

FEZANA *bulletin*

October 30, 2012 / VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 16



UPCOMING DATES

Oct 25 - Dec 20, 2012

EXHIBITION: Parsis: The Zoroastrians of India;
Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge MA.
<http://www.ves.fas.harvard.edu/u/parsis.html>

December 2, 2012

North American Tele-Religious Class: Zoroastrian Core Beliefs; contact Erv Soli Dastur dastur@comcast.net

Jan 4-5, 2013

World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce Annual General Body Meeting. Singapore.
www.wzcc.net

Jan 7-9, 2013

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas; Cochin, Kerala, India.
<http://www.oifc.in/Resources/News/11th-Pravasi-Bharatiya-Divas-to-be-held-in-Cochin>

January 13-15, 2013

Celebrating a Treasure: 140 Years at the First Dastoor Meherjirana Library, Navsari. A UNESCO Parzor-Meherjirana Initiative. For more info
<http://www.meherjiranalibrary.com/conference/>

May 2013

FEZANA's 26th Annual General Meeting; Dallas, TX. Hosted by Zoroastrian Association of North Texas.

Oct 9 - Dec 14, 2013

The Everlasting Flame: Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination. Exhibition at the Brunei Gallery, London, U.K.
www.theeverlastingflame.com

From the Desk of... KATAYUN KAPADIA - FEZANA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Zarathushtis,

It has been a month full of jashans, gahambars and festivities celebrated by Zarathushti Associations all across North America. I had the pleasure of participating in jashans and gahambars with two associations: Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey (ZAPANJ), my home association, and at the invitation from Dr. Dolly Dastoor and Dr. Faranak Firoozi with the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ) which also celebrated its 45th Anniversary. Read more on these events in the following pages.

As announced on fezana@yahoo.com on October 16, 2012, Homi Gandhi has been elected as the Vice-President of FEZANA (2012-13) and on behalf of the FEZANA Executive I would like to extend to him a warm welcome and we all look forward to working with him.

I had the privilege of attending together with Homi Gandhi the UN-NGO event at the United Nations in New York City on Wednesday, September 27. Read more details in this Bulletin.

FEZANA Committees/Chairs: FEZANA has several standing and ad-hoc committees that work on various worthy causes and projects to provide service to the Zarathushti community in North America and world-wide. The list of Committees/Chairs appointed for 2012-2014 is:

| COMMITTEES | CHAIRPERSON (* = NEW) |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Awards | Noshir Langrana* |
| Coordination & Planning | Homi Gandhi* |
| External Affairs | Bomi Patel* |
| FEZANA Information Research Education System (FIRES) | Aban Rustomji |
| Funds & Finance | Rustom Kevala, Ph.D Jerry Kheradi, M.D. |
| Information Receiving & Disseminating | Behram Pastakia, M.D. |
| Journal (Editor-in-Chief) | Dolly Dastoor, Ph.D |
| Interfaith Activities | Homi Gandhi Rohinton Rivetna |
| North American Zoroastrian Congress | Bomi Patel* |
| Public Relations | Porus Cooper* Zenobia Ravji* |
| Research & Preservation | Jehan Bagli, Ph.D |
| Religious Education, Scholarship & Conference | Lovji Cama, Ph.D |
| SCHOLARSHIPS | |
| Academic Scholarships | Dolly Dastoor, Ph.D |
| Religious Education | Lovji Cama, Ph.D |
| Performing & Creative Arts Scholarship | Sherazade Mehta |
| Small Groups | Sarosh Sepai* |



Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fezana/146727472067524>



Twitter: #FEZANA1

Archived issues of the FEZANA Bulletin are available at:
<http://www.fezana.org/BulletinArchives>

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



SCAN HERE FOR MORE FEZANA INFO

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic Planning | Mahrukh Motafram |
| United Nations - NGO | Homi Gandhi Behram Pastakia, M.D. Afreed Mistry |
| Youth (Zoroastrian Youth of North America – ZYNA) | Behrose Taraporewalla* |
| Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) | Niaz Kasravi, Ph.D |
| Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders | Behrose Taraporewalla* |
| Zoroastrian Unity & Welfare | Houtoxi Contractor Hosi Mehta Freyaz Shroff |

More Committee Chairs will be announced in the next Bulletin.

I would like to thank Firdosh Mehta (External Affairs), Daraius Bharucha (NAZC), Ervad Soli Dastur (Small Groups), Afreed Mistry (Public Relations), Shehernaz Joshi Verahrami & Navroz Gandhi (Awards) for the services rendered by them on the FEZANA Committees during the past years.

