

# FEZANA *bulletin*

May 2016 / VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 5



## 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](#)

### 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](mailto:zacuce.news@gmail.com)

### June 17, 2016

*OZCF Magic and Sparkle Gala.*  
Atash Kadeh project fundraiser.  
[www.ozcf.com](http://www.ozcf.com)

### June 30-July 4, 2016

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

### 2018 (date to be anncd)

*11th World Zoroastrian Congress,*  
Perth, Australia  
<http://11wzccperth.com.au/>

## FEZANA's 29th Annual General Meeting Held in Michigan



[top] Nearly 70 delegates gathered for the 29th FEZANA AGM held in Farmington Hills, Michigan last month. [bottom, L-R] Newly elected FEZANA Executive: Arzan Sam Wadia (Vice-President); Afreed Mistry (Asst. Secretary); Homi Gandhi (President); Nilufer Shroff (Treasurer); Percy Master (Secretary).

The 29th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America was held Friday April 29 to Sunday May 1, 2016. The AGM was hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan (ZAOM) and held at the Holiday Inn Farmington Hills in Novi, Michigan. Nearly 70 delegates representing various FEZANA Member Associations, Small Groups and a large majority of Committee Chairs and Representatives attended this three-day event.

### PRE-AGM EVENTS

On Friday morning, the AGM was preceded by the North America Regional Meeting of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce (WZCC). Presided over by WZCC President, Edul Daver, the discussions included ways and means to foster more interaction with FEZANA Member associations both locally and globally.

Two Pre-AGM Sessions organized by FEZANA were held on Friday afternoon. The first one was on Seniors 55+ conducted by Nawaz Merchant (ZAGNY) and Dolly Dastoor (ZAQ). The talk discussed the findings of their surveys on this topic. The session was video recorded and FEZANA will be posting the video. The second session was on Funds and Finances by Ratan Mistry (ZANC) Co-Chair of the Funds and Finance Committee. The session discussed methods of fundraising for FEZANA activities.

Friday evening saw the attendees gather at a local community center where everyone networked with the local Zarathushti community over dinner. Before dinner the results of the FEZANA Executive elections were announced and Member Association Reports were presented by the various Association Presidents / Representatives highlighting their respective association's achievements in the past year.

### FEZANA EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

At the end of this AGM Katayun Kapadia, President FEZANA 2012-2016 completed her two 2-year terms and retired from her post. She will continue on as Chair of FEZANA's North American Congress Committee. Katayun was lauded by one and all for her excellent leadership and stewardship of FEZANA over the last 4 years as



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<http://fezana.org/publications/bulletinarchives/>

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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

President. Also, at the end of the AGM Saghar Javanshir, Secretary FEZANA 2014-2016 stepped down from her post. Saghar's contribution to the FEZANA cause and her integral role within the Executive was appreciated.

The new FEZANA Executive 2016-2017 was elected as under:

Homi D. Gandhi, President FEZANA  
Arzan Sam Wadia, Vice-President FEZANA  
Nilufer Shroff, Treasurer FEZANA  
Percy Master, Secretary FEZANA  
Afreed Mistry, Assistant Secretary FEZANA

### SEVENTH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

It was announced at the recent 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in New Zealand, that the next World Zoroastrian Youth Congress would be hosted in North America in 2019. Bids from various FEZANA Member Associations were presented at the AGM for consideration. The winning bid was awarded to the California Zoroastrian Center (CZC).

### ZAOM GALA EVENING

The local Zarathushti community put up an excellent Gala Banquet on Saturday night. Events included a Gara Raffle and a fantastic entertainment program performed by the kids of ZAOM. The Gala was a sellout with over 220 people registered.



*ZAOM Gala Evening held on April 30, was attended by AGM attendees as well as community members from the local ZAOM community. ZAOM Gara raffle was won by Perinaaz Gandhi from ZAMWI.*

### CONCLUSION

Besides the above discussed highlights, the AGM also had its regular items on the agenda. This included committee reports, and other deliberations and discussions that shall be documented in the AGM Minutes that shall be made public in the weeks to come.

The AGM ended on Sunday with the conclusion of all business and the approval of the budget for the year 2016-2017. A vote of thanks was proposed to the outgoing Executive. Thanks were also offered to the host association ZAOM who did an excellent job in hosting this AGM, and all those who attended left with wonderful memories that will last for many years. □



## BOOK AWARENESS



***The Journey of Ahura Mazda's Children* by Ravi Khetrpal**

Traveling to Iran, the author explores and brings to light the forgotten narratives of heroism and tragedy of a great empire. Following the ancient bardic tradition of telling a story through poetry and visualization, the Achaemenians are brought to life with beautiful photographs and color plates from museums around the world. This book is downloadable in pdf format free of cost. Do check it out.



