

FEZANA *bulletin*

February 2018 / VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 2



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UPCOMING DATES

March 10, 2018

[Annual Nowruz Celebration,
University of Chicago-Oriental
Institute Museum](#)

March 11, 2018

[Nowruz: A Persian New Year
Celebration](#). Freer|Sackler Gallery,
Smithsonian, Washington DC

March 17, 2018

Hamespathadem Gahambar,
hosted by WZCC Chicago.

March 16-25, 2018

*World Zoroastrian Youth
Leadership Forum*. Asha Centre,
Gloucester England

March 12-23, 2018

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

April 26, 2018

FEZANA Pre-AGM Sessions.
Hosted by CZC. vp@fezana.org

April 27-29, 2018

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

(Dates continued on page 4)

2018 FEZANA AGM Planning Underway

We are pleased to report that planning for the 2018 FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) -- hosted by California Zoroastrian Center (CZC), in Westminster, California -- is well underway. The three-day AGM will take place over the last weekend of April (April 27-29, 2018), with Pre-AGM activities planned for all day on Thursday April 26. There will also be a post-AGM session on the afternoon of Sunday April 29. See below for program schedule. The venue for the AGM and all events, unless otherwise stated, is CZC Westminster (8952 Hazard Ave., Westminster, CA 92683).

Representatives from FEZANA Member Associations and Corresponding Members, as well as FEZANA Committee Chairs and Committee members are encouraged to attend. The meeting is open to the public, however, all attendees are requested to register enabling accurate headcount for our hosts for various planned events throughout the weekend. Please inform FEZANA Administrative Office (admin@fezana.org) and FEZANA Secretary (secretary@fezana.org) if you plan to attend. Any Member Association wishing to put forward an item on the AGM Agenda, must email details to the FEZANA secretary before March 1, 2018.

Visit <https://fezana.org/2018-fezana-annual-general-meeting/> for updated 2018 AGM info on the FEZANA website including transportation and hotel accommodation information. Contact FEZANA Secretary or FEZANA Administrative Office with any questions. □

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF AGM WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY APRIL 26, 2018 / PRE-AGM ACTIVITIES

10:00am -12:15pm	Jashan followed by presentation by North American Mobeds Council (NAMC)
2:00 - 5:00pm	Special presentations by FEZANA Committees
5:30pm	Social Event by CZC

FRIDAY APRIL 27, 2018

9:00am-5:00pm	FEZANA AGM DAY 1
6:00 pm	Dinner at ZAC-LA (1424 E. Walnut Ave., Orange, CA)

SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2018

9:00am-5:00pm	FEZANA AGM DAY 2
7:00pm	Gala Evening at CZC Westminster (\$)

SUNDAY APRIL 29, 2018

9:00am-12:30pm	FEZANA AGM DAY 3
1:00 pm	Boxed Lunch
3:00 – 5:00 pm	POST-AGM event: WZCC meeting at CZC Valley Center in Los Angeles.



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website at:

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

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

Jashn e Sadeh Celebrations Across N.A.

In January, many FEZANA Member Associations and small groups celebrated *Jashn e Sadeh* in various ways. This ancient celebration is part of our shared heritage and provides a wonderful occasion to anticipate the coming of Spring and the celebration of *Nowruz*!



**Zoroastrian Association of
North Texas, Flower Mound TX**



**Zoroastrian Association of
Houston, Houston TX**



**Zoroastrian Association of
Chicago, Burr Ridge, IL**



**California Zoroastrian Center,
Westminster, CA**

Collective Giving.... A lesson taken to heart

"If it is to be, it is up to me"

One teenager from high school is making a difference in our world.

Yasna Goshtasbi (ZAMWI) has so far raised twenty thousand dollars (sixteen thousand dollars for the American Cancer Society (ACS), and four thousand for ZAMWI), with support from her family, friends and the local Zoroastrian community.

A check of 5,200/ Dollars US, (Five thousand, two hundred dollars), raised on the Saturday of the November 2017 fundraiser, "Around the World in Five Hours", was given to the ACS, at the **Sadeh celebration** held on 27 January 2018 held at the Kamran Dar-e-Mehr in Boyds, Maryland, USA, as part of this ongoing project.

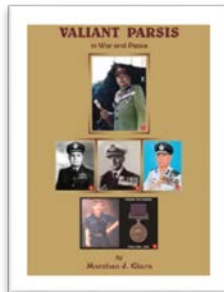
The two minute video tells the story in Yasna Goshtasbi's own words.

<https://youtu.be/aDoakCxHCqC>

That evening, the representative from ACS made the community aware of support services provided locally to cancer survivors and their families. □



BOOK AWARENESS



Valiant Parsis in War and Peace
By Marzban J. Giara
320p, 2017

Marzban J. Giara, is our acclaimed community historian. He has 42 books to his credit, some authored, some compiled and some translated. His latest book covers highlights of Parsi servicemen during times of war and in times of peace. 550 Parsi names with 200 photographs, with a list of awards and medal recipients, makes this a reference book. A valuable resource of data and facts, recognizing the author's personal effort to reach out to individuals to request biographical notes and pictures of their family members who contributed to India during the war years and in times of peace.

