



**MANASHNI SPONSORED BY**

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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:** April 10, 2022

**Children's Session:** The Sunday School session starts at **10.30 a.m. in-person and by Zoom**

**Middle Group:** The Sunday School session at **11:00 a.m. – in-person & by Zoom**



**Youth Group:**



**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, April 29, 2022 – WZCC event
- Saturday, April 30, 2022 – Golden Group Get Together
- Sunday, June 5, 2022 – Maidhayarem Gahambar

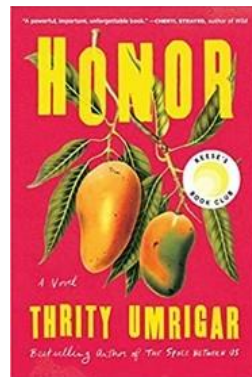
**REPORT**

**LIBRARY REPORT**

Book Review by Aban Rustomji

***Honor by Thrity Umrigar***

*Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Algonquin Books, 2022*  
978-1-61620-995-7



Thrity Umrigar's ninth book is the January 2022 Reese's Book Club Pick.

In this riveting and immersive novel, bestselling author Thrity Umrigar tells the story of two couples and the sometimes dangerous and heartbreaking love challenges across a cultural divide. Indian American journalist Smita has returned to India to cover a story, but reluctantly long ago, she and her family left the country without ever coming back. As she follows the case of Meena, a Hindu woman attacked by members of her village and her own family for marrying a Muslim.

## ZAH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Katrak, Percy – Chairman  
Gagrat, Nikita  
Hormuzdi, Khursheed  
Khumbatta, Kershaw  
Mistry, Jasmine  
Dastur, Khursheed – Secretary  
Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer  
Sarkari, Nazanin – FEZANA Rep

## OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar  
Buchia, Kyrus  
Dastur, Barjor M  
Dastur, Darius  
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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## NOROUZ AND ATASH KADEH ANNIVERSARY



Smita comes face to face with a society where tradition carries more weight than one's own heart. While Meena's fate hangs in the balance, Smita tries to the right the scales in every way. At the same time, Smita finds herself increasingly drawn to Mohan, an Indian man she meets while on assignment. But the dual love stories of Honor are as different as the cultures of Meena and Smita themselves: Smita realizes she has the freedom to enter into a casual affair knowing that she can decide, later, how much it means to her. In this tender and evocative novel about love, hope, familial devotion, betrayal, and sacrifice, Umrigar shows us two courageous women trying to navigate how to be true to themselves and their homeland at the same time.

This book is in the ZAH Library cataloged as FIRES FIC UMR and has been donated by Nazneen Khumbatta.

**FEZANA Information, Research and Education System (FIRES)** is a centralized collection of books, manuscripts, literature, magazines, and scholarly research materials in print and electronic form, primarily pertaining to Zarathushti faith, culture, and history.

FIRES was established in 2010, and is housed and managed by the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) Library. It is accessible by all interested individuals. [www.fires-fezana.org](http://www.fires-fezana.org)

## ATASH KADEH NEWS

By Rustom Engineer

The month of March 2022 has brought Spring with an enviable weather to Houston. There is evidence of new greenery everywhere. The Bhandara Atash Kadeh building looks beautiful inside and outside. A variety of colorful flowers along the path leading to the front entrance are picture perfect. With the Water-Well repaired, minor maintenance completed, interior of the building repainted, the Persian rugs and the carpet all cleaned up, Haft Seen Table set up, etc., the building has a very inviting look.

This Year Navroze started at 10:33 am CST on Sunday, March 20, 2022. We had a combined celebration of Navroze and the Third Anniversary of our Atash Kadeh. It all started with a Jashan followed by the traditional Humbandagi and complementary light snacks. The event was celebrated with pomp & show.

Since we did not have any sponsors for the Avan Mahino Avan Roj, Parab Jashan, on March 23, 2022, our ever-generous Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara decided to continue the tradition to celebrate the auspicious day and arranged for a Jashan at the last moment. It was a beautiful way to pay homage to Avan Ardivisoor Banu. The Water Fountain was beautifully adorned with flowers and Daar Ni Pori. Our Mobeds also prayed a short prayer to revere Haurvatat - Water being one of the important elements of nature.



