

FEZANA *bulletin*

July 2018 / VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 7



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Sacramento Grand Opening of Community Hall • p1

New Co-Chair for Religion Education Committee• p2

ZYWIB Call For Global Volunteers p3

Scholarships Available p3 and 4

UPCOMING DATES

July 27-29, 2018

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

July 27-29, 2018

[2018 United Religions Initiative North America Regional Assembly](#)
Reisterstown,, MD.

July 29, 2018

WZCC NY Chapter Mid-summer Maidyoshem Gahambar. Arbab Rustum Guiv Darbe Mehr, Suffern, NY. ZAGNY, IZA, and all who can attend are invited.
Contact Yighad [at] gmail.com

July 29 - August 1, 2018

[ReImagining Interfaith Conference.](#)
Washington DC

July 31-August 3, 2018

NAIN Connect 2018.
Edmonton, Alberta Canada

August 5, 2018

Zoroastrian Film Festival hosted by ZAOM in collaboration with InterFaith Leadership Council of Metro Detroit. Farmington Hills MI. Public Library.

(Dates continued on page 4)

Sacramento Zoroastrian Association Inaugurates New Community Hall

By Darius Captain, FEZANA Representative for SZA



On June 30, 2018, over a year after the inauguration of its Dar e Mehr, Sacramento Zoroastrian Center (SZA) opened the doors of its much awaited grand community hall. Some 250 Zoroastrians and well-wishers from the greater Sacramento area as well as

San Francisco Bay Area gathered in jubilation around tables decked out in elegant silver grey, accented by fabulous fresh flower arrangements in stunning orange and white – symbolizing colors of fire and purity.



One of the guests present was Mr Homi Gandhi, (FEZANA President), who, with some well-chosen words, congratulated the community for this outstanding achievement.

Before the official function, a Jashan was conducted at the Dar-e-Mehr by Ervad Kobad Jamshed from the San Francisco Bay area.



Tables overflowed with a large selection of homemade Persian cookies meticulously decorated by members, and mountains of fresh California fruits. There was an open bar as well. Mrs. Manijeh Behziz, president of SZA, welcomed the guests and thanked the volunteers who worked diligently and relentlessly for over a year to get the Center up and running.

A short video showing the stages of construction inside the hall was projected on a screen on the newly constructed stage. After a musical presentation and cultural dance, a banquet dinner of Persian dishes was enjoyed by the guests followed by a live Persian band-- with guests dancing and celebrating late into the night.



↑ Sacramento Zoroastrian Center inaugurates its grand community hall. [LtoR]: Darius Captain, Erach Tarapore (past President of ZANC), Silloo Tarapore, Jeroo Captain,, Homi Gandhi, and Vera Shroff

The official capacity of the Center hall is 406 for assembly, making it a very functional space for the growing Sacramento community.

It is hoped the Zoroastrian community of greater Sacramento



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:

<https://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

will continue to flourish with this beautiful new Center as its energizing and unifying hub. □

FEZANA President's comments: Sacramento Zoroastrian Association (SZA) became FEZANA member in 2015. I visited them in November 2016 when they were working on building their Dar-e-Mehr and new center. The Dar-e-Mehr was inaugurated in March 2017, and finally the center on June 30, 2018. This is a journey of joy, happiness, camaraderie of a small organization, whose members, young and old, men and women, worked hand in hand to create the facilities they needed for their community. FEZANA is very proud of this story and I would like to invite you to watch the attached video presentation.

A video of the Dar-e Mehr and Center renovation can be viewed [here](#).

This is a role model community to follow and I invite you to follow up with your questions to SZA leaders if you wish to achieve such success in your community.

Homi D. Gandhi
President, FEZANA

FEZANA Welcomes New Co-Chair for Religion Education Committee



FEZANA is pleased to announce that Artemis Javanshir will be joining the FEZANA Religion Education committee as a Co-chair. Artemis is a member of California Zoroastrian Center at Los Angeles (CZC-LA) Education Committee. She has been teaching Zoroastrian religious classes at CZC-LA to grades 4-6 for over four years. Her main interest is engaging youth in Zoroastrian community, and introducing them to the teachings of Zarathushtra with daily life application. In addition to religious studies, she teaches Persian (Farsi) and pre-Islamic Persian history to children. As a teenager and

later as a youth, she has attended classes on the Gathas and Zoroastrian Studies. In 2017, she organized a youth focused educational workshop consisting of high school and college students in order to facilitate long term educational success. She served on CZC at Orange County Youth Committee for more than two years and as a Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) member for two years. Artemis obtained her first bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering with emphasis in communication from California State University Long Beach and her second bachelor degree in Dental Hygiene from University of Southern California. She has been practicing as a dental hygienist in southern California for over 16 years. □

Welcome to the New ZAC-CHI Board, 2018-2020

We congratulate and welcome the newly elected Board for the **Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC-CHI)**, and look forward to future collaborations.

