

# FEZANA *bulletin*

July 20, 2012 / VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 13



## UPCOMING DATES

August 1, 2012

Submission deadline for 2012-13 FEZANA Academic Scholarships.

[www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org) or [academicscholarship@fezana.org](mailto:academicscholarship@fezana.org)

August 2-5, 2012

16th North American Zarathushti Congress 2012, Rye Brook, New York. For registration or more info

<http://nazc.zagny.org>

August 2, 2012

FEZANA 25th Anniversary Gala Evening; Rye Brook New York; 7:00pm.

<http://nazc.zagny.org>

August 3, 2012

25th FEZANA AGM; Rye Brook, New York. To register or for more info

<http://nazc.zagny.org> or [admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)

August 11, 2012

Working to Address Poverty and Climate Change in India. Johns Hopkins Univ Rockville, Maryland. For more info

<http://zoroastrians.net/2012/07/09/working-to-address-poverty-and-climate-change-in-india/>

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/>

## AROUND FEZANA...

### FEZANA'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED AT THE 13TH ZOROASTRIAN GAMES.



During the elegant *Fire and Ice Gala* at the 13th Zoroastrian Games in Toronto from June 29-July 3, FEZANA's Silver Anniversary was honored with a beautiful cake. Our own, Bomi Patel (FEZANA President) and Nahid Dashtaki (FEZANA Secretary) were on hand to enjoy the festivities. They pose for the photo here with Mr. Daraius Bharucha (Zoroastrian Society of Ontario, President). □

**CHICAGO CELEBRATES FEZANA'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY.** On Saturday, July 14, 2012, the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago marked FEZANA's 25th Anniversary in grand style. With invited guests and local officials in the house -- including the Mayor of Oak Brook, Illinois -- the festive function was enjoyed by all those who attended.

The evening began with prayers led by Dastoor Kersey Antia. Next, presentations on *FEZANA: The First 25 Years* were presented by Zenobia Ravji (ZAC Board Member), Zenobia Damania (FEZANA Administrator) and Keynote

Speaker, Katayun Kapadia (FEZANA Vice President). Afterwards, attention was turned to the beautiful 3-tiered, silver and white anniversary cake. Katayun Kapadia, Afshan Barshan (Vice President of ZAC), Hosi Mehta (FEZANA representative for Chicago), Rohinton and Roshan Rivetna joined together in the cutting of the cake to a round of cheering and applause.



The evening continued with dynamic presentations from local Next Generation speakers marking the 3750th anniversary of Zarathushtra's teachings. The crowd was treated to well prepared, interesting presentations on: "*The relevance of Zarathushtra's teachings in Today's World*"; "*The Impetus that Zarathushtra's Teachings Provide to Family, Community and Global Harmony*"; and "*How the Teachings Give Humankind a Central Role in Being Stewards of all Creation*."

The youngest members of ZAC also contributed to the festivities by singing two delightful songs and by performing a wildly entertaining ZAC Game Show skit for the adoring crowd.

To top it off, the capacity crowd was treated to an authentic Lagan-Nu-Bhonu eaten in the true Parsi Baug Function style. Guests sat on facing long rows of banquet tables set with banana leaves (flown in from Florida) and were served by Celebrity Servers from the ZAC community.

Thanks Chicago, for a memorable evening that will live long in the hearts of all who attended as an evening filled with community pride, love and laughter! □



Federation of  
Zoroastrian  
Associations of  
North America  
(FEZANA)

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## AROUND FEZANA...

# Information Receiving and Dissemination (Publications) Committee

### **FEZANA JOURNAL**

The flagship eponymous Journal for the Federation continues to flourish under its guiding principles: to educate, to inspire and to build community. It serves as a publication of record, balanced in its approach, providing a democratic forum to voice diverse opinions. Proffered articles are vetted and published if found suitable, furthering a civil dialogue.

A major accomplishment in the Silver Jubilee year was a Joint project with FIRES (FEZANA Information Research Education System) sparked by a meeting of minds preceding the Fifteenth North American Zoroastrian Congress, to archive all past issues of the Journal on [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org). The moving force behind this accomplishment is the team of Shahrokh Khanizadeh and Dolly Dastoor from Canada, ably assisted by Roshan Rivetna from Chicago, and Aban Rustomji with friends in Houston, Texas.

### **WEB SITES**

[www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org) is a repository of its public documents. The strength of the Federation website is the directory which serves to connect Zarathushtis in North America, provides information about representatives of elected member associations of FEZANA, Terms of Reference of its Standing and Ad Hoc Committees and their respective subsites. Maintained by President, Bomi Patel, it is an ideal portal for an individual interested in getting to know the Federation before deciding whether to contribute time, talent and treasure in its multifarious activities.

