

FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

2002

NORTH
AMERICAN
ZARATHUSHTI
COMMUNITY
AWARDS

JULY 6, 2002

**TWELFTH NORTH AMERICAN
ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS
Chicago, Illinois, USA**

**Hosted by Zoroastrian Association of
Metropolitan Chicago
Sponsored by Federation of Zoroastrian
Associations of North America**

North American Zarathushti Community Awards

The first North American Zarathushti Community Awards were presented at the Sixth North American Zoroastrian Congress in Toronto, Canada, in 1988. Since then, North American Zarathushti Community Awards have been presented bi-annually at the North American Zoroastrian Congresses, except for year 2000 when these Awards were not presented because of the World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston, Texas, in December 2000 during which the first ever World Zarathushti Community Awards were presented.

For the 2002 North American Zarathushti Community, the FEZANA Awards Committee established six award categories, their definitions and evaluation criteria; standard nomination procedure; rules governing the awards; and selection process. The six award categories are:

Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award:

To recognize a Zarathushti who has made outstanding and well-recognized contributions to further the cause of Zarathushtis in North America and internationally through outstanding leadership and service. Such contributions could include Zarathushti history, theology, culture, religious education, community organizations, and interfaith activities.

Excellence in Business or Profession Award: To recognize a Zarathushti who has reached the pinnacle of prominence in his/her profession and/or business and whose achievements have been recognized both in North America and worldwide.

Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award: To recognize a Zarathushti who has made significant contributions in advancing social and humanitarian causes in general and for the Zarathushti community in particular, and whose humanitarian service achievements have been acknowledged in his/her local community, in North America and worldwide.

Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award: To recognize a Zarathushti who has excelled in the field of performing arts (dance, music and drama), painting or literature and whose achievements have been recognized by peers within the country of residence and internationally.

Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award: To recognize a young Zarathushti, 30 years or younger on January 1, 2002 (that is, born on or after January 1, 1972) who after achieving high grades as a student in scholastic studies and participating in other extra-curricular activities, has subsequently achieved excellence in his/her chosen profession, is deemed to be an outstanding rising star by his peers, and who has made substantial contributions to Zarathushti community affairs in the local community and in North America.

Paradise Award: To recognize an individual or group who has contributed to spreading the message of Asho Zarathushtra through the composition of artistic and educational play, poetry or song capable of being transcribed on film, video and/or DVD for dissemination among the Zarathushti and other communities in North America and worldwide. The play, poetry or song shall have been first produced and/or transcribed on film, video and/or DVD on or after January 1, 2001.

In addition to the six competitive awards, the Awards Committee, in consultation with FEZANA Executives, decided to present a **Lifetime Achievement Award** to a highly respected North American Zarathushti, who through his personal achievements and meritorious service has brought recognition to the Zarathushti community worldwide. The selection of the individual to be honored with the 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award was made by the Awards Committee in consultation with a few respected Zarathushtis of North America.

Thirty-six respected men and women Zarathushtis from Canada and USA divided into six independent panels of six judges each evaluated the nominees for each award category. A "Zarathushti Youth" was included in each panel of judges. Except for collating the judges' evaluations the Awards Committee members were not involved in the evaluation process. The nominee ranked the highest by the panel of judges for the category was declared the winner.

The Zartoshty family of Vancouver and San Diego have supported the North American Zarathushti Community Awards and the World Zarathushti Community Awards in the past and have extended the same support to 2002 North American Zarathushti Community Awards through a munificent donation of \$2,500.

