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**OFFICE 713-963-4229**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**TIME:** *Different timings for each group*

**DATE:** *January 9, 2022*

**Children's Session:** *The Sunday School session starts at 11.00 a.m. Join in by Zoom*

**Middle Group:** *The Sunday School session at 10:00 a.m. - physically & Zoom*



**Youth Group:**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS**

**Disclaimer and Authorizations –**When attending any events at ZHCC premises, please abide by all the State of Texas and Harris County regulations prevalent on the day. The attendee(s) will NOT hold ZAH or any board member or the organizer(s), responsible for any COVID-19 related or any other sickness, accidents and/or mishaps either to themselves, to their vehicles or any other vehicle(s), person(s) and/or property. All the rules, regulations and disclaimers are effective upon members entering ZHCC premises on the "day of the event" and shall remain effective until they leave the ZHCC premises that day.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Friday, January 14 & 15, 2022 – Library Event - Celebrating Zoroastrian Authors – See flyer
- Saturday, January 29, 2022 – Jashn-e-Sadeh
- Monday, March 21, 2022 – Hambandagi
- Saturday, March 26, 2022 – Norouz Function
- Sunday, April 10, 2022 – ZAH Carnival
- Sunday, June 5, 2022 – Maidhayarem Gahambar

**REPORT**

**LIBRARY REPORT**

By: Yasmin Pavri

**Library Event - Celebrating Zoroastrian Authors**

We asked you to save the date months ago for our big library event. It was originally scheduled for October 2021 but we moved it to January, 2022. We have been sending you flyers and Manashni announcements for months. Now we want to hear from YOU with a positive RSVP. Please call by January 10 and tell us you will be there.

## ZAH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Dungor, Nozer – Chairman  
Gandhi, Kamalrukh  
Hormuzdi, Khursheed  
Katrak, Percy  
Khumbatta, Kershaw  
Dastur, Khursheed – Secretary  
Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer  
FEZANA Rep – Nazanin Sarkari

## OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar  
Buchia, Kyrus  
Dastur, Barjor  
Dastur, Darius  
Desai, Adi  
Desai, Farrokh  
Firozgary, Bahrom  
Gonda, Pervez  
Kanga, Neville  
Katrak, Rayomand  
Katrak, Vispi  
Khumbatta, Noshir  
Kotwal, Zubin  
Masani, Dara  
Nariman, Khushrav  
Pavri, Shapur  
Sanjana, Bahmanshah  
Sanjana, Kurush  
Sidhwa, Kayomarz  
Sidhwa, Maneck  
Sidhwa, Yazad  
Unwalla, Peshotan  
Vimadalal, Freyaan  
Vimadalal, Khushroo

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## BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN (January 2, 2022)



On Friday we will be honoring Bapsi. She has been an asset to our Houston community for years and this is our chance to show our appreciation for her. We hope that you will come and bring all your friends as we celebrate her life and accomplishments.

On Saturday we showcase authors. Boman Desai has been to Houston several times and is always interesting. The four authors featured in the afternoon are all from Houston. If you think you have a book in you just waiting to be written, you will get great pointers from these recent authors.

Finally, we have a preview of the history ZAH being put together by a dedicated group of volunteers who have spent a lot of time digging through old documents to piece together how we came to be what we are today.

Please check the flyer in this issue for details. We look forward to seeing you on January 14 and 15.

## ATASH KADEH NEWS – JANUARY 2022

By: Persis Behramsha

As we begin this bright and sunny New Year, our first thoughts are to be thankful to Ahura Mazda for keeping us safe and giving us the ability to continue our faith.

Through the many events that transpired in 2021, our community has persevered. Despite restrictions, here we are in 2022 with renewed hope and excitement to fulfill our dreams and wishes for the coming year.

Our Atash Kadeh witnessed Weddings, Navjotes, Jashans, Birthdays, Private Prayers, Machis, and our ever popular monthly sponsored Behram Roj Jashans, along with weekend Boyes that satisfy so many that cannot be physically present.

