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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: August 14, 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 **10:00 a.m. – in-person & by Zoom**



Youth Group: The Sunday School session at 10:00 a.m. **In person**



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

- Saturday August 6 to 15 – Muktaad Prayers at Atash Kadeh**
- Wednesday, August 16, 2022– Navroze Hambandagi at Atash Kadeh**
- Saturday, August 20, 2022 – Navroze function**
- Sunday, August 28, 2022 – Sports Day**
- Sunday, September 11, 2022 – Carnival after Sunday School**
- Sunday, October 2, 2022 – Fasli Mehrgan & Maedyozarem Gahambar**
- Friday, November 11 & 12, 2022 – Library Event**

REPORT

LIBRARY REPORT

By: Jango Mistry

The Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize

Winner Announced

Back in January of this year, the Zoroastrian Association of Houston celebrated an event organized jointly by FIRES and the ZAH Library. The 2-day event was organized to honor Bapsi Sidhwa, showcase the wide range of talented authors in the Zoroastrian community in North America and to announce the newly instituted biennial “*Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize*”. The first-of-its-kind prize is to be awarded once every two years to a writer who best captures the mood, spirit, and settings that were the essence of Bapsi’s novels.

ZAH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Katruk, 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
Katruk, Rayomand
Katruk, 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

BAPSI SIDHWA



We were very encouraged, and frankly, a little surprised, that the Prize generated a great deal of interest in the Zoroastrian literary community worldwide. After receiving entries from India, United Kingdom, Canada, and the US, we selected an independent panel of three recognized judges to select the winner.

The first winner of this award was announced at a glittering ceremony at the 12th World Zoroastrian Congress 2022 in New York on Saturday, July 2, 2022. The winner of the Award is **Tanaz Bhathena** for her fascinating book, *Hunted by the Sky*.

The Inaugural

BAPSI SIDHWA
LITERARY PRIZE

Awarded To

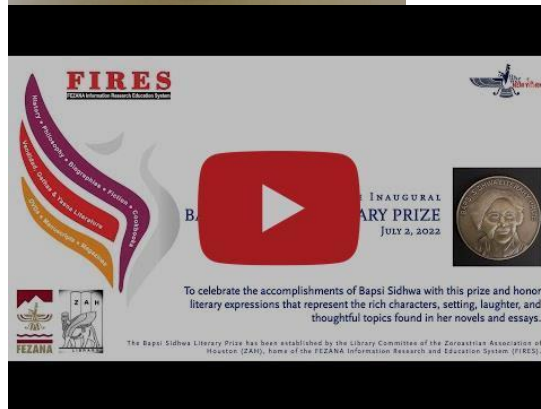
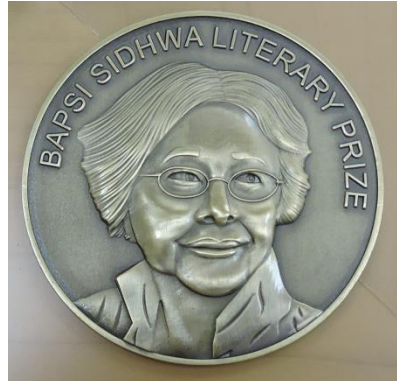
TANAZ BHATHENA

For

HUNTED BY THE SKY



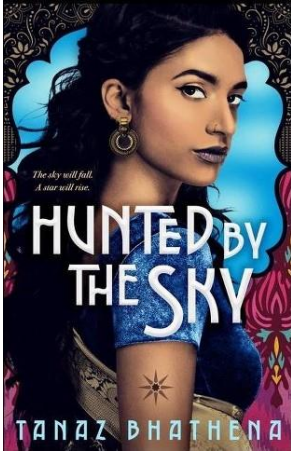
Tanaz received a cash prize of \$2,000 along with a custom-made medal made especially for this Prize. Our congratulations to Tanaz for her achievement. Unfortunately, Tanaz could not be present at the Congress but accepted the award with a gracious and heartfelt acceptance speech that was shown at the Congress. Her acceptance speech and the entire Award presentation can be viewed in the video below.