2002 North American Zarathushti Community Awards



Awards Presentation Program

Master of Ceremonies: Laila Contractor

Introductory Remarks: Dinshaw Joshi

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Farhang Mehr

Introduction: Dinshaw Joshi

Presentation: Framroze Patel

Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award

Mr. Kayomarsh Mehta

Introduction: Hosi Mehta

Presentation: Rohinton Rivetna

Excellence in Business or Profession Award

Mr. Firdaus Bhatena

Introduction: Rashna Ghadialy

Presentation: Ness Lakdawala

Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award

Miss Bella Tata

Introduction: Dr. Jerry Kheradi

Presentation: Yasmin Ghadiali

Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award

Bapsi Sidhwa

Introduction: Yasmin Pavri

Presentation: Firdosh Mehta

Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award

Ms. Sherazade Mehta

Introduction: Dr. Jehan Bagli

Presentation: Prof. Mehraban Khodavandi

Paradise Award

Ms. Tenaz Dubash

Introduction: Bella Tata

Presentation: Rustom Kevala

Vote of Thanks: Yasmin Pavri

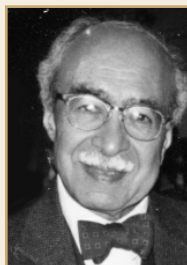
Zarathushti Community Awards



Biographies of Award Recipients — 2002

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Farhang Mehr



Dr. Farhang Mehr was born in 1923 in Tehran and grew-up in an environment where Iranian Zarathushtis faced humiliations akin to those faced by Jews in Nazi Germany. Even when these abated under the last Shah, Zarathushtis could hold no significant office — academic, judicial, military or political — in Iran. Young Dr. Mehr rebelled at these restrictions and indignities

imposed on his community and mobilized the Zarathushti youth in a Youth Wing, first ever in the world, linked it with similar units of other minority communities, and jointly they won the right for all minorities to vote and elect representatives to Iran's parliament. This achievement was a precursor of his later monumental and unique lifetime achievements.

Despite Dr. Mehr's adherence to the Zarathushti faith and bold assertion of his Zarathushti identity, his brilliance and loyalty to Iran so impressed its Islamic masters that they nevertheless mentored his meteoric rise from lowly positions then available to Zarathushtis to those of great authority and influence. He held the positions of Permanent Secretary of major ministries, Governor of OPEC, czar of national insurance, Finance Minister and ultimately, Deputy Prime Minister, a position unique in the annals of Zarathushtis. His preeminence enabled him to imprint reforms of lasting impact on Iran's economic, education, financial, insurance and oil sectors. As Chancellor, he not only transformed the Pahlavi University in Shiraz into "the Harvard of the Middle-East", but also reformed university education in Iran. As his career progressed, his personal example and efforts persuaded Islamic officials to open doors of high public offices closed to Zarathushtis for centuries, and initiate religious equality and social acceptance of Zarathushtis.

However, his very preeminence in Iran led to his being targeted for death under the 1979 Islamic Revolution. In 1980, he — and later his wife Parichehr and children — escaped to the USA and settled in Boston. A Professor-Emeritus of Boston University, he now runs the Center for Ancient Iranian Studies and, through his wisdom, leadership and service, has contributed immensely to rise of the Zarathushti community in North America.

A world-acclaimed scholar, his books and spoken words have created awareness of the Zarathushti religion and the Gathas within

the community, as well as internationally. His scholarly advice, urging rationality, prudence and moderation on contemporary religious, community and social issues, is heeded equally by adult and young Zarathushtis in North America and worldwide. His dedicated community leadership has led to Iranian-Zarathushtis facing their future with greater confidence, encouraged Zarathushti youth to be active in shaping the community's destiny and Tehran's Mobed Kankash to modernize its outlook on religious and community matters. Further, through his leadership, world Zarathushti congresses have become a norm and countless Iranian Zarathushti families have found safe asylum in western countries.

Despite such towering lifetime achievements, humility is Dr. Mehr's hallmark. That endears him all the more to his fellow-Zarathushtis in North America, Iran and the world.

ROHINTON RIVETNA OUTSTANDING ZARATHUSHTI AWARD

Mr. Kayomarsh Mehta



Kayomarsh P. Mehta has devoted over thirty years as an active and energetic member of the Zarathushti community in Chicago during which period he made significant contributions in leadership, religious education and social and cultural aspects of the Zarathushti community both in Chicago and around the world. Specifically, he has supported and encouraged the Zarathushti youth, worked towards strengthening the role of Mobeds within the community, worked to ameliorate the lives of the elderly and those in need of assistance, and promoted awareness of the Zarathushti religion both among Zarathushtis and other communities in North America.

As Chairperson of the Religious Education Committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC) for over thirty years, Kayomarsh has developed, led and managed a very active and informative program of religious education for the local Zarathushti community. On a higher level, as Chairperson of FEZANA's Education Committee, he initiated and successfully formulated a Universal Zarathushti Religion Curriculum to serve as a guide for standardizing religious education among Zarathushtis in North America. This curriculum was printed and

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issued by FEZANA and distributed to FEZANA Member associations in North America as well as to other Zarathushti organizations throughout the world. Kayomarsh has initiated also an elaborate program for advancing the religious education of Mobeds in North America.

