

FEZANA *bulletin*

October 2015 / VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 10



UPCOMING DATES

Through Jan 24, 2016

Parsi Silk and Muslin from Iran, India and China Exhibition; East West Center, Honolulu, HI. [East West Center Arts Program](#)

Through September 2016

Persepolis: Images of an Empire. [Oriental Institute – Univ of Chicago](#).

December 18-20, 2015

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

Nov 30 – Dec 11, 2015

COP21. United Nations Climate Change Conference. Paris France <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmp11/what-cop21-cmp11>

December 18-20, 2015

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

December 25-27, 2015

Iranshah Udvada Utsav (IUU); Udvada, India <http://www.iuu.org.in/>

Dec 28, 2015-Jan 2, 2016

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

February 18-19, 2016

2016 Winter Youth Assembly at the United Nations, New York City. Visit faf.org

March 9, 2016

Nowruz program at Oriental Institute, Chicago. Sponsored in part by FEZANA and ZAC-CHI. oi.com

FEZANA Enlightens the Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City

By Shernaz Minwalla, Co-chair Interfaith Activities Committee

Two goals of FEZANA are to promote the study, understanding and practice of the Zoroastrian faith and the welfare of Zoroastrian communities and to foster and encourage Zoroastrian fellowship in the North American continent; and to represent the religious interests of its Membership in national and international forums. Eighteen knowledgeable, gracious, and energetic Zarathushtis represented FEZANA at the Parliament of the World's Religions from October 15-19, in Salt Lake City with these goals in mind: Ervad Jehan Bagli, Mobedyar Maneck Bhujwala, Dolly Dastoor, Homi Gandhi, Rustom and Shirin Ghadiali, Firdosh Kavarana, Dr. Khosro and Roya Mehrfar, Firdosh Mehta, Shernaz Minwalla, Mahrukh Motafram, Behram Pastakia, Rohinton and Roshan Rivetna, Sam Vesuna, Arzan Wadia, and Ervad Kobad Zarolia.



[left to right]: Arzan Wadia, Behram Pastakia, Erv. Kobad Zarolia, and Dolly Dastoor at the FEZANA booth loaded with FEZANA publications, pamphlets and visual boards related to Zoroastrianism.

Organization of our engagement at the Parliament began months prior with written proposals for panel discussions and demonstrations, discussions with panelists from within and outside of the Zoroastrian community, and gathering educational materials for our display booth.

Dressed in our duglis and saris, the FEZANA group, consisting of individuals from various parts of North American and Singapore, entered the large ballroom together for the opening ceremonies to show our pride in our heritage. We were thrilled to see Ervad Kobad Zarolia take the stage to recite a prayer in front of 8,000 guests. His presence and commanding voice piqued the interest of many in the audience.



**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
Web: 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

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



SCAN HERE
FOR MORE
FEZANA INFO

It was no wonder that over one hundred people flocked at 7:00 a.m. the next morning to witness a demonstration of our Jashan Ceremony conducted by Ervad Jehan Bagli and Mobedyar Maneck Bhujwala. After a shortened version of the ceremony, Ervad Jehan Bagli provided a clear and inspirational explanation of each prayer recited and action that took place. People were in awe of his knowledge and wanted to learn more.

They searched for answers at our booth, wonderfully set up with books, FEZANA Journal magazines, pamphlets and posters with collaborative efforts from Maneck Bhujwala, Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna, Behram Pastakia, Dolly Dastoor, and Firdosh Kavarana. Throughout the Parliament, guests were intrigued and learned about the Zoroastrian Religion as all of us volunteered our time and services at the booth. The wealth of knowledge was truly amazing. No wonder we sold most of the books and magazines on display. We had also provided a flyer with upcoming FEZANA Panels at the Parliament in the advent they wanted to learn more.



FEZANA group, proudly dressed in daglis and saris, as they entered the Ballroom for the opening ceremony at the Parliament of the World's Religions

Curious guests were invited to hear about ways in which various religious faiths relate to the Divine from Ervad Jehan Bagli (Zoroastrian), Rabbi Michael Balinsky (Jewish), Susan Kopp (Catholic), and Bibi Jasbir Kaur (Sikh). Together they shared their thoughts and expertise, and all agreed that it is through their actions that they best relate to the Divine.

