I wonder whether in today’s world, the perpetrators of “SCAMS” will ever believe in what ancient Sages said. Possibly they may even ridicule them. Earlier our worthy ancestors taught us to have a cool mind and a warm heart. A cool mind thinks of good thoughts which will result in good words which in turn will do good deeds. A warm heart shows mercy and willingness to help fellow human beings. A warm heart spreads happiness around us. It wipes out tears and brings smile on the faces of those who are in misery.

Unfortunately in today’s cruel world, we have more of hot mind and a cool heart. Arrogance, power crazy attitude, greed, and grossly selfish actions seem to be the order of the day. Let us recapitulate what Swami Vivekanand said years ago...

When will this madness end? Unfortunately, our world seem to be going more towards embracing bad thoughts, bad words and bad deeds. The main purpose of doing business appears to be the “loot”. Make money by foul means, cheat people and in this process cheat your own conscience. Dishonesty is considered as “Street-Smart” attitude. Deception is considered as a decisive factor to amass wealth. Respect for law and righteousness is considered to be highly traditional and orthodox. Modernisation and fashionable business jargons have replaced time-tested and successful business principles. Respect for “honour” and “character” is simply forgotten. “I am all powerful is the motto – toe my line or else you will be crushed.”

It is so heartening to remember those beautiful lines penned by none other than Charlie Chaplin: “You need Power when you want to do something harmful; otherwise Love is enough to get everything done”.

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, was a man of integrity. He once said that “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel these are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, mother and teacher.”

Business without Ethics is no business. Ethics is the essence of civilization. Many non-Zoroastrian scholars, who have studied Zoroastrian faith, have come out with interesting conclusions. Professor Jackson, the renowned scholar of Zoroastrian religion states: “The sacred books of few people, contain so clear a group of right and wrong, and so ethical a conception of duty, as the Zoroastrian scriptures. Few creeds inculcate more strongly than that of Persia, the need for purity of body and soul.”

Let us therefore, hope and pray that wisdom will prevail. Let the good win over evil. Let every thought, word and action be coated with sweetness. Let every human being treat his or her fellow human being with genuine respect and love. Let the prevailing moral and materially corrupt atmosphere be transformed into a beautiful heaven where we all live happily ever after.

Lastly let me leave you with thought provoking lines mentioned by Mr. Rusi M. Lala in his invaluable book “The heartbeat of a Trust” – the Story of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. In his very first Chapter he quotes J.R. Miller in “Green Pastures”.

“It is not having that makes men great. A man may have the largest abundance of God’s gifts of money, of mental requirements, of power, of heart, possessions and qualities – yet if he only hoards what has for himself, he is not great. Men are great only in the measure in which they use what they have to bless others. We are God’s stewards, and the gifts that come to us are his, not ours, and are to be used for him as he would use them.”
The WZCC Middle East Chapter held its edutainment event - “Trivia Night” on October, 29th 2017. An event befitting the WZCC portfolio, it was held at the Mercure Gold Hotel with an attendance of over 50 people. The evening started with the ever popular Children’s Quiz, where our young leaders of tomorrow dazzled all in attendance with their skill and knowledge, answering a variety of General Knowledge, Multiple Choice and Audio Visual Questions. Starting the proceeding Cyrus Debara welcomed all the guests and set the pace for the evening - laying out the rules and quiz method. The young children assembled in teams and the Quiz was curated and hosted by WZCC Youth Team - Jasmine Tavadia and Urvaksh Tantra. Throughout the half hour contest, it was often found the youngsters knew more answers then the adults in the room! The enthusiasm of the kids was simply amazing, and the winning team “Team Braniacs” consisting of Rayaan Irani, Tiyan Debara and Roxanne Dubash, all received educational books courtesy of Mr. Porus Guzder.

The main event of the evening was the always competitive Adult’s Quiz. Featuring 9 teams of 4 members each battling each other over 5 varied rounds, such as “Guess Who” and “The Zoro Crossword”, drama and entertainment was never far. The final round where teams got to select their preferred category questions with double bonus points was ever engaging. Movie themed posters, community specific questions and world politics were all brought into play across the rounds. At the end of the evening - “Team G - Ghelsappa Parsis” comprising Charmaine Taraporvala, Marzban Pithawalla, Daraius Antia and Jimmy Dadrewala won the quiz contest by a narrow margin to the runners up - “The A Team” consisting of Khushru Khandhadia, Mozard Antia, Kaizad Pithawalla and Goolnaz Debara. The spot prizes for the round of Trivia open to the audience, was won by Keki Tavadia, Anaissa Irani, Roshni Taraporvala & Wahbeez Wankadia.

