lead American Heart Association Instructor who teaches young soldiers. Monaz will be attending the CSW conference for the first time and will have a chance to reach out and connect with people. She is motivated by the United Nations mission to solve problems that are faced by humanity. She is excited to have this opportunity to take one step closer to her dream to be of service to others. □

A Significant Gift for FIRES

From time to time, FIRES receives donations from several people in the U.S., England, India and Pakistan. These donations have been personal book collections, rare artifacts and monetary contributions. Now, Rustom Kevala of Florida has donated \$5,000 for use by FIRES. Rustom, a past President of FEZANA, and the architect and earliest supporter of FIRES, has been keenly interested in promoting the growth and awareness of FIRES throughout America and beyond. His generous gift is not only an incredible show of confidence in FIRES for what we have accomplished so far but also a challenge to us to use it towards a lasting effect on the legacy of FIRES. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Rustom and Yasmin Kevala for their generosity. □

Welcome to the Newly Elected ZAC-LA Committee for 2018-19

We congratulate and welcome the newly elected **Zoroastrian Association of California** Committee, and look forward to future collaborations.

President: Houtoxi Contractor

Vice President: Nauzer Commissariat

Treasurer: Hilla Machhi

Youth Coordinator: Roxanne Unwalla

Joint Secretary: Manek Dustoor

Secretary: Sheila Madon

Program chair: Zubin Taraporevala

Welcome to the Newly Elected CZC Board of Directors

We congratulate and welcome the newly elected **California Zoroastrian Center (CZC)** Board of Directors, and look forward to future collaborations.

Ali Makki (President)

Hooshang Farahmand (Vice President)

Rostam Kasravi

Bijan Salamati

Rostam Keyumarsi

Mehrangiz Jamzadeh

Shahriyar Zomorodi



UPCOMING DATES

(continued from page 1)

June 1-4, 2018

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

July 29 - August 1, 2018

[Reimagining Interfaith
Conference](#). Washington DC

November 1-7, 2018

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

December 29-31, 2020

North American Zoroastrian
Congress hosted by ZAH
(Houston)

News From ZAC-LA

By Dilnavaz Shroff

What could be a better way to start the New Year with the resonance of Mathravani prayers coupled with the sound of bells of the Bui and Machi in the Ushin geh around 12:30 am. Yes, that is exactly how the members of the Zoroastrian Association of California started 2018, thus receiving the blessings of miraculous ZAC Atash Padshah.

As if that was not enough, on January 1st, the Maidyarem Gahambar Jashan was performed by Ervads Zarrir and Zerkxis Bhandara along with Mobedyars: ZAC President Houtoxi Contractor, Jimmy Colabewalla and Maneck Bhujwalla. The Gahambar and lunch was sponsored by the executive committee and was well attended by over 100 people.

What a better way to start the year than that, folks! ☐

10th Zoroastrian Unity Cup – A Sizzling Success!

By Nima Patel



<< **Team Verahram, First Place winners of the 10th Zoroastrian Unity Cup, held in Redondo Beach, California in September 2017.**

Labor Day Weekend in Southern California is synonymous with backyard barbeques and bustling beaches, but this year the Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) had the pleasure of hosting another Labor Day tradition – the **10th Zoroastrian Unity Cup**

soccer tournament in Redondo Beach, CA! And despite the record-setting heat, the fierce competition witnessed over the two-day event was perhaps the best in the decade-plus long history of the tournament.

In all, nine adult teams and four youth teams participated, making up a total of just under 100 athletes with origins as close as LA and San Diego, and as far away as Toronto, Canada. ZSC's core mission to unite folks near and far is continually manifested through the success of these events, where participation by people of all ages from all places reinforces the cause and validates the values upon which the committee was built upon.

This year's games, 23 in all, had no shortage of highlights. With a pool-play format consisting 3 groups of 3 teams in the adult division, there was much at stake for all teams playing on Day 1. Unfortunately, one team was eliminated after pool play, leaving 8 teams battling it out in the sudden death playoff rounds on Day 2. In the end, only one team survived the grueling heat and stood as champion. This year, that distinction went to team *Verahram*, a squad made up of members residing in all parts of California coming together to prove that teamwork doesn't have to have a single home base. Coming in second and third place were *Team Chili Peppers* and *SDZ*, respectively, whose members included folks from Southern and Northern California, and Canada.

