



Volume 25: Issue 9

September 2012

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071 Tel: 713-270-9339

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

DATE: September 9, 2012

Children's Session: Children attended the Gujarati session and the Sunday School session hosted by Vehishta.

Middle Group: This group is for the children in the middle school. Last year they learnt about the ceremonies, this year they will be learning the Kusti prayers and their meanings. If your child falls in this age group, do please bring him/her to the Sunday School.

Senior Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this session. See a write up by the Youth Vice President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 10 am** – Indoor Sports Day

SIX events on offer - Carrom, Checkers, Chess, Darts, Whist Drive and Mahjong.

Register by clicking on the link in attached flyer or go to [www.zah.org](http://www.zah.org), click on events and select Indoor Sports Day. Please remember to select the events that you would like to participate in.

Rates - Member Adults - \$15, Non-member adults - \$25;

Member Kids (U12) - \$12, Non-member kids - \$18; (U3 – gratis)

Food - Lunch (1 pm) & dinner (6 pm) followed by Awards Ceremony

Higher charges after the RSVP date of September 19th.

*Non-playing guests are also welcome. See attached flyer for details*

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 11 am** – *Maidhoizaremaya Gahambar. Jashan starts at 11 am followed by lunch.*

Charges - \$5/person if RSVP by 23<sup>rd</sup> September. \$10/person if RSVP after 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

[RSVP Online](#). **See attached flyer for details.**

**ZAH Community gratefully thanks all the donors for their contribution towards the cost of the gahambar**

**Sunday, 30th September, 2 pm** – Meeting to Discuss Revised Operating Guidelines for ZHCC

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 7 pm** – CDCF's The Annual Tackle Bone Cancer Gala, an evening of Dinner and Dance, Live and Silent Auction at The Houston Club, 811 Rusk St, Houston. **See attached flyer for more details**

**Friday, Saturday -26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October** – Library Annual Gala and FEZANA Birthday Celebration

## MEETINGS

<b>GOLDEN GROUP</b>	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611
<b>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</b>	First Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM. Interested in helping? Or would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at <a href="mailto:aban@coatingindustries.com">aban@coatingindustries.com</a>

## REPORTS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The revised Operating Guidelines [OG] prepared by BMSC and approved with amendments by the EC on June 10, 2012, were circulated on June 20 among ZAH members inviting suggestions thereon. Subsequently, the OG were again circulated among members, this time with clause-wise comparison to the existing Guidelines [approved at the AGM in 2000].

Propositions and suggestions were received from a number of members by the August 31 deadline. A Summary thereof was circulated on September 5 among ZAH members.

It is now time to decide what changes need to be made to the 2000 document, if at all, before placing the revised OG before the members at a general body meeting for adoption. Accordingly, a meeting of the EC will be held after the gahambar on September 30, 2012, – open to all - to discuss the same. Members who were good enough to send proposals and or suggestions are encouraged to attend to substantiate/support their views should there be discussions thereon.

It is hoped that after this discourse, a consensus will have been reached for adoption by the general body at the November 11, 2012 AGM.

### LIBRARY REPORT (*By Jango Mistry*)

#### ***Upcoming event***

The date for our next eagerly-awaited Library event is drawing near. During the day on which ZAH will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FEZANA in the evening (Saturday, October 27), we will be presenting two reputed scholars from out-of-town, *Dr. Touraj Daryae* and *Dr. Yuhan Vevaina*. The special event will be from 10am to 12 noon, and from 1pm to 3pm, and lunch will be provided for a small charge.

Dr. Daryae will be speaking on: *“The Sassanian Empire and the Creation of a Persianate Identity”*, and the topic of Dr. Vevaina’s talk is: *“Knowledge from the Teachers of old ZOROASTRIAN Theology and Religious Practices in late antiquity”*.

The next day, Sunday October 28, will feature an informal roundtable discussion with the two scholars from 11pm to 1pm.

Further details on this gala will be forthcoming soon. Please watch for them, but in the meantime, put these dates on your calendar now for what promises to be another enjoyable and memorable event.

