

FEZANA *bulletin*

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- ZAC-CHI Potato Drop • p1
- SSZ Conference (ZAOM) • p2
- ZSBC Seminar • p3
- EXISS Scholarships • p3
- Call for Participants for U.N. Conference • p4
- AGM Dates Announced • p5

UPCOMING DATES

November 4, 2017
[Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism \(SSZ\) Conference, Chicago.](#)

November 16, 2017
Interfaith Concert presented by [Interfaith Conference of Metro Washington \(IFCMW\).](#)

November 20, 2017
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting. Boston, MA

November 25, 2017
3rd Fundraiser for American Cancer Society. <http://zamwi.org/>

December 14-16, 2017
WZCC Annual Global Meet. Bangalore, India. wzccglobalmeet@gmail.com

December 23-25, 2017
[Iranshah Udvada Utsav.](#) Udvada, Gujarat, India.

(Dates continued on page 4)

Zarathushtis of Chicago Lend a Helping Hand at 2017 ZAC-CHI Potato Drop



The Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC-CHI), in coordination with Society of St. Andrew (a national non-profit hunger relief organization), organized a community service event to benefit local food banks on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Over 42,000 pounds of donated potatoes were delivered to the ZAC-CHI grounds in a large trailer truck, destined for various local food pantries. About 40 intrepid volunteers had already gathered at the center before the truck rolled in at 9am, ready to transfer the potatoes from the tractor trailer to various food pantry delivery vehicles.

The volunteers worked at a furious pace, unloading 50 pound sacks of potatoes from the trailer and neatly stacking them on wooden crates nearby. The volunteers then reloaded the potatoes into separate cars and delivery vans from each local food pantry as they started rolling in. In all, the volunteers unloaded, stacked, and then reloaded, 840 bags of potatoes, each weighing 50 pounds, over a period of two hours.

Volunteers came in all ages and sizes -- grandparents to grandchildren -- working as a team, in high spirits and humor.

In total, the potatoes were distributed among 8 food banks throughout the region.

All through this effort, a separate team inside the ZAC-CHI Center, kept all volunteers, food pantry personnel, and drivers well fed and refreshed through a delicious breakfast spread. All were gracious and grateful for the food and breakfast, and atmosphere of good cheer.

The Zarathushtis of Chicago were grateful to be able to serve their community in this manner and hope the success of this event will spur even greater participation in future.

For more photos or to read more about ZAC-CHI's service day: <http://zamc.org/2017-zac-potato-drop-off/> To find out more about the Society of Andrew and its hunger relief programs, visit: <http://endhunger.org/> □



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(FEZANA)**

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<https://fezana.org/publication/bulletinarchives/>

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To opt out, contact:
admin@fezana.org

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

ZAOM Breaks New Ground: SSZ Conference meets for the first time outside of Chicago



Sitting from L to R: Carol Choksy, Roshan Rivetna, Zenobia Mirza, Zarin Irani
Standing L to R: Rohinton Rivetna, Shekufa Irani, Ervad Tehemton Mirza (Speaker), Sarosh Irani (Speaker), Ardeshir Irani, Behram Pastakia, Prof Jamsheed Choksy (Speaker)

In a first, the **Society Of Scholars Of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Annual Conference** was organized in Metropolitan Detroit, on Saturday October 14, 2017, by the **Zoroastrian Association of Michigan (ZAOM)**.

A legacy of the 8th World Zoroastrian Congress, which was held in the United Kingdom, the SSZ conferences since its inception have been hosted by the **Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC)**. This year, under the leadership of Dr. Ardeshir Irani, the SSZ was hosted successfully by the Zoroastrian Association Of

Michigan (ZAOM) at the Public Library in Farmington Hills, a suburb of the city of Detroit,

Presentations included: a captivating talk on the Life of Zarathushtra as gleaned from the Gathas by Professor **Jamsheed Choksy**, of the University of Indiana; a shared vision and mission of the SSZ by **Rohinton Rivetna**; What should be taught in Religious Education Classes, by **Dr. Lovji Cama**; Zarathushtra's Influence on World Religion and Philosophy by **Ervad Tehemton Mirza**, Vice President of the North American Mobeds Council; and stellar presentations by next generation speakers **Afriti Chinoy** and **Sarosh Irani**.

