

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

MANASHNI

Volume 32: Issue 1

January 2018

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: January 14, 2018

Children's Session

The Sunday School session starts at **10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.**

Middle Group: The Sunday School session starts at **11.00 a.m.**



Youth Group: Sarosh Collector, Kaemerz Dotiwalla and Faraidoon Pundole conduct this session.



MANASHNI WISHES A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY & SUCCESSFUL 2018 TO ALL OUR READERS

MANASHI – A brief history.

Back when we did not have the Center, the ZAH Working Committee meetings were held at Nargesh and (Late) Aspi Sethna's house. At one such meeting, in 1985 the idea of a newsletter was discussed and decided to call it *MANASHNI*. It was agreed that the job of compiling, printing, and mailing be given to a Parsi Secretarial business – Godrich – owned by Manek and (late) Pervin Chichgar for a nominal cost. *MANASHNI* was born. Around July 1987 Manek and Pervin closed the business and relocated to California.

From August 1987 *MANASHNI* was compiled by volunteers and copying and mailing was done by the CPA firm of COLLECTOR & DART where Sarosh Collector was a partner. May 2005, we started using *MANASHNI* banner designed by Homi Davier. The distribution which started from a mere 70 copies went up to over 200 copies which were made by Shirin Sarkari till she retired and all the mailing expenses were borne by the firm of COLLECTOR & DART. This continued well into 21st Century. During the preparation for the World Congress *MANASHNI* became even more popular as it carried updates of Congress under the banner of *Congress Calls*.

True to the quote by Heraclitus "The Only Thing That Is Constant Is Change" and *MANASHNI* went digital a few years ago. We now print 26 copies for those who either not have a computer or opted to receive printed issues. Copying and mailing costs are now borne by KERSHAW K KHUMBATTA PLLC.

Formatting of the issue was also undergoing constant change – from a single page to 2 columns per page and back to single page. We felt once again a change was due. We wanted to keep it professional and interesting and have now come up with this format.

We hope you will like this new format and will continue to read your newsletter with interest as we will try and bring you not just the report of what is happening in the community, but other news of interest to the community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – BY Vehishta

New Year, New Beginnings! What my navjote means to me. Our new initiates will be invited to speak.

We will celebrate with navjote prayers, song, chalk/toran, ses, learning how to wear a sari and tie a dugli and wear a pagri. Hope to see more parents participating and attending as our new year's resolution.

Thank you for your continued support,
Vehishta

MEETINGS

GOLDEN GROUP

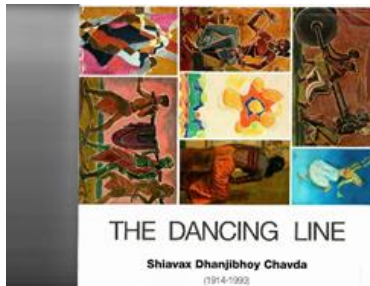
Fourth Sunday of each month.
Interested? Call Zarine Balsara at
(832) 288-2436

ZAH LIBRARY

First Sunday of each month at 11:00
a.m. If you would like more
information, please call Aban
Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail
her at aban@coatingindustries.com

BOOK AWARENESS

BOOK AWARENESS



The Dancing Line by Shrivastav
Dhanjibhoy Chavda (1914-1990),
www.spentamultimedia.com
2016

The family of the late artist Shrivastav
Dhanjibhoy Chavda held a dedicated
retrospective of his works at the
Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, from
October 24-30, 2017.

Born in Navsari, India, Chavda is
considered one of the pioneers of
Indian modern art. This catalog is an
opportunity to view a treasure trove of
paintings and sketches by the master.
Chavda's paintings are currently
exhibited in several esteemed
museums around the world and other
private and public collections in India
and abroad.

Available for check out at our library.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 6 3, 2018 Jashn-e-Sadeh
See flyer below Prayers at 6:00 pm followed by bon fire

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Jamshidi NoRouz Humbandagi
Details to be announced

Saturday, March 24, 2018 – Jamshidi NoRouz Celebration
Details to be announced

Sunday, April 8, 2018 – ZAH Annual Carnival
Start making preparation, call Yasmin Medhora

Saturday – April 21, 2018 – Libray Event
Details to be announced

REPORTS

Library Committee Report – by Jango Mistry

Nani Palkhivala the Crusader

On Saturday, January 6, the ZAH Library Committee showed a movie
based on the life and achievements of Nani Palkhivala -- a giant among
men, a stalwart who was held in high esteem as the finest legal mind of his
time.

