



UPCOMING DATES

Through July 31, 2016

[Heart of an Empire: Herzfeld's Discovery of Pasagardae.](#)
Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Through September 2016

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

March 19-May 29, 2016

[International Everlasting Flame Programme MoMA India; Parzor: UNESCO.](#)

April 29-May 1, 2016

[FEZANA AGM.](#) Novi, Michigan
(see page 4 for details)
admin@fezana.org

May 30-June 1, 2016

[66th UN DPI / NGO Conference.](#)
[Education for Global Citizenship.](#)
Gyeongju, Korea

June 4, 2016

[Pre Summer Night's Spectacular.](#)
An evening of entertainment for Zarathushti Cultural Center (ZACUCE). Kingston, NJ
zacuce.news@gmail.com

June 30-July 4, 2016

[15th Zoroastrian Games.](#)
Elmhurst, Illinois (Chicago)
<http://www.zgames2016.com>

December 2018

[11th World Zoroastrian Congress,](#)
Perth, Australia
<http://11wzccperth.com.au/>



NAVROZE MUBARAK NOUROUZ PIROUZ BAD

FEZANA wishes good health, happiness, peace and harmony on this Navroze/Nourouz to fellow Zarathushtis and friends across North America and worldwide.

IZA and ZAGNY Inaugurate New Dar-E-Mehr

North America's first Dar-E-Mehr unveiled its brand new beautiful home in a scintillating Inauguration ceremony on Saturday, March 26, 2016. The Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E-Mehr in Pomona, New York was established in 1977. The new Dar-E-Mehr and Community Center was opened on Khordad Saal day, the birthday of Prophet Zarathushtra in a ceremony attended by over 650 people. Guest of Honor Prof.



Kaikhosrov Irani did the ribbon cutting honors. Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor, the Vada Dasturji of the Pak Iranshah Atashbehrām in Udvada, India presided over a Jashan of 31 Mobeds ably assisted by Ervad Pervez Patel of ZAGNY.

The Jashan ceremony was followed by the very first Atash Nyiash ceremony in the Kebla of the Prayer Room.



The formal part of the event had addresses by the President of FEZANA, ZAGNY, IZA, NDMI and other local elected officials. This was followed by a series of entertainment segments by the local youth and adult performers. The

afternoon ended with a Parsi and Persian themed lunch catered by local community members.

The new 22,000 sq ft. building will be the new permanent home of two FEZANA member associations, Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) and Iranian Zoroastrian Association (IZA).

A full report of the day's event, live video recordings and photographs can be viewed on www.zagny.org. [Also, see coverage in *FEZANA Journal, Spring 2016.*] □



**Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)**

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



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FEZANA INFO

Intergenerational Team from FEZANA at the United Nations

Consultation Day on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60) in New York

As in years past, in March 2016, FEZANA was represented at the United Nations headquarters in New York City as part of the Sixtieth Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60)

On 12 March 2016, an intergenerational team of Zarathushti men and women, participated at Consultation Day hosted by UN Women. This was a part of their preparations for a workshop entitled, "The role of Women in Culture, Government Activity and the Economic Market in Sustainable Development," featuring an all-youth panel, which was presented by FEZANA at the City University of New York on 14 March 2016.

The road to preparing for the workshop was a long one. After the core team was selected, preparations began months in advance, with periodic international conference calls between three continents, as each of the team members focused their attention on Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] number five, which highlights the importance of Gender Equality on the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which defines seventeen SDG's. [see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>]

The intersection between culture, economic market forces and the role of governments in finding commonalities to promote the welfare of women -- mainly



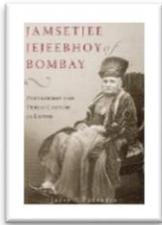
[left to right] Behram Pastakia, Co-Chair, FEZANA UN-NGO Committee from Metropolitan Washington DC; Farhad Malegam, from Sydney, Australia; Tanya Bharda, recently returned from Mumbai, India, after working with underprivileged children and women in Maharashtra and Goa; Nurelle Mehta, from the Greater Toronto Area, with college classmate, Ayehsa Dumasia, both students in Political Science at Brock University, Canada; Adina Mistry, from Scarsdale High School, with her chaperone, and supportive father, Adil Mistry from Scarsdale, New York. *Photo credit: Adina Mistry (Team members for CSW 60, not shown in the photo above, included Delna Weil, Shekufeh Zonji, Mantreh Atashband, Homi Gandhi, Delzin Choksey and Afreed Mistry – the main Representative of FEZANA at the United Nations.)*



BOOK AWARENESS



This month we have added the following books to our FIRES collection. The authors are our Zoroastrian writers and the subject matter will be of interest.



Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy of Bombay by Jesse Palsetia details the life and public career of one of India's legendary individuals who was the first Indian knight and baronet. Hailed as one of India's greatest philanthropists of the colonial era, Jeejeebhoy utilized his wealth for copious charity for the people of Bombay and western India.



