



ZAH ANNUAL GENERAL BODY

MARCH 31, 2024

The ZAH Library Committee seeks ways to fulfill its mission: “To serve as a leading repository of knowledge that fosters the awareness and study of the Zoroastrian religion, history, traditions and culture”. Our collection has been growing steadily in books and interesting artifacts donated to us. We have had programs that have been entertaining and, we hope, have provided intellectual stimulation as well. Our annual events are attended by the FEZANA President which brings a wider recognition, use, and support of the ZAH Library. Family attendance is encouraged so all can take full advantage of our resources and facility.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Meheryar Rivetna generously pledged to donate proceeds from his book, *Zarathushtra: The Man and the Message* to the ZAH Library, starting with an initial sale of 90 books at the launch. Sales surpassed expectations, reaching countries like Germany, France, Japan, Australia, Brazil, and the Netherlands. To date he has donated \$2085 to the library through the sale of his book. Congratulations and gratitude to Meheryar Rivetna.
- Sharmeen Mehri visited the YMZA library located at the Dinshaw Avari Colony in Karachi. The library holds the Dastur Dr. Dhalla collection. The collection has 4000 plus books, magazines, pamphlets, and other rare materials in various languages. Currently, Dinshaw Avari is in the process of digitizing the collection, after which, the FIRES committee will work towards bringing together the Dastur Dr. Dhalla collection from Karachi to the Dhalla Trust’s collection at the ZAH Library.
- The FIRES committee is currently seeking volunteers to conduct oral history interviews or to edit interview transcripts and video/audio. Please contact Sharmeen Mehri at oralhistory@fezana.org if you’d like to contribute to documenting the stories of first-generation Zoroastrian immigrants in North America.
- At the Parliament of World’s Religions in August 2023 in Chicago, the ZAH Library/FIRES created a Cyrus Exhibit that drew a lot of attention from attendees. We also had a display of several books from our collection called *Flames of Wisdom: A Journey of Zoroastrian Texts*.

PROGRAMS

| Date | Event |
|-----------------|---|
| March 24, 2023 | <i>Memories We Carry</i> – Talk by Sharmeen Mehri on her oral history project. |
| August 25, 2023 | <i>Triumphs and Tribulations: A Film Producer’s Story</i> , by Cyrus Bharucha; Sponsored jointly by the ZAH Library and WZCC |
| Nov 10-11, 2023 | <i>Sheer-e-Shireen: Zoroastrians adding Sugar to the Milk</i> - by Jenny Rose <i>Report on the Ava Project</i> by Mahtab Dastur and Natasha Dungor - teenagers who are involved in this FEZANA Project <i>Politics and Power: The Birth of Younger Avesta</i> – by Meheryar Rivetna |

GOALS FOR 2024

- Solicit financial resources for the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize.
- Showcase the ZAH Library/FIRES collection and exhibits at the 18th NAZC.
- Acquire at least one Zoroastrian artifact each year for permanent display in the library.
- Hold at least one exhibition on Zoroastrian artifacts.
- Encourage the use of library resources to enhance knowledge on Zoroastrian religion, tradition, history, and culture.
- Hold joint session with Sunday school to promote awareness in the youth of the library and its resources.

COLLECTION AND FACILITY

We are proud of the reputation that we have earned over the last twenty years. People from all over the world are willing to trust us with their collections of books and artifacts. The table below shows how we have grown in those years.

| | 2004 | 2024 |
|-----------------|------|--|
| Cataloged Books | 400 | 1533 Total 918 bought by or donated to ZAH Library 615 from FIRES Funds |
| Bookcases | 2 | 5 |
| Display Cases | None | 2 tall display cabinets, 2 display cases, open shelves for books and artifact displays. 2 display cases and stage in Purvez Rustomji room. |

We could not have achieved this expansion without the generous contributions of our many donors and the budget provided by FEZANA for FIRES

BUDGET

See ZAH Treasurer's Report

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nauzer Bilimoria, Rustom Engineer, Yezdi Engineer, Debra and Darayus Kolah, Zubeen Mehta, Jehangir Mistry, Yasmin Pavri, Meheryar Rivetna, Aban Rustomji, Nazanin Sarkari and Arnavaz Sethna. Our newest member is Sharmeen Mehri from Buffalo NY.

We meet on the 1st Sunday of each month from 11:00 am - 1:00 p.m.