

FEZANA *bulletin*

June 29, 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 6



UPCOMING DATES

June 20-Aug 4, 2013

Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York City.

July 19-21, 2013

*Young Professionals Team
Building Retreat,* Vancouver,
BC. ZYNA. To register,
www.fezana.org/zyna.

July 21, 2013

Cyrus Cylinder combined event
at the Met. Hosted by ZAGNY
and IZA. www.zagny.org for
details.

August 1, 2013

Application Deadline for
FEZANA EXISS Scholarship

August 1, 2013

Application Deadline for
FEZANA Academic
Scholarships

August 4, 2013

*Celebration of Cyrus the
Great's Legacy to Humanity.*
Hosted by Zoroastrian
Association of Chicago.
www.zac-chicago.org

Aug 9-Sept 22, 2013

*Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit, Asian
Art Museum,* San Francisco.

Oct 2-Dec 2, 2013

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

Oct 10 - Dec 14, 2013

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

December 27-31, 2013

10th WZC; Mumbai, India.
<http://www.wzcmumbai.com/>

The Cylinder of Cyrus Arrives in NYC

"The Cyrus Cylinder," one of history's most significant objects, has arrived in New York, on its third stop of its tour of the United States. It will be on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art until August 4, 2013.

A unique aspect of the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum will be its display within the galleries of Ancient Near Eastern Art, where objects from the permanent collection—including the famous lions from Babylon—will provide a stunning backdrop. Also on display will be works of art from the Museum that celebrate Cyrus and his legacy as a liberal and enlightened ruler. Upcoming events include:

The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia **Thursday July 11, 2013; 2-4:30**

An afternoon of three lectures and discussions about the Cyrus Cylinder. Free with Museum Admission. [Click here](#) for details.

Visit www.zagny.org for information on upcoming "ZAGNY Day at the Met" and other related events. □

Religious Tolerance in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

By Homi Gandhi



The photo was taken on Wednesday, June 19, at Saint Francis of Assisi Church. A discussion of Human Rights and Religious Freedom in celebration of the Cyrus Cylinder's visit to New York was sponsored by Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Manhattan Multicultural Counseling (where a friend of mine has been working for last so many years), and Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue. Photo shows from L-R: Anita Rao, Darius Jamshedian, Lovji CAMA, John Curtis, Khursheed Navder, and myself.

The session began with a brief PP presentation by John Curtis on Cyrus Cylinder. It was a mini version of what he would show and lecture on the following day at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After that Rabbi Burton Visoltzky talked about diversity and human rights in Jewish faith. Fr. Dominic Monticello thereafter spoke on the subject of diversity and human rights in Christianity. We thought that the next speaker, Ms. Farah Pandith, Special Representative to Muslim communities in the Department of State, would speak on the Muslim view point. Instead she spoke as the government representative. It was directed mainly at the youth as to how they can change the action plan as Cyrus did it in his times. A very well delivered speech for the next 10 minutes.

After that questions were asked. My question to John Curtis was that if Darius was undoubtedly ZOROASTRIAN, and so was his father, and both of them were not converted Zoroastrians. In that case, does not it follow that the grandfather (Cyrus the Great) was also a Zoroastrian? John Curtis responded that although there has not been any evidence located for that, he believed that Zoroastrianism did influence the Achaemenian dynasty from Cyrus and even his father onwards. □



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(FEZANA)

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Impressions on The Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

By Jo Ann and Soli P. Dastur

I was requested to perform a wedding of JAG Captain Neville Dastoor and Sukanya Subramanian in NY Manhattan on Saturday 16th. Jo Ann and I realized that it is too close to the opening of the Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit at the NY Metropolitan Museum and so we extended our stay until June 22nd so we can visit the Met on June 20th, the first day of the exhibit! And that wait was worth every minute of our extended stay in NY.



We were so lucky to be hosted by our dear friends Freny and Dara Sagar and their daughter Zarine in their beautiful Manhasset, Long Island, home. Zarine was kind enough to take us to the Met since she was also very much interested in the Cylinder. So three of us set out to visit the Cylinder.

My niece's daughter, the up and coming Zoroastrian Youth, Freya Motafram, who lives and works in Manhattan also joined us which was really appreciated by us.

We reached the Met early and were completely amazed at the number of people visiting the Met. All of the wide steps were almost occupied by young people sitting and chatting. The exhibit was well advertised by posters all over. We were amazed at the size of the building and reminded us of the Louvre in Paris, not quite as extensive though!

We headed straight to the Cylinder exhibit upstairs and were overwhelmed when we saw this tiny exhibit of almost 2600 years old creating such a stir in this vast museum occupying a miniature show case! My heart was overflowed with pride and gratitude to that amazing tolerant Emperor Cyrus The Great and what he stood for during the time of extreme cruelty to your defeated enemies! I have many very dear Jewish friends and I am always amazed that most of them do not even know who Cyrus was and what he did not only to deliver their ancestors from Babylonian captivity, but also donated money from his own treasury to build their Jerusalem temple! When I saw this Cylinder, it brought back in sharp focus the amazement of my Jewish friends for not knowing this fact, but also to run to the Internet and looked up about Cyrus and thanking me to bring to their attention their ancestral history!