[www.zoroastrians.net](http://www.zoroastrians.net)

**History:** The idea of creating a niche in cyberspace where Zarathushtis from all walks of life could find common ground was voiced during an informal tea break by Behram Nagarwalla from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra at the third Coming Together Roundtable held at the Athornan Institute, Dadar Parsi Colony, Mumbai, India.

**Execution:** Stepping up to execute this expansionary vision was Yazdi Tantra of On-Lyne systems who has, as of 10 July 2012, reached the milestone of close to 300 viewers visiting the site at any one time; with a total of over 640,950 hits recorded. All nine North American Tele-Religious Classes, broadcast from Florida by Erv Soli Dastur so far, are archived here. The web-site offers a calendar where member associations of FEZANA could post upcoming events and individuals if they so chose can receive RSS feeds to stay current.

### **FEZANA BULLETIN**

**History:** Remarks by Behram and Farieda Irani from ZANT, Dallas, Texas at the FEZANA AGM held in Atlanta, Georgia of being inundated by messages from the Federation, led to introspective thinking at the Information Receiving and Dissemination Committee.

**Execution:** To meet the need for succinct, infrequent, yet timely communications, Zenobia Damania from Chicago at the FEZANA Headquarters, has taken on the mantle of editor to pull together a two to three page monthly electronic newsletter named the *FEZANA Bulletin* to summarize appropriate content and provide a list of upcoming events.

**Current status:** In its first year, the bulletin has been used by the Fezana executive to disseminate information about the work of the different committees of the Federation.

**Future potential:** Enhancements with interactive content, short video presentations and in-depth webinars for religious education, providing links to updates on member association websites, are in the future of the Bulletin. Its cyber-footprint could be enhanced, connecting with a new generation of Zarathushtis who are seeking a forum to advocate for issues and action plans related to social justice.

### ZOROASTRIANS STEPPING FORWARD

We were delighted to disseminate information worldwide about “*The First Zarathushti International Day of Service*”– a shoe collection drive under the aegis of the Zoroastrians Stepping Forward (ZSF) initiative, which arose out of an inter-generational dialogue hosted by NexGenNow at the Fifth World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Vancouver, Canada. Carefully designed printed outreach cards coupled with phone calls were effective in attracting Zoroastrian Youth who served as mentors to children in elementary and middle schools, with wide participation from FEZANA member associations and small groups. Details will be shared at the Sixteenth North American Zoroastrian Congress in Rye, New York in August 2012. Plans for ZSF in 2013 are underway; connect with [zoroastrianssteppingforward@gmail.com](mailto:zoroastrianssteppingforward@gmail.com)

### BOOKS

***The Legacy of Zarathushtra: An introduction to the Religion, History and Culture of the Zarathushtis (Zoroastrians)*** Ed. Roshan Rivetna, FEZANA, 2002 has gone into its third printing (2012) with distribution arranged at Parsiana Book Store, M. J. Wadia Fire Temple Trust, Lalbaug (Mr. Kersi Limathwala), Zoroastrian Studies shop at K. R. Cama Bldg., at educational institutions (including Panday School) and at the Dadar Athornan Institute (Er. Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia) in Mumbai, India.

***Zarathushti Connections with Judaism and Christianity***, Ed. Roshan Rivetna Available from FEZANA Headquarters, serves admirably for outreach at interfaith events in North America.

***The Creations of Ahura Mazda*** – A book compiled by the religious class children of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas to raise funds for their *Darbe-Mehr* in Dallas went into a second printing of 1000 copies in India and has been distributed in Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Mumbai. A packet of these books was presented to the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe when they hosted the Global Working Group meeting in October 2011, London, U.K., as a gift from FEZANA.

***Jamshedi NauRooz Prayers in Farsi, Gujarati and English*** – conceived during the term of Rustom Kevala as Fezana President, and distributed by Bomi Patel in collaboration with Editor Erv Soli Dastur of Florida, went into a second printing of 1000 copies. These were shared gratis worldwide, including at many agiaries and Atash-Behrams in India.

**In the pipeline: FEZANA Silver Anniversary Cook Book** – is an e-book, by Farishta M. Dinshaw of Hukhta Publications from Canada as a gift to the Worldwide Zarathushti community (due fall of 2012).

Collaboration with PARZOR, New Delhi: ***Threads of Continuity*** by Ashdeen Z. Lilaowala on Kusti weaving (Hard cover, anticipated publication in 2013).

### Volunteers Needed:

The Publication Committee is looking for Zarathushtis willing to translate from Farsi to English and from English to Farsi. If suitably competent and inclined to help, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Behram Pastakia

Metropolitan Washington D.C., USA

Chair, Information Receiving and Dissemination Committee

Dated: 10 July 2012