

FEZANA *bulletin*

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UPCOMING DATES

October 1, 2012

Submission deadline for Fali Chothia Charitable Trust Scholarships. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.zamwi.org/about/2001FCCT.pdf>

October 6, 2012

Shahnameh Festival. Irvine Barclay Theatre & Cheng Hall, Irvine, CA. www.farhang.org/events

October 6-7, 2012

10th International Conference for India Development Coalition of America; Illinois Institute of Technology, Wheaton, IL. www.idc-america.org or 630-303-9592.

October 27-28, 2012

ZAH Library Annual Gala and FEZANA's 25th Anniversary Celebration; Houston, TX. Weekend activities include guest speakers (Dr. Tourag Daryae and Dr. Yuhan Vevaina), Evening Gala and a roundtable discussion.

Oct 25 - Dec 20, 2012

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

December 2, 2012

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

AROUND FEZANA...

9/11 Unity Walks in D.C. and NYC

EIGHTH ANNUAL 911 UNITY WALK IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The idea of a shoe collection drive from the Zoroastrians Stepping Forward initiative was adopted by the 911 Unity Walk in Washington D.C. The donated mens' shoes were given to the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place, a consortium of five churches who have hypothermia shelters on their premises. The children's shoes are being sent to Mtaya, Zambia, Africa. As part of the walk, a service project for elementary and middle school children to make trail mix bags for the homeless was held at the Washington Hebrew Congregation on 9 September 2012.



Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, led the procession in Washington D.C. (Photo: Joshua Yospy)

Close to 800 children, parents and young adults engaged in respectful dialogue as they walked down Embassy Row. The Sikh community, from the National Sikh Gurudwara served their traditional *langar* of Indian vegetarian food to the walkers at St Alban's Episcopal Church on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral. Arun Gandhi led the walkers from the Islamic center to the statue of his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi in front of the Embassy of India. View the ABC7/WJLA photo gallery at: <http://wjla.com/OchQHM>. Save the Date: The Ninth Annual 911 Unity Walk will take place on September 8, 2013. www.911unitywalk.org. □



Behram Pastakia at the Washington Hebrew Congregation (Photo: Joshua Yospy)

ZARATHUSHTIS IN THE 9/11 UNITY WALK IN NEW YORK CITY

Members from FEZANA participated in the 9/11 Unity Walk in New York City organized by Religions For Peace. Katayun Kapadia, FEZANA President, Kersi Kapadia, Banoo Karanjia (ZAPANJ) and Homi Gandhi (ZAGNY), Co-Chair of the Interfaith Activities Committee, FEZANA participated in this 2 mile 9/11 Unity Walk from Washington Square Park to St. Peter's Catholic Church in New York City on Sunday, September 9, 2012. The Walk opened with an Opening Prayer Service at the Arch by Rev. Robert Chase and 65 participants then proceeded to the Judson Memorial Church and then to the Hindu Broome St. Temple where the United Sikhs offered their reflections at this time. The next stop was the Synagogue of the Arts where Rabbi Jonathon Glass offered his reflections and then to the St Peter's Catholic Church for the Closing Prayer Service. Homi Gandhi offered his reflections together with individuals from other religions who were present there.



Here is the Interfaith Prayer that was recited at the Closing Prayer Service:



Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)

President
Katayun Kapadia
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
Web: www.fezana.org



Facebook:

[http://www.facebook.com/
pages/Fezana/14672747206
7524](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fezana/146727472067524)



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United Nations



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FEZANA INFO

"In a time marked by tragedy and discord we come together claiming the unity that was found alongside the pain of the events of September 11, 2001. We gather here today to proclaim a sense of Unity that works to heal pain, while recognizing and respecting differences amongst our spiritual and religious traditions, with a sense of obligation to stand on the side of the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, and to serve the cause of justice. In spite of our differences, we share many principles which spring forth from the teachings of each of our faith traditions: a sense of the sacredness of the individual person and each one's conscience, a realization that might is not right; that human power is not self-sufficient or absolute, and that in God is our trust. A profound hope that good will finally prevail." □



Homi Gandhi walks in the NYC
Unity Walk procession.