In this issue I would like to introduce you to the following three new Committee Chairs who we welcome into the FEZANA Family:

Noshir Langrana – Chairperson FEZANA Awards Committee



Noshir is the Chair and Professor of Biomedical Engineering Department at Rutgers University. He has been an active member of the Zarathushti community of tri-state area of New York. He has been Member at large, secretary, and vice president of Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York. He has been a trustee of Dar-e-Meher Zoroastrian Temple for over six years. Noshir was the co-chair of 1998 North American Zoroastrian Congress held in Rye, New York. He was the Chairman of Census and Directory Committee of Federation of Zoroastrian Association of North America, Inc, and was responsible for publication of two North American Zoroastrian directories. Noshir was the recipient of FEZANA's 2010 Excellence in Business or Profession Award. Noshir and his wife Dinaz reside at Princeton Junction, New Jersey.

Sarosh Sepai



Sarosh approached me at the FEZANA AGM last August in NY and very enthusiastically volunteered his services to work with the FEZANA Small Groups as well as use his IT expertise in working on the FEZANA Website.

I have nominated Sarosh Sepai as Chair of the FEZANA Small Groups Committee for 2012-14. Sarosh will also be the Assistant Web Master working together with Bomi Patel on the FEZANA Website.

Here is some information that Sarosh has shared with us:

- Actively serving on the board of ZAPA most of the time in Pittsburgh. Serving as ZAPA's President for almost 3 years.
- 20+ years IT experience. Working for IBM for the past 7 years as a Senior IT Specialist, consulting around the US, travelling most of the time.
- Migrated from India 12.5 years ago. Lived in Boston (MA) for 5 years, Denver (CO) for a year and finally settled in Pittsburgh (PA) for the past 6.5 years, living with lovely wife and two adorable elementary-school aged daughters Benaifer & Friyana.
- I bring with me a lot of enthusiasm, young blood, technical and organizational skills, but most of all love for the community and willingness to volunteer my time to serve the community selflessly, in spite of a jam-packed weekly travel schedule.



NAZC 2012 on Website – Part 1

As promised by the NAZC 2012 Organizing Committee, we are happy to put the NAZC 2012 Congress proceedings on line for the pleasure of those who attended the Congress and for the information of those who were unable to attend. However, this is going to take place in installments; otherwise people will be tired to look at everything in one sitting. Moreover, the files are large and so it is advisable to break them down in segments.

This is the first installment, which includes the opening ceremony and the keynote address.

Please visit

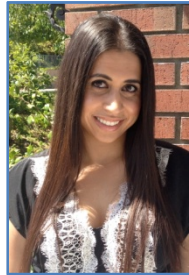
<http://nazc.zagny.org/the-opening-ceremony-and-keynote-address/>

At the bottom of this segment, you will also notice a link for "A Military Tribute to Zarathushtis serving the Armed Forces of US and Canada".

Once each segment is final, the link will be sent in installment in the coming months. This information is sent to major Zoroastrian websites. However, please publicize as much as you can so that those who were unable to attend the Congress may feel part of our journey.

-- NAZC 2012 Organizing Committee

Behrose Taraporewalla



Behrose Taraporewalla from Los Angeles California is appointed the Chairperson for the Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) Committee & also the Chairperson for the Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders (ZYWB) Committee.

Both these FEZANA Committees ZYNA & ZYWB did not have a Chairperson for the last 2-3 years. Behrose was introduced to me at the NAZC in NY by Sherezade Mehta and she came across as a very committed young lady passionate to serve the causes she would like to address in ZYNA & ZYWB. Behrose is working on recruiting individuals on both these Committees that we will inform you in the next Bulletin. However, here is some information about Behrose:

Behrose Taraporewalla believes being a Zarathushti has shaped her as an individual; constantly motivating her to create and mobilize positive change in the world. Taraporewalla graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Liberal Studies and Human Development. Upon graduation she studied at the prestigious Claremont Graduate University, where she earned her M.A. in Educational Studies and graduated in the top 1% of her class. She taught as a Peter Lincoln Spencer Fellow and has presented at several educational conferences and universities. As an Education Specialist, holding credentials in Special Education as well as General Education, she has had the opportunity to educate people of all ages and walks of life. Her life goal is to help narrow the educational achievement gap, so all children can achieve academic success.

