

FEDERATION of ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS of NORTH AMERICA

Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of FEZANA

Place: Wingate Hotel,
239 Summit Park Drive, Buckhead, GA

Date: Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28, 2006

Present at the meeting:

The Executive Officers:

President

Firdosh Mehta

Vice-President

Bomi Patel

Secretary

Rita Engineer

Assistant Secretary

Farrokh Mistree

Treasurer

Rashid Mehin

Representatives of the Member Associations:

Atlanta Zarathushti Anjuman (AZA)

Cyrus Aidun

Zoroastrian Association of Alberta (ZAA)

Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston (ZAGBA)

Jerry Kheradi

Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC)

Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC)

Darayus Mistry

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
(ZAC-Chicago)

Hosi Mehta

Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH)

Farrokh Mistree

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY)

Homi Gandhi

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF)

Niloufer Bhesania

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO)

Sam Vesuna

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ)

Dolly Dastoor

Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey (ZAPANJ)

Katayun Kapadia

Zoroastrian Assoc. of Metropolitan Washington (ZAMWI)

Behram Pastakia

Zoroastrian Assoc. of Pennsylvania (ZAPA)

Houtoxi Contractor

Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC)

Nazneen Spliedt

Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT)

Behram Irani

California Zoroastrian Center (CZC)

Rashid Mehin

Representatives of the Committees:

Awards

Congress TOR

External Affairs

Academic Education Scholarship Fund

Funds and Finance

Rohinton Rivetna

Dolly Dastoor

Jerry Kheradi

Information Receiving and Disseminating
Research & Preservation Committee
Small Groups
Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC)
World Body Working Group

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA)
North American Congress
Performing & Creative Arts Scholarship

Roshan Rivetna
Er. Jehan Bagli
Dr. Kia Kaviani
Bijan Khosraviani
Farrokh Mistree
Rohinton Rivetna
Freyaz Shroff
Bomi Patel
Sherazade Mehta

Observers

Celeste Kheradi - ZAGBA
Bonnie & Hoshang Karani - ZAC-Chicago
Elher Spliedt –ZANC
Mahrukh Motafram – ZAC
Dolly Malva-CA
Rashna Mehta –ZANT
Yasmin Kevala –ZAF
Farida Irani-ZANT
Afsaneh Mehin-CZC
Rusi Gandhi -WZCC

Welcome by host association AZA

The meeting commenced with benediction led by Er. Jehan Bagli

At this point, President Firdosh Mehta informed the group about Jerry Kheradi being taken to the hospital last night with chest pains. He assured the shocked group that Jerry was doing much better and that throughout the day everyone would be kept informed of his recovery. He then requested that everyone maintain a 2 minute silence with a prayer for his health and quick recovery.

Nairika Kotwal-Cornett of AZA was then given the floor to offer AZA’s welcome to all the AGM delegates and to discuss housekeeping issues. The PowerPoint slide presentation of “I have a dream...by Zareer Siganporia” was displayed as she went through a brief description of each dream and its realization.

She then continued to brief the delegates on the timings for lunch and dinner for the evening activities and gave out cell numbers for emergency contact. The delegates were requested to show up in the lobby of the hotel at 6:30 pm sharp that evening for the Jashan to be followed by dinner and entertainment. She opened the floor to any questions the delegates may have.

Firdosh thanked AZA for their hard work in hosting this AGM and for their warm welcome to all delegates. Taking a point out of Nairika Kotwal’s message, he said that baby boom was good for our community and with that he invited Sherry to come up to the podium to accept FEZANA’s contribution for hosting this AGM.

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Quorum was established by President, Firdosh Mehta. He advised that 54 out of 71 Qualifying Votes were present and that 15 out of the 24 associations were represented and thus more than 2/3rd of the qualifying votes and or members represented were present in person. He thanked everyone present for attending the 19th AGM. He pointed out that FEZANA's AGM while open to observers, voting on issues discussed was only for the FEZANA's Board (Associations) Members. The meeting would follow Robert's Rules (a copy of which was shown); Observers were welcome to make suggestions and partake in discussions. The Board needs to move on with the agenda as FEZANA's work is carried out through the various Ad Hoc and Standing Committees. The Board has the responsibility of passing the motions while Executives' responsibility is to execute those motions. Our committees have grown and hence their reports are important. All budget requests are brought to the table at the AGM.

The 19th Annual General Meeting Agenda was approved as amended with slight changes as passed on to the group.

Election Results:

The much awaited election results were officially announced and Firdosh Mehta opened the sealed results envelope and the results:

Total Votes:	71
#of Votes received:	66
Abstentions	5

Rustom Kevala	Winner	President with 26.35 votes Homi Gandhi 23.2 votes Hosi Mehta 16.4 votes
Katayun Kapadia	Winner	Treasurer by acclamation
Anahita Daryushnejad	Winner,	Assistant Secretary with 40.75 votes
Vahishta Flahati		Assistant Secretary -22.45 votes

Firdosh thanked Atlanta's local representative, Er. Rustom Kanga for his support and presence on the Ballot Committee. He then congratulated all the winners and Rustom Kevala and Katayun Kapadia were given the floor to make an address to the group in their newly appointed role. Anahita Daryushnejad could not attend the AGM due to previous commitments. She was informed of her victory.

The newly elected President, Rustom Kevala addressed the delegates thanking all those that voted for him. Reciting a quote: "Be careful what you ask for as you might just get it..." Rustom stated that he did ask God to give him Firdosh's ability to say jokes, but that wish was not given, instead he was given Firdosh's job of being the next President of FEZANA. He continued on to thank AZA for their excellent hosting of the AGM and in particular liked the "I have a dream..." presentation. He referred to Hillary Clinton's

book, “It takes a village” to point out that AZA as a small group achieved great results. So in fact, it does not take a village, just a few strongly committed people to bring about results. He further went on to comment that right now he felt like President Bush as all past Presidents were watching him as FEZANA’s past accomplishments/accolades, was a tough one to follow.

Rustom then presented his three point plan for his team and FEZANA. In view of the fact that for the past 4 years he made a decision to gradually step back and continue his work outside of FEZANA as he wanted to feel how it would be to be “outside” the frenzy of activities. Because of that, he now believes that he can see a much broader picture of where we are and what future we are hoping for. His three point plan is to:

1. Build a United Zarathushti Community
2. Make Zarathushti presence an Integral part of the N. American Landscape
3. Develop a viable infrastructure in N. America

He invited all to come forward and send him written thoughts on what was most important to them, and what role each would like to play to ensure a successful outcome. He requested all to respond directly to him at RJKevala@aol.com. His agenda of accomplishing this would be to receive Community inputs within the 1st month, to implement a master plan within 3 months and the key to the success of this plan is open communications.

Lastly, Rustom ended his speech by thanking his wife Yasmin whose support and confidence and sacrifice has made this possible for him.

Katayun Kapadia the new elected Treasurer was then given the floor to say a few words. Katayun thanked all for their vote of confidence in her and was reminded of her past role in FEZANA as Secretary and that she was very glad to be back into the FEZANA fold again. She expressed her thanks to AZA for their warm hospitality and remembers the time when ZAPANJ as a small group hosted the AGM – she feels the next step for AZA would be to bid on a Congress!!

As the newly elected Assistant Secretary Anahita Daryushnejad was not present, President Firdosh Mehta went on to the next item on the agenda being the motion of ZAKOI being inducted into FEZANA. He conveyed to the delegates that ZAKOI had complied with all the requirements for being a member of FEZANA and now needed only the approval. The motion was put on the floor and ZAMWI moved the motion, ZANT seconded and all in favor, the motion was passed unanimously making ZAKOI the 25th member of FEZANA.

Approval of the 2004 AGM Minutes:

The 18th FEZANA AGM minutes were approved with the following changes:

Page 5: “Celeste Kheradi, Rashna Mehta and Afsaneh Mehin for looking after the FEZANA Table top distribution and **preparation.**” Should read as “Celeste Kheradi, Rashna Mehta and Afsaneh Mehin for looking after the FEZANA Table top distribution and **presentation.**”

Page 11: Sentence... “Sam Vesuna was unable to attend the AGM as he was busy with the **Green** Ball, a big fund raising event.” Should read as, “...Sam Vesuna was unable to attend the AGM as he was busy with the **Dream** Ball, a big fund raising event.”

Page 11: “and the Building Capital Group is working towards re-building a bigger center, for which **\$1.2** million is needed” Should be corrected to read as ...” and the Building Capital Group is working towards re-building a bigger center, for which **\$2.2 million** is needed...”

Since there were not matters to be addressed from the minutes, Firdosh requested for a motion for the approval of the minutes with above corrections - ZAGNY moved the motion, ZAQ seconded and all in favor – the motion was passed and 2005 AGM minutes approved.

Reports from Officers:

President Firdosh Mehta welcomed everyone present and thanked Nairika Cornett, Cyrus K. Aidun, Khurshed Avari, Gulshan Deboo, Er. Rustam Kanga, Farrokh Mistree, Meher Patel, Sherry Unwala, and AZA members for hosting the Nineteenth FEZANA AGM and contributing their time and resources to successfully organize this event. He continued on to mention that much of FEZANA’s success was dependent on its achievements, mainly accomplished by the various committees and by generous donations received

He thanked the untiring efforts of Homi Gandhi and Behram Pastakia that resulted in the continued growth of the UN – NGO. Houtoxi Contractor and Hosi Mehta with Freyaz Shroff, continued to provide services for Welfare and Critical Assistance, which were recognized by the worldwide community. These donations were possible in part by private donations, fund raisers and proceeds from the Damkevala Endowment, which saw another donation added recently. He emphasized that FEZANA was extremely fortunate to receive almost \$100,000 from Jasmine & Firdaus Bhatena for critical and medical welfare and to note the \$100,000 donated to BD Petit Parsi Gen Hosp by an anonymous donor during his term.

He informed the group of the already disbursed funds to support Zoroastrian Association of Houston and some individual Zarathushtis to alleviate the Katrina/Rita Hurricanes aftermath. FEZANA was also instrumental in providing support to the victims of the Pakistan Earth Quake through WZO USA offices and the assistance of Ms. Toxy Cowasji of Karachi. Under the project leadership of Meher Amalsad, a massive collection of clothing was organized all across USA and Canada, and with the pro-bono shipping support from UPS FEZANA was able to send 526 boxes. Firdosh expressed his thanks to all who participated in this, especially OMAR ASGHAR KHAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION. FEZANA is indebted to Ms. Randeria for her assistance in disbursement of funds to the needy areas affected by the TSUNAMI in south east India.

During his term, the WZO celebrated their 25th anniversary of remarkable community welfare service, and FEZANA was fortunate to have had the opportunity to play a small role in that process. FEZANA received an invitation to their, WZO's program, a letter of felicitation and their Recognition Citation to FEZANA.

At this juncture Firdosh welcomed Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly, who (through the offices of WZO Trust India) had been extremely supportive of FEZANA, and provided useful information and insight into the myriad of donations forwarded to needy individuals and organizations in INDIA. FEZANA transferred almost \$ 60,000 (that is more than 25 Lakhs of rupees) during the 4 years of this administration. Mr. Tamboly was invited to say a few words.

Mr. Dinshaw Tomboly thanked AZA for their warm welcome and excellent hosting of the AGM and thanked FEZANA for inviting him to attend this AGM and giving him this opportunity of addressing the group. He thanked FEZANA for recognizing the 3 WZO trusts in India and for the various FEZANA contributions to the WZO trusts. He continued to explain and clarify that WZO trusts had expanded and were now utilized beyond the traditional boundaries. WZO trusts focused on youth starting businesses, discouraged the use of dole, and moved in the direction of educating the youth in keeping with their capabilities. He mentioned some of the WZO projects, namely the Farmers' Rehabilitation Project that initiated and supported modern agricultural methods. Self Employment Scheme of interest free financial support of Rs300k. Opening of Senior Citizen Center in Navsari, 1998 January which has been filled to capacity and this led to Behram Baxter building another second Center in December of 2003 which has 85% occupancy already. WZO is already looking for further development in this area. The development and education of young mobeds; a total of nearly Rs.10million initiated in 1995 and now supported nearly 53 full time mobeds of which 23 perform high level ceremonies and the balance 23 cater to smaller prayers and ceremonies. Their monthly support was directly linked to the ceremonies they performed and could go as high as Rs100, 000 per month. WZO continues their efforts to raise funds for these various diversified project and goal was to raise \$6.5 million in the next 16 years. Mr. Tamboly acknowledge the role North America played in the WZO projects, special mention of Farhang Mehr, Keki Bhote, Er. Jehan Bagli and FEZANA for their support of WZO.

