

# FEZANA *bulletin*

January 2019 / VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 1



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- ZAH Atash Kadeh Opening • p1
- FEZANA Nowruz Essay Contest • p2
- Dinner for a Good Cause • p2
- ZAKOI Activities • p3
- FEZANA AGM Announcement • p4
- ZAC-LA Speaker • p5
- 7ZWYC Subsidy Announced • p5

## UPCOMING DATES

### March 11-22, 2019

United Nations 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women Conference (CSW63).

### March 20-24, 2019

Gala Opening of Atash Kadeh in Houston. [www.zah.org](http://www.zah.org)

### March 23, 2019

Sacred Connections Program hosted by ZAKOI. Cincinnati, OH

### April 6, 2019

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

### April 9-10, 2019

Symposia Iranica. Cambridge, England

### May 1-5, 2019

WZCC AGM and FEZANA AGM hosted by Central Florida Zoroastrian Community in Orlando. Details on page 4.

(Dates continued on page 4)

## 2019 FEZANA AGM Notice

The FEZANA AGM notice has been released. Register today! Details on page 4 and on the [FEZANA 2019 AGM Information Webpage](#).

## A New Flame Burns Bright



The Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) proudly announces the grand opening of its new Atash Kadeh. You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the gala opening scheduled during the Nowruz days from March 20 through March 24, 2019.

An interesting and exciting program is planned for the celebration that will include prayer ceremonies, social events and lectures, and some meals. High priests have been invited from Iran & India, along with many local and foreign dignitaries. Many influential leaders from our community in North America are also expected to attend. We request leaders of Zoroastrian Associations to forward this invitation to all their members and friends.

A dream for many years, the establishment of a new Atash Kadeh in North America has been brought to fruition by the generous donation of Feroze and Shernaz Bhandara of Houston. This Atash Kadeh, the first of its kind, is a standalone structure costing over one and a half million dollars, that will be inclusive and open to all Zoroastrians, their family members, and friends. It will meet the needs of a dedicated place of worship, and also provide a place to train Mobeds locally.

Over the last several decades, Zoroastrian immigrants from India, Pakistan and Iran have made inroads with distinction into every segment of America's professional and social life. The North American diaspora is energized and moving to ensure that Zoroastrians thrive in their adopted homeland. This landmark event marks the natural culmination of that story. Please plan to be a part of this event as history is being made.

For now, mark the dates on your calendar; more details will be forthcoming. Registration and schedule of events will be on our website soon:

<http://zah.org/ataash-kadeh-grand-opening/> □



**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](mailto:admin@fezana.org)  
Web: [www.fezana.org](http://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](mailto:admin@fezana.org)

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

## What Does Nowruz Mean to You?

### Announcing the First-Ever FEZANA Nowruz Essay Contest

Photo courtesy of Mantrah Atashband  
and Sharukh Tarapore, Philadelphia, PA



**Express yourself, share your experiences,** and tell us what Nowruz means to you! From celebrating with family and community to the symbolism and beauty of your haft-seen table, we want to know what Nowruz means to you **personally.**

#### Now accepting essays in two categories:

**Youth:** Under 18

**Adult:** Ages 18 and over

**Word count range:** 400 – 800 words

**Deadline:** Monday, February 18, 2019

Winning essays to be spotlighted on the FEZANA website, Facebook group, and other FEZANA-sponsored Nowruz promotions!

**Essays must be submitted online at:**

<https://fezana.org/nowruzessay/>

Questions? Email [jim@fezana.org](mailto:jim@fezana.org)

## “Dinner for a Good Cause” in Chicago

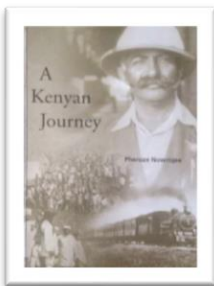
The Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC-CHI) raised almost \$2500 on Sunday, January 13, 2019, in a fundraiser for 13-year-old Iyanaa Zubin Daruwalla who is battling Cancer.

