

# FEZANA *bulletin*

February 2015 / VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 2



## UPCOMING DATES

Through April 4, 2015

Dara. National Theatre,  
London, U.K. [Info here](#)

March 4, 2015

*Burnaby [British Columbia]  
Interfaith Network discussion.*  
Faith communities address  
homelessness. 6:30pm.  
[burnabyinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:burnabyinterfaith@gmail.com)

March 9-25, 2015

*59th Commission on the  
Status of Women  
Conference.* United Nations  
Headquarters. [Details here.](#)

March 10-22, 2015

*Return to Roots Track B  
Tour.* [details here.](#)

March 16, 2015

*Education: a powerful tool for  
gender equality.* A panel  
event at CSW59. Contact  
[@gmail.com](mailto:afreed.mistry)

May 1-3, 2015

*28th FEZANA Pre-AGM and  
AGM.* Hosted by ZAPANJ.  
Details on page 3.

May 16-17, 2015

*North American Moped  
Council (NAMC) Annual  
General Meeting.*  
Washington D.C. [NAMC](#)

October 15-19, 2015

*2015 Parliament of the  
World's Religions.* Salt Lake  
City. [Click here.](#)

December 18-20, 2015

*World Zarathushti Chamber of  
Commerce (WZCC) Annual  
General Meeting.* Panaji, Goa,  
India. <http://wzcc.net>

Dec 28, 2015-Jan 2, 2016

*6th World Zoroastrian Youth  
Congress.* Auckland, NZ  
<http://www.6wzyc.co.nz/>

## Zoroastrian Delegation to Deliver Panel Discussion at UN Headquarters

FEZANA will be participating at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Conference to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York next month.



Homi Gandhi, Narges Kakalia, Nurelle Mehta, Adina Mistry, Nina Mistry and Khushroo Patel from FEZANA will be representing Zoroastrians at the UN. The group will be presenting a panel discussion titled, "Education: A Powerful Tool for Gender Equality."

Social change to uplift society comes when men and women are treated equally with respect and dignity. This aspirational goal cannot be reached through the work of women alone. This workshop will explore the empowerment of women that arises at the intersections of education, access to health care, freedom from violence and the crucial roles that men and boys in society can play to advocate and work towards global gender equality.

The hour and a half long "Education: A Powerful Tool for Gender Equality" panel discussion will take place on **March 16, 2015 at 6:15pm** at Church Centre, 10th Floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY.

Local Zoroastrians are encouraged to attend this event and support the presentation. Contact Afreed Mistry (FEZANA UN-NGO Committee) [@gmail.com](mailto:afreed.mistry) for more information. □

## Follow Your Dreams and Passions



Video now available for viewing: Don't miss the inspiring XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress Keynote Address by Parisa Khosravi entitled *Follow Your Dreams and Passions* [approx 30 mins] [Click here to view on the FEZANA website.](#)

## NAZC: Video of FEZANA Presentation

**THE WAY FORWARD... NURTURING ZOROASTRIANISM IN NORTH AMERICA**

Now available for viewing: the full FEZANA Presentation given at the recent XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress. [approx 1.25 hours] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss5hcArq-6g>



Federation of  
Zoroastrian  
Associations of  
North America  
(FEZANA)

President  
Katayun Kapadia  
president@fezana.org

Registered Address  
5750 S Jackson Street  
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Administrative Office  
8615 Meadowbrook Drive  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Phone: 630-468-2705  
E-mail: [admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)  
Web: [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org)



Facebook: [FEZANA](https://www.facebook.com/FEZANA)



Twitter: #FEZANA1

Archived issues of the  
FEZANA Bulletin are  
available on the FEZANA  
website at:  
<http://www.fezana.org/BulletinArchives>

*FEZANA Bulletin* is  
distributed to addresses  
listed in the FEZANA  
directory; to individuals  
included on the FEZANA  
group lists and to those  
requesting information  
about FEZANA.  
To opt out, contact:  
[admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)

NGO in consultative status  
(Roster) with the Economic  
and Social Council of the  
United Nations



SCAN HERE  
FOR MORE  
FEZANA INFO

## World Interfaith Harmony Week

Multi-religious partnership for sustainable development



[from right to left] ZAGNY members  
Erv. Pervez Patel, Behroze Clubwala,  
and Homi D. Gandhi, attended World  
Interfaith Harmony Week

The Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations celebrated the World Interfaith Harmony Week on February 6, 2015 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Cosponsors: CONGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns-NY; Global Movement for the Culture of Peace; NGO Committee on Sustainable Development; Spiritual Caucus; The Values Caucus at the UN.

