



**SETHNA FINANCIAL GROUP LLC, ZARIR J. SETHNA, CLU®, ChFC®, LUTCF®**  
**WWW.SETHNAFINANCIALGROUP.COM**  
**OFFICE 713-963-4229**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Nowruz Hambandagi
- Saturday, March 23, 2024 – Nowruz Function
- Please RSVP at this [link](#) by the deadline of 9th March to avoid late charges (See flyer below for details)
- Sunday, March 31, 2024 – ZAH AGM
- Sunday, April 14, 2024 – Carnival after Sunday School
- Sunday, April 28, 2024 – Curry Cookoff Contest

**REPORTS**

**LIBRARY REPORT**

By Yasmin Pavri

Upcoming ZAH Library/FIRES Events

The ZAH Library/FIRES is very pleased to announce some upcoming events:



- A talk by Sarah Stewart on July 12, 2024, and a summary of the Gen Z Survey on July 14, 2024. **Please save these dates!**
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bapsi Sidhwa Prize to be awarded at the Congress in December 2024
- Gen Z and Beyond: A Survey For Every Generation*, was a [Shapoorji Pallonji Institute of Zoroastrian Studies, SOAS, University of London](#) research project. This in-depth questionnaire reached a large population and had over 5000 respondents. The resulting report provides tremendous information and insight to help us understand the current Zoroastrian populations world-wide. Sarah Stewart, and others who were actively involved in creating and analyzing this survey will present their findings on Sunday July 14, 2024.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**TIME:** Different timings for each group

**DATE:** February 11, 2024

**Children's Session:** The Sunday School session starts at 11:00 a.m. **in-person and by Zoom**

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



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



## ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairman  
Percy Master – Secretary  
Farokh Billimoria – Treasurer  
Zia Anklesaria – Member  
Nikita Gagrati – Members  
Kershaw Khumbatta – Member  
Fiona Setna – Member  
Nazanin Sarkari – FEZANA Rep

## OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar  
Buchia, Kyrus  
Dastur, Barjor M  
Dastur, Darius B  
Desai, Farrokh  
Firozgari, 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

=====

## BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN



Since Sarah Stewart was going to be in Houston, we couldn't pass up the chance to hear her talk about her other big venture – collecting oral histories from Zoroastrians in Iran. This should be a fascinating look into the lives of our brethren who have survived as minorities in Iran. That talk will be held on Friday, July 12 at an informal restaurant/dinner setting.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize



We are thrilled to announce the call for submission for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize, a prestigious award named in honor of our own Bapsi Sidhwa. This biennial award promotes fiction by Zoroastrian authors and honors the legacy of Bapsi Sidhwa, the first recognized Zoroastrian author from Pakistan. The award is open to any Zoroastrian writer over the age of 18. The winner will receive \$2000, a trophy, and the opportunity to showcase their work at the 18<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress in Houston, Texas, in December 2024. For more information on eligibility and requirements please visit the FIRES Website: <https://fires-fezana.org/bapsi-sidhwa-literary-prize-2024/>

## Atash Kadeh News

By Persis Behramsha

Cheers to a wonderful beginning to 2024. Hope everyone has started with positive vibes, happy thoughts and jubilant emotions.

Our bubbly group of January Behram Roj sponsors, started off the New Year Jashan with a great attendance. How wonderful it was to see so many gathering together that day, and the hustle bustle for the preparations, not to mention the big spread for snacks!

We thank the families of **Khurshed & Yezdi Hormuzdi, Sharmeen & Jehangir Irani, Arzin & Sorab Italia, Natasha Mehta, Naushad Mehta, Jasmine & Yazdi Mistry, Banafsheh & Toshar Mondegarian, Dilnaz & Zubin Mory, Firozi & Rustom Sabawala, Nazanin & Ronnie Sarkari and Parynaz & Khushroo Vimadalal** for sponsoring.

Thank you to Ervads Maneck Sidhwa, Bahmanshah Sanjana, Khushroo Vimadalal and Freyaan Vimadalal for performing the Jashan.

## BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN SOME SPONSORS



## YOUTH GROUP HELPING LIBRARY



## GOLDEN GROUP LUNCH

We have the following four dates still open for sponsoring Behram Roj:

*Tuesday September 3, 2024 - Farvardin Mahino, Behram Roj*  
*Thursday October 3, 2024 - Ardibehesht Mahino, Behram Roj*  
*Monday December 2, 2024 - Tir Mahino, Behram Roj*  
*Monday September 2, 2024 - Farvardin Mahino, Farvardin Roj is also open.*

Parabh Dates as follows, are also available:

*Tuesday February 27, 2024 - Meher Mahino Meher Roj*  
*Wednesday May 22, 2024 - Dae Mahino Khorshed Roj*  
*(Zarathosht No Diso)*  
*Wednesday June 12, 2024 - Aspandard Mahino Aspandard Roj*  
*Monday September 16, 2024 - Ardibehesht Mahino Ardibehesht Roj*  
*Saturday October 19, 2024 - Khordad Mahino Khordad Roj*  
*Monday November 25, 2024 - Tir Mahino Tir Roj*  
*Thursday December 19, 2024 - Amardad Mahino Amardad Roj*

All of the above information is on the ZAH.org website under the Atash Kadeh menu.

The Gatha Study Group led by Meheryar Rivetna, focused on Yasna 30, which deals with the fundamental teachings of Zarathustra. Existence is pervasive with the forces of good and evil; both forces, while extant, are uncreated, are in opposition to each other and independently exist consistent with the basic premise of there being polarity in nature. Given that these forces exist, it is up to humans to choose between the two, and there are consequences associated with the choices humankind makes.

To those that continue to donate in various ways (Sukhar, Loban, Diva, Flowers, Water, Supplies), we thank you immensely. To all those that continue to volunteers in gentle and quiet ways, we applaud you.

Best wishes to all from the Atash Kadeh Committee

## YOUTH GROUP REPORT

By Shirin Anklesaria

Last Sunday School, January 14<sup>th</sup>, the Youth and Middle groups worked in conjunction with the ZAH Library Committee and FIRES. The committee is chaired by Aban Rustomji. Committee members Yasmin Pavri and Nazanin Sarkari were there to help. We helped polish items in the library as well as catalog and rearranged books. Thank you to all the Middle and Youth Group members that participated and made this happen.

## AN AFTERNOON TO REMEMBER

By Jehanbux Mehta

What a grand way it was for the Golden Group to start their year. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon as guests of Zarine Boyce at her palatial residence in Houston. A convoy of cars departed at 10:15 a.m. from our ZAH Centre for her place. Several other cars found it more convenient to come on their own. Knowing that the GPS in the cars

**LUNCH HOSTED BY  
ZARINE BOYCE AT HER RESIDENCE**



**ZARINE BOYCE'S RESIDENCE**



**JASHNEH SADEH  
Ervad Pervez Gonda praying  
Atash Niyaaesh**



would unwittingly guide us to the entrance that was for residents only, Zarine had thoughtfully provided us with printed directions for entry

through the gated entrance. Room was made in her spacious garage area for cars with passengers who had mobility difficulty.

A fairly large number we were - 35 members and a few other guests – but everyone was seated comfortably, spread over three spacious rooms, each with beautiful paintings and objets d'art that one kept admiring. Chilled beer and wine served by her maids along with tray loads of scrumptious canapes. No need to get up for more; just nod and you were served.

The dinner gong sounded, informing us that lunch was about to be served in elegant setting at tables in three areas. All dishes were prepared by Zarine's chef under her direction and supervision. Buffet style, but with her staff hovering around to assist the guests. Parsi lagan nu istew accompanied by crispy puri, wild caught Sock Eye salmon with dill in white wine sauce and chicken biryani with fried onions, raisins and almonds with yoghurt raita. Champagne to go with the food, for the discriminating ones. Finally, chocolate mousse. Hats off to the chef and the lady who taught him how to prepare the delicious meal.