To those that have sponsored Behram Roj Jashans, we are eternally grateful for your continued fervor. A prime example of such gusto was witnessed at our first Behram Roj Jashan of 2022 sponsored by a group of friends who all wanted to participate. Thank you to the families of Khursheed & Yezdi Hormuzdi, Sharmeen & Jehangir Irani, Arzin & Sorab Italia, Jasmine & Yezdi Mistry, Natasha Mehta, Naushad Mehta, Banafsheh & Toshar Mondegarian, Dilnaz & Zubin Mory, Nazanin & Ronnie Sarkari and Anita & Suhrid Thakore. It was very heartening to see so many attendees present physically as well as on Zoom. Let us continue this camaraderie. We don't want to miss our thanks to our dear Nazneen & Kershaw Khumbatta and family for sponsoring the December Behram Roj Jashan and for being such good friends and supporters of the Atash Kadeh.

We have some generous and gracious supporters who are on Standby in the event we don't have a sponsor for Behram Roj – how remarkable is that!

It is truly incredible that our community comes together so heartily, and very encouraging to see such willingness to help. When we were extremely low on Sukhar it almost magically started pouring in from our supporters. Thank You so Much – we could not do this without your support.

## PARTICIPANTS AT JASHAN



## SOME PAST WINNERS

Zubin Master



Rayomand Hormuzdi



Natalya Havelivala



Roxanna Irani



Our Mobeds Maneck Sidhwa and Pervez Gonda are invaluable along with support from Mobed Khushrav Nariman. Thanks also to Mobeds Bahrom Firozgary, Neville Kanga, Noshir Khumbatta, Zubin Kotwal and Khushroo Vimadalal, for participating during several prayers. Volunteers keep our Atash Kadeh sparkling – they just show up and do whatever is necessary.

There are so many names to mention and so many thanks to thank that it would fill up pages! Please know that the Atash Kadeh is extremely grateful to each and every one of you, who attend, participate, volunteer, donate, and help in your own unique ways – each of you count and each of you is very valuable.

We thank Ahura Mazda for sending us all the wonderful angels so we can persevere and keep our Atash Kadeh flame burning eternally.

## CONGRESS 2000 LEGACY

By: Homi Davier



### Dear Students:

The application for the 2021 ZAH Legacy Awards is uploaded and here is a link <http://zah.org/congress2000legacy-2/>

Do please note that the last day to submit your applications is **January 15, 2022**. Mail your application & have your recommendations also sent to [congress2000legacy@gmail.com](mailto:congress2000legacy@gmail.com) before the deadline.

### FOR 2021 WE HAVE THREE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

- 2 - ZAH LEGACY AWARDS
- 1 - CYRUS R. DESAI AWARD

**PLEASE NOTE :** These Awards are **NOT ONLY** for New Grads going off to college. **Some Awards also allow students in college or going for post grad studies to apply** (provided they have **NOT** won a legacy award before). For the past two years there have been fewer applications than the Awards and had one applied and met the criteria, then you could have been an awardee too. Don't miss the boat this time around.

**YOUR TEAM LEGACY**  
**HOMI DAVIER**  
**VISPI SAGAR**  
**FARZAD SUNAVALA**



**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**Gingerbread House - Made by the kids**



**ADDRESS CHANGE**



**MITRA & ZUBIN**



**NYE 2021 COMMITTEE WISHING**  
**YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

By: Roshni Chikhliwala

This year's Christmas party was a great success. The youth group worked hard to make this event a success and performed many different activities to bring the community together. We started the event off with bingo provided by Yasmin Medhora, then had activities of cookie decorating contest musical chairs and making gingerbread houses. A thank you goes out to Raymond Katrak who was this year's Santa.

Thank you to our lovely donors, Arzin & Sohrab Italia, Kermeen & Shahrukh Kanga, Khursheed & Barjor M. Dastur, Nazanin & Ronnie Sarkari, Nozer and Minaz Dungor, Tanaaz & Edul Chikhliwala, Vehishta & Sarosh Kaikobad, and Yasmin Medhora.

Finally, thank you to all the youth, youth mentors, and youth teachers as none of this would have been possible without your help and support.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**ADDRESS CHANGE**

Jenisteen Davier has moved. Her new address is:

3030 Post Oak Blvd. Unit 406  
Houston, TX 77056

**WEDDING**

Mitra Khumbatta, daughter of Nazneen & Kershaw Khumbatta was married to Zubin Mistry, son of Farida & Tehmtom Mistry of Montgomery Village, Maryland, on December 18, 2021 in Houston, TX.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2021 EVENT AT ZHCC**

By: NYE 2021 Committee

Yasmin Medhora, Aderbad Tamboli, Lyla Daroga, Arzin Italia, Zia Anklesaria, Farzana & Kayo Sidhwa

At the outset, we wish you and your families and friends a very Happy New Year 2022. As you all know we had our New Year's Eve celebrations at our Center on Friday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup> and it was a resounding success. There were some discussions on whether to cancel the event due to the surge in Covid cases. However, after a clear mandate from 70+% of the attendees, and after discussing the issue with the EC, and getting legal and medical advice for mandated safety guidelines and protocols, we decided to have the event as planned.