World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on

September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan. Just under a month later, it was unanimously adopted by the UN and henceforth the first week of February each year is observed as a World Interfaith Harmony Week. <http://interfaithharmonyweek.info>. Also read more about the proceedings on The Parliament Blog: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/news/> □

## ZAOM Represented at World Sabbath

By Shernaz Minwalla, ZAOM President

Two members of the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan's (ZAOM) Youth Connections, Farah Kavarana and Kayan Mehta, proudly waved their hand-made flags as they marched in the Children of Peace Processional for this year's World Sabbath of Religious Reconciliation at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, Michigan on Sunday, January 25. The event is an interfaith experience of music, dance and prayer which seeks to build a world of tolerance, justice, faithfulness, and peace. Children from different faiths demonstrated their Call to Prayer, worship through music and dance, and prayers for peace. Looking like true Parsis, seniors Xerxes Chinoy and Sanaya Irani, confidently and eloquently translated and recited the *Ashem Vohu* and *Yatha Ahu Vairyo* for the second Prayer for Peace. These young adults understand the value in ensuring that Zoroastrianism is represented as a World Religion at events such as this. They take great pride in learning about their faith, teaching others, and participating in traditional rituals and ceremonies. As Sanaya and Xerxes recited our powerful prayers in front of hundreds of people, it gave us hope for the longevity of our faith and for a world with no more wars in the name of religion. It is no wonder that



[top] Representing Zoroastrians,  
Kayan Mehta and Farah Kavarana  
march in the Children of Peace  
Processional and [lower] Sanaya Irani  
and Xerxes Chinoy recite for Prayer  
of Peace at World Sabbath of  
Religious Reconciliation in January.



## BOOK AWARENESS



This month we are giving you a glimpse of new additions that have been generously donated to our FIRES collection.

**Nadir Godrej, The Poet by Nadir Godrej.**

Is there a better way to share your feelings or get your message across than through a poem? Nadir Godrej's new oversized and glossy book is a compendium of his poems over the years on subjects like the Zoroastrians, leadership, American education, entrepreneurship, government policy, and even an inflight movie. The poems are thought-provoking and delightful.

**Fathers and Sons, Mothers and Daughters**

by Meher Bhesania  
This publication is a celebration of the bond between fathers and sons and mothers and daughters. It recounts over forty inspirational stories of achievers from around the world in diverse fields as business, science, engineering, law, art, films, and community service.

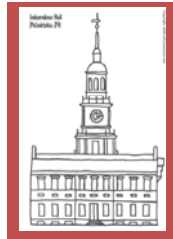
Visit our new and improved website at <http://www.fires-fezana.org/>

many of us in the audience shed tears as the young children waved their flags once more and sang, "We are Children of Peace."

If you would like to learn more about the World Sabbath, you can view their website at <http://www.worldsabbath.org/>. The Program tab provides summaries of the various faiths represented, including one written on Zoroastrianism by our very own, Ardeshir Irani, in which he highlights the influence of Zoroastrianism on many other faiths. □

## FEZANA Annual General Meeting Notice

Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ), FEZANA is pleased to announce that the 2015 FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Details have been circulated to local FEZANA representatives. Please contact the FEZANA Administrative office if you have not received the full announcement or, to view details on FEZANA website [click here](#).



**Pre-AGM Session:** May 1, 2015 (2:00-6:00 pm)

**AGM Meetings:** May 2-3, 2015 (SAT: 8:00am-6:00pm / SUN 8:00am-1:00pm)

### AGM Venue and Hotel Accommodation:

Crowne Plaza Philadelphia

260 Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia, PA 19406; 610-265-7500

**Reservation link:** [CrownePlazaHotel FEZANA AGM@Philadelphia May1 2015](#)

**Important: Please book your hotel soon. The group rate (mention "ZAPANJ") is only available for reservations that are made by April 1, 2015.**

**Please RSVP with the number of people attending in your party to:** Saghar Javanshir ([sjbehroozi@verizon.net](mailto:sjbehroozi@verizon.net)) and Zenobia Damania ([admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)) □

## Update: Parliament of the World's Religions

Zarathushtis will be participating at the upcoming Parliament of the World's Religions to be held on October 15-19, 2015 in Salt Lake City. FEZANA encourages all interested Zarathushtis to take part. This is a great opportunity for the Zarathushtis to participate in this world class event. FEZANA representatives will be involved in several programs. Proposals have been submitted to the Parliament organizers. For more information about the Zarathushti group hotel accommodations, registration for the Parliament, or other questions or comments, please contact: Shernaz Minwalla at [sjminwalla \(@\) gmail.com](mailto:sjminwalla@gmail.com) or Maneck Bhujwala at [mbhujwala \( @ \) social.rr.com](mailto:mbhujwala@social.rr.com); □ [Click here to view the Parliament website.](#)



