

# FEZANA *bulletin*

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## UPCOMING DATES

September 9, 2012

911 Unity Walk. Embassy Row, Washington D.C.; 1:30pm-5:00pm. Walkers are encouraged to bring gently used shoes to donate for the homeless.

[www.911unitywalk.org](http://www.911unitywalk.org)

September 24, 2012

Deadline: No Kid Hungry Essay contest. "Why is ending childhood hunger in America important to you?"

<http://nokidhungry2.org/goorange>

October 6, 2012

Shahnameh Festival. Irvine Barclay Theatre & Cheng Hall, Irvine, CA.

[www.farhang.org/events](http://www.farhang.org/events)

October 27-28, 2012

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

Jan 4-5, 2013

World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce Annual General Body Meeting. Singapore.

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

## AROUND FEZANA...

### FEZANA Executive, 2012-2014 Announced

At FEZANA's 25th Annual General Meeting, held on August 3, 2012 in Rye Brook, New York, the election results for FEZANA President were announced. Katayun Kapadia was elected as the new President for a term of two years. Ratan Mistry, and Shiraz Italia were also re-elected as they ran unopposed.



The FEZANA Executive, 2012-2014 is:

**President:**

Katayun Kapadia;

**Treasurer:**

Ratan Mistry;

**Secretary:**

Nahid Dashtaki; and

**Assistant Secretary:**

Shiraz Italia.

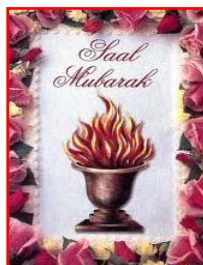
**PHOTO:** Plaque presented to Bomi Patel, FEZANA AGM, August 3, 2012. (Left to Right) Nahid Dashtaki, Secretary; Katayun Kapadia, newly elected President; Bomi Patel, Outgoing President; Ratan Mistry, Treasurer.

### FEZANA Celebrates its Silver Jubilee in Style

On the evening of August 2, 2012, in Rye Brook, New York, FEZANA held its 25th Year Celebration Gala. With all six past FEZANA Presidents present, guests were treated to a memorable evening filled with insightful presentations, acknowledgements to FEZANA supporters, and entertaining dance and music performances. [More photos on page 8. Also, see the upcoming FEZANA Journal, Fall 2012 issue] □



All six past FEZANA Presidents cut the FEZANA 25th Anniversary Cake at the Silver Anniversary Gala.



**Navroze Mubarak & Khordad Saal Mubarak to you and your families**

**May Ahuramazda Shower his Choicest Blessings on the Zarathushti Community in North America & world-wide  
May the New Year bring good health, happiness, peace and prosperity to Zarathushtis globally**

**Best Wishes - Katayun Kersi Kapadia, FEZANA President**



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NGO in consultative status  
(Roster) with the Economic  
and Social Council of the  
United Nations



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FEZANA INFO

## FEZANA Welcomes New President, Katayun Kapadia

My Dear Respected Global Zarathushti Leaders and Community Members:

Please join me in congratulating my dedicated friend Katayun Kapadia - the newly elected *President of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)*. Katayun is a Chartered Accountant (CA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), who has been involved with FEZANA matters in North America since its very inception.

I have had the distinctive privilege of knowing Katayun for over 25-plus years as a dedicated Zarathushti, whose leadership aspires to channel the community in an affirmative direction by focusing on meeting its social, cultural and religious needs. She also has an avid interest in supporting the Mobeds to preserve the sanctity and treasure the integrity of our sacred religion. Furthermore, she is an avid proponent of promoting youth leadership within our community and inspires them to become future leaders.

Since 1979, Katayun's passion for community service has inspired her to serve on the FEZANA Executive as the Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary; the Board of Trustees of the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey (ZAPANJ) as the President, Treasurer and Secretary; and on the Board of Trustees of the Zoroastrian Association de France as Vice President and Treasurer. Katayun is also one of the founding members of the Zoroastrian Women's International Network (ZWIN).

Katayun is a highly motivated, conscientious, dedicated, reliable and honorable individual, who is committed to making a difference in our local, national, and global Zarathushti community.

Her vision encompasses innovation and her leadership style endeavors to promote a unified North American and Global Zarathushti community rooted in dignity and respect for all.