FEZANA Information Research Education System (FIRES) Updates



Aban Rustomji, Chair of FIRES, looks for ways to fulfill FIRES mission which is to serve as the central location in North America for the collection of Zoroastrian literature and artifacts, and to promote educational and research by disseminating this information to the public. Her interest in libraries and preservation is personal and professional. For the past four decades, she has promoted the importance of libraries at the university, high school, and community level. As a professional librarian, she can help you with your research needs and help your association develop leading-edge information technology. Contact her for your library requests at aban@coatingindustries.com or 281.493.1275.

FIRES Library and Interlibrary Loans

At the FIRES library, you will find a collection of rare, Zoroastrian religious and historical texts, fiction, non-fiction written by or about Zoroastrians. Check out our new website and our online catalog at www.fires-fezana.org. Furthermore, books and DVD's are available for interlibrary loan. Interested community members from Chicago, Baton Rouge and Florida have requested library material, and we are happy that our resources are being used.

ZAC-Chicago Collection

In the information age, digital preservation is critical for research and education and this data needs to be accessible when and where we want it. From October 12 to 14, Aban will be working with Minoo Press at Chicago's Nania-Kanga-Patel library for cataloging, and will integrate their collection into the online FIRES catalog.

Donations

Our book collection continues to grow as we receive gifts from thoughtful individuals. At the North American Zoroastrian Congress in NY, Viraf Kapadia donated his book of poems, and Lovji Hakim gifted his father Adi Hakim's memoir, ***With Cyclists around the World***. Ervad Kobad Zarolia gifted an unusual oil painting of our prophet Zarathushtra.

Zoroastrian Association of Houston Celebrates – October 27 & 28

On Saturday, October 27, two extraordinary scholars, Dr. Touraj Daryaei and Dr. Yuhana Vevaina, will be talking about Sasanian Iran. Dr. Daryaei will present "*The Sasanian Empire and the Creation of a Persianate Identity*", and Dr. Vevaina's talk



UPCOMING DATES

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

will present "*Knowledge from the Teachers of old Zoroastrian Theology and Religious Practices in Late Antiquity*". On the following day, Sunday October 28, there will be an informal roundtable discussion with the two scholars from 11am to 1pm.

Saturday Night Gala Dinner – October 27

FEZANA's 25th Anniversary celebration promises to entertain you with a show filled with humor, music and dance followed by a scrumptious dinner catered by our very own Naushad Mehta & Rustom Setna. Members of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston look forward to meet and welcome FEZANA's new President Katayun Kapadia. □

FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarships Announced

The 2012 Performing and Creative Arts Scholarships have been awarded. We wish the recipients all the best and look forward to hearing about their future endeavors. Applications for the 2013 year will go out in December. We hope to hear from artists, dancers, musicians and singers. Please enjoy reading about this year's winners.

— Sherazade Mehta
P&CAS Chair

Malcolm Cooper: Malcolm hails from Cherry Hill, NJ and is currently studying at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He is pursuing a Master's degree in Vocal Performance. Malcolm is a classically trained Tenor, sings choral music, opera and art song. He is multi-lingual and is able to sing in over 8 languages. Congratulations Malcolm.

Dina Lalkaka: Dina is married and lives with her husband in Hayward, CA. She is enrolled at San Jose State University, where she is taking courses in Jazz Studies (music) towards a graduate degree. Dina's ultimate goal is to teach voice at the college and professional levels. Congratulations Dina.

Darius Vazifdar: Darius is one of our youngest recipients. Living with his family in Plainfield, IL Darius is currently an elementary school student enrolled in multiple dance classes. His long term goal is to pursue a career in the arts/dance. At such a young age, Darius has already competed in many regional competitions, winning anywhere from 1st to 3rd overall. Congratulations Darius. □

ZARATHUSHTIS CONNECTING...

N.A. Zoroastrian Tele-Religious Class

A North American Zoroastrian Tele-Religious Class was held by Erv Soli Dastur on 23 September 2012, broadcast from Miami, hosted by Zoroastrian Association of Florida with attendees from Canada and the USA.

