



UPCOMING DATES

April 27, 2017

WZCC NA Regional Meeting
wzcc-houston@outlook.com

April 27, 2017

[An Evening with FIRES](#)
Chief guest and keynote speaker Aban Marker Kabraji. Exhibition of our rare book collection, cultural artifacts. Dinner catered by ZAH's Naushad Mehta.

April 28-30, 2017

[FEZANA Annual General Meeting](#).
Hosted by Zoroastrian Association of Houston.

April 29, 2017

[FEZANA's 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration - Houston](#).

April 30-May 7, 2017

[17th Annual New York Indian Film Festival](#). NYC.

May 19-21, 2017

GOPIO Convention focusing on Global Indian Business Summit. Durban, South Africa.

June 5-9, 2017

[The Oceans Conference](#) coinciding with World Oceans Day (June 8). United Nations, New York City.

July 10-12, 2017

[Spark Business Academy](#) for Youth. Suffern, NY. Sponsored by WZCC-NY. Financial incentives available to first registrants. [eduldaver \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:eduldaver@gmail.com)

(Dates continued on page 5)

Inauguration of a New Dar-e-Mehr in Sacramento



March 26, 2017, on the auspicious day of Khordad Sal, about 270 Zoroastrians from near and far gathered at the Sacramento Zoroastrian Center in Rancho Cordova, California to inaugurate a new Dar-e-Mehr for the Sacramento Zoroastrian Association (SZA) with a Jashan performed by seven Mobeds.

The dream of constructing the Dar-e-Mehr was made into a reality by a very generous donation from the Trustees of the Hong Kong Zoroastrians. The *afarganyu* was donated by the Wadiaji Atash Behram with the help and assistance of one of their trustees, Mr. Nadir Modi.

FEZANA President, Homi Gandhi from Los Angeles, and past FEZANA Presidents, Firdosh Mehta and Bomi Patel attended the inaugural festivities.

After the jashan, and partaking of *chasni* comprising of fruits, nuts, malido, sev and ravo, the gathering moved to a banquet facility nearby for dinner as the main Center building is currently under renovation and upgrade, with that completion expected this year.



The gathering was welcomed by Khodadad Pashutani, the Vice President of the Sacramento Zoroastrian Association. In his welcome speech, Mr. Pashutani mentioned that the Zoroastrian Women Organization had initiated the purchase of the property in 2014 with donations of about \$250,000 collected in 3 months along with a loan of \$350,000 from a generous Zarathushti. The organization was then registered as the Sacramento Zoroastrian Association and the construction of the Dar-e Mehr took about 1.5 years with the funding from Hong Kong under the project management of Mehran Toriki, the then President of SZA. The main challenges encountered in the construction were the completion of the detailed plans and getting the approval from the City and fire departments. Mr. Pashutani also recognized major donors and families involved in the completion of the Dar-e-Mehr. Similar sentiments were also expressed in *Farsi* by the SZA president, Mrs. Manijeh Behziz.

The mobeds who performed the jashan were then presented awards of recognition along with Gustad Irani, representative from Hong Kong, for his support and assistance, by Mrs. Manijeh Behziz.



Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)

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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

Homi Gandhi gave a talk on the various activities and charities of FEZANA and also presented a donation from the association. He recognized the past presidents who were present for the opening and mentioned that within a period of 12 months, three Dar-e-Mehrs were established, including the ones in New York and Los Angeles, completing an amazing period where Zarathushtis in North America laid down roots and inaugurated new houses of worship.

Some dance items were then presented by young Zarathushtis, followed by a banquet of Iranian and Indian dishes. The night was brought to a close after some music and dancing and people exchanging greetings to celebrate and wishing each other, a happy Jamshedi Naoroze. □

New Youth Mentorship Program

The Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) has initiated a new youth mentorship program. The aim of this program is to help young Zarathushtis advance on their educational and professional trajectories, focusing first on undergraduate university applications, and later expanding to include graduate program and professional mentorships also.

To find out more information or to lend your support to this worthy project, contact zyna@fezana.org

FEZANA Scholarships: Call for Applications

FEZANA Scholarship Programs are now accepting applications for the 2017-18 scholarship cycle.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS | DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2017

The FEZANA Academic Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications. Started in 1998, the program recognizes academic excellence and provides Zarathushti students in university programs financial assistance to study at institutions in U.S.A and Canada. Applications should be submitted online. For details or to apply visit FEZANA website.

