

# FEZANA *bulletin*

July 25, 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 7



## UPCOMING DATES

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.*  
[www.zac-chicago.org](http://www.zac-chicago.org)

Aug 7-9, 2013

*12th Youth Assembly at the  
United Nations, New York City.*  
[click here](#) for details

Aug 9-Sept 22, 2013

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

Aug 31-Sept 2, 2013

*8th Zoroastrian Unity Cup  
Games, San Diego.*  
[www.sdzsport.com](http://www.sdzsport.com)

August 24, 2013

*ZAGNY 40th Anniversary  
Celebration..* [www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org)

September 8, 2013

*9th Annual Unity Walk,  
Embassy Row, Washington  
D.C.* [www.911unitywalk.org](http://www.911unitywalk.org)

Oct 2-Dec 2, 2013

*Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit, J. Paul  
Getty Museum, Los Angeles.*  
Contact Parmis Khatibi,  
[parmis99@aol.com](mailto:parmis99@aol.com)

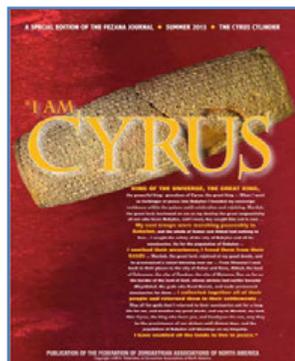
Oct 10 - Dec 14, 2013

*The Everlasting Flame. Brunei  
Gallery, London, U.K.*  
[www.theeverlastingflame.com](http://www.theeverlastingflame.com)

December 27-31, 2013

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

## FEZANA Journal Special Issue: Cylinder of Cyrus



The summer 2013 issue of the *FEZANA JOURNAL* is in recognition of the exhibition "**The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A New Beginning – The Legacy of Cyrus the Great: Iran and Beyond**".

The *FEZANA JOURNAL*, the official publication of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) has produced this visual delight of memorable images and scholarly articles of our Zoroastrian heritage which we are sharing with you. The 2600 year old Cyrus Cylinder is presently touring North America thanks to the combined

efforts of the British Museum, the Iran Heritage Foundation, and Iran Heritage Foundation (America).

This little known cylinder, which had resided since 1879 in the British Museum, was the proclamation of the Achaemenian King Cyrus the Great at the time of his conquest of Babylon. The Achaemenians were followers of the Zoroastrian religion and it is a matter of pride and joy to FEZANA that this cylinder has brought recognition to the small but vibrant Zoroastrian community of North America. During the sojourn of the cylinder at the various museums, Washington D.C, Houston, New York, to date, FEZANA organized special commemorative public events which were well attended. These will now be followed by the exhibits in San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Print copies of this special color edition will be mailed to all our subscribers and for the first time we are offering an electronic copy to reach a wider audience. We hope this will encourage you to subscribe to the *FEZANA JOURNAL* at [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org).

**Dolly Dastoor Ph.D.**

Editor-in-chief, *FEZANA JOURNAL*

July 04, 2013

**"It is not enough to teach children how to read,  
write and count. Education has to cultivate  
mutual respect for others and the world in which  
we live, and help people forge more just,  
inclusive and peaceful societies."**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
100-day countdown message to the International Day of Peace  
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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)



Facebook:

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



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(Roster) with the Economic  
and Social Council of the  
United Nations



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FOR MORE  
FEZANA INFO

## FEZANA Administrative Office Marks Anniversary



In August, the FEZANA Administrative Office marks its fifth anniversary. The opening of the FEZANA Administrative Office in Burr Ridge, Illinois in August of 2008 under the leadership of Mr. Rustom Kevala, then FEZANA President, was a significant milestone in the history of FEZANA. It represents a step forward in the vision to establish a strong Zarathushti infrastructure in North America. Since then, the FEZANA Office has grown into an essential resource for FEZANA and its members. By serving as a “home base” for FEZANA, the FEZANA Office has often become a first point of access for many.

Currently, Zenobia Damania serves as the FEZANA Office Administrator. The FEZANA Administrative Office lends integral support to the FEZANA Executive Board and Committees in many ways.