To digest all that, you guessed right! Parsi tea with mint and lemon grass, of course, or coffee, if you please, accompanied with home made batasas. And, as we grudgingly left for home, individual boxes of home made *khopra pak*.

Thank you Zarine for having us over and treating us all royally.

**JASHNEH SADEH**

By: Banafsheh Mondegarian

Our annual celebration of Sadeh was held at ZAH on January 7th at 5pm. We had the prayers in the Atash Kadeh following by bringing the fire to our outdoor garden for starting the bonfire. While the fire was burning our priest was praying Atash Niyaaesh and a good crowd of people were circling around the fire and listening to the prayers.

Then everyone moved to the main hall for the ceremony to begin. Our wonderful DJ Gary welcomed everyone with a small speech and Iranian music.

Appetizers were served in the atrium and people were meeting and greeting each other as they were enjoying the snacks. Around 7 pm we served dinner which was ordered from two amazing restaurants Avesta Persian grill and Khan BBQ.

We decided to mix both Persian and Indian cuisine for our Iranian and Parsi folks.

After the meal and dessert was served by our wonderful volunteers, everyone joined the dance floor and enjoyed the rest of the evening.

Thanks to our amazing entertainment committee for organizing and with the great support of our Executive Committee we hosted another successful and fun event!

**FARHAAN SHROFF**



**AN APPEAL**

Received from Farhan Shroff

Farhaan Shroff is from New Jersey and a Senior in High School. He is raising money for research to find a cure for pediatric cancer. He feels every child has hopes and dreams of future and he would like to see them come true. He is no stranger to our ZAH Seniors as he worked closely with them to organize the teen/tween congress last year for World Zoroastrian Congress. He is volunteering with our ZAH kids again for our NAZC 2024 to help with creating agenda and material for teen/tween congress sector. He will also be volunteering at the congress.

Farhaan is raising money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a charity that funds research to cure pediatric cancers. This will be his tenth year shaving his head and standing in solidarity with the kids fighting cancer. Your contribution will fund life-saving research for kids around the world. Please donate using the link below. Last year he raised a record-breaking \$4,042.

This year's shave is set for March 9th. While donations are welcomed until the end of the year, your kindness in donating by the day of the shave would be truly appreciated.

Here's the link to donate.

<https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/farhaanshroff2024>

**BIRTH**

**AMERETAT RAYOMOND COLLECTOR**



**MAHTAB B DASTUR AND  
HER COLLEAGUES**

**BIRTH**

Baby girl, Ameretat Rayomond Collector, born to Sarah and Rayomond Collector on January 29, 2024. Sarosh Jr., Asha Lynnea and Armaity are thrilled to have another sister. Grandma Pearlina is excited to have another baby in the family.

## Project C.A.R.V. –

*Be the change for Malak*

By: Mahtab B. Dastur, with Mishal Ali, Susana Pulido, and Elizabell Vo

Project C.A.R.V. (Community Awareness for Relationship Violence) was created in August 2022, as a dedication to a young girl, Malak. Malak is a close friend, who went through an abusive relationship with her boyfriend. Unfortunately, she was not supported by her community and this prolonged her bad experience in the relationship. Inspired by Malak's experience, Mishal Ali, Susana Pulido, Elizabell Vo, and I, Mahtab Dastur, started doing some research into how things could have been different for Malak.

We realized that there is no centralized source dedicated to helping victims of Teen Dating Violence (T.D.V.), or to direct them to various support organizations that can help them. So, the four of us decided to make it our mission to i) raise awareness regarding T.D.V. and ii) to create that source which teens can approach and access resources to help them. Thus, project C.A.R.V. was born.

Since its inception in August 2022, myself and the co-founders of Project C.A.R.V. have researched, talked to experts and created material for raising awareness regarding T.D.V. We have also done presentations for students at multiple different schools in our school district. We have also had dedicated awareness sessions for the nurses in our school district and beyond. We have raised awareness about T.D.V. by educating people on early signs of T.D.V. and how they can assist victims of T.D.V. We also partner with other organizations to host events and donation drives to raise awareness for T.D.V. Furthermore, at Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) we are in the process of establishing the first-ever Youth Board, that will provide a platform for youth where they can advocate for community concerns, such as relationship violence. In addition, we also continue to further the cause via various digital avenues that teens can easily access such as a website and an Instagram account (where we post information at least twice a week). Furthermore, we have created infographics and brochures, and distributed them across various schools and libraries. All this with the overall goal of raising awareness about TDV and providing resources to victims of TDV.