Organized by Zenobia Tantra and Farida Sharyari, the ZAC-CHI welfare committee offered Dinner for Two Meal Kits at a suggested donation of \$40 or more. Volunteers donated the menu items which included Rice and Egg Curry, Spicy Chicken, Beef Cutlets, and Potatoes. Kits were assembled and orders were picked up at the ZAC-Chicago Center.

On that Sunday, kindness and generosity overflowed. The ZAC-CHI community pitched in and put Humata, Hukhta, Hvrashta into action. □



## BOOK AWARENESS



**A Kenyan Journey**  
by Pheroze Nowrojee,  
Nairobi, Kenya: Transafrica  
Press, 2014

This compelling book exposes the politics of belonging as it unpacks the contradictions of Asian African heritage. The author reminds us that 2,493 coolies who died building the railway are “unacknowledged in our history” and they are the embodiment of the sacrifices that the Indian community made in the making of Kenya. It is also a family history. In the portrait of his grandmother, Dinoo, Nowrojee’s progressive history shifts from the sacrifices of the dead to the dynamism of Indian women. Nowrojee makes it clear that recurring moments of rejection and the 1972 expulsions of Asians from Uganda created a tenuous bond. “The relationship of a newcomer to his adopted country is not a marriage. It is a love affair. It may be passionate, it may be resentful. It is sometimes both”.

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

## Zarathushtis in the Midwest Step Out into the Public Square

By Bakhtavar Desai, President, ZAKOI

**[Editor’s Note:** For close to ten years, ZAKOI (Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana) has been fundraising to construct or to buy their very own place of worship in the Midwest. One of these annual fundraisers is always conducted around **NowRuz** by Bakhtavar selling Badam-ni-Bois (almond marzipan), made for ZAKOI by Roshan Rivetna of Chicago. This year, a conversation with Bakhtavar led to sharing with us, the strides made by this small but vibrant Zarathushti community in the Midwest, in coming to know their neighbors in civil society in fraternity and fellowship.]

Last year we (ZAKOI) had a fabulous turnout at our first ever Cincinnati Festival of Faiths on 24th June 2018, at which Zoroastrianism made its presence and a very good impression.

This year, we are on the steering committee for the **2019 Festival of Faiths** coming up in September. Before this event, to keep the momentum of the excitement going



**ZAKOI Members at the Zoroastrian Booth at Cincinnati’s First Annual Festival of Faiths in June 2018, at Cintas Center, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH (L to R) Sherry Master, Fred Desai, Bakhtavar Desai, Maya Joshi, Neena Joshi, Farida Masters**

among the various faith groups throughout the year, we have formed a program called “Sacred Connections” where faith groups host an event each month to celebrate their religion and culture. ZAKOI has chosen March.

On 23rd March 2019, we are inviting guests from the interfaith community in Cincinnati to celebrate **Nowruz** with us, the ZAKOI community. As we do not yet have a place of our own, the Baha’i group has graciously offered their Center to us for our event.

Later, the **2019 Festival of Faiths** in Cincinnati will be held on 8th September 2019. It will have virtually unlimited room capacity as it will be held at Xavier University and the hall is enormous. ZAKOI is excited to be participating. ZAKOI will be co-sponsoring the Festival of Faiths at their lowest level of \$500 and have our Zoroastrian presence there in the form of our Information & Display Booth, as well as be part of the opening ceremony of Interfaith Prayers recited by a priest from every religion present.

For last year’s Festival of Faiths, ZAKOI bought [through FEZANA] several brochures on Zoroastrianism as well as several copies each of *The Legacy of Zarathushtra* and *The Influence of Zoroastrianism on Judaism & Christianity*. We give these brochures and books away for free, which are highly valued and appreciated by interested people who want to further their knowledge about our religion. We’ve been doing this for years at the Museum Center, and smaller interfaith gatherings as well.

We are open to any suggestions or help with any resources to display or give away at our upcoming events. We will be grateful for that help. Thanking you all very much for your willingness to support our work here locally, and best wishes from ZAKOI! □



## UPCOMING DATES

(continued from page 1)

### 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)

### September 8, 2019

*Festival of Faiths*. Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH

### July 1-5, 2020

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

### December 29-31, 2020

North American Zoroastrian Congress hosted by ZAH (Houston)

## 2019 FEZANA AGM Announcement

We are pleased to announce the 2019 FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be hosted by FEZANA Corresponding Member, Central Florida Zoroastrian Community (CFZC) from Friday May 3 through Sunday May 5 2019 in Orlando, Florida. Announcement details have been circulated to Members, Corresponding Members and Committees.

