

# FEZANA *bulletin*

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- Parliament of the World's Religions • p1
- Zoroastrian Symposium in Toronto • p2
- FEZANA's New Assistant Secretary • p2
- 2018 Templeton Prize • p3

## UPCOMING DATES

### December 2, 2018

WZCC New York Chapter Meeting with guest Speaker Anahaita Kotval. "Business Case for Addressing Homelessness in your Community". [www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org)

### January 21-23, 2019

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention. Varanasi, India

### March 11-22, 2019

United Nations 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women Conference (CSW63). Individuals interested in attending the conference as FEZANA representatives are requested to contact: bpastakia at aol.com and mistry.afreed at gmail.com

### April 6, 2019

*Zoroastrian Studies: A Symposium.* University of Toronto in collaboration with FEZANA, OZCF and ZSO

(Dates continued on page 3)

## Happy Thanksgiving

FEZANA wishes you and your families, loved ones and friends a very Happy Thanksgiving! We take this opportunity to thank all those who contribute their time, effort and money to make the Zarathushtri presence in North America stellar. May we all continue on the path of Asha.... Truth, Righteousness and in sync with the Divine Order.

## FEZANA's Participation at the Parliament of the World's Religions

Earlier this month, more than 8300 people from across the globe, gathered in Toronto for the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR) – the world's single largest interfaith gathering which is organized every 3 to 5 years in different parts of the world – from November 1-7, 2018 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC). This year, the PoWR organization also celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Eighty-one countries and nearly 200 faith traditions were represented and more than 1,324 workshops, plenaries, and rituals were presented in all.



The Zoroastrian faith, through FEZANA, was represented by a group of thirty-one persons who were active participants across all levels of the event: keynote speakers, major speakers at Morning assemblies, panel discussants, and moderators. Zoroastrians also performed the religious rituals of Jashan, Boi and water ceremonies; sang monajats; and showcased the film "On Wings of Fire." The model of the Houston Atash Kadeh (Dar-e Mehr) was displayed.

Public visits were organized to the Dar-e Mehr in Toronto. FEZANA also sponsored two booths where sixteen volunteers helped throughout the seven days.

The FEZANA booth displayed books, pamphlets on religion and different FEZANA activities and programs. A special video was prepared which was shown in a loop. The booth was the hub of all activities. The second booth was in the Family Festival area for children to sensitize them about different religions. The Zoroastrian theme was "What's in your pocket?" focused on the Gereban, or symbolic pocket of good deeds in the Sudreh. An enormous 5 foot sudreh was accompanied by a diorama of three mannequins, showing a





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



dastoor/priest in white jamo, a child navjotee in sudreh, kusti and topi and the mother in purple gara saree. Posters explained the tenets of our religion and the navjote /Sudreh pushi initiation ceremony. The booth was a draw for children and adults, who made crayon rubbings of the Farohar, Atash, guardsmen, and winged bull symbols. They collected stickers of Atash, Farohar and Cyrus Cylinder, and learned about Cyrus the Great's declaration of

Human Rights from 2500 years ago! Each child received a small envelope labeled "my pocket of good deeds."

We thank all who participated in different capacities to make this a very special event bringing recognition to the community

-- Ardeshir Irani and Dolly Dastoor

*[Read much more about Zoroastrians at The Parliament of the World's Religions in the upcoming FEZANA Journal. ]*

## Zoroastrian Studies: A Symposium

FEZANA, Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO), and Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) are planning a symposium in collaboration with the University of Toronto ([click here for poster](#)) to celebrate the Norooz in 2019. The symposium is dedicated to the memory of Professor Yarshater. This is the first time that FEZANA, and Zoroastrian Associations co-sponsor an event with the Academia to augment their relationship.

## FEZANA Welcomes New Assistant Secretary

The FEZANA Executive would like to thank all the member associations who took the time to vote in the recent election for the open position of Assistant Secretary.