We urge everyone to raise their voice if they notice signs of relationship violence including bullying, because no one deserves to suffer in silence like our friend Malak did. To decrease the likelihood of T.D.V. in the future, it is essential that those who witness or experience it are comfortable to speak up on this sensitive topic. Only if we speak up and intervene, we can make a change to help T.D.V. and other forms of violence and bullying come to a stop. It is important to remind friends and family that they are supported and not alone. For more information on Project C.A.R.V. and T.D.V., please refer to the brochure attached here. **I appeal to my ZAH community to please support Project C.A.R.V. by following our Instagram page @theprojectcarv and spreading the word about it!**

Ed Note: Kudos to Mahtab and her team.



# TAKE ACTION!

4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP TEEN DATING VIOLENCE VICTIMS

- 1** Ask questions and listen without judgment.
- 2** Detect early signs for physical and mental abuse
- 3** Let them know that NO abuse is ever acceptable.
- 4** Make it clear you are available if they ever want to engage again.

Our Source:  
<https://www.thehotline.org/>



**Project C.A.R.V.**

COMMUNITY AWARENESS FOR RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Are you interested in becoming an activist against TDV?  
A Youth Board is in the works - so make sure to follow our Instagram to learn more!  
@theprojectcarv



## Why People Abuse:

HOW DOES IT CONTINUE?

- Motivated by desire to achieve **power and control** over an intimate relationship
- Abusive people believe they can control and restrict their partners' lives
  - They believe they are priority
- Abuse is an **acquired** behavior.
- Those who perform abusive acts have a **decision** to do so, regardless of where they learn such tendencies – they might also choose not to.



## Signs of Teen Dating Violence:

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR?

Major Signs include (but are not limited to):

- **Excessive** envy of your peers or time spent apart from them.
- **Preventing** you from spending time with friends, family members, or classmates.
- **Insulting, degrading, or embarrassing** you, particularly in public.
- You are being **pushed** to consume drugs or alcohol.



## Why People Stay:

LEAVING AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP CAN BE CHALLENGING



Common reasons people stay:

- **Fear**- Abuse victims are likely to be terrified of the repercussions caused by the abuser
- **Normalized Abuse**- If a person was raised in an abusive home, they may fail to perceive that their partner's actions are harmful or abusive
- **Lack of Resources**- Survivors may be financially reliant on their abusive relationship or have a lack of necessities for life to turn to