The evening began with Jango Mistry introducing Cyrus Bharucha, the
Director of the movie who had flown down from San Diego to be with
us. Citing the long list of Cyrus's accomplishments during his 40 years in
media, Jango recalled his vast experience as Produce and Director of
shows by the BBC in London, CNN, A&E, TV-Asia, and two Public TV
stations in Minneapolis and New York. Alongside his creations in the art
world, Cyrus Bharucha held several senior executive-level positions and
was a management consultant to several large organizations such as Tata
Consultancy Services. Cyrus has also authored two books: *Bollywood,*
Beds and Beyond and the sequel *The Tigress Returns*. Both books are
available on Amazon with a 5-star rating!

Cyrus gave a fascinating short talk on his first personal involvement with
Nani in the courtroom, a lawyer who created a buzz every time he walked
into a courtroom, a lawyer who even judges looked upon with awe and
admiration.

The movie very effectively traced Nani Palkhivala's rise to public renown
from humble beginnings. A fierce defender of the Indian Constitution, Nani
is credited with a landmark case that is still remembered today as having
saved democracy in India. An outspoken critic of the Indian government
when it was warranted, he fought for the Indian princes against the Indian
government in the famous privy purse case. Then Prime Minister Indira
Gandhi called upon Nani to represent her in a case brought against her, but
Nani withdrew as soon as she declared the State of Emergency in India.

Nani was an expert on the economy, taxes, and the government
budget. High taxation (with rates as high as 92%) was a topic on which he
was outspoken as he stood up for the masses. His analysis and critique of
the Indian Budget was eagerly looked forward to by hundreds of thousands,
and his address filled the stadium with crowds that were even larger than a

**EC MEMBER
2018**

Daroga, Lyla
Dungor, Nozer
Haveliwalla, Sheroy
Katrak, Jasmine
Sethna, Sweta
Khumbatta, Mitra – Treasurer
Master, Percy – Secretary

**YOUTH GROUP OFFICERS
2017 - 2018**

Mehta, Nerius – President
Mistry, Cyrus – Vice President
Sidhwa, Yazad – Treasurer
Mehta, Natalya – Secretary
Hormuzdi, Dina – Historian
Master, Zubin – Web Master

**MIDDLE GROUP OFFICERS
2017 – 2018**

Vakil, Shanaya – President
Italia, Zal – Vice President
Patel, Anjalee – Treasurer
Chikhliwalla, Roshni – Secretary
Dungor, Natasha – Historian

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar
Buchia, Kyrus
Dastur, Barjor
Desai, Adi
Desai, Farokh
Firozgary, Bahrom
Gonda, Pervez
Kanga, Neville
Katrak, Rayomand
Katrak, Vispi
Khumbatta, Noshir
Kotwal, Zubin
Masani, Dara
Nariman, Khushrav
Nariman, Viraf
Pavri, Shapur
Pundole, Faraidoon
Rashidi, Farhood
Sanjana, Bahmanshah
Sanjana, Kurush
Sidhwa, Kayomarz
Sidhwa, Maneck
Sidhwa, Yazad
Unwalla, Peshotan

cricket match in a cricket-crazy country. The youngest lawyer to argue cases before the Supreme Court, Nani Palkhivala was tapped to be the Attorney General, and even asked to serve on the Supreme Court, which he declined. He was a champion of the common man and always fought for what he believed to be the right cause, never for financial gains.

Cyrus Bharucha was by his side as Nani's health declined and he passed away in 2002.

The movie touched everyone and was greatly appreciated. This documentary film convinced us that even in this age of Superhero movies and Star Wars, a well-made documentary on a real person can be much more interesting than any fictional hero in a commercial movie.

It was Cyrus's turn to host the question-and-answer session after the movie as he narrated the events that drew him into making the movie. What made the evening truly memorable was when one person after another stood up to share their memories of Nani. Bomi Gazder was a student of Nani Palkhivala in Government Law College where Nani was a professor; Nozer Buchia recalled working with Nani on a case when he was employed at ACC in Bombay and Nani was the Chairman; Jehanbux Mehta in Karachi used Nani's book as a "bible" in his student days; Sam Bhadha talked about the famous incident of Nani, the Indian Ambassador to the U.S., kneeling before President Carter's mother to try on a pair of slippers -- a moment unfortunately captured by a Times of India reporter that hurt Indian pride and created a huge uproar in India.

Through all incidents, what came across was the sheer humility of the man, his unassuming and loving nature that endeared him to the masses. The warmth of Nani's friendship extended to all fellow human beings, whatever be their status in life. He was tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant and merciful towards the absurd -- a true gentleman. Of Nani, it can be truly said that he walked with Kings yet lost not the common touch.