Video of the broadcast and attachments of slides in power point are accessible here:

<http://zoroastrians.net/2012/09/25/20120923-all-na-z-tele-class-10-parsi-irani-weddings-on-youtube/>

SAVE THE DATE: The next Tele-Class will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at 11 AM EDT (NY Time). Class duration will be 1 hour. The topic will be: **Zoroastrian Core Beliefs.** For info: dastur@comcast.net □



ZWIN Updates: Join or Support Community Causes

Dr. Zareen Karani Araoz, ZWIN Network Director

The Zoroastrian/ Zarathusti Women's International Network (ZWIN) was formed in 2000 at the World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston by Zoroastrian women from 14 different countries. It is an independent network, open to all Zoroastrian women world-wide, any age. We are committed to helping Zoroastrian women in their personal and professional aspirations and challenges, and supporting young Zoroastrians and the deserving in the community that need our attention. Any ZWIN member can propose a project that meets these and other criteria and lead it, with support from the ZWIN worldwide network. We do not have any funds, but we try and collect funds for relevant causes. It is also a forum to discuss issues that further the cause of women, children or the well-being of the community.

Re-ignited by the opportunity given by the recent NAZC in New York and with the support of many noble souls and organizations who offered to help, ZWIN has started and revived many projects. The help of the North American Zoroastrian community in these would be much appreciated.

1. **ZWIN ZEAL (ZWIN Zoroastrian Elder Assistance Link) Project:** We are all aware of the pathetic situation in which many of our elder, neglected Zoroastrians in India are living. WZOT is doing much to assist those in Gujerat. But some of our urban elderly populations are equally poor and isolated and leading very difficult lives. ZWIN has explored the situation of poor elderly Zarathustis in Pune. Some of us have even visited them in their homes and confirm their plights. A young student also made a video about it (*Invisible Parsis: The Poor of a Prosperous Community* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-iZbiilEiU>).

ZWIN has started a pilot project in Pune, where you can sponsor an elder for \$35 a month (approx Rs. 1500) to these very deserving individuals, and make a meaningful difference at this stage of their lives. Besides the monies, we will have local families in Pune be "Friends of the Elderly" and visit them, as well young Zoroastrians who would visit and help them with errands.

We are very grateful to the **FEZANA Welfare Committee**, who has already very generously donated \$3000, and other individuals have already started contributing. We appreciate that ZAGNY (courtesy Yasmin Ghadiali and Gev Nentin) will be accepting and coordinating the tax-exempt donations.

If you would like to help an elder, you may donate towards "services to the elderly" (like a new wheelchair or medicines or food etc.) or sponsor an elder at \$35 a month for one year, paid quarterly (\$105). Please send your check made out to "ZAGNY Critical Assistance Fund" to Yasmin Ghadiali (2686 Belcher Street, Baldwin, NY 11510) with "For ZWIN ZEAL project" clearly noted on the check. Also, please write to Yasmin at ghad@optonline.net and Dr. Zareen Karani Araoz at zareen@managingcultures.com specifying what your donation is towards (elderly services or monthly sponsorship). Yasmin will send you a tax-exempt receipt for your kind donation -- along with blessings from the elder being sponsored or helped! Thank you very much!

Many ZWINers and others have actively supported in the development of this project, including Katayun Kapadia, Houtoxi Contractor, Dr. Dolly Dastoor, Yasmin Ghadiali, Feroza Saran, Bella Tata, Bucky Amaria, Hovi Shroff, Roshan Rivetna, Toxy Cowasji, Selina Jejina, Dinshaw Tamboly, Noshir Dadrawala and Dr. Zareen Karani Araoz (Coordinator).

ZARATHUSHTIS IN HISTORY:

Air India's First International Flight in 1948

The short video [see link below] is a little grainy but a great historic record of the early contributions of Parsis to civil aviation in India.