Later that afternoon, Ervad Jehan Bagli, Homi Gandhi, Maneck Bhujwala, and Firdosh Mehta directed our attention to specific passages in the Avesta in which we are charged to become Stewards of the Environment. Using his expertise in the field, Dr. Khosro Mehrfar concluded with ideas in which we and corporations can make a real difference.

With all of the religious and non-religious sectors represented at the Parliament, the question begs to whether the Interfaith Model is truly working or does it need tweaking. Rohinton Rivetna moderated a group of panelists to share their thoughts on this topic. Ervad Jehan Bagli, Mobedyar Maneck Bhujwala, Michael Terrien, Tarunjit Butalia, and Shernaz Minwalla all came at this topic from different angles provided ample room for questions and a robust discussion with the audience.

Throughout the Parliament, guests were asked to sign a petition for the establishment of a Religious Arm of the United Nations. Rohinton Rivetna, Homi Gandhi, Dr. Khosro Mehrfar, Dr. Harbans Lal, and Satpal Singh all joined forces at a panel discussion to describe the importance of having religious representation at the UN considering the current global issues and events.

If you would like to learn more about FEZANA events that occurred at the Parliament of the World's Religions, take a look at posts made by Arzan Wadia on Twitter, Facebook and FEZANA.org.

[Also look for comprehensive accounts and details of FEZANA's participation at the Parliament in the upcoming *FEZANA Journal*, Winter 2015 issue.] □



BOOK AWARENESS



Cyrus the Great: Celestial sovereign by Sam Kerr has been added to our FIRES collection.

The book is a fictionalized historical biography in a chronological order, inferring from the Old Testament and other legitimate sources in the search for valid clues, including a study into the nature of a wide variety of peoples, their cultures, habits, inclinations, manner of speaking and way of life of ancient times. The original Avestan, Old Iranian, Hebrew and Semitic names, assisted by Greek, Latin and Vedic equivalents in the foot-notes have been retained. The addition of fictional material was done with a hope to place emphasis on his humanitarian facets, which changed the prevailing chaotic way of life to a new 'World Order' in the, then, known Classical World.

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

AROUND FEZANA: News from FEZANA Member Associations

ZAH Library's Annual Event Tackles Significant Issue

The ZAH Library (Home of FIRES) hosted its 3-day annual event in Houston starting on Friday, October 9. The theme, ***"Survival of Zoroastrians in North America: Potential for a Positive Outlook"***, addressed the burning issue of how the Diaspora in North America can thrive and remain a vibrant force in the coming decades.

Two outstanding experts were featured – Dr. Rashna Writer from France, and Roshan Rivetna from Chicago.



ZAH Library Committee, Event Speakers and Panelists

Friday evening, which was a meet-and-greet opportunity for the community, was dedicated mainly for the speakers to introduce themselves.

The next morning (Saturday, October 10) began with the first speaker Roshan Rivetna, who presented fascinating, but alarming, statistics on worldwide Zoroastrian population trends, births,

deaths, fertility rates, conversions and immigration patterns. Roshan's demographic study has been presented in detail in the Fall 2013 issue of *The FEZANA Journal*.

The second speaker, Dr. Rashna Writer, widely recognized for her books and lectures around the world, noted that the challenge before the community was daunting, and that Zoroastrianism could lose its identity in the multi-religious, multi-cultural society of North America. Widespread dispersal of Zoroastrians in a dynamic and mobile North American society will lead to atomization that will enfeeble the Diaspora.

Both speakers suggested several approaches that could be implemented at the local and global level to reverse the disturbing trends.

After lunch, the group gathered again to hear from a panel of three younger members of our community who shared their perspective of the future of Zoroastrianism in North America. The audience was fascinated and impressed with the varying viewpoints and the suggestions made to enhance the experience of people in their age group in the community.

The third day of the event (Sunday, October 11) was a 2-hour informal discussion with the speakers in a smaller group. Rashna Writer stressed that for Zoroastrianism to thrive in North America, it is vital to keep the second-generation immigrants (grown children of first-generation immigrants) involved in the community.

The three-day event was an unqualified success. Those who filled the main hall of the Zarathushti Center of Houston recognized this event as the first serious attempt to address the issue. **[Read full account in *FEZANA Journal*, Winter 2015]** □



CONNECTIONS

Zoroastrianism Project By Pallavi Shroff

A video documentary on the basic traditions, customs and beliefs of Zoroastrians created as a final year project by Pallavi Shroff.