Kayomarsh is currently working on establishing and managing a Zarathushti Learning Center in North America, similar to the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute in Mumbai, India, and is looking for philanthropists to finance the institution.

Kayomarsh's meritorious services and his leadership and community service during his presidency of ZAC were recognized through awards by the local community; in addition, his work in the field of religious education has been recognized through numerous awards. His contributions as Chairperson of the Education Committee were recognized by FEZANA and the North America Mobed Council (NAMC) has commended him for his services to the Mobeds in North America.

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS OR PROFESSION AWARD

Mr. Firdaus Bhathena



Firdaus Bhathena is perhaps one of the most successful serial Zarathushti entrepreneur with four high-tech startups to his name in less than ten years. Firdaus is currently the President and CEO of Relicore, Inc., a software infrastructure company that he founded in November 2000. Relicore raised \$11 million in its first round of venture capital funding and currently

has over forty employees working on distributed application management solutions. Firdaus also advises a number of early stage companies, and is a charter member of several software and entrepreneurial organizations.

Firdaus was born in Mumbai (Bombay), India, in 1970. After standing first in India at the ICSE (10th grade) examination, he left India to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he obtained his BS and MS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 1992 and 1993, and qualified for the Ph.D. program. At MIT, he was a Tau Beta Pi Graduate Fellow and was also the recipient of the Henry Ford II scholarship for "exceptional potential for leadership in engineering."

Firdaus started his professional career as Director of Engineering at a PC-based industrial automation startup. Soon Firdaus teamed up with the technology visionary, Ray Kurzweil, at

Kurzweil Educational Systems, a startup company developing educational software products. In 1996, Firdaus founded WebLine Communications after winning MIT's \$50,000 Entrepreneurship Competition. In less than three years, WebLine grew to over 150 employees and was a leader in "customer interaction software" with more than 100 large customers. In 1999, Cisco Systems acquired WebLine for \$325 million and Firdaus was named Director of Engineering before leaving the company in year 2000 to found Relicore.

JAMSHED PAVRI HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD

Ms. Bella Tata



Bella Tata was born in Mumbai (Bombay), India, but spent her early years in Pune and Bangalore. Her professional career in India as Secretary and Manager spanned many industries and organizations in banking, paper, electronics, radio, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

In 1981, Bella immigrated to Vancouver, BC, Canada, where she currently resides with her mother, Shirin. In 1983, Bella joined the Canadian federal government where she at present holds the post of Executive Assistance Officer, Pacific Region, Industry Canada. In 1993, Bella was awarded the Canada 125 Commemorative Medal for her extensive and notable contributions to the department, its clients and for community work.

While busy with her profession, Bella's active involvement in Zarathushti community affairs began early. In 1992, Bella chaired the successful Eighth North American Zoroastrian Congress held in Vancouver, BC. From 1994 to 1998, she served as the Chair of the Congress Committee of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA). From 1998 to 2000, she was the first President of the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC). ZSBC was founded in 1968 by late Jamshed K. Pavri. The immeasurable services provided by Jamshedji and his late wife, Roda, defy description. However, in recognition of these services, FEZANA designated its humanitarian service award as "Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award" and Bella joins a galaxy of dedicated Zarathushtis by winning this award for year 2002.

Bella, supported by her sister Zarine and her husband Nanu Dastur, and good friends, continues her efforts to bring the fruits of education and the message of equality, compassion, harmony and unity to all segments of the society in Vancouver.

Zarathushti Community Awards



EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS, PAINTING OR LITERATURE

Bapsy Sidhwa



Distinguished international writer Bapsy Sidhwa lives in USA but travels frequently to the Indian sub-continent. She has published four novels: *An American Brat*, *Cracking India*, *The Bride and the Crow Eaters* and she has been translated into German, French, Italian, Greek and Russian.

Among her many honors, Bapsy Sidhwa received the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest

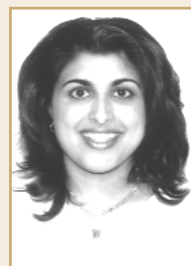
Writer's Award in 1994, the Sitara-I-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest national honor in arts and the LiBeraturepreis in Germany. Bapsy Sidhwa has also been awarded Bunting Fellowship at Radcliffe, Harvard.

