

# FEZANA *bulletin*

April 2014 / VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 4



## UPCOMING DATES

March 27-Sept 20, 2014

*A Thousand Years of the Persian Book Exhibition.*  
Library of Congress,  
Washington D.C. [click here](#)

May 4-June 1, 2014

*HPY 2014. [Holiday Programme for Youth]*  
Mumbai. <http://hpy.co.in>

May 16-18, 2014

*FEZANA Annual General Meeting, Bellevue, WA.*  
Hosted by ZSWS

July 2-6, 2014

*14th Zoroastrian Games. Los Angeles, CA.*  
<http://www.zathletics.com/>

August 10-13, 2014

*North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) Conference.*  
Wayne State University,  
Detroit, MI. <http://nain.org/>

August 27-29, 2014

*65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference. "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda". UN headquarters, New York City.* [Click here](#)

December 29-31, 2014

*17th North American Zoroastrian Congress,*  
Los Angeles, California  
[www.nazc2014.org](http://www.nazc2014.org)

## FEZANA New Executive Members, 2014-16

This spring, Executive positions were open for election for the following: FEZANA President, FEZANA Treasurer, FEZANA Secretary, and FEZANA Assistant Secretary. The deadline to receive nominations was March 10, 2014. Nominations were received for the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary.

No nominations, other than those of the sitting officers, were received for the offices of President and Assistant Secretary. Katayun Kapadia, being eligible for re-election has been re-elected to her position of President. Shiraz Italia has chosen to step down as Assistant Secretary after serving a three-year term, in order to focus on her family and career.

A single nomination was received for each of the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. Nilufer (Nilu) K. Shroff has been elected as Treasurer, and Saghar Javanshir Behroozi has been elected as Secretary for the 2014-2016 term.

We welcome both to the FEZANA Executive. Both will assume their new office at the upcoming FEZANA Annual General Meeting in Seattle, Washington on May 17. Below are brief bio-data on each of the newly elected officers:

**Nilufer (Nilu) K. Shroff** – *Nilu is a Chartered Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor and Risk Management Professional. In her present role of the Chief Audit and Compliance Officer for Princeton University, Ms. Shroff reports functionally to the Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee of the Board of Trustees, and administratively to the Executive Vice President. She has successfully developed a University-wide formal enterprise risk management framework. She serves as a strategic advisor to the University's senior leadership, and serves on the University's Executive Compliance Committee and Executive Risk Management Committee, where she assists senior leaders in assessing internal audit and compliance priorities. She manages a team of eleven audit and compliance professionals and a cadre of outsourced/co-sourced partners. She is responsible for constructing and executing a risk based model for assessing, planning and managing internal audit and compliance activities to add value across the University while building relationships of trust and respect with colleagues and clients throughout the Princeton community. She tends continually to the evolution of Princeton's internal audit and compliance functions so that they become and remain state-of-the-art.*

**Saghar Javanshir-Behroozi** – *Saghar is a Physical Therapy professional and was brought up in Iran, and upon coming to the United States she earned her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology at UCLA. She obtained her professional degree in Physical Therapy from UC San Francisco in 1985 and has been practicing as a Physical Therapy Staff, Supervisor, or Manager ever since. Currently, Saghar is working at Texas Health Resources Presbyterian at Dallas. Saghar Javanshir-Behroozi has served in the organizing board of the First North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress in 1987 and was extensively involved in organizing youth programs in Los Angeles until 1991 when she moved to Dallas, Texas.*

*In Dallas, Saghar served several terms as Secretary and Vice President on the Executive Board of the Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT). Currently, she serves as the chairperson of the ZANT Community Support Subcommittee and as a member of the ZANT Education Subcommittee.*



## Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)

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Katayun Kapadia  
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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

*Saghar's interests focus on Education, Community Support, and developing youth programs.*

### **FEZANA Executive for 2014-2016:**

President - Katayun Kapadia  
Vice President - Homi Gandhi  
Treasurer - Nilufer Shroff  
Secretary - Saghar Behrozi

We take this opportunity to thank Ratan Mistry, our outgoing Treasurer who has successfully completed the maximum two terms allowed by our Constitution. We are grateful for his hard work and dedication to his position of Treasurer. We look forward to Ratan's continued involvement in FEZANA.

We also take this opportunity to thank Shiraz Italia, our outgoing Assistant Secretary, for her dedicated service to FEZANA. We would be delighted if she returns to serve FEZANA in some capacity at a later date. □

## New York Zoroastrians Break Ground for a New Darbe Mehr



On Saturday March 29, 2014 the Zarathushti community of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut got one step closer in the realization of its dream of a new and permanent home in the Tri-State area.