Link to the Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KggQSEReXQM>

**AWARD WINNING ENTRY
OF TANAZ BHATHENA**

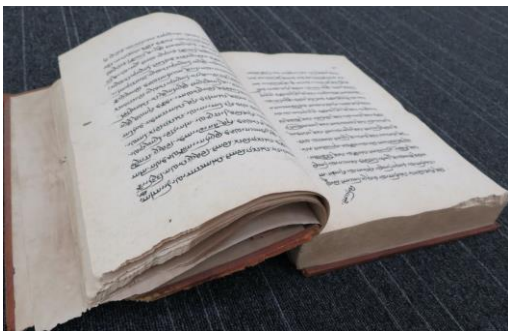


**Ancient Text to Digital
Multimedia Yasna (MUYA)**



Multimedia Yasna Project uses the methods of Digital Humanities to research primary sources on the religion and culture of Zoroastrianism.

**Vendidad At FIRES Library
At ZAH Digitized**



About Tanaz Bhathena

Tanaz Bhathena is an award-winning author of young adult fiction. Her books include *Of Light and Shadow* (forthcoming in 2023), *Hunted by the Sky*, which won the White Pine Award and the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize, and *The Beauty of the Moment*, which won the Nautilus Gold Award for Young Adult Fiction. Her acclaimed debut, *A Girl Like That*, was named a Best Book of the Year by numerous outlets including *The Globe and Mail*, *Seventeen*, and *The Times of India*. Her short stories have appeared in various publications including *The Hindu*, *Blackbird*, *Witness*, and *Room*. Born in India and raised in Saudi Arabia and Canada, Tanaz lives in Mississauga, Ontario, with her family. Continue reading on <https://tanazbhathena.com/>

Odds and Ends

At the World Congress:

Zoroastrian Digital Humanities: From Ancient Texts to Digital Data

A very interesting session at the 12th Zoroastrian World Congress was mysteriously titled *Digital Humanities* – a phrase not very familiar to most of us. In fact, it is a simple concept that seeks to create and preserve human records in digital formats. The session had four speakers on the varied ways digitization is aiding research, education and preservation.

The Multimedia Yasna (MUYA) project at SOAS has recorded the performance and written transmission of the core ritual of the Zoroastrian tradition, the Yasna, whose oldest parts date from the second millennium BCE and whose existence is now under threat. In Houston, we were fortunate to have heard about this project from Dr. Almut Hinze and even “saw” parts of the ceremony through the virtual reality headset that she brought.

The City College of New York Archives and Special Collections team, in partnership with the Digital Scholarship Services team, is processing a sampling of Professor K.D. Irani's personal and professional papers, which highlight the intellectual development of Professor Irani's ideas. The digitized sampling will be available on the digital library platform, JSTOR Forum.

FEZANA Information Research and Education System (FIRES) co-chair Aban Rustomji talked about the preservation and digitization of damaged manuscripts and lithographs. She also discussed the digital recordings of oral histories that have been completed by the Zoroastrian Association of Houston.

Kersi Shroff presented the potential for gathering Zoroastrian artifacts scattered worldwide in a single digital collection. Imagine being able to walk through a gallery of old Zoroastrian arts and artifacts in faraway museums or excavations from your computer.

The session unlocked possibilities that could not have been imagined a decade ago and fired up the audience with what lies ahead

Two Behram Roj Jashans in July



Fashion Show



ATASH KADEH

By: Persis Behramsha

Chalo, Chalo, Chalo, Muktads will arrive soon. So much planning is going on for the 10 days of Muktaad celebration.

Our wonderful Youth did a marvelous job with their Youth Fundraiser. It is absolutely worth mentioning how gratifying it is to see our Youth so involved, focused and organized. Many thanks over, again to Jasmine Mistry and to all the Youth for their very generous donation from the proceeds of the Fundraiser. These funds will be utilized in the best possible way and it will have a very special meaning to the Atash Kadeh. Our surprise matching contributor, Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara, thank you for giving to the Atash Kadeh in so many ways.

