

# FEZANA News Bulletin

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*January 2004*

## **GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR**

FEZANA wishes its members the best in 2004. We hope this year brings peace and harmony amongst Zarathushtis worldwide.

Looking back on 2003, FEZANA had a lot to celebrate. Communities worldwide and within North America took part in commemorating the 3000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture, a UNESCO associated event. For the first time, The John W. Kluge Center of the US Library of Congress in collaboration with UNESCO, and the World Zoroastrian Organization (WZO) held a seminar on “Zarathushtra’s Contributions to Humanity” to mark this important event on December 11, 2003 at the Library of Congress. Internationally renowned scholars like Ervad Jehan Bagli talked about *“Zarathushtra’s Times and His Monotheistic, Universal Faith”*; Dr. Farhang Mehr spoke about *“Zoroastrianism’s influence on World Religions, and the Relevance of its Concepts to Today’s Humanity”*; and, Professor Stanley Insler, Chairman Iranian Studies, Yale University talked on *“Zarathushtra’s Gathas: Basic Doctrines and Philosophy”*.

Unfortunately, last year on November 10, we mourned the loss of Ervad Dinshaw Joshi, a stalwart of the North American community. Ervad Dinshaw Joshi was one of the founder members of Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington D.C. He was the Chair of the FEZANA Awards Committee for several years and performed admirably. Ervad Dinshaw Joshi will always be remembered for the articulate and gentle manner with which he conducted himself. Dinshaw will be greatly missed at FEZANA functions!

Towards the end of the year we also witnessed a tragedy, a devastating earthquake that practically destroyed the ancient city of Bam, Iran. Initial reports revealed a few Zarathushtis were affected due to this tragedy. The FEZANA, Executive Board sanctioned \$1000 immediately to be used for aid and financial assistance required by individual and/or families. A letter of appeal was sent out to all member associations and small groups to contribute if they wished to. There is more information on this under updates. Also, an in depth article on “BAM – The Zarathushti Connection”, written by Roshan Rivetna is featured in the upcoming spring issue of the FEZANA Journal.

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**Fezana News Bulletin would like to make a correction in the October issue:**

➤ **Dr. Farhang Meher was incorrectly spelt; it should have been Dr. Farhang Mehr. We sincerely apologize for the mistake.**

# UPDATES

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## HIGHLIGHTS ON PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO INDIA

Firdosh Mehta, FEZANA President had a very successful trip to India. The first item on his agenda was attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Zarathushti Youth Congress in Pune. He was invited to present a paper on North American Demographics after which he was an observer for most of the sessions. The Congress was well attended by our North American youth, about 20 young adults from Canada and the U.S who together portrayed a positively inspiring image of FEZANA. The ZYNA members presented a donation to the Youth Wing of WZO to help with their various youth projects in Udvada. ***Look for more coverage from the youth in the Journal Spring '04 issue.***

In Mumbai,

- Firdosh had several meetings with Dinshaw Tamboly of WZO Trust Funds. Mr. Tamboly has been instrumental in supporting the Welfare Committee with transfer of financial aid funds in India. He was presented a plaque on behalf of FEZANA for his efforts.
- Firdosh met with Directors and Board members of the B.D. Petit Parsee General Hospital to review funds that were donated by an anonymous donor in the U.S. Information is on file with Rashid Mehin, FEZANA Treasurer.
- On January 8, 2004, Firdosh met with leaders from India (BPP) and England (ZTFE) involved in the Zarathushti World Body. The discussion was initiated with the understanding that attention will be paid to the Parsi/Irani/Iranian Zarathushti identity during the formation of the World Body. Also, the one World Body structure involving the IZO (International Zarathushti Organization), WZOI (world Zarathushti Organization of Individuals) and WZOF (World Zarathushti Organization of Federations) at the January 2003 meeting was now agreed upon in principle by all present at the meeting. The FEZANA WB-WG report from August 2003 was referred to during the meeting. In addition to those present, Behram Pastakia (ZAMWI), Cyrus Rivetna (ZAC, Chicago), and Sarosh Bana (WZO India-Youth Wing) were also present at the meeting. A tentative date for a future meeting for World leaders is set for July 1 - 4, 2004 in London, UK.