<https://fezana.org/scholarships/academic/>

PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS | DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2017

Applications are invited from qualified individuals to apply for FEZANA'S Performing & Creative Arts Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded for further study in the field of the Performing and/or Creative Arts to help candidates study with experts in those fields.

More info on the FEZANA website. **Applications should be sent electronically to Nazneen Spliedt – nazeher (at) aol.com**

<https://fezana.org/scholarships/performing-creative-arts/>

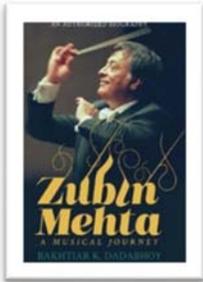
EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS (EXISS) | DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2017

The objective of the Excellence in Sports Scholarship (EXISS) Fund is to provide financial support to young Zarathushtis (between the ages of 10-30, living in North America) who are performing exceptionally and at highly recognized levels in any sport. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable the recipients to get world-class training and/or study with experts in their field and thus fine tune and enhance their talent and capabilities.

<https://fezana.org/scholarships/sports/>



BOOK AWARENESS



Zubin Mehta:
A Musical Journey
by Bakhtiar K Dadabhoy,
India, Penguin Viking 2016.

The only man ever to direct two major orchestras in North America at once, Zubin Mehta is a true maestro. A musical prodigy who appeared on the cover of Time magazine at the age of thirty-one, Zubin Mehta looks back at his illustrious life as a conductor, drawing links with the symphony in music and life. The book follows his relationship with Western classical music, his training and his refinement of the art. Weaving in and out of the narrative are anecdotes and the memories of his younger brother, Zarin, one of the best music administrators in the world today, and his son, Mervon. If you love music, this legend's story is sure to hit the right notes.

Visit our website at
<http://www.fires-fezana.org/>

NAMC Offers Fellowships for Young Ervads

The North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) is offering up to five fellowships to young Ervads (<35 years) for an educational seminar on July 2-3, 2017 in San Diego, CA. Topics will include the meaning/relevance of the Jashan, Navjote and Aashirvad ceremonies as well as the impact of Zoroastrian religion on the Judeo-Christian faiths (including videos). We will also have a round table discussion on the role of young Mobeds in NA including teaching religious classes, participation by congregation, and meeting the spiritual needs of the Zoroastrian communities. This will be followed by sightseeing and good Parsee food.

Ervads Soli Dastur and Tehemton Mirza who received their religious education/training at the Cama Athornan Institute, Mumbai, will be the main presenters.

NAMC will offer free room and board as well as airfare up to \$750. Please send your brief bio data and the reason for your interest in attending this seminar to Ervad Gev Karkaria (Secretary) at: [karkaria \(at\) videotron.ca](mailto:karkaria@videotron.ca) □

Celebration of Hamas-path-maidem Gahambar in Chicago

On Sunday, March 19, 2017, inspired by an anonymous donor and organized by WZCC-Chicago Chapter and the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC-CHI), over eighty persons gathered to observe the *Hamas-path-maidem (panch-e-mah) Gahambar*. Out of six *Gahambars* observed during the year, *the Hamas-path-maidem Gahambar* is very significant as it is celebrated during *Panch-e-mah*, the five days before Nowruz.



Left: Jashan;
Right: Book presented as a token of appreciation to Mr. Neville Shroff (Hong Kong) by ZAC President Rayomand Ravji

To start off, a stirring *Jashan* was performed by eight Mobeds. The audience followed along using the book "Jashan Prayers with Understanding" by Dastoorji Minocheher-Homji. Erv Sheroy Gonda, ZAC-CHI's youngest Mobed, currently a high schooler, did a marvelous job of organizing the prayer ceremonies and related resources. He was presented a copy of "The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra" by Dr. Irach J. S. Taraporewala, as a token of appreciation for his efforts.

After a short review of WZCC-Chicago Chapter's mission, activities, and future goals, Chief Guest, Mr. Neville Shroff, from Hong Kong, was introduced. ZAC-CHI was deeply honored to have Mr. Shroff with them to share this important festival. As a small token of appreciation, ZAC President Rayomand Ravji presented a copy of "The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra" to Mr. Shroff.

Later, a hearty *Gahambar* meal was enjoyed by all in an atmosphere of community and goodwill. ZAC-CHI hopes to perpetuate this tradition of celebrating the *Hamas-path-maidem Gahambar* in future years. □



HERITAGE RESOURCE

NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

“On Wings of Fire”

ZUBIN MEHTA in a Persepolis Productions Inc & Oriental Heritage Trust Film

The Epic Film covers the 3500 years, from the time of the prophet Zarathushtra to the present day, tracing the history of Zoroastrians, Parsis (Parsees) of India

The first and only film to cover the philosophy and history of Zoroastrianism in a scholarly and dramatic way. This is an extraordinary journey; it will take you to places and times you may have only read about.!

