We are pleased to announce that online registration is now open for various events during the 2017 FEZANA AGM. The AGM will take place over the weekend of April 28-30, 2017 in Houston. More details below and on page 7. Representatives from FEZANA Member Associations and Corresponding Members, as well as FEZANA Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend. All attendees are requested to register online enabling our hosts to get an accurate headcount for various planned events. To register please visit the ZAH website at http://zah.org/?event=fezana-agm-registration-for-fezana-members-and-out-of-towners

Also, please visit the FEZANA 2017 AGM web page for detailed event information and updates. Kindly visit this FEZANA AGM link regularly as all updates will be posted here.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF AGM WEEKEND ACTIVITIES
[More information on p. 7 (AGM); p. 8 (WZCC); p. 9 (Museum visit); p. 10 (Cruise)]

THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2017 / PRE-AGM ACTIVITIES

9:30am-12:30pm WZCC Program: Visit to Zarathushti owned Industrial facility (Coating Industries)

1:30-4:30pm WZCC N.A. Regional Meeting -- Panel discussion

7:00-10:00pm An Evening with FIRES (Keynote speaker, Exhibit and dinner) [Contribution $15]

FRIDAY APRIL 28, 2017

FEZANA AGM DAY 1

9:00am-5:00pm FEZANA AGM DAY 1

7:00 pm FEZANA Showcase Dinner [Free but RSVP reqd; hosted by ZAH]

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2017

9:00am-5:00pm FEZANA AGM DAY 2

7:00pm Gala Evening (FEZANA’s 30th Anniversary and ZAH Legacy Scholarship’s 10th Anniversary) [$60 adults /$30 children]

SUNDAY APRIL 30, 2017

9:00am-12:00pm FEZANA AGM DAY 3

2:00-5:00 pm Post-AGM / Museum Tour Museum of Fine Arts-Houston visit. $ Group rate will be due on day of tour. Note, Museum visit will be completed no later than 5:00pm

UPCOMING DATES

March 4, 2017

Rooze-Derekhtkari. Tree planting workshop at American University Washington D.C.

March 5, 2017

Nowruz: A Persian New Year Celebration. Sackler and Ripley Center, Smithsonian, Washington D.C.

March 5, 2017

18th Annual World Sabbath for Peace. Join ZAOM attendees. Bloomfield Hills MI.

March 11, 2017

Persian Nowruz Celebration. University of Chicago – Oriental Institute. 1-4pm. Supported by ZAC-CHI and FEZANA.

March 12, 2017

9th Annual Nowruz Festival. UCLA, Los Angeles. Sponsored by the Farhang Foundation.

March 18, 2017


March 18, 2017

WZCC-Chicago celebrates the Hamaspasthmaedetram Gahambarr. Zoroastrian Assoc of Chicago; 6:30pm. www.zac-chicago.org

(Dates continued on page 4)
The celebration of *Sadeh*, in anticipation of Nowruz, took on a uniquely North American flavor to celebrate the ancient Iranian tradition, of remembering the value of fire, as a gift of nature for humanity.

Organized by the Z-youth group at the Kamran Dar-e-Mehr in Boeys, Maryland, the evening began with a recitation from the *Shah-nameh*, about the story of Shiavaksh, by community stalwart, *Armita Soroosh*.

Singing of traditional Zarathushti songs in Dari, set the stage for the highlight of the evening: Teenager *Yasna Goshtasbi*, well ensconced pianist for the Avesta Chorus, was felicitated by her Zarathushti community for showing exceptional leadership in raising funds to support the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Yasna worked with the support of her family, the *Sazman-e-Zanan* (Zarathushti Women’s Organization) and like-minded activists in the ZAMWI community to raise awareness of the value of screening for early detection of cancer at a masquerade Ball held in the winter of 2016.

A gift of $5900 was delivered to the American Cancer Society on January 28, 2017.