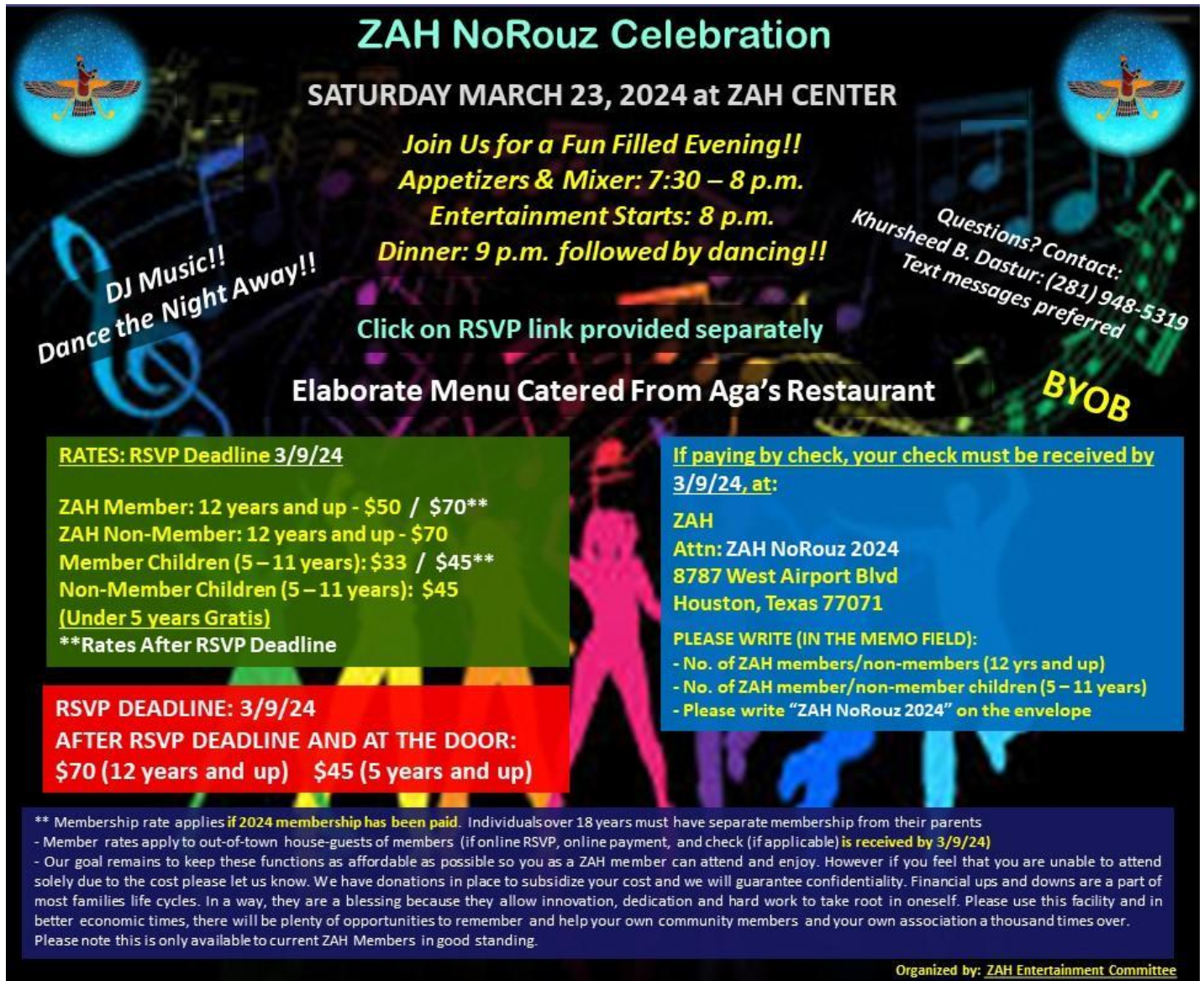
Come join in the NoRouz festivities on 23rd March at 7:30 pm

Fun Entertainment Program

Dinner by Aga's restaurant

Music and dancing by our very own DJ Gary

Please RSVP by 9th March at this [link](#) to avoid late charges.



**ZAH NoRouz Celebration**  
SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2024 at ZAH CENTER

*Join Us for a Fun Filled Evening!!*  
*Appetizers & Mixer: 7:30 – 8 p.m.*  
*Entertainment Starts: 8 p.m.*  
*Dinner: 9 p.m. followed by dancing!!*

**DJ Music!!**  
**Dance the Night Away!!**

Click on RSVP link provided separately

Questions? Contact:  
Khursheed B. Dastur: (281) 948-5319  
Text messages preferred

**BYOB**

**Elaborate Menu Catered From Aga's Restaurant**

**RATES: RSVP Deadline 3/9/24**

ZAH Member: 12 years and up - \$50 / \$70\*\*  
ZAH Non-Member: 12 years and up - \$70  
Member Children (5 – 11 years): \$33 / \$45\*\*  
Non-Member Children (5 – 11 years): \$45  
(Under 5 years Gratis)  
\*\*Rates After RSVP Deadline