Bapsy Sidhwa, who was on the advisory committee to then prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Women's Development, has taught at Columbia University, University of Houston, Mount Holyoke College and Brandeis University.

Cracking India, a New York Time Notable Book of the Year and a Quality Paperback Club selection, has been made into the film *Earth* by noted Canadian director Deepa Mehta.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ZARATHUSHTI AWARD

Ms. Sherazade Mehta



Sherazade Mehta was born in 1973 in North York, Ontario, Canada. She moved with parents, Firdosh and Rashna, to Edmonton, Alberta, in 1975 where she spent her youth. She now lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

Sherazade graduated from High School in 1991 and received her Bachelor of Arts

degree in History from the University of British Columbia in 1995 and Bachelor of Elementary Education from the University of Alberta, Edmonton in 1997. In 1998, she earned her Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Elementary Montessori Diploma from the Washington Montessori Institute in Washington, D.C.

Currently, Sherazade is a full-time Montessori teacher in Boston, Massachusetts in one of the Grade 1 to 3 classrooms.

In addition to being an educator, Sherazade is an entrepreneur. She has started making her own jewelry. Last year, Sherazade

began reaching a wider audience by launching her own website www.Sherazarts.com. Sherazade's jewelry and website were featured in the Boston Globe and she also appeared on a news segment of the New England Cable news television network highlighting local entrepreneurs.

After moving to Boston, she has been active with the Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area (ZAGBA) and is its current President. In particular, she has helped initiate and teach children's religious classes at ZAGBA.

Since May 2000, Sherazade had held the position of one of the three co-chairs of the Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA), a sub-committee of FEZANA, which aims to help Zarathushti youth come together in educational, cultural and social areas. Sherazade is committed to the mission of ZYNA to ensure that Zarathushti youth have a representative voice in all areas affecting their future.

PARADISE AWARD

Ms. Tenaz Dubash



Tenaz Dubash was born and raised in India. She moved with her parents, Hoshang and Aloo, and siblings, Farida and Jamshed, to USA in 1982 after completing her high school in India. She has Bachelor's Degree from Cornell University and Master's Degree in Television/Radio & Film from the Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University. She has over eight

years of television production experience including positions at ABC, FOX and CNBC. During her year at FOX, she wrote breaking news stories that were sent by satellite to over 150 FOX affiliates. Tenaz also has strong business, writing and production skills. As an equities writer at Bridge News, she wrote up to the minute, business releases for the wire service that reflected ratings changes by industry analysts.

In the summer of 2000, Tenaz traveled to Iran with thirty-four Zarathushtis. She wrote, narrated and produced her first documentary about Zoroastrianism called "In the Footsteps of Our Forefathers." The film has been received with acclamation both nationally and internationally. A seven-minute segment of the documentary was featured on CNN's "Inside Asia" and was also carried on CNNfn. The documentary also received positive press in India Today, The Indian Express and Rediff.com and has been screened at Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Berkeley.

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North American Zarathushti Community Awards Recipients 1988 - 2002

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2002 Dr. Farhang Mehr
1996 Prof. Kaikhosrov D. Irani
1990 Mr. Zubin Mehta

ROHINTON RIVETNA OUTSTANDING ZARATHUSHTI AWARD

2002 Mr. Kayomarsh P. Mehta
1998 Mrs. Farangis K. Shahrokh
1996 Mr. Homi Minocher-Homji
1994 Dr. Dolly Dastoor
1992 Mr. Homi Davier
1990 Mr. Rohinton & Mrs. Roshan Rivetna
1988 Mr. Mino Dastoor

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS OR PROFESSION AWARD

2002 Mr. Firdaus Bhatena
1998 Dr. Yasmin Thanavala
1996 Mr. Adi Dastur & Mrs. Mehroo Jussawalla
1994 Dr. Jehan Bagli
1992 Mr. Mehli Mehta & Mr. Jamshed Mavalwala
1990 Mr. Meherwan Boyce

EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS, LITERATURE OR PAINTING AWARD

2002 Bapsi Sidhwa

JAMSHED PAVRI HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD

2002 Miss Bella Tata
1998 Mr. Jamshed & Mrs. Yasmin Ghadiali
1996 Mrs. Katy Driver
1994 Mr. Minoo Treasurywala
1992 Mr. Rustom Irani
1990 Ervad Mehraban and Mrs. Paridokht Zartoshty
1990 Mrs. Sabar E. Patel