***Lost Treasures of Persia: Persian art in the Hermitage Museum* by Valadimir Loukonine**

Russia and the republics of the former Soviet Union possess some of the most magnificent treasures of Persian art, many rarely seen. Published and cataloged in this book for the first time, artifacts include the unique hoard of Iranian silver drachms of the 3rd century CE and some objects of early Sasanian toreutics in an unsurpassed collection of colored plates

Visit our website at

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

## Interfaith Dialogue to Sow the Seeds of Peace in the Global Community



Last month, a diverse group of two dozen religious leaders convened at the Seventh Annual Interfaith Dialogue Dinner hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan to discuss the role of religion in countering extremist violence that plagues the world. The Zoroastrian viewpoint was represented by FEZANA President, Homi Gandhi, who attended the event. The evening featured Foreign Minister H.E. Erlan Idrissov as one of the plenary speakers; Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the US, H.E. Kairat Umarov; former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd; and NY Congressman Steve Israel. The lively, round-table conversation was moderated by Rev. Robert Chase, Founding Director of Intersections International.

Rejecting the idea of a melting pot, those around the table — Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Zoroastrian — focused on the colorful mosaic in the room) — multiracial, multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-religious, and declared diversity to be their strength.

As part of the discussion, an appeal to incorporate the needs of the earth into the agenda was emphasized -- as the challenges of climate change may soon dwarf even the horrific threats that religious extremists hold for humankind.

The event marked the **seventh** annual gathering of religious leaders sponsored by the Government of Kazakhstan. In the ongoing quest for Global peace and Human Dignity throughout the world, the Annual Interfaith Dialogue Dinner takes steps in planting important seeds that promise to continue to flower.

[read more at <http://www.intersections.org>] □

### Additional Note from Homi D. Gandhi:



*It appears to me that the message of Humata, Hukhata, Huvarashta has been reaching out to the Interfaith world. At the above meeting, Kazakhstan Foreign Minister H.E. Elan Idrissov commenced his opening speech with the words "Good Thoughts, Good Words, and Good Deeds" he learnt from a book given to him by his Zoroastrian friend many years ago. Mr. Kevin Rudd, former Australian Prime Minister, acknowledged in his speech the contribution of Zoroastrians in the rainbow of interfaith on Australian island. [Photo at left, Homi D Gandhi presented Ambassador Idrissov with "The Legacy of Zarathushtra" at the first meeting of religious leaders in Washington D.C. almost seven years ago.]*



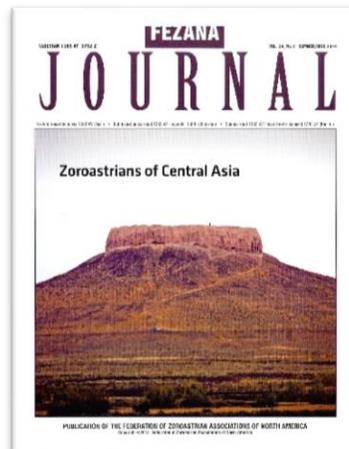
## Message from the FEZANA Journal

Dolly Dastoor, Editor in Chief  
Nawaz Merchant, Marketing Manager

**Please subscribe to the FEZANA Journal**, our community's quarterly publication which includes scholarly articles on our religion as well as community news, opportunities to connect and network in North America, and information about scholarships and volunteer opportunities. Our recent issue, for example, contains original articles on the Kurds and their Zoroastrian Roots, as well as on the Connection between Judaism and Zoroastrianism.

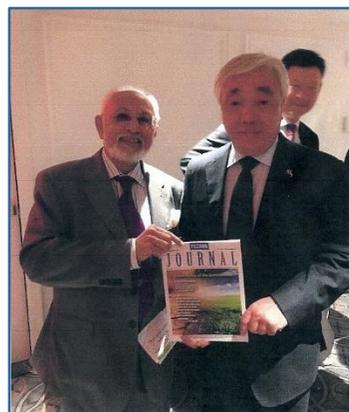


The Journal is **our community's forum** to share our vision for the future, member associations' plans to build physical/virtual structures and organizations to support each other. Milestones and key events in our members' lives are acknowledged in this beautifully produced magazine. Young professionals are showcased to help grow their professional presence. Please share your copy of the Journal with your children and youth, so that they can email the authors and make useful connections. High schoolers can volunteer with activities of interest (which help with college applications) and learn about scholarship opportunities.



**Gift a subscription to the FEZANA Journal:** When your family is celebrating a birth, navjote, or wedding, please consider giving the gift of a FEZANA Journal subscription! It will keep the young couple connected to our community through the years, so they can avail of our network of support for both their professional and personal lives. Also, please consider giving a gift subscription of the Journal to your local library. This will help the broader community gain awareness of the presence of Zarathushti community in North America and of our efforts.

**Subscription rates** in US/Canada are US \$35 (1 year), US \$70(2 years) and US \$105(3 years). The overseas rate is US\$80 for 1 year.



