

**Sixteenth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of FEZANA**  
**May 24 – 25, 2003**  
**AT**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**  
**A G E N D A**

**NOTE: ROBERTS RULE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE WILL GENERALLY BE OBSERVED DURING THE MEETING**

**Saturday, May 24, 2003**

- 8:00 a.m.      Get together - Mixer
- 8:30 a.m.      Benediction  
Welcome from Host Association
- 8:40 a.m.      Roll Call and Quorum  
Approval of the Agenda  
Announcement of election result and brief acknowledgement by elected officers
- 9:00 a.m.      Approval of Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada May 25 - 26, 2002
- 9:15 a.m.      Reports from Officers  
President                      Firdosh Mehta  
Vice President              Mahrukh Motafram  
Secretary                      Arnavaz Sethna
- 9:30 a.m.      Report from Treasurer - Rashid Mehin  
Approval of Financial Statement for the period Jan. 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2002  
Present financial status as of April 30, 2003  
Approval of Budget for the Year Jan 1 to December 31, 2003
- 10:15 a.m.      TEA BREAK
- 10:30 a.m.      Reports from Member Associations
- 11:30 a.m.      Reports from Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. Discussion on previously distributed Reports .

**Standing Committee**

Census & Survey Committee - Rashna Ghadialy  
Coordination & Planning Committee - Mahrukh Motafram  
Religious Education, Conference & Scholarship Committee - Kayomarsh Mehta  
Funds & Finance Committee - Jerry Kheradi  
Information Receiving & Dissemination Committee - Khorshed Jungalwala  
North American Zoroastrian Congress Committee - Roshan Sethna  
Scholarship Committee Report and approval for budget for 2003 – Dolly Dastoor  
Small Groups of NA Zarathushtis Committee - Hoshedar Tamboli  
Unity & Welfare (Critical/Medical Assistance) Committee Houtoxi Contractor  
Youth Committee (ZYNA) - Armaity Bamji, Morvarid Behziz, Sherazade Mehta

### **Ad Hoc Committees**

Awards Committee - Dinshaw Joshi

External Affairs - Rohinton Rivetna

- 12:30 p.m. LUNCH
- 01:15 p.m. Heritage, Preservation and Historical Research - Jehan Bagli  
Strategic Planning – Dolly Dastoor  
Financial Investment Committee - Rustom Kevala  
NA Congress TOR Review Committee - Rustom Kevala  
Public Relations Committee - Rashid Mehin  
Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) - Bijan Khosraviani
- 01:45 p.m. Seniors Settlement Project – SUN CITY CENTER, FLORIDA  
– Yasmin Kevala and Jerry Kheradi
- 02:15 p.m. Venue for the 17th AGM in 2004 and ratification thereof – Mahrukh Motafram and  
Hoshedar Tamboli
- 02:30 p.m. A briefing on FEZANA UN-NGO Status - Homi Gandhi  
02:45 p.m. UNESCO Proposal to celebrate 3000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zarathushtra – Dolly Dastoor
- 03:00 p.m. Report of World Body Working Group – Khorshed Jungalwala
- 05:00 p.m. Adjourn

### **Sunday, May 25, 2003**

- 09:00 a.m. Benediction
- 09:05 a.m. Message from North American Mobed Council
- 09:15 a.m. Report of the Constitution Committee and  
Resolution on the method of the separation of By Laws - Rumi Engineer
- 10:15 a.m. a) Progress Report of San Francisco Bay Area Congress - Bomi Patel
- 10:45 a.m. Tea Break
- 11:00 a.m. a) Progress Report of North American Youth Congress - 2003 - Afreed Mistry  
b) Report on ZYNA Sponsorship of Young Mobeds to NAYC-2003
- 11:40 a.m. a) Establishment of Performing Arts/Sports Endowment Fund Gifted Zarathushtis  
b) Zarathushti Orchestra – FEZANA funding support—Rashna Ghadialy
- 12:00 Noon Proposal by Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation for FEZANA Executive Officers  
travel expense reimbursement.
- 12:15 p.m. Call for Venue for the North American Youth Congress in 2005 – ZYNA
- 12.30 Call for Venue for the North American Congress in 2006 – Roshan Sethna
- 12:45 p.m. Vote of thanks and Adjourn

## **Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of FEZANA**

**Place:** Office of Dectron, Inc., Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Date:** Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26, 2002

### **Present at the meeting:**

#### *The Executive Officers:*

President

**Framroze Patel**

Vice-President

**Firdosh Mehta**

Treasurer

**Rustom Kevala**

Secretary

**Arnavaz Sethna**

Parliamentarian

**Gev Karkaria**

#### *Representatives of the Member Associations:*

Zoroastrian Association of Alberta (ZAA)

**Firdosh Mehta**

Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston (ZAGBA)

**Sherazade Mehta**

Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC)

**Perviz Madon**

Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC)

**Khushroo Lakdawalla**

California Zoroastrian Center (CZC)

**Rashid Mehin**

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC-Chicago)

**Hosi P. Mehta**

Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH)

**Roshan Z. Sethna**

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY)

**Homi Gandhi**

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO)

**Sam Vesuna**

Persian Zoroastrian Organization (PZO)

**Bijan Khosraviani**

Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania (ZAPA)

**Houtoxi Contractor**

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ)

**Ness Lakdawala**

Zoroastrian Association of The Rocky Mountain (ZARM)

**Rumi Engineer**

Zoroastrian Assoc. of Metropolitan Washington (ZAMWI)

**Jamshed Dholoo**

#### *Representatives of the Committees:*

Awards

**Dinshaw Joshi**

Census and Survey

**Rashna Ghadialy**

Congress

**Rustom Kevala**

Constitution Amendment Committee

**Firdosh Mehta**

**Rumi Engineer**

Funds and Finance

**Jerry Kheradi**

North American Congress - Chicago Committee

**Rashna Ghadialy  
Mahrukh Motafram**

External Affairs

Information Receiving and Disseminating

**Jungalwala**

**Rohinton Rivetna  
Khorshed**

**Roshan Rivetna**

Historical Research and Preservation

North American Mobed Council )

) **Jehan Bagli**

Scholarship Fund

Small Groups

Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC)

World Body Working Group

**Jungalwala**

**Dolly Dastoor  
Mahrukh Motafram  
Bijan Khosraviani  
Khorshed**

**Sarosh Collector  
Farrokh Mistree  
Rohinton Rivetna**

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA)

**Armaity Bamji  
Sherazade Mehta  
Afreed Mistry**

2003 N.A. Youth Congress Committee

Observers: (*Partial List*)

**Goolcheher Joshi  
Yasmin Pavri  
Shahrokh Mehta  
Gool Mehta  
Firoze Jungalwala  
Rohinton Marolia**

## **1. Call to Order and Benediction**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. and Quorum was established by Secretary, Arnavaz Sethna - 14 out of 23 Members were present, which was more than one half of the Member Associations.

The Meeting commenced with a benediction by Ervads Jehan Bagli, Gev Karkaria and Kobad Zarolia

**2. Appointment of Parliamentarian:**

President Framroze Patel appointed Gev Karkaria as the Parliamentarian for the Meeting.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda, proposed by CZC and seconded by ZSO, was adopted unanimously.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in May 2001 were previously mailed to the Member Associations.

ZSO requested correction on Page 8 paragraph 2 - the membership in ZSO is 1100 however the Zoroastrian community is over 3000. The first sentence should therefore read "Sam stated that ZSO is largest association with 1100 membership - the Zoroastrian community in the area is over 3000."

The minutes were approved unanimously after being duly proposed by ZAH and seconded by ZAPA.

**5. President's Report:**

In his report, attached hereto and made part of the minutes (Attachment 1), President Framroze Patel welcomed everyone and thanked the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec for hosting this AGM. He was happy to note that both the past Presidents of FEZANA, Rohinton Rivetna and Dolly Dastoor were present at this AGM. He recognized Dr. Farhang Mehr, Dolly Dastoor, Rohinton Rivetna, Khorshed Jungalwala, Farrokh Mistree, Roshan Sethna and Yasmin Pavri for all their help and support during his term. He recognized Dinshaw Joshi for all his work, help and guidance for the past many years and thanked all the Executive Committee Members for their support.

Framroze thanked the members of the FEZANA World Body Working Group for an excellent job of completing Phase 1 and 2 reports. In their Phase 2 report, the Working Group has requested to proceed to Phase 3 and Framroze endorsed their recommendation; however, he reiterated that the selection of a model will rest with the FEZANA Members.

Framroze indicated that in his first term he had focused his energies on the World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston. He opined, "by all accounts it was the best ever." Framroze indicated that in his second term he focused on bringing

the World Body into existence: "I am pleased to say that we have made significant progress on our journey towards establishing a World Body. We do have a long way to go. I do not know what the final outcome will be. But I want to assure you that, in my opinion, the path upon which we have embarked is the right one." Framroze then went on to identify some of his regrets. One of his regrets being that he had misjudged the feelings of the grassroots community regarding the issue of speakers at the World Congress.

Framroze ended by thanking his family for their support during the past four years. Framroze's final words to the community: "keep the hope alive, keep the *Deen* alive".

## **6. Vice President's Report:**

Vice President, Firdosh Mehta, in his report stated that on behalf of FEZANA, he would like to present a token of appreciation to Framroze for his dedicated service during the past many years. A Candle Stand in the shape of an "*afarganyu*" with an engraved Farohar and a base with an engraved plaque was presented to Framroze.

## **7. Treasurer's Report:**

### Financial Statement:

Treasurer, Rustom Kevala, had earlier distributed the financial statement for the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001, attached hereto and made part of the Minutes (Attachment 2). All questions were satisfactorily answered by Rustom. After discussion, ZAQ proposed to approve the Financial Statement, ZAGNY seconded. The Financial Statement for the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001 was unanimously approved. Rustom thanked Framroze's guidance throughout the four years of his term as the Treasurer. President, Framroze Patel advised that the 2001 accounts have been audited Pro Bono by Sherma and we now have an audited report.

Rustom was also presented with a plaque on behalf of FEZANA for his dedicated service, by Firdosh.

## **8. Secretary's Report**

Secretary, Arnavaz Sethna, reviewed the activities of the office of the Secretary and reported that she enjoyed working with everyone on the Committee as well as communicating with the Members and Committee Chairs.

## 9. Election Results:

The following representatives for the Candidates were present at the time of ballot opening.

Homi Gandhi represented Tenaz Dubash  
Jerry Kheradi represented Khorshed Jungalwala and Rashid Mehin  
Arnavaz Sethna represented Farrokh Mistree and Kershaw Khumbatta

Rustom Kevala - Returning Officer  
Framroze Patel - Observer  
Arnavaz Sethna - Secretary

Rustom announced the results:

*President*

Firdosh Mehta 32  
Khorshed Jungalwala 31

*Treasurer-*

Rashid Mehin 44.8  
Kershaw Khumbatta 18.2

*Assistant Secretary*

Farrokh Mistree 31.55  
Tenaz Dubash 27.55

Rustom advised that the election for the President's position had been very close. TMZA's ballot had been rejected by the election observers because it appeared that it had been sent after the due date for receipt of ballots by the FEZANA Secretary. However, this rejection had not altered the results of the election. (This minute should be read in conjunction with Addendum 1 at the end of the Minutes)

Rustom recommended that for the future the following actions can be taken:

- a. Appoint an election committee
- b. Set up guidelines for the election process
- c. Wishes of the grass root membership be recognized.