An Uncensored Life: Zerbanoo Gifford by Farida Master, is a compelling biography of a human rights campaigner, philanthropist, women's champion, author and founder of the ASHA Center -- Zerbanoo Gifford. Here is a gripping story of a fearless woman who has held fast to the causes of equality and global justice. She is also known as a cosmic networker, connecting people of all backgrounds in outrageous stories that illustrate the challenges women face in the modern world and their triumphs.

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

through education -- proved to be the area on which the young panel participants focused during their presentation on 14 March 2016.

The costs for travel, visas, and lodging were borne by the participants themselves. FEZANA, as an accredited NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council and the DPI, the Department of Public Information, facilitated admission to the United Nations venues, and provided security clearance to those selected to be on the team. □

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

The UN DPI / NGO conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Gyeongju, Korea, from 30 May - 1 June 2016. Organized in cooperation with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the NGO community, the Government of the Republic of Korea and the National Organizing Committee of Korea, the Conference will be held under the theme "Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together." It will be the first time for the DPI/NGO Conference to be held in Asia.

Zarathushtis interested in being part of the FEZANA UN-NGO team can contact Co-Chairs, Afreed Mistry, (afreed.mistry (@) gmail . com) and Behram Pastakia, (bpastakia (@) aol.com) with a copy of their curriculum vitae and a letter of intent, outlining how they would promote the mission of the United Nations.

Children below the age of 18 can participate, if accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. □

Building Connections Through Dialogue

By Maneck Bhujwala

On Saturday, February 20, 2016, an interfaith panel discussion was organized by the Chinmaya Mission in the city of Tustin, California, with leaders invited from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, Hindu, and Zarathushti religious communities. I was invited to participate on the panel.



Maneck Bhujwala [pictured far left], Co-Chair of FEZANA Interfaith Activities Committee, attended an interfaith panel discussion organized by the Chinmaya Mission in Tustin California.

The topic was to discuss the perspective of different faiths on Swami Chinmayananda's statement: "What you have is all 'HIS' gift to you. What you do with what you have is your gift to 'HIM'." Each panelist would present what it means to accept the situations we face as God's gift to us and how one can intelligently deal with them to make it as our gift to God. After thanking the organizers and giving a brief introduction about the Zarathushti religion, I quoted a line from our prayers with the word "Bakhshayade" meaning "Giver of Gifts", to support our belief that all we have, directly or indirectly are gifts from God. Situations are created with the gift of "free will" given by God and the choice we make with the gift of mind and reasoning



given by God, and situations become gifts from God, because they are learning opportunities for us through the good or bad consequences of our choices. When we deal with situations through our Zarathushti teachings of rational thinking (instead of impulsive or emotional reaction) and good thoughts, words and actions (instead of anger, greed, jealousy, revenge) we offer them as gifts to God to please Him, as we say "Khshnaothare Ahure Mazdao" meaning "May Ahuramazda be pleased" in the beginning of most prayers. The event was a good opportunity learn and share, and build relationships with other religious representatives. □

FEZANA AGM and WZCC Meeting in April

The Zoroastrian Association of Michigan is excited to host opportunities to network, meet new people, and understand better what the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) and FEZANA do for our communities at the Holiday Inn Farmington Hills/Novi in Michigan from Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1. Bring your festive, traditional wear and dancing shoes for the ZAOM Gala on Saturday night – festivities begin at 7 p.m.

Call for Hotel reservations at (248) 477-7800 with group name **FEZANA** and code **FRB**. RSVP for the WZCC forum and FEZANA AGM with Zenobia Damania at admin@fezana.org

RSVP for the ZAOM Gala by sending a check made out to ZAOM to Despina Mehta, 1759 Chase Drive, Rochester MI 48307 (\$35/adult; \$25/child 3-10).

For further information about events and tourist attractions, please contact Shernaz Minwalla at siminwalla@gmail.com. □

Nowruz at the United Nations

On March 21, 2016, eleven Nation States which had proposed the original resolution to celebrate Nowruz in 2010, celebrated the International Day of Nowruz at the UN. In addition to the welcoming Nowruz remarks by the Permanent Representatives of these eleven Nations, there were opening remarks by His Excellency Mogens Lykkesoft, President of the UN General Assembly and His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General.



Shekufeh Zonji, Farhad Malegam and Homi Gandhi represented FEZANA at the United Nations Nowruz celebration on March 21, 2016.

Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent representative of India to the UN, referred to the contribution of Parsis in India in his statement and the film from India portrayed the Parsis celebrating Nowruz.

The Ambassador's statement can be read on the Permanent Mission of India to the UN website: <https://www.pminewyork.org/pages.php?id=2399> □



WHEN: June 30 - July 4, 2016

WHERE: Elmhurst College

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www.zgames2016.com

Questions? Email

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