From developing the *FEZANA Bulletins* to coordinating mailings for various committees to maintaining and facilitating communications to assisting the FEZANA Journal team, the Administrative Office has played an important role in the functioning of FEZANA.

The FEZANA Administrative Office also serves as an historical archive for the organization. Past issues of the FEZANA Journal and various Standing Committee archives are housed there.



Zenobia Damania has served as the FEZANA Office Administrator since its inception in 2008. She lives in Glen Ellyn, Illinois with her husband Darius and her two sons. Zenobia holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from Purdue University and has extensive experience in graphic design and publishing.

Raised in Chicago, Zenobia has been active in North American Zarathushti affairs from a young age. From attending early Youth congresses to serving on the organizing committees of the 1997 Gatha Conference in Boston and the 2002 North American Zoroastrian Congress in Chicago, she has been constantly involved in her North American Zarathushti community. Currently, she leads the Children’s Religion Classes and Parent’s Group at the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago. Among other things, in 2010, she, as a member of the ZAC Green Committee, contributed in the coordination and maintenance of an organic vegetable garden on the Darbe Mehr grounds in Chicago. In March, she was honored with the 2013 Community Service Award from the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago for her volunteer efforts.

Contact Zenobia at [admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org) for inquiries or suggestions as to how the FEZANA Administrative Office can lend support to you. □

## Chicago to Celebrate Cyrus the Great's Contributions to Humanity

In 559 BCE, the Persian Emperor Cyrus the Great, overthrew the Medes, conquered the Lydians and the Babylonians and went on to build the greatest empire known up to that time – the first Great Persian Empire, the Achaemenid Empire. Unlike his contemporaries, Cyrus showed respect for the nations he conquered, and allowed them to govern themselves and follow their own religious beliefs – a tolerance very much in accordance with his Zoroastrian faith. The Old Testament hails Cyrus as a Messiah for freeing the Jews from captivity in Babylon and allowing them to rebuild their temples. These generous acts are recorded in cuneiform on the *Edict of Cyrus*, a clay cylinder discovered in 1879, which is acknowledged as the world's first declaration of human rights.

The original cylinder, which is housed at the British Museum, with a replica at the United Nations, is currently on a tour of five US cities with its next stop in San Francisco. Although Chicago is not one of the cities, the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago, FEZANA and the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago are collaborating to celebrate this gift to humanity, symbolizing multi-culturalism and respect for each other the world over.

The event will be held on **August 4, 2013**, at the Zoroastrian Center of Chicago, in Burr Ridge, Illinois. Zoroastrian community members, members of the Oriental Institute and all interested persons are invited. A special invitation is extended to the Chicago interfaith community, members of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) and associates of the Council for a Parliament of World's Religions (CPWR).

The program will include an unveiling of the replica of the Cyrus cylinder and poster board prepared by ZAC Children's Religion Education Class; remarks and presentations by speakers including: Matthew Stolper, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago; Margaret Cool Root, University of Michigan; and Rabbi Herman Schaalman, Chicago Board of Rabbis.

For more information about this fun and enlightening event please contact Dinaz Weber [kenanddina@yahoo.com](mailto:kenanddina@yahoo.com) . □



sdzsport.com sdzsport.com sdzsport.com sdzsport.com sdzsport.com sdzsport.com

## 8th Zoroastrian UNITY CUP GAMES

**Zoroastrian sports committee (ZSC), and San Diego Board of Directors** in cooperation with **San Diego Sports Committee** proudly present the 8th Zoroastrian Unity Cup Games in beautiful beach city of San Diego.

**8/31/2013 - 9/2/2013**  
**LABOR DAY WEEKEND**  
**2013**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and expect to spend two fun filled days in a park setting with plenty of activities for the whole family.