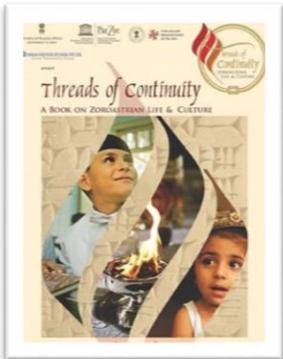
**The Journal will go online** over the next year, to provide access through digital and mobile devices. In a phased approach we plan to build an attractive format with interactive surveys, as well as videos, clips and additional engaging content. Look for upcoming contests as we seek your creative ideas and content! **Visit [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org) to subscribe today.**

*[Left: Homi Gandhi shares a copy of the FEZANA Journal (Winter 2015 issue – Stewardship of the Environment) with Ambassador Idrissov earlier this month – see page 3]*



## CONNECTIONS

### Threads of Continuity: A Book on Zoroastrian Life and Culture



Order your copy now  
For details and to order contact:  
[parzorfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:parzorfoundation@gmail.com) or  
call 011-26513560.

## FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarships: Call for Applications

Applications are now being accepted for FEZANA's Performing & Creative Arts Scholarships for 2016

The scholarship provides financial support in the fields of performing and creative arts to enable recipients to study with experts in their field.

Applications and information are available on [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org). **Applications should be sent electronically to [nazehler@aol.com](mailto:nazehler@aol.com) by August 1, 2016.**

## Roos-e-Darakhtkari

Zarathushti Youth Plant Trees in Washington D.C. to Celebrate  
Global Youth Service Day

Roos-e-Darakhtkari is an ancient Iranian tradition to take care of trees in the spring. In that spirit, on 16 April 2016, ZAMWI youth members with their parents and guardians were at the Veterans Hospital in Washington D.C. as volunteers as part of a team of 120 strong to plant trees.

Seventy-five saplings, two to three years old, which amounted to a significant sized donation in kind, were made available by a non-profit Casey Trees [www.caseytrees.org](http://www.caseytrees.org) who have a mission of enhancing the shade tree canopy of the District of Columbia. The landscaping advice and selection of trees that would do well at this latitude, was provided by qualified arborists from the partnering Non-Governmental Organization.

A diverse array of members from civil society from the American Red Cross, the Boys and Girl Scouts of America, undergraduate students from American University in Washington DC, volunteers from the US Armed Forces, and staff of the hospital itself, came together and worked to help enhance the quality of the landscape for sick patients.

Breakfast and lunch were donated by local businesses.

References from the Scientific Literature that document the benefit of trees to good health are available at: <http://www.acr.org/Membership/Chapters/Chapter-News/DC-041316>



*Garshab and Armin Soroosh, youth volunteers from the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington DC Inc., were at a Tree Planting event on 16 April 2016 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Washington D.C. The volunteer effort was part of the implementation of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations: To think globally and act locally.*

## 15<sup>TH</sup> ZOROASTRIAN GAMES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Z Games supporters,

Z Games 2016 is offering unique advertising opportunities in our souvenir booklet to all Zarathushti organizations, businesses, families and individuals interested in showing support for your community's team, or simply your organization's support for Z Games 2016. Hundreds of Zoroastrian athletes, volunteers and local fans from Chicago, across North America and around the world will descend on Elmhurst College, just outside Chicago, [June 30 - July 4](#), featuring competitive sports brackets in basketball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, track, swimming and golf. Our marquee entertainment events are highlighted by a Red Carpet Banquet honoring the athletes and the games. Other evening entertainment packages include delectable Persian food at *A Rendezvous at Reza's* in Chicago, and *The Chicago Experience*, featuring the best in Chicago food and culture.

### Z Games 2016 souvenir booklet advertising rate schedule:

- Inside cover: \$1,000
- Back cover: \$1,000
- Inside back cover: \$750
- Full page: \$500
- Half-page: \$250

Also, for those organizations interested in our full event sponsorship opportunities, please call or email us for a sponsorship interest form.

The deadline to secure your souvenir program book advertising or Z Games sponsorship is Thursday, [June 2!](#) Questions? Contact Jim Engineer at 630.728.1387.



WHEN: June 30 - July 4, 2016

WHERE: Elmhurst College

**HURRY & REGISTER!**

[www.zgames2016.com](http://www.zgames2016.com)

Questions? Email

[chicago.zgames@gmail.com](mailto:chicago.zgames@gmail.com)

# Come One Come All!

*Featuring intense competition, cheering fans and full-bracket tournaments in the following sports:*

**Basketball | Volleyball | Track | Swimming | Tennis | Table Tennis | Golf**

## 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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**Early Bird Offer**  
**US\$ 625/-**  
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(Mumbai-Dubai-Mumbai)  
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Group Fare 7-11 October, 2016

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

### Price US\$ 625/- includes:

Visa, airport transfers (Dxb), Hotel accommodation for 4 nights / 5 days at Hilton Garden Inn Al Mina Hotel (4\* property), breakfast, lunch, lavish dinners including Dinner Theatre, day trip to Abu Dhabi and much more...

For Businessmen special trip to Dubai Free Zone is included and expert guidance will be provided by Consultants for setting up new businesses in the UAE.

**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.

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This Program is open to the Zoroastrian  
community members worldwide

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

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