In her spare time, Behrose enjoys volunteering, cooking, and engaging in activities that allow her creativity to shine. She is a marathon runner and an avid supporter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

We have discussed in the past several FEZANA Annual General Meetings that we need young adult representation on these committees. We continue to look for young adults to serve on the various FEZANA Committees noted above. So, all of you at the grass roots level who may know of such individuals in your local community, please send us names of these interested individuals. Let us all volunteer our services to FEZANA for the betterment of the North American Zarathushti community.

Regards

Katayun Kapadia

2012-2013 FEZANA Academic Scholarships Awarded

Recently, the Academic Scholarship Committee awarded the 2012-2013 FEZANA Academic Scholarships. With a record number of applicants of high caliber, the following recipients were selected. They will be highlighted in the Spring 2013 issue of the *FEZANA Journal*. This year, two new scholarship endowments were initiated: Purvez and Aban Rustomji Endowed Scholarship and Morvarid Guiv Endowed Scholarship. Also, the Kapadia Endowed Scholarship was increased to \$2000 and, in honor of FEZANA's 25th Anniversary, the Kheradi Endowed Scholarship was increased to \$10,000 for this year.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

[Kheradi Endowed Scholarship – The FEZANA Scholar \[\\$10,000\]](#)

Dinyar Patel, Bakersfield CA

[Continued next page]



FEZANA 20th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship for Academic Excellence [\$3000]

Rayomond Dinshaw, Kingston, Ontario

Morvarid Guiv Endowed Scholarship [\$1000]

Roshni Kapadia, Cambridge MA

FEZANA Scholars [\$2000]

Bahman Zohour, San Jose CA

Alborz Zamyadi, Quebec City, Quebec

Parmis Behmardi, Toronto, Ontario

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Purvez and Aban Rustomji Endowed Scholarship [\$5000]

Behroze Dalal, Fairfield OH

Morvarid Guiv Endowed Scholarship [\$1000]

Cyrus Patell, Fort Washington, PA

Kapadia Endowed Scholarship [\$2000]

Firoozeh Roointan, Houston TX

Panthaky Endowed Scholarship [\$3000]

Ramin Zohoor, San Jose CA

Freya Shroff, Chesterfield MO

FEZANA Scholars [\$2000]

Paradis Gheibi, Campbell CA

Neville Dusaj, Towaco NJ

Nikita Engineer, Houston TX

Religion Education Scholarship Awarded

The Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship of \$2000 has been announced for 2012. The recipient, **Mehrbod Khanizadeh**, attends the School of Oriental and African Studies (SAOS) in London and will be focusing on Avestan Manuscripts. This scholarship is awarded to eligible Zarathushtis to pursue higher education in the Zarathushti religion and/or its languages. More details of this scholarship will be highlighted in the Spring 2013 issue of the *FEZANA Journal*. □

Zarathushtis Step Up to Help the Homeless

The children of ZAMWI's Avesta class and their parents are spearheading a drive to help the homeless in the nation's capital with a walk scheduled for 4th November 2012. Zarathushtis across North America are invited to join in this drive by becoming virtual walkers. For registration of \$35/- per virtual walker, Fannie Mae will provide a matching gift for "*Bethesda Cares*".

Zoroastrians are known for their generosity and understand the importance of helping the less fortunate. Homelessness is not something we can see or to which we can relate. We at *Bethesda Cares*, not only work to help the homeless, but in the last few years have helped people from becoming homeless.

Please open your hearts and give to this great cause and help us reach our goal. Click on the link below to register before November 4th. – Behnaz Mistry

http://www.hthwalks.org/site/TR?team_id=19007&pg=team&fr_id=1715 □



FEZANA at the United Nations

Pearl Kermani

On a chilly morning on September 27th I was lucky enough to attend a Ministerial Level side-event and panel discussions on “The Civil Society and the Education on Human Rights as a tool for promoting religious tolerance”, organized by the permanent missions of Italy and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations.

A few weeks previously I had received an invitation from Homi Gandhi to be a guest at the event; being new to New York I realized that this was an opportunity I could not turn down, and I jumped at the invite. As the day approached I grew a little nervous, what was going to be discussed? Was I expected to participate? It is a very important issue to in today’s world, and I am just a young Zoroastrian girl who wanted to visit the UN, what would I contribute?



