

FEZANA bulletin

August 18, 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 8



UPCOMING DATES

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

August 24, 2013
ZAGNY 40th Anniversary Celebration.. www.zagny.org

September 8, 2013
9th Annual Unity Walk, Embassy Row, Washington D.C. www.911unitywalk.org

Oct 2-Dec 2, 2013
Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. Contact Parmis Khatibi, parmis99@aol.com

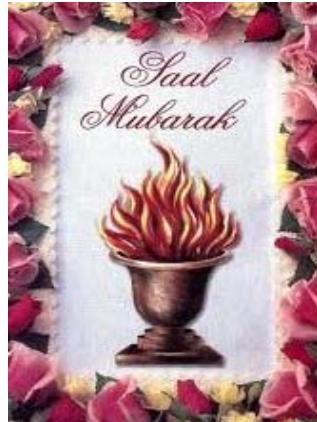
Oct 10 - Dec 14, 2013
The Everlasting Flame. Brunei Gallery, London, U.K.
www.theeverlastingflame.com

November 19, 2013
Interfaith Music Concert Washington D.C.
www.ifcmw.org

December 27-31, 2013
10th World Zoroastrian Congress, Mumbai, India.
<http://www.wzcmumbai.com/>

December 29-31, 2014
17th North American Zoroastrian Congress, Los Angeles, California

Navroze and Khordad Saal Mubarak



On behalf of the FEZANA Executive, I would like to wish each one of you, your families, your associations and fellow Zarathushtis across North America and globally a very Happy Shahenshahi Navroze Mubarak. May the Shahenshahi New Year beginning on Sunday, August 18, 2013 bring joy and peace to us all and may we all continue to work collectively and harmoniously worldwide to ensure a happier, healthier, unified and knowledgeable global Zarathushti community in the New Year.

Katayun Kapadia
FEZANA-President

ZAPANJ Visits the MET to view the Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit

The **Cyrus Cylinder** is an ancient clay cylinder, now broken into several fragments, on which is written a declaration in Akkadian cuneiform script in the name of the Achaemenid king Cyrus the Great. It dates from the 6th century BC and was discovered in the ruins of Babylon in Mesopotamia in 1879. It is currently in the possession of the British Museum, which sponsored the expedition that discovered the cylinder.

The Cyrus Cylinder is on a multi-city tour in the USA and taking advantage of this opportunity, the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ) decided to take its members, both the young and the young-at-heart, on a day trip to the MET Museum where the cylinder was currently being displayed. On July 20, 2013, around 50 adults and children from ZAPANJ piled into a bus to view the Cyrus Cylinder at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. ZAPANJ hoped to use this opportunity to learn and understand and also inform our youth about its cultural heritage and historical significance.





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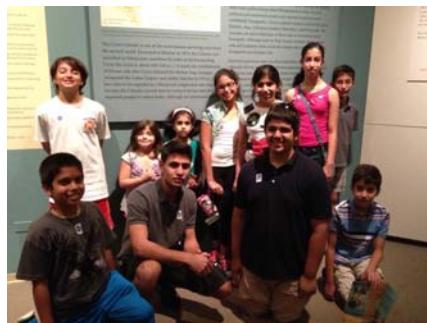
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FEZANA INFO

Everyone spent some time taking in the different artifacts surrounding the Cyrus Cylinder case and reading up on its historical uses. The Cylinder, itself being heavily guarded, was very awe-inspiring in its entirety. One thought running in everyone's mind was how a small cylinder could encompass such great thoughts of wisdom and practicality. That Cyrus the Great could visualize and bring in practice such thoughts and deeds at that long-ago time, and that such thoughts can have an impact on our lives in the present, was truly amazing! Many were left reminiscing about what has been described as perhaps the 'first charter of human rights'!!