Note, the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) AGM will be held on May 1-2, 2019, preceding the FEZANA AGM. Details for the WZCC AGM can be found [here](#).

Representatives from FEZANA Member Associations and Corresponding Members, as well as FEZANA Committee Chairs and Committee members are encouraged to attend the FEZANA AGM. The meeting is open to the public, however, all attendees are requested to register enabling accurate headcount for our hosts for various planned events throughout the weekend. Also please RSVP to FEZANA Administrative Office ([admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)) and FEZANA Secretary ([secretary@fezana.org](mailto:secretary@fezana.org)) if you plan to attend.

Registration form and other details (including accommodations, transportation and venue) can be found on the [FEZANA 2019 AGM Information Website](#), or (<https://fezana.org/2019-fezana-annual-general-meeting/>) Please bookmark this site and visit often for the latest updates.

A copy of the 2019 FEZANA AGM Agenda will be circulated to participants prior to the meeting.

As in previous years, Member Association and Corresponding Member Reports, and Committee Reports are due on April 1, 2019 to be included in the AGM report book.

Contact FEZANA Secretary or FEZANA Administrative Office with any questions.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### WED and THURS MAY 1-2, 2019: WZCC AGM

#### FRIDAY MAY 3, 2019: FEZANA AGM DAY 01

8:30am	Participants register
9:00am-6:00pm	FEZANA AGM DAY 1
6:00 pm	Dinner hosted by CFZC

#### SATURDAY MAY 4, 2019: FEZANA AGM DAY 02

9:00am-5:30pm	FEZANA AGM DAY 2
7:00pm	Gala Dinner by CFZC. (\$ separate registration)

#### SUNDAY MAY 5, 2019: FEZANA AGM DAY 03

9:00am-10:30am	FEZANA AGM DAY 3
----------------	------------------



## ZAC-LA Welcomes Genome Project Speaker

### By Huty Contractor, President, ZAC-LA



On Sunday January 13, 2019 the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC-LA) invited Dr Villoo Moravala Patell, Founder, Chairperson and Managing Director of Avesthagen, a globally recognized biotech company with research into bio agriculture, bio nutrition & bio pharmaceuticals.

She gave us an insight into the Avesthagen project providing global care through precision medicine. Conservation of the biological heritage of the endogenous Parsi community of India is of utmost importance. They have started with collecting, processing and archiving of blood samples from 4500 Parsi individuals from 10 cities across India with genealogical and medical histories, nutritional and social habits, building the Avesta genome project database, a searchable database with information and searchable database with information and data linked to every individual.



The vision is to harness the genomic potential of endogamous communities of India, leading to discovery of novel diseases pathways, bio markers and drug targets in different disease classes. The resources developed here would be useful to generations of scientists. □

## FEZANA Subsidy Program for 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress 2019

The FEZANA Executive and its Congress Committee Co-Chairs Katayun Kapadia and Mahrukh Motafram are happy to announce the FEZANA Subsidy Program for the 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress, 2019.

FEZANA proposes a subsidy which will help sponsor young adults (18-35 years) with congress registration cost for the 7WZYC, City of Industry, July 1-6 2019. An amount of US\$ 26,200 has been earmarked in the 2019 FEZANA Budget for this program.

Details of the Subsidy Program and Procedure for Application can be found in the link to pdf below.

[FEZANA Subsidy Program for 7WZYC](#)

Deadline is March 31, 2019

All Member Associations/Small Groups shall establish their interest in participating in this subsidy program by emailing Xerxes Commissariat, FEZANA Assistant Secretary ([asst-sec@fezana.org](mailto:asst-sec@fezana.org))

If you need further clarifications or have any queries or comments, please email me at [vp@fezana.org](mailto:vp@fezana.org) □