The typical parsi spirit and bonhomie was on display throughout the night, and not only was it a treat for the participating adults, but all the audience members too were cheering on their loved ones. The winners received a Cash prize and gifts vouchers and were felicitated on stage by Mrs. Dolly Tavadia. As always, no event is complete without a scrumptious dinner, which was enjoyed by one and all. Just before the evening was rounded off, an exciting video presentation of the world famous Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum was shown to the members as it is one of the next planned activities for the WZCC-ME Chapter towards education and cultural enrichment. With this promise of more entertaining and enjoyable events in the near future, Cyrus, Porus Guzder (President of WZCC-ME) and Firdaus Irani (Chapter Chair – WZCC-ME) thanked all the members and appreciated the efforts of the youth committee and its key members (Jasmine and Urvaksh) for managing this event.
During the month of October 2017 Yazdi visited and made presentations in Houston, TX; New York, NT; Chicago, IL; Sunnyvale CA; and Los Angeles CA.

The need to connect is an overwhelming need for life itself. Personal, Social and Commercial connections enhance the very meaning of our being. More so, when our tiny community is thinly spread across the world and, perhaps, losing its connections. Our future as a community is interlinked with how well we remain connected and be of support to each other.

Yazdi is a firm believer that the internet will help unite the far-flung Zoroastrian community across the globe and towards that end, Yazdi has developed several Zoroastrian Websites. His talks were designed to include a brief overview of these websites and how each one of us can utilize these websites to our advantage. It is about how we can revive our connections, go back to our roots, in terms of religion and culture, our institutions and also how to connect to the globally thriving, living diaspora across the world for personal, social and professional connections. Building upon the omnipotent power of the internet, let us explore the possibilities and opportunities to make it possible for ourselves and also for our future generations.

Here’s a sample of the websites Yazdi has created and maintains (note that the terms Parsi and Zoroastrian are interchangeable. Any one of the two words will take you to the same site):

- **Zoroastrians.net**
  Is full of information on almost anything under the sun you can think of. This has got to be the go-to place for anyone seeking news, jobs, community events, food and recipes, scholarships, songs and videos, prayers and ceremonies, calendars, missing Parsis, and Directories. The site receives over 2.1 million hits as proof of its usefulness. A nifty feature allows you to find the Roj and Mah of any birthday and automatically put that on your Google calendar every year.

- **TheParsiDirectory.com**
  A directory of Zoroastrian with more than 81,000 entries that is also available as an Android app. You can search for any long-lost friend or relative and get their whereabouts and contact information. Just input either the name, or the location or the profession of the person. TheParsiDirectory.com Connects all Zoroastrians worldwide through a common, single family tree.

- **TheParsiMatch.com**
  An online portal dedicated to help the young Z-generation to meet their life partners.

- **TheParsiInstitutions.com**
  A comprehensive listing of more than 780 community institutions world over.

- **WZCC.ORG**
  A meeting place for business people and professionals. There was immense admiration and lots of interest for Yazdi’s single-handed efforts as evidenced by the questions that the attendees asked.

A brief summary of his visit to each location and the re launch of the Southern California Chapter follows.

**HOUSTON CHAPTER by Jangoo Mistry**

An unusual and interesting seminar was presented jointly by the ZAH Library and the Houston Chapter of WZCC on October 13, 2017 to listen to Yazdi as he presented the work he has been engaged in for the benefit of the worldwide Zoroastrian community. He has volunteered countless hours and worked hard to create something of immense and lasting value for all of us. The numbers of Zoroastrians on the Indian sub-continent are dwindling rapidly and the diaspora outside, though growing steadily, remains scattered all over the world. These two factors have created an urgent need for the community to stay connected at the personal, social, and professional levels. These days, with social media and virtual connections being a big part of our lives, the internet presents an effective way to unite and connect. Yazdi recalled the saying of Matthew Lieberman, a famous psychologist at Harvard University: “We are all islands in the sea, separate on the surface, but connected in the deep.” With the firm belief that Zoroastrians need to be connected for unity, strength, and our very survival, Yazdi has created numerous web sites that puts incredible amounts of information at our fingertips, whether you are in a city, or in a remote corner of the world.
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Recognizing the importance of Yazdi’s work, attendees also expressed concerns for ensuring its continuity in the future.

NEW YORK by Arnaz Maneckshana

On October 15th, 2017 Yazdi was the featured speaker for the Erach Munshi Memorial lecture as part of the Annual Udvada Fund Raiser. The lecture is a tribute to the late Erach Munshi who helped to found ZAGNY and himself a distinguished Business Professor.

