

FEZANA *bulletin*

January 31, 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1



UPCOMING DATES

February 14, 2013

Prayer For Peace, United Nations General Assembly, New York City.
homidgandhi@gmail.com

March 1-3, 2013

ZYNA, Young Professionals Group Retreat, New York City. www.fezana.org/zyna

March 5-15, 2013

Commission on the Status of Women 57, United Nations Headquarters, New York City.
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>

May 3-5, 2013

FEZANA's 26th Annual General Meeting, Dallas, TX. Hosted by Zoroastrian Association of North Texas. Contact Zenobia Damania admin@fezana.org

June 30, 2013

Application Deadline for FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship

Oct 10 - Dec 14, 2013

The Everlasting Flame: Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination. Exhibition at the Brunei Gallery, London, U.K.
www.theeverlastingflame.com

December 27-31, 2013

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

From the Desk of... KATAYUN KAPADIA - FEZANA PRESIDENT

Dear Zarathushtis

Let us all begin the New Year 2013 with love and understanding towards all humanity and live in peace & harmony for times to come. May the New Year be filled with new hope, new joy and new beginnings & may each day of the coming year be vibrant and new bringing along many reasons for celebrations.

For FEZANA, 2013 has started with a lot of events and activities being planned for the Zarathushtis in North America & I would like to tell you about the on-going initiatives that the FEZANA Executive and Committees are working on in 2013:

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA): Zoroastrian Youth of North America will be kicking off the NEW YEAR 2013 in the BIG APPLE, for a celebration filled with festivities, friendship and fellowship. **Young Professionals Norouz Retreat from March 1- March 3, 2013**, in New York City will be a networking social retreat geared towards established professionals (ages 25-45) who want to network. The new generation of Zoroastrians will be able to strengthen friendships and connect with like-minded professionals that live and work by the core beliefs of our religion. For registration & other details refer to the ZYNA article in this Bulletin.

Cyrus Cylinder tours the US: One of the most iconic objects in human history -- the Cyrus Cylinder, which is on permanent exhibit in the British Museum -- will tour the United States this year. According to the press release issued by the British Museum, the Cylinder will travel to five cities in the US with an exhibition of 16 other objects under the title "The Cyrus Cylinder in Ancient Persia". FEZANA has formed a coordinating committee consisting of Vice President Homi D. Gandhi and the representatives from the Zoroastrian associations where the Cylinder is going to tour. For more information to guide, motivate & educate the Zarathushtis in these cities and across North America to avail of this extraordinary opportunity, please refer to the article on the following page.

Zoroastrian Studies Program at Stanford University: Stanford is one of the most prestigious universities in North America and for the last eight years along with Stanford, we have had a community effort led by Farrokh Billimoria of Redwood City, California to help create and sustain a program on Zoroastrian Studies at Stanford. We as a community have sustained this program by major contributions from individuals in India, FEZANA and contributions from various North American Associations and personal contributions from many North American Zoroastrians. I would like to thank Farrokh Billimoria & Lovji Cama for coordinating the fund raising efforts for this Program and all those who pledged to sustain this Program for 2013-15. For details, please refer to the article on page 6 by Lovji Cama, Chair, Education, Scholarship and Conference committee, FEZANA.

Public Relations Committee: FEZANA's Public Relations Committee will be playing a key role in 2013. Porus Cooper of Cherry Hill, New Jersey has been appointed as Chair for the FEZANA Public Relations Committee. He will be joined by Zenobia Ravji of Chicago, Illinois who will serve as Co- Chair. To know them better, refer to some information on them in this Bulletin.



**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
Web: www.fezana.org



Facebook:

[http://www.facebook.com/
pages/Fezana/14672747206
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



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FOR MORE
FEZANA INFO

Unity & Welfare Committee: The FEZANA Critical Assistance Team would like to continue to work with your generous support to viably assist many families and individuals out of difficult circumstances. We get appeals on a regular basis – recently for example for victims of Hurricane Sandy and the young Parsi boy recovering from coma as a result of a motorcycle accident in Mumbai. FEZANA has sent help out to them and we urge all of you generous folks to continue donate to the welfare fund to replenish the fund.

