

# FEZANA *bulletin*

November 2013 / VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 11



## UPCOMING DATES

Oct 5, 2013-Feb 2, 2014  
*Power and Legacy: The Cyrus Cylinder and Persian Expressions of Kingship*,  
Oriental Institute Museum,  
University of Chicago.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/cyrus/>

Oct 11-Dec 14, 2013  
*The Everlasting Flame*. Brunei Gallery, London, U.K.  
[www.theeverlastingflame.com](http://www.theeverlastingflame.com)

Nov 29 and Dec 16, 2013  
*Tree of Seeds*. A reading of Kayhan Irani's play. London, U.K. RSVP to sawcc-london (@) sawcc.org to ensure seats.

December 21-22, 2013  
*Zambhala*. Bardo, Goa, India.  
[www.zambhala.in](http://www.zambhala.in)

December 6-28, 2013  
*To Eternity and Back*. Shirin Kumaana-Wadia Photography Exhibition, Mumbai. [www.shirr.in](http://www.shirr.in)

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

January 12, 2014  
*"Recreating Pasargadae."*  
University of Chicago, 2-4pm.  
Group outing organized by Zoroastrian Association of Chicago. <http://oi.uchicago.edu/>

(DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## Spanish Version of "I Am Cyrus" (*FEZANA Journal*, Summer 2013) Now Available

Dear Reader

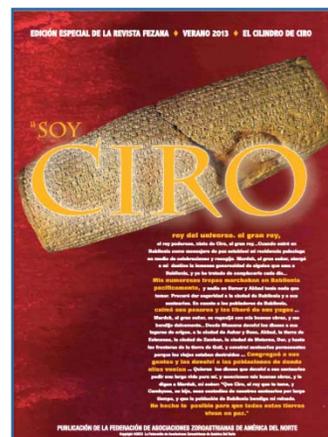
The special 2013 Summer issue of the *Fezana Journal* commemorating the visit of the iconic Cyrus Cylinder to five museums in United States from the British Museum generated a lot of interest on account of its universal and timeless message pertaining to Human Rights and Human Dignity. A request was made to have this issue available for the Spanish speaking community.

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Monica Riera, Senior Lecturer at University of Portsmouth, England, translate the English text and Dr. Shahrokh Khanizadeh for formatting the Spanish text to harmonize with the printed English version. We are grateful to both for their tremendous contribution of time and energy and to Dr. Carlos Riera Cervantes for facilitating this labor of love.

Best wishes,  
Dolly Dastoor, Ph. D.  
Editor-in-chief, FEZANA JOURNAL

Behram Pastakia, M.D., FACR  
FEZANA, Publications Chair  
[www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org)

Dated: 28 November 2013



## FIRES Accepted as a Standing Committee

On September 25, 2013 an email was sent out to the Presidents of all Member Associations asking them to vote on the proposal to consider *FEZANA Information Research Education System (FIRES)* as a Standing Committee and be included in the FEZANA Constitution. The deadline to vote was midnight EDT on November 11, 2013.

Twenty-four (24) member associations submitted their votes on a timely basis. All of them voted for FIRES becoming a standing committee of FEZANA and hence the motion was carried unanimously.

Congratulations to the FIRES team! We wish you much success in your future endeavors.

See next page for a report from FIRES on recent activities



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Zoroastrian  
Associations of  
North America  
(FEZANA)

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NGO in consultative status  
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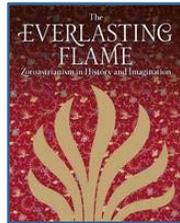
## Activities Report from FIRES

By Meheryar N. Rivetna

### **FIRES – Voted For A Standing Committee**

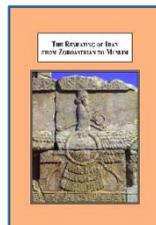
We at FIRES are delighted with the result of the Standing Committee vote and humbled at receiving overwhelming support. We pledge to enhance our services, work on the strategic plan and continue to encourage more of you to get involved with FIRES. The FIRES team is committed to making available materials on all aspects of Zoroastrianism for the dedicated researcher and those interested in learning more about this ancient faith. For more information on FIRES, please visit [www.fires-fezana.org](http://www.fires-fezana.org)

### **New Books added to FIRES (ZAH)**



#### ***The Everlasting Flame: Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination –Catalog***

Farrokh and Yashfara Mistree have donated a handsome catalog from the recent exhibition held in London under the auspices of SOAS. It is an exhibit worth visiting and those planning to go to Mumbai, India for the Zoroastrian Congress are urged to stop in London and visit the exhibition. The exhibition is open until mid-December.