**GO TO SDZSPORT.COM FOR REGISTRATION**

## POINT OF INTEREST

**Persepolis: The Richest City Under the Sun**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXdyoRKvpyc>

[approx 45 minutes]

**Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**

PhD, MA, BA (Hons),  
University of Wales, Cardiff,  
now at the University of  
Edinburgh and

**Dr Maria Brosius,**

Newcastle University, travel  
to Iran to recreate the  
legacy of the Achaemenid  
Empire. Dr Brosius  
teaches ancient Greek  
History and the History of  
Ancient Persia. She  
specializes in the history of  
the Achaemenid empire, but  
also pursues research in the  
history of the later Parthian  
and Sasanian empires. Her  
particular interest is the link  
between the ancient  
Mediterranean and the  
classical world.

**Series Editor:** Lloyd  
Llewellyn-Jones, University  
of Edinburgh

***Edinburgh Studies in Ancient Persia*** is a cutting-edge series of academic monographs dealing with key aspects of the ancient Persian world from the Achaemenids to the Sasanians: its history, reception, art, archaeology, religion, literary tradition (including oral transmissions), and philology. Written by established and up-and-coming specialists in the field, this series provides an important synergy of the latest scholarly ideas about this formative ancient world civilization.

## The Cylinder of Cyrus Arrives in San Francisco



© Ingrid Taylor



© Trustees of the British Museum

The Cyrus Cylinder, one of history's most significant objects, arrives in San Francisco, on August 9, 2013 for the penultimate stop of its tour of the United States. It will be on display at the **Asian Art Museum**, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA till September 22, 2013.

The celebrations and the events begin even before the Cylinder reaches San Francisco.

**August 3, 2013**, Dr. Sabrina Maras, Visiting Scholar in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley, will supplement what is known about one of the more interesting ancient rulers through a look at the elegant art and architecture of his capital

and final resting place, Pasargadae (in present-day Iran).

**August 9, 2013**, Jay Xu, Director of the Asian Art Museum, moderates a panel discussion featuring scholars, historians, writers, and journalists in a conversation about the Cyrus Cylinder and its role in shaping the narrative of Iran, from ancient Persia to the present. John Curtis, Keeper, Department of the Middle East, British Museum, provides the keynote address. Please refer to <http://www.asianart.org/events/162> for details.

**August 10, 2013, 7pm** The San Francisco Philharmonic Orchestra will perform an exclusive one-night world premiere of a modern symphonic suite in celebration of the legacy of Cyrus the Great of Persia *The King Cyrus Symphonic Suite: From Birth to the Proclamation of Human Rights* at **Nob Hill Masonic Center**. For tickets, please visit <http://www.paaia.org/CMS/paaia-brings-world-premiere-of-the-king-cyrus-symphonic-suite-to-san-francisco.aspx>

**August 16, 2013**, there is a talk by Dr. Forrest McGill, Chief Curator of the Asian Art Museum, on "Cyrus the Great in the Western Imagination", organized by the Society for Asian Art, for its members plus museum visitors.

**September 8, 2013**, a free public lecture by Dr. David Stronach at the Museum, entitled: "New Light on the Cylinder of Cyrus and the Oxus treasure".

**September 15, 2013**, the Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC) Sunday School children will be taking a group tour to the Asian Art Museum with teacher and parent chaperones.

For more details and charges for various programs, please visit the museum website: [http://www.asianart.org/exhibitions\\_index/cyrus-cylinder](http://www.asianart.org/exhibitions_index/cyrus-cylinder) □

## CONNECTIONS

**Zarathushti Religious Education Telephone Broadcast**

The Fifteenth North American Zoroastrian Tele-Class was broadcast from Hira Villa, Sarasota, Florida on 30 June 2013.

Topics covered were:

-- Why do we take the Sukhad/Kaathi for Atash Padshah when we visit an Atash Behram/Agıyari.

-- Significance of placing Rakhiyaa on our Foreheads.

-- Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitaman, our Prophet, Mathematician, Astronomer.

-- Zarathushtra's Birth Place.

To suggest topics for future classes please contact Erv Soli Dastur  
[dastur@comcast.net](mailto:dastur@comcast.net),

Summaries and videos of the Tele-classes may be viewed at:  
<http://zoroastrians.net/category/z-tele-class/>

## UN Secretary-General's Countdown Message to Intl Day of Peace

JUNE 13, 2013

Today we begin the 100-day countdown to the observance of the International Day of Peace, when the United Nations calls on all combatants around the world to lay down their arms and to give peace a real chance.