Videos of the presentations were recorded by Neville Bugli and are available on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar15j1T6nms&list=PLYQq9_Sve3YggMUrBQhQOSiA263BZ9t4p

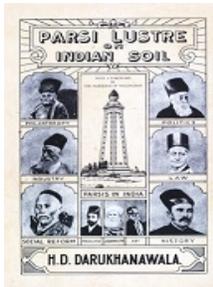
The conference was well attended by local area Zarathushtis, local interfaith leaders as well as students of theology some of whom had traveled far from the other side of the state and even as far away as Texas.

[Read the full write up of the SSZ conference in the upcoming Winter 2017 issue of the FEZANA Journal.] □

Building upon the success of ZAOM, all Zarathushti communities are invited to organize an SSZ conference in their own regions. For questions about hosting the SSZ Conference, contact Rohinton Rivetna at rivetna@aol.com



BOOK AWARENESS



**Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil:
Volume I
by Hormusji Dhunjishaw
Darukhanawala.
Mumbai,
Parsiana Publications, 2017**

Parsiana's testament to the book world is clearly evident in the recent reprint of *Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil* by Hormusji Dhunjishaw Darukhanawala. Originally published by G. Claridge & Co., Caxton Printing Works in 1939 it was a two volume set with 3000 copies. Parsiana Publications reprint, which is volume one only, contains biographies of Parsi men and women, ranging from the 16th century to 1939, highlights the achievements of Zoroastrian stalwarts illustrative of their contributions in diverse areas of human endeavor during their times. Numerous black and white photographs are included. Here's hoping the second volume will be reprinted in the near future. It's a delightful gem of a book.

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

ZSBC Hosts Successful One Day Seminar



What a great way to spend a Sunday! For the 63 people who attended the "Zoroastrian Influences & Connections along the Old Silk Road" Seminar hosted by the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC) in Burnaby, BC, on Sunday, September 24, 2017, it was indeed a privilege. Organized by **Firdosh Mehta** under the flag of ZSBC and supported by FEZANA through the Jamshed Pavri Religion Education Fund, it was a day well spent.

Presentations included: "*Aryan and Zarathushti History Along the Old Silk Roads*" – **Mr. K.E. Eduljee**; "*From Samarkand to Chang'an: Zoroastrians along the Silk Road*" and also "*Bird-Men and Other Hybrids*" – **Dr. Jennifer Rose**; "*Ancient Iranian Geography in the Sahrestaniha-I-Eransahr*" – **Dr. Rastin Mehri**.

Photo courtesy of Aubtin Yazdgardian.

[Read the full write up of this one day seminar in the upcoming Winter 2017 issue of the FEZANA Journal.]

FEZANA EXISS Scholarships, 2017-18

The FEZANA Excellence in Sports (EXISS) Committee has announced the following qualified recipients. Congratulations to them on their achievements!

Anahita Antia (*Gymnastics*)

Kyrus Buchia (*Basketball*)

Dilshad Elavia (*Badminton*)

Anushka Oak (*Table Tennis*)

Zane Patel (*Squash*)

Farzad Sarkari (*Swimming*)

[Look for full write-ups on the scholarships and their recipients in the Spring 2018 issue of the FEZANA Journal] □



ZARATHUSHTI RESOURCE

FEZANA'S ZOROASTRIAN SHOP IS NOW OPEN

Sudrehs, Kushtis, caps, prayer books, sukhad, loban and other liturgical items available for order.

Visit www.fezana.org and click on "Zoroastrian Shop" or use the direct link:

<https://fezana.org/product-category/z-shop/>

UPCOMING DATES

(Dates continued from page 1)

March 12-23, 2018

[62nd Commission on the Status of Women Conference at the United Nations](#), New York City.

April 27-29, 2018

FEZANA Annual General Meeting. Hosted by California Zoroastrian Center.
vp@fezana.org

June 1-4, 2018

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

July 29 - August 1, 2018

InterReligious Conference.
Washington DC

November 1-7, 2018

[Parliament of the World's Religions](#), Toronto.

FEZANA Supports the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations: Call for Participants

The FEZANA UN-NGO Committee is looking for participants to attend the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York from March 12-23, 2018.



This year's priority theme is, "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls" and the review theme is, "Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session)".