We celebrated two Sponsored Behram Roj Jashans in July. The first one was enthusiastically sponsored by Ruby & Rohinton Aga, Ruby & Bejun Anklesaria, Huty & Farokh Billimoria, Dilshad & Bomi Hormazdi, Aban & Savi Patel, & Shahnaz & Yazdi Sidhwa. What a fantastic way to celebrate Behram Roj with a bunch of good friends. The second one was sponsored by Persis & Naozer Behramsha and family. Everyone enjoyed meeting and greeting and eating !

The Atash Kadeh Committee is filled with gratitude for all of you that have booked Machis every single month of the year. What a great way to contribute and donate. We have an ongoing commitment from a few folks to contribute \$5,000/\$3,000/\$1,000 a year for 5 years. We are envisioning a new Fundraiser with a new plaque with contributor names, and will announce it shortly.

Our Mobeds and the Atash Kadeh team is gearing up for the Muktaad. Registration is now closed.

We are looking for a few sponsors for the **Farvardin Mahino Farvardin Roj**, Farvardegan Jashan, on Saturday September 3, 2022. It is a very important day for our Fravashis, so please do let us know, if you can sponsor. If you have any questions regarding this, please call Persis Behramsha at 713-294-7747 or email AtashKadeh.ZAH@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

By: Roshni Chikhliwala & Jasmine Mistry

ZAH's Middle and Youth Groups would like to thank all of our 231 guests who attended this event and made it a grand success! We'd also like to thank each and every one of our donors and silent auction winners for their support, encouragement, participation, and generous donations. Also, this function would not have been possible without the help of our ZAH youth and middle group kids, parents, and volunteers who selflessly helped us for the past couple of months. We had 40+ participants and 25+ volunteers who helped make this event extraordinary! Our hall decor was beautifully handcrafted and donated by our very own Rashna Oak. Anahita Nariman was the proud winner of our hand embroidered stole and purse winner that was also generously donated by Farida Dordy.



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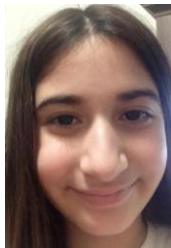
**SUNDAY SCHOOL
MIDDLE GROUP NEW OFFICERS**



**Darius Dastur,
President**



**Mahtaab Mondegarian,
Vice President**



**Sanae Warden
Secretary**



**Ethan Gagrat
Treasurer**



Darien Vimadalal – Historian

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For entertainment, our middle and youth group members choreographed a fashion show that was customized to the needs of our audience, and two very fun and entertaining flash mob dances. Our guests also enjoyed a wine social with hot appetizers, dinner and desserts from Khan BBQ and Cillie's, and two rounds of Bingo. Our silent auction helped us raise \$6,074, and we gave away several door prizes throughout the evening!

Thanks to everyone's efforts we were able to raise Net Proceeds of \$26,407.40 for ZAH. The profits were split between the Atash Kadeh, Middle and Youth groups.

50% for Atash Kadeh -\$ 13,203.70
25% Middle Group - \$ 6,601.85
25% Youth Group - \$ 6,601.85

Here is the link to the photos for those who were not able to attend this event -

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TVmQ-Bx94fHAKlM7o0eikOLsgLgB4dln?usp=sharing>

With Best Wishes until next year,
Your Middle and Youth Groups

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MIDDLE GROUP
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

By: Nazanin Sarkari

The Sunday School Middle Group held an election of Officers and the 2022-2023 Middle group officers are:

- Darius Dastur – President**
- Mahtaab Mondegarian - Vice President**
- Sanae Warden – Secretary**
- Ethan Gagrat – Treasurer**
- Darien Vimadalal – Historian**

Thank you Shireen for being our President and your leadership for the past year. Wish you lots of success in high school and youth group.