### YOUTH GROUP REPORT (*By Darius Tamboli – Youth Vice President*)

As the X’s on the calendar progress, and the space between the latest one and the circled date when school starts again shrinks, the crestfallen children of our precious Youth group must once again set their alarm clocks and face the harsh reality that school has dawned on them once again. But all is not lost! Elections for Youth officer positions will take place on the next Sunday school date, along with a brand new influx of young freshmen entering the Youth group.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the Youth and their parents all met at the Center to discuss the upcoming year. New, stricter officer requirements were made, and our esteemed Sarosh Uncle is devising an entirely new, groundbreaking curriculum for the year. It is so groundbreaking that the Youth may either be meeting twice a month or stay an hour after lunch to cram in more information about our religion, culture, and history. Oh, the Horror of it all! We also discussed the possibility of a trip to India to help out the poorest members of our Parsi family. Hopefully the soon-to-be elected leaders of the Youth group will have as much of an interest in this project as I do, and our hopes can come to fruition. If we succeed, we could even be the flagship Youth group for the United States, and persuade others like us to join the cause.

Earlier this month, a few members of the Youth group also attended the New York Congress. I was one of those who went, and I thought it was excellent, but the Houston Congress was just a LITTLE bit better. Maybe I'm biased ;). All jokes aside, the Congress was wonderful, with many superb speakers, productive conversations, and excellent entertainment, plus nearby New York City is absolutely gorgeous.

If I've forgotten anything, I send a thousand apologies unto you my dear reader. Regarding the future, be on the lookout for a certain Indian movie star returning to a stage near you this October.....

### **SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT (By Kayo Sidhwa)**

Here it is.... the much awaited **Annual Indoor Sports Day**.

This is the first time we have SIX events on offer which are Carrom, Checkers, Chess, Darts, Whist Drive and Mahjong.

So please click on the link in the attachment and register for the event. If the link does not open, please go to [www.zah.org](http://www.zah.org), click on events and select Indoor Sports Day to register.

Once you enter your personal information please select the events you wish to play for every participant or registrant. If you are not participating in any events but wish to come for the events just fill in the personal information of the booking form.

The spaces are already filling up fast and we will need to stop taking entries particularly for Whist Drive and Carrom if it reaches a certain limit, as we won't be able to accommodate once the spots are filled up. So please hurry up and register your spots to avoid disappointment as well as higher charges after the RSVP date of September 19th.

We have lots of food and games so come on down and let's have some fun.

The details are in the attached flyer.

**We are very excited as always and see you all on Sept 23rd !!**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **SHAHENSHAH NAVROZE FUNCTION (By the ZAH Entertainment Committee)**

The Navroze function held on 8/18/12 at the ZAH Center was well-attended by 375 people. The Hall and the Atrium was tastefully decorated with flowers and candles.

The Humbandagi prayers were led by Ervad Peshotan Unwalla along with Arnavaz Sethna and Vehishta Kaikobad. This was followed by a Maachi performed by Ervad Bahmanshah Sanjana.

The MC for the evening, Rohinton Sarkari did a great job of starting the program on time and welcoming the guests. Mr. Jehanbux Mehta introduced the City Councilman of Sugarland, Mr. Himesh Gandhi. In response, Himesh gave a short speech. He also distributed the ZAH awards for High School graduates. The names of the graduates were published in the Manashni in the past months. Congratulations graduates. You make us proud. Mr. Homi Davier, Chair of the Congress 2000 Legacy Award called on Mrs. Pervin Billimoria to present this award to Crya Byramji and Cyrus Byramji. The recipients were commended for excellence in scholastic studies, extra-curricular activities and contribution to the community.

The Kunashni Award is set up in the memory of Late Mani Phiroze Dotiwala to recognize and honor the unsung heroes of the community who quietly work for the betterment of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston. Mr. Homi and Mrs. Nergish Davier presented this award to Aderbad & Sanobar Tamboli, Affraz & Shernaz Boomla and Aspi & Persis Colah who together are known as the "A" Team.

Mr. Farrokh Firozgary coordinated the entertainment for the evening. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the half hour show of singing, dancing and musical instruments played by our talented ZAH kids and adults.

Later, the guests enjoyed the traditional Parsi dinner of Palav, Dal, Sali Margi, Stew, etc. prepared by Shernaz Irani of Nizam Restaurant. Shernaz donated sev and delicious sweet dahi for all the guests. The pakoras served for appetizers were yummy.