For more information on the NGO CSW62 check the NGO CSW Website:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018>

Individuals interested in attending the conference, are requested to send their resume and letter of intent by December 15th, 2017. Please send the e-mail to both individuals below:

Behram Pastakia (bpastakia@aol.com)

Afreed Mistry (mistry.afreed@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.

Regards,

Afreed Mistry and Behram Pastakia

Co-Chairs, FEZANA UN-NGO Committee

Procedure for Acquiring Services of a Mobed in North America

The North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) has published the following procedure to be used by anyone needing the services of a Mobed in North America:

- 1) Call a Mobed in your state or region by visitin the NAMC website at <http://NAMCMobeds.org> and clicking the "Directory" tab at the top
- 2) If a Mobed is not readily available in your state or region, please call on of the Mobeds from the list provided below:

NAME OF PRIEST	STATE	TEL	EMAIL
Ervad Kobad Jamshed	CA	(650)888-7876	kobadj (@) hotmail.com
Ervad Zarrir Bhandara	CA	(562)331-9973	zbhandara (@) gmail.com
Ervad Jimmy Ravji	IL	(630)280-1897	jimmy1902 (@) att.net
Ervad Pervez Patel	NY	(718)446-6751	udvada (@) aol.com
Ervad Nozer Kotwal	ONT	(905)820-0461	nozerk (@) yahoo.com
Ervad Jal Panthaky	ONT	(905)568-4946	jal_panthaky (@) yahoo.ca

Please note that the charges for the ceremonies including travel, room/board will be based on NAMC's schedule given under the "Rates for Priestly Services" tab on the NAMC website. <http://namcmobeds.org/ratesforpriestlyservices/> □



2018 FEZANA AGM DATES and PROGRAM BROAD OVERVIEW

For participants to book their flights etc, please find below a very broad conceptual program of the 2018 FEZANA AGM:

Thursday April 26, 2018

9:00AM – 1:00PM

Pre AGM Session Hosted by
North American Mobeds
Council

2:00-5:00PM

Panel Discussion and
Brainstorming for FEZANA's
participation at Global Interfaith
Events in 2018

Friday April 27, 2018

8:30 AM: FEZANA AGM Begins

Saturday April 28, 2018

8:30 AM; FEZANA AGM
Continues

Sunday April 29, 2018

8:30 AM: FEZANA AGM
continues and shall end at
noon.

1:00 PM:

Post-AGM Sessions TBD

More details to come (including
accommodation etc) as they
become available.

Contact vp@fezana.org for
questions.

Looking for Emerging Leaders to Feature in Upcoming FEZANA Journal Issue

Zarathushtis in North America are doing very well, with many Young Adults on the threshold of Leadership positions. The *FEZANA Journal* would like to feature these Emerging Leaders in its Spring 2018 issue. I have been requested to guest edit this issue and accepted the challenge. We plan on featuring two levels of leadership (a) those under 35 yrs and (b) those between 35 – 45 yrs. If you would like to be considered for inclusion please contact Edul Daver, eduldaver@gmail.com ; 908-397-4443. Also, if you know of someone that should be considered please forward their name and e-mail address.

We plan on profiling perhaps 15 movers and shakers who will no doubt make our community proud in the not too distant future.

Your help to make this issue a success is much appreciated.

Thanks,

Edul Daver

eduldaver@gmail.com

2018 FEZANA AGM Dates Announced

The FEZANA Executive is happy to announce that the 31st Annual General Meeting of Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America shall be held **from Friday April 27th to Sunday April 29th 2018** in Los Angeles, California.

As is the practice, the day before the AGM, Thursday April 26, 2018, shall have various Pre-AGM events; and we encourage one and all to attend the same.

FEZANA Member association **California Zoroastrian Center** are the hosts of the upcoming AGM and they shall in due course of time send out details about the actual program, accommodation etc.

One of the main thrusts of this AGM shall also be to find out more about the 2019 World Zoroastrian YOUTH Congress to be hosted by the youth of the host association California Zoroastrian Center. In this regard we urge member associations to encourage and bring along their youth representatives to the AGM so they can interact with their counterparts at CZC to aid in making the 2019 WZYC a grand success.

For participants to book their flights etc, please refer to sidebar at left for a very broad conceptual program.

If you have any questions please feel free to email Arzan Sam Wadia FEZANA VP and Chair of the Coordination and Planning Committee at vp@fezana.org