I wish her a *SUCCESSION OF SUCCESSFUL SUCCESSES* as our new 2012-14 FEZANA President.

With love, light and appreciation from,  
Meher Amalsad

## Message from New FEZANA President, Katayun Kapadia



Dear Fellow Zarathushtis and Friends

It is indeed a privilege to be elected as the President of FEZANA in its Silver Jubilee Year.

I found myself at Crossroads in 1979, when I came as a new bride from Bombay to Cherry Hill, New Jersey in USA. While being surrounded by predominantly Jews and Christians, I asked myself the following question: ***Do I want to get lost in this melting pot or stand up and be taken notice of?*** And I decided to do the latter and get involved in Community Service with the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ) and FEZANA.

While holding prominent leadership positions, I have been actively involved with the local, national and global Zarathushti community for the past 30+ years. I have served on the FEZANA Executive Board as a Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary; and have been involved with FEZANA matters in North America since its very inception.



## UPCOMING DATES

Jan 7-9, 2013

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas;  
Cochin, Kerala, India.  
<http://www.oifc.in/Resources/News/11th-Pravasi-Bharatiya-Divas-to-be-held-in-Cochin>

January 13-15, 2013

Celebrating a Treasure: 140  
Years at the First Dastoor  
Meherjirana Library, Navsari.  
A UNESCO Parzor-  
Meherjirana Initiative. For  
more info  
<http://www.meherjiranalibrary.com/conference/>

Oct 9 - Dec 14, 2013

The Everlasting Flame:  
Zoroastrianism in History and  
Imagination. Exhibition at the  
Brunei Gallery, London, U.K.  
[www.theeverlastingflame.com](http://www.theeverlastingflame.com)

Herman Melville once said:

***“We cannot live for ourselves alone, our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results.”***

With that affirmative sentiment, I would like to share my vision that I intend to incorporate in my agenda as the seventh President of FEZANA.

### 1. Build, Enhance and Promote A Unified North American Zarathushti Community

- *To achieve overall success I will work towards ensuring that all FEZANA Member Associations collaboratively participate and work collectively on mutual community goals. I will encourage larger associations to reach out and extend a helping hand to the smaller associations and corresponding members of FEZANA by inviting them to join in their activities, community projects and celebratory observation of festivals.*
- *FEZANA Committees serve worthy causes both in North America and globally. Committee Chairs bring expertise to their committees from all walks of life. I will endeavor to create support within the FEZANA Member Associations by encouraging capable individuals from their respective associations to work on these committees as well as provide donations to fund the varied projects these committees are working on.*
- *To preserve our identity, it is vital that we stay as a unified Zarathushti Community on the North American Continent. I will work towards encouraging joint congresses, sports events, celebrations of festivals, inter-communal dialogues between the Parsi Zarathushtis and Irani Zarathushtis across North America.*
- *As FEZANA President, I will work with Leaders of other Zarathushti organizations across the world to bring a global awareness and formulate solutions to address some critical issues that face our community.*
- *I will collectively network with WZCC and other organizations to enhance the FEZANA Infrastructure in North America. I will endeavor to help FEZANA member associations fund their projects for cultural centers, darbe-mehers, libraries, and senior citizen housing.*

*To build, enhance and promote a unified NA Zarathushti Community requires a direct, clear, systematic, well-planned and organized communication strategy. We need to improve communications between FEZANA and its member association; and each member association needs to develop a communication strategy to enable the information received from FEZANA to be communicated to its members at grass root levels. Further, the decisions, issues from their members, youth, and mobeds should be leveraged up to the FEZANA level and shared with other member associations to enable us to come up with mutually collaborative and supportive solutions.*

### 2. Empower & Engage Our Youth in Leadership Roles

- *I would encourage member associations to promote their Youth to take active Leadership Roles at Community Level. Appoint a young adult on your board, to head one or more of your committees and we will all be enriched by their thought process, vitality and global know-how that they will bring to our organizations.*





