

FEZANA *bulletin*

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

2018 FEZANA AGM Highlights • p1

Youngest Martab • p3

Ordibehesht Gahn • p4

16th Z-Games • p5

UPCOMING DATES

June 1-4, 2018

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

June 2-3, 2018

NAMC AGM at Kamran Dar-e-Mehr, Boyds, MD. Hosted by ZAMWI.

June 4, 2018

"We're Still In: A faith based observance of World Environment Day" 4pm. Church Center for the United Nations

June 16, 2018

4th Intl Day of Yoga Celebration at U.S. Capitol West Lawn. Washington D.C.

July 3-8, 2018

16th Zoroastrian Games. California State University, Carson, CA.
<http://zathletics.com/>

July 14, 2018

4th Annual Kamran Seminar. ZAMWI.

July 27-29, 2018

ZAH Z-Camp for Kids. Houston.
<http://zah.org/?event=zah-z-camp-2018>

(Dates continued on page 4)

31st FEZANA AGM Highlights



The 31st Annual General Meeting of FEZANA, hosted by California Zoroastrian Center (CZC) at their Dar-e-Mehr in Westminster California, was held from April 27 to April 29, 2018. Nearly 70 participants, including FEZANA Executive, FEZANA Member Association Representatives, FEZANA Committee members, and local California Zarathushtis, attended this annual event.

This year's event started with a series of sessions at the Pre-AGM on Thursday April 26, 2018. A jashan ceremony organized by the North American Mobed Council and led by Ervad Zarrir Bhandara kickstarted the program which was followed by a detailed presentation on the functioning, challenges and future initiatives of the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) by its president Arda-e-viraf Minocherhomjee.

Later that afternoon, an informative discussion, led by Dolly Dastoor and Ardeshir Irani, highlighted FEZANA's upcoming participation in the Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto in November 2018.

A second session was led by Rohinton Rivetna on Infrastructure needs in North America and what FEZANA and its member associations and Zarathushtis in North America can do to make some of the ideas come to fruition.

The official AGM program began on Friday April 27, 2018. FEZANA President Homi D. Gandhi called the meeting to order and welcomed all the participants. In a short presentation, three stalwarts of the Zoroastrian community who passed away in the



The 2018 FEZANA AGM held hosted by California Zoroastrian Center (CZC) in Westminster, CA; [right] Arzan Wadia (Vice-President), Rooky Fitter (Treasurer), Homi Gandhi (President), Afreed Mistry (outgoing Asst. Secretary), Percy Master (Secretary)



**Federation of
Zoroastrian
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(FEZANA)**

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

last year. -- Dhunmai Dalal, Professor Kaikhosrov D. Irani and Dr. Farhang Mehr – were remembered and their contributions to the Zarathushti community were marked.

FEZANA is happy to announce the re-election of Homi Gandhi as President for his second two year term. FEZANA also welcomed Rooky Fitter of Zoroastrian Association of California-Los Angeles as the new FEZANA Treasurer. Homi Gandhi also thanked outgoing FEZANA Treasurer Shirin Jahanian and outgoing Assistant Secretary Afreed Mistry for their contributions and service over their respective terms.



Another highlight of the AGM was the long-overdue recognition of the FEZANA UN-NGO committee. FEZANA conducts its activities through a series of Standing and Ad-hoc committees. This year we are happy to announce that the FEZANA UN-NGO committee was unanimously voted by the Member Associations present at the AGM, to be formally recognized as a Standing Committee of FEZANA.



As in previous AGMs, Member associations and Committee chairs presented their reports at the AGM, sharing successes and outlining future plans. The 2018 AGM report book is available for viewing on the FEZANA website.

Evening celebrations were organized by the local Zarathushti communities. On Friday evening the Zoroastrian Association of California - Los Angeles hosted a Community Dinner for all the guests at their center in Orange, California. Prayers in their new Atash Kadeh began the evening festivities followed by dinner and a lovely entertainment program by ZAC-LA youth.

On Saturday, CZC hosted a Gala Evening with a fantastic entertainment program. The show stopper was a demonstration by Karate 5th degree black belt Shihan Ervad Zarrir Bhandara and Karate 1st Degree black belt Adil Masani who performed some amazing stunts showcasing mental and physical prowess including a motorcycle plank ride over Shihan Bhandara's abdomen.

A post AGM session was held at CZC's Valley Dar-e-Mehr in Canoga Park featuring WZCC Southern California Chapter's meeting. The CZC's LA Valley Dar-e-Mehr was recently renovated with a beautiful facade restoration and everyone got an opportunity to visit.