No bawa outing is complete without the traditional pora-pau, chutney, chicken, ham & cheese sandwiches, and various other delicacies, which were enjoyed along the way! At the end of the day, everyone had an interesting & informative trip! □

Local Events for the Cyrus Cylinder Exhibit in Los Angeles



The fifth and last stop for the travelling Cyrus Cylinder exhibit in the U.S. will be Los Angeles. It will be on display at the **J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Villa** from October 2 through December 2, 2013.

There are an abundance of activities centered around the exhibit as you can see below. Please save the date for these events and more information will be given in the near future.

September 8

Iranian American Women's Leadership Conference
Social Status of Women in Iran through the Ages (This session is being sponsored by Farhang Foundation)
<http://www.iawfoundation.org/events/?eventid=2>

September 19

Port Theater in Corona Del Mar
Premiere screening of "Recreating Pasargadae: Cyrus the Great's Paradise"
A film by award winning author and documentary filmmaker Dr. Farzin Rezaeian (Sponsored by Farhang Foundation) Please visit: www.farhang.org for more information or [click here](#) to purchase tickets.
SEATING IS LIMITED!! Purchase your tickets in advance. Come mingle with friends and enjoy refreshments at this luxury boutique movie theater.

September 28

UC San Diego
"The Cyrus Cylinder: Ancient Rights, Modern Liberties"

October 7

Iranian Community Day at the Getty Villa



CONNECTIONS

India Taaro Upkaar

A Tribute to India
Lyrics by Marzban; Song
sung by Mani Rao

<http://zoroastrians.net/2013/08/01/india-taaro-upkaar/>

October 10

Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel / World Affairs Council of Orange County
“Historical Significance of the Cyrus Cylinder and Human Rights, Past and Present” <http://www.worldaffairscouncil.org/index.php?eid=2851>

October 13

University of Southern California
“Cyrus Cylinder: Modern Myths and Ancient Realities”

October 20

UC Irvine
“Cyrus the Great: From the Bible to the European Literary Imagination”

October 28-29

UCLA
A two-day conference on Cyrus the Great/Cyrus Cylinder

November 18

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
“Cyrus the Great: Conqueror Father and Messiah”

November 23**Zoroastrian Day at the Getty Villa**

More information regarding bus transportation for California
Zoroastrian Center (CZC) and Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) will be given in the next few weeks regarding lectures at the Villa on this particular date and bus transportation.

“Zarathushti Day at the MET” Lecture

“Cyrus, Human Rights and the Politics of the Past in Iran” was the topic of a fantastic lecture delivered by Dr. Dan J. Sheffield at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, during the “Zarathushti Day At The MET” Celebrations on Sunday July 21, 2013. This was in conjunction with the exhibition of the Cyrus Cylinder and other artifacts, doing the rounds of the United States. Below is a link to the video recording of the entire lecture.

Due to the overwhelming response to the event, Dr. Sheffield graciously accepted ZAGNY’s request to have two sessions of the lecture. We are thankful to Dr. Sheffield for agreeing to do this at a short notice. To view the video of the lecture, [click here](#). [approx 1 hour] □

Chicago Celebrates Cyrus the Great



On Sunday, August 4, 2013, the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago (ZAC) held an inspiring event to celebrate the contributions of Cyrus the Great. Attended by ZAC members and also by members of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, the delightful program was a mix of inspiring talks and presentations. A highlight of the afternoon was a presentation of a replica of the Cyrus Cylinder to Matthew A. Stolper of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago by Afred Mistry, FEZANA UN-NGO. □

[For a full recap of the day’s events including Matthew Stolper’s remarks and Rabbi Herman Schauffman’s inspirational talk please see *FEZANA Journal, Winter 2013*]



FOOD CONNECTIONS

Cuisine for a Cause

A unique cookbook that includes recipes of two kinds – the traditional gastronomic variety, and the ones that make up the philanthropic success stories that Parsis are equally renowned for. In all, the book profiles 37 non-profit organizations which Parsis have founded, head, or are part of.