**BEHRAM ROJ, AVAN MAHINO  
JASHAN**



**ZAH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**LUNCH HOSTED BY ZAH  
BEFORE THE AGM**



**GENERAL BODY GATHERED**



**KERSHAW PRESENTING FINANCIALS**



On March 27, 2022, Atash Kadeh Committee made a Power-Point presentation at the ZAH AGM. It included Atash Kadeh updates on the ZAH website, rates on Afterlife Ceremonies Pre- Paid Program to be announced soon, the number of worshippers getting back to the pre-COVID level, more out of town visitors coming to Atash Kadeh, etc. Everybody was encouraged to support not only by donating funds but also by regularly visiting the Atash Kadeh.

We are thankful to the following families for sponsoring Behram-Roj and Avan Mahino Jashan on April 2, 2022: Amy & Eruch Balsara, Nilufer & Phiroz Darukhanavala, Arnavaz Godiwalla, Thrity & Rohinton Desai, and Avan & Jehangir Shroff.

As always, we are very thankful to our Mobeds Ervad Manek Sidhwa, Ervad Pervez Gonda and all the volunteers who are ever ready to serve our Atash Kadeh.

**ZAH Annual General Meeting – 2022**

Reported by: ZAH EC

The ZAH Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The ZAH Executive Committee (EC) sincerely thanks all the volunteers for their help with organizing the ZAH AGM 2022 - Danesh Desai for setting up and updating the AGM webpage; Arzin Italia, Jasmin Katrak, Minaz Dungor, Roshan Behramsha, Khursheed Hormuzdi, Jasmine Mistry, Zia Anklesaria, Dilnaz Mory, Faredun Bhader for helping with the food arrangements and coordination; Zal Italia, Mahtab B Dastur for helping with the hall set-up. Election Officers – Raymie Daroga, Yasmin Medhora, Zubin Mory for managing the election for the 3 EC open position and the ballots for the 2 proposals (all in all 450+ ballot responses!) – thank you for a very seamless and well-organized voting process; Roshan Sethna for moderating the AGM and keeping us all on track; Sheroy Haveliwala for managing the Audio/visuals; Kayo Sidhwa for designing the Ballots and helping with membership lists; Arnavaz Sethna for supporting the EC with their numerous process related questions and for helping us follow the right process for the AGM.

The EC Chair Nozer N Dungor kicked off the AGM. He thanked all the volunteers who have helped with the AGM as well as those who have volunteered and supported our community through the year, be that as individuals or through their Sub Committee affiliations.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Kershaw Khumbatta, after which the 2 proposals (EC Chairperson election by the community, eFarganyu app proposal) were presented by Kayo Sidhwa and Jamshed Elavia respectively.

All the subcommittees presented their highlights for the year and answered questions from the audience.

The 4 candidates (Kershaw Khumbatta, Jasmine Mistry, Nikita Gagrat, Khushroo Vimadalal) gave their speeches explaining why they are interested in serving the community as part of the EC.

## AGM



### THE NEW EC WITH OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, NOZER DUNGOR



=====

### NEW MARTAB DARIUS B DASTUR



The election results were announced by the ZAH EC Chair Nozer N Dungor:

- The community voted in favor of the EC Chairperson proposal by over 80% majority and the eFarganyu App proposal by over 70% majority
- The community elected the new EC members as Kershaw Khumbatta, Jasmine Mistry, Nikita Gagrak

Percy Katrak on behalf of the EC, thanked the outgoing ZAH EC Chair Nozer N Dungor for his service and leadership to the community as EC chair for the last 3 years.

Nozer N Dungor concluded the meeting by thanking the outgoing EC member Kamalrukh Gandhi and welcoming the new EC members for 2022.

Your new ZAH Executive Committee (EC) consists of: Percy Katrak (Chair), Farokh Billimoria (Treasurer), Khursheed B Dastur (Secretary), Khursheed Hormuzdi, Kershaw Khumbatta, Jasmine Mistry, Nikita Gagrak and Nazanin Sarkari (FEZANA representative). We look forward to serving the community.