Strategic Planning Committee: At the FEZANA AGM in Montreal in April 2011, the second ten year strategic plan was presented and discussed. The second ten year plan (2011-2021) is a continuation of the first ten year plan, written in 1997. The plan consists of 5 major goals with a given set of action items under each goal to be implemented in the next decade by identified stakeholders.

Goals:

1. Increase awareness of FEZANA domestically
2. Foster HAMAZORI (harmony) by building strong relationships between various Zarathushti entities/groups
3. Advance religious education, cultural awareness, and interfaith dialogue
4. Ensure economic stability through fund raising and prudent investments
5. Showcase FEZANA successes around the world

The Stakeholders are: Member Associations, Corresponding Members, Standing & Ad-Hoc Committees and the Zarathushti community.

The success of this plan depends upon each committee chair being accountable for their respective goals and responsible for communicating effectively to the FEZANA executive and to the rest of the FEZANA community. It is imperative that all of us work together as a team and find resources within the community to bring this plan to fruition.

I am requesting all Committee Chairs and Presidents/Representatives of Member Associations & Corresponding Members to make time available and cooperate with the FEZANA Strategic Planning Team - Mahrukh Motafram- Chair, Dolly Dastoor, and Farrokh Mistree to finalize this Plan in the coming months. The FEZANA Strategic Plan (2011-2021) will be a priority item for discussion at the FEZANA AGM in Dallas, May 3-5, 2013. Save these dates, and I hope to see you all there and let's have a meaningful discussion resulting in successful outcomes for the Zarathushti community.

So in 2013, I request that all of us follow these **5-STAR Guiding Principles for FEZANA:**

Teamwork, Respect Diversity, Innovation, Empowerment & an Optimistic 'Can Do Attitude' [refer to Fall 2012 *FEZANA Journal* for details].

I would like the Presidents & Representatives of FEZANA's 26 member associations and 14 corresponding members as well as 23 Committee Chairs to continue to enhance their efforts in garnering the support and participation of their members in promoting the various activities and causes supported by FEZANA. The FEZANA Executive and I look forward to working with all of you in supporting FEZANA's goals and activities in 2013.

Let us all work harmoniously in 2013 to enrich the lives of Zarathushtis in North America with Zarathushti core beliefs of Good Thoughts, Good Words & Good Deeds.

Regards

Katayun Kapadia
FEZANA - President



Cyrus Cylinder Tours the United States

One of the most iconic objects in human history — the Cyrus Cylinder, which is on permanent exhibit in the British Museum — will tour the United States this year. It



© Trustees of the British Museum

will be the first time the Cylinder, a replica of which is enshrined at the United Nations as the first charter of human rights, will be on display in the U.S. The clay object, about 10 inches long, was excavated by archaeologists in 1879 in what is now Iraq. It will be on exhibit, along with several other significant objects of Persian antiquity, including one depicting a Zarathushti priest, at

five major museums across the U.S. beginning in spring this year.

This US national tour is officially sponsored by the Iran Heritage Foundation of America.

We at FEZANA are very excited about the tour, which we see not only as a cultural milestone but also as an opportunity to celebrate our ancient and remarkable Zarathushti heritage. To commemorate this historic occasion, FEZANA will be publishing a special Issue of the FEZANA Journal on the CYRUS CYLINDER for Summer 2013.

We encourage our fellow Zarathushtis across the land to visit the museums that will host the Cylinder and its accompanying cast; to participate in discussions and other events linked to the tour; to bring it to the attention of local news media; to e-mail friends about it; to blog about it; to inform and enlighten our fellow North Americans about a history that lies at the roots of human civilization but is not well-known here, and to link its relevance to current world events.

The Cylinder will travel to the following locations:

Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

March 9, 2013 – April 28, 2013

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

May 3, 2013 – June 14, 2013

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

June 20, 2013 – August 4, 2013

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

August 9, 2013 – September 22, 2013

J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa, Los Angeles

October 2, 2013 – December 2, 2013

According to the press release issued by the British Museum, the Cylinder will travel with an exhibition of 16 other objects under the title "The Cyrus Cylinder in Ancient Persia". The exhibition shows the innovations initiated by Persian rule in the Ancient Near East (550 BC-331 BC). At that time, the Persian Empire was the largest empire the world had known. It had a significant impact on the ancient world, exalting ethical behavior, as witnessed in the proclamation on the Cyrus Cylinder.