This led to a lot of discussion. Some members felt that there should be no deadline imposed on the Membership and the ballots should be accepted until the beginning of the meeting. The delegates also felt that FEZANA cannot dictate to the Associations how they arrive at the votes for FEZANA elections. It was recommended that the newly elected President establish the Election Committee.

**Firdosh Mehta**, thanked all who supported him and also thanked the others for making him realize that he has to work harder to earn their support also. After being elected as the President, Firdosh resigned from his existing position of Vice President.

**Rashid Mehin**, thanked everyone for their support and said it would be an honor to serve the community.

**Farrokh Mistree**, thanked everyone for their support and particularly thanked ZAH for nominating him for the position.

As for the vacancy for the position of Vice President, it was decided to request members to send in their nominations by June 15, 2002. In case of election, the time frame for ballot papers to be received post marked July 30, 2002.

Khorshed Jungalwala was nominated from the floor and accepted as one of the nominees.

ZARM proposed and ZAPA seconded to destroy the ballots since the election had been completed. There was a heated discussion where members wanted the ballots to be kept open for a longer period of time. CZC proposed and ZAMWI seconded to keep the ballots open for 90 days. This motion was passed by 28 to 14.

#### **10. Reports from Member Associations:**

Delegates of Associations who were present, made brief reports on the activities within their associations during the past year. Some highlights are given below. Needless to say, all the delegates profusely thanked ZAQ and in particular its President, Ness Lakdawala and his dedicated team of volunteers for hosting this AGM

**Firdosh Mehta, Alberta, Canada**, reported that Calgary experienced some increase in their membership. ZAA have held Jashans and are still active in Interfaith activities.

**Sherazade Mehta, Boston, MA**, said after September 11 incident, they had their fund raising and donated funds for the relief of victims. They have restarted youth activities and children's religious classes. During the past year, they have had picnics, visits to concerts, and community dinners.

**Perviz Madon, British Columbia, Canada**, reported that apart from the usual Navroze get togethers, Gahambar, Jashn-e-Sadeh, etc., they started Women's activities. Their seniors are quite active and they now have a youth group. Perviz advised that this was her last term as the President of the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia.

**Rashid Mehin, Los Angeles, CA, (CZC)** talked about their new building. A loan for \$1 million is about to be completed and they were fortunate to get it at prime rate. Their youth are very active and they have the usual social functions.

**Khushroo Lakdawalla, Los Angeles, CA (ZAC)**, reported that they have had their usual six to seven social events. Khushroo is trying to set up a better infrastructure for the youth.

**Hosi Mehta, Chicago, IL**, thanked the outgoing Officers and congratulated the newly elected Officers. Chicago opened a new wing to their Darb-e-Mehr and have named it Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna Hall to honor their service to the Zarathushti community. They have children's religion classes and have seen an increase in participation in Gatha classes. Chicago takes pride in sponsoring priests every two years and this year they have sponsored a priest from Karachi.

**Roshan Sethna, Houston, TX**, congratulated Zoroastrian Association of Quebec on their 35th Anniversary and presented to Ness Lakdawala, the President, a gift from the Zoroastrian Association of Houston. As for the ZAH activities, the two important items presently being pursued are: Setting up the Library, and beautifying the Atrium at the Center. The Library Project is headed by the professional librarian Aban Rustomji and the library committee will be grateful for any cash donation or donation of books related to the Zarathushti religion. Roshan also announced that this was her last year as the ZAH Representative to FEZANA.

**Homi Gandhi, New York, NY**, stated that he is the "new kid on the block" as this is the first time that he is attending a FEZANA AGM. Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) has moved into their new location and are in the process of selling their New Rochelle property. ZAGNY members participated in Cancer Walk and raised \$1600.

**Sam Vesuna, Toronto, Canada**, felicitated the host association on their 35th Anniversary and wished them success in the future. He advised that the ZSO Youth group is extremely active and they will be hosting the Youth Congress next year in Toronto. The youth are aware that maximum participation can only be achieved if they keep the cost down and program interesting.

ZSO for long has felt the need to expand their present Darb-e-Mehr and put forth the options to their members: (1) Rebuild on the existing site, (2) sell the present site and move to another location, or (3) have a second facility built in the West. 78% preferred to build on the present site, but unfortunately the logistical problem was more prevalent and a second Center is being established in the West side of Toronto area by a second Association.

**Houtoxi Contractor, Pittsburgh, PA** stated that theirs is a small group but a cohesive one. They too participated in the Cancer fund raising walk. Their youth are very active, they visit nursing homes and raise funds for disabled - they are a small group and besides being active in the Zarathushti activities, stay involved in the local community affairs as well.

**Ness Lakdawala, Montreal, Quebec, Canada** thanked everyone for their good wishes and congratulated the new Officers. He thanked ZAH for their gift and thanked Rohinton Marolia and his entire ZAQ team for organizing the AGM.

Ness brought up a sad event that happened in Montreal. They had a funeral of a Zarathushti who had lived in Montreal area for 30 years but no one knew about him. They only came to know about him when he died and had no one to take care of his last rites. Ness feels that everyone must make extra effort to find out if there are any lone Zarathushtis in their respective areas and extend help if needed.

**Rumi Engineer, Denver, CO**, said that Zoroastrian Association of The Rocky Mountains is a very small fledgling organization. He is now the new President and is trying to bring the community back together. They have no priest in their area and have to get one from other associations when a need arises. They too had a tragic death of a Zarathushti lady and did not hear about it till much later. Hopefully, he will be able to do something about such situations. Rumi said that they have a good board now and is confident that they will get interesting events organized. For social events they had their Navroze celebrations.

**Jimmy Dholoo, Washington, DC**, advised that they have religion classes and over 60 students attend regularly. With such a large number, they have divided the class by age groups. Jim Lovelace takes the older group - they organize various activities including fund raising. Ervad Panthaki is active with the Religion Classes. They will break ground on the seven acre lot this summer. They have raised \$1.4 million in cash/pledges but that is still not enough, so they will build the property in phases. To bring FEZANA awareness to the ZAMWI membership, he urged Rustom Kevala, a resident of the DC area to be on the Committee to help and guide them. ZAMWI encourages everyone to subscribe to FEZANA Journal and be connected to the community outside of DC area. They had a "dessert gala" and raised \$1500 and had various other fundraisers.

**Bijan Khosraviani, San Jose, CA** stated on behalf of PZO that they have the usual Norooz and other celebrations where they get maximum participation.

## 11. Committee Reports

Most of the Committee reports were mailed prior to the meeting. Those Committee Chairs present gave the highlights of their reports.

**Awards Committee - Dinshaw Joshi.** Dinshaw thanked Ervad Mehraban Zartoshty for his donation of \$2500 and for his continuous support since 1996. He advised that the selection for the Awards has been completed and the successful nominees will be honored at the North American Zoroastrian Congress to be held in Chicago. The Committee had a different panel of judges for each category with a total of 36 judges. Dinshaw thanked Yasmin Pavri for all her help in the selection process.

**Coordination and Planning - Firdosh Mehta's** report included establishing procedures to avoid conflicting FEZANA events such as North American Congresses, ZSC Sports events and AGM's. The report stated that a possible tentative SKI-Trip is under planning stages by ZYNA, in the picturesque Canadian Rockies near BANFF, Alberta, in December 2002.

To avoid future conflicts the following upcoming events have been confirmed.

1. ZYNA Summer Youth Camp 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2002, Yosemite Campsite hosted by ZANC. Thanks to Bomi Patel of ZANC.
2. 2003 FEZANA AGM, hosted by ZAGBA is scheduled over Memorial Day weekend.
3. The North American Youth Congress in Toronto, Ontario is now confirmed for 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2003.
4. Zarathushti Soccer Tournament by ZSC is confirmed for Labor Day weekend, 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2003.

**External Affairs - Rohinton Rivetna** stated that there is a great need for peace and understanding throughout the world. As for bringing awareness to our non-Zarathushti friends and neighbors, Rohinton applauded the efforts of Shahrokh Mehta for creating such awareness. Rohinton regretted that FEZANA's NGO status is not being fully utilized. Behram Pastakia and Homi Gandhi have shown interest and Rohinton will work with them as our UN-NGO Representatives.

**Funds and Finance - Jerry Kheradi** discussed the main issue of Thousand Points of Light requesting each Z family donate \$100 (one point). As of date, we have 249 points and the goal is to reach 1,000 points. He requested representatives of each Association to spread the word about this project. Due to the poor economic conditions, there were no volunteers for the Matching Funds. The Financial Advisory Board is presently functioning, and it's members are Maneck Kotwal, Yazdi Sidhwa, the newly elected Treasurer Rashid Mehin, and the Funds and Finance Chairperson Jerry Kheradi.

**Information Receiving and Disseminating - Khorshed Jungalwala,** advised that a booklet has been published for "Creating Awareness". The booklet will be sold at cost, however, the Journal Subscribers will get a free copy with the

Summer Edition. All the Associations are encouraged to promote this booklet. It is a good one to be put in libraries and universities.

**North American Congress - Rustom Kevala** advised that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for hosting the Congress were approved in July 1996. Costs to the attendees, speakers, awardees, etc. is a perennial issue that keeps cropping up at every major seminar, congress or workshop. Rustom emphasised that all Zarathushtis who want to, regardless of their financial ability, should be able to attend it. This is a difficult balancing act for the congress planners and fundraisers. He requested the new President to look into revising the Guidelines for Hosting North American congresses to make it easier for future hosts.

**Public Relations - Rashid Mehin** tabled the brochure for FEZANA promotion material developed some years ago. The brochure is a well laid out promotional information package, which was developed to promote FEZANA to the community through further distribution by Member Associations. However, it needs to be updated with more current information. Rashid Mehin agreed to work on the document and present it to the Executive in the near future.

**Small Groups - Mahrukh Motafram** emphasized the need for FEZANA to be proactive as far as Small Groups are concerned. Presently there are 13 small groups and they need to be encouraged to participate in FEZANA. Mahrukh appealed to the new Officers to address this issue and make provision in the Constitution, invite them to the AGM's, give them voting rights.