<https://zoroastrians.net/2017/04/12/on-wings-of-fire/>

Courtesy: Meherji Madan

FEZANA Supports Sustainable Development Goal Number 14 of the United Nations

NEW YORK, April 6, 2017 - FEZANA will be participating at 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 FEZANA team will include: Rustom Bhojti, Sanaira Mondegarian, Behram Pastakia and Anahita Verahrami from the United States and Afreed Mistry from Canada.

There are 17 sustainable development goals (SDG's) at the United Nations, all interconnected, so the key to the success of one involves tackling issues associated with the others. The 17 SDG's reflect the traditions and beliefs of Zoroastrians worldwide.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



At the Oceans Conference, at the UN Headquarters in New York, discussions will focus on sustainable development goal number 14: to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, to reduce marine pollution, manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems, to end overfishing, and to conserve coastal and marine areas.



Thursday, June 8th is World Oceans Day. We, as Zoroastrians, celebrate the creation of water on Ava mah and Ava roj. We give an offering and say prayers thanking God for the creation of water. We urge all reading this message to join us in participating at the local level, wherever you live. Choices include, organizing a clean-up day at a local river, creek, lake, or pond. If you need information on options to celebrate

water as a gift of creation that promotes human well-being and life on earth, do reach out to us at: un-ngo@fezana.org

About United Nations

The United Nations is central to global efforts to solve problems that challenge humanity. Cooperating in this effort are more than 30 affiliated organizations, known together as the UN system. For more information visit www.un.org □



UPCOMING DATES

(Continued from page 1)

August 6, 2017

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec (ZAQ) – the first Zoroastrian Association in North America -- 50th Anniversary Celebration. Saint-Laurent, QC.
<http://www.zaq.org/50years>

August 28-30, 2017

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

September 2-3, 2017

[10th Zoroastrian Unity Cup Soccer Tournament](#); Redondo Beach, CA

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.

December 23-25, 2017

Iranshah Udvada Utsav. Udvada, Gujarat, India.

June 1-4, 2018

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

"Happiness" - The key message of the *Ashem Vohu* Prayer, celebrated by the Gatha Study Circle



19 March 2017: Gatha Study Circle at their annual retreat I Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India during a break from their dialogue on "Happiness"

The United Nations has declared 20 March, as The International Day of Happiness.

On 20 March 2017, as the world celebrated NowRuz, the Gatha Study Circle (GSC) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat held a two day retreat, a *Hanjanama*, to think together about the key message of our *Ashem Vohu* Prayer - *Happiness!*

As we launch the 30th anniversary of FEZANA, and ask the question, "Where shall we be 30 years from now?", readers of the *Fezana Bulletin*, are encouraged to create Gatha Study Circles of their own. Dialogue deepens understanding.

Please feel free to download the attached presentation, on "*The Pursuit of Happiness*" shared by the GSC, which can serve as a take off point for dialogue. *[Click here to access the pdf file]*

Hosting a retreat in a place close to nature, in the company of like minded friends, focusses our minds effectively.

Background and Resources:

The Gatha Calendar project, supported by the *Ushta Te Foundation*, was unveiled at the first *Iranshah Udvada Utsav* (IUU) held in December 2015. The next edition of the IUU is from 23rd to 25th December 2017. Do make plans to attend.

The limited edition of the artistic calendar, with inspirational original paintings, reflecting the thoughts expressed in the verses in our Gathas, an initiative of the GSC, Ahmedabad, India, was shared at the 29th FEZANA AGM held in Novi, Michigan in 2016.

The art work and poster, providing details of the calendar, were displayed at the FEZANA Booth, at the Parliament of the World's Religions, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The poster, is available for free download from the Fezana website:

<https://fezana.org/ushta-te-foundreiness-artwork/>

The next issue of the *Fezana Journal*, Summer 2017, Vol. 30, No.2, guest edited by Farishta Dinshaw, is themed on "*Happiness*". [To subscribe, to the *Journal*, visit www.fezana.org]

To facilitate dialogue at Gatha Study Circles, those in existence, and others which will form over the coming years, the translations of the Gathas into English, "The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra" by Irach JS Taraporewala. [Reprint of the 3rd edition is available from the Fezana website www.fezana.org] □