

FEZANA *bulletin*

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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](#)

Through May 29, 2016

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

April 29-May 1, 2016

[FEZANA AGM. Novi, Michigan](#)
(see page 3 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://11wzcp Perth.com.au/](http://11wzcp Perth.com.au)

Oral History Project Continues in Houston

by Jangoo Mistry

Following the launch of its Oral History project in 2014, the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH), the home of FIRES, held an event on February 5, that showcased the progress of this important project. A little over 30 seniors had been interviewed and taped, sharing their interesting experiences and recollections of personal, religious, and historic events, as well as their daily lives dating back to early years in their homeland, and as first-generation immigrants to the U.S. During the event, snippets of the most interesting recordings from these oral histories were presented. Over 100 people in attendance were also briefed on how to access the audio and text of any community member's oral history on the worldwide web.



Pervin Sagar (left) and Merwan Boyce at the ZAH Library Oral History event on February 5, 2016. Photo credit: Yezdi Engineer.

ZAH is planning to continue interviewing many more community members as it launches the second phase of this important project.

It is hoped that generations to come will cherish the valuable collection of real-life struggles and events, the successes and failures, and the fears and concerns of their forefathers who had the courage to change the destiny of their children and grandchildren. □

FEZANA Academic Scholarships: Call for Applications

FEZANA Academic Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for 2016. Applications and full details are available on the FEZANA website at: <https://fezana.org/scholarships/academic/>.

Completed application forms must be submitted by August 1, 2016.

All scholarships are open to Zarathushti students who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA or Canada.

See *FEZANA Journal*, Spring 2016, for details on the winners of last year's 2015-16 Academic Scholarships.



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



SCAN HERE FOR MORE FEZANA INFO

Zoroastrian Association of Chicago Collaborates with The Oriental Institute

In 2015, the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC-CHI) and FEZANA partnered with the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute to launch a special exhibit called *Persepolis: Images of an Empire*, to display valuable panoramic photographs of Persepolis taken during the Oriental Institute's well known archeological expeditions of the 1930s. Organizers aspire to make this exhibit a traveling exhibit, provided other locations are enlisted.

To supplement the *Persepolis: Images of an Empire* exhibit, the Oriental Institute worked with ZAC-CHI by planning two events celebrating Nowruz: First, on Wednesday, March 9, an evening reception and screening of the film, "Persepolis Recreated"; and on Saturday, March 12, a family-oriented event entitled "Ancient Game Day and Nowruz Celebration" where visitors were invited into the galleries to play ancient board games such as Chess, Backgammon, and the Royal Game of Ur, whilst sitting among the displays of the museum. Other activities included egg coloring and an opportunity to take a souvenir photo in Persepolis! (using green screen technology). ZAC-CHI members attended and volunteered at both successful events. Due to its success this year, a repeat collaboration is already planned for next year in March 2017. □

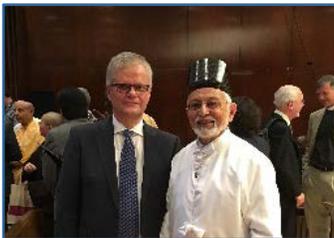


[TOP] "Ancient Game Day and Nowruz Celebration" held at The Oriental Institute -- University of Chicago in collaboration with the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago on March 12, 2016. Among other activities, visitors were invited to play ancient board games throughout the museum galleries. [LEFT] ZAC-CHI member, Farida Sharyari, welcomes visitors at the Museum entrance with a Haft Seen table display. □



CONNECTIONS

World Faith Leaders call on world leaders to sign and ratify Paris Agreement on Climate Change



Last week, Religious leaders and people of faith from around the world presented the Interfaith Climate Change Statement (2016) to the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykkesoft at an official event in New York. The Statement urges that the Paris Agreement be signed and ratified by governments so that it can come into force as soon as possible. [Above] Homi Gandhi, FEZANA Vice-President, with Mr. Halldor Thorgeirsson, Director for Strategy, Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

FEZANA AGM Updates:

PRE-AGM SESSIONS SET TO BE INFORMATIVE AND APPLICABLE TO ALL

On Friday, April 29, two informative pre-AGM sessions will be presented before the FEZANA AGM, which commences later that evening.

First, at 2:00pm, Senior's Session. A comprehensive needs assessment of North American Zarathushti seniors was conducted this year and the results of the Survey 55+, requested by FEZANA, will be presented. The findings will be of interest to all Member Associations, both large and small, in planning for services and activities for the senior members of their constituencies. Best practices from a number of Zarathushti Associations will be shared and we look forward to a robust and productive discussion on how we can best meet the current and future needs of this very important segment of our community. Please do attend this session to learn what insights Nawaz Merchant, Dolly Dastoor and Piroja Press have gathered from our community using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Next, at 4:30pm, the Funds and Finance Committee will make an informative presentation which would also be useful to all Member Associations in their future planning.

ZAOM GARA SAREE RAFFLE

As part of the ZAOM Gala Evening on Saturday April 30, ZAOM will hold a raffle for a gorgeous purple Gara saree as a fundraiser for their vibrant Association. Tickets will be \$20 each or 3 for \$50. Winning ticket will be selected on the evening of the Gala. □

FEZANA Hamazori with Colombo Parsee Anjuman, Sri Lanka

By Homi Gandhi

During the early days of 2016 my brother-in-law, Dr. Viraf Bhavnagri, and I were on a short trip to the emerald island of Sri Lanka. And as I have always done before, during my work or pleasure trips, I wanted to find out whether any Zoroastrians were in the area we were visiting. So I sent out emails to Yazdi Tantra and Roshan Rivetna. They supplied me with some email addresses and phone numbers and, with the help of one connection connecting another; I was able to reach Mrs. Aban Pestonjee, a long-standing and famous Zarathushti of Sri Lanka.



