



Asha

...doin' it the right way

E-published by: ZYNA Co-Chairs
Afreed, Negin, Freyaz

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year for 2005!

What is ZYNA?

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) is a standing committee of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA). The committee has 3 co-chairs who represent the youth and their views to the FEZANA executive team. ZYNA encompasses aspects of youth involvement that include everything from religious education and social gatherings to keeping the younger community connected with one another.

The ZYNA team maybe contacted by writing to ZYNAangels@aol.com

Who are your ZYNA Co-Chairs?

Afreed Mistry, represents Canada.

afreed.mistry@gmail.com

Negin Sharyari represents the West Coast.

dancingnegi@aol.com

Freyaz Shroff represents the East Coast.

freyaz@aol.com

We are your ZYNAangels and look forward to working with you, to make our community a stronger one!

A Message from YOUR ZYNAangels:

Thank you to all of you that responded to our first edition of Asha. We will continue this e-newsletter as a quarterly publication to update all the youth on happenings in the Zoroastrian communities in North America and abroad. Please feel free to send your comments, and suggestions to ZYNAangels@aol.com

Getting Involved:

Z-Youth Representatives Needed:

ZYNA is currently looking for youth representatives from each association across North America and Canada who will serve as our "eyes and ears." We are looking for young, enthusiastic Z-Youth who will share with us the needs of their association's youth and in turn share news of new activities to the youth of their association. We do currently have representatives from the following associations:

Canada: ZAA Edmonton, ZAA Calgary, ZSBC & ZSO.

America: ZAGBA (Boston), ZAH (Houston), Denver.

We would love for you to join our team. Please send an email to ZYNAangels@aol.com, with your full name, your association's name, and your association's location. We look forward to hearing from you!

United Nations – 49th session on the Commission on the Status of Women:

The 49th session of the CSW will take place from Feb. 28 – Mar. 11, 2005. This year the UN will review and advise of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly entitled, "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century." The UN will also explore current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

More information on the session can be found at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw>

Our Zarathushti youth will be presenting a session at the UN titled, "How Zarathushtis have contributed to the UN Millennium Development Goals in the past, present and future." The UN team will consist of: Shireen Cama, Shara Godiwalla, Afreed Mistry, Farhad Mistry, Kayzad Namdarian and Homi Gandhi.

For more information please contact Behram Pastakia at bpastakia@aol.com or Homi Gandhi at homi_gandhi@usa.net.

Volunteers Needed at the XIII North American Zoroastrian Congress:

If you are registering for the San Jose congress, we need some volunteers at the FEZANA/ZYNA booth during the congress days (Dec. 28-31). If you would like to volunteer please email ZYNAangels@aol.com with your full name and contact number.

Get-Togethers:

XIII North American Zoroastrian Congress:

Hosted by the Zarathushti Association of Northern California (ZANC), the congress will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area from December 29, 2004 – January 1, 2005. ZYNA will have a special open forum discussion for the youth on Dec. 31st from 2 pm to 3 pm. You will find a list of the specific activities planned for the youth at

http://zanc.org/congress/prog_youth.html . Additionally, you may obtain detail information on the Congress theme, hotels and registration form at www.zanc.org/congress

ZYNA Event in Vancouver, B.C.:

The next ZYNA event will be hosted by ZSBC/ZYBC in Vancouver, Canada. The event will take place over the Good Friday long weekend from March 24th evening until 27th, 2005. For more information, please visit the ZYNA webpage from <http://www.fezana.org> or send an email to ZYNAangels@aol.com

VIII World Zoroastrian Congress:

The World Zoroastrian Congress will take place in London, England from June 24 – July 1st, 2005. The early bird deadline for registration is Dec. 31, 2005. For more information, visit: <http://www.ztfe.com>

Holiday Program for the Youth (HPY) in North America:

ZYNA is currently working on a youth camp program for all high school graduates who hope to move to college/university for further education. The camp will take place in Toronto, Canada from July 31 – August 7, 2005. The camp will involve some career counseling, teaching of public speaking skills, cooking, sports, debates and much more. Details will be announced in the new year. For more information or to volunteer to help in the camp please contact ZYNAangels@aol.com.

XI North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress:



ZEESTAN 2005
Living the Zarathushti Life
Miami, Florida
Dec. 28 - 30, 2005
For more details please visit www.fezana.org
Email: ZYNAangels@aol.com
ZYNA is proud to bring you the
North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress
Sponsored by FEZANA

Connecting the Z-Way:

Zpeakerbox: The Zoroastrian Community's FIRST Youth Online Magazine:

Kudos go out to three of our young Zarathushtis, Parizad Hathidaru (Vancouver), Sharon Batliwalla (Ottawa) and Narius Dastur (Vancouver) for starting the first Zoroastrian Youth Online Magazine called Zpeakerbox.

Starting in May 2004 with a thought-provoking article written by Parizad, the creation and launch of an entire website gave Zoroastrian youth from all over the world an opportunity to meet fellow Zarathushtis and speak their minds about the issues that concern them -rather than waiting a year or two for the next congress. This website is created by the youth, for the youth.

Over the past decade, people from around the world have turned to the Internet as a way of meeting new people and voicing their opinions on the issues that arise within society. It is certainly no different amongst our Zoroastrian youth! Zpeakerbox has over 200 members since its launch this May and the numbers are increasing steadily. News of this website has reached all over the world including Canada, United States, Germany, London, Australia, Dubai, India, Iran and Pakistan. Until now, the only form of advertisement has been through word of mouth and e-mail.

Members can participate in both serious and light-hearted discussions of various topics, as well as share jokes, articles, pictures and even join a live chat. Zoroastrian youth can keep up with upcoming activities within their area and association and receive information regarding future congresses and Zarathushti Games.

Sharon, Parizad and Narius have dedicated their time and effort to see this site succeed. They do this on a voluntary basis as Sharon is a full time nursing student at the University of Ottawa; Parizad is a Social Sciences student in Vancouver and Narius is a full-time computer science student at Simon Fraser University.

Excellent job - keep it up! Good luck with the website!

Registration is free and only takes a matter of seconds. For more information, visit: <http://www.zpeakerbox.narius.net>
Please type "ZYNA" when asked for who referred you.