**Scholarship Report - Dolly Dastoor** stated that during the academic year 2001-02, fifteen full-time Zoroastrian students from North America applied for scholarship funds. Four scholarships were awarded to the following students:

Farhad Ardeshirpour (\$1,000 Scholarship)  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Working towards a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry

Rukshana Gheyara (\$1,000 Scholarship)  
McGill University  
Working towards a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy

Roxanna Mirza (\$500 Scholarship)  
Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine  
Working towards a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine

Natasha Mody (\$500 Scholarship)  
Art Institute of Southern California  
Working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design and Visual Communications

Dolly requested to consider a minimum of \$5000 to be allotted to the Scholarship Fund for next year.

**Sports - Bijan Khosraviani** advised that they have now prepared the guidelines for running successful events. The FEZANA Members wanted the Guidelines to be approved by the FEZANA Board and requested Bijan to send these to all the FEZANA Members for their comments.

**ZYNA - Sherazade Mehta** gave a report of ZYNA activities. They did not hold any social event in December 2001. Instead they held a fund raiser for Afghan Children Fund and raised \$576. They are now focusing on the Youth Congress.

**Afreed Mistry**, Youth Representative from Zoroastrian Society of Ontario, talked about the Youth Congress to be held in 2003 in Toronto. It will be organized by the youth of ZSO from July 24 to 27 and other activities right up to August 3. They are hoping to get a lot of response. The theme of the Youth Congress is Nexus. Nexus means link and they are hoping that by the end of the Congress the attendees will discover their link - link between generation and the community. Location is close to Toronto in the Toronto Congress Center. They are working with Radisson Hotel, which is across the street. They have had a kick-off session and raised \$350.00. Age limit for this Congress is from 13 to 35. Afreed requested comments and questions to be directed to Armaity Bamji who is ZYNA liaison with the Congress Committee.

## 12. **World Chamber Of Commerce**

Rohinton Rivetna advised that the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce is now a reality. Several chapters have been opened and are working successfully. It is for networking among members and encourages Zarathushtis to be entrepreneurs. Rohinton requested all the Associations to encourage their members to become members of the Chamber of Commerce.

## 13. **New Association- Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation**

Kobad Zarolia advised that they have formed a new organization in the west of Toronto area. They propose to purchase land by the end of 2002. They plan to build three structures - a Community Hall, an Agiary and an old folks home. They presently have approximately 200 members and have started the project with a Jashan. They have raised over \$300,000 in cash and pledges. Kobad emphasized that they are not opposing the existing organization, they had logistical problems and thought it would better serve the community if they had another Center. Their aim is to bring religion to people. They have started the process of joining FEZANA as a Member Association and will give their constitution to the Secretary, FEZANA. As they meet the criteria of eligibility, ZAH proposed that Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation be accepted as a Member of FEZANA. ZAQ seconded the proposal. Conditioned upon OZCF

providing the list of Members and payment of required fees, the motion was unanimously carried.

#### 14. **Creating Awareness**

**Shahrokh Mehta** co-author of the article in FEZANA, reported that in a short period of four months several committees have been formed. Stamp Project is one of them. Shahrokh felt that it took 25 years to build a structure, and the next 25 years should be spent in promoting the Zarathushti religion.

#### 15. **Fezana World Body Working Group Report.**

The FEZANA World Body Working Group (Sarosh Collector, Khorshed Jungalwala [Chair], Farrokh Mistree, Gev Nentin and Rohinton Rivetna), that was appointed in May 2001 by Framroze Patel, briefed the assembled FEZANA Member Associations. The following documents are attached and made part of the Minutes:

1. Briefing Document - Attachment 3
2. WG Phase 1 Report Revised February 10, 2002 - Attachment 4
3. WG Phase 2 Report May 15, 2002 - Attachment 5

**Rohinton Rivetna** gave a brief history to form one world body from 1970s to the present. During 1970s, at the Second World Congress in Bombay, Jamshed Guzder of Bombay Parsi Panchayat (BPP) urged to form World Body Federation. In 1980 World Zoroastrian Organization (WZO) was formed unilaterally by UK's Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE). In 1986 FEZANA was formed. In 1990 Rohinton met with WZO, ZTFE and BPP to discuss World Body. In 1993 World Council of Zoroastrian Federations (WCZF) proposed charter was reviewed. Between 1993 and 1997 six versions of the WCZF charters were written with inputs from Regions. In 1997 the last version was presented to the FEZANA Board at the AGM in Crestone, CO. The motion to form WCZF was defeated as the prevailing sentiment as expressed in comments received from some of the Associations was in favor of only one truly representative apex world body. After several meetings with WZO and the Regions, in May 2001, the Working Group (WG) was formed by the President, Framroze Patel under the chairmanship of Khorshed Jungalwala.

**Khorshed**, referring to the WG's Phase 2 report, stated at the outset that WG is NOT an advocacy group, but is committed to creating a climate of reciprocating trust that will enable all who share in the vision of Zarathushti world body advance towards its realization. After the 2001 AGM, the Working Group soon realized that the time line decided was naïve and inadequate.

After May 2001 AGM, the WG looked through the feedback from lots of constituencies but could not find a clear-cut answer. They then studied models from the Jewish Community, Hindu Community, Gujarati Samaj, etc. They talked

about U.S. (House/Senate) and UK (Commons/Lords) models. They wanted to give the community an everlasting model that would represent a "Zarathushti Nation". The 82 page report included yet another model - a Two Chamber Model recommended by the Working Group.

**Sarosh Collector** presented a set of 30 Ideal Characteristics of a World Body which were developed by the WG with consideration given to Principles, Representation, Organization, Laws & Tax Exemption, Feasibility and Workability.

**Farrokh Mistree** presented the four models (see WG Phase 1 Report) detailing their structure, their commonality and their workability. Summarizing on behalf of the WG, Farrokh indicated that the WG was focused on getting agreement on the 'structure' of the World Body (e.g., how decisions will be made, etc.) before dealing with issues of 'policy' (e.g., should doctrinal issues be dealt with at the local or the World Body level).

**Firdosh Mehta** requested the floor and pointed out that Draft No. 6 of 1997 of WZCF should be taken into consideration by the WG. He also presented a letter dated May 14, 2002 from Rumi Sethna to Framroze Patel and requested the WG to take it into consideration, attached hereto and made part of the Minutes - Attachment 6.

To a question from the floor regarding WG making presentation in India and U.K. Framroze Patel responded that Farrokh had done this at his request. Framroze further explained the following:

- a. Farrokh presented all four models to BPP and all six trustees present felt they would like to go with Model Four - Two Chamber Model.
- b. The same presentation was given to Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE) and World Zoroastrian Organization (WZO) in U.K.
- c. ZTFE was extremely positive and said that whereas they liked the WZCF Model, they would favorably consider the Two Chamber Model.
- d. Presentation to WZO was not well received and Rumi Sethna of WZO advised him he would be sending a response.
- e. The response letter dated May 14, 2002, referred to in previous paragraph, was sent by Rumi Sethna electronically to Framroze, which, due to computer problems, was not received by him.

During discussion some members stated that they expected something different from what the WG has done, namely, they expected that the WG would have dialogued with the WZO and resolved the issue of the WZO model; they did not

expect the WG to have created a new model - the Two Chamber Model. Whereas the Members applauded the method in which the WG prepared the report they were apprehensive that the WG had not stayed within its mandate.

Framroze stated that after giving the mandate to the WG, he did not interfere with their working. At this time, he wished to put on record that despite rumors and innuendoes, he did not cut any deals with anybody or any organization - he says this with clear conscience.

After nearly four hours of discussion and questions/answers, the general consensus was that:

- a. the WG be mandated to continue with Phase 3 as documented in their Phase 2 report
- b. the mandate should be specific
- c. communicate with WZO and get their feed back - it should be made clear that their response will now be considered final.
- d. report to the FEZANA Executive and also to the Board that would enable them to make intelligent decision
- e. report to be given within 90 days
- f. open up to the world regions

The following Motion was proposed by ZAQ and seconded by ZARM

The Working Group is mandated to continue in its investigation and proceed to phase 3, (as presented in Phase 2 report) with a clear direction:

1. Not to negotiate a conclusion
2. Be responsible to the Executive of FEZANA
3. Pay special attention to bringing to a conclusion the "deal breaker" list of WZO and report back to the Executive and the Board of FEZANA within 90 days and periodically report every 60 days thereafter. (passed unanimously)

Following addendum proposed by ZARM and seconded by ZSO.

All directives come from Executive of FEZANA which provide them (WG) the freedom of providing the final report. (passed 38 to 4).

## **16. North American Mobed Council.**

Ervad Jehan Bagli read his report, attached hereto and made part of the Minutes (Attachment 7). The Mission Statement of NAMC is:

To promote the Understanding and practice of Zarathushti religion, in North America (United States and Canada), and to represent the interest of Council members.

Ervad Bagli laid out the Strategic Plan of NAMC which included:

- a. development of ecclesiastical excellence in the knowledge of Zarathushti Theology, Doctrines, Rituals and Spiritual care;
- b. enhance and advance understanding and appreciation of theological, doctrinal and ritualistic concepts of the religion of Zarathushtra amongst North American communities in general and Zarathushtis in particular, and thereby raise the profile of NAMC;
- c. provide spiritual guidance in the Zarathushti way of life at the National level in the United States and Canada. NAMC will continue with the training of the Mobedyar Program.

The Council will continue to pursue and develop the existing programs of training of Mobedyar, Religious Publications and Hands-on Training Camps. As for religious publications, the funding for the book Jashan and Afringan came from the Council and there are more books to be published - funeral ceremony, understanding of navjote and wedding ceremonies, to bring understanding among laity. To a comment regarding females to be trained as mobeds or mobedyars, Dr. Bagli said, he will take that under advisement.

Ervad Bagli recommended the local Associations to invite members of the Mobed Council to talk to the young adults. He also urged the Associations to subsidize travel expenses of the mobeds in their Association to participate in Mobed Council Meetings.

Ervad Bagli concluded by saying that Good Thoughts and Good Words are easy but it is difficult to transform these into Good Actions. He stated that there are about 80 members on the NAMC which brings in annual fees of Cdn \$2000 . He would like to create a Mobedyar Training Fund and Young Mobed Training Fund. He sent an appeal to send donations to NAMC Treasurer Gev Karkaria. The new NAMC Committee consists of

Jehan Bagli - President  
Adi Unwalla - Vice President  
Gev Karkaria - Treasurer  
Nozer Kotwal - Secretary  
Kawas Desai - Member at Large

## **17. Video Presentation By Tenaz Dubash**

Sherazade Mehta read out a letter from Tenaz Dubash regarding her project of making a video presentation. This is a documentary film and everyone was working on voluntary basis. She made an appeal for donations from

Associations. There were comments from the floor regarding the documentary material to be balanced to include the various modes of practice of Zarathushti life in North America.

**18. North American Congress -**

Rashna Ghadialy reported that they had met the quota that was given to the hotel. Fund raising was the most daunting challenge. September 11 incident had changed a lot in the business community and some Registrations were cancelled. Rashna requested the assistance of the Associations in promoting the Congress.