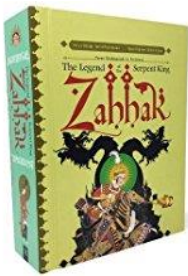
Bids had been invited for hosting FEZANA's 32nd AGM in 2019 and FEZANA Corresponding Member Central Florida Group was selected as the host of the next AGM. For the first time, the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) Global AGM will also be held in Orlando just prior to the FEZANA AGM. Tentative dates for WZCC Global AGM and FEZANA's 32nd AGM are early May 2019. More details will be circulated in months ahead.

FEZANA sincerely thanks Shida Anoshiravani from CZC and her dedicated team of volunteers for their warm hospitality and hard work in organizing and hosting this year's FEZANA AGM. The countless hours of work that they put in was evident and much appreciated. The teams at CZC aided by ZAC-LA completely outdid themselves in producing a truly memorable AGM with fantastic events, entertainment and great hospitality.

A detailed day by day recap of the 2018 FEZANA AGM can be viewed on the [FEZANA website](http://www.fezana.org). Draft Minutes of the AGM will be circulated shortly. □



BOOK AWARENESS



Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King by Hamid Rahmanian and Simon Arzipe, Seattle, WA: Fantagraphics Books, Inc., 2018.

For the first time ever, a tale from the Shahnameh, springs to life in this stunningly produced and ingeniously crafted pop-up book. *Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King* retells the myth of the misguided Prince Zahhak who is easily swayed by the devil to murder his father and usurp the throne. Cursed with monstrous snakes that grow out of the king's shoulders, the Serpent King grows infamous throughout the land for his treachery and oppression. He rules for one thousand years before a noble and valiant Feraydun gains the strength and army to defeat the unjust King. The fantastic world of *Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King* literally pops off the page with intricately crafted spreads, two pop-up folds per page, and complex construction that will delight readers young and old with every turn of the page.

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

Honor and Achievement: Youngest Martab in Canada



Ervad Nekzad Illava, son of Aspi and Tanaz Illava of Mississauga, who is only 14 years of age, underwent the rigorous Martab ceremony on December 23, 2017 at the Bai Motlibai Wadia Agiyari in Malcom Baug, in Jogeshwari, Mumbai, India. He also performed the *Boi* ceremony in *Ushahin Gah* (after midnight) in the same Agiyari.

Three years ago, at the tender age of 11, he became an ordained priest by undergoing the Navar ceremony and has since performed most of the religious ceremonies in the Greater Toronto Area. Since he became a priest, young Nekzad has given his services at almost every religious event held at Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) and many

at Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) and other various private ceremonies, including but not limited to *Jashans*, *navjotes*, *weddings*, *sarosh* and *uthamna*, etc.

For the last two and a half years, Ervad Nekzad has been going through the Martab training under the guidance of Er. Jal N. Panthaky of Mississauga, Ontario.

Ervad Nekzad is the first, and the youngest priest and the only one of his generation, not just in Ontario, but in all of Canada, who has achieved the Martab status. This was possible by dint of hard work, the determination and dedication that he demonstrated, and with the help of his mentors and family members, who supported this endeavor.

Heartiest congratulations to Ervad Nekzad on this great achievement, and may he be blessed to carry forth the work of Ahura Mazda's Good Religion. The OZCF, ZSO, North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) and the entire North American Zoroastrian community is very proud of Young Athornan Ervad Nekzad and wish him every success in his life. □

The President, Fezana and the Presidents of Fezana Member Associations,



Dear Fezana Members:

The Sacramento Zoroastrian Association is pleased to announce the opening of our newly renovated Zoroastrian Center located at 10528 Armstrong Avenue, Mather, CA 95655 on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 6.30 p.m. All Zoroastrian Associations in North America are welcome to send representative(s). The entertainment program will be followed by a dinner.

Those who are able to attend may please respond to us by email: (rsvp@sacza.org) or by phone (916) 837-2997 by June 18, 2018

Mrs. Manijeh Behziz,
President, Sacramento Zoroastrian Association

Darius Captain,
Fezana Representative



UPCOMING DATES

(continued from page 1)

July 29 - August 1, 2018

[Reimagining Interfaith Conference](#). Washington DC

July 31-August 3, 2018

NAIN Connect 2018.
Edmonton, Alberta Canada

November 1-7, 2018

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

July 1-6, 2019

[7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress](#). Los Angeles, CA.