Yazdi spoke about the Web-sites for Zoroastrians Worldwide which was similar in content to the above Houston presentation. However, in keeping with the theme of the day he also spoke about “Udvada then, now and in future”

An audience of 70 were impressed and appreciated his pursuit to link the community on a global basis. Yazdi discussed the various Zoroastrian websites not just to survive but to connect, unite, grow and prosper. These websites can provide information on any and all types of searches ….

Religious, social, educational, professional, business. He patiently addressed the many audience questions and comments. Yazdi’s technological expertise and dedication is remarkable.

Our sincere thanks for his commitment to WZCC and the community at large. His shared interest and efforts with the late Erach Munshi, in the development of the Parsi’s in Udvada, made this day even more special and meaningful.

The event and lunch was co-hosted by Mehru & Lovji Cama and Hanoz & Minaz Munshi. Dariush Jamshidian hosted a dinner for Yazdi & Thrity Tantra and New York Chapter Committee at a nearby Persian Restaurant.

CHICAGO by Jehangir Darukhanawala

About 30 persons attended the excellent presentation by Yazdi Tantra on Tuesday, October 17th, at the home of Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna in Hinsdale, IL. For almost 2 hours, Yazdi conducted a strong discussion on the subject of connecting the Zoroastrian community which is now spread to the far corners of the globe. He is a firm believer that the internet will help, and toward that end he has developed numerous Zoroastrian websites.

The report of his presentation at Houston has been meticulously documented by Jangoo Mistry of WZCC – Houston. Instead of repeating the items in his report, for the Chicago Chapter report we offer the following addendum:

- Yazdi repeatedly emphasized that the success “in bringing the community together” will happen only if we all “Participate, Participate, Participate”. The websites developed and supported by Yazdi are valuable tools, that require our participation.

- He urged that we subscribe by going to Zoroastrians.net, enter our email address and press “Follow”.

- The new WZCC website “wzcc.org”, which replaced the old website “wzcc.net” is a powerful tool to publicize the activities being conducted by the various WZCC chapters throughout the world. Each chapter needs to continue to update its part of the website to inform the current members and to attract new members.

Our sincere thanks to Yazdi and his wife Thrity, for coming to Chicago to enlighten and inspire us about the need to stay connected. All present deeply appreciated his efforts and committed to support and promote the services offered (mostly gratis) by Yazdi and his company ON-LYNE.org.

We also gratefully appreciate the effort by Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna to arrange this event at their house, including the delicious potluck buffet.

SUNNYVALE by Bomi Patel

On Sunday October 21, 2017, Mr. Yazdi Tantra, Global Vice President, WZCC, presented a session on “The Need To Connect, and How We Can Do It!”. The session was held courtesy of Microsoft Inc. at their Sunnyvale Conference Center.

Though a small gathering, Yazdi’s talk was very informative and interesting. A serial innovator and one who exemplifies the idea of tireless social entrepreneurship with his work to bring the community together, Yazdi presented his work on various Zoroastrian web sites, each serving a unique and important need in the Zoroastrian community worldwide.

During his presentation, he regaled the audience with hilarious, yet thought provoking examples of the way the various portals he has built helped serve different needs of the community. For instance, he spoke about the Missing Parsi portal and how within 48 hours he was able to connect a person in Pune with his brother who lost his job, phone and other means of communication in Canada. Another example, how his work in making available audio recordings of
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various prayers, monajats and khushali na geet on Zoroastrians.net has helped expose a whole new generation of Zoroastrians to the traditions of the generations that preceded them. There was a lively discussion where he randomly picked on members of the audience and showed them how others in the community who needed to connect, could find them using the ParsiDirectory.com. He closed out by talking about the daily Uthamna service that he runs on SMS, WhatsApp and via the Parsi Directory Android App, and many in the audience appreciated the value this service provides - especially to the elderly in the community around the world.

Yazdi also talked about WZCC and its function and created a good interest among the attendees to the extent that a couple of ZANC members have shown interest in working towards reviving the Northern California Chapter.

Also a big thank you to Mr. Shiroy Choksey for organizing the event.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by Cyrus Cama

Greetings to the already established members and chapters of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce (WZCC). As the newly-appointed board of the Southern California Chapter, we would like to introduce ourselves to the global WZCC community. We are a relatively young but extremely talented group of individuals and are excited to be working with the WZCC to continually strengthen the business and commercial ties of the Zoroastrian community worldwide. In this regard, we are willing to do whatever we can to support other chapters and the WZCC organization as a whole.

On October 22, 2017, the Southern California Chapter of the WZCC held an inaugural event hosted by local chapter members and special guest, WZCC Vice President Mr. Yazdi Tantra.