MORE TO KNOW

Neil MacGregor: 2600 Years of History in One Object

http://www.ted.com/talks/neil_macgregor_2600_years_of_history_in_one_object.html

[19:37]

A clay cylinder covered in Akkadian cuneiform script, damaged and broken, the Cyrus Cylinder is a powerful symbol of religious tolerance and multi-culturalism. In this enthralling talk Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, traces 2600 years of Middle Eastern history through this single object.

"[The Persian Empire] left a dream of the Middle East as a unit, and a unit where people of different faiths could live together."
(Neil MacGregor)



A gold plaque from the Oxus Treasure with the representation of a priest shows the spread of the Zarathushti religion at that time, while a new writing system, Old Persian cuneiform, introduced by Persian kings, can be seen on part of a column base from Hamadan, and on the famous seal of Darius (522-486 BC). Persians also developed new forms of luxury goods, including beautifully decorated gold and silver bowls and sumptuous gold bracelets featuring fantastic animal shapes, some of them from the Oxus Treasure.

FEZANA has formed a coordinating committee consisting of Vice President Homi D. Gandhi, and the following representatives from the Zoroastrian associations where the Cylinder is going to tour:

Armita Soroosh, armita@us.ibm.com Washington, DC
 Aban Rustomji, aban@coatingindustries.com Houston
 Khursheed Navder, knavder@hunter.cuny.edu New York
 Nazneen Spliedt, nazehler@aol.com San Francisco
 Parmis Khatibi, parmis99@aol.com Los Angeles

The committee also includes Bakhtavar Desai bkdesai@aol.com of Cincinnati and Behrose Taraporewala behroset@gmail.com of Los Angeles to guide and motivate other associations to organize celebrations in places where the Cylinder is not going.

For more information about the FEZANA effort, please contact the respective individual in your area or Homi D. Gandhi at homidgandhi@gmail.com □

ZYNA Updates: Young Professionals to Meet in NYC

BEHROSE TARAPOREWALLA, CHAIR, ZYNA

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) is proud to re-launch itself in 2013!

In our religious community the definition of youth is fairly broad. ZYNA wanted to redefine its definition of youth to ensure all stakeholders are engaged at FEZANA events, as well as make the activities at these events more appealing and meaningful. Activities will be planned for each age group, with common activities for all groups planned at Congresses. ZYNA feels that this would allow for specialized activities that hone in on select groups' interest and needs, while not disconnecting them in any way. Group categories will be as noted below

- Youth 13-18 years of age
- Young Adults 19-24 years of age
- Young Professionals 25-45 years of age

The first ZYNA event will be geared to the Young Professionals Group. **Professionals between the ages of 25-45 are invited to New York City (March 1-3, 2013) for a social networking event** in which they can meet others who live and work by the core beliefs of Zoroastrianism. The event will host a well-known speaker, while also tapping in on topics such as balance between home and work, establishing relationships and refining networking skills amongst all professional disciplines. Currently registered attendees are coming from as far as the United Kingdom, in addition to Quebec, California, Texas, New York, Boston and Pennsylvania. For more information and to register for the event, please visit www.fezana.org/zyna. **Registration for the event closes on February 10, 2013.**

Information will be provided for the other groups' functions as it becomes available. **Save the date for the upcoming FEZANA Annual General Meeting when an event has been planned for youth between the ages of 12-18.** □



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Visit:

<http://mlkday.gov/>

Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders

Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders (ZYWiB) is a committee of FEZANA designed to promote Humanitarian Internships. Zoroastrianism is a faith built on compassion. The “*Yatha Ahu Vairyo*” prayer, encourages its adherents to action programs that seek to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots of our world.

By encouraging Zoroastrian youth from North America to work in places with meager resources, we hope to create awareness in the minds of the participants of their responsibility as world citizens as *hamkars* of Ahura Mazda in fostering *Ferosheketri* through action.

