

FEZANA *bulletin*

OCTOBER 15, 2011 / VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 4



UPCOMING DATES

October 17, 24, 2011

Seminar on the History of the Persian Achaemenid Empire; Irvine, CA. For details, www.tourajdaryae.com.

October 30, 2011

Zoroastrianism: Introduction and History. One-day seminar. 9:30am; Univ of Calgary. Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Alberta. For registration information contact fdjmehta@shaw.ca

November 12-13, 2011

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference and *Zoroastrianism 101: Life and Work of Sir Jivanji Modi*. Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago. For info: kenanddina@yahoo.com or Rivetna@aol.com

November 15, 2011

32nd Annual Interfaith Concert; Washington National Cathedral, Washington DC; details at www.ifcmw.org

November 30, 2011

Deadline for article submissions for WZCC Global AGM Grand Souvenir; contact yazdit@gmail.com

June 30-July 3, 2012

13th Zoroastrian Games Ontario, Canada

August 2-5, 2012

16th North American Zoroastrian Congress Rye, New York. For info <http://nazc.zagny.org>

AROUND FEZANA...

Funds and Finance Committee News

2011 Year-End Donations

We salute Jerry Kheradi, M.D., the first Chairperson of the FEZANA Funds & Finance committee, for setting the stage for FEZANA's financial well-being today. Working with the FEZANA executive since 1996, he has set up endowment funds and increased all the FEZANA funds to very respectable levels. Together with his wife Celeste, he has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships, welfare and charity, all for the benefit of our small but growing religious community. Even after he resigned as Chairperson, he continues to inspire new donors.

TWO NEW ENDOWMENT FUNDS

We thank the Rustomji family of Houston for a donation of \$100,000 to set up the Purvez & Aban Rustomji Scholarship Endowment Fund. In addition, FEZANA is in the process of setting up a new endowment fund for Welfare/Critical needs. Additional details of both these Funds will be announced shortly.

CONSIDER A GIFT ANNUITY FUND

A gift annuity is an irrevocable agreement in which a donor transfers assets (such as securities or cash) to FEZANA in return for lifetime annual income of a fixed amount. The beauty of the "Gift Annuity" is that the donor is entitled to a charitable deduction for the gift portion on his/her tax return; and a portion of the annual payments may also be tax-free until actuarial life expectancy is reached. The "Gift Annuity Fund" is prudently invested by a Trust Bank or Certified Financial planner to produce the annual return to the donor. Please contact the FEZANA Treasurer or the Funds & Finance Committee if you would like to know how to set up a Gift Annuity Fund.

SEEKING CANADIAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Since FEZANA is registered in the USA, it is difficult for Canadian donors to get tax benefits for donations to FEZANA. Similarly, US citizens cannot get US tax benefits if they want to donate to a Canadian charity unless it is also registered in the USA. To ensure proper accounting and benefits to all our donors, FEZANA is seeking Funds & Finance committee members from Canada who are familiar with Canadian tax codes.

HOW TO DONATE

FEZANA accepts donations of cash, securities, books, historically important documents and art objects as well as real estate. Businesses are also encouraged to donate useful furniture and equipment.

FEZANA is registered as a "Cause" with <http://www.iGive.com>. If you register on iGive.com and designate FEZANA as your Cause, FEZANA will receive a percentage of any purchase you make through iGive merchants and businesses such as Amazon, eBay, Home Depot, Travelocity, and many more, including several Canadian stores. Shopping through iGive.com does not cost you a penny, and helps FEZANA at the same time.

AND, it is easy to make your donations directly on the FEZANA website: www.fezana.org, using a credit card (and get frequent flyer miles too!).

Sincerely,

Rustom Kevala, Ph.D. rjkevala@aol.com
Chair, FEZANA Funds & Finance Committee



**Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)**

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**FEZANA Bulletin
Distribution**

This issue of the *FEZANA Bulletin* has been distributed to those who are listed in the FEZANA directory; and also to those individuals who have opted to receive information about FEZANA; and also to those who are on the FEZANA list. If you wish to opt out from receiving future issues, please email admin@fezana.org

FEZANA UPDATE

FEZANA Officials Visit London, UK



In early October, FEZANA President Bomi Patel, accompanied by Behram Pastakia and Rohinton and Roshan Rivetna, visited London to attend a meeting of the Global Working Group (GWG) of regional representatives and to participate in a reception for H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE).

With customary finesse, the ZTFE team, led by President Malcolm Deboo, previous presidents Paurush Jila, Dorab Mistry, Rusi Dalal and their talented committees, orchestrated this Royal visit for a "Zoroastrian Thanksgiving Service" at their Zoroastrian Centre in Harrow, London on October 6th. This was the first time in the history of the 150-year old organization that the

Consort of the reigning Monarch of the United Kingdom had visited a Zoroastrian place of worship.

His Royal Highness arrived promptly at 11:00 am in a Land Rover (a "Zoroastrian car" as he remarked later, referring to the recent acquisition of Jaguar and Land Rover by the Tata Group) and was greeted with a traditional ceremonial welcome and garland by ladies in *garas* and colorful Iranian dress. The 90-year old Prince, dressed in an unassuming business suit, entered the Zartoshty Brothers Hall to a standing ovation from the distinguished gathering of Zoroastrians, interfaith leaders and dignitaries from Harrow. Among those presented formally to H.R.H. were Bomi Patel and Dinshaw Mehta, as presidents of the North American and Indian federations "where 75% of the Zoroastrians in the world reside." The program included a Thanksgiving Prayer service, presentations and awards, a visit to the Setayash Gah, a private lunch (of dhandar-patio) with ZTFE youth and inauguration of the Donors Gallery.