Last but not the least, our very own Houston Zoro Band "Generation 1" celebrated their 10 Year Anniversary. They kept the dance floor packed with the enthused crowd continuously for 2 ½ hours.

The Entertainment Committee thanks all the volunteers who helped in making this function a grand success. They would also like to thank the Web Team for making the RSVPs and Online Payment easy for our community. We wish our community peace and prosperity.

#### **GENERATION 1 CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY (By Farrokh Firozgary)**

Generation 1...The all Zoro Band from Houston celebrates ten years of performing live music this August! The band debuted with their first live performance at the August Navroze Function back in 2002 and performed at the August Navroze function on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the ZAH Center. Having returned recently from a successful performance at the FEZANA Silver Jubilee celebration and banquet at the North American

nd  
Zoroastrian Congress on Aug 2 2012 in New York, the band played non-stop for over two hours keeping the guests entertained and dancing to a medley of songs to satisfy the taste of all age groups gathered at our Center.

Born out of an idea and their common love for music, "Generation 1" was formed in 2002 by Farrokh Firozgary, Aspy Jamshedji, Rustum Challa, Rustum Kanga, and Raymie Daroga, all members of the Houston Zoroastrian community. Their first vocalist was Sonia Behrana who joined the band shortly after they were formed. Over time some band members moved on due to work and life demands, however fortunately the slack was picked up by adding new talents of vocalist Eddie Berana, drummer Jamshed Dubash, an extremely talented young female rhythm guitarist and vocalist Ziba Colah, and most recently multi-talented couple Nozer and Persis Buchia joined the band.

Over the years the band has continued to perform at events and community fundraisers, in Houston, Dallas, Beaumont and New York, including hit performances at the 2010 North American Congress held in Houston, Texas and 2012 North American Congress held in Rye, New York.

The Generation 1 band members that performed at the August 18, 2012 Navroze function are listed below. The band would like to thank Aderbad Tamboly for helping us with the audio logistics during our performance at the function.

Ziba Colah: Vocals and Rhythm Guitar

Rustum Challa: Lead & Rhythm Guitar

Sonia Behrana: Vocals

Persis Buchia: Vocals and Percussion

Nozer Buchia: Vocals and Percussion

Jamshed Dubash: Drums

Farzana Sidhwa: (Guest Singer)

Farrokh Firozgary: Keyboards

Eddie Berana: Vocals

Aspy Jamshedjy: Bass Guitar

A million thanks to our families, ZAH Center, supporters and fans from around the world and community in Houston for all their love and support over the years. A special thanks and appreciation to Aspi Colah who has always been an immense supporter of the band! Generation 1 is available to perform for events and associations and for weddings, navjotes and other gatherings, with DJ service included.

Click the link below or copy/paste onto your browser to view pics of the function performance:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/102089031226044919930/Generation1ZAHNavrozeFunctionAugust182012?authkey=Gv1sRgCM7Ekrbpm7bgSA>

### **AN INVITATION TO THE 6TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS IN 2015 (by ZANZ President - Jarafshan Mobed Mistry)**

As the President of the Zarathushtrian Association of New Zealand (ZANZ) and ex-Houstonian it gives me great pleasure to personally invite the Zoroastrian youth of Houston to the 6<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Youth Congress to be held in Auckland, New Zealand in 2015.

The Zoroastrian Youth of New Zealand (ZYNZ) are working really hard to *"provide a memorable, religious and social experience; to create a strong networking base for our young global Zoroastrian attendees. We take great pride in the country we live in and welcome our fellow Zoroastrian youth to experience the scenic environment we call HOME. We have a vision to create a global platform for our Zoroastrian youth to embrace our treasured culture, enhance our unique traditions and evolve to create a united future. We stand as the future generation and hope to grow together as we learn from one another."*

The congress is over 3 years away so all the details have not been finalised. Do click on the 6<sup>th</sup> ZYNZ website - [www.6wzyc.co.nz](http://www.6wzyc.co.nz) to learn more and to get to know our able and committed youth committee and also follow their progress on Facebook.