[Approx 15 mins]

http://zoroastrians.net/2015/10/24/zoroastrianism-project-pallavi-shroff/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Zoroastrians.net%29

ARTS AND HERITAGE

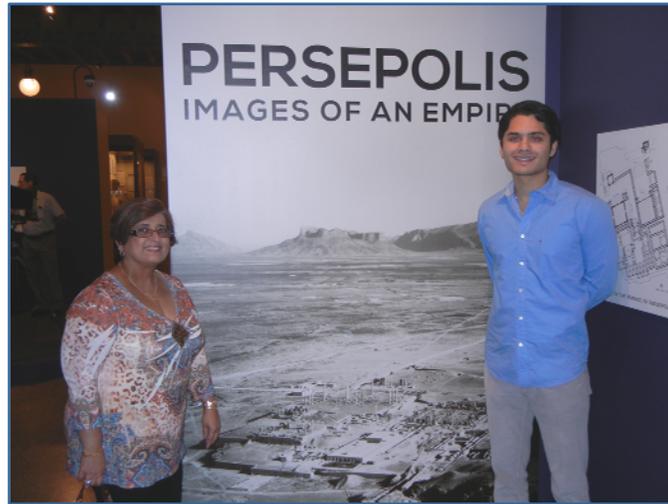
Zubin Mehta – *Talk to Al Jazeera*

A one on one interview with the world class conductor. Topics cover the Arts, Peace in the Middle East, His Career, Classical Music and much more.

[Approx 25 mins]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLH9b1sKiWM>

Persepolis: Images of an Empire Special Exhibit Opens in Chicago



Persepolis: Images of an Empire Exhibit – On October 11, 2015, ZAC-CHI members, Dinaz Weber, Erv. Rayomand Ravji, Hoshang and Bonnie Karani, and Mobedyar Boman Damkevala representing the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago and FEZANA, attended the Member's Preview of this special museum exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago.

This exhibit presents large-format photographs taken during the Oriental Institute Persian Expedition of 1931–1939. These extraordinary images show the ruins of Persepolis, built at the height of the Achaemenid Persian empire (550–330 BC).

FEZANA is collaborating with the Oriental Institute as one of the sponsors of this pictorial exhibition. **Many FEZANA Member Associations have already made contributions in support of this exhibit. If your Association would like to contribute, please contact admin@fezana.org for details.** In the future, Oriental Institute would like to make this a travelling exhibition. Currently, this exhibit will be on display at the Oriental Institute through September 2016. Visit <https://oi.uchicago.edu/museum-exhibits/persepolis>

□

2016 FEZANA AGM in Michigan

April 29 – May 1, 2016

**Location: Holiday Inn & Suites Farmington Hills-Nov
37529 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48335**

P: 248.477.7800 | F: 248.478.3799 | Web: Holidayinn.com/farmingtonhill

Group Room Rate is \$112 – breakfast included

Reservations can be made by:

Phone – Please contact the Hotel directly at 248.477.7800

Website – customized website reservation system for this event, which allows group attendees to book their hotel reservations on the website using **special Group Code: FRB.**

More details about the AGM will be circulated in coming weeks and months.



UPCOMING DATES
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

March 12, 2016

Nowruz program at Oriental Institute, Chicago. Sponsored in part by FEZANA and ZAC-CHI. oi.com

March 14-24, 2016

CSW60 (Commission on the Status of Women) Conference. United Nations, NYC. CSW60

March 19-May 29, 2016

International Everlasting Flame Programme MoMA India; Parzor: UNESCO.

April 29-May 1, 2016

FEZANA AGM. Novi, Michigan
admin@fezana.org

Zarathushtis of Los Angeles Break Ground for New Atash Kadeh



On October 18, 2015 members of the Zoroastrian Association of California held a Jashan and ground breaking ceremony of their Atash Kadeh to be constructed on the grounds of their ZAC Center in Orange County, California. Expected grand opening for the Atash Kadeh is targeted for March or April, 2016. For full write up of the auspicious event, visit the FEZANA website. To view more photos, visit ZAC-LA website. □

COMING SOON!

The First Navjote



A FEZANA PUBLICATION

For young and not so young
Zoroastrians and their friends

A story written and illustrated by

Ava Mehta, author of
The Story Of The Religion – Zoroastrianism

This new book incorporates fiction with fact so that the reader learns about the faith while enjoying the story of long, long ago.