We would like to thank both candidates for their efforts, and with all the votes tallied, we are pleased to welcome Xerxes Commissariat as the new FEZANA Assistant Secretary for the 2018-2020 term.

We also take this opportunity to thank Adil Bhesania who contested the elections. Adil will continue to be a part of the FEZANA family in his role as one of the co-chairs of the ZYNA Committee.

Xerxes Commissariat can be reached at [asst-sec@fezana.org](mailto:asst-sec@fezana.org) □



## UPCOMING DATES

(continued from page 1)

### May 1-5, 2019

WZCC AGM hosted by Central Florida Zoroastrian Community in Orlando. [www.wzcc.org](http://www.wzcc.org) in conjunction with FEZANA AGM. Details to come.

### July 1-6, 2019

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

### August 20-23, 2019

*10th World Assembly, Religions for Peace International* in Lindau, Germany

### August 26-29, 2019

*68th Annual DPI / NGO Conference*. Salt Lake City, Utah. Details at [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

### July 1-5, 2020

*Zoroastrian Games*  
(Washington D.C. area)

### December 29-31, 2020

North American Zoroastrian Congress hosted by ZAH (Houston)

## New Donation Form and New Donation Page on FEZANA Website

Dear Zarathushtis,

We have recently revised our donation portal based on your suggestions and input. We thank Arzan Wadia for his patience and willingness to provide his expertise.

This streamlined version is easy to use and mobile-friendly. <https://fezana.org/donate>.

However, if you prefer, please print out the form found on page 5 of this Bulletin, and mail it with your donation check to FEZANA Treasurer, P.O. BOX 266, SUNSET BEACH, CA 90742

-- The FEZANA Funds and Finance Committee

## Celebrating An Entrepreneur of the Spirit

### HM King Abdullah II Awarded the 2018 John Templeton Prize



His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, the 2018 Templeton Prize Laureate, and Heather Templeton Dill, president of the John Templeton Foundation, at the Templeton Prize ceremony at Washington National Cathedral, November 13, 2018. (photo credit: Templeton Prize – Clifford Shirley)

Listen to his remarks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yn1AJSaggD4>

Approximately 11 minutes...

Speaking at the Washington National Cathedral in the nation's capital, His Majesty King Abdullah II, the winner of 2018 John Templeton Prize, called for the world to understand the meaning of the true tenets of Islam. In his words, "**The Greater Jihad....** is the personal, internal struggle to defeat the ego and the struggle we all share for a world of Peace, Harmony and Love."

#### Intrafaith Dialogue...

In the face of challenges in 2004 after the Iraq war, the King launched the *Amman Message*, that articulated a clear understanding of the central tenets of Islam, and affirmed that terrorism and violence have no place in the religion. The "three

points" of the *Amman Message* have come to represent an unprecedented and almost unanimous religious and political consensus by Muslims around the globe. Since 2005, more than 450 Islamic scholars and institutes from more than 50 countries have endorsed it.

#### A Common Word Between Us and You...

In 2006 King Abdullah supported and funded the initiative known as the *Common Word*, calling for peace and harmony between Muslims and Christians. Originally signed by 138 Muslim leaders and scholars from 52 countries, now has 400 signatories including 300 endorsements from a wide range of Christian leaders...an important Muslim theological initiative towards Christians.

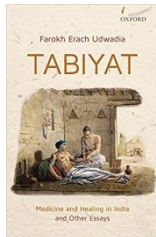


## BOOK AWARENESS



Want to know what new items have just arrived in the FIRES Library? Go to our website [www.fires-fezana.org](http://www.fires-fezana.org) and click on library catalog and you will see the new additions listed.

This month's feature is:  
***Tabiyat: Medicine and healing in India and other essays***  
by Farokh Erach Udwadia,  
Oxford University Press. 2018.