From noted dancers Shiamak Davar and Astad Deboo, to female philanthropists like Rati Forbes and Anu Aga and much-loved institutions like Sir Ratan Tata Trust (RTI) and Women's India Trust, they all share their insights on giving and contribute favorite Parsi recipes.

Additionally, the book has a special treat for fans of the legendary Parsi '*Lagan Nu Patru*,' the wedding meal, that owes its fame as much to the legions of skilled wedding caterers as to the delectable nature of Parsi food. It chronicles the life and times of Tanaz Godiwalla, Kaizad Patel and Kurush Dalal, three exemplars of this profession, and also gets them to share their signature recipes.

The book is now available for Just Rs.500/- To place an order, email:
kainuhavespirit@gmail.com

ZYNA Team Building Retreat Recap

'Delegates of the 2013 Young Professionals Team Building Retreat came from geographically near and far. The majority of attendees had never attended a congress or FEZANA event, or anything of the sort. To get-to-know one another Ice-Breakers, Team Building Challenges, and Excursions were implemented to develop as a team. This sense of responsibility of a team went far and created a sense of accountability to one another. As this occurred the mentality shifted and transitioned from "me" to "we." Ultimately, we came to the retreat as individuals and left as a team.'

-- Behrose Taraporewalla, ZYNA Chair



Delegates from Texas, Chicago, Oregon, California, Georgia, New York, and British Columbia gathered on July 19-21, 2013, in Vancouver for a retreat that brought young professionals between the ages of 25-45 years of age together. The purpose of the retreat was to promote "unity" within the cohort of our religious "community." The weekend's events included, but were not limited to a "Meet and Greet" Dinner Cruise, First Nations Welcome, Team Challenges, a Grouse Mountain Zipline adventure, a Networking Dinner and much more. □

Message from NAZC 2014 Organizers

Dear fellow Zarathushtis,

As we look forward to the beginning of a New Year on August 18th, I wanted to reach out to you all and wish you the best for the New Year. Saal Mubarak!

Here in Southern California, I am feeling tremendously optimistic about the future of our community. You see we are in the throes of preparing for the XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress. Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) in coordination with the California Zoroastrian Center (CZC), the Congress will be held in Los Angeles, from December 29-31, 2014. The spirit of dedication, camaraderie and fellowship with which we -- Parsis, Iranians, young, old, liberal, conservative, ZAC members, CZC members -- Zarathushtis all -- are working together suggests that this Congress will indeed live up to its theme: Faith and Unity. We are living this mantra everyday as we work together; and for me, that presents great reason for optimism about the bright future of our community.

On behalf of the ZAC and the CZC community, I would like to invite you to attend the Congress.

To raise awareness about it, our volunteers have created this video:
<http://youtu.be/dbBGVoxEAyU>

Please show this video to your community members at your local Navroz function, or email it with this invitation to them.

Best wishes,
Tehmi Damania, ZAC President



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Silk Road Fables: The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg

From the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, a series of short clips retelling classic fables with timeless lessons told from the point of view of the travelers on the Great Silk Road.

Presented simply to appeal to young families.

[Click here](#) to view

ZAC and Czc Kick Off Fundraising for NAZC 2014 in Bollywood Style

Fundraising for the XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress got underway on July 20, 2013 as volunteers from the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) and the California Zoroastrian Center (Czc) worked together to put on a fantastic Gala. Members of both associations and their friends turned out to support a good cause.

Photo by Ardesir Baghkhalian



The evening featured a Bollywood Spectacular by Nauzad Sadry, Rhea Pandit and Kainaaz Pandit. The trio backed by DJ Zubin (Chichgar) gave a performance that was the perfect blend of nostalgia and pure energy. The dance floor seemed to shrink in size as everyone got up to dance the night away.

