

FEZANA *bulletin*

September 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 9



UPCOMING DATES

Oct 2-Dec 2, 2013

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

Oct 11 - Dec 14, 2013

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

November 2-4, 2013

22nd All India Zoroastrian Youth Meet. Organized by FOZYA. Dahanu / Bordi, India.
[Click Here](#) for info.

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

January 18-19, 2014

Iran's Natural Heritage: A Catalyst Symposium to Spark Measureable Change, conference.
Royal Geographical Society, London. For more info,
<http://www.iranheritage.org/Ecology/default.htm>

FEZANA Second 10-Year Strategic Plan, 2012-2022

The Second Ten Year FEZANA Strategic Plan (2012-2022) is a roadmap for our Zarathushti community in North America.

GOALS

FEZANA will have five goals to focus upon for the next ten years. These five goals are constant key elements for FEZANA Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees, Members and Corresponding Members:

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

The Strategic Plan (SP) Committee has identified specific action items (objectives) and targets for each of these goals based on intensive discussions with Committee Chairs.

Now it is the responsibility of Presidents and Representatives of Member Associations, Corresponding Members, Chairs of Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees and every Zarathushti in North America to work in harmony in the months ahead to achieve these goals that we all have identified.

I would like to thank the SP Committee -- Mahrukh Motafram (Chair), Dolly Dastoor and Farrokh Mistree -- for their efforts in the last two years to put this Plan together. I would like to request all of you in North America to support Homi Gandhi, Vice President, FEZANA and Chair of Coordination & Planning Committee and his team who will be guiding the progress of these action plans in the coming months.

So let us all join hands and work together harmoniously on this WAY FORWARD

"To develop a Zarathushti community in North America that is well-connected, well-educated, well-grounded in Zarathushti religious thought, values, and ethics, respectful of diversity, strong in collective giving, economically prosperous, a community which will be recognized for its contribution in all aspects of religious and communal life."

Please refer to the three links that contain detailed information on this SP Plan.

[FEZANA Second 10 Year Strategic Plan: Overview](#)

[FEZANA Second 10 Year Strategic Plan: Long Term Goals](#)

[FEZANA Second 10 Year Strategic Plan: Immediate Action Items.](#)

Regards
Katayun Kapadia
FEZANA President
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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
Web: www.fezana.org



Facebook:

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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

Zoroastrians Participate in an Interfaith Ceremony for School Consecration in Toronto



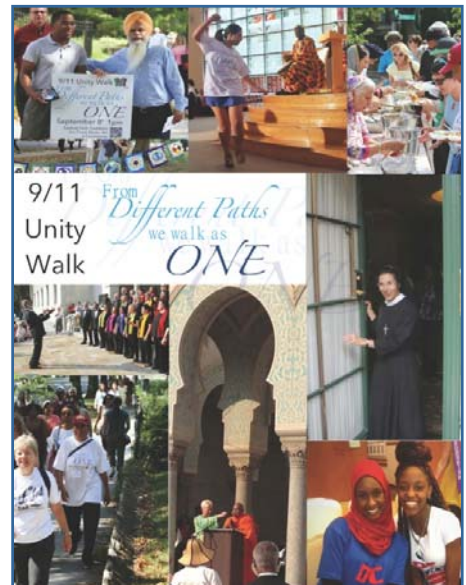
Recently, on June 15 2013, Erv. Jehan Bagli, representing the Zarathushti Faith, was invited to participate in the Interfaith consecration ceremony for the inauguration of the construction of a New Satya Sai School in Toronto. Representatives of several Faiths were present. Erv. Jehan Bagli presented a prayer and short presentation on prayer. □

9/11 Unity Walk Brings World Faiths Together

On September 8, 2013, the 9th Annual Unity Walk inspired all on Embassy Row in Washington, D.C.

Every church, synagogue, temple, gurdwara and mosque on Embassy Row opened their doors to each other and symbolically the world. Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Baha'is, and Zarathushtis, came together to share delicious meals, hear speeches and make new friendships. With a variety of truly inspiring activities, including collecting shoes for those in need, to bagging fresh produce, to assembling trail mix to send to the homeless in the community, the Unity Walk inspired all who attended this annual event.

Visit <http://911unitywalk.org> for details. □



Photos by: Dariush Jamsab and Cassandra Lawrence

Ending Homelessness – Rebuilding Lives

One of many charitable activities at the 9/11 Unity Walk included "The sneaker brigade", a group of millennial volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. They collected shoe donations for the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place, a group of five churches who create hypothermia shelters for the homeless in the nation's capital and have year round activities to reach out to the poor and the hungry.



IN THE NEWS

Indian Consul General Joins Celebrations at Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH)

<http://www.indoamerican-news.com/?p=19754>

ACHIEVEMENTS

Four Little Girls: Birmingham, 1963

Project1Voice and Howard University—in cooperation with the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, African Continuum Theatre Company, and the Kennedy Center—present a staged reading of the play written by playwright Christina Ham and directed by Tony®-winning actress Phylicia Rashad, with original music and arrangements by Kathryn Bostic.