This book, aptly titled 'Tabiyat' which translates to 'health', 'nature', 'temperament' or 'disposition', is a collection of nine masterly and thought-provoking essays which explore some important discoveries, dwelling on their relevance in our daily lives. Including essays on War and Medicine, Medical Ethics, Music and Medicine, Nursing and Death, the book encompasses various fields of human endeavor and aspects of life and living which influence and impact medicine. The author, Dr. Farokh Erach Udwadia is a consultant and director in charge of the intensive care unit at the Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai, India. **Visit our website at** <http://www.fires-fezana.org>

**World Interfaith Harmony Week...**

In 2010, he proposed an annual Interfaith Harmony Week, with a UN General Assembly resolution by adding love of God or love for the good, to love of one's neighbor, thus including all people of goodwill, with or without faith.

In his tribute, to the King, whom he ventured to call his friend, the Secretary General of the UN, **His Excellency Alberto Guterres**, spoke highly of the Humanitarian work for refugees being done by Jordan in the conflict affected region of the Middle East.

The second star of the evening was **Emanne**, born in Amman in 2008, a Jordanian American singer who won the title, *Arabs Got Talent* at the age of nine. She works with many charities, especially in the fight against cancer and has received UNICEF's Champion for Children title. *Emanne*, is scheduled to participate in events in the United States, Lebanon, India and Jordan.

The Templeton prize money, which symbolically is always kept higher in monetary value than the Nobel Prizes, to emphasize the importance of this work which affects mankind, was donated, to be used for humanitarian causes for natural and man made disasters.

The FEZANA team felicitated HM King Abdullah II Hussein, with FEZANA President, **Homi D. Gandhi**, offering the FEZANA pin, which His Majesty graciously accepted.

The Zarathushtis also met with **Miroslav Volf**, Founder and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Henry B. Wright Professor at Yale University, who was responsible in large measure in framing the Christian response to **A Common Word**, and with **Heather Templeton Dill**, President of the John Templeton Foundation and grand daughter of the late Prize Founder.

FEZANA Member Associations, Small Groups, and individuals are encouraged to celebrate the **Interfaith Harmony Week** in the first week of February annually as promulgated by the United Nations General Assembly, together with their neighbors in civil society wherever they live. □



## Tell your kids! Tell your friends!

### Register for the 2019 Zoroastrian Youth Congress








- **Who:** 18-35 year old Zoroastrian Youth from around the world
- **What:** Sign up for the World Zoroastrian Youth Congress today!
- **When:** July 1-6, 2019
- **Where:** Los Angeles, CA USA
- **Why:** Learn about the Zoroastrian religion, network with peers and other professionals, and make new friends from around the world!
- **How:** Go to <https://wzycongress.org> and click on the Registration tab. Buy a ticket quickly! Use the code **FIRST100** to get the early bird price of \$399.99 before the price rises to \$449.99

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please direct my / our donation to the following Initiatives:**

<p><b>YOUTH:</b></p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p><b>ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS:</b></p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p><b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:</b></p> <p>\$ _____</p> 
<p><b>INFRASTRUCTURE:</b></p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p><b>PUBLICATIONS:</b></p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p><b>GENERAL:</b></p> <p>\$ _____</p> 
<p><b>WELFARE AND CRITICAL ASSISTANCE:</b></p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p><b>TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____</b></p>	

I WISH TO DONATE BY:  CHECK (MAKE OUT TO FEZANA) CK # \_\_\_\_\_  CREDIT CARD

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Please mail this form to:  
**FEZANA Treasurer, P.O. BOX 266, SUNSET BEACH, CA 90742**

**For other forms of donation, questions or additional information please contact:**  
 Ratan Mistry ([ratan@fezana.org](mailto:ratan@fezana.org)) or Nawaz Merchant ([Nawaz@fezana.org](mailto:Nawaz@fezana.org))  
 or email: [president@fezana.org](mailto:president@fezana.org) [treasurer@fezana.org](mailto:treasurer@fezana.org)

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