

FEZANA *bulletin*

September 2016 / VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 9



UPCOMING DATES

October 7-11, 2016

Dubai Pravasi Yatra.
wzcc2016@gmail.com

October 28-30, 2016

ZAH Library Event – Home of FIRES -- featuring Dan Sheffield.
www.zah.org

November 5, 2016

FEZANA's 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration-Chicago. Nostalgia filled evening recalling the founding of FEZANA. roshni_sa [@] hotmail.com

November 10-14, 2016

[Wisdom of the Prophets – Part III: Sufism and Zoroastrianism](#). With Pir Zia Inayat-Khan, Dr Jehan Bagli, and Dr Sousan Abadian; New Lebanon NY.

November 12, 2016

Jamva Chaloji. www.zagny.org

November 20, 2016

Annual Gahambar and AGM. [Zoroastrian Association of Florida](#). Miramar, Florida.

November 26, 2016

[Masquerade Ball](#). ZAMWI fundraiser to benefit American Cancer Society and ZAMWI.

December 16-18, 2016

WZCC AGM. "Building the Spirit of Entrepreneurship" Hong Kong
<http://www.wzcc.net/>

(DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

FEZANA is Turning Thirty – Chicago Kicks Off the Celebrations



It has been nearly thirty years since FEZANA laid its foundation as a coordinating organization for Zarathushtis in North America. In late 1986, a Constitutional convention of representatives from nine of the, then, seventeen North American Zoroastrian associations assembled in Chicago. After much deliberation, by November 1986, a Charter Constitution was drafted and circulated for approval to all seventeen Zarathushti Associations in North America at the time. Six months later, on June 2, 1987, FEZANA was registered in the State of Illinois.

It is fitting, then, that Chicago -- as FEZANA's birthplace -- be the location to kick off a series of FEZANA's 30th Anniversary Celebrations throughout North America. All are invited to join in this, first of many, festivities throughout North America in the coming months:

Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago, a Gala evening is planned, of good food 'Lagan-nu-Bhonu' served by 'Celebrity Chefs,' entertainment and nostalgia recalling the founding of FEZANA. See www.zac-chicago.org for ticket details.

When: Saturday, November 5, 2016

Where: Arbab Rustom Guiv Dar-e Mehr, Burr Ridge, Illinois

Reservations or more information: *Please make your reservations now* (and no later than October 29th) by contacting roshni_sa [@] hotmail.com

Groundbreaking for Zoroastrian Association of Houston's Phase 3A Expansion

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Phase 3A expansion of the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center (ZHCC) in a grand Texas style on August 14, 2016. Ahura Mazda blessed that day with a light rain shower earlier in the morning, bringing in some welcome cool weather,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PERCY M. MASTER

and moistening the ground just enough to ease the digging. Having finished the Mukhtad prayers, 13 Houston mobeds kicked off the festivities with traditional prayers, followed by the ceremonial digging with silver shovels. This was followed by children of all ages digging on as the



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



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ceremonial items were buried with great fanfare.

Aderbad Tamboli, ZAH President, then invited the principal donor of the expansion, Mrs. Aban Rustomji, to say a few words to the congregation. Aban thanked everyone for attending and especially thanked all the volunteers and mobeds who had made the ceremony a success. The Late Purvez Rustomji, in whose honor the new conference room will be named, was especially remembered as a ZAH stalwart whose perseverance of his dream of a home for ZAH had resulted in the ZHCC being built back in 1997. This was followed by a delicious catered lunch.

ZAH's Phase 3 will include the 1680 sqft Purvez Shiavax Rustomji room and a classroom. The Purvez Shiavax Rustomji room will be a multi-media, multipurpose conference room, with state of the art audio and video equipment, and conferencing capabilities. A new 1000 sqft classroom will also be added, and will become the new home of the ZAH Sunday School middle group. Construction is expected to start within the next few days and is expected to finish within six months. ZAH plans to hold the 2017 FEZANA AGM in the new Purvez Shivax Rustomji room next April, and invites all to visit Houston and enjoy our hospitality. □

FEZANA Academic Scholarships, 2016-17

The 2016-17 FEZANA Academic Scholarship recipients have been selected. The FEZANA Academic Scholarship Committee had an unenviable task of sorting through the dozens of high caliber applications received. This year, fourteen recipients were awarded scholarships:

BANOUBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Shirin Asgari (*University of California - Irvine*)

FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Tyrone Ghaswala (*University of Waterloo*)

FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Friya Randelia (*Rutgers University*)
Sarosh Irani (*Wayne State University*)
Perri Vimadala (*Syracuse University*)
Parshan Khosravi (*University of California – Los Angeles*)
Delshad Shroff (*Columbia University*)
Atrem Rashidi (*Roseman University of Health Sciences*)

MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR
Panteha Soroushpour (*Texas Tech University*)

MORVARID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS
Parsa Khorramdin (*University of California – Berkeley*)
Anahita Khodadadi (*University of Michigan*)

PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Carl Canteenwala (*University of California -- Berkeley*)

DR. MINOCHER RUSTOM VESUNA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP
Farzan Pavri (*University of Western Ontario*) [*Scholarship funded by WZO Canada*]

DOWLET MINOCHER VESUNA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP
Mahey Shroff (*University of Toronto*) [*Scholarship funded by WZO Canada*]

[Look for full write-ups on the scholarships and their recipients in the Spring 2017 issue of the FEZANA Journal.]



BOOK AWARENESS

**Threads of Continuity:
Zoroastrian Life & Culture**

by Shernaz Cama.

[Available at: parzorfoundation@gmail.com]

This compendium published by Shernaz Cama (PARZOR) for the recent exhibition in New Delhi, focuses on the philosophy and culture of the ancient Zoroastrian faith from its origins in Central Asia, tracing a geographical and chronological continuum till the present. This philosophy became a part of the lived heritage of the Zoroastrian community – both in India and Iran. Of special interest are the cross-cultural influences on the community in India.

**Wit and Wisdom: Pickings from
the Parsee Punch**

by Mushirul Hasan. Niyogi Books.2012.

'The Parsee Punch' made its mark as the only illustrated comic weekly paper in the Bombay Presidency. It was published in July 1854 at the Apyakhtiar Press by Dadabhai Soheri of Bombay. This book highlighted the relationship between public culture and colonialism. Like the London Punch, it contained 24 to 36 pages full of humorous illustrations. Four years later it changes its name to Hindi Punch to broaden its base. It continued to be published until 1930's. **Professor Mushirul Hasan** is an internationally renowned historian, prolific author and former Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi.

Visit our website at

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

Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism Conference Convenes in Chicago



The Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference – hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago – convened on September 3, 2016 in Burr Ridge, Illinois. With a theme of *Zarathushti History*, the full day event was packed with presentations by, both, noted scholars on the topics and also by lay scholars.

SSZ is excited to announce that a SSZ Conference will be hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan in Detroit on October 21, 2017.

To organize an SSZ conference in your local region, contact www.s-s-z.org or rivetna@aol.com

Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders

Garshasb Soroosh [active member of ZAMWI], RAD-AID International Conference Manager and Andrew Kesselman, MD, Director, RAD-AID, Informatics, represented FEZANA at the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS+10) high level meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York on December 15-16, 2015. [See *Fezana Journal*, Summer 2016 issue, page 61].

The intent is for volunteers to serve with their time and expertise in providing Informational Technology services to Hospitals in underprivileged sections of society. Most of the work of RAD-AID International is in Africa; opportunities to serve are also available in Asia, and in South and Central America.

Update:

RAD-AID won the IBM Health Corps grant, in which RAD-AID will work with pro bono IBM engineers and health consultants on health information technologies, cloud-archiving, PACS, and other radiology platforms for developing countries. To volunteer in RAD-AID for this project, please [apply](#). More info about the IBM announcement is [here](#). This project will also be covered at [2016 RAD-AID Conference](#), to be held at the World Health Organization (PAHO Headquarters) in Washington D.C. on 5th and 6th November 2016.

To participate, write to RAD-AID International Conference Manager Gsoorosh@rad-aid.org □



UPCOMING DATES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

March 13-24, 2017

CSW61 (Commission on the Status of Women) Conference. United Nations, NYC. [CSW61](#)

April 28-30, 2017

FEZANA Annual General Meeting. Hosted by Zoroastrian Association of Houston. admin@fezana.org

April 29, 2017

FEZANA's 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration - Houston. Details to be circulated.

October 21, 2017

[Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism \(SSZ\) Conference](#). Detroit, Michigan.

June 1-4, 2018

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

CONNECTIONS

Tanka: Water Harvesting System of the Parsis

This video offers a short overview of the Tanka system of harvesting rain water with discussion of the Zarathushti connection with water (especially in Iran).

