

# FEZANA *bulletin*

December 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 12



## UPCOMING DATES

Through Feb 2, 2014

*Power and Legacy: The Cyrus Cylinder and Persian Expressions of Kingship*,  
Oriental Institute Museum,  
University of Chicago.

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

December 21-22, 2013

*Zambhala*. Bardo, Goa, India.  
[www.zambhala.in](http://www.zambhala.in)

December 6-28, 2013

*To Eternity and Back*. Shirin Kumaana-Wadia Photography Exhibition, Mumbai.

[www.shirr.in](http://www.shirr.in)

December 27-31, 2013

*10th World Zoroastrian Congress*, Mumbai, India.

<http://www.wzcmumbai.com/>

January 7-9, 2014

*Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD 2014)*, New Delhi, India

<http://pbd-india.com/>

January 12, 2014

*"Recreating Pasargadae."*

University of Chicago, 2-4pm.

Group outing organized by Zoroastrian Association of Chicago.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/>

January 18-19, 2014

*Iran's Natural Heritage: A conference*. Royal Geographical Society, London.

For more info,

<http://www.iranheritage.org/Ecology/default.htm>

(DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## FEZANA Infrastructure Development in North America – Request for Proposals

With the full weight of history and the recognition of our station as the youngest Diaspora in the Zarathushti World, we have a sense of awakening to come to grips with the development of our infrastructure and capacity building in North America. If history is any guide the adage "demographics determines destiny" is the operative today in the Zarathushti world. With declining and aging population in India, Pakistan and Iran in contrast with an increasing and a more youthful population in North America, it is plain to see that the North American Diaspora needs to be bolstered. This realization has not come as an instant revelation but rather it has been a gradual process of observation, assessment and ground realities over a period of a decade, that has now come to the forefront deserving the collective attention of the North American and the world communities. North American Zarathushtis are the youngest of the Diasporas that has reached a critical mass for growth and sustenance. The North American Diaspora is unique in that it represents a blend of both Parsi - Zarathushtis from India and Pakistan as well as Zarathushtis from Iran. After a thousand years of separation the two streams are now together in North America. The community has developed and is developing with this mix in its own distinct manner.

At the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Dallas on May 4, 2013, after discussions among member associations on Infrastructure Development in North America, Homi Gandhi conducted an informal survey on the prioritization and next steps for Infrastructure Needs. The survey was completed by 20 of the 40+ people in attendance. The results disclosed that Establishment of Consecrated Atash Kadeh secured highest votes (13) as a priority project, followed by Enhanced FIRES (12), and Building of Dar-e-Mehrs (7). ZAH representatives indicated that they would like to support financially the Atash Kadeh and Enhanced FIRES within their location. Similarly ZAC-California would consider supporting Athornan Institute and Retreat and Learning Center within their area. ZAC-Chicago would like to support a FEZANA Center with Admin Office, Archives, and a Museum of Zarathushti History and Culture.

After that, at the first meeting of the Infrastructure Committee, it was decided to concentrate on 2 projects (Atash Kadeh & Fezana Center) while FIRES works on its enhancement.

An Infrastructure Committee (IC) was formed at the last AGM in Dallas on May 5, 2013. To date the IC consists of (in alphabetical order): Tehmi Damania, Soli Dastur, Rustom Engineer, Homi Gandhi, Furrokh Irani, Katayun Kapadia, Rustom Kevala, Hosi Mehta, Gev Nentin, Bomi Patel, Fariborz Rahnmoon, Rohinton Rivetna (Chair of IC), and Kobad Zarolia.

The committee has conferred twice via conference calls. Tehmi Damania, President, ZAC-California, presented the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the establishment for Atash Kadeh and Hosi Mehta of ZAC-Chicago presented the draft RFP for the establishment of a FEZANA Center. We are now at a point to send out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to the Member Associations for the setting up of Atash Kadehs and the establishment of a FEZANA Center.

The following six supporting documents have been circulated to all FEZANA member associations on November 24, 2013:



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

President  
Katayun Kapadia  
president@fezana.org

Registered Address  
5750 S Jackson Street  
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Administrative Office  
8615 Meadowbrook Drive  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Phone: 630-468-2705  
E-mail: [admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)  
Web: [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org)



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7524](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fezana/146727472067524)



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



SCAN HERE  
FOR MORE  
FEZANA INFO

1. Atash Kadeh - Cover Letter,
2. Atash Kadeh – RFP
3. NAMC Paper on Atash Kadeh (2012)
4. FEZANA Center - Cover Letter
5. FEZANA Center - RFP
6. FEZANA Center Vision and Needs Statement

To receive copies of these documents, contact [@msn.com](mailto:kkatayun) or [@aol.com](mailto:rivetna).

**FEZANA is accepting proposals through March 15, 2014. A complete proposal with all supporting documents should be submitted to the FEZANA President, Mrs. Katayun Kapadia, [kkatayun\(@\)msn.com](mailto:kkatayun@msn.com) in electronic format on or before March 15, 2014.**

The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the Infrastructure Committee and the FEZANA Executive by end of April 2014. Evaluations will be presented to member Associations at the FEZANA AGM in mid May 2014 for their action.

