

# FEZANA *bulletin*

AUGUST 2011 / VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2



## UPCOMING DATES

August 23, 2011

Deadline for youth nominations for Religions for Peace Global Youth network. For info:

[naiynconveners@gmail.com](mailto:naiynconveners@gmail.com)

Sept 3-4, 2011

7th Unity Cup Soccer Tournament; Redondo Beach, CA  
[zsc@fezana.org](mailto:zsc@fezana.org)

Sept 11, 2011

9/11 Unity Walk; Washington, D.C.  
[911unitywalk.org](http://911unitywalk.org)

Sept 17-18, 2011

Gujarati Natak, "Sasoo No Santaap" presented by the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York in partnership with Zarathushtis from Toronto.  
<http://zagny.org/natak/>

Sept 21, 2011

International Day of Prayer for Peace

October 1, 2011

Fali Chothia Charitable Trust Educational Scholarship Application Deadline  
[http://zamwi.org/About/FCCT\\_text.html](http://zamwi.org/About/FCCT_text.html)

August 2-5, 2012

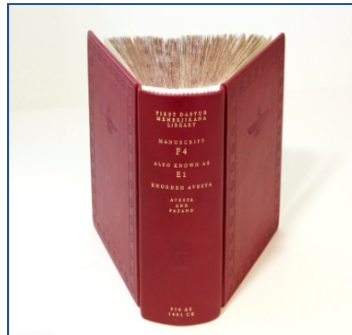
16th North American Zoroastrian Congress Rye, New York

June 30-July 3, 2012

13th Zoroastrian Games Ontario, Canada

## AROUND FEZANA...

### Rare Zarathushti Manuscripts Restored For Future Generations



Over ten years ago, two precious Zarathushti handwritten manuscripts [*T54 (Yasna-Gatha Manuscript)*; and *E1/F4 (Khordeh Avesta Manuscript)*] which lay under decades of dust, devoured by insects and near the brink of total loss, were rescued and the saga of their meticulous restoration began. Now, under the project leadership of Mr. Malcolm Deboo (ZTFE), the Royal Library Department of Conservation in Copenhagen has just completed the painstaking conservation and re-binding of these 250 year old manuscripts -- holdings of the First Dastur

Meherjirana Library in Navsari, India.

FEZANA was instrumental in initiating the 10-year effort of restoring these manuscripts. In 2002, Malcolm Deboo (ZTFE) was invited, through FEZANA, to the North American Zoroastrian Congress to raise awareness of the condition of these manuscripts. With the financial and moral support of FEZANA, Firdosh Mehta and others, including Mr. Tahamtan Aresh, the restoration project commenced. Nearly a decade later, the two handwritten manuscripts have been painstakingly and professionally restored. Soon, the restored manuscripts will be returned to their home in the First Dastur Meherjirana Library, a fitting end to their long journey.

The entire conservation process was conducted in a workshop at The Royal Library Department of Conservation in Copenhagen, Denmark and was executed between 2008 and 2011. When the manuscripts arrived in Copenhagen, they were severely insect ridden. The manuscripts had been fumigated in India to combat the damage. One of the first steps of the conservation process was to place the manuscript pages under a fume hood for 6 weeks to disperse the chemical residue. Next, to repair the insect-damaged pages, a conservator carefully mended each area of insect damage by individually placing strips of a very thin Japanese paper to the damaged parts. Also, many pages had broken loose from their bindings. They too, were carefully rejoined with strips of Japanese paper. The pages were sewn back together and compounds were applied to prevent further insect attacks. Finally, the manuscripts were professionally hand rebound, complete with book boxes and gilded 22 carat gold folios to prevent tarnishing or oxidation.



Ancient manuscripts help chronicle history and bring us awareness and knowledge of our past. Without undergoing this crucial restoration process, these precious manuscripts would have turned to dust and with that a physical connection to a bit of our rich history would have been lost. FEZANA is proud to have partnered alongside many others in the process of bringing these irreplaceable manuscripts back to life. [For full story, see upcoming *Fezana Journal*, Fall 2011] Photographs by Karsten Bundgaard. □



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#### **FEZANA Bulletin Distribution**

This issue of the *FEZANA Bulletin* has been distributed to those who are listed in the FEZANA directory; and also to those individuals who have opted to receive information about FEZANA; and also to those who are on the FEZANA list. If you wish to opt out from receiving future issues, please email [admin@fezana.org](mailto:admin@fezana.org)



*Wishing you and your family a very Happy and  
Prosperous Shehenshahi Navroze (1381 Y. Z.)  
and Khordadsal Mubarak.*

*On this joyous occasion let us resolve to be a united  
Zarathushti community in the right spirit of Hamazori  
with Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds.*

*Best Wishes.*

*Bomi Patel*

AROUND FEZANA...

*Strategic Plan Committee*

## FEZANA 10-year Strategic Plan Underway

The second ten-year Strategic Plan (2011-2021) for FEZANA is in progress. Over the past two years, the Strategic Planning Committee has solicited input from its Member Associations, Corresponding Members, Committee Members and interested Zarathushti individuals. The responses received were taken into consideration as the plan was drafted. The completed initial draft was distributed to facilitate discussion prior to the FEZANA Annual General Meeting in Montreal in April. This second ten-year Strategic Plan is a continuation of the first ten-year Strategic Plan (1997-2006) that was written in 1997. In addition to the vision and mission statement, which remain the same, a set of five new goals have been identified: 1. Showcase FEZANA; 2. Increase awareness of FEZANA domestically; 3. Foster Hamazori; 4. Advance religious education, cultural awareness and interfaith dialogue; 5. Ensure economic stability through fundraising and prudent investments. These goals reflect the present and future needs and desires for the community in the next decade.

At the FEZANA AGM in Montreal an interactive session was held beginning with a presentation followed by a lively discussion. Attendees were given the opportunity to give feedback on the presentation. The members, during the AGM, validated the proposed Strategic Plan with recommendations for reworking some areas. The Strategic Planning Team, taking their feedback into consideration, has since revised the plan to accommodate the recommendations. *Read the complete plan and goals on the FEZANA website [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org) or click [http://www.fezana.org/files/strategic\\_plan/STPLAN%20Document%20part%20%20final.pdf](http://www.fezana.org/files/strategic_plan/STPLAN%20Document%20part%20%20final.pdf)* □

## Audio of Gatha Prayers available online

In light of the Muktdad days upon us for those following the Shehenshahi calendar, with the kind permission of Erv. Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia and the M J Wadia Agiyari Trust (courtesy Mr. Kersi Limathwalla), Mumbai, India, an audio of the Gatha prayers are available on line: <http://on-lyne.biz/gathas/>. It is the hope that with this distribution of the audio file of the Gathas sung reverently, it will help Zarathushtis who may not have ready access to a resident priest in their community or for those who are not able to attend congregational prayers.

## 2012 Marks FEZANA's Silver Jubilee Year

FEZANA will be celebrating its 25th anniversary year  
by holding various events throughout 2012  
hosted by many of its Member Associations  
around North America.

Stay tuned for announcements of an event near you!