**19. Z Labels - Publication Committee -**

Members were advised that a proposal was made to FEZANA to have "return labels" for envelopes printed, the design for which would create Zarathushti awareness to our North American Neighbors, and which could be sold to the community as a fundraiser. This idea was passed on to the Information Receiving and Disseminating Committee. Khorshed Jungalwala, Chair of this Committee, invited Shahrokh Mehta, co-author of the article "Creating Awareness" in the FEZANA Journal, to talk about this project.

Shahrokh showed four samples of the labels that could be used as "return address" labels and sold to the community as a fund raiser. There was some discussion regarding the design and Khorshed invited comments/suggestions to be sent to her. The concept of selling personalized labels was approved conditional upon approval of designs by the FEZANA Board (24 Member Associations). In this regard, Khorshed Jungalwala advised that Publication Committee will only be facilitating this project. A discussion regarding the proceeds of this project took place. It was generally felt that the money should be utilized for Youth Leadership Programs. Except for ZARM, all other members agreed to put the funds in the FEZANA General Fund.

**20. Amendments To The Fezana Constitution -**

Amendments to the Constitution requires three-fourths majority. Firdosh Mehta advised that not all the Associations had responded to the amendment ballots. This was discussed in depth and the following motion was proposed by ZSO and seconded by ZSBC.

The Constitution Committee be empowered to extend the date by 60 days to allow these Associations who have not voted on the amendments. After the lapse of 60 days the amendments will be passed based on the number of votes received. These can only be passed by 75% of the total qualifying votes.

It is further Resolved that when these amendments have been passed the Constitution is amended and submitted to the State of Illinois and the IRS for their record.

The next step would be to separate current Articles of Incorporation into Constitution and By Laws.

After discussion this was passed by 34 to 8.

## **21 Restructuring Of The Committees**

Due to time constraints, this item could not be discussed. ZAQ proposed and CZC seconded to defer this item to the next AGM

This was passed unanimously

## **22 Passing of "Baton" -**

**Framroze Patel** officially passed the gavel to Firdosh Mehta as the next President of FEZANA.

## **23 Next AGM:**

Sherazade Mehta of ZAGBA made a presentation for the next Meeting to be held in Boston, on Memorial Day weekend 2003. This was unanimously ratified by Members present.

The FEZANA Executives, past and present, sincerely thanked Ness Lakdawala and the entire team of ZAQ volunteers for their excellent arrangements and hospitality for the meeting and lodging.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by CZC and seconded by ZSBC and unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Recorded by:** Arnavaz Sethna, Secretary  
**Reviewed by:** Framroze Patel, President  
Firdosh Mehta, President Elect  
Mahrukh Motafram, Vice President  
Rustom Kevala, Treasurer  
Rashid Mehin, Treasurer Elect  
Farrokh Mistree, Assistant Secretary Elect

## **ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES - ELECTION**

TMZA later proved that their ballot was, in fact, sent a day prior to the deadline date by presenting telephone bill evidencing the date on which the ballot was faxed to the Secretary. This was accepted unanimously by the election observers and on June 24, 2002 the ballots were adjusted to read as:

*President*

Firdosh Mehta 34

Khorshed Jungalwala 31

*Treasurer-*

Rashid Mehin 44.8

Kershaw Khumbatta 20.2

*Assistant Secretary*

Farrokh Mistree 33.55

Tenaz Dubash 27.55

THE ADJUSTED RESULTS HAVE BEEN POSTED ON THE FEZANA WEB SITE  
[www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org).

**FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA  
(FEZANA)**

Award's committee - 2004

**R E P O R T  
for  
FEZANA Annual General Meeting - 2003**

**Committee Members**

1. Following members constitute the AWARDS COMMITTEE-2004 :

**Members**

**Dinshaw Joshi**, Chair  
**Yasmin Pavri**, Vice-Chair  
**Nooshin Kiani**  
**Danny Nanavaty**  
**Trity Pourbaharami**  
**Erach Tarapore**

**Ex-officio Members**

**Firdosh Mehta**, President, FEZANA  
**Roshan Sethna**, Chair, North American Zoroastrian Congress Committee

**Terms of Reference and Schedule of Events**

2. Awards Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Schedule of Events are in Attachment 1.

**Budget Estimate**

3. The estimated budget for the 2004 North American Zarathushti Community Awards is in Attachment 2. The individual items in the budget and their cost estimates are based on the experience of the 2002 Awards Committee.
4. Based on its current estimate of costs, Awards Committee requests allocation of \$5,000 (dollars five thousand) from FEZANA budget for the 2004 North American Zarathushti Community Awards.

**Selection Process**

5. Though North American Zarathushti Community Awards have been presented at seven North American Congresses since 1988, there are no established principles or standards for the awards. On each occasion, the current Awards Committee adopted different procedures, even

in respect of important items, such as award categories, their definitions, and evaluation criteria. Now that presentation of awards have come to be accepted as a standard feature of North American Zoroastrian Congresses, it is necessary to establish and adopt standards in respect of all issues related to awards.

6. The process for selection of winners for the 2004 North American Zarathushti Community Awards will start early in year 2004. In the interim, Awards Committee requests comments from FEZANA Member Associations and others on the process adopted for the 2002 North American Zarathushti Community Awards and related issues, so that the awards and the process of selection of winners can be standardized and adopted for the future, starting with the 2004 North American Zarathushti Community Awards.

## **FEZANA Survey and Census Committee 2002 – 2003**

In the coming year, the FEZANA Census & Survey Committee will be conducting a series of analyses to study the changes in the Zarathusti population of North America since the last census conducted in 1997-98.

Our first task will be to collect the 1997-98 North American Zarathushti Census figures and compare them to the membership numbers of FEZANA member associations from years 1997 through 2002-2003. These numbers will help us estimate the percentage of our adult (18 and over) community affiliated with FEZANA member associations. We will also study the membership changes between consecutive years within each member association, geographic regions, and countries.

Our second task will be to conduct the Census. A one page questionnaire is being developed and will be distributed and mailed to all FEZANA associations and small groups; FEZANA Journal, FEZANA website, and Zarathushti web lists. We will need the cooperation of all to make this census successful. In order to reach to reach the maximum number of Zarathushtis, we are contemplating mailing a census form through bulk mail to all the addresses in the FEZANA directory. However such an undertaking involves an exorbitant cost, close to US \$7,000. I strongly recommend that we invest in the mailing as it will be our best bet to reach the maximum number of households in a relatively short time period. Reminder mailings are also essential to non-respondents. At least two reminder mailings will be sent if our budget is approved.

The data collection period for the Census will last approximately nine months to a year. We will be entering data as we receive to cut down on lengthy time lapses between data collection and data entry. At the 2004 FEZANA AGM, a preliminary report from the Census findings will be presented and a final report will be prepared in time for the 13<sup>th</sup> North American Congress in San Jose. If possible, a short session can be arranged to discuss salient findings from the forthcoming Zarathushti Census.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rashna Ghadialy  
Committee Chairperson

# North American Zoroastrian Congress Committee

**Report By: Roshan Z. Sethna** *CHAIR*  
**FEZANA AGM, May 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

I would like to begin this report by thanking our current President, Firdosh Mehta, for appointing me the chair of this committee. At this moment, the committee consists of one other volunteer, Yasmin Pavri, whose input and advice I value very much.

Before I go any further, I would like to take this opportunity to formally invite all associations to put in their bids to host the next North American Zoroastrian Congress in the year 2006. As per the current "Guidelines for Hosting a Zoroastrian Congress", a formal call letter will also be sent to all associations.

When I was appointed Chair of this committee, on August 18, 2002, another Ad-Hoc committee was also created. This is the North American Congress Terms of Reference Committee for Future Congresses, chaired by Dr. Rustom Kevala. The ideal situation would be to have these revised guidelines approved and sent out to all associations with the call letter within the next six months. This would give all associations interested in hosting the next congress at least five months to prepare their bids for presentation at the next FEZANA AGM.

Wheels for the Thirteenth North American Congress were set into motion before my appointment. Bomi Patel and his team in San Francisco have been working hard and I will let them fill you in with all the details. I would however like to mention that the confirmed dates are December 29, 2004 – January 1, 2005. The theme is "Being Zarthushti: Looking at Issues, Searching for Answers."

There seem to be two recurring concerns that seem to follow every congress. One is the follow through of ideas presented at the congress and the other is the cost of attending.

I believe that the implementation of an idea presented at the congress is the responsibility of the person/committee that presents it. It is up to them to put together a post congress package and forward it to the FEZANA board. The board in turn can then disseminate this information to all its members. Item #10 in the Guidelines under "Suggested Roles for Committees – Program Committee" can be revised to include this.

The cost of attending a congress is affected by two major factors. The venue and the travel. Travel expenses are beyond our control. As far as the venue goes, I think we need to take a good long look as to the direction in which we want to proceed.

Do we want congresses that have glitz and glamour attached to it or do we want to go back to basics – the concept being that of a “Retreat”. Organizers of our congresses today have to contend with a multitude of expenses. These include entertainment, banquet and awards ceremonies, meals, requests from speakers for hi-tech audio-visual equipment and state of the art presentations. We have to decide what we can or cannot live with, from the above mentioned, and put that in the new guidelines. This could be one way of controlling costs.

Mandatory seed money from all member associations would be another way of holding down the cost of registration. The assessment owed would be similar to the current FEZANA fee schedule, whereby the amount owed by each association would be based on membership.

According to Item #3c in the guidelines under “Direct Responsibility of FEZANA”, a \$5.00 per person fee has to be built in to the registration costs. Perhaps this can be changed. Instead, a percentage of the profits should go to FEZANA, who in turn would give it back to the association holding the next congress to be used towards lowering registration expenses. This can be characterized as either seed money, a loan or a donation. Another way of capping registration costs.

On the other hand, perhaps the reason for low turnouts is not financial at all. Is it possible that we are all “congressed out?” Whether it is the Congress or the Youth Congress or the World Congress or the Sports, we seem to have something every year. This might be a good time to rethink our strategy. With the Fourteenth North American Congress in 2006, let’s start a new era. A culmination of the Congress, the Youth Congress and sports. A week in summer, every other year, where the entire family can participate would be ideal.

In my final comments, I would like to add that Yasmin and I look forward to working closely with Rustom and his team in updating the current guidelines. We also look forward to a close working relationship with Bomi and his team in putting together another successful congress.

Thank You

## **NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS TOR REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Report to FEZANA, to be presented at the  
Annual General Meeting on May 24, 2003.

**Committee Members:** Sarosh Bharucha, Rustom Kevala (chair), Bella Tata

**Committee's Charter:** To review Congress Committee Terms of Reference and Guidelines for Hosting Congresses that were approved in 1995; and make recommendations for their revision, if necessary. The recommendations should be for Congresses to be held after 2004.