New Zealand is renowned as a magnificent and beautiful country. Our great religion is known world-wide as an *environmental religion* that respects and safeguards Nature. The 6th WZYC organisers "*envision making this event the first ecologically conscious World Zoroastrian Youth Congress.*"

I look forward to welcoming a large youth delegation from Houston in 2015. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [zanzcomm@zanz.org.nz](mailto:zanzcomm@zanz.org.nz)

## AWARDS & ACCOLADES

### ERVAD BAHROM FIROZGARY AWARDED THE SHIRIN NARIMAN DASTOOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG ZARATHUSHTI STUDENT AWARD BY FEZANA (By Pearlina E. Collector)



ZAH was well represented at the XVI North American Zarathushti Congress in Rye, New York. We are especially proud of Ervad Bahrom Firozgary. Bahrom's father, Farrokh Firozagary, accepted the award for Outstanding Young Zarathushti Student on behalf of Bahrom at the FEZANA Awards ceremony on August 2, 2012. Bahrom was not able to attend as he was preparing for an important exam (as outstanding student do.)

This award recognizes a young Zarathushti university student, 30 year old or younger, who has achieved academic excellence in his/her scholastic studies and extracurricular activities, and has made substantial contributions to the community affairs of his/her local Zarasthushti community.

**Extract from award booklet distributed at the Congress Awards Luncheon:** Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Ervad Bahrom Firozgary is presently a rising junior at Rice University, majoring in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology. His academic goal is to study medicine with the hope of one day becoming a surgeon. Along with his difficult and demanding course load, and maintaining a very high grade point average, Bahrom participates in numerous extracurricular activities. He is an Eagle Scout, a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, and a volunteer with Baylor College of Medicine Shoulder-to-Shoulder program in Honduras - just to name a few. He is also an active member of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston, who as a Navar has performed many jashans for the Houston Zarathushti community including the grand jashan during the 5th World Zoroastrian Congress.

During his academic career, Bahrom has been the recipient of numerous awards. These include the Houston Congress Legacy Award (Cyrus R. Desai award), the Ahura Vakshoori Scholarship, FEZANA awards, and the Fali Chothia Charitable Trust Scholarship. These significant accomplishments, together with his sense of responsibility, character, and deep and abiding faith in the Zarathushti faith make Bahrom the 2012 recipient of this award.

**CONGRATULATIONS BAHROM! WE AT ZAH ARE PROUD OF YOU!!**

## CONGRESS 2000 LEGACY AWARDS

*August 25, 2012*

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that this year we have two winners for our 2012 **congress 2000 legacy** awards where our youth going off to college are recognized with modest cash grants in order to acknowledge *their excellence in Academic & contribution to the ZAH Communal service* .



This year, again, competition was fierce, the applicants were just spectacular, and hence after much deliberation the selection committee decided that the best avenue was to tie this award. The winners shared the award by an executive judgment of the Legacy Planning Committee Chair and acknowledged by the ZAH-EC.



**The two outstanding students were  
Cyra Byramji & Cyrus Byramji**

The chosen recipients of this 2012 Award applicants are to be commended on their dedication, achievement, and contributions and are the proud recipients of the "**Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award**" in memory of a courageous young Houstonian who lost his battle with cancer. This award is ONLY given to the person who is going off to college for the first time since it was Cyrus wish to go even for a day to college but sadly this was not to be. It is a tremendous honor for one to be the recipient of this grant!

The congress 2000 legacy Award was established as a result of the funds that resulted from the success of World Zoroastrian Congress 2000 & the additional grants received from the Desai family. The award recognizes young Zoroastrian ZAH students who are studying at the University level and who have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra- curricular activities and who have made substantial contribution to Zoroastrian community affairs.



The picture on the left shows the awards & checks being presented to the two winners by Cyrus's grandmother Mrs. Pervin Billimoria. Looking on is Cyrus's mother Mrs. Thrity Desai. The Desai family contributes towards this award on an annual basis and ZAH appreciates their generosity.

Let us not forget our distinguished panel of judges who are selected by Dr. Faroakh Mistree. They were, Dr. Beheruz Sethna, Dr. Poras Balsara, Dr. Farah Shroff, Dr. Tinaz Pavri & representing the youth group this year was Ms. Zeeba Kayani since Mrs. Pearline Collector (the ZAH youth representative) honorably

declined to be part of the judging process due to the fact that two applicants from the rest were her direct relatives. We at ZAH are lucky to have such a dynamic panel of judges!

