

FEZANA *bulletin*

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UPCOMING DATES

Oct 2-Dec 2, 2013

Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles.
Contact Parmis Khatibi,
parmis99@aol.com

Oct 11 - Dec 14, 2013

The Everlasting Flame. Brunei Gallery, London, U.K.
www.theeverlastingflame.com

November 2-4, 2013

22nd All India Zoroastrian Youth Meet. Organized by FOZYA. Dahanu / Bordi, India.
[Click Here](#) for info.

November 19, 2013

Interfaith Music Concert Washington D.C.
www.ifcmw.org

December 27-31, 2013

10th World Zoroastrian Congress, Mumbai, India.
<http://www.wzcmumbai.com/>

January 18-19, 2014

Iran's Natural Heritage: A Catalyst Symposium to Spark Measureable Change, conference.
Royal Geographical Society, London. For more info,
<http://www.iranheritage.org/Ecology/default.htm>

December 29-31, 2014

17th North American Zoroastrian Congress, Los Angeles, California

The Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit Makes Its Final US Stop at Getty Villa

By Dr. Parmis Khatibi

"The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A New Beginning" opened to much awaited fanfare with a private VIP reception on Tuesday evening, October 2, 2013. There were guests from all around the country and internationally at the Getty Villa in Malibu, California for the debuting of the iconic cylinder. The enchanted evening began with everyone taking their seats in an outdoor theater to hear opening remarks from the Director of the J. Paul Getty Museum, Dr. Timothy Potts, as well as from the Iranian Heritage Foundation Trustee, Mr. Alireza Rastegar and the sponsor of the Cyrus Cylinder to Los Angeles, Farhang Foundation with Mr. Farhad Mohit, Trustee of Farhang Foundation, speaking.

After the opening remarks, the doors opened to the lavish Getty Gardens and Inner and Outer Peristyle that over looked the magnificent Pacific Ocean. Champagne was flowing and unique Persian hors d'oeuvres were being served for this auspicious evening. There was mingling among all the sponsors and donors of both the Getty Museum and Farhang Foundation and sharing of their common interest of King Cyrus the Great and the Cyrus Cylinder. Persian music flowed throughout the evening while guests were mingling and enjoying savory flavors from a Persian-inspired menu.

As guests worked their way upstairs to the exhibit, there was an abundance of camera flashes from all guests excited to take photos with the Cylinder and various Ancient Persian artifacts. The perfect touch to the evening was the presence of our Zoroastrian Priests from various generations who brought much keen interest among guests about our religion and culture.

The evening ended with such success and excitement over the exhibition opening to the public the following day. The organizers were all so very proud to see how both Iranian and non-Iranian Americans embraced this historical night and how it truly impacted everyone's knowledge about human rights, Zoroastrians, and King Cyrus. Mission Accomplished!

The exhibit at the Getty Villa runs from October 2 - December 2 with over 25 programs, workshops, and lectures for children and adults at the Getty Villa and various academic institutions in Southern California. Upon the exhibit's closing, the cylinder will then depart to Mumbai in conjunction with the World Zoroastrian Congress in December 2013. □



Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit, Opening Night; Getty Villa, Malibu, California



**Federation of
Zoroastrian
Associations of
North America
(FEZANA)**

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FEZANA Second 10-Year Strategic Plan: Update

By Homi D. Gandhi

Following the announcement of the Second 10-Year Strategic Plan (STP) in September 2013 Bulletin, a sub-committee (see below) has been formed, under the auspices of Coordination and Planning Committee, to guide the progress of the action plans, identified by the Chairs of FEZANA Standing and Ad-hoc Committees.

Homi D. Gandhi, Vice President and Chair of Coordination & Planning Committee

Jimmy Antia, ZAKOI, Cincinnati
Keshvar Buhariwalla, ZANT, Dallas
Mahrukh Motafaram, ZSWS, Seattle
Roshan Sethna, ZAH, Houston

The above individuals have volunteered to help the community in successful progress of the STP. They will be contacting you in the coming months. I would therefore request the Chairs of Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees to work in harmony with them. As a first step, I would request all Chairs to refresh the respective Committee's Terms of Reference (TOR). This will not only help each Committee to move forward but it will also help the future leaders to understand the clearly articulated goals of your Committee.

The implementation of action plans is not the responsibility of the Committee Chairs only. We all share in this journey of successful outcome of this STP. I therefore request the Presidents and Representatives of Member Associations, Corresponding Members, and every Zarathushti in North America to facilitate in achieving these goals. □

Power and Legacy: Persian Expressions of Kingship

A Mini-Exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum

A mini exhibit exploring how Cyrus the Great projected his kingship and presented himself as a legitimate ruler of Babylon, has opened in The Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery at the Oriental Institute Museum at University of Chicago. The exhibit runs from October 5, 2013 - February 2, 2014 and presents a modern replica of the Cyrus Cylinder recently donated to the Oriental Institute by FEZANA. For more information:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/cyrus/> □

ZAPANJ Gahambar October 27, 2013

On Sunday, October 27, 2013 the Zarathushtis of the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ) gathered for its Annual Gahambar in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.