***The Reshaping of Iran from Zoroastrian to Muslim: A history of cultural transformation*** by Rashna Writer, examines the transformation of the country and its impact on the diminished Zoroastrian community. Publisher Edwin Mellen produced a paperback with a special price for the *Everlasting Flame Exhibition* and is available at this price until December 31, 2013. Hardback is available on amazon.com.



#### ***Dastur M.N. Dhalla Memorabilia***

Golmohr Cantel, granddaughter of Dastur M. N. Dhalla, graciously donated a silver chest, scroll, family pictures and other artifacts belonging to the late High Priest of Karachi. These items are a welcome addition to the existing Dhalla Trust collection on display in the ZAH library. The silver chest, on a large wooden stand, posed a considerable problem in transportation from Ms. Cantel's home in London to Houston. With patience and careful planning the chest and other items were transported across the Atlantic and will grace their new home in Houston.

### **Zarathusti Dinner Theater**

The Zarathusti Dinner Theater Group presented "Cyrus the Great", a play produced and directed by Shahnaz Sidhwa. The play enlightened the audience



on the life of one of history's most revered monarchs. The lavish costumes, elaborate set and props added to the success of the play. It was undeniably an entertaining evening.

Shahnaz Sidhwa very generously donated half the proceeds to the ZAH library. The committee is immensely grateful for this magnanimous gesture. □



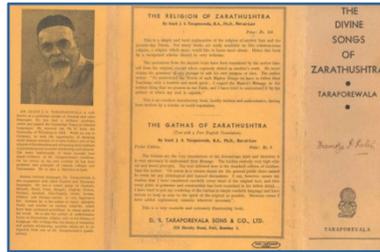
## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Zoroastrian Day at Rice University

Ervad Bahrom Firozgary, the first Zoroastrian to be on a U.S. NCAA basketball roster arranged for Zoroastrian Day at a home game at Rice University on Saturday, November 23, 2013. The event was well attended by members of Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH).

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a video of the day.  
[Approx 14 minutes]

## Gatha Translation Now Available Online



FEZANA is proud to present a complete version of the first edition (1951) of the *Divine Songs of Zarathushtra*, by Irach J.S. Taraporewala, courtesy of Erv. Soli P. Dastur. Shared with permission, this extraordinary Zarathushti religious educational treasure is now available for download at <http://www.fezana.org>. Making this translation of the Gathas accessible to all is in keeping

with FEZANA's Second Strategic Plan in promoting resources for Zarathushti religious education. We are very grateful to the family and heirs of the author for granting FEZANA permission to share this valuable educational resource in the public domain and we are very thankful to Erv. Soli P. Dastur for his tireless efforts in making this project a reality. □

## South Florida Celebrates Gahambar Together

On Sunday, November 10, 2013, Zarathushtis of South Florida gathered for a festive Gahambar in Miramar Regional Park, Miramar Florida. With over 160 people attending, it was an attendance record for the active Zarathushti communities of South Florida including: Miami-based, ZAF; Orlando-based, CFG; and Tampa-based, ZATAMBAY. Traditional parsi "Bhonu" was served and enjoyed by all. □



Photo by Freny Deboo, Jo Ann and Soli P. Dastur

## Zarathushti Participation in International Day of Prayers Interfaith Service



On November 10, 2013 in celebration of the International day of Prayers, representatives of some fourteen different faith traditions assembled at the St. Paul's Basilica in Toronto to offer prayers for Persecuted Christians and those of other Religions.

After welcome and introduction by president of Toronto Area Interfaith Council the ceremony was initiated with the Smudging Ceremony by the First Nation People. This was followed by short prayers from different Faith groups. Representing the Zarathushti faith, Erv Jehan Bagli offered prayers from the Gathas that directed mankind to freedom from bondage, sovereignty of choice and moral justice. □



## UPCOMING DATES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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>

January 31, 2014

Deadline for applications.  
Sodexo Youth Grants.  
Grants available for Youth  
wishing to care for the  
hungry.

[www.sodexofoundation.org](http://www.sodexofoundation.org)

February 5-7, 2014

United Nations Winter Youth  
Assembly. [Click here](#) for  
registration.

March 10-21, 2014

58th Session of the  
Commission on the Status of  
Women. United Nations For  
info, contact FEZANA UN-  
NGO committee  
afreed.mistry (@) gmail.com