At this point, Firdosh mentioned that the partnership between FEZANA and WZO was very fulfilling. Firdosh informed the group that he started with a small group, ZAA and his association with that group and Canada being memorable he felt it appropriate to present Dinshaw with a book on Canada.

Continuing on with his report, Firdosh acknowledged the FEZANA Academic Education Scholarship Fund Committee, Chaired by Dolly Dastoor, along with the proceeds from Mehraban & Morvorid Kheradi Endowment, for having awarded many scholarships to students, and that FEZANA cannot thank Jehangir & Celeste Kheradi enough for their generosity and their enormous efforts on the Funds & Finance Committee, and to all other donors who made this all possible. Recently FEZANA was fortunate to receive \$

25,000 for undergraduate student scholarship endowment from Dr. Behram and Siloo Kapadia.

The FEZANA Religion Education Committee under the chairmanship of Kayomارش Mehta, issued support for higher religion education. The Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Scholarship Fund was awarded to many individuals over the past few years; Firdosh extended FEZANA's sincere thanks to the Zardoshty sisters of Arizona.

The Performing & Creative Arts Scholarship Fund, Co-Chaired by Anahita Sidhwa and Sherazade Mehta have awarded seven scholarships so far and continued to assist the young members of the community in this field of activity.

After many years of working at it, a new FEZANA Excellence in Sports Scholarship was now instated and FEZANA was proud of this addition.

The Chair of the Information Dissemination & Publications Committee, Khorshed Jungalwala, will apprise the group of their achievements later on and he commended the world-class publication FEZANA JOURNAL, under the editorship of Roshan Rivetna who, he stated, has now stepped down from her work as Editor of the Journal. FEZANA was very grateful to Roshan for the innumerable hours and years spent in producing this masterpiece.

Firdosh announced the "ROSHAN & ROHINTON RIVETNA AWARD AND ROTATING TROPHY", and invited Roshan to come forward and accept the award.

Firdosh welcomed Dr. Dolly Dastoor as the new Editor-In-Chief of the Journal and remarked that he and FEZANA had full confidence that she will continue with the excellent work done by Roshan.

The Co-Chairs of ZYNA, Afreed, Freyaz & Negin organized a very successful North American Youth Congress in Miami in December 2005.

Firdosh considered himself very fortunate to have attended The WZCO5 in London, and The Barcelona Interfaith Conference, as officially representing FEZANA. The Congress was a wonderful experience.

FEZANA now seeks support for the next World Congress planned in Dubai, in Dec. 2009/Jan.10, chaired by Mrs. Meher Bhesania; and for the next World Youth Congress in Ballarat Australia in Dec 2007/Jan 2010, chaired by Shiraz Mistry.

He thanked the FEZANA World Body Ad-Hoc committee for volunteering to review, analyze and offer advice on the IZO/WZOF/WZOI Drafts documents.

He also thanked the Executive Officers for their effort and support, and Framroze Patel for helping Rashid Mehin with the Financial Statements and IRS TAX submissions.

On behalf of FEZANA he acknowledged and thanked the Executive Officers and Committee Chairs for their active participation and hard work throughout the year.

Last but not least, he thanked the Board Members for their continued support and trust in the Executives and giving the opportunity to serve the community.

He acknowledged that he was indebted to Rashna for being a most supportive spouse in so many ways, and to Sherazade, his daughter for turning out to be such a wonderful young ZARATHUSHTI for the service of the community.

He hopes that FEZANA continues to perform the yeoman service it has done so far for Zarathushtis all over North America and the world.

Vice President: Bomi Patel thanked AZA for their warm hospitality and stating that small associations did do things well. See text. See Firdosh's report. Katrina – played small part. Sadra and Kushti Pakistan – played part ... house used as shipping point 8,000 lbs of clothes. F&F thanks for years of service. Rustom – welcome. Brother Bomi was cub master. Look forward to working with you.

Secretary, Rita Engineer, thanked AZA for their hospitality and their support in hosting this AGM. She stated that she now looked forward to the next AGM in Dallas. She thanked the Executive team for their support in her role as Secretary and thanked FEZANA Member Associations for their support in the execution of her duties. She thanked Firdosh for his excellent leadership and thorough follow up and felt that it was evident that he Firdosh was more of a Secretary then she was! Rashid's laid back manner made it easy to work with him while Farrokh kept her on her toes with his attention to details and FEZANA's image in mind. She was thankful for their supportive role in FEZANA and her in particular. She continued on to say that having seen FEZANA's growth in the past years as Secretary, she felt it was awe-inspiring to see the work being done to preserve this religion, these traditions and felt it truly was a great religion worthy of preservation and continuation. She wished the newly elected Executives best of luck in their new positions and offered her full support.

Assistant Secretary, Farrokh Mistree conveyed that he has always been the conscience of FEZANA and executed his duties with FEZANA's interest in mind at all times. He conveyed that he would continue his support of the website as he has worked closely with Zubin Medora bearing in mind what should and what should not be put out there.

At this point, Dolly Dastoor took the podium to present cards to Firdosh, Farrokh and Rashid with thanks from the entire community for their untiring service to FEZANA and the community. Firdosh's awesome leadership and zest will be remembered even if he did micromanage at times!!

The motion for maintaining current fee structure or altering of FEZANA membership dues was put out on the floor. OZCF moved this motion, seconded by ZANC, all rest in favor – motion was successfully passed to maintain FEZANA's current fee structure.

The motion for confirming the current travel reimbursement \$2,500 per term for President's travel outside of the US for FEZANA work was put to vote – ZSO moved this motion, seconded by ZAC-Chicago, ZAH abstained, rest all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

At this time AZA team members distributed a small token to all the delegates and visitors with grateful thanks to Meher Patel.

Treasurer, Rashid Mehin presented FEZANA's Financial Statement. He thanked AZA for the excellent hosting of the AGM specially the beautiful hotel and its surroundings. Rashid felt that this year he saw a need of making a formal presentation of his financial statement in a power point making it as simple as money in and money out. He thanked Framroze Patel and Bhim Sharma for auditing the financial statement.

Treasurer's Report:

Rashid Mehin, Treasurer presented FEZANA's 2005 Financial Statement with a simple PowerPoint presentation outlining the financials in its very simplicity. **(Attachment1)** Rashid pointed out that audited financial statement audited by Bhim sharma Certified Public Accountant are included in the package that all members have for their own review.

He informed all members that financial accounts have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals. Their have not been any change in method of accounting or Accounting policies.

Audited Financial Accounts as well as tax returns were prepared, on cash basis by Mr.Framroze Patel, as he had been doing it in previous years. Rashid thanked both Mr. Fromroze Patel and Mr. Bhim Sharma and requested a letter of thanks to be sent to Mr. Bhim Sharma for his voluntary service to FEZANA for last several years, Mr. Firdosh Mehta accepted to send a letter of thanks to him on behalf of FEZANA.

Rashid thought the creation of an Assistant treasurer is justified due to the large volume of activities then he continued with his power point presentation of Financial Affair of Fezana and he said, that he felt a presentation in management accounting format would better explain and highlights the FEZANA's financial state of affairs and its activities.

FEZANAZ's income is mainly from Membership dues, Advertisement, sale of journal and some investment income. Total income was close to \$11,000.00 after a loss of \$10,254.00 from sale of Fezana Journals. Mrs. Roshan Rivetna said higher cost of printing was due to increased number of pages and higher cost of postage.

FEZANA journal is the best and effective way of communication with our Zarathushti community members. He acknowledges and thanked the dedication, hard work and the time that Roshan had put into FEZANA Journal. At this time Dr. Dolly Dastoor, newly appointed chief editor said she hopes that she can do as a good a job as Roshan did, it is a big shoe to fill in.

Expenses were only \$6,865.00 mainly Plaque & Trophies for \$1,509.00 and Travel Expenses of \$3,025.00 for outside US travel.

Total Assets at the end of Year 2005 was \$657,345.00 comparing to the low of \$300,000 in Year 2002.

\$288,030.00 of Current assets was in cash and cash equivalent accounts and the rest were in investment accounts.

Sport committee, ZYNA, and Welfare committee have their own separate bank accounts. The balances on these accounts fluctuate some times they have a high balance. Receiving information on some of these accounts is challenging, he thought opening sub accounts should be avoided if possible and a maximum limit on these accounts need to be set for internal control purpose. . Katayun Kapadia said she is going to consider setting a limit of \$10,000.00 for each Account.

Three investments Account with Ameritrade were with the total market value of \$391,502.00 with \$117,696.00 in general account, \$148,675.00 in D. M. Kevala Welfare and \$125,131.00 in Kheradi Scholarship account.

Rashid continued on liabilities and fund balances, explained that funds have been categorized under three separate heading, Specified funds are those fund that donors have donated their donation for specific purpose, the balance in this fund was \$42,833.00 at the end of 2005.

\$10,757.00 of this fund was received for Nazneen Kolah's cancer treatment which was not used by Kolah's family and they wish this amount to be utilized for cases similar to Nazneen case, without any delay period for fund raising. Rashid thought this account should be kept open for the use of cancer patients.

\$11,843.00 in this fund was received for Mitra Irani HIV AIDS, which was never used, to this date due to lack of information on her needs and legitimacy in his opinion it would be prudent this fund to be kept in separate account for HIV AIDS patients in need. The rest of this fund has already been distributed to the purpose which was received.

Endowment funds are those funds which have been received and are to be invested and the income from the investment to be used for the cause which has been donated. The balance in these funds is \$287,500.00 which consists of four funds:

1. Keradi Scholarship fund \$111,924.00,
2. D.M.Kevala \$135,567.00,
3. Kapadia Scholarship \$25,000.00
4. Pheroze Dorabji Education \$15,000.00.

Fezana also, received 4,653 shares of Cisco Company from Firdos Bhatena for critical Assistance in this category.

In 2006 two separate accounts, one for Kapadia Scholarship fund and the other for Firdos Bhathena Critical Assistance with Ameritrade have been opened and related securities and balances have been transferred to these accounts.

In 2005 one scholarship of \$5,000.00 was awarded to one candidate for merit from Kheradi Scholarship fund.

RESTRICTED FUNDS are those to be used whenever needed for the purpose received without any time limitation. The balance in this fund is \$325,324.00, which are:

1. Mobed Feridoon Zardoshty religious Scholarship \$17,000
2. Fezana Scholarship \$4,046.00
3. Youth \$78,289.00
4. Properties \$10,000.00
5. Religious Education \$20,579.00
6. Journal \$57,918.00
7. FEZANA critical Assistance \$29,195.00,
8. FEZANA welfare \$34,784.00
9. General \$58,493.00
10. K.Harvesf Medical Assistance \$900.00
11. Rrfuge Fund \$211.00
12. Bajmai Surti Foundation \$2,500.00
13. Funds for Zarthushties from Iran to attend congresses abroad \$3,240.00. This fund was established from donation of \$5,000.00 received from Mr. Alayar Dabestani.

Dr. Dolly Dastoor raised question of how come the balance in Scholarship is so low, Rashid replied that this is the only fund Fezana pays out of \$10,000.00 a year and more needs to be done by way of fund raising in this area. Rashid further stated that the community was very much responsive to the needs of the community, when asked for, especially when needed for the critical and welfare assistance.

FEZANA helped many needy in India through the Fezana critical assistance fund and fund raising for specific need.

Rashid thought that the help for needy Zarthushties in the continent of USA should be increased through seeking them out.

Five scholarships of \$1,000.00 awarded from Mobed Faridoon Zardoshty religious fund. Six Graduate students and five under graduate students received total of \$10,000.00 from FEZANA scholarship fund.

Youth congress held in Florida was successful and profitable.

All of contributions were made possible to India and Pakistan through the good offices of WZO. Bam Earthquake fund was transferred to Kerman Anjuman through Alberta Zoroastrian Association. Rashid acknowledged and thanked Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly for his help and dedication to the community.

Rashid continued highlights of some of the works done by FEZANA during last four years and then read a letter from Bhim Sharma, CPA which he had received the same day, per his request for the record.

The letter basically conveyed that because of his, Bhim's, close association with Zoroastrians both in India and New Jersey he was honored that FEZANA had asked him to express an opinion on the financial statements. And he rendered opinion for fiscal 1994 and 1998, both the opinion were unqualified as well as for fiscal 2005. He wished to emphasize that for internal control point of view, all bank accounts should be operated and controlled by the treasurer or the person designated by the board. At the end he expressed that he was glad to have been of some assistance to the Zarthushti community. Rashid requested a vote of thanks for Bhim Sharma, CPA to be recorded in the minutes.

Mr Homi Gandhi wanted to know why Mr. Sharma had made the comment ".....unqualified." This was discussed at length and a decision was arrived at that the newly elected Treasurer, Katayun Kapadia would work on giving guidelines for the next Financial Statement as well as present financial status as of December 30, 2006.