Photo © 2013 Parvez Daruwala



CONNECTIONS

The WZO Trust Funds Launches a New Website

Packed with follow-up articles on various WZO Trust Funds activities, application forms and contact information, the WZO Trust Funds has launched a new easy-to-navigate website that is worth visiting.

<http://www.wzotrust.org/default.htm>

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Parsi Food

Parsi food featured in *Live Encounters*, an international non-profit magazine. Article contributed by Perinaz Avari, USA

<http://liveencounters.net/?p=4891>

MORE TO KNOW

The Significance of the Cyrus Cylinder

A short, well-produced video presented by the Getty Villa. Four experts comment on why the 2,600-year-old Cyrus Cylinder is important for the past and the present. [Approx 8 mins]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQmS5QQJ2k0&feature=youtu.be>

Zoroastrian Return to Roots Program Updates

Founded in August 2012, the Zoroastrian Return to Roots program will officially launch its first tour in December 2013. A group of 18 young adults from around the world will be joining the trip to Mumbai and Gujarat for two weeks to explore their cultural and religious roots in India. (See Progress Report on next page.) The program continues to seek funding for subsequent tours and to supplement additional expenses and assist in building the corpus for this program. All contributions are welcome. Please donate to Return to Roots via FEZANA (<http://www.fezana.org/contribute>.)

Thank you,
Katayun Kapadia
FEZANA President



22 October, 2013

Dear Katayun,

It gives us great pleasure to send you the first progress report of the Return to Roots (RTR) programme. Thank you, and Fezana, on behalf of the Zoroastrian RTR, for the time and funding support that Fezana and you personally have provided in making the programme a success. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ratan and Arzan for all the help they have given, and will be sending separate copies of the report to ZAGNY and ZSO, with our thanks.

The responses we have received to the vision that RTR strives for, is gratifying. All through the diaspora, and within the homelands, while there have been questions, and quibbles about aspects of the programme, we have received uniform endorsement from all the Zoroastrian associations. It has clearly struck a deep chord of both need and potential, and we hope we can maintain this with the support of people like yourself and associations like Fezana, into the future, as Roots burrows deep into the communities around the world and spreads its branches of hope and opportunity for young Zoroastrians.

With all good wishes,

Shernaz Cama
E: shernazcama@hotmail.com

Aban Marker Kabraji
E: aban.marker-kabraji@iucn.org

cc Ratan Mistry
Arzan Wadia



ACHIEVEMENTS

Participants Selected for the Inaugural RTR Tour Dec 23, 2013-Jan 6, 2014

1	Farzin Avari	USA
2	Binaifer Daji	USA
3	Fareeza Doctor	PAK
4	Bezan Irani D	CAN
5	Kurush Italia	USA
6	Semira Jahanian	USA
7	Sasan Jahanian	USA
8	Rustom Kapadia	UK
9	Jehangir Madon R	USA
10	Armeen Mistry	USA
11	Vandad Pourbahrami	CAN
12	Jennifer Rostami	USA
13	Anahita Sidhwa	USA
14	Bahman Sotoodian	CAN
15	Cumbysis Tampal	CAN
16	Burzin Tampal	CAN
17	Behrose Taraporewalla	USA
18	Diana Vania	CAN

Return to Roots Program Progress Report



Introduction:

The Return to Roots programme was started in January 2013, based on a proposal put together by a group of young Zoroastrians, to the Parzor Foundation.

This project is aimed at simultaneously benefitting both the individual and the community; firstly it will provide an opportunity to an individual Zoroastrian who-wants to explore his or her religion, culture, ethnicity and identity alongside fellow Zoroastrians while being exposed to local heritage and customs in India. In doing so, we also hope to facilitate another avenue for young Zoroastrians to get to know one another and form lasting friendships and professional networks across the globe. Secondly, it will engage and encourage the Zoroastrian diaspora communities to use the knowledge and expertise acquired down the generations, outside of the ancestral homelands of India and Iran, by exposing them to the opportunities that exist in India that they could, if they so wish, take advantage of and contribute to in areas such as academia, music, art, oral traditions, and business.

The project pivots around the following long-term goals:

I. RETURN

• Purpose

- Zoroastrian diaspora to return to their ancestral homelands of India (and Iran at a later stage) and take back their experiences and knowledge gained to their homes and communities in the diaspora.
- Be expected to take up leadership roles in their respective local communities.
- Have opportunities to remain engaged with what they have experienced.
- Create a network of RTR Global Alumni.