The event kicked off with an introduction by Mr. Kavasji Dadachanji who welcomed the audience of over forty people and introduced the first of the program’s three speakers, Mr. Homi Gandhi.

Mr. Gandhi, who is the President of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA), gave a brief by extremely informative talk about the WZCC, why it is such an important organization for Zoroastrians worldwide, and how it can be of great benefit to the local Southern California Zoroastrian community. Mr. Gandhi was then followed by Mr. Cyrus Cama, the General Secretary of the Southern California Chapter of the WZCC. The theme of Mr. Cama’s brief talk was about the Zoroastrian concept of “Frashokereti” and how it relates to the mission of WZCC. He also emphasized that one of the primary reasons why the new board has revived our local chapter is to use it as a vehicle to help promote Zoroastrian values in business and to further increase the prosperity of the community at large. Through networking events, workshops, guest speakers and a multitude of other activities, the Southern California Chapter will work to strengthen business and commercial ties amongst all Zoroastrians, regardless of age, profession.

The program then proceeded to the headlining event, specifically a talk given by WZCC Vice President Mr. Yazdi Tantra of Mumbai. Mr. Tantra’s presentation was entitled “How to Revive Our Connections with Zoroastrians Worldwide.” During his presentation, he spoke at length about how we can and should continue to use technology to strengthen the ties among our thriving but diasporic communities. As examples, he showed the audience several community-oriented websites and gave demonstrations on how to use many of them. These sites can be used for everything from learning about community events, directories, businesses, Zoroastrian religious resources, recipes, matrimonial, calendars and other tools of great benefit.

Probably the most intriguing for those in attendance was the section entitled “Missing Parsi,” a resource for finding Zoroastrians who one may have lost touch with. The audience was clearly fascinated by his presentation as their many thoughtful questions during and after the talk demonstrated. Without a doubt, Mr. Tantra’s talk was extremely well-received by all who attended and furthered the cause of the WZCC in southern California.

Afterwards, Mr. Kavasji Dadachanji hosted a dinner in honor of Mr. Tantra’s visit at one of southern California’s finest Persian restaurants, Darya in Costa Mesa, CA. Overall, the day’s event and dinner were huge successes and generated a lot of interest and new members in our local chapter. We look forward to working with the WZCC to further strengthen ties within the Zoroastrian business community, both here in southern California and worldwide.

WZCC is extremely pleased that the Southern California Chapter has been rejuvenated and especially because it has a completely Young Adult Team.

The Team comprises of:

Faridun Dadachanji, Chair
Natashah Torki, Program & Events Director
Neil Spenta, Treasurer
Cyrus Cama, General Secretary
In a glittering function which was held at the prestigious Royal Bombay Yacht Club, WZCC honoured CONSUL and SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER of Canada, Ms. Tara Scheurwater, on Saturday, 16th September 2017.

The ANCHORAGE, HALL OF THE Club was full to capacity with the senior officials and members of WZCC, their guests and other dignitaries.

WZCC had their 14th Annual General Meeting in the evening which was then followed by an interesting program, ably compered by Ms. Behroze Daruwalla, Chairperson, Global WE-Wing.

Capt. Percy Master, in his opening comments as the President of India Region appreciated the efforts of the Immediate Past Global President, Mr. Minoo Shroff, coupled with the useful contribution made by Mr. Phili Kharas, Mr. Adi Siganporia and his colleagues of the Mumbai Chapter Committee and made special mention of the stellar role played by CEO, Mr. Aspi Antia and his team comprising of Ms Zarine Khan, Ms Aban Mistry and Mr. Rumi Mamlatdar.

Capt. Master gave a brief account of work done by WZCC and how it has progressed over the years.

After completion of statutory formalities, Chapters in Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore presented details of their activities. Mr. Adi Siganporia, Chairman of Mumbai Chapter gave a detailed account of the various Events organized during the year and specifically mentioned the enthusiasm shown by our Youth in the yearly program “HPY – Holiday Program for Youth”.

He elucidated the zeal of our Community’s youngsters towards various facets of Entrepreneurship which were nurtured by organizing an interesting game. He mentioned that till the enthusiasm to succeed in life is alive, our Youth will never fail in their endeavor. He also touched upon informative and interesting programs conducted by WZCC’s Global Vice-President, Mr. Yazdi Tantra on “Mobile Apps” and topical Events ably conducted by WZCC’s Mumbai Chapter Vice-Chairman, Mr. Xerxes Dastur, on the subject of “GST”. However, Mr. Siganporia emphasized the importance of hard work in today’s highly competitive business environment.