On behalf of the Zoroastrians of North America, Bomi Patel presented Prince Philip with a plaque bearing a silver farohar, inscribed:

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T.

Presented by Bomi Patel, President

Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America

On behalf of Zoroastrian Community in North America

October 6, 2011

(continued on next page)



Chalice presented to ZTFE

This historic event, so beautifully choreographed by ZTFE, has done much to further Zoroastrian relations in Britain and around the world. In appreciation, Bomi Patel presented ZTFE with a silver chalice bearing the inscription:

ZOROASTRIAN TRUST FUNDS OF EUROPE
Presented by
Bomi Patel, FEZANA President
On behalf of Zoroastrian Community in North America
October 6, 2011

[Read more about the Royal visit in the upcoming FEZANA Journal, Winter 2011]

Global Working Group Meets in London

The Global Working group representatives met in London at Zoroastrian Center for Europe on October 8-9 2011. This was the second meeting of GWG – the first one being held in Mumbai on January 8-9, 2011.

Fezana was represented by our President Bomi Patel, Behram Pastakia and Rohinton Rivetna. The Following Vision, Objectives and Action plan was adopted by GWG (FPZAI, FEZANA, ZTFE):

VISION

To be the global voice of the Parsi/Irani Zarathushti/Zoroastrian community worldwide and to function as a coordinating body for all regions of the world while at the same time respecting the autonomy of each region.

We are adopting the code of civil conduct as prepared by Ervad Dr. Ramiyar P. Karanjia.

OBJECTIVES

1. To protect and enhance the interest of Parsi/Irani Zarthushtis/Zoroastrians worldwide
2. To advance the study and dissemination of information and knowledge of the Zoroastrian faith and the community.

ACTION PLAN

1. Global youth exchange program — for age group 20 to 35 in March 2012 and age group 13 to 20 in December 2012.
2. India work experience program — for young people to be undertaken as soon as possible.
3. To examine and revert with support of at last Rupees 50 lakhs per annum for 3 to 5 years, for the formation of a New Mobed Trust proposed under the chairmanship of Dasturji Dr Firoze M. Kotwal, supported by Mr Nusli Wadia, BPP, PRG and others. The expected cost of amelioration of the priestly class in India inclusive of educational aid is estimated at Rupees 6 crores per annum.
4. To promote scholarship and create sustainable career opportunities for Zoroastrian scholars.
5. To promote and decide the venue of future World Congresses.
6. To inculcate the responsibility to perpetuate the community and reverse the declining population trend.

FEZANA will host the next GWG meeting in New York on July 31 and August 1, 2012.

[Read more about the GWG- London meeting in the upcoming FEZANA Journal, Winter 2011.] □

AROUND FEZANA...

Committee News

NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT: A new academic scholarship endowment has been established. FEZANA thanks Aban Rustomji and her family for their generous donation of \$100,000 to set up the Purvez & Aban Rustomji Scholarship Endowment Fund.

2011-2012 FEZANA Academic Scholarships Awarded

Recently, the Academic Scholarship Committee completed the selection process for the 2011-2012 FEZANA Academic Scholarships. The recipients, listed below, will be highlighted in the Spring / March 2012 issue of the *FEZANA Journal*.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowed Scholarship – The FEZANA Scholar [\$5000]

Dinsha Mistree Ph.D Candidate in Political Science at *Princeton University*
Dissertation on Corruption in the Indian Political System

FEZANA 20th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship for Academic Excellence [\$3000]

Sheena Driver Business Administration with emphasis on leadership Masters program at *John F Kennedy University, CA*

FEZANA Scholars [\$2000]

Azvina Mehta Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, *Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, Toronto*

Azar Noorafrouz Physical Therapy, *California State University*

Mazyar Boustani Geography Information Service, *California State University*

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Kapadia Endowed Scholarship [\$1000]

Erv. Cyrus Panthakee Economics, *Sir Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario*

Panthaky Endowed Scholarships [\$3000]

Bahman Zohour Chemical Engineering, *University of California - Los Angeles*

Zenia Tarapore Business Administration, *Sir Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario*

FEZANA Scholars [\$2000]

Navzad Dabu Broadcast Journalism, *Boston University, Boston*

Shiavax Rao Life Sciences, *University of Toronto, Ontario*

Erv. Bahrom Firozgary Biochemistry and Cellular Biology, *Rice University, Texas*

World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce Seeking Submissions For Grand Souvenir

The World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) is compiling articles for its Grand Souvenir to be launched at its upcoming Global Annual General Meeting to be held in Mumbai on January 7-8, 2012. It promises to be a slick publication with a global audience of Zoroastrian businessmen and professionals. Contributions with a perspective of Zoroastrian business worldwide are welcome including but not limited to personal entrepreneurial experiences, motivational stories or appropriate items of relevance to the target audience. Articles should be 500-1000 words. Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2011. Contact Yazdi Tantra for more details.

yazdit@gmail.com. □