- *As President, I would like to focus on **nurturing the seeds of greatness in our future generation.** Thus, I will Mandate that every FEZANA Committee have a young adult as its co-chair so as to involve our youth in promoting and working towards achieving mutually supportive FEZANA goals.*
- *I would also encourage member associations to bring to the annual general meeting a youth member from their community. This would foster youth involvement and representation during discussions on key topics and decision making on critical issues impacting the North American Zarathushti Community.*
- *As President, I will work together with youth organizations in North America and the world like NextGenNow, Zoroastrians Stepping Forward, Youth without Borders and others, to foster Community Involvement and Representation for our Zarathushti Community and work together on youth related North American & global activities.*
- *I will ensure that FEZANA continues to sponsor youth congresses, sports events, U.N. symposiums and other events aimed at young adults so that it gives them a bona fide platform to express their ideas, creativity and expertise.*
- *I will **urge our youth to look for Role Models & foster Mentoring:** Look up to Zarathushti men and women in your local and national organizations and use them as “role models” for yourself. Then, you become role models for others in your own community helping them achieve their goals of communal involvement and development. For me, our communal ladies of FEZANA, who I have always looked up to for inspiration and motivation, are Dr. Dolly Dastoor, Bella Tata, Roshan Rivetna, and the late Khorshed Jungalwalla. In 1993, when I was first elected as FEZANA secretary I was very new to this organization; however, over the years I have followed the active roles played by Dolly, Bella, Roshan and Khorshed in their local organizations as well as their involvement in a multitude of FEZANA activities, and they have inspired and motivated me through their thoughts, words and deeds locally and globally.*

***“A candle loses nothing of its light by lighting another candle” - James Keller***

### **3. Education on Zarathushti Religion, Values & Beliefs**

- *Today we live in a world without boundaries, and we must begin by making the North American & World Community take notice of our Zarathushti religion and community. Let us make it globally known that yes, Zoroastrianism is an ancient religion, but today in the 21<sup>st</sup>. century, our Zarathushti Community needs to be counted and recognized with the other main world religions. Let us educate the masses in North America locally, nationally & globally on the Zarathushti values and beliefs. We should continue to support the FEZANA Journal and promote its veracity amongst our communities as I consider it as a Treasure Trove of past, present and future information about our North American Zarathushti Community.*
- *Think and Act - locally & globally: Begin locally in your own community. Children and adults can be proud to be Zarathushtis and speak about your religion proudly in schools, social gatherings, community events, etc. Take pride in doing presentations at schools, girl/boy scout meetings, interfaith gatherings, any place, whenever and wherever, you have an opportunity to present and showcase the beauty and bounty of our religion. In this way, once we can raise the awareness of the North American & World*



Community towards Zarathushti values and community activities, and we make them understand our goals, objectives and needs, then we can involve them in supporting our community to meet its goals and challenges. Let us develop a special Presentation (power point) that we can give to our communal parents to use it for displaying Zoroastrianism in schools and to precipitate a healthy discussion among children.

- Our FEZANA member associations have a treasure chest of knowledge on our religion, history, heritage, culture and traditions. Let us encourage and motivate our youth, mobeds and scholars to communicate this knowledge and information to the North American Community. Let us encourage the use of the information in FEZANA Information Research & Education Systems (FIRES) to educate ourselves and our communities – both Zarathushtis & non-Zarathushtis.
- I will solicit member associations to support the NAMC and Religion Class Teachers to develop, implement and monitor a curriculum for proper religious education of Zarathushti children in North America.
- I will encourage members associations to sponsor and host religious seminars, symposiums and programs together with NAMC and other Zarathushti scholars so that we continue to enhance our knowledge on the Gathas and the Zarathusti Religion.

#### **Guiding Principles for FEZANA:**

1. **Teamwork** – Let us invite our mobeds, professionals, and youth to team up and network with our neighbors and participate in interfaith and other community activities locally & globally.
2. **Respect Diversity** - There is probably no more important task parents and the rest of the community face than by raising children to not only tolerate but also to respect the differences among people and to recognize the rewards that come from serving others and honoring diversity. I call this 'affirmative living' – the positive energy we derive from taking pride in who we are, and from having the confidence and moral grounding to reach out to those who are different. Learning to live affirmatively begins with the way we feel about ourselves. Children who grow up thinking of their own lives in positive terms are more likely to value the lives of others as well. Religious teaching reminds us that we are to love others as we love ourselves, it means respecting yourself and being affirmed in your identity.
3. **Innovation** – encourage youth and newcomers in your community to come up with creative new ideas about communal involvement, and provide support to their efforts by recognizing their valuable involvement.
4. **Empowerment** – let us empower our youth so that they can become accountable and responsible for their actions and serve as iconic role models in our society.
5. **Optimistic 'Can do Attitude'** – let us all cultivate this value. Urgency - do not put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

If we give our children the nurturing, time, and the care they need, they are more likely to develop a stronger emotional intelligence, greater confidence in their intellectual abilities, and more courage to cope with life's diversities. In turn, these qualities will help them to become valuable citizens of the world; and thereby contribute towards enhancing the quality of life in their present communities as well as in our future civilization. The first step in



teaching children to live affirmatively is to give them a strong sense of identity, rooted in their heritage.