Rashid reported that he had shipped all financial documents and paperwork for the last four years, (except the current ones which were handed over to Katayun Kapadia), to Mrs. Roshan Rivetna to be kept in FEZANA storage. A copy of Power point presentation was passed on to Rita Engineer FEZANA Secretary for records.

Presentation of Budget for the Year Jan. 1 to December 31, 2006 would be ongoing with Committee reports and requests.

ZAH moved a motion to close and approve the 2005 **Financial Statement for the period Jan. 1, 2005 - Dec. 31, 2005**; ZANT seconded, ZAC Chicago opposed, all in favor and the motion was passed.

Sam Vesuna thanked Mr. Bhim Sharma, CPA for auditing the Financial Accounts and requested that a comparative study of how FEZANA accounts be presented.

Motion to pass the Audited financial statement by Sharma was put on the floor. ZAPA moved the motion, seconded by ZACC. Outcome: Unanimous.

Official letters of thanks to be sent to Bhim Sharma, CPA and Framroze Patel for their assistance in the preparation of the 2005 Financial Statements

Reports from Member Associations:

Zoroastrian Association of North Texas: Behram Irani thanked AZA for their hospitality and thanked Rashid for his presentation of the financial statement. He then introduced power point slides outlining ZANT's accomplishments in 2005 and goals for the coming years. ZANT continued to grow strong in numbers with nearly 200-250 members, approx. 150+ families with nearly 110 children. Their 13 committees

continued their strong efforts towards fund raising, newsletters, website directory and lastly towards the ZANT center an ongoing effort in getting the project off the ground. Normal festivities such as religious classes, both for kids and adults, Nouruz, Meherghan, Tirgan, etc, picnics, overnight outings, youth career workshop, youth essay competition, rodeo trips ski trips, bowling, skating to name a few. ZANT also organized a trip to Houston and invited guest speakers such as Cyrus Rivetna, Cyrus Siganporia and Dr. Farhang Mehr all well received by members. ZANT continues their strong focus towards a ZANT community center and have put in place a Mission Statement to raise 1.2 million by Dec.2006 and build the ZANT community Center. The Capital Campaign was well on its way with great efforts by all.

As the host for the 2007 20th FEZANA AGM Behram Irani gave a presentation expressing ZANT's delight in hosting the next AGM and looking forward to FEZANA's 20th birthday in Dallas. An AGM committee is already in place with Firdosh Mehta as the chair. Two hotels have been identified near the DFW airport and details will be firmed up soon.

Firdosh Mehta brought to the attention of all delegates that there could be a conflict with the upcoming 2007 AGM during the memorial day weekend as Houtoxi Contractor's, President ZAPA, daughter was getting married that same weekend and a lot of FEZANA delegates may be attending the wedding. This was discussed at length as Rustom Kevala, the newly appointed President expressed that the AGM should be held within 3 months of the financial closing. It was decided to let the newly elected Executives work out the details and inform the Board accordingly. Bomi Patel, VP Chair of the Planning Committee will work out the dates.

Firdosh Mehta put forth the official call for hosting the **21st FEZANA AGM in 2008.**

Zoroastrian Association of Northern California, Nazneen Spliedt: During the year 2005 ZANC continued to hold its regular activities throughout the year. Aside from having celebrations for Navroze, Papeti, and Annual Ghambar, ZANC also organized fun activities where adults and kids came together and the various generations interacted. A picnic and car rally/treasure hunt, Halloween themed costume party and Bingo night were some of the other fun activities. Navroze was celebrated with a luncheon and entertainment as well holding ZANC's AGM at a local Indian restaurant. August Parsi New Year, a jashan was held in the Atash Kadeh followed by music, dancing and dinner on the San Jose Dare-mehr grounds. The India Community Centre designated August as Parsi month and ZANC organized wall displays showcasing the history of the Parsis in India. This was in their series of showcasing each Indian State every month. August 28th was celebrated as Parsi Day when the members, adults and children, presented a skit and songs plus a power point presentation about the Parsis and their culture. Roshni Kasad represented FEZANA at the UN-NGO conference in New York, with other FEZANA representatives. Some of our members gave talks on Zoroastrianism and represented us at various Inter-Faith groups. ZANC was invited to give an opening talk at the World Music Festival's project Noruz in San Francisco, on the Zoroastrian beginnings of Navroze. The Stanford University lecture series was well attended and there was a proposal to have Zoroastrian classes on the Standford

University curriculum. 2005 was a successful year that kept the community harmoniously together and reasonably active.

Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) Darayus Mistry thanked the Atlanta Association for being such a great Host and organizer. 2005 was a great year for ZAC and they actively initiated the ZAC Hall fundraising drive. To perpetuate the revenue they did a walkathon which raised 20K on a Sunday afternoon and will be hosting a Natak in September. ZAC continues with the annual religious and social events such as Navroze, Papeti, Picnics, Hollywood Bowl musical night, annual summer camps, gambhars & AGM's. At their last AGM it was heart warming to see 4 Dastoorjis & 5 young adults being trained to become Navars sit in for the Jashan Ceremony. ZAC's primary focus is "youth" as they continue to foster youth activities and participation. To validate this, ZAC's current executive committee consists of 60% youth! Getting youth involved and supporting them continues to be an ongoing challenge. Every 2 years ZAC hosts a youth show which raises approximately 10 to 12K and is 100% youth organized. The natak which concluded the evening in a most recent youth show was written and directed by ZAC's youth and had 95% youth performers. ZAC website is now managed and is in the process of being upgraded by a ZAC youth, with specific goals & objectives to support them & the community needs.

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago: (ZAC-Chicago), Hosi Mehta thanked Atlanta Association, President Nairika, Farrokh and all for their hard work to make everyone's stay comfortable. Just one complaint, he came to Georgia Atlanta for the first time, was shown the southern hospitality, Framroze was sent to pick him up at the airport, checked in to the Hotel and was handed a tray full of fruits and chocolate! But when he reached his room and opened the package and.... there were no peaches!! Whatever happened to the Georgia peaches!! Thanked AZA for the excellent job and said that the next time he visits Atlanta, AZA will have its own place and Hosi pointed out that he holds Cyrus Aidun responsible for that. Chicago Association continues to be involved in customer service from pre birth to post death. Events such as baby showers, navjotes, weddings, death ceremonies, Mukta ceremonies, seasonal Jashan, ghambhars, Navroze functions in March and September, Daar-ni-Pori making session on Ava month and Ava Roj etc. etc. are just some of the highlights. ZAC is fortunate to have over fifteen priests, two generations, who offer their services. Every four to five years a priest is sponsored and Hosi felt that every Association could do the same and help a Zarathushti priest and family settle in USA as a permanent resident. This entire process takes less than a year and if any association interested in sponsoring to let him know and ZAC will help with the necessary steps. For the first time ZAC sponsored a priest from Iran and they are awaiting his arrival within a couple of months. ZAC participates in Interfaith Activities, in house and as well as in other communities and he pointed out to Rohinton Rivetna saying that he, Rohinton was the father of all Interfaith activities and involvement. ZAC continues to have visitors in house and during such a visits they break up in three groups, first group in the prayer hall to explain and talk about rituals and customs, second group talked about ZAC's and Zoroastrian history and the third group talked about how religion plays an important

part in day to day life. Other customary holidays like New Year eve dance, mothers day, fathers day, graduation party were also celebrated. Religion classes for children and adults, Youth camp every summer when kids from seven different states attended. An active ZAC YAC youth group where young adults age eighteen through thirty five met and discussed events and activities. Very active seniors group and ZAC actively supported WZCC. ZAC will be hosting the first Scholars Conference next month with the goal to get scholars to speak on our level and bridge the gap. As is evident from all the above, ZAC is a very active community.

Zoroastrian Association of South Florida (ZAF) Khushroo Daruwalla pointed out the new ZAF logo incorporating water and fire and the new look of the newsletter Zor and More, the name given by one of the ZAF kids, Pauli Bhada. ZAF comprised of families within a 60/20 mile range, from West Palm Beach to Miami. Zoroastrians in S. Florida have been meeting informally since 1974 and eventually in 1994 ZAF was founded. ZAF has grown and many activities added in the past years. Z-Club was recently started, a monthly cultural forum for Children; participation in the local AIA association events, a Z-Cub production; donation drives, external focus and support of FEZANA and ZYNA during the last congress in Miami; Parsi Natak and many more. ZAF too has seen a baby boom adding to the growing ZAF population of nearly 45 families. For a small community ZAF has 6 practicing mobeds!! Other activities include Disaster relief during Katrina and relief for the Pakistan earthquake, WZCC opportunity announcements, and joint directory with other Florida groups, viz. ZATAMBAY, Orlando/Central Florida. ZAF continues to face the usual challenge – a Community Center. Efforts towards collecting funds remain a prime focus. Total member count is still small, more involvement in local government as well as community involvement.

Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation, Niloufer Bhesania; OZCF established in 2002 with a mission to build a place of worship and community center to accommodate the future needs of an increasing Z population in the Greater Toronto Area of nearly 4000++ ! Raised \$1.3 m to date with more to come. With regards to building a Darbe Mehr, Niloufer expressed that this was not just a sprint, nor a marathon, but a relay where the baton was passed on and on bringing the group closer to the goal. OZCF has already purchased land, naming it ZRCC – Zoroastrian Religious and Community Centre. Two existing structures on this land are being currently used for all their activities and they hosted an open air ceremony/Jashan conducted by 15 mobeds and attended by over 600 community members. OZCF hosted the usually annual events such as Fasli and Shenshahi events and even had their first Muktrad ceremonies at ZRCC!! 1600 saplings were planted at the ZRCC by over 50 volunteers. OZCF also participated in the Pakistan Earthquake Relief program. Fund raising for the Darbe Mehr continue to be their prime focus with 90% of \$450,000 raised coming from the community itself. Fund raising events, Black Tie Gala, Fashion Blast, Music Night, Gujarati Natak, Lam Roast picnic, Patra nu Bhonu, Dinner Dance all contributed towards the \$1.3 m raised. The Good Thoughts Good Deeds Good Words white bracelet was well received and their fund-raising continues on.

Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO), Sam Vesuna informed the group that Phi Vania would make the Congress presentation at the allotted time on the Agenda.

Incorporated in 1971, ZSO has had a monumental growth from performing marriages to hosting the first and thereafter many more Congresses, to the formation of the Iranian Zoroastrian Kanoon, to celebrating its 25th Anniversary!! In 2002 ZSO was mandated to raise an estimated \$2.2 million for the building project and by 2006 ZSO had reached this mandated goal of \$2.2m, a monumental achievement!! But rising prices has made this \$2.2 insufficient for them to attain their dreams and so ZSO continues to drive fund raising as they dream of having a larger Darbe Mehr. An architect has been hired and the process of planning the new center has begun as they need nearly 7000 square feet of hall. There is always a lot going on in ZSO with an active local community. Hosted the usual Z events, Tirgan, Mehrgan, etc.; started a sports and social committee; Agile Helping Hands committee to help immigrants and others who have lost jobs, etc. active Interfaith meetings; since ZSO is situated in what is called the “mile of temples”, the Zs are getting exposure; there has been an increased visitation by schools to the Z center and there is a Fusion program started and many are invited to talk about Zoroastrianism. Youths are actively involved in all ZSO activities and currently there are 3 youths on the ZSO Committee. It’s the Committees that run the place and the executives coordinate. In closing Sam thanked AZA for their warmth and hospitality to all delegates and for the excellent arrangements. He extended a warm welcome to the newly elected officials.

Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania (ZAPA) Houtoxi Contractor conveyed that though ZAPA was a small group of 50+ members, the group was cohesive and strong and this was evident in the successful hosting of the last FEZANA AGM in Pittsburgh. ZAPA continues with the usual annual events This year ZAPA will continue their Race for the Cure as in the past, participate in interfaith activities to raise awareness of Zoroastrians and this was evident as Layla Contractor and Shireen Cama participated in UN activities. ZAPA also continued to be actively involved in community events and participated in many Pittsburgh activities.

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Behram Pastakia thanked AZA for hosting this AGM. He continued on to inform the delegates that ZAMWI in the past 8 years has seen a tremendous growth. The Avesta classes now have nearly 15 to 65 kids. It’s the youth that is driving this group forward. They have been successful in the acquisition of cemetery plots, which was made possible by generous donors and was meant for Zoroastrians only. ZAMWI believed in catching them young, getting the youth involved from the very beginning – believing in the concept of a world citizen. On June 5th, World Environment day and Apr 22nd Earth Day, planting trees as part of community involvement. ZAMWI actively works with the Indian Embassy on a cultural front. ZAMWI continues to work towards raising the Z profile.