Our community thrives because of the good work and commitment from the members of our community such as yourselves. We invite and encourage our community members to continue contributing your time and experience to our community and Center. Please consider joining/helping with one of the committees of interest.

Click on this link <http://zah.org/sub-committees/zah-annual-general-meeting-2022/> to browse through all the great work that our committees have done in the past year.

Wishing everyone a wonderful year ahead.  
Your ZAH EC

## MISCELLANEOUS

### NEW MARTAB Congratulations to Ervad Darius Barjor Dastur

By the grace of Ahura Mazda, Ervad Darius B. Dastur, was ordained as a Martab during the early morning hours of March 16, 2022 (Roj Bahman Mah Ava Y.Z.1391 ) at Rustom Faramna Agiary in Dadar Parsee Colony, Dadar, Mumbai.

The Martab ceremony was performed by Ervad Kersi Karanjia and Ervad Jehan Darbari with guidance of Ervad Kaizad Karkaria.

Darius learned his Martab prayers under the guidance of Ervad Peshotan J Unwalla and his parents.

Heartiest congratulations to Darius on becoming a Martab and sincere gratitude to his religious teachers for supporting and guiding him.



## NAVROZE FUNCTION HAFT SEEN TABLE



## YOUNG KIDS SINGING



## ZAH CHOIR



## MAHTAB & NATASHA



MORE PICTRES ON PAGE 13

## NAVROZE FUNCTION

By: Entertainment Committee

Our Navroze Function was celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. It was attended by approximately 208 People. The Beautiful Haftseen Table was setup by Ms Parvaneh Yazdani. We would like to thank her for always so graciously helping ZAH.

The Festivities started with our very own ZAH Youth Member Freyaan Vimadadal emceeing the event. He started the evening with a bit of humor.

The Youngest children from Vehishta's Class – Sarosh Collector, Pearl Gagrati, Xerxes Gagrati, Kiyani Mondegarian, with the help of middle group mentors – Ethan Gagrati, Jidina Mory and guided by mom – Nikita Gagrati, put on a fantastic show. They started the show with a song wishing everyone a Happy Navroze with Parsa Mondegarian on the keyboard. This was followed by our very own Zoroastrian Community Choir – Lyla Daroga, Yasmin Medhora, Mahtab B Dastur, Shireen Anklesaria, Ariana Anklesaria, Jidina Mory, Shanaya Atashband, Natasha N Dungor, Roshni Chikhliwala, Farzana Sidhwa, Shanaya Vakil, Cyrus Desai, Parsa Mondegarian, Ethan Gagrati, Darius B Dastur, singing their Expression of Gratitude to Ahura Mazda. Everyone listened with admiration that generated lots of applause.

Our very special thanks and gratitude to our Sunday school teacher Vehishta Kaikobad who choreographed the entire program. Without her continued dedication and encouragement to our Kids, Middle and Youth Groups, this program wouldn't have been possible.

Our very own ZAH Youths Natasha N. Dungor and Mahtab B. Dastur put on an awesome Bollywood dance recital on a famous Bollywood Song. Both the girls had put in a lot of effort and are very talented. We thank them for coming out and showcasing their talents.

Many thanks to Yezdi Engineer and Edul Chikhliwala for the beautiful Audio/Visuals for the event.

Vispi Sagar was invited to come on stage to hand out this Year's ZAH legacy Awards. The 2 youths who were the proud recipients of these awards are Shanaya Vakil and Isabelle Irani. We Congratulate the Graduating Students and their Families.

Dinner was announced after the Entertainment Concluded. People enjoyed the delicious and scrumptious food catered by Savoy Restaurant.

After dinner our own DJ Gary got all the youth on the floor, dancing the night away. He always does an excellent job of DJ'ing, with a perfect match of Desi, Persian and Western music.

The Entertainment Committee conveys their sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work put in by numerous Volunteers and youth as well as the adults towards making the function success and enjoyable.