Amidst pouring rain – considered by many as a very auspicious sign – over 175 Zarathushtis gathered at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr in Pomona, NY to break ground for the New Darbe Mehr Building.

The Ceremonial Groundbreaking was one milestone in a long journey that started 40 years ago, when ZAGNY was formed in 1973. Since then the tri-state community has grown and thrived and is already seeing the children of the third generation amongst its midst.



Both, The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) and the Iranian Zoroastrian Association (IZA) call The Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr their home. The Darbe Mehr is administered by the Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple, an independent body made up of representatives of both ZAGNY and IZA.

To see images and video from the event please visit:  
<http://zagny.org/ceremonial-groundbreaking/> □



## CONNECTIONS

### **Yearbook of the United Nations Launches New Website**

The United Nations has launched the new website of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, the main reference work on the Organization's activities.

Since 1946–47, the *Yearbook* has served as the authoritative source of information on the United Nations system. This easy to navigate, comprehensive website is worth a visit.

<http://unyearbook.un.org>

## REACHING OUT

### **Goolbai Kaikhushroo Patel Fund Announced To Benefit the Surat Parsi Orphanage**

In honor of Mr. Framroze K. Patel, respected ZAGNY Past President and FEZANA Past President, ZAGNY has announced the formation of a new fund – the Goolbai Kaikhushroo Patel Fund.

ZAGNY has allocated \$25,000 from its Critical Assistance fund as seed money for the new Goolbai Kaikhushroo Patel Fund. All interest earned on this amount will be sent to the Surat Parsi Orphanage annually. Mr. Framroze Patel will assist in the annual disbursement of funds to the Surat Parsi Orphanage. You can find out more about the orphanage or [donate online at ZAGNY.org](#)

## FEZANA Accepting Applications for Academic Scholarships

Applications are invited for the following FEZANA Academic Scholarships (listed in alphabetical order):

### **BANOObAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

### **FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

### **FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS (SIX SCHOLARSHIPS) FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

### **MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR**

### **MORVARID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS (TWO SCHOLARSHIPS)**

### **PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

All scholarships are open to Zarathushti students who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA or Canada.

Scholarships for the academic year 2014-2015 will be awarded in September 2014. Application forms are available from the FEZANA website at <http://fezana.org/node/294> Or, from Dr Dolly Dastoor ([dollydastoor\(@\)sympatico.ca](mailto:dollydastoor(@)sympatico.ca))

**Completed application forms must be sent electronically by August 1, 2014 to:** [academicscholarship\(@\)fezana.org](mailto:academicscholarship(@)fezana.org)

[For more detailed information on each scholarship see *Fezana Journal*, Spring 2014.] □

## Global Lifetime Achievement Award for Dr. Dhun Noria

The GLOBAL LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD will be conferred on Dr Dhun Noria, of Toronto, Canada, by the Scarborough General Hospital, for her impressive professional accomplishments and community service. This is only the second time in the history of the hospital that this award has been conferred .



Dr Noria will be honored by the hospital on May 10 at a fund-raising Gala event in Toronto's Sheraton Hotel and 500 people are likely to attend the event including the Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson.

In addition to her involvement with the Zarathushti community of Ontario, Dr Noria was the Chair of the Metro Toronto District Health Council, an advisory body to the Minister of Health, where she provided leadership during the restructuring of 44 hospitals in Metro Toronto.

The community congratulates Dr Dhun Noria and extends the same to her husband Farokh and her daughter Dr Sabrena and son Zubin. □





## CULTURAL RESOURCE

### ***Threads of Continuity*** **The Zoroastrian Craft of Kusti Weaving**

### **Fezana partners with PARZOR in the publication of “Threads of Continuity”**

We all wear a Sudreh Kusti after our Navjotes / Sudreh Pooshi but do not realize the significance of this sacred armour in our life or religion. Published after close to ten years of research before publication, ***Threads of Continuity*** is the first book ever to explain cogently why it is so important for our lives.

When you see the great skill of weaving a kusti and how each part of this sacred thread has a symbolic meaning, you will want to preserve this great tradition for future generations.

Please learn more and teach your family and community the importance of maintaining the Zoroastrian culture and religion through understanding and appreciating its value.

Written by Ashdeen Z. Lilaowala with Shernaz Cama, ***Threads of Continuity*** is available at <http://www.unescoparzor.com/>

Copies can be sent to Associations or to individuals who write to [parzorfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:parzorfoundation@gmail.com) or call at 011 26513560.