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ): Dolly Dastoor thanked Farrokh Mistree for the new and innovative approach in the PowerPoint presentation of reports and was glad to see FEZANA enter the 21st century!! ZAQ continued to hold the regular functions and this past year ZAQ hosted NAMC to felicitate Er. Jehan Bagli. The NoRuz function was organized by the Iranian Zs, 170 people attended and silver coins were gifted to the kids.

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY), Homi Gandhi thanked the Atlanta Association for hosting the AGM and this was special to him and it was he, Homi, who put the spark to get Atlanta to form an association and he is proud to see them hosting this AGM. ZAGNY was the first Z association in the US and unfortunately during the Stock Market crash of in Nov. of 1929, the association died. The new ZAGNY was then incorporated in 1973. Seven out of the nine Board members are new and below the age of 40!! ZAGNY continues to hold religious class first started by Loveji Cama. Started Montessori classes as well as monthly class for adults. Kid's camp started by Ivy Gandhi. Mukhtad Prayers were conducted for 5 days, and one day the prayers were held at the center. Other 4 days the prayers were held at 4 corners of ZAGNY domain making it convenient for all to attend. ZAGNY continued to host the regular festivities such as NoRuz and New Year eve functions, annual picnics, and also a Halloween party. ZAGNY also conducted the Gool Kothawala Essay Contest and a talent show ZAGNY kids where the kids showcases bhangra, piano, violin, Karate, etc. Air India ticket was auctioned off. Zany's intermarried Group (ZIG) hosted an event. ZAPANJ visited ZAGNY. NAMC seminar was hosted in July 2005. NoRuz day parade in NY City, Pedals for Progress - Bicycles collected and sent to Africa. REVLON run/walk for women collected \$8,000. Participated in the Pakistan Earthquake relief project. 75 Z's attended Mayor Bloomberg's reception for NoRuz celebration.

Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ), Katayun Kapadia thanked the Atlanta association for hosting this AGM. ZAPANJ, founded in 1979 when the logo was also created and the board was elected as a group and then portfolios were allocated. Currently ZAPANJ has a membership of 60-65 families. 2005 was a strong year as ZAPANJ hosted various events such as An Evening in Philadelphia for young adults, Family Fund weekend at Camp Inawendiwin where a group of 40 adults and 25 kids enjoyed camping, annual picnic at Marsh Creek State park and an afternoon tea at Percis and Adi Kasad's home, a ZAPANJ tradition since the past 15 plus years!! Remembrance Day – Farvardin Maheno and Farvardin Roj; Celebration of Patti, annual jashan and ghambaar. ZAPANJ promotes participation of all neighboring Z associations – in November, ZAPANJ visited ZAGNY and during the annual Jashan and Gambaro, ZAGNY and ZAMWI members attend in the festivities. The religious class was renamed to “Enrichment and Cultural Class” and is held on the second Saturday of every month from September through May attended by nearly 85 participants. Adult classes led by Er.Adi Unwalla now has an added segment of social topics affecting the community, such as, Mid life changes, job crisis, internet, kids, immigration issue and so on. Diana Dadachanji administered the Good Life Emblem program. In November 2005 Michael Stausberg, a professor of religious studies in Norway with special interest in Zarathushti rituals and culture visited ZAPANJ as he was in Philadelphia to attend a convention. In March of 2006, Katayun Kapadia and Behnaz Toorkey participated together with ZAGNY to celebrate Navroz with Mayor Bloomberg in New York City.

At this point Celeste Kheradi gave the delegates an update on Jerry's health and everyone was glad to hear that Jerry was doing better and that there was a chance he would be attending the meeting the next day!!

California Zoroastrian Center (CZC), Rashid Mehin thanked Atlanta for hosting the AGM. CZC continued to host all the usual annual festivities such as Norouz Celebration, Tirghan, Mehergan etc. and also organized other cultural programs for all to attend. The current CZC location is becoming too small for the growing community. The driving distances of nearly 2 hours and more for some members to attend functions poses a problem. In order to solve this problem two small sub centers have been created, one in San Diego area and the other in Valley center area in north of Los Angeles. This facilitate, some of small functions and religious classes to be held at the local level. The good news is that CZC has bought the adjacent building to the current center for future expansions. During Nourooz celebration nearly 700+ members attend and Mehergan, another popular event is also well attended. Center's light and sound system has been upgraded and a few big Video screens have been installed to help members follow the programs from different parts of the center. Fund raising continues with events such as Youth programs and others. Two young Zarthushti artists have their own shows on Persian TV in LA. Some of CZC's cultural functions which are open to public are held outside the center to accommodate larger attendance. Population of Zarthushties in S. California is not only growing from within, it also growing from new Zarthushti immigrants to the US, from Iran through Vienna.

REPORTS FROM STANDING & AD HOC COMMITTEES

Coordination and Planning Committee: Bomi Patel made known to the delegates that the Calendar of Events for 2006-2009 was included in the package and to avoid calendar conflicts everyone was requested to call the Planning and Coordination Committee **before** planning any large event.

At this junction, Farrokh took the podium to announce travel arrangements for the evening event.

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA), Freyaz Shroff informed the delegates that one ZYNA representative resigned which left just two, Negin and herself. Freyaz reported that the North American Youth Congress in Miami was a huge success and that success was largely owed to two very dedicated ZAF members, specially, Nancy and Jehan Daruwalla. ZYNA had \$33,000 in their account from which they wished to give \$5,000 to the Creative and Performing Arts scholarship and \$18,000 to Parsee education in India which will leave a balance of \$10,000. This was discussed at length by all the delegates and Freyaz pointed out that now was the time for the adults to trust or give trust to the youth and allow them to spend the funds the way they think fit. It was decided that ZYNA would review their choices and present to the Board specifics of where and how they, ZYNA would like to allocate the \$18,000. Rashid Mehin pointed out that the funds should include Iranians too.

To the discussion of education need for Parsees in India, Dinshaw Tamboly pointed out that what Freyaz wanted to do for education of Parsee in India held truth as there were many Parsee girls without money and if they were given an opportunity of going to a school in the city then that would change her life and even as Rashid Mehin mentioned would change the life of an Iranian kid in need of money.

Motion to spend \$18K for education related to Needs in India **and** Iran equally was put on the floor

ZANT proposed the motion
ZAMWI seconded,
ZAH abstained – Rest in favor – motion passed.

POST NOTE: DUE TO THE FINDINGS THAT ONLY \$ 9 K WERE AVAILABLE WHEN ACCOUNTS WERE CORRECTED, THE COMMITTEE UNDERSTANDS THAT ONLY THIS AMOUNT IS AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT.

Creative and Performing Arts Scholarship Committee, Sherazade Mehta updated the members on the scholarship status. This year they had only one applicant so they went back to last year's 3 applicants and had them apply this year thus making 4 winners. The Committee asked for \$7000 for next year bringing their funds back to \$10,000. The checks for the 4 winners were not sent out yet that is \$4000.

Motion to allow Rashid Mehin, Treasurer to write four checks of \$1000 each for the 4 recipients before the end of his term.

ZAQ proposed
ZAGNY seconded
Rest in favor – motion passed.

Motion to move \$5K from ZYNA Youth Fund to P&C Scholarship Fund

ZAGNY proposed
ZAF seconded
ZAH abstained – rest in favor – motion passed.

FEZANA Welfare Committee, Houtoxi Contractor/Hosi Mehta

Houtoxi thanked President Firdosh, Vice President Bomi, Treasurer Rashid, Secretary Rita, Assistant Secretary Farrokh and all Directors for the opportunity to chair the welfare committee and the FEZANA executives for the constant support and trust placed in them. The committee also thanked and acknowledged the support of Dinshaw Tamboly. The next project that the Committee has decided to take on is working with children with disabilities. There is a large percentage of kids, nearly 50% of Parsi kids with disability and in need of financial assistance.

As approved at the last AGM, an account in a Pittsburgh Bank with \$5000.00 for Welfare and domestic violence use was opened. The committee has discontinued the Toll Free phone line as it was not being used and since Freyaz Shroff was moving and changing numbers and they would have to apply for the number again. Houtoxi thanked Freyaz for all the help and guidance she gave for domestic violence situations and still always ready to help when needed. A very busy year, with requests for help pouring in

and the members trying hard to use sources to find the genuineness of each case, the extent of their need and how much to help.

The committee has set up terms of reference explaining how the work is being carried on and these terms will set a direction for the future when new members take over. These procedures also give a clear picture to donors and all concerned on how their funds will be spent. The committee has worked hard to write these procedures and would like an approval of the TOR.

Motion to approve the ToR was proposed by CZC, seconded by ZAGNY; ZAH and OCZF abstained, rest in favor – motion passed – ToR approved.

Houtoxi continued on that as the awareness of this committee's existence increased, more requests came in and more individuals were helped this past year. The committee set up alliance with organizations who help individuals and this has helped save time and money e.g. a request from an individual in Bombay is put in touch with a local organization, who then takes over in assisting the individual.

This past year two unusual disasters occurred that of Hurricane Katrina and Earthquake in Pakistan and in both instances the Welfare committee was able to extend assistance to all those affected. In the case of the second disaster the Pakistan earth quake relief special thanks to Toxy Cowasji from Pakistan who initiated the cause and thanks to different associations, Meher Amalsad and United Parcel Service all got on board and collected and sent tons of winter clothing to those affected in Pakistan.

Houtoxi mentioned that the Committee must have be doing something right attracting attention as donors started to trust the committee with their hard earned money by donating generously to welfare fund.

A BIG THANK YOU to Celeste and Jerry Kheradi who worked diligently to raise funds for FEZANA. Last year the Committee announced a major donor to welfare endowment fund, Dr. Hoshedar and Anahita Tamboli and this year the Committee have the honor of thanking **Firdaus and Jasmine Bhatena who donated \$100,000.00** to set up a welfare endowment fund.

North American Congress June 29-July 2, 2007 presentation by Phee Vania stated the Zoroastrian North American Congress Toronto 2007 Mission Statement: Design and deploy a Zoroastrian North American Congress in Toronto 2007 that is innovative and results-oriented with a viable cost structure and amenities to attract and engage the largest crowd from North Ame5ican and other countries” Impacted to unleash the spark within, the congress will be hosted from Friday June 29 to Monday July 1, 2007 with one day being allotted to WZCC meeting. She wants to engage the attendees by making an IMPACT and to unleash the spark within. Here are some questions of how Z's impacted civilization, how have Zs impacted in NA and how can we now impact each other. Building connections and this congress will showcase and bring about the impact.

Congress to be held at the Sheraton Parkway and volunteers needed from all over. Rashid Mehin questioned Kanoon's involvement in the organizing of the Congress. Sam Vesuna interjected and answered that Kanoon was a part of ZSO and kept for preserving the Iranian culture. All other times all Z's worked together.

Behram Pastakia informed Phee of the Eye Glass Operation and its success at the last congress and that the same could be done in Toronto.

Phee also informed the delegates that booths would be made available to those associations or organizations wanting to be present.

Approval for NAC's ToR was put for motion.

ZAQ proposed; AZA seconded; ZAH and OZCF abstained; Rest in favor- motion passed- NAC ToR approved.

Sam Vesuna: Need more attendees for the congress and hence trying to keep cost low.

Firdosh Mehta: FEZANA too incurs cost and the \$5 charge per attendee does not cover and hence the charge was upped to \$10 per attendee.

Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra (ZSO) funding by FEZANA support of \$5,000.

Sam was asked why Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra (ZSO) was not on the Congress Agenda. Sam responded that he had not received any information regarding cost from ZSO to which Firdosh Mehta responded that the cost has been \$15,000-\$18,000. Sam Vesuna felt this cost too high and would impact the cost of the congress to the attendees by nearly \$20, plus/minus. Revenues could be raised for ZSO. Phee Vania proposed that ZSO would look very seriously into cost structure and then come up with an answer.

Behram Pastakia of ZAMWI motioned/proposed that FEZANA raise the \$5000 support to \$10,000.

CZC seconded this motion; ZAH and ZANC opposed

Roshan Rivetna pointed out that \$10,000 was good for promotion but should be given for an ongoing Zoroastrian Orchestra.

Religion Education Committee:

Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship

Grateful thanks for the munificence of Zardoshty sisters, Pari, Homayoun, Iran, Farangis and their families for their generous donation to FEZANA to set up the Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship in memory of their beloved father. These scholarships are awarded on an annual basis, for five years from 2003-2007, to eligible Zarathushtis to pursue Higher education in Zarathushti Religion and/or its languages at a recognized Institute of Higher Learning anywhere in the world.