While the winning teams had their time to shine, the extraordinary contributions of several individual players were also featured as an important factor in the success of this year's tournament. Amir Shoberi (Best Goalie), Payam Khorramshahi (Best Sportsmanship), and Parham Oshidari (Most Valuable Player) stood out by



2018 FEZANA AGM DATES and PROGRAM BROAD OVERVIEW

For participants to book their flights etc, please find below a very broad conceptual program of the 2018 FEZANA AGM:

Host: California Zoroastrian Center

Thursday April 26, 2018

9:00AM – 1:00PM

Pre AGM Session Hosted by North American Mobeds Council

2:00-5:00PM

Panel Discussion and Brainstorming for FEZANA's participation at Global Interfaith Events in 2018

Friday April 27, 2018

8:30 AM: FEZANA AGM Begins

Saturday April 28, 2018

8:30 AM: FEZANA AGM Continues

Sunday April 29, 2018

8:30 AM: FEZANA AGM continues and shall end at noon.

1:00 PM:

Post-AGM Sessions TBD

More details to come (including accommodation etc) as they become available.

Contact vp@fezana.org for questions.

demonstrating that great leadership lies in setting positive examples and playing the game the right way.

Youth teams, split into two divisions (ages 7-10 and 10-15), from San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles, played in four action-packed games resulting in all players going home with a trophy.

While the core members of ZSC spent several months planning the event, marketing the games, and fine-tuning logistics, it's the contributions of our community that truly acts as the oil that allows ZSC's engine to operate. This year's tournament highlighted the willingness of our fellow Zoroastrians to shine in any role – whether it was manning the first-aid station, helping chase down balls, fill up water coolers, help pass out lunch, monitor the games, or donate their tents and chairs, our volunteers have always been and will continue to be key to the success of these games.

In addition to donating man-hours, financial contributions from our community is an equally important facet to any successes we see. Being a nonprofit organization, ZSC relies wholly on donations from the generous community members. The funds received this year went directly into the tournament, allowing us to maintain the professional level of play all the participants have come to expect.

All involved - be it the players, the volunteers, donators, and the spectators - played an equally important role in making this one of the most successful and smoothest run tournaments in ZSC's decades-long history. The fulfillment of our mission to provide a forum through which friendly competition can cultivate long lasting unity is what keeps the vision intact and allows us to look ahead with a sense of pride to what's upcoming.

16th Z GAMES COMING THIS JULY

We hope to carry the momentum of the success of the 10th Unity Cup into the 16th Z Games in 2018, to be held at Cal State Dominguez Hills in the Los Angeles area during July 3-8. If you wish to receive updates and currently do not, please email us at ZSC@FEZANA.ORG to be added to our mailing list. Please also pay attention to updates on Facebook (@ZSC) as we release more details in the coming months.

Remember, it's never too early to start preparing. Sports offered at the 16th Games include basketball, volleyball, track & field, swimming, and more! If you're interested in volunteering for the Z Games, please feel free to reach out to us anytime via email or Facebook!

See you all this Summer in LA! ☐





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/>

UNESCO Inscribes Ahmedabad as the first World Heritage City of India



<< *The Sixth Annual Flower Show and Riverfest in Ahmedabad, India, on the banks of the Sabarmati river was a major draw. The river is now flush with fresh water. The city celebrated its designation by UNESCO as India's first World Heritage City with large banners proclaiming the recognition. A vibrant display of color, of arts, crafts, food and traditional handicrafts on sale at the flower show drew large crowds.* Photo by Astad Pastakia

The walled city of Ahmedabad, founded by Sultan Ahmed Shah in the 15th century was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage City on 8 July 2017. The city presents a rich architectural heritage, notably the Bhadra citadel, numerous mosques and tombs, Hindu and Jain temples. The urban fabric is made of densely packed traditional houses (pols) in gated streets, with bird feeders and public wells. The world famous Indian Institute of Management in the city has recently completed its new campus which looks like an arboretum.

2017 marks the 100 anniversary of the Sabarmati Ashram where Mahatma Gandhi lived from 1917 to 1930.