The International Day of Peace, marked on 21 September each year, offers an opportunity for the world to pause, reflect and consider how best to break the vicious cycle of violence that conflict creates.

The theme for the Day this year is "Education for Peace". The United Nations will examine the role education can play in fostering global citizenship. It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies.

This kind of education is a central focus of my Global Education First Initiative, which calls on governments to place education at the top of their agenda.

I call on everyone – whether governments, parties to conflicts, religious institutions, community leaders, the media, academics, or civil society groups – to play their part. We must support peace education programmes, protect students and teachers from conflict, help rebuild schools destroyed by war, and ensure all girls and boys have access to a quality education that includes learning about resolving and preventing conflicts.

Over the next 100 days, let us resolve to learn together how to create a universal culture of peace.

– UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
[© United Nations, reprinted with permission]

**This year's International Day of Peace will be September 21, 2013. Visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/index.shtml> for details and inspiration on how to participate.**

## Return To Roots Program Update

By Dinsha Mistree



Return to Roots aims to provide youth living in the diaspora an opportunity to experience Zoroastrian India through short tours led by community experts and scholars. The main feature of the program is a short tour of Zoroastrian India where youth explore and discover their heritage while learning about their commonalities and the diversity that exists across the diaspora. Our long-term goal is to run these tours to Iran as well. We also aim to support local Zoroastrian communities and institutions within India as young Zoroastrians return to their roots and help revive the community globally. The inaugural trip will be from 24 December 2013 to 6 January 2014 and will include attendance at the World Zoroastrian Congress in Mumbai.

We received applications from all over the world for the inaugural trip, with many of the strongest applications coming from North America. We are pleased to

announce that fourteen North American youth will be joining us on the inaugural tour.

Once we complete the inaugural tour, we plan to announce new trips for 2014. We are planning to offer a special trip to Zoroastrian India for adults; we are designing a youth trip to India with a special focus on Zoroastrian culture; and we are also working towards designing youth trips for Iran. If you would like to be updated about our future trips, please join our group on Facebook by clicking [here](#). More information about the program is also available on our website: <http://zororoots.org/>

We endeavor to make these trips as affordable as possible for youth, and we have been able to accept participants so far on a needs-blind basis. We would like to thank FEZANA, the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, and the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario, as well as several private donors from across North America for their gracious support so far. If you would like to contribute, please email Dinsha Mistree ( [dmistree@gmail.com](mailto:dmistree@gmail.com) ) □

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## Vakshoori Scholarship Recipient Shares Thoughts



**Malcolm Cooper**, a recipient of the Vakshoori Academic Scholarship, studying at the Indiana University, shares his thoughts on how growing up in a well connected Zarathushti community in New Jersey shaped his character and life's vision. Music has taken Malcolm to China, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Greece, and India. He has a message particularly for Zarathushti youth growing up in North America. Watch a short video as Malcolm shares his thoughts, by clicking [here](#) □

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## Religious Education Resource

**Teaching About Religion** provides information on 11 religions: Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Judaism, Latter-day Saints, Protestants, Roman Catholic, Sikh and Zoroastrian.

Scholars, who are practitioners, answer 42 questions about the ethics, morality, types of worship, the beliefs and practices of each religion. The responses are presented in a concise, easy-to-read format.

The publications are designed to be used as a supplemental resource in teaching world religion and world history in our high schools and at home. Details can be found at : <http://www.ifcmw.org/node/289> □

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## UN Millennium Development Goals Update

Several important targets of the Millennium Development Goals have or will be met by the 2015 deadline, but progress in many areas is far from sufficient, according to this year's Millennium Development Goals Report launched on 1 July 2013 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

### For more information:

United Nations Millennium Development Goals Indicators (<http://mdgs.un.org/>)

United Nations Millennium Development Goals  
(<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>) □