This is a historic Indian Films Division documentary of Air India's first Mumbai to Heathrow (via Cairo) flight — its first International flight on 8 June 1948. At that time Air India was a Tata Airline; amongst the top airlines in the world, with a great service, punctuality and safety record. On board the "Malabar Princess" were JRD Tata and pilot Captain Keki Gazder.

<http://flightdeckindia.blogspot.co.uk/2012/09/air-indias-first-international-flight.html>



Leadership Workshop for Zoroastrians Aged 15-23

November 8-10, 2012

WZO Trust Funds Senior Center, Navsari, India.

Why: An elevated confidence, strong lateral thinking, and the ability to work within groups, are core leadership skills that enable success both in school, college and in the workplace. With a primary focus in the developed cities, youth in the smaller towns and villages do not get access to these core skills.

How: Through a combination of group and individual activities, participants will build a vision for their future, find an inner confidence that will move them towards that vision.

To Register: call Simin Bharda, Local Committee of WZO Trust Funds at Navsari +91-9825982455

To Volunteer: call Sharmin Tamboly, Local Committee of WZO Trust Funds at Navsari +91-9909279632

2. **ZWIN Zoroastrian Students International Network (ZWIN ZISN) and Hospitality program:** ZWIN has a network of Hospitality Reps in 30+ cities around the world to welcome and connect Zoroastrian students, who are studying away from home, to the local Zoroastrian Community and to other Zoroastrian students worldwide.

We are still looking for:

A. Hospitality Reps (adults or students) in Savannah, GA; in Durham, NC; in Ithaca, NY; in Los Angeles, CA and, in Ann Arbor, MI. If you would like to reach out to a student in any of these areas, please contact Zareen at zareen@managingcultures.com. Binaifer Daji from New York is also assisting invaluablely with this project.

B. Names and emails of Zoroastrian students currently studying away from home, so we can connect them. To join the group, the Zoroastrian student can send a blank email to ZWINzisin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or contact Zareen. This offer is not only for international students, but includes North American students who may be going to college away from home.

3. **ZWIN Breast Cancer Prevention Awareness Program:** We are all aware of the many people in our community who have suffered with Breast Cancer---we seem genetically prone to it. ZWIN is planning to start a prevention program. We initiated it by inviting Ushta Davar, a genetic Counselor, to be one of the speakers at our ZWIN session in NY, and who gave us a most informative talk. We are grateful to several physicians, who have offered to support us in this venture and advise including Dr. Yasmin Engineer, Dr. Behram Pastakia, Dr. Rodabeh Amaria, Dr. Khushroo Patel.

If you have ideas or would like to contribute your professional insights, please contact: Dr. Zareen Karani Araoz (zareen@managingcultures.com); Dr. Dolly Dastoor (dollydastoor@sympatico.ca); or Ushta Davar Canteenwalla (ushta@aol.com).

4. **Women Empowerment Project:** This project is being initiated under the inspiration and leadership of Yasmin Ghadiali. ZWIN will shortly begin raising funds to be made available as interest-free loans to Zoroastrian women in India, interested in starting their own small enterprises. This initiative will be in collaboration with WZO Trust Funds, who have since 1995 extended similar support to 780 Zoroastrians. For further information, please contact Yasmin at ghad@optonline.net.
5. **Matrimonial Assistance:** ZWIN would like to support our community young and old in their efforts to find partners within the community. Contact Roshan Rivetna at rrivetna@aol.com. We are always looking for new ideas. Please post your ideas to us at ZWIN3@yahoogroups.com or to send them to Roshan or Zareen (zareen@managingcultures.com).
6. **ALL Zoroastrian net-enabled Women worldwide requested to join ZWIN:** ZWIN is much more than all the above projects. We want to connect all Zoroastrian women to come together to help one another and our community in many non-financial ways. We would like this to be a community of women that support one another in various ways and also reflect on what the practical, emotional, health, child-rearing, relationship and other needs of the community might be. You can participate, lead, listen in as much or as little as you want. But we would like you to be part of the group and connected and you're your input, when you would like to. Please join by sending a blank email to: ZWIN3-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

ZWIN welcomes input and ideas about how ZWIN may be of better help to our community. Please feel free to write in. □