After 3 months of intense preparations and numerous ZOOM meetings, the D-Day was approaching fast. As the day arrived, the attendees trickled in at around 7:45 pm and started their check-ins. The total number of attendees (95) proved to be an ideal number as we could socially distance and keep all sufficiently apart during the evening. No sooner had most checked in, some went to the Bar and the others started feasting on the appetizers which included: Samosas, Chicken Tikka Sandwiches, Shrimp and Original Chips and Mixed Nuts.

**CRAPS TABLE**



**POKER TABLE**



**BINGO IN PROGRESS**



**LONG AWAITED DINNER**



At around 8:15 pm the Casino opened up and once all the “Jugaaris” (gamblers) smelled the whiff of the “Chips” the tables started to fill up. The Casino games went on from 8:15 to 11:15 pm where some learnt Craps and Roulette for the first time. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and all the players had a tremendous amount of fun. The surprising lot for the dealers was the players between 18 and 21 years as they made the most of the winnings. This tells us our future is bright in Vegas 😊. Once the Casino was closed, the winnings were exchanged for raffle tickets and put in a special casino raffle to be drawn later.

Concurrently the Bingo games started in the Main Hall under the stewardship of Yasmin Medhora with her helpers - Pervin Sagar, Khursheed Hormuzdi, Sanober Tamboli and Afreen Pargaonkar. There were two fun Bingo sessions at 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm during the evening that kept a lot of attendees entertained. There were plenty of gift cards (worth \$160) given out together with 8 chocolate boxes.

While the Casino and Bingo sessions went on, dinner was served around 9:15 pm and a scrumptious feast was laid out which included delicious brisket, some mouth-watering Salmon steaks, succulent Goat Sujee along with some pipping hot Chicken Paratha rolls together with lots of sides like Afghani Rice, Balti Aloo, Potato Salad, etc. etc. It didn't stop there as around 12:30 am there were some heart healthy (wink, wink) Paratha Quesadillas that showed up as a midnight snack. During dinner and after the new year countdown, we gave away almost 16 door prizes comprising of various gift certificates, wine bottles and chocolates as well as other prizes like the Lumio lamp, hampers, etc. donated by various community members.

Once the Casino closed and the Bingo sessions were over at around 11:30 pm, most of the attendees were on the dance floor in anticipation of ringing in the New Year 2022. We had some rollicking and feet stomping music from our own DJ Gary who kept the entire crowd on its feet. As the countdown began everyone had a glass of Champagne – non-alcoholic for non-adults – and the music was in full blast. Exactly at 12 midnight we had the balloon drop that brought down at least 25,000 balloons on the dancers.

At around 12:30 am we announced the results of the New Year's Eve Raffle and the 3 prizes were won by:

**Farida & Neville Divecha**

Cillie's Basket of goodies (donated by Shirin and Jehanbux Mehta)

**Arnavaz & Hoshang Sethna**

Acer convertible Chromebook (donated by Nali and Danesh Desai)

**Khursheed & Barjor Dastur**

Jewelry from Select Jewelers (donated by Homi and Nargish Davier).

Once the NYE raffle was over it was turn for the much-awaited Casino Raffle. Various community members were invited to pick the winners and the 6 winners that won the prizes were Nozer & Minaz Dungor, Zaal Mory, Yazad Sidhwa, Nerius Mehta, Barjor & Khursheed Dastur and Phiroz Darukhanavala.

The dancing continued into the wee morning hours and we finally called it a night at around 2 am but not before some great rendition of our Freddie Mercury's “We are the Champions” and finally “Chhaiye Hamay Zarathosti”.