December 29-31, 2020

North American Zoroastrian Congress hosted by ZAH (Houston)

Air, Water, Earth Fire ~ Caring for the Gifts of Creation

Ordibehesht Gahn Celebration by ZAMWI Avesta Class



Children of the Avesta Religious Education Class of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc., (ZAMWI) celebrated their ancient traditions of caring for the gifts of creation to mankind, Air, Water, Earth, Fire, on 22 April 2018, Earth Day, at the Kamran Dar-e-Mehr, Boyds, Maryland.

The prayers for water from different faith traditions* were recited by the children, and each one was given a flowering plant to take home and nurture in their garden, or window sill, with guidance from their parents, as a reminder of our duty to care for Mother Earth.

The ceremony was conducted by **Mobedyar Hormuzd Katki**, who began by reciting relevant verses from the **Gathas: Yasna 29** and from the *Gatha Haptanghaaiti*, which relate to care for the earth in Zoroastrian scriptures.

*Reference: Prayers for water from Different Faith Traditions can be accessed from the *Fezana Journal*, Vol 31, No. 4, Winter, December 2017, archived at www.fezana.org □



FEZANA Supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and Goal 13 (Climate Action)

11th World Zoroastrian Congress Program Schedule is Available for Viewing



The program and schedule for the 11th World Zoroastrian Congress, to be held in Perth Australia next month from June 1-4, 2018, has been posted. Please view on the Congress website: www.11wzcp Perth.com.au



Embassy of India, Washington D.C., USA
in partnership with Friends of Yoga, invites you to join the

4th International Day of Yoga



2018
Yoga for Harmony and Power

Saturday, June 16
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Venue:
U.S. Capitol West Lawn
E. Capitol & First Streets NW,
Washington D.C.

Free registration:
www.indianembassy.org/diyogaday



21ST ANNUAL PEACE PALS INTERNATIONAL ART CONTEST (FOR YOUTH 5-16)

**ENTRY DEADLINE:
JUNE 30, 2018**



Peace Pals International is a program designed to encourage youth from around the globe, ages 5-16 to become peacemakers dedicated to living in the spirit of the words "May Peace Prevail On Earth."

**2018 THEME AND MESSAGE:
LIVING PEACE.**
What does living peace mean to you?

Prizes will be awarded. All entries will receive certificate of participation.

For details, rules or to enter:

<http://wppspeacepals.org/2018-art-contest/>

FEZANA Supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

16th Z Games: Support our youth, support our future!

Starting in 1988 with a mere twenty attendees, the Zoroastrian Games are now a well-attended biannual event. In 2014, 2,600 people attended in Los Angeles, of which 600 were athletes. The 2016 games in Chicago had over 1,500 Zarathushtis at the closing ceremony! Individuals from UK, Australia, Germany, India, France, Iran and Pakistan, as well as 16 different states (from the US) have enjoyed the camaraderie, built new friendships and strengthened bonds between our continents.

Bob Mehr, longtime Sports Director for the Zoroastrian Sports Committee (the official organizing committee of the ZGames), expects that over 600 participants will join the event this year, which is slated to be held at Cal State University Dominguez Hills in Southern California. The team is planning the opening and closing ceremonies, social events which include a disco night, tours around town, and a marquee Banquet night that will feature Iranian pop superstars Kamran and Hooman. While the event provides a welcome forum for networking/socializing, the central component of the Z-Games are the sporting events. Folks of all ages have an opportunity to show off their skills in basketball, volleyball, track, swimming and tennis. He states, "The level of performance improves significantly each year, which motivates us to maintain the integrity of the tournament by selecting top-notch facilities and hiring professional referees and scorekeepers."



The Zarathushti community convenes few national or international events for youth, making this a great opportunity to meet new people and share their interests in a healthy and comfortable atmosphere. To help encourage participation, FEZANA actively seeks funding to keep the cost low for participants.

"Sports is a great unifier," said Bob, citing a number of examples: Friendships formed between attendees

and host families, youth staying in touch on social media, visiting each other after the games, and even making industry connections. Each year a few young people even find their soulmate at the games! And those who volunteer during the events often go on to take leadership roles in the community.

The 16th Z Games will be held in Los Angeles this year July 3-8. We encourage all to participate or cheer for our youth, and have fun!

Registration is now open and available at www.ZATHLETICS.com. Contact the Zoroastrian Sports Committee ZSC@FEZANA.ORG with any questions.