How We Will Build a More Prosperous Future for Generations to Come
Reflections from 67th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference
By Arta Khosravi

On August 22 and 23, 2018, my family and I had the golden opportunity to attend the annual UN DPI NGO conference, along with fellow FEZANA associates (shown in the picture to the left) Zenia Shroff, from Tampa, Florida, Arian Sasani, from Vancouver, British Columbia, Afreed Mistry, from the Greater Toronto Area, Canada and over 1,000 other individuals, representing UN member states and organizations. At the core of this conference was finding lasting solutions to help achieve the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030. A major part of the conference was centered on youth involvement in achieving the SDGs. As a tenth-grade student, I was able to provide insight and a new perspective to maximize youth engagement.

Workshops with several speakers actively involved in solving SDG-related issues in their own communities were available to help teach and guide us. We were seeking strategies to implement lasting solutions for worldwide problems. I attended workshops on the following topics: quality education, women mobilization, promoting peace through conflict resolution, and engaging youth through the Model United Nations (MUN). By participating in these forums, I was emboldened to comment and ask questions regarding the material being presented. By attending this conference, I have enriched and broadened my perspective, as a global citizen. I am inspired to contribute more to reaching the SDG milestones to help future generations thrive.

Using the knowledge I gained from this unique experience, I have made a local impact. By holding sessions specifically addressing the SDGs at my Multi-Cultural Club, my peers and classmates have become more involved and aware of their surrounding world.

I look forward to continuing this journey with my friends, colleagues, and community.

Arta Khosravi is currently a tenth-grade student at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach, CA. She takes part in many activities both in and out of school, including MUN, speech & debate, Future Business Leaders of America, sailing, and is the founder and elected president of the Multi-Cultural Club at her high school. She is happy to answer any questions by email at artakhosravi [at] icloud.com.
The 2018-19 FEZANA Academic Scholarship recipients have been selected. The FEZANA Academic Scholarship Committee has announced the 2018-19 winners. Of the seventy-eight high caliber applications that were received, nineteen recipients were awarded scholarships this year:

**BANOOBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Monaz Mistry (Harvard University)

**FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Negin Forouzesh (Virginia Tech)

**FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**
Shirin Asgari (Marshall B Ketchum University, Fullerton CA)
Hoshedar Bamji (Northeastern University, Boston)
Zarius Dubash (Babson College, Wellesley, MA)
Shaun Malbari (Wayne State University)
Ryan Marawa (University of California – Berkeley)
Nashaita Patrawalla (Florida Institute of Technology)

**FEZANA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP**
Seema Irani (University of Texas – Austin)

**GANDHI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**
Keana Kianian (George Washington University)

**KHERADI 30th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Yasaman Lorkalantari (University of California – Irvine)

**SHEROO D KOLSAWALLA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP**
Jeh Mory (University of Michigan)

**MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR**
Shayan Bhathena (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston)

**MORVARID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**
Darius Chinoy (Georgia Institute of Technology)
Natasha Irani (Teachers College, Columbia University)

**PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Burzin Balsara (University of Texas – Austin)

**YASMIN AND SHAPUR PAVRI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (IN MEMORY OF SHAHRNAZ N.D. TATA AND BANOO E. PAVRI)**
Afridi Chinoy (Case Western University)

**DR. MINOCHER RUSTOM VESUNA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP**
Rayomand Katrak (Texas A&M Health Science Centre) [Scholarship funded by WZO Canada]

**DOWLET MINOCHER VESUNA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP**
Ashish Chakraorty (University of Texas -- Austin) [Scholarship funded by WZO Canada]

[Look for full write-ups on the scholarships and their recipients in the Spring 2019 issue of the FEZANA Journal]
The Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC-CHI) had the privilege of hosting the Council of Religious Leaders of Metro Chicago’s (CRLMC) 2018 Festival of Faiths at its Darbe Mehr on September 16, 2018. The theme of the evening was “Pursuing Justice in Our Community.”

Attended by representatives from numerous Faith communities, the program started with a planting of a commemorative Interfaith Garden on the ZAC-CHI grounds, where representatives of each Faith community contributed a rose bush for planting.

The evening’s program continued with an open dialogue centered around “Justice”. Each Faith community presented a few minutes to address the issue and share its perspective. Tabletop Dialogues on the topic followed.