December 29-31, 2014

*17th North American  
Zoroastrian Congress,*  
Los Angeles, California

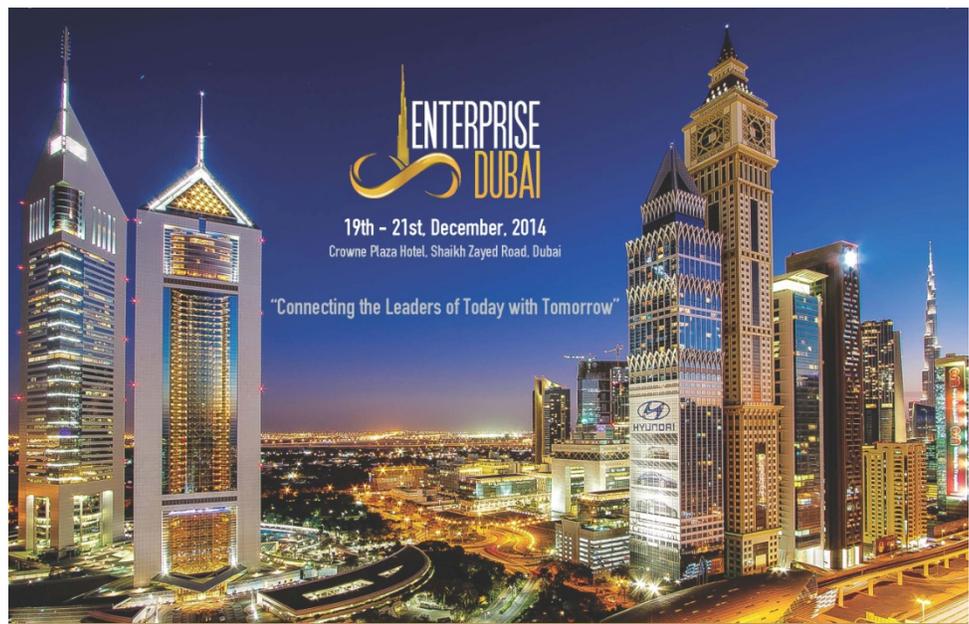
## CSW Conference at the U.N. – Call for Volunteers

The FEZANA UN-NGO Committee is looking for participants, on behalf of FEZANA, to attend the **Commission on the Status of Women Conference** at the UN Headquarters in New York in March 2014.

This year's theme is, "**Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.**"

There is a limit on the number of CSW registrants representing FEZANA. If you are interested in attending the CSW Meeting, please send an email with your **resume** and **letter of intent** by **December 13, 2013**. The email has to be sent to **ALL 3** of the following individuals:

Homi D. Gandhi (homidgandhi (@) gmail.com)  
Behram Pastakia (bpastakia (@) aol.com)  
Afreed Mistry (afreed.mistry@gmail.com)



Registrations start Nov. 2013

### Special Offer

(Up to 30th April, 2014)

**Adults**  
AED 775/- (US\$ 215) (Two days)  
AED 925/- (US\$ 255) (Three days)

**Children 4 - 12 Years**  
AED 475/- (US\$ 130) (Two days)  
AED 650/- (US\$ 180) (Three days)

(Includes free entry to all sessions,  
Breakfasts, Teas, Coffees, lunches, dinners,  
sightseeing and entertainment programs)

**For Hotel Booking Contact:**  
Crowne Plaza, Shaikh Zayed Road, Dubai  
Hotel Front Desk Tel: +971-4-3311111

Aed.325/- (per day) - Single/Double occupancy (2 Adults + 2 Kids)  
Aed.780/- (per day) - One Bedroom Apt. (3 Adults + 2 Kids)  
Aed.1400/- (per day) - Two Bedroom Apt. (4 Adults + 2 Kids)  
(Registration mandatory before Hotel Booking)

### Contact Details:

Website: [www.wzcongress.org/enterprisedubai](http://www.wzcongress.org/enterprisedubai)  
Email: [enterprisedubai2014@gmail.com](mailto:enterprisedubai2014@gmail.com)  
Tel: +971 50 4590258 | +971 50 5158659  
+971 50 5505174  
Event Organized by: WZCongress, Dubai

Enterprise Dubai offers an unparalleled platform for exploring business, leisure and pleasure opportunities that Dubai has to offer. The event is open to Zoroastrian Businessmen, Professionals, Youth and families worldwide.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Grand opening of the event by Royalty \* Event addressed by Heads of Government, Ministers and Industry Leaders \* Identify new trade / investment partners and take away business leads \* Network with policy makers/key government officials and the global diaspora \* Talks by Internationally reputed Speakers in areas of: trade, leadership, communication, innovation, technology, medicine, education, culture and community development \* Start up guidance on new business setup in Dubai/UAE \* Visits to Free Trade Zones and B2B meetings \* Focus on youth \* Business Contest with Mega Prize: 'Idea, Innovation and Implementation' \* Mega Competitions/Prizes: 'Masters of the Home Kitchen'; 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' and 'Cricket Quiz' \* Gala entertainment shows \* Prestigious Awards ceremony \* Sightseeing tour of Dubai and visits to shopping malls \* Scrumptious breakfast at the Burj Park, Down Town, Dubai \* Fabulous Dhow Cruise and much more...

Attend the mega event 'Enterprise Dubai' and 'Explore, Engage and Evolve.'