Approx 7 mins

Documentary - illustrations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VJScRQoOfQ>

[by Sahapedia in collaboration with Parzor]

Annual Fundraiser by Houston Youth Group

By Katie Percy Master



Every year the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) Youth Group puts on a show in hopes of raising funds towards a designated cause. For this year we had chosen to give half of the proceeds to the ZAH Treasury and the rest to the ZAH Youth Group. We hosted an "International Festival" where five countries -- Italy, Iran, Mexico, India / Pakistan, and China -- were represented. Booths were

decorated and setup to look like mini countries. The booths were lined up in order to create a sense of traveling the world all in one night.

As for the usual entertainment, a short play was conducted in which three ethnically different passengers were flying all over the world with a blind captain and a ditzzy flight attendant. At each stop over, they experienced a cultural dance or talent with the respective countries that we chose to highlight during the night.

With the help of countless people and endless hours of preparation, we pulled off a successful night, raising nearly \$9,000. We cannot thank our community enough for all the donations, not just money but even their time. It would have been impossible without everyone's help and we sincerely owe our success to y'all. □

[Katie Master is currently the President of the ZAH Youth Group. She is a senior in high school and plans to study Biochemistry at University.]

Call for Participants at the United Nations

The FEZANA UN-NGO Committee is looking for participants to attend the 61st Commission on the Status of Women Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York from March 13-24, 2017.

This year's priority theme is, "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work" and the Review theme is, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls."

For more information on the NGO CSW61 check the NGO CSW website: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017>

Individuals interested in attending the conference, are requested to send their resume and letter of intent by October 15th, 2016. Please send the e-mail to both 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 □



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**“Erasing Borders:
14th Annual Exhibition of
Contemporary Indian Art of
the Diaspora, 2017”**

**Indo-American Arts Council
(IAAC), New York**

**Submission deadline:
Tues November 1, 2016**

Selected artwork will be part of a travelling exhibition which will be displayed in several galleries throughout North America.

http://www.iaac.us/erasing_borders_2017/

HERITAGE CONNECTIONS

**“Persepolis: Images of an
Empire”
A Google Arts and Culture
Exhibit**

This exhibit features the recent Persepolis photographic exhibition at the University of Chicago – Oriental Institute (partially sponsored by the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago and FEZANA).

Slides - Videos

https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/xwJSK/Sxv_NfpLQ

Read About the Festival of *Mehregan*



Thursday, September 22, 2016 was the autumn equinox, the first day of fall. The autumn equinox marks the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth’s equator – from north to south and vice versa in March (www.timeanddate.com). For Zarathushtis, this celestial event is marked by celebrating the ancient autumnal festival of *Mehregan*.

Mehregan is the cover story of the latest issue (summer 2016) of the [FEZANA Journal](http://www.fezana.org).

Articles by Fariborz Rahnamoon, Guest Editor of this issue, on *Mehregan* and *Hiromba* describe historical aspects and also provide engaging stories associated

with these events. Have you ever wondered about the relationship of Mithra in our religion? What does it have to do with the Roman Mithras and the Mitra of the Rig Veda? Neville Gustad Panthaky and Ervad Tehemton Mirza have shared their explanations in the current issue of the Journal.

You can subscribe at www.fezana.org.

The cover of the Summer 2016 issue of *Fezana Journal* which tells this story in a pictorial format, is now available on the Fezana website as a poster. The poster is found in the [resources tab](#), for download and can be displayed anywhere that *Mehregan* is celebrated.

FEZANA Journal Supported by General Fund

Among many important objectives, FEZANA’s General Fund supports the ***FEZANA Journal*** – the official publication of FEZANA.

As is widely known, the *FEZANA Journal* is published four times a year to disseminate news and views as well as educational and inspirational articles about the Zarathushti religion, culture and practices as they pertain to Zarathushtis in North America. Did you know that in a recent survey undertaken to prepare for the online version, subscribers voiced their overwhelming support for the *FEZANA Journal*? Further, over two thirds of respondents indicated that they would prefer a print copy, while under one third would accept an online version.

The beloved *FEZANA Journal* is an entirely volunteer led effort with volunteers involved in every function including: editing, graphics, copy editing, technical assistance, cover design, columnists, subscriptions management and marketing. We are meeting our readers preferred choice of receiving print copies, but rising printing and mailing costs, coupled with reducing advertisements, are putting a strain on the General Fund. Your donations to the FEZANA General Fund sustains this useful and unique publication, defrays production costs, and allows us to deliver this publication to your homes. You can donate securely online to the General Fund on the FEZANA website: <https://fezana.org/funds/generalfunds/>. □