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**FEZANA P&CAS Scholarships, 2018-19**

The FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship (P&CAS) Committee has announced the following highly qualified recipients:

- **Ramin Akhavijou** (Carnegie Mellon University; Classical Music composition)
- **Sanaya Mistry** (Slippery Rock U. PA; Dance performance and teaching)
- **Farzad Sarkari** (Oberlin College, Ohio; Dance performance)

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**FEZANA EXISS Scholarships, 2018-19**

The FEZANA Excellence in Sports Scholarship (EXISS) Committee has announced the following highly qualified recipient:

- **Farzad Sarkari** (Swimming and Track & Field)

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**BOOK AWARENESS**

**Spiritual guidance across religions: a sourcebook for spiritual directors and other professionals providing counsel to people of differing faith traditions**


According to Dr. Mabry, this comprehensive resource book will offer valuable information for providing spiritual guidance to people from a wide variety of faith traditions. Covering the world’s faith traditions as well as interfaith, blended and independent approaches to spirituality, each chapter is written by a spiritual guidance professional from that tradition. Soli Dastur's chapter on Zoroastrianism is from page 183–200.

Visit our website at http://www.fires-fezana.org/
On October 9, 2018 the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World hosted its annual Fall Welcome Reception at the UCLA Royce Hall and introduced the Center’s stimulating program and research agenda for the academic year 2018-19. At that event, a fellowship in Zoroastrian Studies was announced. Here is what Trustee Mina Soroosh of the Morvarid Guiv Trust writes:

The Morvarid Guiv Graduate Fellowship in Zoroastrian Studies at UCLA’s Pourdavoud Center provides graduate support for UCLA students working on the study of Zoroastrianism, namely the study of the Zoroastrian religion, its history, languages, and scriptures. Preference will be given to students who self-identify as Zoroastrian and/or have demonstrated leadership and involvement in Zoroastrian-related community service.”

ZAMWI Participates in 13th Annual Unity Walk on Embassy Row in Washington DC

Above (L-R): Interfaith Activities take the stage… Mojgan Ariyaban, President Sazman e Zenaan (Women’s Organization) of ZAMWI, the Zoroastrian Association of Metro Washington Inc., Rabbi David Shneyer on the guitar, Ari Reeves on Violin, and Rabbi Gerry Serotta, Executive Director of the Interfaith Conference (www.ifcmw.org) at the Washington Hebrew Congregation in Washington D.C. at the 13th Annual Unity Walk on October 14, 2018.

Above: Mina Aidun, Co-Chair of the Zarathushti Religious Avesta Class, shares sweets, shirini, at the Resource Fair at the Zarathushti Table prior to the 911 Unity Walk, 2018. In a collaborative effort, FEZANA pamphlets, “telling others who we are” sourced from Headquarters in Chicago, were available for distribution.

Service projects at the Annual Unity Walk Event this year included creating care packages for the homeless at the Catholic Annunciation Church, and the gift of a total of seventy trees for planting by the Buddhist Organization, Soka Gakkai -USA.
FEZANA Welcomes New Co-Chair for Research and Preservation Committee

FEZANA is pleased to announce that Kersi B Shroff has agreed to join the FEZANA Research and Preservation Committee as a Co-Chair. He joins current Co-Chair Dinyar Patel in the position. FEZANA thanks outgoing Co-Chair, Maneck Bhujwala for his contributions to this committee for the past two years.

Kersi Bhikhaji Shroff, Esquire (Rockville, MD)

- Attorney at Law, Virginia, U.S.A., (1977). I obtained B.A. & LL. B. degrees from the University of Karachi, Pakistan; qualified as a Barrister-at-Law, in England; and, achieved a Master’s degree in International & Comparative Laws at the George Washington University Law School. I served the United States Government for thirty-three years as a Senior Legal Specialist (until 1999), and as the Chief of the Western Law Division & Co-Director of congressional legal research (2000 – 2011). I was a Member of the U.S. Government’s elite Senior Executive Service (SES).

- In the Western Law Division, I led a team of fifteen International Lawyers and Legal Analysts. The Division was responsible for providing legal research, analyses and consultations to Members of the U.S. Congress, and Federal Agencies, on international legal issues arising from the relationship of the U.S. with the member countries of the European Union, the [British] Commonwealth, and Central and Latin America.

- I am a founding-member of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc. (ZAMWI) (1979), and first drafted its Constitution. I have served ZAMWI in multiple capacities, including as Vice-President (four years), and President (four years). ZAMWI is an active member of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) and I continue to promote FEZANA activities. I am also a Member of the Overseas Committee of the World Zoroastrian Organization (WZO), based in London, England.

- I am now an independent student of the civilizations, religions, cultures and archaeology of the Persian Empires and former Eastern Iranian lands in Central Asia. I have travelled to India, Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to better understand the historical reach of Zoroastrianism. In September 2018, I have organized another tour by a group of Zoroastrians to Azerbaijan, reputed to be the birthplace of Prophet Zarathushtra.