*Pictured left to right: Sister Athra Goshtasbi; President, Sazman-e-Zanan, *Mojgan Ariaban*; ZAMWI Vice-President, *Zarir Khademian*, M.D., Ph. D.; *Yasna Goshtasbi* with the gift cheque of $5900 for the ACS; *Cathryn Burby*, Senior Director, Community Engagement, South Atlantic Division ACS; *Jamshid Goshtasbi-G*, Ph.D., Current Chair, Gatha Study Circle and Past President of ZAMWI; nurturing mother *Shahrzad Yazdani*; mentor, *Fereydoon Kehshavarz*, and *Richard Pante* Community Manager, Relay For Life, ACS.

*Photo on the wall: Ravanshad Khodamorad Kamran*  
*Photo Credit: Shireen Dholoo*

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**Bids Invited to Host the 2018 FEZANA AGM**

**BID DEADLINE: April 15, 2017**

The FEZANA Executive invites bids from Member associations and Small Groups to host the 31st FEZANA Annual General Meeting in 2018.

The complete Request For Proposals (RFP) can be found [here](http://fezana.org/publication/bulletinarchives/).

Please go through this in detail and, if your association would like to bid on hosting the AGM in 2018, please inform the FEZANA Executive no later than **April 15, 2017**.

All bidding associations will get an opportunity to make a short presentation before the member associations at the upcoming AGM in Houston. Member associations present at the AGM will then vote to select the host of the 2018 AGM.

If you have any questions or would like further information please reach out to any of the FEZANA Executive Committee members. Contact information is included in the RFP.
**Zoroastrian Delegation to Participate in the Ocean Conference at the United Nations**

FEZANA is sending a delegation to the Oceans Conference: “Our Oceans, Our Future: Partnering for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14” at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA from June 5-9, 2017.

https://oceanconference.un.org/

The international forum shall include representatives from over 130 countries, more than 30 Non-Governmental Organizations and Scientific/Regional organizations actively pursuing research and eco-conservation activities to improve the health and future viability of our oceans.

At a preparatory meeting held at UN headquarters on Feb 15-16, 2017, FEZANA was represented by Rustom Bhopti. A “Call For Action” to be presented at the Oceans Conference in June 2017 was developed.

Key observations noted by several affected country delegates, included the following:

- Oceans are warming & acidifying; Corals are dying; Over-Fishing is affecting our future marine food supply; Human garbage is polluting our oceans; Managing Micro & Macro Plastics is a challenge; by 2050, there will be as much Plastics as Fishes in our Oceans; Eco system of the Oceans do not respect Geo-Political boundaries.

- Close to 80 percent of pollution of the oceans comes from human activities on land.

- A delegate from the Maldives, speaking on behalf of SIS (Small Island States), noted their concern with “rising sea levels” that is submerging a sizable land mass of their tiny island countries.

- A delegate from Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of LDC (Least Developed Countries), assured their support for all 10 Targets of UN SDG-14. Most country delegates supported the statement from the “Group of 77 with China”. The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries. The European Union paper on the “Blue Economy” that states a need for a Holistic approach to Oceans Management was cited.

Rustom Bhopti’s proposal titled, "Practice What You Pray" was presented at the preparatory meeting and was accepted. He has begun an effort to collate a short prayer, with its English translation, from each major Religion, addressing eco conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on Water/Oceans.

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**Introducing the MNE Scholarship**

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) is very pleased to announce the MNE Scholarship, a need-based scholarship, sponsored by Mike Engineer. 

The applicant must be enrolled in, or be ready to enroll in a college or post high school vocational, IT or technical school.

The first scholarship of $3,500 will be announced in March, 2017 and additional $1,000 scholarships may be awarded later in the year.

Information about the criteria for the scholarship and the application form are attached. The filing deadline is February 26, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Engineer at zah.mne.scholarship [at] gmail.com

We hope members of the community will make good use of Mike’s generosity and that we will get many applications for the scholarship.
Diverse Religious Leaders Give Joint Press Conference

On January 31st, an interfaith coalition of diverse religious leaders stood together at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington D.C., to release an "Interfaith Vision for Our Community."
The statement can be read at the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFCMW) website.