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ZARATHUSHTI AWARD

2002 Ms. Sherazade Mehta
1998 Mr. Orang Demehry & Mrs. Parastu Dubash
1994 Mr. Darius Bagli
1992 Mr. Mehran Sepehri
1990 Mr. Sarosh V. Kanga
1988 Prof. Jamsheed Choksy

OUTSTANDING ZARATHUSHTI STUDENT AWARD

1998 Mr. Phiroz Tarapore
1996 Mr. Arash Anoshiravani
1994 Mr. Cyrus Hirjibehdin
1992 Mr. Murzban F. Morris & Miss Shanaya Deboo
1990 Mr. Neville M. Billimoria
1988 Mr. Zubin Jal Panthaky

PARADISE AWARD

2002 Ms. Tenaz Dubash

North American Zoroastrian Congresses, 1988-2002

2002	Twelfth Congress, Chicago	Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
1998	Eleventh Congress, New York	Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York
1996	Tenth Congress, San Francisco	Zoroastrian Association of Northern California & Persian Zoroastrian Organization
1994	Ninth Congress, Philadelphia	Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey
1992	Eighth Congress, Vancouver	Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia
1990	Seventh Congress, Houston	Zoroastrian Association of Houston
1988	Sixth Congress, Toronto	Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Zarathushti Community Awards



2002 North American Zarathushti Community Awards List of Judges

Mrs. Shida ANOSHIRAVANI	Corona Del Mar, CA	Dr. Jerry M. KHERADI	North Providence, RI
Mr. Mazda ANTIA	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Prof. Mehraban KHODAVANDI	Sheboygan, WI
Mrs. Gordarfrid ARESH	Newport Beach, CA	Mrs. Perviz MADON	Burnaby, BC
Dr. Jehan BAGLI	Mississauga, ONT	Miss Dolly R. MALVA	Downey, CA
Mrs. Moti BALSARA	Toronto, ONT	Mr. Kayomarsh P. MEHTA	Palos Hills, IL
Mr. Jehangir BEHBOODI	Richmond Hill, ONT	Ms. Sherazade MEHTA	West Roxbury, MA
Mr. Keki BHOTE	Glencoe, IL	Farrokh MISTREE	Atlanta, GA
Mr. Lovji CAMA	Tenafly, NJ	Mehroo M. PATEL, MD	Westchester, IL
Mrs. Houtoxi F. CONTRACTOR	Pittsburgh, PA	Mr. Farrokh NAMDARAN	West Vancouver, BC
Mrs. Dhunmai DALAL	Los Angeles, CA	Mr. Fariborz RAHNAMOON	North Vancouver, BC
Mr. Boman DAMKEVALA	Naperville, IL	Mr. Rohinton RIVETNA	Hinsdale, IL
Mr. Orang DEMEHRY	Vienna, VA	Ms. Aban RUSTOMJI	Houston, TX
Dr. Dolly DASTOOR	Brossard, QC	Dr. Tooka SHAHRIARI	North Vancouver, BC
Mr. Adi DAVAR	Falls Church, VA	Dr. Yazdi SIDHWA	Sugarland, TX
Mr. Behrouz FARSI	Fremont, CA	Miss Bella TATA	Vancouver, BC
Mr. Jamshed GHADIALI	Baldwin, NY	Mrs. Shehernaz JOSHI VERAHRAMI	North Potomac, MD
Mrs. Khorshed JUNGALWALA	Sudbury, MA	Mr. Sam M. VESUNA	Unionville, ONT
Ms. Nikan KHATIBI	Laguna Niguel, CA		

2002 FEZANA AWARDS COMMITTEE

Dinshaw Joshi, Chair, Chevy Chase, MD
 Yasmin Pavri, Houston, TX
 Trity Pourbahrami, Vancouver, BC
 Ex-officio Members
 Framroze Patel, Woodbridge, NJ
 Hosi Mehta, Elmhurst, IL

TWELFTH NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS - 2002

Rashna Ghadialy, Chicago, IL, Chair

FEZANA CONGRESS COMMITTEE

Rustom Kevala, Potomac, MD

APPRECIATION

Ervad Mehraban Zartoshty, San Diego, CA for generous donation of \$2,500.
 Mr. Ness Lakdawala, Montreal, QC, for production of Plaques presented to award winners.
 Mrs. Feroza Fitch, Bethesda, MD for design of brochure.