

FEZANA *bulletin*

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UPCOMING DATES

- March 11-22, 2019**
United Nations 63rd Commission on the Status of Women Conference (CSW63).
- March 20-24, 2019**
Gala Opening of Atash Kadeh in Houston. 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 6)

2019 FEZANA AGM

Information on the 2019 FEZANA AGM is out. Register today! Complete details on the [FEZANA 2019 AGM Information Webpage](#).

Interfaith Participation by Zarathushtis on Long Island



Last month, on January 30, 2019, Zarathushtis participated in an interfaith program commemorating the “71st **Punya Tithi of Mahatma Gandhi**” in Hauppauge, New York. The evening was hosted by volunteers of the Shanti Fund and Long Island Multi Faith Forum and consisted of over a dozen interfaith presentations, poetry readings and bhajans (devotional songs) followed by dinner.

The Zoroastrian portion of the program was presented by Erv Pervez Patel who recited prayers with translations into English read by his daughter. *This program was held in light of the two-year long celebrations (October 2018-October 2020) held across the globe marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.* □

New Resources Uploaded to the FEZANA Website

Nowruz Stickers

<https://fezana.org/fezana-stickers/>

Nowruz is a time for us to rejoice, to mingle with family and friends, to remember our history and celebrate this intangible heritage of humanity.

FEZANA is pleased to make available specially designed Nowruz stickers which can be downloaded from the FEZANA website and printed. Among many uses, the 2”x2” stickers can be used on coat lapels, as giveaways at a Nowruz event, or on the boxes of *sweets/shirini* that we, as individuals and families, share with our neighbors and friends at this time of year – a tradition re-established over the last few years in our North American Zarathushti diaspora.



“Zoroastrians” and “Promoting Universal Fellowship” Color Brochures

<https://fezana.org/fezana-print-handouts/>

FEZANA is also pleased to announce the availability of new colorful handouts sharing our story and history on this continent, which were originally created for last year’s Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto. These handouts may be printed by local associations, small groups or individuals to use as a resource at upcoming Nowruz or Interfaith events. □



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Zoroastrian
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(FEZANA)**

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<https://fezana.org/publication/bulletinarchives/>

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

Welcome to the New ZAF Board

We congratulate and welcome the newly elected Board for the **Zoroastrian Association of Florida (ZAF)** and look forward to future collaborations.

President: Jimmy Dubash
Vice President: Farhad Dumasia
Secretary: Farhad Vankadia
Treasurer: Firdaus Dotiwala
Co-Treasurer: Zeus Avari

Board Members at Large:
Merzy Karanjia
Daisy Patel
Shiraz Mehta
Ali Lankerani

Welcome to the New ZANC Board

We congratulate and welcome the newly elected Board for the **Zarthosthti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC)** and look forward to future collaborations.

President: Bomi Patel
Vice President: Adil Engineer
Secretary: Kerman Deboo
Treasurer: Ratan Mistry

Board Members:
Kathleen Chothia
Kersi Daruwalla
Meher Mistry

E-Voting Used for First Time by ZANC

By Jehangir Jasavala, ZANC 2018 Election Officer

Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC) conducted their annual election of Board members using an electronic voting system for the first time. Members were asking for such a system and found this new system very easy to use and lot more convenient and cost effective than the previous paper ballot process.

I was the election officer and am happy to recommend it to any other FEZANA association.

Below are some details of our experience. If needed, I can be reached at ZANC2018eo@gmail.com for any questions.

ZANC used [SimplyVoting](#) a vendor that specializes in conducting online voting.

They have a lot of experience and have a well-designed website that is also easy to use.

Having run some local government elections in Canada, it was also reassuring that their [SimplyVoting] system has integrity, and ensures no one can vote twice or cast fraudulent ballots using another voter's name.

We used their self-managed election option to save expense.

Their customer service was excellent. Their site is well designed and easy to use,

Results: Proof of the pudding is in the turnout numbers. We had a 75% turnout rate. It beats our previous turnout rates.

We had no problems that the site could not overcome. It also makes the election officer's job much easier, and in my opinion is more secure than a paper ballot voting process.

Above all, the community members had very positive feedback.

ZOROASTRIAN DELEGATION TO DELIVER PANEL DISCUSSION AT UN HEADQUARTERS AS PART OF THE 63TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW 2019)

FEZANA will be participating at the 63th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Conference to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. The group representing from FEZANA are from USA and Canada, and they will be presenting a panel discussion titled “**Educating Girls: An Empowering Tool to Promote Prosperity & Gender Equality**”. The presentation will be covering three of the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- Goal 1: No Poverty
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 5: Gender Equality

Social change to uplift society comes when men and women are treated equally with respect and dignity. This aspirational goal cannot be reached without educating the girl child. The panel will discuss how education empowers girls in the villages in India and Africa to eliminate poverty.

If you are in the New York area, please attend the workshop. We will be presenting twice, once at ZAGNY and once at the United Nations.