Ms. Mahrukh Bharucha, Chairperson, Pune then presented Pune Chapter Report. She spoke about the year gone by for the Pune Chapter – recounting successes and a couple of non-starters. She expressed her regret about the Pune Committee having to dissolve as their terms have ended.
She then reiterated her faith in the fact that the current Committee members worked with a generosity of spirit that ensures their continued support to the new office bearers. She reported that Pune had taken Mumbai’s lead in starting their own version of “Coffee with WZCC” networking nights.

Mahrukh thanked India, Mumbai and Pune Boards for all their efforts in continuing with the expansion plans and rising successes of WZCC.

Bangalore Chapter which is a newly established Chapter of WZCC was well represented by none other than Air Chief Marshall (Retd.) Fali Major as its Chairman. He appreciated the efforts put in by Ms Zarine Kharas and her Team and gave interesting details of how they are working hard in organizing this year’s Global Annual General Meeting in Bangalore where members of WZCC and guests will gather from all parts of the world in December this year.

Ms Behroze Daruwalla then requested Ms Percis Dubash, Hon. Secretary, “WE” Wing who narrated the interesting Events organized by the ‘WE’ Wing and gave details of the field visit to Mustang Socks Factory located at Palghar and appreciated the efforts of Ms Naazneen Katrak.

The audience was then regaled by Mr. Anil Thomas, well-known and well-accomplished Management Consultant, Coach and a successful Entrepreneur, Founder of Mustard Seed Training & Assessment Systems. He recharged the “batteries” of all the participants and elucidated the importance and effectiveness of Six Human Needs (1) Need for certainty, (2) Need for something new, (3) Need for appearing significant, (4) Need for connection, (5) Need to create, (6) Need to contribute, the last and the most important need “To Give” and not “To Get” was very well applauded when he reiterated the characteristics of Parsees who believed in “Giving” for the overall benefit of mankind. He concluded his talk thanking WZCC and Mr. Phili Kharas, Director-International Board for giving him the opportunity to address the audience.

The Guest of Honour, Honourable Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner of Canada, Ms Tara Scheurwater was introduced by Mr. Adi Siganporia. He narrated her career graph and her distinguished accomplishments in holding crucial and high powered positions as a successful diplomat.

The Honourable Guest then gave a very interesting and exhaustive coverage of Trade and Culture related activities between Canada and India and how both the countries achieve mutual benefits. She appreciated the role of Indians in the various fields of activities in Canada and how India’s representatives located in Canada are respected and appreciated.

Subsequently, Ms Scheurwater presented a trophy of Outstanding Zarathushti Professional of the Year 2016 Award to the Co-Winner, Dr. Arnavaz Havewalla, as she was unable to attend in person for the Awards Ceremony held in Hong Kong last year.

Ms Behroze Daruwalla in her inimitable style called upon the Guest of Honour Ms Tara Scheurwater and WZCC’s Vice-President, Mr. Yazdi Tantra to launch a new Book – “Learning to Succeed” authored by Mr. P. P. Kharas who, in his speech explained the reasons for writing the book. The entire cost of the book was borne by Mr Kharas and the proceeds of the sale of the Book were donated to WZCC. This noble gesture on his part was widely applauded by one and all. He hopes that his book will serve as an important guide to newly established Entrepreneurs and make them ultimately successful in their chosen fields of activities.

Mr. Adi Siganporia ended the Event and while proposing the Vote of Thanks made special mention of all those present, guests, well-wishers and Donors, Advertisers, Auditors, Press, various Committee Members, staff and Mr. Jamshed Mistry, WZCC’s Life member, for his important contribution made towards the progress of WZCC.

This was followed with Networking amongst all who attended and ended with sumptuous Buffet catered by Royal Bombay Yacht Club.
December 14th, 15th & 16th 2017, saw over 120 delegates interact and enjoy the expanse of the Clarks Exotica Resort & Spa in Bangalore, India. The Bangalore Chapter was delighted at this response, when they hosted this major event for World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce.

The Bangalore Chapter Reception Committee was set up to welcome delegates from worldwide Chapters of WZCC.

The Annual General Meeting began with Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Shereyar Vakil from Bangalore welcoming the delegates. The Meet was officially opened by the lighting of the “diva” by our Global President, Mr. Edul Daver and the Bangalore Chapter Chair, Air Chief Marshal Fali Major (Retd).

The Office Bearers of WZCC first presented their reports for the year – Mr. Edul Daver, Global President, Mr. Yazdi Tantra, Global Vice President, Mr. Adi Siganporia, Global Corporate Secretary and Ms. Katayun Kapadia, Global Hon. Treasurer. Two major initiatives were the focus of the AGM, which are expected to be game changers for WZCC’s long term point of view.