**ISABELLE IRANI ACCEPTING LEGACY AWARD**



**SHANAYA VAKIL ACCEPTING CYRUS R DESAI AWARD**



**DIGNITY MEMORIAL PRESENTATION**



**THE 2021 ZAH LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

By: Legacy Committee



It is with much pleasure that we bring to you our Legacy winners every year and showcase the super talent within our community. The awards were distributed at the Navroz function by Vispi Sagar and Nozer Dungoor. The awardees were there to get their recognition and we finished with one more year of showcasing the talent within our community.

We thank our donors Thrity & Rohinton Desai for their generous contribution to make this Legacy program successful. As we thank the Desai family, we sincerely hope that more members of our community would join up and contribute and thus help us increase the scholarship amounts!

**THE 2021 ZAH LEGACY AWARD WINNERS ARE**

**ISABELLE IRANI**

ZAH LEGACY AWARD & A CHECK FOR \$3000

**SHANAYA VAKIL**

ZAH - CYRUS R. DESAI AWARD & A CHECK FOR \$3000

The Legacy Committee:

- Homi Davier
- Vispi Sagar
- Farzad Sunavala

**ZAH CARES**

**PRE-PAID, DISCOUNTED FUNERAL EXPENSE SESSION**



As the community has grown, we arranged with Dignity Memorial to make another presentation for Prepaid Funeral Plans. The meeting was held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 11am at the ZAH Center.

We had negotiated with the Dignity representatives for TWO basic affordable packages, with various optional upgrades. The following two locations were presented:

1. GARDEN OAKS FUNERAL HOME
2. CHAPEL OF ETERNAL PEACE

Dignity representatives turned up in force and so did our community. It was a brief 15 minute presentation and ended with about 45 minutes of questions. As of last count 86 of our members have signed up and that is a terrific response. There were an additional 8 families that signed up with them directly.



**DIGNITY MEMORIAL TEAM**



**DIGNITY MEMORIAL PRESENTATION  
Q & A**



**ANSWERING QUESTIONS**



We are delighted to have been there for our community

Best wishes  
Farokh Billimoria  
Homi Davier

**The Dignity Difference**  
**Garden Oaks Funeral Home/Chapel of Eternal Peace**  
**Advance Planning**

**Relocation Protection.**

When you have a prepaid plan with a Dignity Memorial provider and wish to transfer the plan to another location more than 75 miles away, every detail of your plan moves with you. All of your prepaid plans are transferable and will be honored by any of the qualifying 1,900 Dignity Memorial providers in North America. That's a promise you won't find anywhere else. Restrictions apply.

**Lifetime Flexibility**

If you plan a life celebration with us, but at some point in the future and for any reason, you would like to add to your plan with new arrangements, you can. With Lifetime Flexibility, if you want to make any changes to your plan, we are always available to discuss your many options. Restrictions apply.

**Family First Cost Protection**

We hope this never happens, but when you have a cemetery plan or funeral package with Dignity Memorial and suffer the loss of an unmarried child or grandchild under the age of 21, we'll take care of funeral services, cremation services and cemetery interment rights up to the same level as your own plan. This protection is at no cost to you, through any provider in the Dignity Memorial family you choose, nationwide. Not available in MD and NY. Other restrictions and limits apply.

**Purchase Protection Plan**

Should you pass away before your purchased cemetery property is fully paid for, your family will receive some financial relief. Our purchase Protection Plan will help take care of any remaining balance due to the cemetery. Purchaser must be under 65 years of age: maximum forgiven balance not to exceed \$5,000. Other restrictions may apply.

**Reimbursement due to Funeral/Cremation services unable to be rendered**

When services are unable to be rendered due to perhaps a body never recovered, the assignee would be reimbursed the money paid into the plan. If services were unable to be rendered due to a death occurring in a foreign country and the services were handled by a funeral home in that country, then the assignee would be eligible for reimbursement providing the legal documentation requested.

**AMAZONSMILE PARTNERSHIP WITH ZAH**

BY: Kayomarz Sidhwa

Mother's and Father's Days are coming up soon and as most of you know, ZAH benefits whenever you shop via Amazon. As of March 28th, Amazon has donated almost \$1,500 to ZAH since we joined this

## AMAZON SMILE



### BUY MOTHER'S DAY GIFT WITH AMAZON SMILE



OR



### OR FATHER'S DAY GIFT



initiative. Please use the link below and you will be directed to great gift ideas all year round in support of our Zoroastrian Association of Houston. For queries and setting up the account first time (only once) please have a look at the details below from Amazon: AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.

