

FEZANA *bulletin*

March 21, 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 3



UPCOMING DATES

March 28, 2013

Celebrating Cyrus the Great and Jewish-Iranian Bonds.
George Mason Univ,
Arlington, VA; 7pm. To RSVP
[click here](#). (more info page 3)

March 30, 2013

NowRuz Celebration. Metro
Washington D.C. area;
Silver Spring, MD. Contact
srateshtari@gmail.com or
www.zamwi.org.

May 3-5, 2013

FEZANA's 26th AGM; Dallas,
TX. Hosted by ZANT.
Contact Zenobia Damania
admin@fezana.org

May 7, 2013

The Dalai Lama at Univ of
Maryland. 10a.m. Lecture is
free but tickets are required.

May 18-19, 2013

*North American Moped
Council (NAMC) 2013 AGM,*
Montreal, hosted by ZAQ.
kobadzaria@gmail.com

June 30, 2013

Application Deadline for
FEZANA Performing and
Creative Arts Scholarship

August 1, 2013

Application Deadline for
FEZANA Excellence in Sports
Scholarship

Oct 10 - Dec 14, 2013

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

December 27-31, 2013

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

NAVROZE MUBARAK - NOUROUZ PIROUZ BAD

FEZANA wishes a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Navroze/Nourouz to fellow Zarathushtis and to our friends across North America & worldwide.



Nourouz, with origins lying in Persian antiquity, is marked by the Spring Equinox, falling on March 20 this year. As a Harvard University guide notes, while Nourouz is celebrated by people from diverse ethnic and religious communities, for the Zarathushti community it is something special. It is our spiritual New Year.

Distinctive celebrations are associated with the Nourouz holiday including the Haft-

Seen table. Traditionally, the table is laden with seven symbolic items whose names all begin with the Persian letter S: *Sumac*, representing sunrise and the spice of life; *Senjed*, sweet dry fruit of the lotus tree, representing love; *Serkeh*, vinegar, for patience; *Seeb*, apples, for health and beauty; *Seer*, garlic, for good health; *Samanu*, wheat pudding, for fertility and the sweetness of life; *Sabzeh*, sprouted wheat grass, for fertility and the rebirth of nature. These seven items vary slightly from table to table, however, the number Seven is constant. Seven represents the Seven Eternal Laws of Nature, as enumerated in the Gathas: *Vohu Mana*, *Asha Vahishta*, *Kshatra Vairya*, *Spenta Armaity*, *Hurvatat*, *Ameretat*, *Ahura Mazda*. Hence, the seven items placed on the table remind us of our commitment and dedication to follow the path that brings all Creation towards Perfection.

Every Nourouz is special in its own way. But this year promises to be especially memorable because it coincides with a unique and exciting event: the arrival of the Cyrus Cylinder on the shores of the United States. The object is widely considered an ancient Declaration of Human Rights. The ancient clay object, barely 9 inches long and a resident of the British Museum since its 19th century discovery under the sands of Mesopotamia, bears a statement of ruling principles by Cyrus the Great, founder of the Achaemenian Empire. Cyrus the Great is a hero to the Zarathushti people who consider themselves the inheritors of his legacy of tolerance and magnanimity.

The Cyrus Cylinder and an accompanying cast of artifacts are now on display at the Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art through April 28. The objects will be exhibited in Houston from May 3-June 14; New York from June 20-August 4; San Francisco from August 9-September 22; and Los Angeles from October 2-December 2.

We encourage everyone to visit the exhibit when it comes to their communities and to plan educational events for children and adults related to the occasion.

Happy Nourouz and Goodwill to all! □



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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

ZYNA Updates: Young Professionals Retreat in NYC a Success

BEHROSE B. TARAPOREWALLA, CHAIR, ZYNA

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) proudly hosted the Young Professionals Norouz Retreat in New York City over the weekend of March 1-3, 2013. The event brought together over 65 youth from all over North America and abroad. Young Professionals, between the ages of 25-45, gathered together to network and mingle to promote *unity* within their *religious community*. The retreat hosted several networking activities, socials, as well as an interactive professional development workshop lead by Fred Sarkari. At the end of the retreat, attendees left with a greater connection to their faith and a network of young professionals like themselves that they could interact with socially and professionally.