The city looks forward to the day when the commute to the business megapolis of Mumbai by Bullet Train, (to be constructed in collaboration with and technology expertise from Japan), will be reduced to under just three hours.



In further celebrations, on 29 December 2017, The Governor of Gujarat, Hon., O. P. Kohli, released a special stamp to commemorate Dadabhai Naoroji, the Grand Old Man of India, at a glittering function organized by the Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat and the Ushta Te Foundation.

The event was held on the lawns of the historic Nowrojee Hall on the western bank of the Sabarmati river. The stamp additionally depicts the Udvada Atashbehram fire temple and a facade of the Elphinstone College.

Several speakers highlighted the history of the *Parsis of Ahmedabad* a special film showcasing the contributions of Parsis to the city, from the Municipality of Ahmedabad, (view on You Tube [here](#)), was screened on the occasion.

A book fair, and an exhibition of Parsi Garas was show cased. Feasting on typical Parsi food of Dhan Sak, Chicken Farcha, Patra in Machi, and Mithu Mohnu, brought the evening to a close.

From across the oceans, FEZANA looks forward to partnering with the Parsis of Ahmedabad in celebrating our common ancient culture, heritage and traditions.

We congratulate the people and the Government of India on this landmark recognition of a thriving, diverse, vibrant, young, educated, burgeoning civil society rooted in historic cultural traditions, by the United Nations. □



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](#).

Badam-ni-Bois for a Cause at ZAKOI

By Bakhtavar Desai

Dear Friends,

Our Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN (ZAKOI) consists of approximately a population of about 150 Zoroastrians in the Tri-state region of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. Our members live in various cities in the region, approximately 2-3 hours away from Cincinnati, Ohio, which is our meeting hub. Though small, we are a close knit and very active group that tries its best to meet the religious and cultural needs of all our people, youngest to the oldest, through celebrations, Jasans, Mukta prayers, religion classes and camps, and lots of social gatherings.



I choose to do this fundraiser at this time of the year -- around the auspicious occasion of Norooz coming up in March -- because the 'Fish' is a symbol of Happiness, Prosperity and Abundance in the Zoroastrian culture. The fish itself, or a sweet dessert shaped like a fish, is often used to give as a gift of goodwill and friendship among friends and family on various good occasions. A note on the Badam ni Boi is included detailing its

symbolism, ingredients, storage instructions etc.

The Badam ni Boi (a sweet pastry made with crushed almonds and flavorings), is a great addition to your Norooz Table and a yummy treat for your family and friends. You can order it for yourself or for sending it to your friends around the country. We will pack and ship it to your friends/family with a personalized note from you. **All the profits raised from the sale of these Bois will go to our ZAKOI Center Fund.** This fund has been established and is continuously being raised to enable our community to have our own Worship Center someday. We have raised about \$85,000 in the last nine years through our fundraising efforts, and this Badam ni Boi fundraiser contributes greatly to our Center Fund every year. We are deeply grateful to all our fellow Zoroastrians who support this cause year after year by buying our Bois. Thank you most sincerely!

You can place your order with your Zoroastrian Association's Boi contact for your community, who will collect your orders, place them with me, and deliver the Bois to you at your local Norooz function. Or, you can arrange to pick them up from the contact person's home earlier if you like. You can also place your order directly with me and have the Bois delivered to your home. A few friends can also plan together and place their order at any one family's address.

The Bois are \$32 for a pair, or \$18 for 1 Boi plus shipping (ranging from \$8-18)

Please place your orders with me as soon as possible, hopefully by early to mid February, if you would like to have the Badam ni Bois a few days before Norooz. Your orders have been, and will continue to, help ZAKOI with this noble cause. If you don't want to buy the Bois but still want to help us, we will gratefully accept your tax-deductible donation check made to the ZAKOI Center Fund, mailed to Bakhtavar Desai, 6383 Jamesfield Ct., Fairfield, OH 45014. A receipt with our Tax ID number will be mailed to you soon.

We hope to receive your orders, and your help with spreading the word about our ZAKOI Worship Center fundraising efforts.

Thanking you in anticipation, and Best Wishes on behalf of ZAKOI! 0

Bakhtavar Desai

Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN (ZAKOI)

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