UPCOMING DATES
(Continued from page 1)

March 13-24, 2017

March 25, 2017
8th Annual Chicago Nowruz Parade. 1pm

March 25/26, 2017

April 15, 2017
Deadline for Association bids to host 2018 FEZANA AGM (see page 2)

Mid-April 2017
New York Persian Parade, New York City.

April 22-23, 2017
Iran Through Books at the L.A. Times Festival of Books. Univ of Southern California.

April 27, 2017
WZCC NA Regional Meeting (see page 1 and page 7-8)

WZC Awards Guidelines and Nomination form can be downloaded here.
UPCOMING DATES

(Continued from page 4)

April 27, 2017
An Evening with FIRES
(see page 1 and page 7)

April 28-30, 2017
FEZANA Annual General Meeting.
Hosted by Zoroastrian Association of Houston. (See page 1 and page 7) admin@fezana.org

April 29, 2017
FEZANA's 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration - Houston.
(see page 1 and 7)

June 5-9, 2017

August 28-30, 2017
67th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference. New York City. UN Headquarters.

October 1-10, 2017
Business Tourism trip to Iran organized by WZCC.

October 14, 2017
Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference. Detroit, Michigan.

December 15-17, 2017
WZCC Global AGM. Bangalore, India.

June 1-4, 2018
11th World Zoroastrian Congress, Perth, Australia
Important Zoroastrian Dates and Festivals

Ervad Ardaviraf Minocherhomji, President, North American Mobeds Council (NAMC)

[The Fall 2015 issue of the FEZANA Journal contains fascinating articles on our festivals: https://fezana.org/fjissue/FEZANA_2015_03_Fall.pdf Subscribe to the FEZANA Journal at www.fezana.org]

Gahambar means “season for collection”. During Gahambar days we are encouraged to: Yazad (pray), Saazad (perform ceremony), Khurad (eat), Dehad (give)

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<tr>
<th>Festival</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fasli Calender</th>
<th>Significance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Navroze</td>
<td>March 21st</td>
<td>Mah Farvardin</td>
<td>New Year</td>
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<td>Roj Hormuzd</td>
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<td>Gahambar Maidyojarem</td>
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<td>Mah Ardibehehsht</td>
<td>Midspring</td>
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<td>Roj Khoshed to Dae-pa-Meher</td>
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<td>Gahambar Madyoshem</td>
<td>June 29th to July 3rd</td>
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<td>Mid-Summer</td>
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<td>Roj Ashtad to Aneran</td>
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<td>Gahambar Paishem</td>
<td>Sept 12th to Sept 16th</td>
<td>Mah Sheherevar</td>
<td>Harvest Time</td>
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<td>Roj Khoshed to Dae-pa-Meher</td>
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<td>Gahambar Ayathrem</td>
<td>Oct 12th to Oct 16th</td>
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<td>Cattle Breeding Season</td>
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<td>Roj Ashtad to Aneran</td>
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<td>Roj Meher to Behram</td>
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<td>Gahambar Hamaspatha Modyem</td>
<td>March 16th to March 20th</td>
<td>Gatha Ahunavad to</td>
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<td>Gatha Vahishtoish</td>
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<td>Khordad Saal</td>
<td>March 26th</td>
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<td>Roj Khordad</td>
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<td>Roj Meher</td>
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<td>Yalda (Deygan)</td>
<td>December 21st</td>
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<td>Sadeh</td>
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OPPORTUNITIES

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

[In keeping with the Zoroastrian ethos in caring for the environment and standing up for social justice issues, the following opportunity is shared with the community.]

Deadline: Pre-proposals April 14. Upon review, select applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal by October 19.

Purpose: To bring about progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems

Amount: One-year grants of up to $20,000; grants can be used to support both programming and operational costs.

Contact: http://benandjerrysfoundation.org /the-grassroots-organizing-for-social-change-program/

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

ERASING BORDERS FESTIVAL OF DANCE

Deadline: April 15 2017

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) invites applications from dancers, dance companies and choreographers across the world to present works sharing movement, heritage and inspiration from the Indian subcontinent.