#### What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

#### How do I select a charitable organization to support with AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization (Zoroastrian Association of Houston - not ZAH) to receive donations from your future eligible AmazonSmile purchases. We will remember your selected charity whenever you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) or with AmazonSmile activated in the Amazon Shopping app, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation for your selected charity.

#### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

#### How do I shop with AmazonSmile?

To use AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone within the Settings or Programs & Features menu. On your web browser, you can add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier.

#### How do I activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app?

AmazonSmile is available for Amazon customers with the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on their mobile phone, including Android devices with version 7.0+ or iOS devices with version 12+. To activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app, simply tap on "AmazonSmile" within the Programs & Features menu or Settings and follow the on-screen instructions.

#### Do I need to renew AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile renews happen twice a year to help keep AmazonSmile on mobile app. AmazonSmile will notify you of these renewals via push notifications and through in-app notifications.

If you miss a renewal you can reactivate at any time by repeating the steps to "turn on" AmazonSmile on your mobile device. There is no renewal period for browser shopping on AmazonSmile, which you can use anytime by typing '[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)' into your browser



**North American Zoroastrian Congress  
FUND RAISER RAFFLE**



**PAGH  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
PRESENTED TO  
BAPSI SIDHWA**



**DARRIEN N AKOLAWALA**



**North American Zoroastrian Congress 2024  
ASHDEEN Z. LILAOWALA – GARA SAREE RAFFLE**

By: NAZC Team

Dear Friends, as you all know we had displayed a breathtakingly beautiful royal purple hand embroidered Gara Saree designed by our world renowned Zarathushti designer, Ashdeen Z. Lilaowala at a couple of our functions to be raffled off. Although, this was supposed to take place during our Congress in 2020, due to the pandemic we had to put our plans on hold till 2021. Once the pandemic waves subsided, we launched the fundraiser and started selling tickets at our Gahambar function in October 2021. The entire purchase from Ashdeen (for \$1,000) and fundraising for it from donors within ZAH was coordinated by Villi Bhappu and Mahrukh Deputy and the tickets were designed by Aderbad Tamboli.

In Dec 2021 we opened it up to the North American diaspora and sold tickets throughout United States & Canada. After a lot of excitement and with anxious tickets buyers in the crowd, the winner's raffle ticket was announced by Yasmin Medhora on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the ZAH Navroze Day celebrations with the lucky winner being our own Houstonian/ZAHite, Alyssa Tamboli (ticket # ZAH-22-1713).

The total proceeds we collected from the raffle fundraiser was \$5,500 out of which \$1,440 came from various other cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Austin, Dallas, West Palm Beach, Atlanta, Toronto and some others. The entire proceeds will go towards the hosting of our North American Zoroastrian Congress in Houston hosted by ZAH in December 2024. Please stay tuned and watch this space for updates and details for the upcoming Congress.

We are extremely thankful to all the donors, coordinators, NAZC team members and the entire community for their tremendous support and generosity and to make the fundraiser a huge success.

**AWARDS & ACCOLADES**

**Bapsi Sidhwa:** Pakistan Association of Greater Houston (PAGH) at their International Women's Day Celebrations held on March 6, 2022 awarded Bapsi Sidhwa Life Time Achievement award. Congratulations Bapsi you make us proud.

**Hailey Jensen:** Hailey, daughter of Vanessa (Behrana) & David Jensen, received a summer internship at the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA for Data Science in Sports Analytics. Congratulations Hailey, we are proud of you.

**MILESTONE**

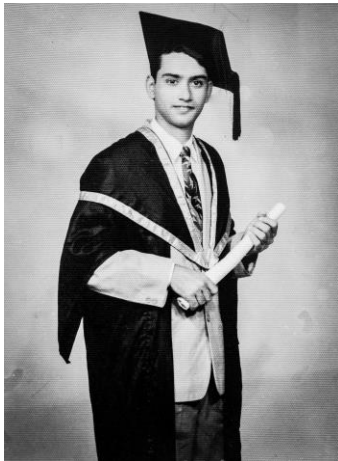
**BIRTH**

Darrien Neville Akolawala, born to Perzen & Neville Akolawala (Spring, TX) on March 14, 2022. Big brother Vishtasp is thrilled to welcome his younger brother. Darrien is the grandson to Nadirshaw & Gilda Akolawala (Colombo, Sri Lanka) and Percy (late) & Kashmira Polishwalla (Pune, India).

**WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY**



**LATE ARDESHIR (ADI) DESAI  
IN MEMORIAM**



**Adi graduating from college**



**Adi – retired and enjoying life**

**OBITUARY**

**Rustom Warden**, beloved husband of Mani Warden, father of Mehelie and Aspi, brother of Dorab, Palhan and Sohrab, and grandfather of Sabrina and Sanaea Warden, passed away on March 19, 2022 in Mumbai, India.

**Ervad Ardeshir (Adi) Rustomji Desai**, husband of Lilian Aranha-Desai and Late Hilla Desai, father of Natasha, Shevon, and Yanni Desai, and brother of Khorshed Desai (Mumbai), Nargesh Sethna, Dr. Katie Irani, Freny Desai and Ervad Farokh Desai, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

**IN MEMORIAM: ADI DESAI**

Excerpted from speech given by his daughter Natasha Desai at his funeral.

Adi Desai was born in Bombay, the fourth of six children. They grew up relatively poor and not having too much money made them resourceful and resilient.

After college he wanted to come to the U.S. to further his education but did not have the money. He received a scholarship to go to Scotland but turned it down since it wasn't the U.S. Adi was finally able to collect enough money with help from family and friends, especially his sister Nargesh, to come to the U.S. in 1959. Although he was accepted at most of the universities he applied to, he chose Rice University because it had the great advantage of being free! At that time, no one in India had ever heard of Houston, but Adi did not follow the crowd.

When he came to the states, there were very few Indians here and he was treated very well because it was such a novelty. One of his host families was the Hobby family (for whom Hobby airport is named), a senator taught him to drive, he was even invited to one of LBJ's famous barbeques.

Adi was the first Parsi in Houston. In 1964 Adi married my mother Hilla. They had two children - myself and my sister Shevon. In the late 1960s Adi convinced his two sisters, Katie (Irani) and Nargesh (Sethna), to come to the U.S. with their families. In 1986, my mother died of cancer. Adi was devastated but did not let it affect his outlook on life. Luckily for him, a few years later Adi met Lilian, got married, and had a son, Yanni.

Adi worked at Brown & Root for 38 years. He was a highly respected structural engineer with many patents to his name. He was on a famous project called MoHole, which was an attempt to drill through the Earth's crust. After officially retiring from Brown & Root he worked another 20 years as a consultant.

His motto in life was "no khatput" which means "no hassle". Daddy was a generous, kind, intelligent, capable, and loving person, who had a long, interesting, adventurous, and joyful life that he shared with his family and friends. I am very proud of him and will miss him dearly.

***Natasha Desai was the first Parsi to be born in Houston and currently resides in Seattle***





## FEZANA UPDATES - By: Nazanin Sarkari – FEZANA Rep

1. University of Toronto Professorship: FEZANA Professor of Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto is an Associate Professor position in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilization. Position was posted on 11/12/2021 and closed 12/20/2021. Applicants are being interviewed and the anticipated start date is July 1, 2022. It is a full-time tenure track position; the candidate will demonstrate expertise in Old and Middle Iranian languages and literatures, specifically as they relate to Zoroastrian religious culture. The University of Toronto had conditioned its CDN \$1.5 million matching donation to FEZANA. ZAH contributed \$1000 towards this endowment.
2. FEZANA'S 35<sup>th</sup> AGM scheduled in person to be held in Sacramento in early March had to be cancelled due to 17 of the 27 associations and 60% of the committee chairs declining to attend in person due to the surge in the Omicron strain. A virtual AGM via zoom was scheduled for Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
3. On 12/04/2020, Arzan Wadia President FEZANA, re-established the FEZANA Constitution Review Committee (CRC). After reviewing historical documents and situations arising over the years of FEZANA'S operation, 2 major concerns were identified. There is a proposal for the review of the constitutional changes:
  - a. Certain procedural/operational rules are either outdated or do not allow FEZANA to function appropriately and need to be reviewed and revised.
  - b. The constitution needs more flexibility to allow future changes to non-substantive operating procedures also requiring 75% approval of its members.