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

Sharing the Nowruz Celebration with our Neighbors and Friends

By Behram Pastakia, FEZANA Information Receiving and Dissemination (Publications) Committee

As Zarathushti migrants grow roots in North America and establish a unique new identity for ourselves in our new western Zarathushti diaspora, traditions are forming.

Harkening back to our countries of origin, to celebrate the New Year and the coming of Spring on March 21st (*Jamshedi Navroz*) we are suggesting that we tell our friends and neighbors who we are by sharing a snippet of our culture, and reviving the tradition of giving them a gift of '*mithu mohnu*' – any sweet dish.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

We suggest we make something sweet for six or more of our neighbors, gift-wrap it nicely, include a little write up (available from us upon request) in your gift box/plate/basket and deliver it personally to them on or the day before *Jamshedi Navroz*.

Suggestions for '*mithoo mohnu*' include: *Khatai*, *ravo*, *badam pak*, *sev*, *dahi*, *mava cake*, *kumas*, *parsi custard*, *mava ni boi*, *dar ni pori*, *badam-ni-boi*, *Persian toot*, or any other traditional sweet dish. If you don't like to cook feel free to order it. Just ensure it is good stuff and authentic.

Try to chat about this project with your friends. It does not have to cost you the moon, the idea really is to share this simple tradition with your neighbors.

We got an email from Vera Springett sharing her idea of what she plans to do for her "care and share". Vera says: "I'll be making *ravo* and putting it in mason jars for the neighbors. Each mason jar will contain layers of *ravo*, then a mix of fried almonds and golden raisins, and so on till the top. I think it will look pretty and make it fun to eat. Maybe I'll provide a spoon too. Let's see. I'll tie the write-up around the lid."

For shipping to addresses in the USA, you may wish to consider ordering '*badam-ni-boi*' (fish-shaped almond-marzipan) from Roshan Rivetna of Chicago area (RoshanRivetna@gmail.com, 630-340 8272).

For shipping to addresses in Canada, please contact: Niloufer Mavalvala of Greater Toronto Area, Author and Founder, www.NiloufersKitchen.com, <https://www.facebook.com/NiloufersKitchen>, [www.twitter.com/NiloufersKtchn](https://twitter.com/NiloufersKtchn), <http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/niloufer-mavalvala>, niloufer.mavalvala@gmail.com, M: +1 416 301 9959

We would love to hear back from you, particularly from the Zarathushtis from Iran who are an integral part of the North American diaspora, with creative ideas and suggestions as we travel together on this fun journey and celebrate life. □



UPCOMING DATES

(continued from page 1)

June 1-4, 2018

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

July 3-8, 2018

16th Zoroastrian Games.
California State University,
Carson, CA.
<http://zathletics.com/>

July 31-August 3, 2018

NAIN Connect 2018.
Edmonton, Alberta Canada

July 29 - August 1, 2018

[Reimagining Interfaith
Conference](#). Washington DC

November 1-7, 2018

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

December 29-31, 2020

North American Zoroastrian
Congress hosted by ZAH
(Houston)

How are you and your Association celebrating Nowruz? Let us know by sending us your pictures!

As Nowruz approaches in just a matter of weeks, we want to know how you and your community will celebrate Nowruz. From home parties with loved ones and haft-seen tables to parades in larger cities, we would like to know how beyond your association's gathering you'll be celebrating.

In the March edition of the FEZANA Bulletin, we will spotlight select pictures how Zarathushtis throughout North America are celebrating the advent of a new year. Here are some ideas depending on where you live:

- Haft-seen table decoration
- Show-and-tell at school
- Girl or Boy Scouts presentations
- Museum displays in larger cities
- Parades in larger cities
- Local newspaper, radio or television coverage
- Presentations at nursing homes

Pictures should be emailed and include names, spellings and a 1-2 sentence description. Email your photos to admin@fezana.org no later than Friday March 9! □

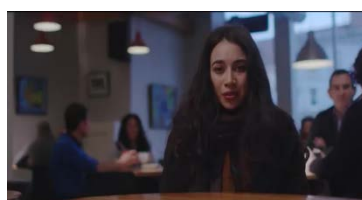


Video: "It's Not Me, It's You"

FEZANA sent a team to the World Oceans Conference held at United Nations Head Quarters in June 2017. What did we learn?

In this short video clip we share one of the key take away points from our experience at the international meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBc8nESSzf0>



<<< Valentine's Day. Sandra realizes she has been in a toxic relationship for too long and decides it's time for a break-up. What's more, she has found a new love ...

For more, or to take the pledge, visit: <http://www.cleanseas.org/>