The following candidates were awarded US \$1,000 each for the Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Religion Education Scholarship.

Zartosht Atropatene – postgraduate student at University of London, SOAS studying Zoroastrianism and Avestan language.
 Susan Karani - postgraduate student at University of Michigan –Ann Arbor beginning Ph.D. in Old Iranian Studies.
 Mandana Moavenat – postgraduate student at University of London, SOAS studying for Ph.D. in Zoroastrianism.
 Bahman Moradian - postgraduate student at University of Paris studying for Ph.D. in Languages & Culture of Ancient Iran.
 Burzine K. Waghmar - postgraduate student at University of London, SOAS studying for Ph.D. in Iranian & Central Asian Studies.

Request for budget of \$7500 presented by Firdosh on behalf of Kayomarsh Mehta

AZA moved the motion
 ZANT seconded the motion
 ZAH abstained
 Rest all in favor – Budget request for \$7500 passed.

Academic Scholarship Program: Dolly Dastoor: thanked the FEZANA officers for this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the future generation of Zarathushti youth. Thanks also to the web master and the FEZANA Journal for publicity on the web and in the journal

During the academic year 2005-2006 the FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program Committee received 26 applications for the FEZANA scholarships and the Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship. The FEZANA scholarships are awarded for a combination of academic excellence, need, extracurricular activities and community service. Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Fund Scholarship is awarded for ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (\$5000) and the recipient named the FEZANA SCHOLAR. (This is for Academic Excellence PLUS involvement in the community services. Financial need is factored out).

As the committee had decided earlier, the 26 applications were divided into two categories: undergraduates (13) and graduates (13)

To make the judging process more objective judges from across the country for the graduate category were added:

Dr Poras Bulsara	Dallas
Dr Shahroukh Khanizadeh	Montreal
Ketayun Kapadia	New Jersey
Fereshteh Khatibi M.Ed	California
Dr Borzoo Nadjmi	Rhode Island

Based on the cumulative scoring of the judges in each category the following were awarded the scholarships

KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP...THE FEZANA SCHOLAR

Shirin Cama	Medicine, Harvard School of Medicine	\$ 5000
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FEZANA SCHOLARSHIPS

GRADUATES

Jamshed Desai,	Medicine, Queen's U Canada	\$ 1000
Farahad Ardeshirpour	Medicine, U of North Carolina	\$ 1000
Zenobia Homavazir,	Social Work, U of Toronto	\$ 1000
Farzad Damania	Electrical Engineering, Oklahoma State U	\$ 1000
Porus Antia	Architecture, Arizona State U	\$ 500
Cyrus Havewalla	Telecommunications, U of Maryland	\$ 500

UNDERGRADUATES

Natasha Singh	Elec & Computer Engineering, Cornell U	\$1000
Ninoshka Singh	Computer Engineering, Cornell U	\$1000
Behzad Dabu,	Fine Arts Columbia College Chicago	\$1000
Freya Motafram,	Business, U of Michigan	\$1000
Kamran Afshari,	Electrical Engineering, UCLA	\$1000

TOTAL of all FEZANA scholarships **\$10,000**

The Committee was very pleased to announce and thanked the generosity of Drs Behram and Silloo Kapadia of Pittsburgh’s endowment of a new scholarship in the name of their parents Banoobai and Maneckshaw Kapadia with a donation of \$25,000. The first scholarship of \$1000 will be awarded in 2006. An article with the bios of the winners together with their photos was published in the spring issue of the FEZANA Journal and the Committee hopes this will attract and generate more funds for this program.

This year the Committee requested FEZANA to allocate a sum of \$10,000 for this program. Dr Kheradi once again wished to allocate from the Kheradi Endowment Fund, one \$5000 scholarship for ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE -The FEZANA SCHOLAR.

The budget request for \$10,000 was put on the floor.

AZA proposed,

ZAH seconded

All in favor- motion passed unanimously.

Small Groups Committee Chair, Dr. Kia Kaviani informed the delegates that the small groups expressed concerns that they did not have voting rights and that he had recommended that they become members and then get the voting rights. Delegates expressed that if all the small groups got together into one group and became a registered member of FEZANA they would then all have voting rights. FEZANA is not an association of individual members, rather an association membership.

FEZANA Information Receiving & Disseminating Committee, Farrokh Mistree presented Committee budget request.

At this juncture, Firdosh Mehta presented the FEZANA Khorshed F Jungalwala Religious Lecture Series in honor of and in recognition of the contributions of Khorshed Jungalwala with a budget request of \$5000 as seed funding.

CZC proposed the motion

AZA seconded the motion

ZAH abstained – rest in favor - \$5000 approved as seed funding for the Lecture series.

Survey and Census Committee, Chair Noshir Jesung: Voted to send an official letter of thanks to Noshir Jesung for his work on the survey.

Public Relations Committee Chair, Fereshteh Khatibi: The Farsi translation of FEZANA’s promotional CD was completed by Fereshteh. Rashid Mehin pointed out that the Farsi translation needed some minor modification. Once the modification is made the Farsi version would be presented to FEZANA board to be available to our Farsi speaking Zarthushti community members.

Awards Committee, Chair Yasmin Pavri.

Award's Committee Report – 2006 -members: Yasmin Pavri, Trity Pourbahrami, and Arnavaz Sethna.

The committee will send out nomination forms for the 2007 Awards by January 1, 2007. Nomination package e-mailed to each association for review and nominations requested by the return deadline of March 1, 2007. A tentative timeline as under:

Congress	July 4, 2007
Mail trophies to location.....	June 1, 2007
Get plaques made/mailed	June 1, 2007
Create Program	June 1, 2007
Retrieve trophies from prior winners	May 1, 2007
Tabulate Winners	May 1, 2007
Receive nominations from Judges	April 15, 2007
Send nominations to Judges	March 15, 2007
Deadline for nominations	March 1, 2007
Select Judges	February 1, 2007
Send nomination form to Associations	January 1, 2007
Send nomination form to FEZANA Journal	Winter Issue Deadline??

The awards committee collected \$10,000 last year from the donation of two new revolving trophies. **The committee asked for a budget of \$6,500 for this year.** The table below shows projected expenses in US dollars for the Awards to be presented at the 2007 North American Congress.

Item	Number of Items	Amount per Item	Total
Registration Fees	6	\$350	\$2,100
Plaques	6	\$100	\$ 600
Brochures	750	\$3.25	\$2,438
Revolving Trophies (mailed 3 times)	6	\$150	\$ 900
Miscellaneous (copying, mailing etc.)			\$ 500
Total			\$6,538

Phee Vania to coordinate with the Awards Committee timeline.

Er. Jehan Bagli requested the inclusion of one more award and plaque, NAMC Community Service Award under the age of 35 and if FEZANA would administer this award, judging would be done by NAMC, the Award Committee only to do the administration work.

Motion to amend the Awards ToR to include an additional award that will be administered by FEZANA and judged by NAMC

ZAC Chicago proposed the motion
 ZAMWI seconded
 ZAH abstained – rest in favor – motion approved to include.

Awards Committee Budget request for \$6538.00 was put for motion:

ZSO proposed the motion
 ZAPANJ seconded
 ZAH abstained – rest in favor – Budget passed for \$6538.00.

ZYNA ToR motion for approval:
 CZC proposed to move
 ZAC Chicago seconded the motion
 ZAH abstained – rest in favor – ZYNA ToR approved.

Dissolving Sub Committee of Canadian Chapter – discussion defer motion
 ZSO proposed to defer discussion
 CZC seconded – Discussion deferred.

FEZANA Website: Farrokh Mistree: Farrokh expressed that the new incoming President Rustom Kevala could set up FEZANA's website but he would like to mention some guidelines.

1. The FEZANA website should not have too many bells and whistles; 2 Should not be duplicating other websites and 3 put only information that FEZANA sends out to the Presidents.

All information should be collected from representatives but should not be circulated to all. All email addresses to be put in bcc to avoid email addresses to be seen and not to be placed by the To: field or the cc: field. These instructions should be followed very strictly.

Any individual who wants to distribute information to all should first go through the association and then the President of that association to decide whether the information is pertinent to be sent out.

Farrokh was Zubin's only contact and would only put on the website what he, Farrokh gave him.

A ToR for website maintenance was suggested.

DAY TWO: SUNDAY MAY 28TH, 2006

North American Mobed Council, Er. Jehan Bagli pointed out the one aspect that was unique about ZAMWI was that they covered ecology and poverty keeping with the Z tradition, sacredness of creation, and that it was very important to get youth to engage in this area. This is the aspect that translates religion into action. NAMC had a very busy but successful year. Special thrust on education of membership plus dissemination to community was a prime focus. Hosted a seminar in NY by the mobeds for the mobeds. Laity participated. For the first time in the history of NAMC, added Educational Session to the 19th NAMC AGM for a couple of hours. During these sessions, two mobeds were assigned to present Atash Nyash (importance of fire) and the analysis of translation of Atash Nyash. This proved to be very successful and has been written up in article form which he hopes to publish in FEZANA Journal. He has already published something in Teaching Theology and Religion. Understanding and practices of obsequies funeral rites written by Er. Dr. Jehan Bagli and Er Adi Unwalla has been published and circulated. NAMC is already halfway through to their next project that of congregational prayers for Jashan Ceremony is being prepared for publication by Er. Jehan Bagli and Behram Panthaki which may be ready in a year or two. Er. Jehan Bagli found out that Dr. Soli Shapurji of South Africa needed something on religious practices. He then found out about a mobbed, Firdosh Balsara who traveled often to South Africa, contacted him and traveled with him to South Africa taking with him all the information requested by Dr. Soli Shapurji. Many such requests for information on religious classes/practices are received from time to time and he has even had to travel to Sydney, Perth and Melbourne. He observed in his travels that Perth Zs are very active and looking for more information. NAMC would like to advertise in FEZANA Journal

that NAMC is willing to sponsor people who want to be ordained in India. Support will vary on a case by case basis.

Research & Preservation Committee, Er.Jehan Bagli expressed his sincere gratitude to the dedicated members of the Research and Preservation Committee, for their efforts during the year 2005/6. These individuals donated valuable time, to work on varying aspects of Zarathushtrian Religion and help augment the awareness of our Heritage by disseminating the information of our faith to mankind at large.

The contribution of Mr. Firdosh Mehta was significantly reduced due to a job related move of the family from Canada to USA, and his continued commitment as president of FEZANA. Despite that Firdosh consistently encouraged and promoted several projects. The one worthy of mention is 'Collection of warm clothing for Earthquake Victims in Pakistan'. The project was coordinated across North America, by Mr. Meher Amalsad of California. Both Firdosh Mehta in USA and Dolly Dastoor in Canada contributed their time and effort to see to its successful execution.

This report enumerates their major accomplishments in 2005/6.

Religious studies –Lectures and Discourses

Helped organize religious classes for adults at CZC, Westminster CA **(Bhujwala)**; Presented a talk on Zoroastrianism to high school students at Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary school on April 12 2005. **(Bagli)**; As a Mobedyar participated in two Jashan Ceremonies at Zoroastrian center in Southern California. **(Bhujwala)**

Provided services for obsequies and memorial prayers to several families in a number of towns in Southern California. **(Bhujwala)**; Invited to speak on Introduction to Zoroastrianism to the United Church group in Spring 2005 and at Anglican Church on April 2006. **(Dastoor)**; Invited Faculty and student members of Religious studies Department of Concordia University to a Bashan and discussed Zarathushti faith with them. **(Dastoor)**

Invited to Halifax on August 12 by the Zarathushti community to discuss Zarathushti faith with their members, and to perform a Jashan. **(Bagli)**; An interview was organized by Omni TV to discuss Zarathushtrian Faith during the program 3D-Dialogue. **(Bagli)**

Interfaith activities

Participated as Zarathushti representative for Interfaith Council of Huntington Beach, in July 4 independence parade. **(Bhujwala)**

Presented a talk on involvement of Zoroastrianism in Interfaith activity at 8th WZC in UK. **(Bagli)**; Participated as Zarathushti representative, in the meetings to organize Interfaith Council for Greater Toronto Area. **(Bagli)**

Represented Zarathushti religion through Recitation of prayers, during the interfaith thanksgiving activities at Huntington beach and Garden Grove. **(Bhujwala)**

Books, Articles and other Publications

Publicized the documentary on Cyrus the Great by Cyrus Kar through dissemination of his presentation to FEZANA Journal, and to all Zoroastrian associations in North America. **(Bhujwala)**; Co-published Vohuman.org web site with his partners as web master. **(Varza)**; Editor and publisher for the Library series and Visual Essays series on Vohuman.org website. **(Varza)**; Involved in the library expansion and supporting art classes for the youth in Vohuman School in Yazd, Iran. **(Varza)**; Continued posting (5th year) of Shah-nameh couplets in Farsi, and Gujarati with English translation, as well as Epistles of Adurbad Mahraspand (4th year) in Pahlavi and Gujarati with English translation on the Z-net for the. **(Bhujwala)**; The book “Understanding and Practice of Obsequies” has been completed. It is in press. The first proofreading has been completed, and should be available shortly. **(Bagli)**; Involved as a chairperson, and panel member for organizing a panel discussion for the International Conference on ‘World’s religion after September 11’. **(Dastoor, Bagli)**; Published an article “Training for priesthood in Modern world: A Zarathushtrian perspective” in the special issue of the journal ‘Teaching and Learning Strategies for Religious Leadership Formation’, published by Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Theology and Religion. **(Bagli)**

Niloufer Bhesania wanted to know if there was any written book on ceremonies to which Er. Jehan Bagli replied that the book was already published and in circulation.