President: Afshan Barshan

Vice President: Zinnia Elavia

Board Members:

Rayomand Ravji

Sohrab Felfeli

Jamshed Rivetna

Jeraz Engineer

Secretary: Jim Engineer

Treasurer: Tushad Driver

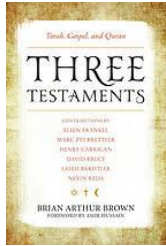
Kayomarsh Mehta

Dilshad Antia

Hosi Mehta

Mehrab Deboo

BOOK AWARENESS



Three Testaments by Brian A Brown, Amir Hussain & Ellen Frankel, Lanham: 2014

From time to time we receive book suggestions from our readers to add to our collection. Here is one that Kersi Shroff of ZAMWI has recommended. In its Foreword written by Amir Hussain, the editor of the Journal of the American Academy of Religion, the book is described as "revolutionary" and a "game-changer for interfaith studies." On Prophet Zarathushtra, Hussain states: "Zoroaster's life and influence, as documented here, are important, since his reforms affected the old Hinduism and the newer Buddhism as profoundly as his spiritual insights influenced Judaism, Christianity and Islam." This book brings together the text of the Torah, the New Testament, and the Quran, so that readers can explore for themselves the connections, as well as the points of departure, between the three faiths. The prologue written by lead author Brian Arthur Brown claims: "If any or all of these religions actually do have an "Old Testament," it might be the Zoroastrian scriptures, known as the Avesta, which is something of a subtext in the contextual background chapters of this volume... first seen in the Zoroastrian Avesta can now be correlated with similar or identical words, phrases and verses in the Torah, the Gospel and the Quran, a phenomenon we designate as "the Z factor." This powerful book provides a much-needed interfaith perspective on key sacred texts.

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

Welcome to the New PZO Board of Trustees

We congratulate and welcome the new Board of Trustees for Persian Zoroastrian Organization (PZO), and look forward to future collaborations.

President: Mr. Saman Niknam

Secretary: Mrs Noushin Isadvastar

Treasurer: Mrs Mehrnoush Khorshidian

Board Members:

Mrs Gita Bahramipour

Mrs Rebecca Cann

Mrs Firoozeh Javanmard

Mr Mehrzad Paysarvi

Zarathushti Youth Without Borders (ZYWIB): Call for Volunteers to Serve Globally

RAD-AID International ~ sharing a spirit of hope and charity

- ** Serving in 27 Countries.
- ** Chapters in 61 Academic Institutions in USA and Canada.
- ** Over 9000 volunteers over ten years.
- ** No paid staff in management and no paid employees.
- ** Emphasis on Education & Mentorship.
- ** Mobile Health Designs ~ truck based clinics, Medical Airship.
- ** Sustainable Development Model - Public/ Private Partnerships.
- ** Guidestar Exchange Gold Participant (all financial data on website in public domain).
- ** **Seeking Volunteers:** with Engineering, Business, Information Technology, Non Profit Management, Social Work, Teaching, Nursing, and Medical backgrounds.
- ** Annual Meeting on the first Saturday in November at PAHO/ WHO Headquarters in Washington DC.

RAD-AID Annual Report is available for reference and further details.

Website: www.rad-aid.org

Contact: Behram Pastakia, bpastakia (@) [aol.com](mailto:bpastakia@aol.com).

Chair, Zarathushti Youth Without Borders Committee of FEZANA

Fali Chothia Charitable Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

The Fali Chothia Charitable Trust is now accepting applications for its 28th annual scholarship awards. Scholarships are open to Zoroastrian students in North America enrolled in four-year or graduate-level programs. Awards are based on financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular activity and community service. They are given as outright gifts or no- and low-interest loans.