**Committee Activities:** The committee reviewed the following documents:

1. Terms of Reference of the FEZANA Congress Committee, approved by FEZANA, Sept 2, 1995
2. Guidelines for Hosting a Zoroastrian Congress, approved by FEZANA, Sept 2, 1995
3. North American Zoroastrian Congress Committee Report, May 2002

The committee determined that the first order of business should be to prepare the Terms of Reference for future FEZANA Congress Committees, for discussion and approval at the AGM. At this time, the committee will provide only preliminary recommendations for revising the Guidelines for Hosting a Zoroastrian Congress. The revisions to the Guidelines will be prepared after due consultation with the current and past congress chairs, hosting associations, and other interested individuals. Thus, the Guidelines will be presented for discussion and approval at the FEZANA AGM in 2004.

### **Report:**

The report is presented in two attachments:

Attachment A - Proposed Terms of Reference of the FEZANA Congress Committee

Attachment B – Preliminary Recommendations for Changes to the Guidelines for Hosting a Zoroastrian Congress in North America:

Respectfully submitted:

*Rustom J. Kevala*

April 12, 2003

## ATTACHMENT A

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FEZANA CONGRESS COMMITTEE

(Originally approved in September 1995. Proposed changes are shown in **bold underlined red**)

#### **The FEZANA Congress Committee has been appointed to:**

1. Communicate with FEZANA Member Associations (**Members**) and give them adequate time to indicate their interest in hosting the next congress.
2. ~~To place the names of the **Invite** interested Associations before **Members to make a presentation of their vision and capabilities for holding the Congress at** the FEZANA AGM in the year preceding the Congress already under organization, for consideration and a decision **by the Member representatives present at the AGM.**~~
3. Work in close cooperation with the Youth Congress Committee, **ZYNA and the Zoroastrian Sports Committee** in arranging youth and adult congresses as synchronized with one another ~~as possible.~~ **The Congress Committee must check the dates of any conflicting Zarathushti events during the year of the Congress. The Committee should strive to link a sports event with the Congress.**
4. Prepare and provide a list of **themes, session topics,** speakers/subjects of North American Zoroastrian Congresses previously held under the FEZANA umbrella, and provide this list to the host association(s) of each Congress.
5. Provide guidelines to the host congress on **Association on the Congress theme, speakers,** workshops, monetary aspects, opening and closing ceremonies, **room and food arrangements, and publicity prior to and** ~~session~~ during the Congress.
6. ~~To reach a consensus on which FEZANA led workshops will be desirable at each congress.~~ **Organize a FEZANA session during the Congress for interaction with the community. At this session, the FEZANA executives should be introduced and invited to report on their activities, including implementation of recommendations from previous Congresses.**
7. ~~To ensure that the approved host organization makes arrangements for FEZANA to hold its AGM one or two days preceding the Congress commencement.~~ **Coordinate the arrangements for FEZANA Awards during each Congress.**
8. Arrange for a rotating trophy to be given to the Association that hosts the Congress.
9. Provide as much support **as possible** to the host Associations – with due consideration for FEZANA's mission, constitution and by-laws; **and the interests of the entire Zarathushti community.**

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **Preliminary Recommendations for Changes to the Guidelines for Hosting a Zoroastrian Congress in North America**

1. It is important that FEZANA should have an advisory role for all North American Zoroastrian Congresses, World congresses held in North America, sports events, and youth congresses sponsored by FEZANA.
2. The Host Association or organization should be a Member of FEZANA; and has the responsibility to work closely with FEZANA-appointed representatives within the framework of the FEZANA mission, Constitution and by-laws. In case of any disputes, the FEZANA executive should be the final authority.
3. All FEZANA events will be open to all interested Zarathushtis, regardless of their membership in a Member Association or small group.
4. FEZANA should be directly responsible for the following:
  - a. Consider and select the location and host Association for the Congress at the AGM preceding the Congress already under organization.
  - b. Ensure that the dates for the Congress proposed by the host Association do not present any conflicts with other important events at the same time anywhere else in the world. Coordinate with other events such as Sports, Youth Congresses, meetings and seminars on religion.
  - c. Provide a publicity package on FEZANA and about the Zarathushti religion (prepared in coordination with the NAMC), along with guidelines for publicity. A target list of contacts for press coverage, interfaith organizations and politicians should also be provided. Local publicity will remain as the host Association's responsibility.
  - d. Conduct one session for community awareness and recommendations. At this session, FEZANA should give an update on how the recommendations of the previous congresses have been implemented.
  - e. Keep detailed historical archives of all sessions and deliberations. The archives may be in electronic format. The Congress organizers must require transcripts from all speakers ahead of the congress (the actual congress deliberations including workshops and panel sessions may be taped without transcription). Each host Association should store the archives until FEZANA has an office facility.

5. FEZANA will have an advisory role for the following:
  - a. Selection of Congress theme, speakers, etc. to ensure continuity, diversity, and balance from one Congress to the next.
  - b. Facility requirements to keep costs down. Discuss fundraising ideas with the host Association to ensure that all interested Zarathushtis can attend at a nominal cost.
  
6. The host Association has direct responsibility for the following:
  - a. Select the site of the Congress and negotiate for the best possible rate for all needed facilities, banquets, food, and rooms for attendees. The congress need not be held at a hotel if a more cost-effective location such as a school or college campus is available. The selection must include considerations of transportation from airports and train stations.
  - b. Make arrangements with local families to host delegates, speakers and attendees who request it. Make transportation arrangements as needed.
  - c. Select the Congress theme and develop the program in coordination with the FEZANA Congress committee. The congress committee will provide a list of themes, session topics, speakers and subjects of previous North American Congresses.
  - d. Prepare a budget to include the costs for Awardees and invited speakers. Determine the registration fees. The Congress Committee should be consulted for expenses of past congresses and for estimating the number of attendees.
  - e. Fundraising to cover any projected shortfall.
  - f. Providing volunteers for various services at the Congress.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

FEZANA AGM, Boston, May 24-25, 2003

By Rohinton M. Rivetna

During the past year, FEZANA Associations and dedicated individuals are participating in ever-increasing numbers in the Interfaith arena and in projects at the UN and government levels, as well as working for the Zarathushti cause at a global level.

## INTERFAITH WORK

### A Misconception

As we prepared for the “Interfaith Session” at the North American Congress in Chicago last July, it came to light that quite a few of us believed that the purpose of interfaith work is to showcase and “create awareness” of each other’s faith traditions. That is indeed a side benefit, but not the main aim of Interfaith work.

The primary mission of interfaith work is to bring PEACE. It is well known that the underlying reason for most wars is religion – caused mostly by misunderstanding. The *raison d’etre* of interfaith work is to promote understanding of each other’s faiths. Through understanding comes respect and with respect comes the willingness to accept each other, which ultimately transforms into PEACE.

UNDERSTANDING —> RESPECT —> PEACE

At interfaith meetings, it is not necessary that we project ourselves, as much as there is a need to *listen*.

Zarathushtis have always played the part of **bridgebuilders**. That is the role we should continue to develop.

## INTERFAITH EFFORTS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

The “*INTERFAITH-INTERALIA*” section of *FEZANA Journal* highlights the efforts of many FEZANA Associations and individuals working in the Interfaith arena including Firdosh Mehta in Alberta, Dolly Malva in Los Angeles, Maneck Bhujwala in San Francisco, Dolly Dastoor and Khurshroo Mirza in Montreal, ZANT in Dallas (at Thanksgiving Square and other outreach activities), Arnavaz Elavia in ZAC (Chicago), ZAGBA in Boston, Homi Gandhi in ZAGNY, Jehan Bagli and Sam Vesuna in ZSO, Behram Deboo in Seattle, ZSBC in Vancouver, and countless others whom I’m sure I’ve missed.

ZAMWI (Jimmy Dholoo) was instrumental in getting Zarathushtis recognized as the 9<sup>th</sup> member of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington, and for the first time, the Fravahar symbol was added to the IFC logo.

For the first time Zarathushtis were invited to open the Spring session of the City Council in Edmonton, Alberta. Firdosh Mehta opened the session with a Zarathushti prayer.

An e-group of about 25 persons has been formed, with the purpose of interacting and exchanging information regarding interfaith activities. Individuals interested in being added to this e-group, please contact [Rivetna@aol.com](mailto:Rivetna@aol.com).

#### SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARY REMEMBERANCES

Zarathushtis across North America participated in numerous prayer vigils, interfaith services, “Prayers for Peace” in remembrance of the victims of the Sept 11”

#### LOCAL EFFORTS AT THE CHICAGO DARBE MEHR

- ?? Upwards of 25 groups visited the Chicago Darbe Mehr this past year, including high-school and college students, church and community groups.
- ?? ZAC’s “Chicago Zarathushti Chorus” participated in interfaith worships, singing devotional songs.
- ?? ZAC members participated in seminars and made presentations at numerous programs, organised by local churches, interfaith groups, schools and colleges.
- ?? ZAC hosted a program “In Our Back Yard” organized by the CPWR, showcasing our wedding traditions.

#### INTERFAITH SESSION AT THE CHICAGO CONGRESS

Spiritual and religious leaders of various faiths participated in a first-ever “Interfaith Session” at the NA Congress in Chicago in July.

A most significant moment was when Rabbi Schaalman, president of the Rabbinical College, president of the Chicago Council of Religious Leaders, and board member of the Jewish Federation of Metr. Chicago acknowledged the indebtedness and gratitude of the Jewish people to Cyrus the Great:

“I want to express my personal gratitude and the indebtedness of the Jewish community to this great Zoroastrian [Cyrus] ... Had this second commonwealth not been reconstituted, it is

possible that Judaism and therefrom Christianity and Islam would have had an entirely different development, if any.”

#### CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

I participated in programs organized by Superintendent Hillard of the Chicago :Police Department, to bring understanding of diverse faith traditions, to members of the Police Department. Sensitivity training videos are being developed for police officers.

#### PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS (CPWR)

?? I continue to be a Trustee of the Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions.

?? The next Parliament of the World’s Religions will be held in Barcelona, Spain in July 2004. Discounted registration is available through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

#### INVIGORATING THE CONSCIENCE OF INDIA

The President of India will inaugurate a Parliament event in New Delhi, India, December 7-10, 2003, when 400 religious leaders from every state in India will come together, to make a commitment to work for religious tolerance and a secular India. Zarathushtis are in the forefront to make this happen: I serve on the organizing committee and Gen Adi Sethna, president of the Delhi Parsi Anjuman is also actively involved.

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE (NCCJ)

?? We provided text and photos for the Zarathushti page of the **Interfaith Calendar** produced annually by NCCJ. Many thousands of copies of this award-winning calendar are distributed annually to religious, educational and governmental institutions around the world by NCCJ. FEZANA receives 50 complimentary copies each year. Copies (\$7 each) are available upon request from interested persons.

#### UNITED RELIGIONS INTITATIVE (URI)

No major activity in URI (based in San Francisco). “Cooperation Circles” are being formed in local communities.

#### NORTH AMERICAN INTERFAITH NETWORK (NAIN)

The next meeting of NAIN will be August 9-12 in Columbus, Ohio. Zarathushtis volunteers are needed to attend.