The retreat showcased four major events, which are highlighted below:

Generations Connect, Evening Cocktail Party

On the evening of March 1, retreat attendees met and gathered at Latitude Bar and Lounge located in the heart of Times Square. There they were able to reconnect with old friends, and meet new ones. Young Zoroastrians mixed and mingled with professionals from all walks of life, while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dr. Mark Sethna (Physician, Hicksville, New York) commented, *"The first evening was my favorite! I came in only knowing a few individuals, and left being introduced to people from a wide range of academic settings and professions. Through intellectual discussions, I was able to gain new ideas and collaborate with my peers to capture how to mobilize our professional dreams!"*

Networking Brunch

The networking brunch on March 2 hosted networking, teambuilding, and professional development activities. As delegates arrived to Ravagh Persian Grill, they were given a card with a question or an answer and were instructed to find their match. As they searched for their match, they mingled with their new friends and colleagues. Eventually, after everyone found their match they interviewed one another. Over the course of a three-course meal, they enjoyed socializing as well. Fred Sarkari hosted an interactive workshop and spoke about the importance of relationships and maintaining the core beliefs of Zoroastrianism in our work. Speed Networking and Introductions followed the speech where individuals got to know one another on a deeper level.



(Left to Right): Behrose Taraporewalla, Fred Sarkari, Parnis Khatibi, Katayun Kapadia.

Farzeen Khosravi (Pharmacist, Albany, New York) reflected, *"The Norouz retreat was like no other Zoroastrian event I have attended. Rather than lectures, all activities were interactive, and built on the knowledge and life experiences of young professionals nationally and abroad. I came away from this weekend with a network of friends that share ties with not only the tenets of my religion, but the passion I hold for medicine and helping others. The Networking Brunch was special in a way that it allowed me to meet everyone, who attended the event, in addition to learning about them on a professional and personal level. It was liberating when I met another pharmacist, who shared the same profession as I during speed networking-- a new colleague and role-model! Fred Sarkari's speech captured the importance of belonging to the Zoroastrian Faith and the closeness*



UPDATE

Cyrus Cylinder: Slide Show from the Sackler Gallery in Washington, DC

<http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/gallery/cyrus-slideshow.asp>

SPECIAL EVENT

Celebrating Cyrus the Great and Jewish-Iranian Bonds

*A Shared Panel and
Celebration in Honor of
the Cyrus Cylinder*

March 28, 2013; 7-9pm
George Mason University
Founders Hall
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201

The Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution (CRDC), FEZANA, and National Iranian American Council (NIAC) invite you to this special event in honor of the presence in Washington of the Cyrus Cylinder and its significance for the peaceful interaction of civilizations. We gather to celebrate and reflect together demonstrating the peaceful interaction of two ancient civilizations united in their common devotion to the legacy of Cyrus the Great.

Please RSVP:

<http://www.niacouncil.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=9051#rsvp>

More info at

<http://fezana.org>

that is shared amongst Zoroastrians. The speech continued to encourage me to cultivate my action plan to turn my goals into realities.”

Dinner Soiree

To conclude the major festivities of the weekend, a soiree was held as a final farewell to a lovely weekend. Delegates exchanged business cards and shared a meal together while exchanging thoughts about the ideas presented earlier in the day, as well as learning about one another. Following the dinner, at Club A Steakhouse, attendees went to various lounges and clubs to dance the night away and enjoy the company of their new network of dear friends.