Ideas for internship topics include, but are not restricted to the following:

- Cultural & Arts Promotion
- Global Medicine, Health & Hygiene Issues
- Rural Education and School Support
- Poverty Reduction & Hunger Relief
- Disaster Relief
- Environmental Awareness
- Interfaith and Multi-cultural Awareness and Support
- Bridging the Digital Divide
- Human Rights
- Microfinance

Prospective beneficiaries between the ages of 16 to 35 years shall make efforts to raise funds on their own initiative and seek supplemental support from ZYWiB. Applicants are expected to exercise due diligence in verifying the bonafides of the organization(s) they wish to pursue work with and in researching the suitability of location(s) where the internship will take place. Prospective partner organizations must be non-partisan, and suggested locations must be sufficiently safe.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

If you are planning to travel abroad for a volunteer project please visit http://www.fezana.org/files/TOR/ZYWB_ToR.pdf for more information.

Zoroastrian youth from Canada or the USA interested in applying for funding support are requested to send applications to Behrose Taraporewalla (Chair) behroset@gmail.com and Tanya Bharda (Co-Chair) tbharda@hotmail.com
Zoroastrian Youth Without Borders. □

FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship 2013 Call For Entries

The objective of the FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship (P&CAS) is to provide financial support to Zarathushtis who are performing artists in music, drama, etc. or practice other creative art forms like literature, poetry, fine arts, sculpture, painting, etc. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable the recipients to study with experts in their field and thus fine tune and enhance their talent and capabilities, BUT NOT FOR BASIC EDUCATION IN THE ABOVE FIELDS. Deadline for entries is June 30, 2013. Contact Sherazade Mehta (sherazadem@yahoo.com) for more information.

For a direct link to the application, click:

http://www.fezana.org/files/drupalfiles/FEZANA_PCAS_FORM_2013.pdf □



Chairs Appointed for FEZANA Public Relations Committee

Porus Cooper of Cherry Hill, New Jersey has been appointed as Chair for the FEZANA Public Relations Committee. He will be joined by Zenobia Ravji of Chicago, Illinois who will serve as Co- Chair.



Porus P. Cooper is a past president of the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ). A journalist by profession, he is an editor with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Porus and his family -- wife Hutokhshi and sons Malcolm and Burjis (both music majors in college) -- live in Cherry Hill, N.J.



Zenobia Ravji graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, with Bachelor's in economics, Spanish and health sciences and a Masters in political science through the Civic Leadership Program. Zenobia has channeled her passion for economics and politics into a position of an Associate Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, as well as, working on several political campaigns. She is excited to be part of FEZANA's PR Committee and looks forward to the projects ahead.

We welcome Porus and Zenobia to the FEZANA family and look forward to their contributions on the Public Relations committee. □

Zoroastrian Studies Program at Stanford University

Stanford is one of the most prestigious universities in North America and for the last eight years along with Stanford, we have had a community effort led by Farrokh Billimoria of Redwood City, California to help create and sustain a program on Zoroastrian Studies at Stanford.

What started out as a lecture series between 2005 and 2009, involving more than 25 speakers from North America and abroad is now an undergraduate program with 4 courses offered during the academic year. The current faculty is Dr. Yuhan Vevaina who has been a fulltime faculty for Zoroastrian studies at Stanford University since winter quarter of 2010-2011.

We as a community have sustained this program by major contributions from individuals in India, Hong Kong, FEZANA and contributions from various North American Associations and personal contributions from many North American Zoroastrians. Stanford University contributes 34% of the cost of the program.

We are extremely happy that Dr. Vevaina has turned out to be a fantastic teacher, his reviews at Stanford from his peers and his students are at the top of the review scale. Students love and enjoy his courses, and through him a lot of students at Stanford have been introduced to Zoroastrianism.

Here is what Hester Gelber, Chair, Department of Religious Studies at Stanford has to say about Dr. Vevaina. "His classes continue to get rave reviews from the students, and he has participated very actively in the life of the department. A first year graduate student who has joined us from Iran has worked with him this year, and he has also taught an extra-curricular course in the Persian language. Of his four regular courses for 2011-12: "Priests, Prophets, and Kings: Religion and Society in Late Antique Iran," and "Emperor, Explorer, and God: Alexander the Great in the Global imagination," taught in the fall, each helped cement ties with



our Classics Department. In the winter he taught "Sugar in the Milk: Modern Zoroastrianism as Race, Religion, and Ethnicity," which he marketed to South Asian Studies, Anthropology, and the Program on Race and Ethnicity as well as to students interested in Religious Studies. In the spring, he taught "The Sun Also Shines on the Wicked: The Problem of Evil in Religious Thought," which he hoped would be of interest to students in philosophy and the Ethics in Society Program."