Rustom Kevala asked about relationships with Mobeds in India – he felt in India the relationship was more personal and not official. Dinshaw Tamboly asked if Mobeds could be ordained here in the US rather than only in India. Er. Bagli explained that Yasnagar was not available here in North America and hence mobeds could not be ordained here.

Sam Vesuna expressed his sincere appreciation and thanks to Er. Bagli for his time and knowledge that he shared with all the association and to those that seek his advice. His assistance in Ontario in the field of Interfaith and his lecture series during the religious classes was very successful and now since many students have taken up comparative religious studies, a lot of email queries came forth and these were forwarded to Er. Bagli who responds with his wealth of knowledge. FEZANA’s activities in Canada are all possible through the Jamshid Pavri Fund which dictates that the funds can and may be used only in Canada.

Destruction of Votes/Ballots:

The question of the destruction of ballots was discussed and voted upon. The motion to destroy the ballots was put on the floor for discussion. Rustom Kevala suggested that the ballots may be kept for one month to which Sam Vesuna responded that there was no need to hold the ballots. Homi Gandhi wanted to know what was written in the Roberts Rule. After reviewing this situation, the motion was put for vote:

ZSO moved to destroy the votes/ballots

ZAQ seconded the motion

ZAMWI and ZAF abstained. Rest all in favor motion passed and Secretary was informed to destroy the ballots.

Stanford University Lecture Series

Over a year ago, before the last North American Zoroastrian Congress in San Francisco, Stanford University approached Farrokh Billimoria with an interest in starting a program in Zoroastrian Studies (hereinafter referred to as the Program). They said there was an interdisciplinary interest across several Stanford departments in seeing such a Program started. They asked Farrokh:

- if this Program would be of interest to the local Zoroastrian community,
- for input into the shape of such a Program,
- if the community would be willing to sponsor part of the cost of the Program.

Realizing the opportunity inherent in having a program in Zoroastrian Studies at another major American university, Farrokh responded immediately that there would be an interest in the community. He also started to talk to other members of the community about Stanford's interest. This has **resulted in the development of an informal advisory panel of community members interacting with a core group at Stanford to define the scope of the Program and get the word out to the community.**

The advisory panel currently consists of: Farrokh Billimoria, Lovji Cama, Professor Kaikhosrov Irani, Mehr Soroushian, Erach Tarapore and Jamshid Varza.

The Stanford core group includes faculty from the departments of Asian Religions and Cultures and Iranian Studies.

As a result of considerable discussion within and between these two groups, an outline has emerged for the Program. As presently envisioned, the program has three phases:

1. The program would get started with a lecture series in Zoroastrian subjects. The lectures would build knowledge of and interest in Zoroastrianism and visibility for the Program, both on campus and within the community. A lecture series requires a fairly modest outlay to get started and provides a measure of interest and commitment that is a useful metric for further development of the Program. Stanford has indicated that they would be looking for community support of \$5,000 a year for a lecture series, and Stanford would match that amount.
2. In the second phase of the Program a class in Zoroastrianism would be developed for inclusion in the Stanford curriculum. The class could be entirely on Zoroastrianism, or include significant content on Zoroastrianism. It would have an interdisciplinary interest, attracting students from (say) the departments of Religion, Comparative Religion, Near Eastern Studies and Philosophy. A class would cost \$15,000-\$20,000 each time it was offered and the community would have to generate half of that.
3. Eventually, depending on interest and funding, a Chair could be established in Zoroastrian Studies. This would allow for hiring a full-time Faculty member and admitting students with research interests in the field.

In the course of the past year, Stanford has initiated the lecture series by arranging and sponsoring one lecture each Quarter by a prominent scholar in Zoroastrianism. The speakers have been Dr. Farhang Mehr, Professor Stanley Insler of Yale and Professor Martin Schwartz of UC Berkeley. Stanford has covered travel costs, hospitality, Honorariums, campus publicity, and has catered snacks after each lecture. The local Zoroastrian associations have publicized the lectures to their members. The response from the community has been excellent, with steady growth in audience size for each lecture.

The advisory panel is actively working on lining up pledges for funding the lecture series for the next two years. Pledges are being accepted in increments of \$250 for each of the next two years. The panel is also exploring the interest in funding the class in Zoroastrianism starting in the Fall Quarter of 2007 with similar pledges. They feel that this is a tremendous opportunity to increase education and awareness of Zoroastrianism in North America. It is an opportunity for education within, but especially, outside the community. Any financial assistance or assistance in getting the word out to member associations and supporters across North America would be constructive and tremendously appreciated. Also if there is a synergy with other educational programs sponsored by FEZANA, the panel would be interested in leveraging such opportunities.

The discussion was thrown open. It was pointed out that the initial lecture series started last year and Stanford would like 3 lecture series in a year and Stanford has agreed to put in \$5000 and would like FEZANA to put in \$5000.

Khushru Daruwalla, ZAF was not in favor. Cyrus Aidun conveyed that the \$5000 was only for the lecture. Farrokh Mistree pointed out that it was too premature for FEZANA to get involved at the time and that this should be circulated to the members first and then arrive at a decision.

Rustom Kevala asked Nazneen Spliedt if these lecture series were also conducted for other faiths to which Nazneen said yes. Sam Vesuna pointed out that FEZANA can support this annually and if Stanford continues to hold these series then the same could be done in a Canadian University. Er. Bagli pointed that the Jewish community has put in a lot of money.

Hosi Mehta questioned as to who controls how our faith is projected in the class and would our financial support give us that control. Firdosh Mehta responded that Stanford controlled the subject matter.

Rustom Kevala suggested that maybe this could be done in conjunction with the Jungalwalla series. Hosi Mehta felt that this should be sent to and looked into by the Education Committee.

Behram Pastakia felt that it that before approving the monies, a careful reviewing is necessary and that maybe a one time support of \$5000 should be approved for this year and this motion was put on the floor.

ZAPA seconded,
ZAC Chicago and ZAH opposed the funding request

World Congress 2007 Dubai- budget request for \$10K from FEZANA.

Dolly Dastoor: Instead of just giving the \$10K, maybe the \$10K could go towards a special project, event or lecture during the congress.

Katayun Kapadia: Has FEZANA supported other congresses in the past.

Firdosh Mehta: yes, \$3000 for the UK congress.

Sam Vesuna: If the monies are returned then okay to give, but not to give unconditionally.

Farrokh Mistree: not in favor

Homi Gandhi: Should not consider anything at this stage.

Rustom Kevala: Will reconsider after the budget is presented.

Firdosh Mehta volunteered to be the Ad Hoc Committee as Liaison and represent FEZANA at the WZC Dubai.

Proceedings of the WZC2000 Houston: Dolly Dastoor reported that publication was complete and distribution of one per family was underway by Arnavaz Sethna. Any address changes to please contact Arnavaz.

Proceedings of the WZC2005 were reported in the FEZANA Journal.

External Affairs Committee, Rohinton Rivetna:

The value of interfaith dialogue has always been evident but it was not until 1893 that a Chicago lawyer, Charles Bonney took a bold step and organized the ***first Parliament of World's Religions in Chicago***. There was an avalanche of enthusiasm at the Parliament which tapered off and the Parliament was almost forgotten 10 years later. It took another 100 years for the ***next Parliament, also in Chicago in 1993***. ***Rohinton was fortunate to be a part of its founding***. The 1993 Parliament has spawned a revival of the interfaith movement like never before. Yet it has not even scratched the surface. In the period between 1893 and 1993, only three worldwide interfaith organizations were established which still exist today. However, since the 1993 Parliament, literally hundreds have been formed all over the world. Parliaments were held in ***Capetown, South Africa in 1999*** and in ***Barcelona in 2004***. ***The next Parliament*** is scheduled to take place in 2009. Request for proposals have been invited. Melbourne, Singapore and India, among others, have filed proposals. The selected location will be announced in October 2006. Those who were at the Barcelona Parliament (in July 2004) saw and experienced the Sikh hospitality serving *langars*

(meals) to 4,000 participants daily. With their simple act they earned the love and respect of all. If the Sikhs can do it we, Zarathushtis can do it too at the next Parliament. ***Let our community blossom in togetherness*** and serve simple gahambar lunch at the next Parliament particularly if India gets selected.

RELIGIONS FOR PEACE (RFP/WCRP)

Jehangir Sarosh of UK serves as Moderator for Religions for Peace – Europe. Homi Gandhi has been recently appointed to serve on RFP-USA, based in New York and he has been participating for the last several years. In November 2005, Roxanna Mirza represented FEZANA's UN/NGO team at WCRP's Religious Youth Leaders Summit in New York. In January 2006 participated as a FEZANA delegate at the National Gathering of Religious Leaders in Chicago. FEZANA and ZAC hosted an evening social for all delegates. Youth leader Suzie Karani will participate in the VIII World Assembly in Kyoto, Japan in August 2006.

FAITH IN PLACE

Faith-in-Place is a remarkable organization trying to inculcate Zarathushti values of the stewardship of the environment, to congregations. It is growing rapidly and has received some significant funding. He serves on its Board and encourages all to visit [***www.faithinplace.org***](http://www.faithinplace.org).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE (NCCJ)

We continue to provide material for the Zarathushti page of the NCCJ Interfaith Calendar, of which thousands of copies are sold/distributed worldwide. Have a few 2006 copies for sale at \$10 each, with proceeds going to FEZANA Journal.

NORTH AMERICAN INTERFAITH NETWORK (NAIN)

FEZANA continues to be a member of NAIN and support its activities.

POLICE DEPARTMENT DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Rohinton's participation continues in diversity programs organized by the Chicago Police Department aimed at providing sensitivity training to police officers. This is a program worthy of emulation in other cities.

UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE (URI)

"Cooperation Circles" are active all over the globe. Dr. Meher Master Moos serves on Cooperation Circle in India.

PARTICIPATION AT UN CONTINUES

Behram Pastakia and Homi Gandhi have mobilized a FEZANA UN/NGO team of Zarathushti including youth members to participate in conferences organized by the UN. Their report will follow.

HARVARD PLURALISM PROJECT (Diana Eck)

The Pluralism project periodically offers internships and scholarships. Such information is passed on to our interfaith e-group.

E-GROUP NETWORK

Our e-group network is in place. It is a forum for exchanging information (e.g. grant offers) and ideas. Individuals interested in being added to this e-group, please contact me at rivetna@aol.com.

THE GOAL - PEACE ON EARTH

It has been said that ***there will be no peace on this earth until there is peace among Religions***. Sadly that peace, "World Peace" which is the object of every interfaith organization is as distant and forlorn as the man in the moon.

There is something lacking, my friends! Nobody knows what it is, but a realization is dawning that in spite of all our efforts, ***we are not really making a difference***. We as Zarathushti have the respect of all other faiths, and by dint of our neutrality, we may have the answer.

Rohinton's challenge to all was to unleash and unlock teachings of love and respect for all, seek out an interfaith organization close to where you live and ***begin to make a difference*** in this world.

LET US ALL WORK FOR PEACE.

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH!

AND, MAY PEACE PREVAIL WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY!

EXPENSES AND BUDGET

During 2005, FEZANA made the following donations:

\$200 to Religions for Peace

\$200 to Parliament of the Worlds Religions

\$100 for membership to NAIN

Requested a budget of \$500 for 2006

World Religion Global Congress: 5 FEZANA representatives on the panel, all registrations paid for by FEZANA

Behram Pastakia: Unity Walk in Washington DC, Sept. 11, 100th Anniversary of Gandhi's Satyagrah Movement.

Homi Gandhi: About sending Z Youth to Japan for WCRP, will approach FEZANA when ready to present for approval.