As guests sat down for a sumptuous feast, Farida Lakdawala, who with her husband, Khushroo Lakdawala spearheaded the planning of this event, took the stage to thank everyone for their generous support of the Congress and our community. "...In December 2014, ZAC and Czc are co-hosting the Seventeenth North American Zoroastrian Congress. The Congress will bring together Zoroastrians from all over the world for an exchange of ideas concerning the perpetuation, in harmony, of our community in North America. The theme of our Congress is *Faith and Unity*. To host a Congress, with an attendance of about a 1000 people, is a big deal for a small community like ours. And to pay for it, is an even bigger deal!" she said, amidst laughter and general agreement from the audience, who took up the challenge and participated enthusiastically in all the fundraisers run during the evening.

Jim Lakdawalla and Saleem Bakza then conducted a live auction of three original limited edition canvas prints of paintings by Pakistani artist, Jimmy Engineer. The bidding for the auction was a fun and lively affair, with the auctioneers adding just enough mirch-masala to the proceedings to make this an interesting part of the evening. Before long, amidst much good cheer, all three prints were sold!

A silent auction of jewelry and other donated items was also held during the evening, along with a raffle. Once the winners of these fundraisers were announced, the singers took the stage again, for another round of dancing that left everyone jubilant (and out of breath with excitement!) by the end of the evening.

When the accounting was completed, it was concluded that the Gala was indeed a successful fundraiser for the Congress. But more than just meeting the expectations set for it as a fundraiser, this festive event exceeded expectations in terms of the cooperation and support members of three different local area associations showed to make this a successful event.

Echoing the sentiments of many who witnessed the coming together of this amazing evening, Shida Anoshiravani, President of the Czc and NAZC 2014 Committee member, said "If this was an indication of our future efforts, we all should feel quite hopeful for a very successful Congress next year!" □



FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarships Announced

The 2013 Performing and Creative Arts Scholarships (P&CAS) have been awarded to four talented and creative young women from various areas of The Arts. Each awardee will receive \$1000.00 to further their education and training in their field of study. We congratulate each of our recipients and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Kaipa Daraius Bharucha, Music
Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario;

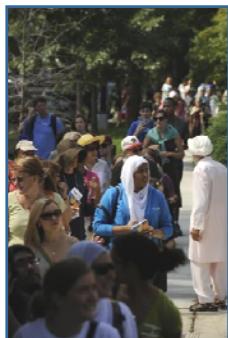
Dina Zarir Lalkaka, Jazz Studies,
California State University in San Jose;

Roksana Pirouzmand, Painting, Sculpting, Performance Art and Installation
The California Institute of Art in Valencia;

Patience Dinshaw Rustomji, Mixed Media Artwork, Parsons - The New School For Design in New York City

[See *FEZANA Journal, Spring 2014* for details full story]

World Faiths Come Together for the 9/11 Unity Walk in D.C.



On September 8, 2013, the 9th Annual Unity Walk will be held on Embassy Row in Washington, D.C. dedicated to the life, legacy and values of South African President Nelson Mandela.

In a striking display of unity, every house of worship – every church, synagogue, temple, gurdwara and mosque on Embassy Row opens their doors to each other and symbolically the world. Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Baha'is, and more, come together to share delicious meals, hear speeches and make new friendships.

The 9/11 Unity Walk offers a family-friendly event where people of all faiths or no faith put aside their differences, and share in a wonderful experience of learning and community service.

In a true testament to what is possible, the Unity Walk, brings together faiths in dramatic settings. Whether it's opening with a Muslim call to Prayer in Washington's largest synagogue, assembling trail mix for the homeless of our community at the regal Vatican Embassy, or learning about year-round interfaith youth service projects, the Unity Walk inspires us all.

Speakers will include the South African Ambassador to the United States, the president of the Muslim Women Association, and Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, as well as faith leaders from local congregations. Charitable activities include collecting shoes to be sent to those in need, bagging fresh produce and assembling trail mix to send to the homeless in the community.

Visit <http://911unitywalk.org/walk-experience/register-for-2013-walk/> for more information or to register.

A statue of Nelson Mandela will be unveiled at the South African Embassy in Washington D.C. on the weekend of 21 September 2013 – The International Day of Peace. □