On Sunday, November 15, 2015, the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan (ZAOM) held its annual Jashan and Gahambarto 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.

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.
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: 248.477.800; 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 248.477.800 (Ask for Monique); Or through the website: Holidayinn.com/farmingtonhill
Special Group Code: FRB; Group Name: FEZANA

RSVP BY MARCH 1, 2016
FEZANA Administrator, Zenobia Damania, at 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
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)
Afreed Mistry (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.

UPCOMING DATES
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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

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

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

Subscribe online at www.fezana.org

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/