

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](#)

July 24, 2016

Annual Satum Prayer and Gahambar. Orlando, Florida.
WZCC - Central Florida Chapter in collaboration with ZATAMBAY and ZAF. [dinyarmehta \(at\) aol.com](mailto:dinyarmehta@att.net)

July 29-31, 2016

ZAH Z-Camp 2016. Houston, TX.
Register on the [ZAH website](#).

August 1, 2016

Application Deadline for FEZANA Academic Scholarships.
<https://fezana.org/scholarships/academic/>

August 1, 2016

Application Deadline for FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarships
<https://fezana.org/scholarships/performing-creative-arts/>

September 3, 2016

SSZ Conference; Zoroastrian Association of Chicago; (see page 3) [rayomand.ravji \(@\) gmail.com](mailto:rayomand.ravji@gmail.com)

October 7-11, 2016

Dubai Pravasi Yatra.
wzcc2016@gmail.com

December 2016

WZCC AGM. Hong Kong

June 2018

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

Unity Through Sport at the 15th Zoroastrian Games in Chicago



Parade of States and Nations kicks off the Opening Ceremony on July 1 at the 15th Zoroastrian Games in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Held for the first time in the Chicago area, the 15th Zoroastrian Games took place earlier this month at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois. In its 28th year, the Zoroastrian Games are held every two years in different host cities. After years of preparation by this year's host -- the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago -- and sponsored by FEZANA's Zoroastrian Sports Committee, the games welcomed over 300 athletes and spectators from across North America and the World, who convened at the highly competitive, yet fun filled, four-day event from June 30 to July 4, 2016. Skilled athletes competed in individual sports including Track, Swimming, Tennis and Table Tennis; as well as team sports of Basketball and Volleyball. For the first time, Golf was also offered at the Event.

As it is said, Sport is a great equalizer and such was the case again at the 2016 Zoroastrian Games, and even more so because the participants also felt instant bonds with each other as Zoroastrians. For a few days, through Sport, all walls came down – inter-generationally, culturally, and inclusive of men, women and children. All who attended collectively experienced a few days of pure comradery, fully removed from the stresses of daily life.

On the last day, for example, the energy in the Elmhurst College fieldhouse was at its peak as the final two Basketball teams battled it out in front of hundreds of fans, for First place in the Championship game. From the youngest in the crowd to the Octogenarians present, all were clapping, chanting and cheering on *both* teams.





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



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This comradery, unity, and supportive spirit for *all* the athletes was present throughout the four days of the 2016 Zoroastrian Games.

Both athletes and fans alike enjoyed playing and watching various sports events by day and were treated to high end social events in the evenings including a Red Carpet Gala Evening which celebrated the athletes and the Legacy of the Zoroastrian Games; and the *Chicago Experience*, where guests got an opportunity to experience Chicago's famous food and its sights.

It was refreshing to see that the youngest spectators were inspired by their older counterparts who played extremely competitive (yet friendly) games of Volleyball and Basketball. One nine-year-old boy from Chicago said, "I had so much fun watching, I did not want to miss any of the games. I can't wait [till I am old enough] to play on a team." The 2016 Zoroastrian Games was open to participants aged 16 and older, although there were separate, equally competitive events offered for the youngest pre-teens (7-12 year old) as well as for Teens (12-15 year old). All the athletes and spectators enjoyed very full days of activities over the four-day event.

In addition, the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago sponsored a free parallel program especially for kids who were too young to participate. The Z-Games Kid's Zone offered games, crafts and fun for kids under 7, whose families were participating in the Z-Games events. It was so popular with the children who attended on the first day, that, by word of mouth, the program doubled its number of participants on the second and third day it was offered.

Not to be forgotten, kudos to the almost one hundred volunteers from the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago and other places, whose tremendous efforts (often unsung) made for a smooth, seamless event from overall planning and organizing; to sports coordination; to registrations; to accommodations and transportation; to food preparation for volunteers and referees; to crowd coordination; to medical volunteers. ALL played an important role in the success of the event.

The 15th Zoroastrian Games was a shining gathering, illuminating the best in the Zoroastrian community and in the human spirit: Sportsmanship, Unity and Fellowship, Competitiveness, Sense of Community, Helpfulness towards others. It



CONNECTIONS

Documentary: This Is Iran, Beautiful City of Yazd, Iran - Centre of Zoroastrian Culture

Yazd is the capital of Yazd Province, Iran, and a center of Zoroastrian culture. The city is located 270 km southeast of Isfahan. Because of generations of adaptations to its desert surroundings, Yazd is an architecturally unique city. It is also known in Iran for the high quality of its handicrafts, especially silk weaving, and its confectionary.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93JDkFukOQE&feature=em-share_video_user

[Approx 50 minutes]

OPPORTUNITY

2017 Global Youth Service Day Lead Agency Grants

Deadline: August 21, 2016

YSA is now accepting applications for the 2017 Global Youth Service Day Lead Agency Program! Through the support of State Farm, the program offers organizations in the United States funding of \$500 or \$1,000 as well as ongoing capacity-building training to lead high-impact, high-visibility events for Global Youth Service Day on April 21-23, 2017. Learn more and apply at: www.YSA.org/leadagency



will long be remembered as a bonding experience for the dedicated organizers and volunteers, the competitive athletes and the supportive fans who all participated and left with lasting memories. FEZANA congratulates all of you for a memorable, successful event.

At the Closing Ceremonies, standing with tradition, a torch was passed to the next Zoroastrian Games hosts in Los Angeles. May the next Zoroastrian Games in 2018 build upon the strengths of the Chicago Zoroastrian Games and those Games in prior years, and continue to foster the supportive spirit of unity, sportsmanship, and togetherness that was prevalent in the 2016 Zoroastrian Games. □

Learn and Teach

Zoroastrian Liturgical ceremonies
Books are now available on Understanding and Practice of Jashan, Navjote and Wedding, Obsequies, and Concise Naavar Ceremonies

For more information

In USA: Ervad Adi Unwalla <nergisadi2 [at] aol.com>
In Canada: Ervad Jehan Bagli <jbagli [at] rogers.com>

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference 2016

The Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC) has held a SSZ Conference annually for more than a decade. It has been an enriching experience for presenters and participants alike. There is a mix of presenters both seasoned academicians, educationists or lay scholars and students of Zoroastrianism who study the subject matter and deliver their studies to the participants.

This year the conference will be held on **Saturday September 3, 2016** at the Dar-e-Mehr in Chicago, 8615 Meadowbrook Drive, Burr Ridge.

The theme will be "Our History" beginning with the pre-Achemenian era to the present times. Several notable scholars will be making presentations alongside our students of Zoroastrianism. All are encouraged to attend. Home-stays will be arranged for out of town participants. Please save the date. A detailed program will be forthcoming shortly. Contact rayomand.ravji (@) gmail.com □

Trees and Shrubs with Zoroastrian Heritage and Connections



The Date Palm: indigenous to the geobotanical "Sahara-Sind region," a desert or semi-desert belt extending from the Indus valley to North Africa. It is believed by some authorities to be native to the Persian Gulf area and by others to have been derived from the wild or date-sugar palm of western India. □

[Source: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/>]