- Youth Initiative with the appointment of a Youth Director and their global interaction on Social Media.

- Financing Initiative to help Start-ups and growth of existing businesses & professionals. Plans include collection of donations worldwide to support businesses and improve the economic well-being of the community, initially in India and gradually globally. This initiative will involve the support of World Zoroastrian Organization Trust Fund.

Two speakers of repute addressed the delegates at the start of the evening, followed by entertainment by Sanjay Manaktala, Bangalore’s best stand-up comedian.

Dr. Ferzaan Engineer, a pharmaceutical scientist and healthcare entrepreneur, narrated his experiences on how he cofounded two companies:
1. Medwell Ventures offers home healthcare services under the Nightingales brand.
2. Cytecare Hospitals are one of India’s only organ-based cancer hospitals and are super-specialized in various surgeries, radiation techniques and chemotherapies. The flagship project was a 150 bed hospital launched a year ago in Bangalore.

Dr. Ferzaan engineer spoke on “Creating model cancer hospitals in India”.

Dr. Viloo Morawalla Patell, Founder and current Chairman and Managing Director of the Biotechnology Company Avestagen Limited shared her specialised knowledge and experiences. Her company was founded in 1998 with a long term, strategic model to change the world and make it a better place with affordable healthcare and Environment Adjusted Crops.

Dr. Viloo Morawalla Patell spoke on “Avestagenome Project – Providing global cure through precision medicine”.

A most interesting and actively participated Panel Discussion was well organized.

The subject read “The Relevance of Zoroastrian Values in Today’s Entrepreneurial Environment”. Cyrus Dhabhar, a member of the Bangalore Chapter was an excellent Moderator, giving the audience food for thought and drawing out interesting anecdotes from the six panelists from diverse businesses. The Panel comprised of Mr. Adi B. Siganporia, Mrs. Pilloo Aga, Mr. Zerick Dastur, Mr. Viraf Deboo, Ms. Zaver Divecha and Mr. Hormazd Sholapurwala.

All the Panelists expressed their views based on the practical experiences they had and generated lot of interest amongst participants.

The Panel discussion then was followed by inspiring talk of Dr. Rashna Writer. Dr. Rashna Writer, who by training, is a political scientist and has also pursued a parallel career as a political analyst. She has authored several books on the Zoroastrian Community and holds a doctorate from the London School of Economics in International Relations. She is also the recipient of several international awards.

Dr. Writer addressed the subject of “Entrepreneurial Social Conscience as a Means of Zoroastrian Self-Preservation” in the hope that her talk will highlight Parsi Entrepreneurs who, having acquired wealth will consider it their duty to re-invest a part of it in the community. Her detailed analysis coupled with historical background was an eye opener and revealed interesting and factual aspects of Entrepreneurial scenario which existed years ago.

The youngest of our speakers, at 30, was Ms. Pronita Saxena, a graduate in Economics, with honours from UC, Berkeley.
She founded Citizengage, a technology company operating the world's first water-to-resource platform that channels waste into energy, compost and recycled products. Pronita was recently named one of India’s Top Women Entrepreneurs by Cosmopolitan and specialises in creating markets for disruptive technology.

Knowing how most eyelids tend to droop post lunch, participants experienced some interesting interactive exercises and games for the afternoon. Mrs. Zerbanoo Gifford, who needs little introduction, along with Adrian Locher, the Artistic Director at the Asha Centre-UK, took the delegates through an absorbing self-awareness exercise.

Mrs. Zerbanoo Gifford, is an author, a human rights campaigner and founder of the ASHA Centre, which pioneers youth empowerment in the fields of sustainable development, interfaith dialogue and the arts. She holds the International Woman of the Year Award 2006 for her humanitarian work, which spans fifty years of grassroots and global activism. In 1989, Zerbanoo was presented with the Nehru Centenary Award for her work championing the rights of women, children and minorities. A pioneer for Asian Women in British politics, she made history by being elected as a councillor in Harrow in 1982 and standing for parliament in 1983. Zerbanoo’s biography “An Uncensored Life” by Farida Master is published by Harper Collins.

Mr. Adrian Locher is an actor, voice coach and director of many years’ experience. As the Artistic Director of the ASHA Centre, he has run numerous drama-based programmes with young people from all over the world including one play that was created with young South Africans and presented to Nelson Mandela at his home.

Entertaining music was provided by our Pianist, Ernie, especially flown down from Mumbai for the event, while the delegates mingled, chatted and dined for the rest of the evening.