A joint communiqué will be published by BPP, the host of this meeting shortly, which will be forwarded to all. In the meantime if you have any further questions, **please contact Firdosh at (780) 438-4371 or [fdjmehta@telus.net](mailto:fdjmehta@telus.net)**

## **BAM, IRAN EARTHQUAKE**

The earthquake has affected two Zarathushti families, seven people in all. FEZANA Treasurer, Rashid Mehin has been in direct communication with Mr. Noozari, President of Kerman Anjuman of Iran. Mr. Noozari has been made aware of FEZANA collecting funds and has agreed to disperse funds in the best manner possible. As of now, FEZANA has collected a total of \$4000 from 3 member associations and about 30 individuals.

FEZANA has been made aware that adequate funds have been made available to cover immediate needs in Bam. An additional appeal will be sent out if more funds are required in the future

We have in the past seen natural disasters like earthquakes in India and now in Iran that have affected so many lives. Looking ahead to the future, it would be worthwhile to set up guidelines for reaching out into the community on such humanitarian issues. FEZANA is prepared to pursue different avenues for such projects wherein the Zarathushti spirit for charity within and outside the community is recognized and tapped into.

## **XII NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS**

**Host: Zoroastrian Association of Northern California**

**Venue: Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, Santa Clara**

**Date: December 29, 2004 – January 1, 2005**

The organizers are working hard to make this Congress an informative, thought provoking and fun experience for all who attend. The theme chosen for the Congress is ***"Being Zarathushti: Looking at Issues: Searching for Answers"***.

We have organized a well-rounded program to look at the issues facing Zarathushtis in North America (NA):

- The Gathas.
- What does "being an observant Zarathushti" mean in NA?
- Interfaith marriages – a discussion of issues.
- Relevance of Zoroastrianism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- What do we need to do now to assure the future of Zoroastrianism in NA?
- Zoroastrianism in the Internet Age – bringing together a dispersed community.
- Zoroastrian archaeology and efforts to preserve our heritage.

We have organized the Congress sessions to try and address all these issues so that no one issue dominates the discourse. We have invited speakers from many backgrounds: community members and university professors, young and

old, conservative and liberal. We hope that the sessions will generate Good Thoughts and Good Words that will be implemented as Good Deeds in the years to come.

In addition we have planned activities, entertainment and socializing time for all age groups. Gold Rush is a city tour of San Francisco for the youth. Two dances and an evening of Persian entertainment will exercise our more active guests. Finally, a New Year's Eve gala dinner will bring in the year 2005. We look forward to welcoming large numbers of you to this Congress.

For information on hotel reservations, Congress registration and other important information please visit: [www.zanc.org/congress](http://www.zanc.org/congress)

***Submitted by Bomi Patel, President of ZANC & Chair for Congress***

## **COMMUNICATION**

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### **2004 FEZANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Host: ZATAMBAY, Zoroastrian Association of Tampa Bay**

**Venue: AmeriSuites Tampa Airport/West Shore Hotel, Tampa, FL**

**Date: Friday May 28 – Sunday May 30, 2004**

The hotel arrangements will have to be made by individuals attending the meeting. The hotel rates are \$69.00 + 12% tax. This is for per night / double/quad occupancy. Register under the group name, " **FEZANA-AGM-ZORASTRIAN**" to get the discount. The booking has to be done directly by calling the hotel before **Thursday, April 29, 2004**.

**Telephone: 1-813-282-1037 and fax: 1-813-282-1128.**

Rita Engineer, FEZANA Secretary will be sending an early notice for the AGM with further details. It will be posted on the FEZANA web site.

We strongly urge our members and interested individuals to attend this meeting. This is an opportunity for us all to voice our ideas and views on issues pertaining to our community and beyond in a respectful and meaningful manner.

A post AGM and visit to the Sun City Center Retirement facility is also being planned by Yasmin and Rustom Kevala.

**Watch for more announcements on this!**

## **ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH OF NORTH AMERICA**

- ***ZYNA Representatives Needed***

ZYNA is looking for 2 (at least 1) representatives from each Association and Small Group in North America to be able to keep the local youth updated on youth activities throughout the year. The reps will also need to help in organizing activities in the area if applicable.

**Please forward their names and contact information to ZYNA; c/o Afreed Mistry at [amistry2525@yahoo.com](mailto:amistry2525@yahoo.com)**

- ***ZYNA Youth Database***

If your Association has a list/directory of youth, ZYNA would be interested in using the information to set up a database for youth as a means of communication. Ideally we would like to set up a ZYNA E-newsletter across North America and one across the globe.