Joel Beverslius, editor of the NAIN newsletter and author of “A Sourcebook of the World’s Religions” passed away in March 2003. He was in his early 50s. He was a close friend of our community and will be an irreplaceable loss for us.

#### HARVARD PLURALISM PROJECT

Diana Eck requested Zarathushti participation at a Pluralism Project meeting, held in conjunction with the AAR (American Academy of Religions) meeting in Toronto in November 2002. Dr. Jehan Bagli participated on our behalf.

#### TAIWAN MUSEUM OF WORLD RELIGIONS

Did some initial spadework for Zarathushti representation at the Taiwan Museum. WZO has also been approached for help in this regard.

#### CREATING AWARENESS INITIATIVES

The “Creating Awareness” e-group (led by Shahrukh Mehta, Mehrborzin Soroushian, Tenaz Dubash and Khosro Mehrfar) deserves mention here for being successful in raising awareness about our faith and culture among our North American Neighbors. One of their recent projects was to bring recognition and awareness of the significance of Nouruz, with proclamations by several city mayors.

Another notable project, spearheaded by Dolly Dastoor, was getting Canada Post to issue a Zarathushti stamp, with a picture of the Cypress of Zoroaster.

#### PARTICIPATION AT UN

Due to the diligent efforts of Behram Pastakia (of ZAMWI) and ZAGNY president Homi Gandhi, Zarathushtis were well represented at two conferences at the UN. This report will be presented by them.

As an NGO, it is incumbent upon FEZANA to participate in UN activities and to report major events in our Journal. Many thanks to Behram Pastakia for making this happen.

*Jerry M Kherad4 MD., F.A.C.G.*

14 Riverview Drive  
#1306  
North Providence, RI 02904  
(401)353-2343  
(772)229-8972

9550 South Ocean Drive  
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

### **Annual Report for the Funds and Finance Committee**

March 11,2003

Mr. Firdosh Mehta, President FEZANA  
951 Jordan Crescent, NW,  
Edmonton, Alberta T6L 7A5

Dear Firdosh,

Fund raising activities for the year 2002:

1. **Thousand Points of Light Campaign** has continued to be successful and we have been writing about it's progress every quarter in the FEZANA Journal. I am happy to report that as of this date we have been successful in accumulating 634 Points of Light. Our goal is to reach 1,000 points.
2. Direct mailing of 1000 letters of appeal for donations to Zarathushti families in Canada and the United States during Norooz 2002 celebration. This effort was very successful in that we obtained over \$8,000.
3. Mailed out 500 letters of appeal for donations during Papetti 2002 celebration. Unfortunately, this appeal was not successful. The response was very poor.
4. The Financial Corner of the FEZANA Journal has been regularly updated every quarter. It provides information regarding the financial status of the FEZANA Funds and the various ways to contribute towards the Funds. We encourage people not only to donate to the various FEZANA Funds but also to think about estate planning with the intention of making FEZANA their charity of choice.
5. FEZANA has been very fortunate this year in receiving \$25,000 for a Religious Education Scholarship in the name of **Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship**. We are sincerely thankful for the generosity of the Zardoshty sisters, Farangis, Pari, Homayoun and Iran and their families for their generous donation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Kheradi, M.D., F.A.C.G.  
Chairman, Funds and Finance Committee

**Report of the FEZANA INFORMATION RECEIVING &  
DISSEMINATING COMMITTEE  
(aka) Publications Committee  
January – December 2002  
FEZANA Annual General Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
May 2003**

The FEZANA Publication Committee presents news and views as well as educational and inspirational articles about the Zarathushti religion, culture and practices as they pertain to Zarathusties in North America. Success of this undertaking is assured because the process of uncompromising and unbiased accuracy is followed in reporting of facts, events concepts and ideologies via the Journal and the website.

**The FEZANA Publications Committee – 2002**

Khorshed Jungalwala - Chair

**Journal**

Roshan Rivetna – *Journal Editor-in-Chief*

Adel Engineer – *Editor*

Dolly Malva – *Editor*

Jamshed Udvardia – *Editor*

Mahrukh Motafram - *Milestones*

Fereshteh Khatibi – *Farsi Section*

Nikan Khatibi - *Jt. Editor of Youthfully Speaking*

Ushtavaiti Davar - *Jt. Editor of Youthfully Speaking*

Zenobia Damania – *Journal Cover Design*

Rusi Gandhi – *Business Manager*

Kershaw Khumbatta – *Subscriptions Manager*

**Website**

Farrokh Mistree – *Website Manager*

Zubin Medora – *Webmaster*

**Retiring Members of the Committee**

**Rustom Kevala** took on many roles as our *Treasurer, Subscriptions Manager* and *Webmaster* and stepped down in June, 2002. He devoted years of selfless service to make the Publications Committee a viable and successful entity. His cautious, yet enterprising approach has been extremely beneficial to us on the Committee in all areas.

He continues to be an advisor to the website. Rustom, we thank you for all that you have done not just for our Committee but for FEZANA as well.

**Nenshad Bardoliwalla** leaves the Committee but will continue contributing his journalistic talents to the Journal from time to time. The *Youthfully Speaking* Section has seen some outstanding thought-provoking editorials from Nenshad. We will surely miss him.

**Current Publication Committee:**

**Khorshed Jungalwala** - as *Chair* of the Publication Committee continues to coordinate all activities of the Committee, including decisions related to editorial policy, income / expenditures, fundraising, promotions and the website.

**Roshan Rivetna**, *Editor-in-Chief*, continues to be the mainstay of the Journal. Her superb talent in putting together an unbiased journalistic magazine, publishing and mailing it on a timely basis, is a phenomenal feat! Her professionalism in all areas of journalistic presentation is most commendable!

Our *Editors* **Adel Engineer** , **Dolly Malva** and **Jamshed Udvardia** have worked very efficiently and been instrumental in coming up with many invaluable suggestions that are being successfully implemented.

**Fereshteh Khatibi** joined us in 2001 to contribute the *Farsi Section* and has done so with great finesse.

**Zenobia (Rivetna) Damania** does a superb job of designing the *Journal Cover*, and lends an efficient hand to Roshan in all areas of the Journal production.

**Nikan Khatibi** as *Jt. Editor of Youthfully Speaking* has been wonderfully insightful in his approach and does well in presenting issues the youth could relate to and express with ease.

**Mahrukh Motafram** efficiently manages the '*milestones*' section of the Journal.

**Dinaz Rogers** has done much for our readership by perpetuating our communal treasure-chest of lores, legends and sayings with articles of inspirational value in the "*Lest We Forget*" section.

**Zubin Medora** as *Webmaster* is a true asset to us. He is very enterprising in designing and updating the FEZANA Website.

**Welcome to the New Members of the Publications Committee:**

**Farrokh Mistree**, *Website Manager*, has taken over the management of the website from Rustom Kevala. As with everything he does, his contributions will be, to say the least, outstanding! He is continuing the well-established work done by Rustom on the web and will introducing innovative formats.

**Kershaw Khumbatta's** expertise is in accounting. As *Subscriptions Manager* he handles the management of contributions for subscriptions, etc. and maintains the subscriptions database for the Journal - a task previously was handled by Rustom Kevala.

**Rusi Gandhi** manages the *Sponsorship and Advertizing* of the Journal very efficiently.

**Ushtavaity Davar** joined in 2002 as *Jt. Editor of Youthfully Speaking*, bringing a contemporary, yet mature approach to youth related issues.

A very special thanks goes to the **Rivetna Family**, the **Guest Editors, Authors** and **Several Volunteers, Advertisers, Donors** and **Subscribers** whose efforts and contributions have made it possible for the Committee to carry out its work successfully. A special group of dedicated volunteers in Chicago help with the mailing of the Journal from Chicago – Dilshad Antia, Bachi Damkevala, Sunny Deboo, Freya Dhunjishaw, Adel Engineer family, Rashna Ghadialy, Dilnavaz Irani, Zarine Karanjia, Hosi Mehta, Roshan Patel, Rivetna family, Farida Shroff, Edul Udvadia, Aban Vazifdar, Zarine Weil...). Others who have helped in distribution are Farrokh Mistree (Atlanta), Jehangir Patel, Parsiana, (India), Rusi Dalal (UK), Sam Kerr (Australia)

## **FEZANA JOURNAL**

Each issue of the Journal has shown a remarkable improvement in display of pictures (colored and otherwise), presentation of innovative formats and highlighting of new topics. There has also been a considerable increase in the number of pages. Messages from the President, Committees, and Editors; reviews, letters from readers, cover stories, announcements, and articles of special interest are all covered in a manner that respects the dignity and beliefs of all Zarathushties and non-Zarathushties. Contentious issues are tackled with integrity and sensibility for all concerned. Our Guest Editors, Editor-in-Chief and editors work diligently to bring you a highly finished product that is presented with integrity and sensitivity.

### **Journal Issues in 2002**

Spring 2002: *Health & Healing*

**Guest Editor – Dolly Dastoor**

Summer 2002: *The Legacy of Zarathushtra*

**Editor-in-Chief - Roshan Rivetna**

Fall 2002: *Fire and Fire Temples*

**Editor-in-Chief – Roshan Rivetna**

Winter 2002: *Zarathushtra's Vision In a Lifetime's Learning*

**Guest Editors – Mehrborzin Soroushian and Natalie Vania**

*The Legacy of Zarathushtra (Introduction to the Religion, History and Culture of the Zarathushties)* edited by Editor-in-Chief Roshan Rivetna, was published in Summer 2002. The idea for the book evolved from the need for a simple, easy-to-read book, presented attractively, to introduce the religion of the prophet Zarathushtra and the Zarathushties, to the general public. Each chapter has been contributed by an expert in the area, augmented by materials from past issues of the FEZANA Journal and other publications. It presents the monumental saga of the faith and its peoples, from ancient origins, covering doctrines and rituals, contributions to world religious thought, history, art and culture, down to contemporary practice and challenges. *The*

*Legacy of Zarathushtra* is an excellent resource for Zarathushti and non-Zarathushti casual students of the religion.

**Journal Issues in 2003**

Spring 2003: *Zarathushties in Sports*

Summer 2003: *Treasures from the Avesta*

Fall 2003: *Aging*

Winter 2003: *Treasures from the Avesta*

**Guest Editor – Porus Cooper**

**Guest Editor – Sarosh Manekshaw**

**Guest Editor – Dolly Dastoor**

**Guest Editor – Jamsheed Choksey**

**SUBSCRIPTION REVENUES**

	US	Canada	Overseas (periodicals)	Overseas (air)
1 year	\$15	\$20	\$24	\$50
2 years	\$28	\$37	\$46	\$90
3 years	\$40	\$52	\$66	\$120

Single Issue: \$5 + Shipping (US \$1.50, Canada \$3.00, Overseas Air \$9 for 1 to 3 copies).