## IHF Visiting Fellowships at SOAS

### APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2015.

The Centre for Iranian Studies at the LMEI is pleased to announce a new round of Iran Heritage Foundation Visiting Fellowships at SOAS, University of London. The six-monthly Fellowship in this round is for the period Oct 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016. Applicants must hold a PhD at the time of applying and have sufficient command of English to be able to take part in the academic life of SOAS. Their research may be in any discipline relating to Iran.

[Application details on SAOS website.](#) □



## ACHIEVEMENTS

## NEWS FROM ONTARIO

**Dr. Dhun Noria receives Order of Ontario**

On February 3, 2015, Dr. Dhun Noria was presented with Order of Ontario, the province's highest official honor which recognizes Ontario residents who have demonstrated high level of individual excellence in a field benefitting others.

[Click here](#) to read complete details. [press release post]

## CONNECTIONS

**2015 Jamshedi Navroze Timings**

Below are Jamshedi Navroze Timings for various cities.

<b>Atlanta</b>	FRI	Mar 20	6:45p
<b>Auckland</b>	SAT	Mar 21	10:45a
<b>Beijing</b>	SAT	Mar 21	6:45a
<b>Chicago</b>	FRI	Mar 20	5:45p
<b>Denver</b>	FRI	Mar 20	4:45p
<b>Dubai</b>	SAT	Mar 21	2:45a
<b>Melbourne</b>	SAT	Mar 21	9:45a
<b>Montreal</b>	FRI	Mar 20	6:45p
<b>New Delhi</b>	SAT	Mar 21	4:15p
<b>Ottawa</b>	FRI	Mar 20	6:45p
<b>Tehran</b>	SAT	Mar 21	2:15p
<b>Toronto</b>	FRI	Mar 20	6:45p
<b>Vancouver</b>	FRI	Mar 20	3:45p
<b>Washington D.C.</b>	FRI	Mar 20	6:45p

## Making Connections at National Interfaith Meeting for Youth Leaders



**Havovi Desai with her friend Eunju Nam**

**Havovi Desai** from Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana (ZAKOI) participated in the *Religions for Peace* North America Interfaith Youth Network (RfP NAIYN) annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, January 18 - 20, 2015. Havovi is second year student at The Ohio State University studying psychology, and minoring in French and music. Havovi represented Zoroastrians at the meeting celebrating the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King on that weekend. The meeting was organized for Youth to interact with other religious youth leaders from all over North America representing various faiths and organizations and discuss their concerns and insights as a religious youth living in

North America. □ **[Look for Havovi's full article on her experience in the Spring 2015 issue of the FEZANA Journal.]**

## Annual Celebrations Around FEZANA

February 28, 2015

**OZCF.** Music Night at the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation, Oakville, Ontario; 6:30pm. Contact kermin101 (@) gmail.com

March 8, 2015

**PZO.** Gohanbar. San Jose, CA; 11:30am. [Register](#) or for more info.

March 15, 2015

**ZAMWI.** Panjeh Gahanbar, Kamran Dar-e-Mehr, Boyds, MD; 4:00pm. Contact Manijeh (@) gmail.com

March 21, 2015

**ZANC.** Navroze Dinner, Palo Alto, CA; 6:00pm. [Register](#) online or for info.

March 21, 2015

**ZSO.** Navroze Jashan, Toronto, ON, 10:30am. entertainment (@) zso.org

March 21, 2015

**ZAGNY.** Jamshedi Navroze Function. Tenafly, NJ; 6:30pm. [www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org)

March 28, 2015

**ZSBC.** Nourooz Celebration. Burnaby, BC; <http://www.zsbc.org/cms/>

March 28, 2015

**ZAC-Chicago.** Navroze Function. Burr Ridge, IL; 6:30pm. [www.zac-chicago.org](http://www.zac-chicago.org)

## Video Coverage of XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress

The XVII NAZC, held in Los Angeles in December 2014, presented its approximately 800 delegates with a wide variety of sessions aimed at starting a conversation among Zoroastrians in North America about the issues that matter to them.



With the consent of its speakers, the NAZC organizing committee is pleased to share with you videos of many sessions presented during this tremendous three day celebration of Zoroastrian religion, culture and history. Visit the NAZC website to view them: <http://www.nazc2014.org/congress-video/>. □