If youth in your association would like to volunteer to help us out please let us know, please contact Afreed Mistry at [amistry2525@yahoo.com](mailto:amistry2525@yahoo.com)

***Afreed Mistry, Negin Shariyari, Freyaz Shroff, ZYNA Co-Chairs***

## **FEZANA CONSTITUTION RESOLUTION**

In early December, the Fezana executive sent out the following documents to all member Associations and their representatives:

- FEZANA Constitution Separation Resolution
- FEZANA Constitution Separation Ballot
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws

**The deadline to send in all the ballots is March 1, 2004.** If your association has not received these documents, please let us know ASAP.

We strongly encourage members to talk to their constituencies about this important resolution. As you know the North American community is growing rapidly and winds of change are upon us. The existing document has served the community well for the past two decades and more. However, to move into the next millennium the document requires flexibility to flow with the changing needs of the community.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call any one of us on the FEZANA Executive. ***Please do not miss this opportunity... get involved!***

## **FEZANA MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Statement of Annual Membership Dues was sent out to member associations for their immediate attention. Please send in the check (US dollars) for the appropriate amount together with a list of approved association adult members with their addresses as of December 31, 2003, with a completed statement **BEFORE February 29, 2004.**

***Mail to: Rita Engineer, Secretary FEZANA, 9141 Tivoli Place, Boca Raton, FL 33434***

It is important to send in the dues in order to be eligible for voting on resolutions and election purposes.

## **ELECTIONS FEZANA EXECUTIVE POSITIONS, 2004**

In 2004, the following positions on the executive board will be up for elections:

- President
- Treasurer
- Assistant Secretary

The nomination forms will be sent out soon. Therefore, it is imperative for members to be in good standing before they can even nominate any individuals. And to be a member in good standing, **please pay your dues for 2004.**

## **EXECUTIVE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION RESULT**

The resolution that allows travel expenses for President to travel outside of Canada and US to represent FEZANA internationally up to a maximum of US \$2500 per term.

- Resolution proposed by: the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation, Kobad Zarolia, President
- Resolution seconded by: Zoroastrian Association of California, Khushroo Lakdawala, President

Associations Voted: 14 out of 24  
Total votes cast: 43 out of 66 qualifying votes  
Total votes in favor: 42  
Total votes against: 1

The resolution passed with the simple majority. The letter was sent out earlier to all members. If there are further questions about this resolution please contact: Rita Engineer, Secretary FEZANA.

**A point to be noted is that only 65% (2/3rds) of the total qualifying votes were in. Out of 23 FEZANA Member Associations in good standing, only 14 sent votes in on time. The members need to participate more in FEZANA affairs to help us achieve our objectives to make FEZANA a successful organization.**

**If there is anything more we on the executive can do, let us know!**

## **EVENTS**

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- **2004 FEZANA Annual General Meeting, Tampa, Fl, May 28 – May 30 2004; visit [www.FEZANA.org](http://www.FEZANA.org)**
- **2004 Zarathushti Games, Vancouver, BC, July 1 – 4, 2004; visit [www.zsbc.org](http://www.zsbc.org) for information; [zsc@fezana.org](mailto:zsc@fezana.org) for Zarathushti sports**
- **XIII North American Zoroastrian Congress, San Francisco Bay area, December 29, 2004 – January 1, 2005; visit [www.zanc.org](http://www.zanc.org) for Congress information**

## **FEZANA JOURNAL**

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- ***Spring 2004 issue will feature “Strategies to Perpetuate the Zarathushti Religion and Communities”, Guest Editor: Jamshed Udvadia***

The Publications Committee Chair, Khorshed Jungalwala has requested participation from FEZANA members/individuals dated November 11, 2003. The Journal committee is looking for sponsors that are willing to bring this particularly informative issue of the Journal to the community.

Over the years the Journal has helped bring ideas and vision to the community in North America. This issue of the Journal brings to you articles filled with different viewpoints written by knowledgeable individuals. It promises to be an enlightening issue filled with inspiring thoughts that will prove to be of great consequence for our future generations.

- **Individual sponsors - \$100+**
- **Association/Corporate sponsors - \$250**

**PLEASE HURRY!!! YOUR EARLIEST RESPONSE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

***If willing to assist, please send in sponsorships/donations by February 10, 2004 to:***

***Khorshed Jungalwala, Chair- FEZANA Publications Committee  
53 Firecut Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776, USA***

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***FEZANA News Bulletin Editor***

***Mahrugh Motafram – FEZANA Vice President***