The formal evening of the Saturday, 16th of December was a glittering gala night and the highlight of the Global Meet. Young Leah Divecha, 13 years of age, formally opened the evening with a violin recital, playing the first movement of Bach’s Concerto No.1 in A minor followed by a very famous and beautiful piece composed by John Williams specially for the great violinist Itzhak Perlman which is the music for the movie “Schindler's List” but her piano recital of “La Vie en Rose” with vocals, stole everyone’s heart.

Air Chief Marshal, Fali Major (Retd), as Chairman of the Bangalore Chapter, gave the Welcome Address, encouraging the youth to strive and achieve great glory for the community and themselves. This was followed by the Global President, Mr. Edul Daver’s address and that of Dr. Peter Garland, the Chief Guest for the evening. Dr. Garland is Executive Vice Chancellor of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, USA and expressed his hope that WZCC and their organization can work together in the Education field in the months ahead.

Ms. Behroze Daruwalla, Chairperson of “WE” Wing, International Board was Master of Ceremonies for the WZCC Annual Award Ceremony and outlined in her lucid style the basis on which the Awardees are selected and introduced each award winner. The 2017 awards were presented as:

For his outstanding contribution, selfless service and extraordinary entrepreneurial skills, the WZCC “OUTSTANDING ZARATHUSTHI ENTREPRENEUR AWARD – 2017” was awarded to MR. FEROZE PESHOTAN BHANDARA, USA.

For his extraordinary devotion in the field of science, medicine & healthcare; his noble pursuit to facilitate and help people in their times of need for medical assistance and his contribution in developing, setting up and enhancing institutions of medical excellence; the WZCC “OUTSTANDING ZARATHUSTHI PROFESSIONAL AWARD – 2017”, was awarded to DR. FERZAAN NARIMAN ENGINEER, INDIA.

For his meteoric rise in the legal profession, his selfless service to the community and his unstinted devotion to professional ethics, the WZCC “OUTSTANDING YOUNG ZARATHUSHTI ENTREPRENEUR / PROFESSIONAL AWARD – 2017”, was awarded to MR. ZERICK HOsi DASTUR, INDIA.

All the three Awardees briefly shared their experiences and their journey to “success” and expressed their grateful thanks to WZCC.

Lastly, a Vote of Thanks was proposed by Corporate Global Secretary, Mr. Adi B. Siganporia. Amongst the long list of many to whom a big “Thank You” was sincerely expressed, he specially mentioned the untiring and splendid efforts put in by Bangalore Chapter - Zarine Kharas and her dedicated Team, duly led by Air Chief Marshal Fali Major (Retd) for organising this glittering Event and aptly requested all the participants to give them the honour of “Standing Ovation”; coupled with a thunderous round of applause.

The evening ended with the sumptuous dinner provided by the Clarks Exotica Resort & Spa, Bangalore. A memorable Event indeed ended with an all-round appreciation of all concerned.
WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WZCC)
GLOBAL MEET 2017, BANGALORE, INDIA

Chief Guest Dr. Garland & Edul Daver
Leah Divecha

Director's conducting Global AGM - 2017
WZCC - Global Meet 2017 - Day 1

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Chief Guest Dr. Peter Garland presents the Outstanding Zarathushti Entrepreneur of 2017 to Mr. Feroze Bhandara, USA

Chief Guest Dr. Peter Garland presents the Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Profession of 2017 to Mr. Zerick Dastur, India

Chief Guest Dr. Peter Garland presents the Outstanding Zarathushti Professional of 2017 to Dr. Ferzaam Engineer, India

The Highly Successful Bangalore Chapter Team that hosted this Event
Dr. Ferzaan Engineer

Air Chief Marshal Fali Major (Retd)

Kinder Trust-Mrs. Bharucha

Ms. Zerbanoo Gifford

Mr. & Mrs. Natalie Russi Gandhi & Baby Asha

Mr. Neville Shroff & Family

Dr. Ferzaan Engineer

Team from USA
WE ZCC WE (Women Entrepreneur) was a tiny caterpillar which has now become a beautiful butterfly with strong wings and the power to soar high! Since its formal inception, this International Sub Committee WE has come a long way. It is now poised to take on bigger challenges and contribute meaningfully to women entrepreneurs in the community!

Having recognized the challenges and constraints faced by women in the current competitive environment, WE was launched to empower women entrepreneurs, professionals and even homemakers to capitalize on their inherent capabilities, realize their true potential and fulfil their aspirations of attaining higher economic standards. Within this broad objective, WE continues to organize training programs and workshops on Entrepreneurship Development, Communication Skills, Personality Development, Business Plan preparation and other relevant topics. WE organizes Networking Sessions and Business Promotion Meets, Provides Advisory and Mentoring services to women to start and scale up their business and Co-ordinate with other women’s organizations for holding joint programs.