Rohinton Rivetna: Society for Scholars of Zoroastrianism – June 30-July3, 2006
Requested budget from FEZANA of \$500 to ZAC Chicago for support of SSZ conference in Chicago-

ZAGNY proposed

CZC seconded

ZAQ and ZAH abstain

Rustom Kevala: Budget for External Affairs: \$1000.00

ZAC moved the motion

OZCF seconded

ZAH abstained

Rest all in favor – Budget approved.

Sam Vesuna: Jointly produced a Z-Flyer from FEZANA.

Rustom Kevala: Public Relations Committee of FEZANA to take a look at all this kind of material and coordinate producing/publishing wherever necessary.

Homi Gandhi: Produced a book on “Good Life”

Un-NGO Committee, Chairs: Homi Gandhi/Behram Pastakia: The year 2005 was busy with the following activities of the FEZANA UN-NGO Committee:

FEZANA’S PARTICIPATION AT THE 58TH ANNUAL DPI/NGO CONFERENCE entitled “OUR CHALLENGE: VOICES FOR PEACE, PARTNERSHIPS AND RENEWAL” held at the United Nations in New York City, on September 7-9, 2005. The team, selected after following the established process, included Laila Contractor, Roshni Kasad, and Bomi Patel. In keeping with the mission of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, in communicating work done at the UN to the public at large, team members prepared a press release {copy attached} and posted it on the FEZANA web-site, for possible use of relevant information by member associations in their own newsletters. This is the fourth time that FEZANA has been represented at such a gathering after obtaining its consultative status with ECOSOC [the Economic and Social Council] as an NGO [non-governmental organization], almost eight years ago. It marks a new frontier for the Zoroastrian community, as it pursues philanthropic and social traditions in the global arena. The conference was attended by more than 700 NGOs with over 2700 representatives from more than 80 countries. **A report written by Laila Contractor with emphasis on our interactions with Nobel Peace Laureate from Iran, Shirin Ebadi, was published in the FEZANA Journal, winter 2005 issue.**

The FEZANA UN-NGO Committee seeks to further UN humanitarian initiatives and forge ties with other NGOs, to strengthen the organization’s continuing commitment to promote peace, social justice and dignity for all. Our objective is also to learn how to translate individual achievements of Zoroastrians, in the promotion of human security and dignity, into more systematic and unified efforts.

During to the 58th Annual UN-NGO conference, the group participated in the Inter-faith ceremony for the Millennium Development Goals **“Bending Hearts: Voices in Prayer for Peace, Partnership and Renewal”** at the TILLMAN CHAPEL for the CHURCH CENTER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS in New York on September 7, 2005.

Roxanna Mirza from Toronto was nominated to attend the inaugural consultation of the Religions for Peace North American Inter-Religious Youth Network in New York on

November 1, 2005 and was subsequently appointed to the Steering Committee of the North American Inter-religious Youth Network (RFPNAIYN).

Participation at Inter-Faith session prior to the 50th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women: Tenaz Dubash was one of the panelists on the Panel discussing equality of the Women in religious communities. She discussed the role of women in old and present day Zoroastrian communities in India, Iran and the new Diaspora of the western world. Breaking with tradition, she explored the idea of women Mobediyars to serve the needs of our growing North American Zoroastrian community. [Article in FEZANA Journal, forthcoming Spring 2006 issue]. Jenny Presswalla completed her year as a Boren Scholar in India where she researched the impact of the restrictive US visa policies on how it affects international youth exchanges for studies in US universities. Kayzad Namdarian from Australia was interviewed by BBC about the reforms at the United Nations [Article in FEZANA Journal Winter 2005 issue]. Trita Parsi was interviewed by NPR and the PBS News Programs about the US-Iran relationships [see FEZANA Journal Winter 2005 issue].

Funding Participation in UN Activities:

Although a budget of \$2,000 was approved last year, the Committee incurred minimal expenses for its representation at the UN. Each team member paid for his or her own travel and other expenses. Total expenses for both these events were under \$100. We continue to believe that major expenses like travel, boarding and lodging be borne by the individual persons participating in the program. However, we need to have a **budget of \$ 2,000 for this committee for the above projects, hosting events and administrative expenses like printing, postage and communications, etc.**

The Committee has a vision of empowering Zoroastrian youth to become world citizens and invite inputs and feedback and invite anyone or all with ideas and suggestions to contact Behram Pastakia or Homi Gandhi.

After the Tea Break Jerry Kheradi joined the meeting and received a warm welcome from all the delegates. Jerry expressed his thanks to all for their prayers for his recovery and special thanks to Firdosh Mehta and Farrokh Mistree for their assistance in getting him quick medical assistance.

Cyrus Aidun of AZA: Closing remarks. He thanked all the delegates for attending the AGM and that it was a pleasure and honor to host this year's meeting. The planning brought Atlanta team closer together. His participation on Working Committee and learnt a lot and emphasized that though AZA has only 109 members, all 109 are very enthusiastic and hopes to have more folks move to Atlanta. Darbe Mehr is important to AZA. On a personal note he was very grateful to Er. Jehan Bagli in getting youth involved in issues of poverty as this is important and more so as it is very difficult to get money to people in Iran.

Zoroastrian Sports Committee, Chair Bijan Khosraviani (ZSC): late attendance to the AGM due to prior commitments. Budget presented: ZSC did not go in

debt or does not go in debt, in fact ZSC generated funds and currently their account has plenty of fund. The next Games are to be held in July and requested FEZANA for a budget of \$7500.00

CZC moved

ZSO seconded

ZAH abstained

All in favor – budget passed \$7500 to ZSC for the July Games.

UN-NGO committee’s request for \$2000 was put to vote:

ZANC moved

ZAC seconded

ZAH abstained

All in favor – budget approved - \$2000 to UN-NGO Committee

Operation Eyesight: Behram Pastakia: During the Houston Congress was the first time that Operation Eyesight a philosophy until then became an action entity. Behram feels that each association should appoint one person to take charge of this project and make it a part of an institutionalized FEZANA activity. This needs to be put on the FEZANA Website for further publicity. ZSO already has 2 persons involved in this project and puts out information in their newsletter.

Firdosh Mehta interjected that he nominates Behram Pastakia to be the person in charge of this committee that is Operation Eyesight and advised Rustom Kevala, the President elect to make a note of this for his term.

Rustom Kevala gave his vote of thanks to Homi Gandhi and Behram Pastakia for reviving FEZANA’s NGO status a round of applause given to both. Rustom said that all committees should consider a minimum travel budget.

Funds and Finance Committee: Jerry Kheradi/Rashid Mehin:

It has been a very good year for the FEZANA Funds. Throughout the year there has been a steady flow of donations to all the FEZANA funds. Not only has the community donated generously to the calamities and disasters that have occurred at home, Pakistan, India and Iran but have also given generously to individuals and families who have needed financial support. It is also heartening to know that our community does donate more during times of Navroz and Papeti.

Jerry expressed sincere thanks to Yasmin and Bill Cummings and Dr. & Mrs. Behram and Siloo Kapadia for their generosity in creating endowment funds in their family names. Yasmin and Bill Cummings have transferred appreciated securities valued at \$54,220 to the Damkevala Endowment Fund, which they had established previously. Dr. & Mrs. Behram and Siloo Kapadia have created a new endowment fund with the generous donation of \$25,000 in appreciated securities. FEZANA now has three endowment funds –

1. Damkevala Fund (Santa Rosa, CA) for the Welfare Fund

2. Kapadia Fund (Pittsburgh, PA) for the Academic Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students
3. Kheradi Fund (Providence, RI) for the Academic Scholarship for graduate students

At present, we are also working with a family who is planning to establishing a large endowment fund in their family name. I have been working with this family for the last three years.

The Thousand Points of Light Campaign continues to pick up momentum. The Committee completed the third Thousand Points of Light campaign raising \$300,000 and is well into the fourth campaign totaling \$352,500 since inception. Thanked the community for their generous donations and continued support of the Thousand Points of Light Campaign will work towards the ultimate goal of \$1,000,000. Jerry reiterated that all associations should encourage more endowment funds. Rustom Kevala was asked to make FEZANA in their will.

Financial Investment Committee: Jerry Kheradi/Rashid Mehin: Until last AGM, all funds were with Merrill Lynch. Since ML started to charge fees for maintaining the accounts and their transaction fees were too high and therefore a decision was made to move the accounts to Ameritrade only after Rashid had talked to Mr. Dadachanji of Integrity investment group of San Diego. By Transferring the Accounts to Ameritrade the Transaction fees were reduced to only \$10 per transaction. Integrity investment advisors would charge FEZANA 1% of balance in the portfolio for managing FEZANA funds .The first year the management fee for FEZANA was waved by the Integrity investment advisors. Fezana can terminate at any time the services of Integrity investment advisors without any penalty. The next anniversary would be November 2006. The procedure for any transaction is that the Treasurer will give instructions for any transaction Fezana wishes to make and then the new FEZANA Board can decide whether to continue the service of Integrity investment advisors or not. Most of the funds currently are in fixed income earning vehicle. An investment plan was developed with Integrity Investment advisors based on capital preservation in mind. The Policy has been and should be that not more then 50% in equities or mutual funds and the remainder to be spread over 20% cash, 30% fixed income with different duration. Also a 5% cap on stock appreciation and a 7% on ETF appreciation has been established and the end of each closing month the trailing stop would be changed to upward value.

Bijan K joined the AGM at this time and made his presentation. For the Excellence in Sports Scholarship, he already had 2 persons on his committee and was looking for one more. Khurshid Italia helped him set up the scholarship and so he has invited her to be on the Committee. He then shared with the group a great idea of ZNA – Zoroastrian News Agency which covered unbiased news related to all aspects of our greater community worldwide. News maybe of local, national or global interest. May include but not limited to a variety of topics, such as Births, public services, celebrations, etc.

Jerry Kheradi: This information should be sent out to all associations.
Firdosh Mehta: News originating from FEZANA can go through ZNA.

Rustom Kevala: Recommended that all FEZANA association newsletters should be sent to ZNA.

Open Forum: Phee Vania

Arising out of the Open Forum held on Friday May 26th, 2006, Phee presented her project called Y.A.Y.A. – Youth and Young Adult involvement by implementing a simple yet formal mentoring program for students away from home support and community service fulfillment. To achieve this model should comprise of defining the mentoring model, communicating the plan, creating a repository of mentors and protégés and then piloting the program by focusing on small successes and testimonials to attract greater participation. The official unveiling will be at the Toronto Congress in July of 2007. A list of mentoring masters was presented and the delegates were asked to sign up for whatever expertise they could mentor in.

Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area (ZAGBA) Jerry Kheradi:

As ZAGBA representative, Jerry thanked AZA for hosting this excellent AGM. He thanked the old Board for their hard work and welcomed the newly elected officials. 2005 was a year of usual activities at ZAGBA. Khorshed Jungalwalla was honored with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** when nearly 120 attended to honor her. This year, 2006 ZAGBA announced its new board headed by Jamshed Dubash. The groups' strength is in their core initiatives and a strong youth group especially with Bijan Khosraviani on board. Regular annual events, such as navrooz, jashans, and religious classes are conducted and well attended. ZAGBA Center is now a new initiative as the kids are growing up and the need has become stronger to have a center.

At the juncture, Firdosh Mehta presented ***awards to Jerry and Celeste Kheradi*** as they had missed the previous evenings entertainment when Firdosh had given out awards to all those who had been on the FEZANA committees or involved in any way.

Strategic Planning, Chair Dolly Dastoor: The only remaining item on the 10 year plan is to have a consecrated place of worship. Er. Jehan Bagli said that we need to ask just one simple question- Do we need it. Dolly congratulated all the associations for bringing FEZANA to this high level as the 10 year plan now comes to an end.

Jerry Kheradi: How about having a National Z Library?

Firdosh Mehta: Kayormarsh Mehta has already set up a Library – Center for Learning.

Rustom Kevala: Houston too has a Library which is just that a Library and not a Center for Learning.

Farrokh Mistree: ZAH has already put together a place for consecrated fire place – with two sides represented – Parsee and for those from non-parsi marriages.

World Youth Congress in Australia

MOTION: Recommend supporting up to 40 young adults. Subsidy \$250 from FEZANA subject to local association putting in at least \$250 per attendee. The first decision must be from the local association and this is no burden implied on local association.

Total: \$10K from Youth Budget.

Jerry Kheradi: to be given to deserving students only

Niloufer Bhesania: Why not make it to \$20,000 instead of \$10,000?

Farrokh Mistree: willing to create the TOR and manage the travel subsidy program for FEZANA. Interested in working with ZYNA - Freyaz Shroff, Sherazde Mehta, Phee Vania, Bijan KH. and Dolly Dastoor + others.

Rustom Kevala: If 40K not available, can this be divided?