“I was pleasantly surprised by the number of young adult Zoroastrians who came to the retreat. While the group was diverse in their geographical backgrounds and occupations, everyone was instantly bonded by their sharing of Zoroastrianism. Conversations flowed easily throughout the events, and the only downside was there wasn't enough time in the weekend. Both the restaurants we ate at served Yelp 5 star worthy food, and in fact I hope to return to them when I'm back in New York. Dessert at Club A Steakhouse was a fantastic tiramisu, but bittersweet in that it marked the near end of our time together. The entire weekend was fantastic, and hopefully there can be another retreat in the near future” – Cyrus Shaw (Attorney, New Jersey).

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY), Religious Classes

ZYNA guests were extended a gracious invitation by ZAGNY. Eight attendees visited the Darbe Mehr on March 3 during the Prayer Class Sunday meetings—Anahita Taraporewalla, Behrose Taraporewalla, Afshir Irani, Binaifer Daji, Kayana Press, Soroush Merchant, Mark Sethna, and Khushru Dadachanji. The afternoon



**ZAGNY-ZYNA Panel (Left to Right):
Binaifer Daji, Kayana Press, Soroush Merchant,
Mark Sethna, Khushru Dadachanji**

started off with a beautiful prayer circle shared with youngsters and elders, and ended with a tasty lunch. The Young Professionals lead a presentation, panel discussion, and question answer session centered around the topic: Living Zoroastrian Core Beliefs in Our Everyday Lives as Youth; this session showcased how a diverse group of youth between the ages of 25-37 embrace one's cultural and religious identity in North America though one's work as students, professionals, citizens, and humanitarians, while highlighting the core beliefs of our religion and how we integrate them consciously and subconsciously.

“To speak to fellow Zarathushtis for the first time at my Darbe Meher on the core beliefs of our religion was truly an honour for me. I enjoyed it tremendously as I found the audience actively participating and requesting me to send them my speech. I was humbled by their praise and being an ardent follower of our faith, will continue to prophesize Zarathustra's simple teaching: “Take the first footstep with a good thought, the second with a good word, and the third with a good deed to enter paradise” for doing good to others is not a duty, it is a joy, for it increases our own health and happiness.”— Binaifer Daji (Finance Manager, New York, New York). □ [See more Retreat photos on page 5]

FEZANA would like to thank Behrose Taraporewalla and Dr. Parmis Khatebi of ZYNA for their efforts in planning, organizing and conducting the Young Professionals Retreat in New York City on March 1-3, 2013.



POINT OF INTEREST

Persian Inspiration for Buildings in Mumbai, India

Jimmy Mistry of Della Technica shares his passion

<http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/Jimmy-Mistry-at-TEDxDelhi>
[14 Minutes]

26th FEZANA AGM To Be Held in Dallas

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. Details and agenda have been circulated to FEZANA representatives.

ZANT will be celebrating ZANT Center's 2nd Anniversary the same weekend and it is looking forward to showcasing its vibrant Zarathushti community.



AGM: Dates: May 3-5, 2013

AGM Location:

Hyatt Place Dallas/Grapevine
2220 Grapevine Mills Circle, Grapevine TX 76051;
972-691-1199

Important: Please book your hotel soon. The group rate (\$109+taxes per night) is only guaranteed for reservations that are made by April 18, 2013.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Zenobia Damania (admin@fezana.org) or Sherazade Mehta (sherazadem@yahoo.com) ☐

FEZANA Academic Scholarships Call for Applications

Applications are invited for the following FEZANA Academic Scholarships:

- MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR.
- FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
- MORVARID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS
- PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
- BANOUBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
- FEZANA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS
- FEZANA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

All scholarships are open to Zarathushti applicants who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA or Canada.

For complete eligibility requirements, selection criteria, or to download the application package visit <http://fezana.org>

Completed application forms should be sent electronically by August 1, 2013 to academicscholarship@fezana.org. Scholarships for the academic year 2013-2014 will be awarded in September 2013.

Application forms are available from the FEZANA website at www.fezana.org or from Dr Dolly Dastoor (dollydastoor@sympatico.ca)



ZYNA: Young Professionals Retreat in NYC

[See Retreat Article on page 2]