## Return to Roots Program Report

The following letter was addressed to Katayun Kapadia, President FEZANA. The letter accompanied the full report of the very first Return To Roots Program 2013. FEZANA and its member associations supported the program.

Dear Katayun,

It gives us great pleasure to send you the report of the first Return to Roots tour (Roots 1) and the progress of the program.

Thank you for all the support you have provided to the program. As you can see from the report, the participants have greatly benefitted. We trust you will share their enthusiasm and motivation to take the knowledge and experience they have received during the course of the Roots program, to do great and good things for the community.

We do hope that you will continue to partner us on this journey of change, consolidation and transformation as we move on to the second phase of the Roots program (Roots 2).

This is but a small and modest beginning of a program which has demonstrated considerable potential for growth and integration within the community by young Zoroastrians. We hope you will continue to accompany us and renew your commitment to the next phase of the Return to Roots program.

With all good wishes,  
Shernaz Cama & Aban Marker Kabraji

### RETURN TO ROOTS PROGRAM REPORT EXCERPT

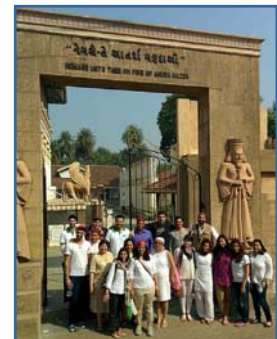
From December 23, 2013 to January 6, 2014, 16 Zoroastrian youth from around the world made a journey to return, reconnect, and revive their Zoroastrian roots.



For the first time this opportunity has been made possible by the Return to Roots program. Started in 2012 by a small group of passionate volunteers, and supported by Parzor, this inaugural journey coincided with the World Zoroastrian Congress in Bombay, India. The success of this first trip is apparent not only in the transformational experiences of the participants but the overwhelming support of the community.

### ABOUT

**Return to Roots** is a youth-initiated program designed to strengthen community identity amongst Zoroastrian youth the world over. The idea of a Zoroastrian Return to Roots Program was born out of the increasing disconnect between those Zoroastrians in the Diaspora with their ancestral communities in Iran and India. It is a unique means of fostering community links and identity by taking small groups of youth on trips to explore their religious, social and cultural heritage.



### VISION

**Return** Zoroastrians to their roots.

**Reconnect** Zoroastrians to their identity.

**Revive** the Zoroastrian community.

[Click here](#) to read the full report. It includes details of the first Return to Roots trip with itinerary and photos. □



## FOOD DELIGHTS

**Sev Ni Kheer**

[Click here](#) for a simple recipe for this comfort food that you may eat for breakfast or dessert or anytime.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Vakhshoori Scholarship 2014-15 Announced**

The Vakhshoori Foundation invites young Zoroastrians to apply for scholarships for the academic year of 2014-2015. The awards range from \$10,000 to \$1000. For details or to download application form [click here](#).

**Eligibility:**

The applicant must be a young Zoroastrian enrolled in or accepted at an accredited institution of higher learning. Candidates of diverse nationalities are welcome to apply. **Completed applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2014.**

## SCHOOL GARDENING

**Annie's Grants for Gardens****Deadline: June 2**

Annie's offers grants to school gardens that connect children directly to real food. These funds can be used to buy gardening tools, seeds or other needed supplies. Get \$500 to start a brand-new school garden program. There's no need to have an existing garden! Or, apply for \$1,500 to deepen your existing school garden program.

<http://bit.ly/YIGM4i>

**FEZANA Presents Cyrus Cylinder Replica**

On March 22, 2014, Mr. Darius Jamshidian of Connecticut was presented with a replica of the Cyrus Cylinder. When the Cyrus Cylinder toured the US in 2013, he was the first Zarathushti to come forward to assist FEZANA in building our partnership with Iran Heritage Foundation of America, Mr. Jamshidian helped in promoting the objectives of the FEZANA UN-NGO Committee and in turn the UN objectives. On behalf of the FEZANA UN-NGO Committee, FEZANA President, Katayun Kapadia, presented the replica of "Cyrus Cylinder", a symbol of Peace in our multicultural, multifaith world to Mr. Darius Jamshidian at the New York Navroze celebrations. □

**LOS ANGELES 14TH  
CALIFORNIA ZOROASTRIAN  
USA GAMES**

Registration is Now Open – <http://www.zathletics.com/>

**2nd to 6th July 2014**