Dolly Dastoor: There should be a condition clause for support.

Sam Vesuna: Suitability should be set up as guidelines. Lower the numbers and select the criteria as the best representative of FEZANA and then increase the amount.

Homi Gandhi: Maybe ZYNA's criteria can be used for selection.

Rustom Kevala: Perhaps a TOR by ZYNA on this so as not to tie the hands of the local associations.

Hosi Mehta: Should follow and use ZYNA's criteria for selection.

Niloufer Bhesania put the motion on the floor to increase the \$250 per Z to \$500.

Amendment: Increase to \$500.

OZCF moved

ZAQ: seconded

2 Against -Amendment fails.

Amendment: Reduce from \$40K to \$20K

ZSO moved

Vote on MOTION

OUTCOME: Oppose 2. Abstain 2.

Rustom Kevala: Vote for the first request of at least \$250

10 in favor

OZCF, ZSO voted against as the amount of \$250 they felt was too low.

World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce,

The WZCC was formed in the year 2000 and it's now spread worldwide with nearly 1000 + membership spread across the globe. WZCC energizes the entrepreneur spirit and its vision is to be the economic engine for Z business all over the world. WZCC will be holding their next AGM in Mumbai, India, from January 5-7, 2007. The WZCC pins, on sale for \$5.00 have been donated by Noria.

World Body Report, Firdosh Mehta:

The ONE WORLD BODY we envisaged was not a pontificating Body on Zoroastrian religion. It did not promote or promulgate any one particular school of thought. It did not get involved in deciding who can or cannot be a Zarathushti. This requirement of

religious authority is left to The Mobed Councils; hence no definition of a Zarathushti was included, and the acceptance of Zarathushtis of various schools of thought was left to the Member Associations on principle of religious Autonomy.

We look at FEZANA as an umbrella for its 24 Registered Zarathushti Member Associations from USA & Canada. FEZANA is primarily a welfare, harmonizing and community service organization at a CONTINENTAL level.

We were trying to extrapolate this successful formula to the international level. Understanding that, at the global level there would be different group dynamics, we the group of elected leaders of different existing organizations came together to create the platform for such a World Body.

However, we did recognize the lacunae of such a concept of Body of Bodies, which did not have an avenue of recognition at the individual level. WZO being there in existence at the time, was recognized as a good available avenue to include the individual component.

We were firstly happy to see that the group dynamics of UK, in terms of the working together of WZO and ZTFE, was changing in the desired way. Hence, the tripartite vehicle of IZO/WZOI/WZOF was conceived and accepted in principle, by all the stakeholders at that time. Even if this one success was derived out of all this activity, we at FEZANA are more than happy for it.

FEZANA MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR ONE WORLD BODY, and accepted this tripartite model. This tripartite organization was NOT to be a religiously doctrinal and theologically pontificating body. It honored and respected the independence of every Member Association's region to define and establish their meaning of the term "Zoroastrian". This was ensured by many clauses included in the drafts of the Constitutions of The ONE World Body in IZO/WZOI/WZOF. It would not be a proselytizing body, nor would it be a dictating body on religious matters.

The protection of infrastructure and property of each region was enshrined in the documents. Zarathushtis without parental lineage could not become its office bearers.

Under these conditions of Autonomy of religious expression, we were in favor of creating a World Body that was primarily a community SERVICE organization to make the life of mainstream Zoroastrians, a more happy and productive life.

We were very pleased to include 2 of the community leaders from IRAN, making us a Group of 12 elected leaders, at the London World Congress.

The London World Congress also was the venue where many pronged approaches were tried, to carve out a World Body acceptable to the major regions.

The FEZANA Working Group addressed the G-10, made other presentations, and generally tried very hard to derive some consensus. We thank our WBWG and their

chair Khorshed Jungalwala, for their sincere and enduring plugging away at the analysis and reporting to our community. Ladies and gentlemen please applaud their work.

However, the tide turned on us with the “status quo” group in India, gaining the support of the Anjumans of India, on the concern of the newly converted/accepted Zarathushtis demanding and getting the community chattels and property of the PARSI community, by virtue of deriving legitimacy to access such PARSI infrastructure in the future, as part of this erroneously labeled “cosmopolitan” world body. With the overwhelming members of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Associations of India, convinced of this perceived possibility, even though all the necessary safeguard clauses were added, signaled the demise of this yet to be born organization.

It is with deep sense of regret and failure that I stand before you today, fully responsible for our actions towards a world body that turned out to be so close and yet so far.

In trying to respect and include the INDIVIDUALS component of our community, we lost a golden opportunity of a “Body of Bodies” which incidentally FEZANA is.

We now have a plethora of community organizations claiming to be world bodies, such as the WZO, The Zarathushti Assembly and WAPIZ.

So, we can place a moratorium on this type of activity with the Individual component.

We still feel that the “Body of Bodies” concept is the way to go; then a separate global organization should be created; where there would be no Individuals or Federations, and only local Zoroastrian registered associations all over the world would join. All would have a single vote and be equal among equals.

If the Board and the Executive of FEZANA were to embark on such a mission, I would be willing to put my shoulder to this wheel to make it happen.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the sheer awesome patience and enthusiasm of Roshan & Rohinton Rivetna. Their dedication is par-excellence and beyond our wildest imagination. Their contribution in the World Body effort is matchless. We cannot thank them enough.

And the cool, calm, and almost spiritual presence of Behram Pastakia. For his guidance and insight, for which I am truly indebted. Thank you Behram.

I thank you for this opportunity to make this presentation to you.
If any of you have any questions, you are absolutely most welcome to ask me, so that I may get an opportunity to explain in further detail.

The future is always bright for those who dare to glare at the Sun.

World Body Report, Rohinton Rivetna:
BENEFITS AND IMPERATIVES

Not only are the benefits of “Coming Together” all too obvious (e.g. strength in numbers) but also the imperatives are even more compelling, given: the shrinking world, the flattening of world economics and the grip of a changing community that is riveting, and at the same time sweeping. The community has a mind of its own, constantly changing.

OUR QUEST TO “COME TOGETHER”

We started on our quest to "Come Together" in a world body over 15 years ago, with the proposal of: The FEZANA model in the form of **WCZF**.

The quest was transformed over the years into a search for the nexus between WZO and WCZF, and the single “One World Body”, exploring several options:

- The **Restructured WZO** model
- The “**Houston model**”
- The “**Two chamber**” model and more ...

Detailed charters were written, discussed and debated for various models.

Finally, in 2004 the elusive nexus between WZO and WCZF was developed consensually by the leadership of India, NA, UK/Europe and WZO (aka the G-10 group). It appeared we were nearing convergence on the concept of:

- The triad model of “**One World Body with Two Independent Arms**”:
IZO-WZOI-WZOF

FEARS AND CONCERNS: *The ball game has now changed* and continues to change. Change is constant. When we started 15 years ago, the North American Zarathushti identity was faint. Today it is strong and getting definable.

Change has left us bewildered and confused:

- We have given vent to our frustration by trying to exaggerate our differences.
- We have tried to find solutions with rigid old ideas that have only succeeded in provoking resistance and more resistance.

Major fears and concerns have been expressed from the traditional lobby, based in India, centered on the marginalization of the Parsi-Irani identity by “converts”.

The G-10 group introduced safeguards and protection clauses in the charters, to address the grievances. These were explained at the Indian Federation Meeting in Mumbai in September 2005. [See attached report from FEZANA Journal, Fall 2005].

However, the majority of anjumans of India was unrelenting in their stand and clearly declared in no uncertain terms that “FPZAI [the Indian Federation] cannot and should not join the Cosmopolitan World Body, which does not in any way protect or preserve the Parsi-Irani Zoroastrian identity.” [WAPIZ Page, September 15, 2005].

ACCOMMODATING TO A CHANGING PARADIGM

New ideas, new ways to do things are not immediately evident. But they are evolving as we speak and before long, as our thinking clarifies, they will become evident.

We are in that process at this time – of finding newer ways to do things but at the same time continuing our progress to:

***"Work Together to Come Together" or you might say
"To Come Together to Work Together"***

OUT OF CRISIS COMES OPPORTUNITY!

COMING TOGETHER IN A “GLOBAL ALLIANCE”

An all-day ***"Coming Together" Roundtable*** session was held at the World Congress in London last June where all Regions where Zarathushtis reside, as well as representatives from major “Institutions of Humankind” (Religion, Governance, Welfare, Arts & Culture, Business & Industry, etc. ...) all came together in a ***“Global Alliance”*** to address issues and concerns of global import.

This initiative promises an opportunity for:

- Interaction, for discourse and dialogue.
- Working together on issues/projects of global import.
- Finding comfort in being together and yet not as “associates” – i.e. the interfaith model.
- Developing newer ways to do things.
- Understanding who we are [*see the developing “list of identifiers”*].

Through this all has emerged a solid ***"North American Zoroastrian" identity***, which is a daunting prospect to many, but it is here to stay and getting stronger every day. FEZANA gives that identity a face.

Is that good? We do not know.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

At this time leadership ***teams are being sought to work on the challenges and projects*** developed by the "Coming Together Initiative" [*see list of challenges and cooperative projects summarized in FEZANA Journal, Fall 2005, p. 79.*]

Some projects, germinated at the London Coming Together session, have already borne fruit, notable among them being:

- Visit of Ervads Jehan Bagli and Firdosh Balsara to the tiny Diaspora in South Africa. [*See Er. Bagli's report*].
- The birth of SSZ – the Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism, bringing academicians to relate with the community.

The next Roundtable session of the "Coming Together Initiative" is planned for the week of January 7, 2007 in Mumbai [*see flyer for details*].

Your support, participation and assistance will be of value.

DISCUSSION ON WORLD BODY

Homi Gandhi asked for the letter from Framroze Patel wherein he refers to Khorshed Jungalwalla and Farrokh Mistree on the subject of World Body and to quote..."to them "means to an end" mattered more than the "end". To them doing right was more important than playing politics." This letter to be archived.

Homi Gandhi moved that this World Body Committee be disbanded.

Sam Vesuna: He wanted to know if the Committee had gone so far and had managed to get WZO on their side, cannot this be pursued further without the participation and support of Mumbai. This has been going on for so long and why are we being held hostage by Mumbai – why are we prolonging this issue? We need One Body and if FEZANA is a success why cannot we go ahead without Mumbai.

Firdosh Mehta: Only FEZANA and WZO are on the table as there is a divide in the dealings with India. Overwhelming majority of Indian Anjumans has said no and then ZTFE said they will not join if India does not join.

Sam Vesuna: We should go ahead and form the World Body. Mumbai will come back and there are other regions that will join in. Put pressure on the membership and on ZTFE and let them know that this door is open to them.

Firdosh – Out of 54, 45 members associations in India said NO. That is not right to say "some people" said no, as that is an overwhelming majority.

Farrokh Mistree: Supports Firdosh's viewpoint. If Sam wishes to pursue this then he can go ahead. He personally approves what WZCC has put together.

Sam Vesuna: Completely disagrees with Farrokh and re-emphasizes that we should not be held hostage by one. We need to have a World Body and should not wait for another 5 or 10 years for something to happen again. India is only one country there are other regions that will join. If you have the majority of the world says yes we need to go ahead.

Niloufer Bhesania: Please note Sam's position in the minutes.

Nairika Kotwal: Why not put in a time line.

Firdosh: time lines do not work. What Rohinton Rivetna said makes sense. But the change in perspective is not clear.

Rohinton: WZCC has nothing to do with this concept and has no part in the new project initiative. During the AGM in January of 2007 maybe find a new solution. No Umbrella organization.

Homi Gandhi: Let the new executive have a chance to think.

Farrokh Mistree: UK agreed but the agreement did not translate into constitution. The documents do not show agreement.

Firdosh Mehta: Referring to Rohinton Rivetna manifesto and said there was no agreement in London to make the World Body.

Rustom Kevala: Discussion is irrelevant as the constitution has not been ratified.

Firdosh Mehta: There were three documents: IZO and WZOF are complete; WZOI is not complete and therefore it cannot be presented to FEZANA. We cannot proceed.

Rashid Mehin: Even though 45 Anjuman said no, those 45 are small Anjuman and hence what Sam Vesuna said maybe true.

Niloufer moved for closure of this discussion.

All moved in favor of closure. ZSO abstained.

Motion for closure passed.

Transferring of Charge: Firdosh Mehta handed over the charge, the Gavel to the next executive and personally thanked everyone for their support

Rustom Kevala thanked Firdosh for his excellent term as President and he was looking for a start of new era beginning by meeting with past officers and other candidates.

The meeting concluded.

Minutes prepared by Farrokh Mistree, Assistant Secretary and Rita Engineer, Secretary.