2. RECONNECT

• The Tour

- Strengthen community links and identity.
- Discover their heritage whilst learning about their commonalities and the diversity that exists across the Zoroastrian Diaspora.
- Encourage participation of more Zoroastrian youth in the program and foster a sense of community ownership within them.

3. REVIVE

• Long Term Vision

- Aim to support local Zoroastrian communities and institutions within India, as young Zoroastrians Return to their Roots and help revive the community globally.
- To re-establish our ancestral roots by having subsequent programs to Iran.

The program is Co-chaired by Dr. Shernaz Cama of the Parzor Foundation and Aban Marker Kabraji. Working with them, as the leaders of the programme, are four young adults, Dinsha Mistree, Rosheen Kabraji, Kaiyan Mistree and Shireen Havewala who volunteer their time and creative output, besides having professionally demanding career. See website (<http://www.zororoots.org>) for details of the team. The team is also supported by a part time project manager, Setare Irani Degamwala, and Arzan Wadia who volunteers his time to create and build the website.



Zoroastrian RTR Inaugural Tour Tentative Itinerary

Day 1; Dec 23, 2013

Arrival to Mumbai.

Day 2; Dec 24, 2013

Orientation and Introduction
Dadar Parsi Colony
Rustom Faram Agiary
Dadar Madressa

Day 3; Dec 25, 2013

Heritage Walk – Fort Area
Prince of Wales Museum

Day 4; Dec 26, 2013

Doongerwadi
Parsi General Hospital
Taj Heritage Tour
Cusrow Baug

Day 5-8; Dec 26-30, 2013

World Zoroastrian Congress

Day 9; Dec 31, 2013

Mumbai University
Bhikabehram Well
Banaji Atash Behram
Banaji Limji Agiary
New Year's Eve Event

Day 10; Jan 1, 2014

Alpaiwalla Museum
Jashan at Saher Agiary

Day 11; Jan 2, 2014

Nargol – Sanjan - Udvada
Overnight at Dharmasala

Day 12; Jan 3, 2014

Surat -- Natak and Gahambar

Day 13; Jan 4, 2014

Surat Shahanshai Atash
Behram
Surat Kadmi Atash Behram
Nariman House and Orphanage
Munshi Farm

Day 14; Jan 5, 2014

Navsari
Meherji Rana Library
Kusti Weaving Demo / Toran
Dahanu

Achievements:

The Roots programme started in May 2012, as an idea, based on the very successful Taglit programme for the Jews and similar programmes for Armenians and other diasporic communities. As the idea spread through discussions with different members in the community, it was clear that Roots addressed a felt need, and the two countries identified as the homelands for the exploration of Zoroastrian roots were India and Iran. Due to the tricky visa situation for the citizens of North America (NA) and Europe, and the World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC) at the end of 2013 in India, it was decided to focus on an Indian tour first.

Support was forthcoming from the Bombay Parsi Panchayat (BPP), FEZANA, and other individuals and Trusts. Based on such pledges, the website was developed, the team made a recce of all the sites proposed for the tour in Bombay and Gujarat in April 2013 and a Zoroastrian owned Company, Trail Blazer Tours India Pvt. Ltd (TBI) were appointed as the travel and logistics persons for the tour. Knowledgeable professionals in the field, such as Rukshana Nanji on archeology, Dan Sheffield for the Meherjirana Library and Navsari, and many others have accepted to commit their time to act as guides on the tour, while a number of individuals, in Bombay and in Gujarat have offered their time, hospitality and enthusiasm as guides, mentors and hosts. There are clearly opportunities that have appeared not just for networking and learning through the contacts the first cohort of Roots Fellows will make in India, but also for future projects, internships and small business.

Objectives for October 2013 - January 2014:

While the Roots programme is now institutionally stable within its host, the Parzor Foundation who have ably provided both the legal persona, critically important tax benefits and financial services and the credibility that goes with Parzor's institutional reputation, there is still much to do in terms of finding the resources to make the programme viable in the short and medium term.

The immediate need is to raise USD 20,000 to cover all immediate needs for this tour, until the end of January 2014. These include the shortfall on the expenditure required for the actual Gujarat tour, the published material that is required for background reading and guides, and similar miscellaneous expenditure.

Beyond this immediate aim, the tours (both Track A and B) have to be organised and funded for 2014, and given the feedback received, these may need to include Indian youth as well, who could be supported by the Indian Anjumans. This would respond well to the aims of the Roots programme, which is to connect the young Zoroastrians in the diaspora with those in the homelands.

If things go according to plan, we hope that we can also do an initial recce tour of Iran in 2014, in order to plan for a cohort of Roots fellows to visit both India and Iran in the near future.

Report signed: Dr. Shernaz Cama and Aban Marker Kabraji □