Effective Summer 2002, we have increased the rate of the overseas air mailings due to increase in mailing costs.

**Gift Subscriptions:** Most overseas gift subscriptions are from US and Canadian residents.

Worldwide	Paid subscribers	Complimentary copies	Total copies posted
Total, 12/02	1482	91	1573
Total, 12/01	1,451	137	1,588

**Printing:** We have tried to contact Zarathushti printers to get the best possible prices and service. Alphagraphics of Illinois and Whitehall of Florida have worked well with us.

**Advertising Rates: Full Page    ½ Page    ¼ Page    1/8 Page**

Per Issue	\$200	\$100	\$50	\$30
Per 4 Issues	\$600	\$300	\$150	\$100

**Sponsorship Rates:** [All amounts are in US dollars].

Individual Sponsorship per Issue - \$1500.

Group Sponsorship per Issue \$300 each (5 or more persons).

**January 2002 to December 2002**

The Journal goes to many different countries across the world.

Most of the overseas paid subscriptions are gifts from US and Canadian residents. Complimentary Navjote and wedding copies increased in 2002. In some cases, families who are already subscribing to the Journal request that their subscriptions be extended instead of sending additional copies in the Navjotee's name.

Revenues and expenses are shown below.

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>FY 2001</b>	<b>FY 2002</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Subscriptions	15,289		
Donations	21,742		
Legacy / 164		8,340	1
Tapestry / 53		1,946	1
Advertisements	330	3,150	
Single copies	518		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$38,079</b>		

**Note:** Information for Revenue for Subscriptions, Donations and Single copies and the Expense for the maintenance of the Website has yet to be submitted by the Treasurer to the Committee. This will be made available by the AGM, May 2003.

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>FY 2001</b>	<b>FY 2002</b>	
Printing Journal	19,119	12,295	
Printing Legacy		10,185	
Postage	9,049	8,047	
Supplies/hardware	182	2,291	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$28,350</b>	<b>\$32,818</b>	

1. Revenue from the sale of Legacy of Zarathushtra, published by the Committee.
1. Sale of the Zoroastrian Tapestry.  
*[The Revenue from both these books continues to come in during 2003].*

**FEZANA Web Site** <http://www.fezana.org>

The website was completely redone by Zubin Medora in 2001 and Farrokh Mistree is working closely with Zubin to make it more user-friendly. It is updated once a month. We are looking for a volunteer to set up the Journal index articles.

Journal and directory ordering with a credit card has been very successful through the website. The biggest benefit is that Canadian and overseas subscribers can pay in US dollars, which avoids foreign exchange fees, bank charges and delays.

For the future, we are looking into automating Journal subscription through the website, so that all subscriptions are automatically entered into the database when paid by credit card or bank transfer. The subscriber will be able to see the current address and expiration date on the website, so that renewals and address updating will also become easier.

**Fezana Brochures**

The Publications Committee is working on bringing out a brochure on the history, culture and customs of Zarathushties during the summer for mass distribution. This brochure will provide concise information about our faith and its followers for Zarathushties and non-Zarathushties.

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# Memorandum

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**To:** Mr. Firdosh Mehta President  
**CC:** Ms. Arnavaz Sethna, secretary  
Dr. Rashid Mehin, treasurer  
**From:** Ervad Dr. Jehan Bagli, **Chairperson, Historical Research and Preservation**  
**Date:** March 20 2003  
**Re:** Projected Budget for 2003

---

**Dear Firdosh**

I would like to recommend an allocation of \$1000.00 to partially assist publication cost of 'The Parsi cultural identity'. This is a project proposed by Ms Bachi Karkaria a Mumbai based talented journalist. The project proposes to cover the contemporary history in a unique novel form.

	<b><u>Projected Budget for 2003</u></b>
Allocation of project 'The Parsi cultural identity'	<u>\$ 1000.00</u>
Total	\$1000.00

**Dr. Jehan Bagli**  
**Chair, Research and preservation committee**

# PLANNING AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

## REPORT

### ?? Calendar of Events

Tabulated below are the events planned by FEZANA and other related organizations.

<i>DATE</i>	<i>COMMITTEE/ORGANIZATIONS</i>
<b>May 24 – 25, 2003</b>	FEZANA AGM, Boston, MA
<b>July 12, 2003</b>	World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce- Chicago Chapter conference, "Encourage Zarathushti Business!" Chicago
July 24 - 27, 2003	North American Youth Congress, Toronto, Canada
<b>August 30 - 31, 2003</b>	Soccer Tournament, FEZANA Sports committee
<b>October 6 – 11, 2003</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> European Conference of Iranian Studies, Ravenna, Italy
<b>December 27, 2003 – January 4, 2004</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> World Zoroastrian Youth Congress, Pune, India
<b>May 2004</b>	FEZANA AGM, TBA
<b>July 1 - 4, 2004</b>	ZSC Zoroastrian Sports Hosted by Vancouver, BC @ University of British Columbia
<b>July 7 – 13, 2004</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Parliament of World's Religions, Barcelona, Spain
<b>December 29, 2004 - January 1, 2005</b>	XIII North American Congress, San Francisco-Bay area, CA
<b>Summer 2005</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress, UK

**Goal:** To increase awareness of various events taking place nationally and globally; planning events in advance and providing optimum spacing between events may help increase participation.

## **?? 2004 FEZANA Annual General Meeting**

A request to host the 2004 FEZANA AGM was sent to all member associations and representatives for small groups. Efforts were made to have our smaller associations and/or small groups step forward and host this event, given that this is a small enough event that could be organized and hosted by a smaller community.

Small groups/associations in most cases may not have adequate funds or do not have a budget that would help cover costs to host this FEZANA event. These groups need financial help to raise funds to cover costs associated with hosting such an event.

Therefore, an increase in \$500 budget that FEZANA contributes towards this event needs to be considered to encourage our smaller groups/associations to be hosts for this event.

**Goal:**

- a. To have a task list for distribution that includes the do's and don't 's for organizing AGM
- b. To increase FEZANA contribution towards this event

## **?? FEZANA Standing Committee**

FEZANA standing committees were given the opportunity to showcase their goals and objectives in the FEZANA News Bulletin. In addition, it gave me the chance to get to know and understand the individuals and bring accountability to the tasks undertaken by the committee.

**Goal:** To continue communication with chairpersons for regular updates and progress.

## **?? FEZANA Ad Hoc Committee**

FEZANA Ad Hoc committees will be given the same opportunity to showcase their projects in the FEZANA News Bulletin.

**Goal:** To continue communication with chairpersons for regular updates and progress.

## **FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AGM, BOSTON May 24<sup>th</sup> 2003**

During the academic year 2002-03, nine full-time Zoroastrian students from North America applied for scholarships

Five scholarships were awarded to the following students:

**Behramshah Zarin** (\$1,000 Scholarship)

University of Texas, Austin  
Business and Computer Sciences

**Bhada Jehangir** (\$1,000 Scholarship)

University of Florida, Gainesville  
Geological Sciences and Environmental Engineering

**Bharucha Vispy** (\$1,000 Scholarship)

University of Oklahoma,  
Petroleum Engineering

**Edibam Naushad** (\$1000 Scholarship)

Loyola University Medical Centre, Illinois  
Dentistry and Oral Surgery

**Ervad Karkaria Zal** (\$1000 Scholarship)

Concordia University, Montreal  
Human Rights.

All candidates were rated on Merit (40%), Need (40%), Extra-Curricular Activities (10%), and Communal Activities (10%).

This year for the first time to give more publicity to the scholarship program, efforts were made by members of the committee to present the scholarship cheques at community functions and photos of the presentations published in the FEZANA journal.

This year the committee has revised the application form to make it user friendly which can be viewed on the FEZANA website.

As the FEZANA Scholarship program becomes known across the world through publicity in the FEZANA Journal, Parsiana and Hamazor, we get requests for help from all over the world, but many do not fit our criteria of studying in North America, and residency of at least 12 months.

Another area where the committee has difficulty is the definition of NEED. The Need of a student from North America is very different from the Need of a student from India, Pakistan or Iran. But by asking more details of the breakdown of expenses, we may be able to judge this better. This is reflected in the revised form.

We would still like to divide the scholarships into two categories a) need and b) excellence

The Mehraban Dorab Kheradi Academic Scholarship Endowment Fund is healthy and growing. At present it stands at \$98,000 and hopefully it will grow to \$100,000, so that a minimum of \$5000 can be allocated each year from the interest. This amount would change upwards once the financial market picks up. It is the wish of Dr Kheradi, that the floor of the principal should remain at \$100,000

### **FOR APPROVAL AT THE AGM**

- 1 For the academic year we are requesting a sum of \$5000, which will be added to \$5000, the amount held over from the 2002-2003 awards, bringing the amount to \$10,000. We are requesting permission to award for this year 5 scholarships of \$2000.
- 2 As the principal donor of the Kheradi Endowment Fund, Dr Jerry Kheradi requested to be a permanent member of the Scholarship Committee to oversee the maintenance of the floor of the endowment fund. The number of scholarships to be awarded from the Kheradi Endowment fund will be decided by Dr Kheradi. This year Dr Kheradi wishes to allocate \$5000 for ONE scholarship on merit.

We are requesting a ratification to a change in Article F 2.4 of the TOR which reads

*A scholarship may be NAMED as per the wishes of an individual major donor, for donations of amounts greater than \$20,000. Such a named scholarship will also be administered by the Trustees of the FUND. Any conditions other than naming the scholarship must be consistent with the aims and conditions of the Scholarship Fund*

It should now read

*" A scholarship may be Named as per the wishes of an individual major donor, for donations of amounts greater than \$20,000. For donations over \$50,000, a donor, or a representative, if so wished, will be a permanent member of the Committee, for his or her endowed scholarship only. The judging process will be maintained by the committee".*

3 We are requesting permission to explore the possibility and develop mechanisms and guidelines for FEZANA being co-signatory to student loans. We get requests from students who need money for their second and third year and being foreign students need a guarantor to sign loans.

4 We have received a request from the North American Chapter of WZO to join the FEZANA scholarship program by a contribution of 50 % to the FEZANA scholarship budget. The judging criteria and selection mechanism would be the same as followed by FEZANA. If we accept then they would like this to be reflected in all communications for the scholarships i.e. the solidarity and trust between organizations while serving community causes in joining the FEZANA Scholarship program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolly Dastoor, Chair  
Zena Irani  
Rashid Mehin, Treasurer, FEZANA  
Purvez Rustomji  
Anahita Sidhwa  
Jerry Kheradi, Kheradi Endowment Fund  
Firdosh Mehta, Ex-officio, President FEZANA

### **Small Groups Committee Report. - 2003**

Having been appointed as Committee chair a month ago regrettably I have no report to offer. However I believe that there are priorities that I would like to establish over the next year-

1. To contact and coordinate with all the various small groups all over the country. There are perhaps groups of Z's in many of the larger towns in the country that have not registered themselves as a small group within FEZANA.
2. To find and establish the priorities of these groups as to their needs, relationships, and voting representation at FEZANA committee and decision making bodies. This is especially relevant as I am sure more than 25% of Z's live in areas with no anjumans.
3. To host the next AGM as a small group and to try and highlight their issues at that meeting.
4. To establish a network of professional resources in various fields like medicine, law, business, engineering, architecture that individuals could go for advice and help.
5. To make a list of small groups of Z's and publish it on The Fezana newsletter so that individuals moving to these areas could find other Z's in these cities.
6. To be available at all times for FEZANA activities to the best of my abilities.

