



CYRUS CYLINDER Comes to San Francisco

Silicon Valley philanthropist Bita Daryabari helps bring one of the world's oldest and most iconic objects of religious tolerance and multiculturalism to the Asian Art Museum.

Created over 2,500 years ago, the **Cyrus Cylinder** continues to be hailed as an international symbol of tolerance and justice. In its first U.S. tour on loan from the British Museum, the Cylinder will travel to the Asian Art Museum (along with four other venues) as part of the intimate exhibition, "The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A New Beginning." On view through September 22, the exhibition also includes 16 rare artworks from ancient Persia (Iran) during the Achaemenid period (550 – 330 BCE), providing a context for understanding the Cylinder's cultural and historical significance.

Dating to 539 BCE, the Cyrus Cylinder—one of the most famous surviving icons from the ancient world—was uncovered in 1879 at Babylon (in modern Iraq) during a British Museum excavation. The Cylinder was inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform script on the orders of the Persian king, Cyrus the Great (559 – 530 BCE), after he captured Babylon in 539 BCE. It is often referred to as the first bill of human rights, as it mentions Cyrus' return of deported peoples from Babylon to their homelands and his encouragement of freedom of religious practice. The Cyrus Cylinder is truly an object of world heritage, produced for a Persian king in Iraq and seen and studied for more than 130 years in the British Museum. The values of freedom from captivity and freedom of religious practice proclaimed by Cyrus the Great are the enduring ideas underlying ethical governance that have made the Cylinder a universal icon.

The Bay Area exhibition of the cylinder has been made possible due to the patronage of Bay Area-based global philanthropist and humanitarian Bita Daryabari, a champion of social and cultural change. Her nonprofit organization, Pars Equality Center, is based in Menlo Park, though she also opened an office in San Jose last year. www.asianart.org



Bita Daryabari



“GRAND” ACHIEVEMENT

The Village Pub in Woodside has joined the elite group of restaurants to receive *Wine Spectator's* “Grand Award,” the magazine's highest honor.

Only 73 restaurants around the world received this designation in 2013. The Pub has received *Wine Spectator's* “Award of Excellence” every year since opening in 2001, and over the past 12 years has been working to grow its wine list and cultivate relationships with wineries, winemakers, and distributors. “Since the beginning of my career, it has been a dream of mine to build a wine list worthy of a ‘Grand Award,’” says Andrew

Green, wine and spirits director for Bacchus Management Group, which oversees the Pub's wine program. “I am humbled, and owe a lot of the credit to our amazing team [including lead sommelier Michael Acheson], without whom none of this would be possible.” The Grand Award is presented annually to restaurants that demonstrate “an uncompromising, passionate devotion to the quality of their wine program,” the *Wine Spectator* website explains. “These restaurants typically offer 1,500 selections or more, and feature serious breadth of top producers, outstanding depth in mature vintages, a selection of large-format bottles, excellent harmony with the menu, and superior organization, presentation, and wine service.”