On the morning of the event, I arrived outside the permanent mission of Italy, where there was a crowd of people already assembled, including Homi Gandhi and Katayun Kapadia. We were handed a little security card, and was told to keep it with us at all times. The UN was located a few blocks from the Mission, and so we made our way, following the young Italian intern as he ushered us through security check points set up on the streets of New York. I was

actually very surprised at the level of security not only in the building but in the streets surrounding the building, Mr. Gandhi then informed me it was because the Israeli Prime Minister was going to address the UN General Assembly on that day. As we entered the UN complex there was security that greeted us, very similar to type you found at the airport. Once we had passed security we were directed to through the halls of the UN Headquarters until we reached conference room 5. One thing I did notice about the UN building is that there were very few windows; I actually don’t remember seeing any at all.

As we entered the room, we were asked to take our seats, and I managed to take a look at a few of the names that were going to be joining us, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navanethem Pillay and the Director General of UNESCO. In the week leading up to this panel discussion there was much controversy and protest with the release of an anti Islamic video, which dominated much of the discussion. The first panel discussion focused on the best practices of governments promoting interfaith dialogue, and the second panel concentrated on crisis areas and future challenges regarding freedom of religion.

As we sat through the panel discussions and listened to speakers from around the world talk, one thing in particular stood out for me; the representative from Croatia declared that there isn’t so much about striving for religious tolerance, but we should endeavor to have religious understanding. I took that comment away as I left the UN, feeling very honored to have been invited to participate in such a significant and important discussion.

(Pearl Kermani is a new Zarathushti youth in NY City, arriving from Sydney, Australia. She is currently studying for Masters of Arts Administration at the Columbia University)

Editorial Note: As FEZANA UN-NGO Team works closely with the Mission States and other NGOs on the subject of Human Rights, FEZANA was honored to be invited to this Ministerial Level side-event. The event brought together people who are committed to deepening the conversation regarding the need for increased religious tolerance and human rights education. □



ZAQ Celebrates Its 45th Anniversary

The Zoroastrian Association of Quebec, (ZAQ) established in 1967 the first association in North America, celebrated its 45th anniversary in October 2012. This coincided with the Ayatheram Gahambar and Mehergan celebrations. FEZANA President Katayun Kapadia graced the occasion and enlightened the audience with a power point presentation on the working of FEZANA and her 5 point manifesto for the next 2 years of her Presidency.



Six of the ten past ZAQ presidents were present. They were: Dolly Dastoor, Ervad Gev Karkaria, Ness Lakdawala, Nari Madon, Faredoon Mistry, Faranak Firoozi. Founding President Ervad Jehan Bagli, Edul Kanga and Khushroo Mirza now live in Toronto, and Adi Daruwala has since passed away. The presidents attending cut the special 45th anniversary cake (in photo from left Faranak Firoozi, Faredoon Mistry, Dolly Dastoor, Nari Madon, Gev Karkaria, Ness Lakdawala, and Katayun Kapadia).



ZAQ has many firsts to its credit: the first Zarathushti newsletter of North America, "Gavashni" distributed around the continent; the precursor to the *FEZANA Journal*, the purchase of burial plots, the

compilation of standard procedures for funeral services, the compilation of the first North American Zoroastrian Directory, the North American Zoroastrian Congress in 1982 where for the first time "Non-Zoroastrians in Zoroastrian Precepts" were discussed and where Joseph Peterson was invited to speak before he was accepted into the Zarathushti faith after undergoing a navjote ceremony. ZAQ launched the discussion on the standard Zarathushti calendar and prepared a compilation of opinions across the world on Non-Zoroastrian In Zoroastrian precepts: Do they have a place?

ZAQ has an active presence in Quebec society and last year with a close collaboration with St Foy Cegep at Quebec city, we could have a very nice showcase of our association and our religion. □

ZAPANJ Celebrations: Annual Jashan and Gahambar

The Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ) held its Annual Jashan & Gahambar on Sunday, September 30, 2012 in Cherry Hill, NJ.



The jashan was performed by Ervads Noshir Karanjia, Adi Unwalla, Cawas Desai & Minocher Dadachanji and about 125 adults & children participated in the jashan and the festivities. Following the jashan, Dan Sheffield, Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, New Jersey spoke on the history of Zoroastrianism.

The folks in the picture are from left to right at the back: Fali Sidhva (VP-ZAPANJ) and Dan Sheffield; in the front: Freny Ranji (President-ZAPANJ), Shireen Jahanian (Treasurer-ZAPANJ), Anoo Sukhia (Asst. Secretary - ZAPANJ) and Katayun Kapadia, FEZANA President. □