Sri Lanka has a small population of Zoroastrians (currently 41) at the height of its heyday 241. Most of them have migrated to the new diaspora of the west and Australia and New Zealand. But the numbers of famous Zoroastrians pro rata are many who have contributed to the political, social and business life of Sri Lanka. And Mrs. Pestonjee ranks tall among all of them. Starting in 1970s with a small shop



BOOK AWARENESS



Parsi Bol 2 Compiled by Sooni Taraporewala and Meher Marfatia, Good Books, 2016.

Parsi Bol 2 features phrases, words and punch lines that have come to be synonymous with the Parsis. Fans of the bestselling, out-of-print Parsi Bol can look forward to fresh phrases in this expanded edition (Parsi Bol 1 and Parsi Bol 2) which has an accompanying audio CD of hilarious phrases spoken by veteran Parsi actors Boman Irani and Dolly Dotiwala.



The Daēva Cult in the Gāthās: An Ideological Archaeology of Zoroastrianism by Amir Ahmadi, Routledge, 2015.

Addressing the question of the origins of the Zoroastrian religion, this book argues that the intransigent opposition to the cult of the *daēvas*, the ancient Indo-Iranian gods, is the root of the development of the two central doctrines of Zoroastrianism: cosmic dualism and eschatology. This book is an important resource for students and scholars of History, Religion and Iranian Studies.

Visit our website at

<http://www.fires-fezana.org/>

servicing used appliances; she has built up a group of well-known companies. She strides tall in the corporate history of the country and now presides over the Abans Group of Companies, a large diversified entity that is throbbing with energy and dynamism decades on. Considered one of the most successful entrepreneurs the country has known, she has nurtured the group of companies from a small operation into a mega business empire with 13,500 employees today. For more details, please visit www.abansgroup.com. She has helped many other Zarathushtis to set up their businesses, as reported to me by Aspi Daruwalla, who has settled for 20+ years in Colombo.



When Mrs. Pestonjee called me to confirm our meeting, we were visiting a Spice plantation in Kandy area and our Ayurvedic Doctor guide overheard the name Aban and her first comment was that Aban Shops are very famous and respected, located in small and big cities of Sri Lanka.

We met at the world famous Kingsbury hotel where she had invited us for the afternoon tea. Aspi Daruwalla, Trustee of Colombo Parsee Anjuman, had joined us and this turned out to be more than high tea with a variety of dishes and desserts. We exchanged news of our institutions and as usual, we found common connections and relationships. Aspi took us to "Navroz Baug," (built in 1927) where the community meets on auspicious occasions. The community also uses the building for Muktaad prayers and funeral and other ceremonies. □

CONNECTIONS

Farman-e-Kourosh on display in New Delhi



Replica of the Farman-e-Kourosh [Cylinder of Cyrus] presented by Afreed Mistry -- Main Representative of FEZANA at the United Nations -- to UNESCO PARZOR on behalf of FEZANA UN-NGO Committee at the openings of *The Everlasting Flame Exhibitions* in New Delhi last month.

UPDATE

Global Leader Shares thoughts on Global Warming

As a follow up to COP21 -- Global Meeting in Paris on Climate Change in December, 2015 [see *FEZANA Journal*, Winter 2015; pages 47-50 to read about one Zarathushti's experience at the conference]

Here, in this TED Talk, Prime Minister of Bhutan shares ideas on global warming and Bhutan's promise to remain carbon neutral -- if not, carbon negative. A lesson in humility while touching basic points.

<https://www.facebook.com/gnhfilms/videos/1025791564148706/>



WHEN: June 30 - July 4, 2016

WHERE: Elmhurst College

HURRY & REGISTER!

www.zgames2016.com

Questions? Email

chicago.zgames@gmail.com

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INVITATION

Dubai Pravasi Yatra

7-11 October, 2016

Tour Program organised by: WZCCME - Dubai

Take a trip to happiness with your loved ones and see Dubai & Abu Dhabi

Through this program we are redefining
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Group Fare 7-11 October, 2016

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Sightseeing - Dubai: Dubai Shopping Mall, Fountain Show, Jumeirah, The Palm, Desert Safari (Dune Bashing, Tanoura Dance, Belly Dancing, Henna Painting...) Spice Souq, Gold Souq, Karama Fake city, Dhow Cruise and exclusive photoshoot at Burj Al Arab 7* Hotel.

Sightseeing - Abu Dhabi: Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Corniche, Heritage Village, Dates Market and exclusive photoshoot at Emirates Palace Hotel, 7* Hotel.

For Booking the Trip please contact:

Trail Blazer Tours India Pvt. Ltd.,
Sangam Project 2, Office # 26, Near Old RTO,
Dr. Ambedkar Road, Pune - 411 001. INDIA
Tel: 0091 20 49107474 / 49107413 (D)
Mobile: 0091 9823324710 | E-mail: vdastur@tbi.co.in

This Program is open to the Zoroastrian
community members worldwide

For more details visit: <http://wzcc.net>

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