The Fali Chothia Charitable Trust was established in 1988 under the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc. (ZAMWI). The Trust provides scholarships to deserving Zoroastrian students enrolled in universities in North America, regardless of their country of origin. Applications may be downloaded from: <https://zamwi.org/fct/> □



UPCOMING DATES

(continued from page 1)

September 16, 2018

Unity Walk 2018. Walk down Massachusetts Avenue, NW in Washington D.C. in a celebration of solidarity among different faiths. InterFaith Conference of Metro Washington.

<https://zamwi.org/events/1510/>

November 1-7, 2018

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

May 1-5, 2019

WZCC AGM hosted by Central Florida Zoroastrian Community in Orlando. www.wzcc.org in conjunction with FEZANA AGM. Details to come.

July 1-6, 2019

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

December 29-31, 2020

North American Zoroastrian Congress hosted by ZAH (Houston)

Annual Gahambar in Orlando

On Sunday, July 1st, 2018, the Zarathushtis in Orlando had another world famous Orlando Gahambar.

Over 150 Humdins attended it from Orlando, Jacksonville, Melbourne, Tampa, and Miami/Ft. Lauderdale/Boca Raton. It started with a Satum Prayer, a silence in honor



of late Ambassador Jamsheed Kekobad Marker, a Hum Bandagi, and a Tandoorasti by all to wish Happy Birthday to 20 year old twin brothers – Armaan and Zamaan Kassim! This was followed by Bingo Games, Auction, and finally the famous home cooked Parsi lunch on banana leaves. As always, there was a silent auction and the traditional Food Stall with home cooked delicacies like Bhakhras, Maawaa Cakes, Bataasaas, Masalas, etc. Our Food Stall was completely sold out!

As always, it was a wonderful community event with lots of people helping out cooking, hall arrangements, selling, serving food, and various other jobs. □

“Dr Houshang Khatibi Scholarship” Now 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. The application must be filled out completely, submitted only by mail, and be post marked by **July 31, 2018**. Late applications are not accepted. Applicant must be a full time student at an accredited US college or university.

Contact khatibischolarship@gmail.com for application. Application, essay, transcripts, and all supporting documents should be mailed in one package to:

California Zoroastrian Center
c/o Dr. Houshang Khatibi Scholarship
8952 Hazard Ave,
Westminster, CA 92683

For specific inquiries email khatibischolarship@gmail.com

11th World Zoroastrian Congress e-Version of Souvenir Book

Now available, the digital version of the Souvenir book from the 11th World Zoroastrian Congress (11WZC) recently held in Perth Australia last month. It includes articles from various prominent scholars and messages from global dignitaries, youth, entrepreneurs etc. and provides a comprehensive overview of the congress.

The digital version can be accessed by the link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1n88nGYDP3unYfauPLMCgDm11u0i1Ncio>

Celebrating Milestone for Azerbaijan

By Rooky Fitter



↑ On behalf of FEZANA, Homi Gandhi (far left) and Rooky Fitter (far right) attended the festivities celebrating Azerbaijan's 100th Anniversary of its First Republic, on May 23, 2018 in Los Angeles

FEZANA was cordially invited by Azerbaijan's Consul General of Los Angeles Mr. Nasimi Aghayev and his wife Mrs. Lala Aghayeva in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan's First Republic on May 23rd 2018 at the Hyatt Regency in Los Angeles.

Azerbaijan, a young democracy, situated by the Caspian sea, and bordered on three fronts by Russia, Turkey, Iran, Armenia and Georgia was initially established as a Republic in 1918. (The Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan-DRA). Being a short lived democracy at that time, it won its independence from USSR in 1991 and since then has

undergone a tremendous transformation from a war torn country to one of the fastest developing countries in that region.

As history notes, one of the few Zoroastrian places of worship (Ateshgah) is near Azerbaijan's capital Baki and the name Azerbaijan is derived from a Turkish collocation: Land of noble people, keepers of the fire.

The evening was attended by many representatives of various countries as well as local Azerbaijanis living in and around Los Angeles. Homi Gandhi and Rooky Fitter attended the festivities which included dancers and singers. Although it is a predominantly Muslim country, it is a secular republic with a highly inclusive and tolerant society.

It was a very pleasant evening of people not only the local Azerbaijanis and the official representatives from all walks of life coming together and celebrating their country's milestone. □

FEZANA JOURNAL

Trailblazers. Adventurers. Go-getters.

For more than 30 years, we've been proud to share
your stories and experiences in North America.

**Read &
Be Informed.**

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE TODAY
www.fezana.org