Once the objectives of WZCC-WE were established there was no looking back on the activities and programs that WZCC-WE conducted for women entrepreneurs and professionals in the years ahead.

WE provides a platform for Professional Grooming, Idea Validation, Networking, Strategic Alliances and Enterprise Promotion. It caters to the needs of not just women entrepreneurs but also professionals and those in the corporate sector. To most of us, WE definitely stands for Women Empowerment.

WE- Mumbai is the most active Chapter and conducts wide spectrum of programs with great success and participations.

WE invites not only local luminaries to share their experiences in order to motivate women but also ensures that WE Members get the benefit of expert advice from various industries and fields to achieve their dreams. Sometimes Panel discussions lead to enthusiastic and passionate interaction which is very heartening…. and even more encouraging is the fact that ladies who attend these vibrant programme as guests; often enrol themselves as WZCC members before they leave the program.

WE always celebrates International Women’s Day in the month of March with special programs that revolve around the theme of acknowledging women’s achievements, recognizing their challenges and focusing greater attention on women’s rights and gender equality. All through the year WE has endeavoured to reach out to women to “Make most of their Talents” and defined the qualities of a successful woman…not just as hard work and courage…but the ability to persist and reinvent herself in the realm of her own abilities!

The request for topics and training vary from “How to balance stress between home and business” to Technology and now WE is gravitating towards Artificial Intelligence!

All Chapters who do not have a formal WE committee are encouraged to hold atleast 2 programs during the year for Women Entrepreneurs and Professionals that project women needs and achievements. I have spoken to few Chapter Chairs and have received encouraging reports of their endeavours to enrich WE Activities.

In conclusion, all I can say is that WE endeavours to provide women at all levels, including the top to change the dynamics, reshape the conversation, to make sure women’s voices are heard and heeded because a strong woman understands that gifts such as logic, decisiveness and strength are just as feminine as intuition and emotional connection combined with grit and perseverance!

Behroze Daruwalla
Chair – International WZCC-WE Sub-Committee

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence….and making sure that impact lasts in your absence”
Sherly Sandberg

WZCC Mumbai Chapter is the only Chapter that has a formal WE Core Committee with the following members:

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<tr>
<th>Homai Mehta</th>
<th>Percis Dubash</th>
<th>Veera Mundroina</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson - WZCC-WE MUMBAI CHAPTER</td>
<td>Secretary/Treasurer WZCC-WE MUMBAI CHAPTER</td>
<td>Committee Member – WZCC-WE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Villie Daruwalla</td>
<td>Dolly Dhamodiwala</td>
<td>Behroze Daruwalla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chairperson – WZCC-WE MUMBAI CHAPTER</td>
<td>Past Chairperson – WZCC-WE MUMBAI CHAPTER</td>
<td>Chair – International WZCC-WE Sub-Committee</td>
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Watching the proceedings at the International Court of Justice was fascinating and remarkable from an Indian lawyer’s perspective. The fact that the proceedings of this nature and magnitude could be streamed live and video recorded for the benefit of the public at large showed complete transparency in the court proceedings. Video recording of the proceedings and the ease with which the Counsel from India addressed the court goes to show that the benefits of recording such important cases far outweigh the disadvantages and bring order and solemnity to the proceedings.

The Supreme Court of India for its part has recently permitted evidence in a criminal trial to be recorded on an experimental basis in a few courts and is awaiting a report on the experiment. The Hon’ble Chief Justice of India and the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India have also recently spoken about the setting up of e-courts in the country as a method of reducing pending litigation and introducing transparency. We have several systems of e-courts that are successfully functioning in other countries and jurisdictions to choose from. One major benefit of this system, which could be introduced even in our existing system, is transcription of court proceedings. The court proceedings are recorded electronically verbatim and transcribed instantly.

The transcripts can be made available to the parties of the proceedings at the end of the day much like an ordinary copy of a court order is available currently in India. There are serious advantages of this system for all - the judges, lawyers and parties to the litigation. Since every word of the arguments get recorded, transparency and clarity are inherent. This brings ease when a case is taken in appeal or an order is up for review. Counsel too benefit by having details of arguments recorded for the next day’s preparation in the case. The litigants have complete clarity on their case even if not present in court. A win-win for all !! With the availability of technology this system would be an excellent way to introduce e-systems in courts and then finally live / video recording of court proceedings. I have had the benefit of appearing in a court proceedings at the Supreme Court of British Columbia where this system has been very effective.

Advocate Jamshed Mistry practices as a Counsel at the Bombay High Court and Supreme Court of India and is an associate member of the Canadian Bar Association.

He is also the Vice Chairman of WZCC Mumbai Chapter.