- The interest in archaeology, sparked by reports of findings in Western China of Sogdian Zoroastrian funerary artifacts, led me to further research the presence of Zoroastrianism along the storied Silk Route. In 2013, I joined a Russian archaeological expedition to Tajikistan to excavate 5th – 7th sites in the ancient regions of Sogdiana and Bactria (present day Tajikistan and northern Afghanistan). I excavated at two sites in Tajikistan: Hisorak, and the ancient city of Panjikent. In subsequent visits to Tajikistan (2014) and Uzbekistan (2014 & 2015), I have led groups of Zoroastrians to those countries to explore ancient archaeological sites and to increase their understanding of the prevalence of Zoroastrianism in former Eastern Iranian lands situated in Central Asia.

- In recent years, I have been involved in the following presentations, publications and events, relating to Zoroastrianism; Central Asian archaeology; and, Interfaith activities:

  - Lectured on Zoroastrianism at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD, in the Honors Course on the “Spiritual Heritage of Mankind” (2009 -11).

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HUVARASHTA RESOURCES

Resources for Zarathushti
Religion Classes –
Community Service Project
Ideas

“If you can dream it, you can do it”
-- Walt Disney

TIPSHEET: Zoroastrians
Stepping Forward
Organize a shoe collection drive for the Homeless

https://ysa.ispringcloud.com/ac
/9Yvsm3YAxMzg5MA/s/13890-
woc1a-d0pwN-7v6Sq

FEZANA Supports U.N.
SDG Number 10
(Reducing Inequalities)
Talk on “Thus Speaks a Zarathushti”, at Hofstra University, New York, 2017.


“The Zoroastrian View on Refugees” Interfaith Celebration of Refugee Week, 2016.


Guest Editor, FEZANA Journal, 2013.

The Law on Parsi Adoptions in India, HAMAZOR, publication of WZO, 2014.


Member, Executive Committee, Montgomery County (MD), Interfaith Council.

Member, Montgomery County (MD), Religious Land Use Working Group.

Many FEZANA activities are centered on our Zarathushti youth. Among these, Zyna, Sports and the Return To Roots programs provide opportunities for young Zarathushtis to connect. Here we showcase a young couple that volunteer actively on Zarathushti community projects and are an inspiration to all ages.

When it comes to forging relationships, mentoring youth, reigniting a passion for our religion, and organizing activities that drive participation in community events, Fareeza Doctor and Dinsha Mistree are a Zarathushti power-couple. This duo may have grown up in different parts of the world, but they’re always on the same page when it comes to connecting Zarathushtis to their roots.

“The community is important to both of us. It is what we have grown up with and it has enriched our lives,” says Dinsha. Community-oriented, gregarious and fortunate, he was born in Houston, grew up in Atlanta and lived in Boston and Princeton before settling down in the Bay Area.

Fareeza grew up in Karachi, Pakistan and studied law in England before returning to work in Karachi. Adaptable, family-oriented and hardworking, Fareeza moved to
America for her studies and to be with her husband. “We were introduced by a mutual friend and we met for the first time a few months later in India on the first Return to Roots trip,” says Fareeza.

Dinsha helped start Zoroastrian Return to Roots. The program is designed to give young Zoroastrians living in the diaspora a taste of Zoroastrian India and eventually Zoroastrian Iran. “We have organized four tours so far with incredible support from FEZANA and its associations,” says Dinsha.

Dinsha is also involved in Agiary Connect, a website that enables Zoroastrians living outside of India to get services performed at established Agiaries. This supports the priests who perform these services. He regularly writes for community magazines such as FEZANA Journal and Hamazor. Dinsha is also on the FEZANA Scholarships Committee. And locally, he organizes a lot of Zoroastrian meet-ups and also volunteers with the ZYNA Mentorship Program.

Fareeza grew up going to Karachi Parsi Institute (KPI) and Karachi Zarathosthi Banu Mandal (KZBM) events and upon moving to the US, she got tied into local community events. She has served as a co-chair of the Zoroastrian Youth of North America, and has been involved in building out the ZYNA Mentorship Program that has approximately 170 participants, and is growing.

This couple is dedicated to enriching our community. They firmly believe a community is a sum of interactions. The more interactions that take place, and the higher quality of these interactions, the more likely our community will continue. “The activities we pursue are designed to increase these kinds of quality interactions,” says Fareeza. “FEZANA has an important role to play, but it is only as strong as the volunteers who serve it. We take great pride in whatever little we can do to support it.”

You can help FEZANA support activities such as Return to Roots, the Zarathushti Youth Congress, Z Games, North American Soccer Competition, FEZANA scholarships, mentorship programs and more. Your donation to FEZANA today invests in our youth, increases opportunities for their involvement in the community and furthers their fledgling careers. This will in turn build community leaders of tomorrow, and further Zarathushti ideals of helping each other (hum-bandhagi) and uplifting the entire community (Frashokereti).

Act now to donate to FEZANA at https://fezana.org