The reading commemorates the 50th anniversary of the bombing that took the lives of four young girls at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

Yasna Khademian, ZAMWI Avesta Class Performer, was selected to participate in the chorus broadcast from the Millennium Stage of the Kennedy Center, Washington DC

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/videos/?id=M5581>

[approx 41 minutes]

Photo by: Dariush Jamsab



The idea of collecting shoes for the needy at the Unity Walk arose at an inter-generational dialogue during the World Zarathushti Youth Congress held in Vancouver, Canada, and was adopted by the Steering Committee of the 9/11 Unity Walk in 2012. □

Zarathushti Youth at the North American Interfaith Youth Network

By Homi Gandhi

Almost 6 months ago when I was preparing to fly back from Mumbai, I got an urgent email from the Executive Director of Religions for Peace, USA (RFP) to nominate up to two Zarathushti youth delegates to be selected for attending the Pre-Assembly (NAIYN) meeting in Washington DC in August 2013. Like the NAIYN Pre-Assembly meeting, many Youth meetings were to be held on other continents and from this total Youth population, a selection of 10 delegates is to be made for the World Assembly meeting of Religions for Peace International in Vienna, Austria, in November 2013.

This was an awesome task as there was a long list of criteria to be met to nominate any youth. And this was to be done within a week. So I sent out email to a group of Zarathushti youth asking them that if they meet the criteria and would be willing to travel, if selected, then they should send detailed bio as requested by RFP within the deadline. Three Zarathushti youth sent their information before I arrived back in the USA and I took liberty to nominate all of them.

Eighteen candidates were selected for NAIYN, of which two were Zarathushtis, the second largest group after Christians of various denominations. Unfortunately, both Zarathushti candidates had to withdraw at the last minute due to personal reasons. I appealed to the organizers to give a chance to the non-selected Zarathushti youth and there Farzin Avari from Atlanta was selected a few days before the Pre-Assembly meeting began in Washington DC

Farzin is looking forward to her selection as a delegate to the World Assembly in Vienna. She will write up an account of her experiences at the Washington meeting (to be published in *FEZANA Journal*). Meanwhile, Farzin's video interview can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7G0VlwoBwk> □

Zoroastrian Association of Virginia Celebrates Shahenshahi Navroze Together



In August, Parsis celebrated New Year at the home of Roshni and Homiyar Daver in Southern Virginia. As in years past, Sharmine Pithawalla, took the initiative to get the families together for festivities, food and joviality.

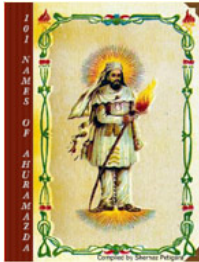
Photo credit: Karina Kotval



PRAYER RESOURCE

E-Prayer Book

Compiled by Shernaz
Petigara



http://www.ahuramazda.com/prayer_book_2.htm

CONNECTIONS

**Introducing Colaba's
Patchwork Man**

The inspirational story of
Mr. Hosi Daruwala

<http://homegrown.co.in/the-patchwork-man-of-colaba/>

Mumbai 10th World Zoroastrian Congress Change in Venue

The Organisers of the 10th World Zoroastrian Congress to be held in Mumbai in December are pleased to inform you that the number of delegates who have registered till date has exceeded their initial expectations.

Based on this, the Organising Committee has taken the decision to change the venue of the 10th World Zoroastrian Congress from the National Centre of Performing Arts (NCPA), Nariman Point to the newly inaugurated National Sports Club of India (NSCI) near Haji Ali, Worli. The NSCI is a sprawling institution located on the seafront, in the heart of South Mumbai, with turf lawns and plenty of parking facilities. Its impressive centrally air-conditioned indoor stadium with a seating capacity of up to 5,000 guests has encouraged them to change the venue, as it is considered to be more convenient for the Congress. Hence, the Organising Committee has decided to finalise NSCI ultimately. Visit <http://www.wzcmumbai.com> for more Congress information. □



This logo is an artistic rendition of our religious symbol.

A Chance of a Lifetime ...

BE A PATRON CONDUCTOR OF THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The World Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra unites Zarathushtis from the world over to provide unforgettable musical experiences, under the baton of its Music Director, a professional conductor, Farobag Homi Cooper of Chicago.

The WZSO endeavors to delight audiences at The XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress. However, a performance of this magnitude is only possible with support of generous donations from supporters like you!

Supporters will be recognized as members of the Conductor's Circle and gain satisfaction in knowing that their contributions helped the WZSO to provide an enhanced cultural experience for Congress attendees, and also allowed Zarathushti musicians of varying proficiencies the opportunity to perform with professionals. The supporter who makes the largest contribution of \$5,000 or more will be recognized as a Patron Conductor and have the opportunity to conduct a simply elegant, short piece, with guidance from Mr. Cooper.

The WZSO is unlikely to be able to perform at the Congress if the fundraising goals for this event are not met by December 2013. So don't delay in showing your support for our community musicians by making your pledges today.

If you would like to sponsor this event, or contribute towards making it a reality, please contact Vira Santoke at (714) 963 1301 or vsantoke@verizon.net.

The XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress, an event sponsored by FEZANA, will be hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of California, in coordination with the California Zoroastrian Center, in Los Angeles, from December 29 to 31, 2014.