## ON THE DANCE FLOOR



## PRAYERS



**MANECKJI NUSSERVANJI DHALLA,  
Ph.D., Litt D.**



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rashna Oak immensely for her huge help with the centerpieces, Rustom Anklesaria with all his help with lights, décor, etc., all the countless volunteers during setup and tear down, committee members, the Executive Committee and above all the attendees who came, supported and encouraged us during and after the event.

Our heartfelt gratitude to our Silver Sponsor - Shirin, Jehanbux, Naushad and Kaezad Mehta for stepping in to support of this endeavor. We would also like to acknowledge those community friends who were not able to attend although very generously donated their registration fees. We thank you very much for your great gesture.

In conclusion, our entire committee worked extremely hard to make this event an incredible success again. See you all again at the next New Year's Eve function...

## KIDS' PRAYER TEAM

By: Percy Behramsha

Throughout tough circumstances prayers keep us going. It happened during the pandemic times when our children performed prayers with translations on ZOOM for everyone to participate. April 2021 Manashni carried an article on these kids with their pictures. They are: Natasha Kanga (15), Sabrina Warden (14), Natasha Dungor (14), Mahtab B. Dastur (15), Roshni Chikhliwala (16), Sanaea Warden (9) and the twins - Neville & Cyrus Masani (7), Darius B Dastur (12) and Neville Kanga (15). Later these children were posed the following questions:

What motivates you to volunteer to pray every weekend?  
How have these prayers impacted your life?  
What message do you have for other friends/family/attendees?

See the responses each of these kids gave on *Zoroastrians.net* at below link and write in your comments and words of encouragement

<https://zoroastrians.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Houston-Zarathushti-Kids-and-Youth-Prayer-Group-Sept-21.pdf><https://zoroastrians.net/2021/12/23/houston-zarathushti-kids-and-youth-prayer-group/#respond>

We are very proud of our kids.

**EXCERPTED FROM OUR PERFECTING WORLD By M. N. Dhalla**  
**Man's interest in religion is perennial.** The religious instinct is innate with man. Religion has played the most important part in the evolution of society. Sloth and filth and vice have fled away wherever backward races have been led to embrace higher religions, and been shown better types of living. Religion has revealed to mankind the larger life of the spirit; has inspired literature, music, drama, architecture, and all the finer arts; has consoled the distressed, cheered the despairing, subdued the pride of the arrogant, curbed the rage of the tyrant, and softened the heart of the cruel.

Each prophet has heralded the dawn of a new era. He has stirred peoples from the depths of their hearts with enthusiasm for great achievements. The manifestation of his noblest virtues and the high excellence of his character have moved countless thousands to develop in the lines of moral achievement. The lives of the prophets stand out as shining examples for all time. The founders of religions have created ideals for man's guidance, shown him the path of life, and given him his God, a tower of strength to lean upon. Voltaire rightly said that, if religion had not taught the existence of God, it would have been necessary for man to invent him.



**Library Event: January 14 & 15, 2022**  
**Have you responded yet - don't wait till the last day**

Per ZAH policy, we request that masks be worn during the event and seating will be kept at a safe distance. During dinner, masks can be removed. Additionally, for the safety of everyone attending, we ask that guests be vaccinated. We will adjust procedures as circumstances dictate.

**PROGRAM**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 14, 2022**

**Tribute to Bapsi Sidhwa**

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Meet & Greet with wine & cheese/nuts

7:00 p.m. Program

Official Announcement of the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize  
Honoring Bapsi's accomplishments:

- Amanda Focke – Woodson Library, Rice University
- Rich Levy – Executive Director, Inprint
- Sadia Uquaili – Documentary Film Maker
- Teresa Russo – University of Toronto
- Feroze Bhandara – Devoted Brother

Buffet dinner - hosted by ZAH Library.

RSVP by January 10<sup>th</sup> to Arnavaz Sethna: ahsethna@yahoo.com or 281-468-4988 for headcount purposes.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 15 2022**

10.30 am - 12.00 pm

Book Reading: *A Googly in the Compound* by Boman Desai

12.00 pm - 1.00 pm Lunch \$10.00 per person.

RSVP by January 10<sup>th</sup> to Arnavaz Sethna: ahsethna@yahoo.com or 281-468-4988

1.00 pm - 2.30 pm Chat with Houston Authors

Meheryar Rivetna, Tenaz Sunavala, Kam Gandhi and Shahin Nejad

2.30 pm - 3.30 pm History of ZAH.