The **congress 2000 legacy** Committee and the ZAH Executive Committee congratulate our winners. We believe these students deserve to be recognized as innovators and leaders for tomorrow's global community. By supporting the next generation of great minds we pay tribute to the success of the World Zoroastrian Congress we had in 2000!

***With Best Wishes from The legacy committee***

Homi Davier, Pearline Collector, Dr. Farrokh Mistree, Aban Rustomji

**CONGRATULATIONS CYRA AND CYRUS! YOU MAKE US PROUD!!**

**BIRTH**

**Ariana K. Kerawalla** born to Samara and Kaiwan Kerawalla on May 3, 2012. Viloo Kerawalla is the happy grandmother and brother Zivan is quite prepared to be the proud older brother.

***Heartiest Congratulations to the Kerawalla family from MANASHNI and its readers***

**WELCOME TO HOUSTON**

Maharoukh Mody has recently moved to Houston and her address is:  
15118 Kingsbridge Way,  
Houston. Texas 77083.  
Her telephone no. is 218.741.9645



## ZAH Sports Committee Presents Indoor Sports Day

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**DATE:** **SUNDAY, SEPT 23<sup>rd</sup> AT 10.00 AM**

**BY:**

**CARROM** (You will be assigned a partner for doubles)

U-12 – Singles	Y/N	Doubles	Y/N
U-25 – Singles	Y/N	Doubles	Y/N
U-50 – Singles	Y/N	Doubles	Y/N
O-50 – Singles	Y/N	Doubles	Y/N



**CHESS**



**DARTS**



**CRICKET**



**AGE GROUPS:** U-12 U-25 U-50 O-50

**WHIST DRIVE** (You will be assigned a partner for doubles)

Whist Drive



**MAHJONG**



**AGE GROUP:** Single Group (U-25 not allowed)

**CHARGES:**

Member Adults - \$15, Non-member adults - \$25  
Member Kids (U12) - \$12, Non-member kids - \$18  
(U3 – gratis)

**FOOD:**

Lunch (1 pm) & dinner (6 pm) followed by Awards Ceremony

**RSVP:**

Required to book and pay [ONLINE](#) or select all participating events and send this form with check to Percy Katrak at 16811 sandestine dr., Houston, tx – 77095 by Wednesday, September 19th after which non-member rates will apply

Non-playing guests are also welcome!

**NO GUARANTEE OF PLAYING SLOTS FOR WALK-INS**



**MAIDHYOIZAREMAYA GAHAMBAR**

**WILL BE CELEBRATED ON  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

**JASHAN STARTS PROMPTLY AT 11:00 A.M**

**CHARGES: \$5/person if RSVP by  
Sunday September 23, 2012**

**CHARGES: \$10/person if RSVP after  
Sunday September 23, 2012**

[Click Here for  
Online RSVP](#)

**ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS  
OUR ERVADS FOR PERFORMING THE  
GAHAMBAR JASHAN**

**ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS  
ALL DONORS FOR THEIR  
CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS A PORTION  
OF THE COST OF THE GAHAMBAR**



**Organized By:  
ZAH Entertainment  
Committee**







You are cordially invited to  
The Annual Tackle Bone Cancer Gala  
for an evening of Dinner and Dance  
Live and Silent Auction  
at The Houston Club  
811 Rusk St, Houston  
on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Honoring Norman Jaffe, M.D.

Tickets

Donor Table \$1,500

Individual Tickets \$100

Student Tickets \$50

Purchase tickets at [tacklebonecancer.com](http://tacklebonecancer.com)

Or mail checks to 7306 Dayhill Drive,  
Spring, TX 77379

Checks payable to CDF

RSVP by Friday, October 12, 2012

For more information call 281-376-2476

Or email [cdf1287@gmail.com](mailto:cdf1287@gmail.com)

Program for the Evening

Mixer 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Dinner/Speaker 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Live/Silent Auction, Dancing 7:00 - midnight

Cocktail Attire



[www.tacklebonecancer.com](http://www.tacklebonecancer.com)