Visit www.iaac.us to apply and for more information
Things you can do in Houston

- The ‘GO TEXANS’ city with its museums, theaters & restaurants.
- Visit NASA...now operated by the Disney Group
- The Kemah Boardwalk & Galveston
- 6 Day / 5 Night cruise from Galveston with fellow Zarathushtis (see page 10 for details)
- Take a tour to San Antonio
WZCC invites you to Houston to participate in the Annual North American Regional Meeting to be held on **Thursday, April 27, 2017**. As per past meetings, it will be held on the day before the FEZANA AGM, where many of our members are active participants. Our meeting is planned to provide valuable information to entrepreneurs, business owners, professionals and anybody with interest in various aspects of business, finance and industry.

**10:00 AM to 12:30 PM**: Visit a Zarathushti owned industrial facility, **Coating Industries Inc, CII** that provides serious corrosion protection for substrate to shipbuilders, chemical companies, major oil companies and industrial plants. We will also visit their adjacent J R Manufacturing facility, a fabricating plant for piping, skids and packages. (Lunch included)

**1:30 PM to 4:30 PM - (ZHCC)**: A panel discussion with focus on the financial resources available to new and existing businesses. The panelists will be from the Federal Government agencies like Small Business Administration (SBA), academic institutions, private financial institutions, venture funds, etc. The discussion will cover traditional and non-traditional methods of raising funds. The second part of the afternoon session will be led by WZCC Global President Edul Daver, covering the progress made during 2016, the status of specific objectives and game plan for 2017 & 2018 and beyond. Comments, Suggestions and Participation from all our members, friends and supporters is welcome.

**VENUE**: Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center (ZHCC)
(Home of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston - ZAH)
8787 West Airport Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77071, USA

**REGISTRATION FEE**: **Complimentary** to WZCC members, friends and supporters
Due to limited capacity and advance transportation arrangements, Registration is required by April 15, 2017

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WZCC INDUSTRIAL VISIT & MEETING SESSIONS**: Contact Regional Director - Rustom Engineer rustom47@hotmail.com
RSVP for WZCC By: April 15, 2017 wzcc-houston@outlook.com
POST-FEZANA AGM TOUR: REFLECTIONS OF THE SILK ROAD

The Museum of Fine Arts Houston provides a venue for our FEZANA visitors to go on a visual journey glimpsing at works of art that reflect the world wide trade along the famous Silk Road. View artifacts from areas around Gandhara, India, Central Asia and the world of antiquity extending into arts of the western world. This guided tour will provide a great opportunity for our community members to savor their cultural influence on the rest of the ancient world.

1). Date: Sunday April 30th, 2017
2). Tour: 3:00pm
3). Tour Duration: Approximately 1 Hour
4). Total # of people: 35-50
5). Group rate to be announced

Due to limited capacity and advance transportation arrangements, RSVP will be requested by March 15, 2017
5 DAY CRUISE ON CARNIVAL'S VALOR
TO WESTERN CARIBBEAN
FROM GALVESTON, TX

MAY 01, 2017 - MAY 06, 2017, MON - SAT

TO BOOK AND FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT
281-491-4000

SPACE AND PRICES ARE NOT GUARANTEED AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES

YOUR 5 DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1
GALVESTON
DEPART 4:00 PM

DAY 2
FUN DAY AT SEA

DAY 3
COZUMEL
ARRIVE 9:00 AM - DEPART 6:00 PM

DAY 4
YUCATÁN (PROGRESO)
ARRIVE 10:00 AM - DEPART 6:00 PM

DAY 5
FUN DAY AT SEA

DAY 6
GALVESTON
ARRIVE 8:00 AM

PRICES STARTING FROM

Interior
$379.00* PER PERSON

Ocean View
$464.00* PER PERSON

Balcony
$574.00* PER PERSON

* Taxes, fees and port expenses are $68.79 additional.
Add $120.50 Prepaid Gratuities (per room)
ADD VACATION PROTECTION FOR AN AVERAGE OF $59 PER PERSON

早期报名将被要求

为了预订和获取更多信息，请致电我们
281-491-4000

空间和价格无法保证，并且可能发生变化