Dr. Vevaina presented the FEZANA Jungalwala Lecture at the 16th North American Zarathushti Congress in New York, this summer, the topic was: "Thinking with Zoroastrianism in the 21st Century".

The success of this program is due to our community's interest and the very large monetary contributions and commitments made by various individuals in North America and all over the world and the substantial contributions and commitments made not only by FEZANA but also the following individual Zoroastrian Associations for 2013-2015:

California Zoroastrian Center
 Zoroastrian Association of California
 Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
 Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston Area
 Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York
 Zoroastrian Association of Houston
 Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California
 Zoroastrian Association of North Texas
 Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania
 Zoroastrian Association of Quebec
 Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia
 Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

As Chair of the Education, Scholarship and Conference Committee I would like to thank each and every individual donor, FEZANA and the individual North American Associations who have made the Zoroastrian Studies program possible over the last eight years. Your commitment and vision has made this possible.

With sincere thanks,

Lovji Cama,

Chair,

Education, Scholarship and Conference committee, FEZANA □

FEZANA 26th Annual General Meeting To Be Held in Dallas

Planning has begun. Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT), FEZANA is pleased to announce that the 2013 FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Grapevine, Texas. The Zoroastrian Center of North Texas celebrates its 2nd Anniversary that same weekend. Details and agenda will be circulated in the coming weeks.



AGM Dates:
May 3-5, 2013

AGM Location:
Hyatt Place Dallas/Grapevine
2220 Grapevine Mills Circle
Grapevine TX 76051 (972) 691-1199

To ensure the special group rate (\$109+taxes per night) at the hotel, please book before April 18, 2013. For more information, contact Sherazade Mehta (sherazadem@yahoo.com) or Zenobia Damania (admin@fezana.org) □



Zarathushtis to Participate at Upcoming U.N. General Assembly Event

On February 14, 2013, Zoroastrians will offer a Prayer of Peace at the UN General Assembly as a part of "Symphony of Prayers" in celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week. This special event, "United for a Culture of Peace through Interfaith Harmony", is organized by the President of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in collaboration with UNESCO and the Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN. Those wishing to attend the ceremony, please register directly before February 7 at www.unitedforacultureofpeace.info. For more information, contact Homi Gandhi homidgandhi@gmail.com □

Nowruz Event, Smithsonian



Saturday, March 16, 11 am-5 pm
Freer and Sackler Galleries, S. Dillon Ripley Center
Smithsonian Museums, National Mall, Washington D.C.

In conjunction with the U.S. debut of the iconic Cyrus Cylinder, visitors of all ages are invited to enjoy "Haft Sin" table displays, "fire" jumping, a photo booth, games, stories by Xanthe Gresham, performances by the Nomad Dancers, and live Persian music. Explore digitized photographs by

Antoin Sevruguin and participate in a variety of family activities. Traditional Persian food will be available for purchase. □

Zarathushtis Who Inspire

Deena Mistri, 1925-2011

Teacher, Principal, Humanitarian

A Loving Tribute

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ME-IkVTbNS8

(8:47 minutes) □

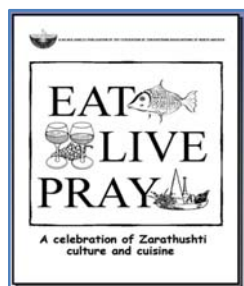
Children and Art — Giving of Themselves

This video was created by Jamshed Mistri (a 6th grader) for submission to the Los Altos Film Festival 2013.

<http://vimeo.com/57639094>

(3:24 minutes) □

Eat, Live, Pray: A Celebration of Zarathushti Culture and Cuisine



A Silver Jubilee Publication of FEZANA
Compiled by Farishta Dinshaw

To mark its Silver Jubilee year, FEZANA has launched a commemorative cookbook. This cookbook includes time-honoured Parsi and Persian recipes contributed by *FEZANA Journal* readers and cultural aspects of Zarathushti cuisine dating back 3000 years. This e-publication is available FREE for download at www.fezana.org. □