

# FEZANA *bulletin*

November 2015 / VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 11



## 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 9, 2015

Fourth Annual International Embassy Showcase. Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington D.C.

### 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/>

(DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## AROUND FEZANA: News from FEZANA Member Associations

### ZAOM Jashan Makes History

By Shernaz Minwalla, President, Zoroastrian Assoc. of Michigan



On Sunday, November 15, 2015, the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan (ZAOM) held its annual Jashan and Gahambar to thank Ahura Mazda for the blessings He has bestowed upon our wonderful community. Every year, the Jashan ceremony is conducted by Michigan's Ervad Noshir Sidhwa and London, Ontario's Ervad Tehemton Mirza; however, this year we were fortunate to also have Mobedyar Guloo Austin perform the ceremony with them. As one of the few women Mobedyars, Guloo is a great role model for our young women, and we were very excited that she was able to partake in the blessing and the festivities. For the past several years, Erv. Tehemton Mirza has shared his knowledge on the Zoroastrian Religion with the community at this event in talks on Good Mind, Values, and Mehergan. This year, after I gave a presentation on Perceptions and Photographs from the recent Parliament of the World's Religions, Tehemton enlightened us on the history of the Mobedyar program and how lucky we are to have Guloo Austin living so close by to our association. ZAOM has a great tradition of praying, eating, learning, and laughing together at this event that I hope continues for many generations to come. □

### Orlando Zarathushtis Celebrate Annual Gahambar



On Sunday October 25, 2015, at the Conference Room of the Springhills Suites Hotel in Orlando, over one-hundred South Florida Zarathushtis and friends gathered to celebrate the 2015 Annual Orlando Gahambar, with a Satum Prayer and a sumptuous home cooked Parsi Bhonu served on banana leaves! Nearly twenty volunteers prepared for the feast chopping, cooking, frying and baking. Before the Satum prayers, performed by Mobed Soli Dastur, a group of young Zarathushtis led the group in a *Hum Bandagi* prayer.



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Zoroastrian  
Associations of  
North America  
(FEZANA)**

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status (Roster) with the  
Economic and Social  
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All in attendance followed in silent prayer themselves making for a spiritual communal experience.

Afterwards, guests were introduced to the local WZCC chapter and listened to a few words about the group and its goals. The day was filled with raffle drawings and bingo and finally the Gahambar feast served in the traditional way with a grand line up of Parsi dishes served by volunteer servers. □

## 2016 FEZANA Annual General Meeting To Be Held in Michigan

**Friday, April 29 – Sunday, May 1, 2016**

Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan (ZAOM), the 2016 FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Farmington Hills, Michigan at the Holiday Inn & Suites Farmington Hills – Novi Conference Room.

### Pre-AGM

Friday (April 29) from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. with dinner following at Village Oaks Club House (Novi Hall) – volunteer drivers will take participants to the hall and back. Association Presentations will take place during Friday evening dinner so we can all share in our accomplishments

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGM will commence on Saturday (April 30) from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and continue on Sunday (May 1) from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### ZAOM GALA NIGHT

Saturday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m., Farmington Hills Manor  
\$35/person – More details to come

### ACCOMODATIONS

Holiday Inn & Suites Farmington Hills-Nov  
37529 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
P: 248.477.7800, F: 248.478.3799  
Group Room Rate is \$112 for King; \$122 for double beds – breakfast included  
Reservations can be made by: Phone directly at 248.477.7800 (Ask for Monique); Or through the website: [Holidayinn.com/farmingtonhill](http://Holidayinn.com/farmingtonhill)  
**Special Group Code: FRB; Group Name: FEZANA**

### RSVP BY MARCH 1, 2016

FEZANA Administrator, Zenobia Damania, at [admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)  
Please provide the following information:

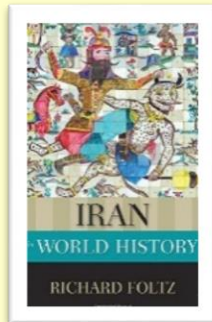
- Number of people attending the AGM
- Date and time of arrival
- Cell phone number/ contact information
- Number of people attending the Gala

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

Contact Shernaz Minwalla, ZAOM President  
[sjminwalla@gmail.com](mailto:sjminwalla@gmail.com)



## BOOK AWARENESS



**Iran in World History** by **Richard Foltz** offers a comprehensive history of one of the world's most influential civilizations and offers nuanced examples of its continuing role in the world today. In this book, Richard Foltz traces the spread of Iranian culture among diverse populations ranging from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, and along the Silk Roads as far as China, from prehistoric times up to the present day, encompassing religion, literature, the arts, and politics

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

## FEZANA UN-NGO Committee Planning Participation at the United Nations CSW Conference

The FEZANA UN-NGO Committee will be participating at the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York from **March 14-24, 2016**. This year's theme is, "Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development."

For more information on the NGO CSW60 check the NGO CSW website: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016>

Individuals interested in attending the conference as a participant with the FEZANA UN-NGO Committee are requested to contact the following individuals:

Behram Pastakia (bpastakia (@) [aol.com](mailto:bpastakia@aol.com))  
 Afreed Mistry (afreed.mistry (@) [gmail.com](mailto:afreed.mistry@gmail.com))

While FEZANA, as an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] and the Department of Public Information (DPI), will facilitate registration to the CSW Conference, the selected participants are expected to make their own financial arrangements regarding visas, tickets, accommodation, food, and transportation in the city. Details about the vision, mission and activities of the United Nations can be accessed at [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) □

### UPCOMING DATES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

#### February 18-19, 2016

2016 Winter Youth Assembly at the United Nations, New York City. Visit [faf.org](http://faf.org)

#### March 9, 2016

Nowruz program at Oriental Institute, Chicago. Sponsored in part by FEZANA and ZAC-CHI. [oi.com](http://oi.com)

#### March 12, 2016

Nowruz program at Oriental Institute, Chicago. Sponsored in part by FEZANA and ZAC-CHI. [oi.com](http://oi.com)

#### March 14-24, 2016

CSW60 (Commission on the Status of Women) Conference. United Nations, NYC. [CSW60](http://CSW60)

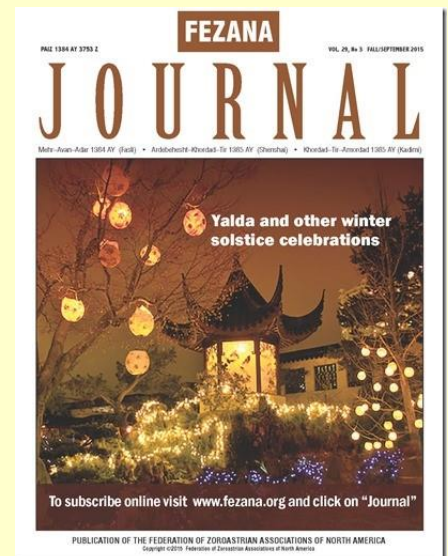
#### March 19-May 29, 2016

International Everlasting Flame Programme MoMA India; Parzor: UNESCO.

#### April 29-May 1, 2016

FEZANA AGM. Novi, Michigan [admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)

**Don't Miss!**  
**FEZANA Journal, Fall 2015**  
**Yalda and Other Winter Solstice Celebrations**



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