Sincerely,  
*Rohinton Rivetna*

FEZANA - Infrastructure Development in North America Committee, Chair

*Katayun Kapadia*  
FEZANA - President.

## Zarathushtis Join World's Religious Leaders at Religions for Peace Assembly in Vienna

Submitted by Jehangir Sarosh and Homi D. Gandhi

The 9th world assembly of Religions for Peace brought together more than 600 religious leaders. Assembly delegates came from the Religions for Peace network of ninety national inter-religious councils and groups, five regional councils, one world council and global networks of women and youth. Assembly delegates included Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Indigenous, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Shinto, Taoist and Zoroastrian religious leaders.



Ervad Poruz Khambatta, Homi Gandhi, and Jehangir Sarosh, OBE, represented the worldwide Zoroastrian community. Poruz also represented the young Zoroastrians at the International Interfaith Youth Network Assembly.

The world assembly delegates also have the responsibility to elect co-presidents and honorary presidents to the World Council of Religion for Peace. Jehangir Sarosh and Homi Gandhi were elected as Co-President and Honorary President respectively to the World Council, representing the Zoroastrian community. They will be serving on behalf of the world Zoroastrian community for a period of 5 years till the next World Assembly.

The Theme of the Assembly was "Welcoming the Other." Religious leaders and leaders of international organizations spoke to the assembly about what it means to "welcome the other". The presence of 600 religious leaders from faraway places such as Costa Rica, Myanmar, Syria, Egypt, South Africa, Americas,

## HERITAGE CONNECTIONS

**Caring for those in need for 100 years**

Ava Bai Framji Petit Girls School , Bandra, Mumbai

A school with a mission to provide for the bringing up and care of orphans and destitute Parsi girls

**[CLICK HERE](#)** to view a short video about this story. [Approx 11 minutes]

## UPCOMING DATES

**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

January 31, 2014

Deadline for applications. Sodexo Youth Grants. Grants for Youth wishing to care for the hungry. [www.sodexofoundation.org](http://www.sodexofoundation.org)

Jan 31-Feb 2, 2014

ZYNA Youth Winter Retreat. Claremont, CA. <http://fezana.org/node/324>

February 5-7, 2014

U.N. Winter Youth Assembly. [Click here](#) for registration.

March 10-21, 2014

58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. United Nations. Contact [@gmail.com](mailto:afreed.mistry)

May 16-18, 2014

*FEZANA Annual General Meeting*, Bellevue, WA. Hosted by ZSWS

December 29-31, 2014

*17th North American Zoroastrian Congress*, Los Angeles, California [www.nazc2014.org](http://www.nazc2014.org)

India, North and South Korea, Israel and Palestine, in total some hundred countries, enabled the worldwide religious communities to be part of the solution for peace while networking and collaborating within and across borders.

For more information on the Assembly, visit <http://www.rfp.org/vision-history/world-assembly> . For details and proceedings, [click here](#).

*[Read more about the assembly and the experience of Poruz Khambatta in the upcoming FEZANA JOURNAL, Winter 2013 issue.]* □

**Zarathushti Youth Winter Retreat 2014**

Spread the word! Zarathushti youth are invited to attend this event of team building, friendship, and fellowship in beautiful Claremont, California. It will be a unifying retreat geared towards students ages 18-24 to be held **January 31-February 2, 2014.**



Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) is on a mission to give Zarathushtis the opportunity to connect, share ideas, resources, and opportunities. Our vision is to cultivate a community of young Zoroastrians that are focused on building relationships and working together to learn, grow and make a difference in the world we live in. Attendees will be surrounded by like-minded people who want to build UNITY in our religious community.

Registration deadline is approaching! Visit <http://fezana.org/node/324> to register or for more information, or contact Dr. Parmis Khatibi ([@aol.com](mailto:parmis99)). □



# 379 days...

...until the Opening of the NAZC 2014...

...121 days until registration opens...

26 days until the Hilton opens up room reservations...

**Program:** The theme of our family friendly Congress is Faith and Unity. In addition to enlightening topics that will inspire all Zarathushtis, the Congress will also feature

a Youth Track and a Mini-Congress for little Zarathushtis. Many prominent entertainers will delight audiences on all evenings, and especially at the New Year's Eve Gala.

**Registration:** Early Bird Registration will open in April 2014. Check out our Youth Rate and Friends & Family Package!

**Venue:** The Congress will be held at the Hilton Los Angeles. Congress registrants are entitled to a preferred rate: \$107 (plus tax) per night for a room and includes breakfast. This rate is available from December 26, 2014 to January 3, 2015.

**We're set! Are you?**

For more information: [www.nazc2014.org](http://www.nazc2014.org)

Email: [info@nazc2014.org](mailto:info@nazc2014.org)

Phone: 310.634.1445

Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/nazc2014>

And follow us on Twitter: @nazc2014