**If paying by check, your check must be received by 3/9/24, at:**

ZAH  
Attn: ZAH NoRouz 2024  
8787 West Airport Blvd  
Houston, Texas 77071

**PLEASE WRITE (IN THE MEMO FIELD):**

- No. of ZAH members/non-members (12 yrs and up)
- No. of ZAH member/non-member children (5 – 11 years)
- Please write "ZAH NoRouz 2024" on the envelope

**RSVP DEADLINE: 3/9/24**  
**AFTER RSVP DEADLINE AND AT THE DOOR:**  
**\$70 (12 years and up) \$45 (5 years and up)**

\*\* Membership rate applies if 2024 membership has been paid. Individuals over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents  
- Member rates apply to out-of-town house-guests of members (if online RSVP, online payment, and check (if applicable) is received by 3/9/24)  
- Our goal remains to keep these functions as affordable as possible so you as a ZAH member can attend and enjoy. However if you feel that you are unable to attend solely due to the cost please let us know. We have donations in place to subsidize your cost and we will guarantee confidentiality. Financial ups and downs are a part of most families life cycles. In a way, they are a blessing because they allow innovation, dedication and hard work to take root in oneself. Please use this facility and in better economic times, there will be plenty of opportunities to remember and help your own community members and your own association a thousand times over. Please note this is only available to current ZAH Members in good standing.

Organized by: [ZAH Entertainment Committee](#)



# NAZC2024HOUSTON

DECEMBER 29, 2024 - JANUARY 1, 2025 Houston TX

Generation Z:  
Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence



## Invitation to showcase your products and businesses at NAZC2024

Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, we will be hosting the 18th The North American Zoroastrian Congress (NAZC) in Houston, TX from Dec 29th 2024 - Jan 1st 2025.

The **NAZC2024 Exhibits and Booths Committee** would like to showcase talented entrepreneurs and businesses. Hence, we would like to invite all product lines and businesses (with the exception of Parsi Gara sarees & accessories as well as jewelry) to participate and rent a booth to sell/showcase their products/services at the NAZC2024.

**Booth rental pricing and duration - \$300 ONWARDS from Dec 29th through Dec 31st 2024.**

As there are limited spaces subject to availability and allocation will be done on a first come first serve basis, we would really appreciate if you can get back to us by February 29th 2024 or earlier as we will stop accepting proposals as soon as capacity reached.

For further details please contact

- Dilnaz Mory [dilnazmory@gmail.com](mailto:dilnazmory@gmail.com) and
- Minaz Dungor [mdungor@gmail.com](mailto:mdungor@gmail.com)

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon!!

Regards,

**Minaz Dungor and Dilnaz Mory**  
*Co-Chairs, Exhibits and Booths Committee, NAZC2024*



## 18<sup>th</sup> NAZC2024 – CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Dear Community Members,

As you all know, the preparations for the 18<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress are in full swing and the NAZC2024 Entertainment Committee is working hard to make this Congress one of the best ever in North America.



We have some very exciting entertainment planned and we are looking to cast for the various shows that will be part of the 3-day event. If you are interested in taking part in the entertainment, please come to the center on Friday 2/23/24 at 7pm.

We will be casting dancers, actors, and models.

Please note:

- Auditions might be required if we have more participants than what we require.
- The NAZC Entertainment committee will cast participants in performances where they see fit.
- Must be registered for the congress in order to participate.

## **POST 18<sup>th</sup> NAZC2024 CRUISE FROM GALVESTON**

**JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup> to JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**



### **"Mariner of the Seas"**

**Come join us on a wonderful, relaxing cruise sailing out from the Port of Galveston to Cozumel!**

**No better way to spend some quality time doing MAJHA MASTI together with our fellow Zarathushtis!**



**Cruise sails to Cozumel with great rates starting at \$869.00 per cabin including port taxes and fees for a standard inside stateroom for two people.**

**Very limited spaces available – ONLY 15 cabins available at this rate so please hurry and avoid disappointment as prices will go up once sold out.**

Please call Farida Divecha at (281) 492-3772 or e-mail at [Divecha.farida@aaa-texas.com](mailto:Divecha.farida@aaa-texas.com) to book your spots/cabins or if you have any questions or clarifications regarding the cruise.