Hoshedar Tamboli- Home 813-251-0101

May 2003

**The Zoroastrian Sports Committee**

Annual AGM Report

Dear Zarathushti friends,

We are pleased to report that the FEZANA Sports Committee, ZSC has proceeded to continue its improved programs and accomplishments during this past year.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Zarathushti Games took place on July 3-7, 2002 in Northridge, California with athletes participating from all over the world including, Australia, Germany, and from different cities of Canada and the United States. There were more than 220 athletes competing in sports such as Basketball, Volleyball, Table tennis, Swimming, and Track and Field. Although more participants were expected, last year's games started with 10 volleyball, 8 adult, and 5 youth basketball teams. In addition more than 200 sports lovers were present to cheer for their favorite teams and athletes. Fellow Zarathushtis, young and old took this opportunity to meet new friends, and strengthen old friendship bonds.

After a long day of competition athletes danced the nights away with BBQ party by the University pool (California State University, Northridge), banquet night at one of LA's prime locations, and disco night at the Grand Saloon on the University campus. As usual, last year games were another successful and profitable event for the Sports Committee.

After several revisions of the ZSC guidelines, which were first presented at the last year AGM meeting, the version 1.2 of our guidelines were finally officially approved by the FEZANA at the beginning of this year. We do not believe that these guidelines are perfect, but we do believe that they are good starting documents to build based on, and to help our present and future host committees to conduct their games.

Finally, last but not least after receiving the signed agreement, it was our great pleasure to announce that Vancouver of British Columbia Canada has been selected as the Host City for the 2004 Zarathushti Games. We have our full confidence in the success of the Vancouver 9th Zarathushti Games, and we are sure that the Games will be another step towards creating solidarity and unity amongst our Zarathushti community, especially our youth. ZSC/FEZANA has offered its full support to the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia and it's local community for conducting the next year event and we congratulate them for initiating the preliminary steps toward their great goal.

Our near future upcoming event is our 3<sup>rd</sup> Unity Soccer Games, which will be happening in the Southern California during the September labor day weekend of this year. Although these games will be conducted at a smaller scale, we hope that they become as large and popular as the Zarathushti Games in the years to come.

We are also glad to announce that we are in the process of transferring some funds to the local sports groups in countries such as Iran, India, and Pakistan to help their youth in purchasing basic sports supplies and to promote the love of sports among them.

At this time, we are already looking for our 10<sup>th</sup> Zarathushti Games city host, which will be happening during the July 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup> of 2006. So, we are asking all interested associations to contact ZSC at [ZSC@FEZANA.org](mailto:ZSC@FEZANA.org) as soon as possible if they see a potential for their city to become the host for the 2006 Games.

Overall, we are very proud of the improvements and the accomplishments made by the committee over the last year. We hope to remain a venue for uniting the Zarathushti youth through their love for sports. As always, we rely on and look forward to the support of FEZANA, other Zarathushti associations, and all members of our community to help us prosper and grow to better serve the needs of our growing faith.

Sincerely,

**Zoroastrian Sports Committee, ZSC**

Enclosure: ZSC Financial Report for the year 2002 and the estimated budget for 2003

### **Welfare Committee Report 2002-3**

Our committee asked for guidelines and then went on to define welfare so that we knew what we were supposed to do. For the community to fare better than what it is (welfare) we decided to pinpoint issues where we could do better. In doing so we opened a can of worms that we were not aware of. Our first reaction was to close the lid, be reactive and keep helping people that asked for help. On further introspection and discussion, we decided to open the lid again and label the worms so at least we know and acknowledge that these are the different issues and once we identify them we could work towards finding ways to meet those challenges.

We have issues facing our community at all levels of life, from child care and health, adolescent issues, drug and alcohol addiction, sex education and responsibilities, pre marital education and expectation, addressing marital, spousal abuse, divorce situations, educational assistance and guidance in arts, music, sports, authors etc. assistance in networking and finding jobs and encourage promoting business in the community and supporting those businesses through loyalty patronage. Senior health, housing and companionship issues. After life prayers for those who wish for them.

These are some of the worms that got labeled and some of the challenges are already addressed by different committees and/or groups.

Thanks to Dr. Jerry Kheradi and his committee that we have been able to help financially the families we could. Money is going to help a lot of people but we need to help in other ways also. We have tremendous resources in our community. We have talented people who are experts on each of these issues. We would like to set up a network of names and contacts of all these people in all parts of the world, so when we hear of a need e.g. a case like Baby Nazeen, then we can approach the group of doctors who are experts in that field who could work with the parents by giving them practical advice and steps to follow and different options that are available. The right advice, guidance and counseling would bring tremendous peace of mind and substantial savings of money at a time like that also.

We have started gathering information on names, addresses and phone numbers of doctors and their expertise so in case of medical emergency we could access them for their advice. Similar network could be set up for different issues. Our whole community could step up and share their expertise in their individual field and needy people could benefit from the experience. This process when fully operational will bring self worth, value and satisfaction to the individual offering the help, will greatly benefit the person in need and will bring the community together in helping and caring for each other.

We the Welfare Committee, at this time would like to take on the responsibility of two more issues. We will work on setting up a network of names and contact numbers of people who are experienced to counsel and guide couples in the right direction or who can recommend the right people or services for people who need help with adult issues related to spousal abuse and also for serious marital issues heading towards divorce.

Once again we would like to thank Dr. Jerry Kheradi and committee for fund raising through which we could help numerous people.

Thanks to all the FEZANA officers President Firdosh, VP Mahrukh, Treasurer Rashid, Sec. Arnavaz and Asst. Sec. Farrokh who were instrumental in helping us, guiding us to get us moving. Next year we plan to thank all of you to help us get to the next level where we would like to be.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity for growth.

Respectfully submitted by  
Houtoxi Contractor & Hosi Mehta



## ZYNA 2002 REPORT

Greetings from ZYNA,

As the year of 2002 progressed ZYNA started working closely with the Chicago Congress Youth Committee. We were approached to recommend youth of our community as speakers at the three youth sessions. The theme of the congress was Past, Present and Future. We were able to recommend various youth from all over North America to speak about each of the topics at the congress.

In August, a group of youth arrived in San Jose, California to enjoy a few days of camping in Yosemite National Park. ZYNA thanks Bomi Patel for all his help in organizing and funding for this event. The attendees enjoyed campfires, hiking through the National Park, swimming, and many other fun activities.

Between December 25, 2002 and January 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 nine young Zarathushtis from various locations in North America traveled to the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Alberta, Canada for this year's ZYNA sponsored winter event. We started arriving in Calgary on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Calgary Chapter of the Zoroastrian Association of Alberta opened up their hearts and homes to us for the evening and night of the 25<sup>th</sup>. After a tour of Calgary City, provided by Firdosh Mehta, we and other Calgary members were invited to Jamsheed and Yasmin Irani's home for a delicious and sumptuous traditional Christmas dinner. After spending the night at Jamsheed & Yasmin Irani, and Zarrein & Lal Gohill homes, we embarked on our journey in a 15 passenger van for Canmore, Alberta. For the next five days we enjoyed ourselves at the Banff National Park for days of skiing, ice-skating on famous Lake Louise right in the heart of the Rockies, touring the town of Banff, taking a sleigh ride and other fun activities. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, we left Canmore and stopped off at the Canada Olympic Park, on the outskirts of the city of Calgary. After a tour of the Olympic park, we headed back to Calgary for a New Year's Eve party hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Alberta. We had a wonderful time meeting new people and seeing new sites. We sincerely thank-Rashna Mehta for the dinner arrangements, Adi Irani and the Zoroastrian Association of Alberta for their logistical support and hospitality.

Another event that ZYNA is in close contact with is the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Zoroastrian Youth Congress, Nexus 2003, from July 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. There are many activities planned with educational and interesting topics for the congress attendees, including a session with a panel of youth mobeds. One from India, Pakistan, California and Toronto.

## NAMC ACTIVITIES 2002-2003

This presentation is prepared for the benefit of member associations. It describes some of the major activities of NAMC during the period 2002-2003.

In support of the idea originally mooted by Mr. Rohinton Rivetna to have audience participation in a Jashan Ceremony, NAMC members were instrumental in the session “Jashan Demonstration” at the N. American Congress 2002 in Chicago. The session was conducted by Ervad Bagli together with the participation of Ervads Ravji and Vazifdar from Chicago who performed a “simulated Jashan ceremony”. There was near unanimous consensus of the attendees to have such a participation introduced, at their respective associations. **This is one of the topics on the NAMC agenda** to recommend a standard for such participation across North America to promote spiritual contribution of the laity in these ceremonies.

The members of NAMC also participated in a group Sudreh Pushi (Navjote) that was organized by Iranian Zoroastrian Cultural Kanun of Ontario. Navjote of 9 young boys and girls were performed, as per the Iranian tradition, by 9 mobeds, under the leadership of Ervad Kerman Katrak.

Ervad Bagli was invited by Zoroastrian Association of Rocky Mountain (ZARM) in Denver, Colorado, to explain the significance and perform a jashan. A lecture on the subject: **Importance of Good Mind**, was also organized by the president, Mr. Rumi Engineer at the Church of Religious Science. As a trainee for Mobedyar program Rumi also participated in the jashan ceremony.

In collaboration with FEZANA a seminar on ‘Zarathushti Rituals Past, Present and Future’ was organized in Toronto on April 19 2003. We gratefully acknowledge the generous donation from FEZANA and the efforts of President, Mr. Firdosh Mehta for actively supporting the Seminar and coordinating a lecture tour for Ervad Parvez Bajan from India, to nine member associations in North America.

The preparations for the book “UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF OBSEQUIES” are on going, partly thwarted due to the organization of the seminar. This book is one of the series that will prepare a ground work, of the explanation, mode of performance of the rituals, and prayers; to pass on to the future generation. **As a partial fulfillment of the cost of this project we strongly recommend to the general body a grant of \$ 2000.00.**

We invite member associations **to generate proposals in collaboration with NAMC** to organize and execute training workshop on specific topics of doctrines and rituals. Experienced NAMC members are at the disposal of the community to impart valuable know-how to the young Mobed and Mobedyar candidate.

We wish to thank FEZANA in general for their support and to Mr. Firdosh Mehta in particular, for his guidance and his hard work in promoting activities of NAMC through the RESEARCH AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE of FEZANA.