Arnavaz Sethna and Kayo Sidhwa are members of the CRC. Voting of member associations ends 04/16/2022.

4. 12<sup>th</sup> Zoroastrian World Congress to be held July 1 – July 4, 2022 in NYC – Co-hosted by ZAGNY. FEZANA Early Bird Registration ended 02/13.



ZAH is proud to present its youth participants Mahtaab B Dastoor, Natasha Dungor, Sabrina Warden, Freyaan Vimadalal, Farzad Sarkari.

Vehishta Kaikobad will be leading and conducting Kids (ages 5 to 9) and Teen (ages 10 to 14) interactive three-day program, which is an opportunity for participants from all over the globe to interact with other Zoroastrian Youth.

## EXHIBITION PERSIA: ANCIENT IRAN AND THE CLASSICAL WORLD OPENS AT THE GETTY VILLA MUSEUM

Excerpted from an Article by Farhang Foundation



Ancient Iran, historically known as Persia, was the dominant nation of western Asia for over a millennium (about 550 BC–AD 650), with three native dynasties — the Achaemenids, Parthians, and Sasanians — controlling empires of unprecedented size and complexity.

Their principal military rivals throughout this period were the ancient Greeks and Romans, with whom they nevertheless enjoyed an active exchange in many aspects of architecture, religion, and court culture, as is demonstrated in the artworks they produced.

This spring, Farhang Foundation is proud to once again partner with the Getty Villa Museum in presenting the exhibition *Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World*, the first major U.S. exhibition to highlight the relationship between the Classical World and Ancient Iran. In addition to the spectacular ancient works on view that explore the artistic and cultural connections between the rival powers of Iran, Greece, and Rome, the exhibition is supported by two innovative digital experiences: a 360-degree immersive film onsite at the Villa and a highly interactive online website.

“The military rivalry between the ancient Persian empires that controlled much of the modern Middle East, and the Greeks and Romans of the eastern Mediterranean, determined the geopolitical map of Eurasia from Britain in the west to the border of India in the east for over a thousand years. In the early 5th century BC, against all odds, the Greeks repulsed a series of Achaemenid invasions that would have changed the cultural trajectory of Europe. As we ponder the most significant turning points in Eurasian history, there was perhaps no more momentous encounter than that between Persia and the Classical World,” says Timothy Potts, Maria Hummer-Tuttle and Robert Tuttle Director of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

“The many spectacular objects on view are extraordinary expressions of Persian political and cultural identity, many of them among the most famous masterpieces of Persian art. I hope this exhibition will convey how fruitful the intermingling of very different artistic and other cultural traditions was for both cultures, as can still be seen in aspects of our visual arts today.”

"After the tremendous success of 2013's *Cyrus Cylinder* exhibition at the Getty Villa, Farhang Foundation is extremely proud to once again join forces with the J. Paul Getty Museum in presenting this historic exhibition to the world" says Alireza Ardekani, Executive Director of Farhang Foundation. "We applaud Timothy Potts, Jeffrey Spier, and the entire team at the J. Paul Getty Museum for their commitment to the incredible and far-reaching impact of Iranian art and history through this magnificent exhibition."

The first part of the exhibition examines the establishment of the Achaemenid Empire in mid-6th century BC, the second section of the exhibition begins around 330 BC and the final section of the exhibition is devoted to the Sasanian Empire, which, beginning in AD 224.

On display are palace decorations and Sasanian silver plates and vessels ornamented with depictions of royal court life, along with Late Roman and Byzantine silver that served similar purposes.

**Getty Villa Museum from April 6 through August 8, 2022.** If you happen to be in Los Angeles, CA in this time period, do make it a point of visiting Getty Villa Museum.



**PICTURES**

**NOROUZ & ATASH KADEH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



**NOROUZ CELEBRATION AT THE CENTER**