The degree of our commitment to our future generation will determine whether we graduate to a new era of progress and prosperity or fail our children, community and ourselves. Our decision involves something beyond pragmatism; it is also a test of our values.

**Let us collectively join hands to build with pride, a worthy and healthy North American Zarathusti community for ourselves and our children.**

#### **By Living the Principles.....**

- We can change the outcome
- We can change the direction where we are headed
- We need a “vision”: No family is an island; it takes a community to nurture our children with dignity, care for our elderly with humility, and enrich lives with moral values and ethical beliefs. My vision for FEZANA is that those of us who are the nucleus of our individual families and communities can make this happen with a strategy for holistic action by taking active leadership roles at community levels locally, nationally and globally. We cannot do it alone, so involve your families, your friends – Zarathushtis as well as others, to work individually and jointly for a unified, healthier Zarathushti community that can take its place in the front lines with other world communities in the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century in North America and the World.

#### **Key messages summarized:**

- Each day brings new opportunities so look for creative ideas and affirmative solutions.
- Be visible and partner with other fellow Zarathushtis to provide value added services resulting in the achievement of community service objectives.
- Reach out to others. Develop a spirit of teamwork and network with Zarathushtis locally and globally to share ideas.
- Communicate, communicate, and communicate within your community and with neighboring Zarathushti organizations on community involvement. Develop a process to spread knowledge both vertically and horizontally within and outside your communities.
- Let's all make a promise today **to dedicate just one hour per week** from our overly busy lives **to involve ourselves in Zarathushti community activities**, and thus empower ourselves to work towards a HAPPIER, HEALTHIER, UNIFIED & KNOWLEDGABLE Zarathushti community in the 21st Century.

**I will leave you with this reflection to ponder upon:  
Ask not what your community can do for “you”,  
Ask what you can do for your “community”!**

**Katayun Kersi Kapadia  
FEZANA President**



## AROUND FEZANA...

## 2012 North American Zarathushti Community Awards Presented at the XVI NAZC

In 1988, the first North American Zarathushti Community Awards were presented at the Sixth North American Zoroastrian Congress, which was held in Toronto, Canada. Since then, North American Zarathushti Community Awards have been presented biennially at each NAZC. The 2012 Awards were recently presented at the XVI North American Zarathushti Congress on August 2, 2012.

The Awards Committee coordinates the evaluation process, tabulates the results, and determines the winner based solely on the judges' evaluations. The following were this year's award recipients. *[For full details, see upcoming FEZANA Journal, Fall 2012]*



**FIRDOSH MEHTA**  
**Rohinton Rivetna**  
**Outstanding Zarathushti Award**



**FREYAZ K. SHROFF**  
**Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award**



**ERVAD BAHROM F. FIROZGARY**  
**Shirin Nariman Dastoor Outstanding Young Zarathushti Student Award**



**ERVAD ZERKXIS Z. BHANDARA**  
**The North American Mobeds Council Community Services Award**



**DR. SHAHROKH KHANIZADEH**  
**DR. FIRDAUS S. DHABHAR**  
**Jamshed and Shirin Guzdar Excellence in Business or Profession Award**



**ROHINTON MISTRY**  
**Dinshaw F. Joshi**  
**Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award**



**NARIUS K. DASTUR**  
**Mehraban Zartoshty Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award**





## FEZANA Silver Anniversary Gala at the XVI North American Zoroastrian Congress on Thursday August 2, 2012

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View more NAZC photos at:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/zagny/collections/>





## FEZANA Session at the XVI North American Zoroastrian Congress on Sunday August 5, 2012

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Look for full 16th NAZC coverage in the *FEZANA Journal*, Fall 2012.

