

FEZANA *bulletin*

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AROUND FEZANA...

Member News

16th North American Zarathushti Congress Takes Shape

Plans for the 16th North American Zarathushti Congress 2012, to be held in Rye, New York from August 2-5, 2012, are well underway. As host, the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York in partnership with the Iranian Zoroastrian Association is working hard to ensure a memorable experience for all attendees.

Congress 2012 will bring together Zarathushtis of all ages from around the world to celebrate our community and explore the theme: *Zarathushti Existence in the Contemporary World*. Congress organizers have conducted thorough interviews with Zarathushtis throughout

North America to identify emerging issues and relevant topics. Through presentations, discussions and other activities, congress organizers aspire to develop a roadmap to a future in which our community thrives. The program will be designed to help participants learn from and interact with community leaders, historians, scholars and most importantly, one another.

Congress attendees are invited to explore multiple program tracks including:

CORE BELIEFS – explores Zarathustra's teachings and how they translate into daily living

RITUALS AND PRACTICES – examines the Navjote and other core ceremonies and whether they can be made more meaningful in the North American context

WORLDWIDE ZARATHUSHTI COMMUNITY – examines poverty, destruction of our Heritage sites and other issues threatening our community

YOUTH TRACK – offers a forum for young people to learn about and discuss topics most relevant to them growing up in North America

EDUCATION TRACK – will focus on developing a strong, consistent methodology for those interested in learning and teaching Zarathushti principles and practices.

The venue for Congress 2012 is the Hilton Rye Town Hotel in Rye, New York, 35 minutes from Manhattan by train or by car. The Hilton Rye Town Hotel, Westchester County's premier hotel, combines the relaxed setting of a resort with the flexibility of a full service business hotel. Luxurious guestrooms, spacious ballrooms, ample landscaped grounds, and its proximity to New York City, makes the Hilton Rye Town Hotel an ideal location for the Congress 2012.

In addition to the dynamic program and ideal location, the Entertainment during the Congress also promises to be memorable. There will be a Banquet night featuring talent from across the community, a music filled youth night and a night in Manhattan where attendees may choose from many activities including a skyline cruise, a city tour or a Broadway show.

For more information visit <http://nazc.zagny.org> □



UPCOMING DATES

Sept 17-18, 2011

Gujarati Natak, "Sasoo No Santaap" presented by the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York in partnership with Zarathushtis from Toronto.

<http://zagny.org/natak/>

Sept 21, 2011

International Day of Prayer for Peace

September 25, 2011

Zoroastrianism: Introduction and History. One-day seminar. 9:30am; Univ of Calgary. Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Alberta. For registration information contact fdjmehta@shaw.ca

October 1, 2011

Fali Chothia Charitable Trust Educational Scholarship Application Deadline http://zamwi.org/About/FCCT_text.html

August 2-5, 2012

16th North American Zoroastrian Congress Rye, New York

June 30-July 3, 2012

13th Zoroastrian Games Ontario, Canada



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AROUND FEZANA...

Member News

Zarathushti Chosen as a State Finalist for Miss Illinois 2012



Zenobia Ravji, daughter of Mobed Jamshed and Dinaz Ravji, members of the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago, and niece of Mehernosh and Sherna Kasad, members of Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia, Vancouver, has been selected from hundreds of applicants, as an official State Finalist in the 2012 Miss Illinois pageant to be held in November 2011 in Chicago. If Zenobia becomes Miss Illinois USA 2012, she will have the privilege of representing Illinois and will compete for the national title of Miss USA 2012.

With degrees from University of Illinois in Economics, Spanish and Health sciences, Zenobia is very accomplished. Among many awards and fellowships she has received, in 2009, the University of Illinois awarded her with the Mothers Association Humanitarian Award for service and leadership in the community. As a campus leader, Zenobia was elected Illinois Student Senator by the student body. She credits her university student leadership experience as the catalyst to her personal and spiritual growth.

"I aspire to be a broadcast journalist and eventually have my own talk show," writes Zenobia, "My mission is to have an affirmative impact on humanity by focusing on educating and inspiring young people."

While Zenobia's upcoming pageant experience is exciting news, as a prerequisite, she is required to raise funds via donations to sponsor her event related expenses and pageant fees. Businesses and individuals are invited to be a sponsor and help towards her goal of raising funds to cover pageant costs. To learn more about this outstanding young Zarathushti please visit <http://ZenobiaRavji.com> □

Global Working Group Upcoming Meeting

UPDATE: The Global Working Group plans to meet in London on October 8 & 9, 2011. GWG is co-chaired by FEZANA President along with representatives of FPZAI (Federation of the Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India), ZTFE (Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe), and Iran. FEZANA will be represented by Bomi Patel (Co-chair GWG) Behram Pastakia and Rohinton Rivetna. □

The Council on Foreign Relations Fellowship Program Seeks Nominations

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher which promotes an understanding of foreign policy and America's role in the world. CFR is seeking nominations for five Fellowship positions for 2012-2013. Nominations are due by September 30 for the *International Affairs Fellowship (IAF)*; *IAF in Nuclear Security*; *IAF in Japan*; and *IAF in South Korea*. Nominations are due by December 16 for the *Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship*. This is an excellent opportunity for qualified Zarathushtis. For more information or for directions, visit www.cfr.org/thinktank/fellowships/ □