**A ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM**

At ZAH's Legacy program, we have seen changes and progress at every level since we started giving out the awards starting from the year 2007. Our winners since then have gone into varied fields in the work field and some are Doctors, some entrepreneurs, others are married and have kids of their own.

At this time, we are delighted to introduce our new member in what we call 'Team Legacy' and that individual is our prior awardee Darien Tamboli. We are excited at this addition and now as our team grows, we plan to add additional courses/lectures of interest for our off to college kids.

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP



23RD ANNUAL ZAH CARNIVAL



WE HAVE MOVED



As we congratulate our past winners, we need to remind them that giving is a Zarathushti trait and hence giving back to the Legacy fund would be much appreciated by the next kid in line. **The last individual to give back requested went one step ahead and requested that we NOT disclose his name, now that is magnanimous!!**

As our community grows, no more do we have just 3-5 kids going off to college and so let's give them some too.

Team Legacy:

Homi Davier
Vispi Sagar
Farzad Sunavala
Darius Tamboli

CARNIVAL

The 23rd ANNUAL ZAH CARNIVAL will be held on SUNDAY, September 11, 2022 - 12:30 pm onwards at the ZHCC

As usual, there will be arts & crafts by children, food generously donated by our members, games etc. and lots more for a fun family afternoon. More details will be announced shortly.

If you are interested either to donate any food items or rent a table, please call:

Yasmin Medhora – 713-301-1521 (cell) OR
Arzin Italia – 713-679-4998 (cell)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pervin M Irani has moved. Her new address is

3118 Ann Arbor Court
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Shirin & Bahadur Sarkari have moved. Their new address is:

24307 Dyer Hill Way
Richmond, Texas 77469

OBITUARY

Fali Engineer passed away early morning July 17, 2022.

He will be dearly missed by his children, Kersi and Thrity Engineer, Nina and Rustom Challa, and Jimmy Engineer; his grand children Zeenia, Shahveer, Karrie, Saroasha, Cyrus, Zubin, Mona, Zaran, Gracy and Zarius; and his great grandchildren Mia, Zane and baby Zoey.

SPORTS DAY

ZAH Sports Committee would like to invite you to a KPI / Parsi Gymkhana style SPORTS day!

On Sunday August 28, 2022 - 9 am to 5 pm at the ZHCC

FOR THE PURPOSES OF HEADCOUNT
PLEASE DEFINITELY RESPOND BY TUESDAY AUGUST 23

We will start the day at 9 am by watching the absolute top draw Asia Cup **T20 Cricket match between INDIA and PAKISTAN** with some tasty snack treats, tea/coffee and of course the continuous banter, “expert commentator” comments, and leg pulling between the cricket fanatic Zarathushtis

Irrespective of the result, the match will be followed by some delicious, lip smacking spicy **DHANSAK, KABABS and KACHUMBER** by our very own Naushad Mehta at around 12.30 to 1 pm

Once lunch is over, we will begin our Sports day with our kids forming their own teams for some intense basketball competition on our newly repaired Court as well as matching their skills on the Darts board.

Our not so young Ben-Gay and ICY-HOT users will begin their intense tussle at Table Tennis including rounders, Carrom and other games for some year-long bragging rights with impromptu tournaments if needed.

And last but not the least, our fiercest competition will be on the Mahjong tables with our feisty combative ladies trying to make a statement

Tea and snacks will be served at 4 pm and we will wrap up the evening by 5 pm.

Not interested in the cricket or games, that’s ok; come for some delicious lunch and to view our sports aficionados compete with a little gossip (of course 😊).

Cost: \$25 per person.

Sign up on this link: [ZAH Sports and T20 cricket viewing 28 Aug 2022 – ZAH](#)

Last Date to register: August 24th

Contact the Sport Committee for any questions;

Percy Behramsha percymb@sbcglobal.net

Sheroy Haveliwala hwala@hotmail.com