Thanks to my very good friend Behram Pastakia, who urged me to prepare one of our Tele Class on Cyrus Cylinder before it arrived in Washington DC, one of our previous Tele Class was on Cyrus Cylinder and I myself learnt so much about it and all that was worthwhile when I saw the Cylinder right in front of me!

After a number of minutes watching the cylinder and other exhibits around it, we started downstairs to attend the 5:30 PM lecture: "The Cyrus Cylinder from Ancient Babylon and the Beginning of the Persian Empire" by Dr. John E. Curtis, OBE, FBA, Keeper of Special Middle East Projects, British Museum. It was very gratifying to see number of ZAGNY members including President Gev and Aban Nentin, Vice President Homi Gandhi, Lovji and Mehru Cama, and a few others in the lecture. Dr. Curtis' lecture was quite informative and shed many unknown facts about Cyrus The Great to our attention. His lecture corroborated much of the material covered in our Cyrus Cylinder Tele Class. (please refer to: <http://zoroastrians.net/category/z-tele-class/> for this and other Tele Classes.)

It sure was worth waiting to see this iconic miniscule 2600 year old exhibit and feeling proud to be a Zoroastrian!

Love and Tandoorasti, Jo Ann and Soli P. Dastur





SAVE THE DATE: Sunday July 21, 2013.

ZAGNY and IZA will be co-hosting a combined event at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, New York City. The event will include the viewing of the Cyrus Cylinder and a Lecture on the topic by Dan Sheffield. A detailed program for the day will be available shortly. Please visit www.zagny.org for details.

Young Professionals Team Building Retreat July 19-21, Vancouver BC

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) will be exploring the great outdoors of British Columbia! Join us, in Vancouver, for a celebration of team building, friendship, and fellowship. This will be a unifying retreat geared towards established professionals (ages 25-45) who will get to know one another on a deeper level. 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 through excursions. Mingle and surround yourself with energetic, ambitious individuals. ZYNA is on a mission to give professionals the opportunity to connect, share ideas, resources, thoughts, 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?

Professionals from North America will come together to connect. You will be surrounded by like-minded people who want to build UNITY in our religious community. ZYNA is committed to establishing FEZANA's legacy by preservation through generations!

Registration Deadline:
July 9, 2013 (12:01 a.m., PDT)
Space is limited

Age Requirement:
25-45 years of age

Cost: US \$250 per attendee

Registration fee includes transportation to certain events from downtown Vancouver, breakfast, lunch and dinner and all teambuilding events.

Exciting adventure awaits you! At this event you will:

- Be introduced to motivated and ambitious Zoroastrian Youth from North America and abroad
- Gain new ideas, opportunities and connections to act as a vehicle to mobilize your ideas and dreams
- Engage with others and build unity within our religious community, through Team Building events
- Explore British Columbia's most beautiful landmarks and engage in recreational events with lovely individuals like yourself.

Some of the weekend events include, but are not limited to:

- Meet and Greet Networking Socials
- Team Building Activities
- Sightseeing Adventures around British Columbia.

For questions, contact Behrose Taraporewalla at behroset@gmail.com or 626.378.5564. To register: www.fezana.org/zyna

TEAM BUILDING RETREAT

July 19-21, 2013





Good Works Accomplished in Chicago

On Sunday, June 23, 2013, the Welfare Committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC) led by Zenobia Tantra, came together for a good cause. Sunday, June 23 was pick up day for catering orders. A selection of 4 different full "Dinners for Two" were offered including delicious Parsi, Persian, Veg and Non-veg menus, at \$50 each. All home cooked menu items were lovingly prepared and packaged by ZAC members themselves. And all proceeds were donated to Americare for the storm victims in Oklahoma. Another example of small contributions that can make a difference in the lives of others. Congratulations, Zoroastrian Association of Chicago! ☐

FEZANA Academic Scholarships Application Deadline: August 1

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
- BANOObAI 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)

Resources to Help Grassroots Initiatives

Open Meadows Foundation is a grant-making organization seeking projects that promote gender/racial/economic justice. The projects must be led by and benefit women and girls, particularly those from vulnerable communities. The deadlines for proposals are February 15 and August 15 of each year. **The next deadline for submitting is August 15, 2013.** For details <http://www.openmeadows.org/> or email questions to openmeadows@igc.org ☐

Parzor Summer 2013 Catalog

The new Parzor catalogue will help you find gifts for yourself and your loved ones, with Navroze just a few weeks ahead.

Place your orders now as some items may not be readily available and will have to be made as per specific colors or patterns.

Click to view catalog: [parzor catalogue summer 2013 12 June 13 \(1\)](#) ☐