Date: March 10, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E-Mehr

Address: 106 Pomona Rd., Pomona, NY

Date: March 13, 2019

Time: 12:30 PM

Venue: 4 W 43rd St, New York, NY

Room: Aqua Room

For more information visit: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019

The participants representing FEZANA at the 63rd CSW:



Adina Mistry
New York
High School
Senior



Afreed Mistry
Toronto
Co-Chair, UN-NGO
Committee



Anahita Verahrami
New York
Elephant Listening
Project, Cornell U



Behnoosh Sethna
New York
B. Sc. – Plattsburgh



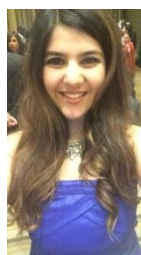
Behram Pastakia
Metropolitan
Washington, DC
Co-Chair, UN-NGO
Committee



Nadia Jam
Toronto
B. Social Science
in French
Immersion
Ottawa U



Tanya Bharda
Toronto
Air Canada



Nurelle Mehta
Toronto
Parliamentary
Assistant &
Campaign
Co-ordinator



Rosheen Birdie
Washington
Public Health Student
U of Washington



BOOK AWARENESS



Zenobia Mistri: Teacher Par Excellence
by Shireen Isal,
Association Sargam, UK., 2017

Zenobia Mistri pursued her college education in Bombay, then obtained her doctorate from the prestigious Sorbonne University in Paris, France, not a given in the Bombay of the 1920s and 30s, when most girls were destined to a life of domesticity. On her return to Bombay (now Mumbai), she, in turn, offered the gift of education to women aspiring to a better life. Through teaching - her profession of choice from an early age - she acquired something loftier: the power to transform lives, to enhance the independence and self-esteem of young aspirants, rich and poor alike, through learning.

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

Shapoorji Pallonji Scholarships at SOAS

Deadline: 1 April 2019

Thanks to the generosity of the Shapoorji Pallonji endowment for scholarships in Zoroastrian studies at SOAS - University of London, there are a number of awards available for UK/EU and Overseas fee-paying students.

The SOAS Shapoorji Pallonji Institute of Zoroastrian Studies would like to spread the net widely and invites students who approach Zoroastrianism from different disciplinary backgrounds, for example, historical, linguistic, anthropological or from within the study of religions to apply.

The Shapoorji Pallonji Scholarships will provide a contribution to fees and living costs calibrated according to merit and availability of funds. Further information on the scholarships: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/registry/scholarships/shapoorji-pallonji-scholarships-.html>

Zoroastrian Studies Graduate Fellowship at UCLA

The Pourdavoud Center has announced the creation of a Zoroastrian studies graduate fellowship at UCLA. Thanks to a gift in 2018 from the Trust of Morvarid Guiv, the **Morvarid Guiv Graduate Fellowship in Zoroastrian Studies** has been established in UCLA's Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World. The fellowship will support graduate students studying the Zoroastrian religion, its ancient history, languages, and scriptures. The gift secured additional matching support from the UCLA Chancellor's Centennial Scholars Match program.

To read the original announcement on UCLA College News, please click [here](#). □

Inviting Bids to Host 2020 FEZANA AGM

This is an invitation call to all Member Associations and Corresponding Members to consider hosting the 32nd Annual General Meeting of FEZANA in 2020.

If your association or small group would like to bid for hosting the 2020 AGM, please send a formal letter of intent to Arzan Sam Wadia Vice-President, FEZANA at vp@fezana.org with a CC to Percy Master, Secretary FEZANA at secretary@fezana.org

All bidding associations/groups shall be required to make a 10 minute presentation at the upcoming [FEZANA AGM in Orlando in May 2019](#).

The deadline to receive the bids is March 31, 2019

For smaller groups, this is a wonderful opportunity to be involved with FEZANA and to make connections to the broader North American Zarathushti community.

For your reference, use the following link to Guidelines for hosting the FEZANA AGM which outlines general expectations of the local host group.

For more details, AGM Hosting Guidelines are available on request.

□



GATHA RESOURCE

For Gatha Study Circles and more!

Delving into the original teachings of Zarathushtra – the Gathas -- this comprehensive website, complete with Bibliography, would serve as a welcome resource to any Gatha Study Circle.

<https://gathasofzarathushtra.com>

Valuable Resources for Nowruz Celebrations

Two publications are available for download which Zarathushti communities may use as a valued resource in preparing for upcoming Nowruz celebrations:

“**NoRoos Celebrations**” by Farishta Dinshaw is a comprehensive document full of Nowruz-related resource material including folklore, stories, customs, and recipes and more. She has produced the document for a friend and shares it with the Zarathushti community. This pdf can be downloaded from the FEZANA website [here](#).

“**Hama Anjuman Prayers for Naurooz In English, Farsi and Gujarati**”

Assembled by Ervad Soli P. Dastur with the help of FEZANA Naurooz Planning Committee. This book is an effort to bring three Zarathushti language groups together in a common prayer environment. In addition to Nowruz prayers in three languages plus Avesta, the book contains background resource material for Nowruz. The book can be downloaded at www.avesta.org or direct link [here](#). Hardcopies of the book are also available for purchase. □

**EAGERLY
WAITING...**

FOR YOU TO SIGN UP FOR CONGRESS!

**NOW CHECK OUR PROGRAM AT:
WWW.WZYCONGRESS.ORG**

WZYC World Zoroastrian Youth Congress



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

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)

Urgent Medical Appeal

Mr. Dinyar N. Hansotia, age 62 years, residing in Bombay, India, is in urgent need of a liver transplant. Donor will be adequately compensated with travel airfare to Bombay, accommodation and additional compensation.

Donor must be under 50 years, male/female, with blood group B or O.

Please help save a Zoroastrian gentleman's life.

Please correspond for further information to his sister, Mrs. Arnavaz Talati at Tel: 909-941-1450 or email: arnt999@aol.com

THE SOUTH ASIAN SYMPHONY FOUNDATION PRESENTS
CHIRAGH
A CONCERT BEYOND BORDERS

Featuring
The South Asian Symphony Orchestra
conducted by
Viswa Subbaraman
With musicians from South Asia

Painting by Kalyani Nedungadi

Date: April 26, 2019
Venue: The Tata Theatre, The National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai
Time : 7 pm

SOUTH ASIAN SYMPHONY FOUNDATION

NCPA

"Let us sweat in peace,
not bleed in war".

Produced by Nirupama and Sudhakar Rao, Founder-Trustees,
The South Asian Symphony Foundation

www.symphonyofsouthasia.org