In the 1980s, Cyrus Bharucha made a feature film in India, "*On Wings of Fire*", with Zubin Mehta and a host of English and Indian stars. That movie covers the history of our prophet Zarathustra and we showed it during the ZAH Library event just last month, with Cyrus on video after the movie.

This time, however, we were delighted to have Cyrus with us in person, and the evening was a rare event that combined learning with enjoyment. As Jangoo remarked at the end, quoting the French philosopher Rochefoucauld: "Man does not need to be informed. He needs to be constantly reminded". In creating this movie, Cyrus has given us a vehicle that will constantly remind us of Nani Palkhivala and preserve the memory of this great man for generations to come.

Aban Rustomji gave a vote of thanks, a small token of our appreciation to Cyrus, and the attendees dispersed to partake of the scrumptious potluck dinner.

As a fitting end of the evening, Cyrus presented a gift of his 3 DVD's, "*On Wings of Fire*", to be auctioned, and an impressive sum of \$1200 was added to the Library fund.

For those of you interested in knowing more about Nani, you can read a fascinating account of Nani's life and career by Soli Sorabjee, who knew Nani and worked with him for over 50 years at:

<http://www.ebc-india.com/lawyer/articles/2003v5a1.htm>

**MILESTONE
NAVJOTE**

Shireen and Ariana, daughters of Zia & Rustom Anklesaria, had their navjote on December 22, 2017. They were well prepared with their prayers and recited them well. Shireen and Ariana had special guests from Mumbai, India; Dallas, Texas, Orlando, Florida and Overland Park, Kansas.



Annika, Norman and Zoe, triplets of Natasha Desai and Norman Furlong III, had their navjote on December 23, 2017 in Houston, TX. They were well prepared with their prayers and recited them well.

Freyana Bharucha, daughter of Darius & Jarafreen Bharucha, had her Navjote on December 30, 2017. She was well prepared with prayers and recited them well. Freyana had special guests for the occasion, from Auckland, New Zealand, Toronto, Canada, San Francisco, California and Washington, DC.

Congratulations to all new navjotees

WEDDING

Anahita Desai, daughter of Thrity & Rohinton Desai, was married to **Rutton Kavasmanek**, son of Aban & Darius Kavasmanek on December 23, 2017 in Houston, Texas.

Nikita Bhappu, daughter of Ken & Villi Bhappu, was married to **Brandon Abbaspour**, son of Dave & Ada Abbaspour on December 31, 2017 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Congratulations from *MANASHNI*

Donation to FIRES

ZAH is the home of FIRES (FEZANA Information, Research, & Education System). As such, we in Houston have been fortunate to be identified as the keeper of an extensive collection of books and digital resources housed in our Center, and conveniently available to our members. We have also benefited from several events and presentations from recognized scholars all over the world.

In addition, FEZANA has funded FIRES as the premier North American effort to preserve resources primarily pertaining to Zarathushti faith, culture and history. From time to time, we have received donations from several people in the U.S., England, and India. These donations have been personal book collections, rare artifacts and monetary contributions.

Now, Rustom Kevala of Florida has donated \$5,000 for use by FIRES. Rustom, a past President of FEZANA, and the architect and earliest supporter of FIRES, has been keenly interested in promoting the growth and awareness of FIRES throughout America and beyond. His generous gift is not only an endorsement of what we have accomplished so far but also a challenge to us to use it towards a project that will have a lasting effect on the legacy of FIRES.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Rustom Kevala for his generous gift.

Navjotes by Dasturji Dhalla

The Dastur Dhalla Collection Trust is responsible for the safekeeping, preserving, and accumulating of Dr. Dastur Dhalla's memorabilia. The Trust is responsible to acquire, obtain as donation, and raise funds for the collection for the general use of the public. Back in May 2000, the Trustees decided to house the collection on a permanent basis with ZAH at the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center.

Following ZAH's appointment as trustee of The Maneckji Dhalla Trust, our library has displayed several artifacts from his rare collection. As keepers of Dastur Dhalla's legacy, we are keenly interested in acquiring and displaying photos of Navjotes performed by him over the years. If you are in possession of a photograph then please let us know. We would like a high resolution scanned copy, and will return the original photograph back to you. We hope to build an online gallery of Dr. Dhalla performing Navjotes as an exhibit.

ASHIRVAD SANCTIFIES THE UNION OF TWO HEARTS

(Excerpted from Homage Unto Ahura Mazda by Dastur M.N. Dhalla)

We invoke thy blessings, Ahura Mazda, upon the bridegroom and the bride on this the auspicious day of their wedding. May the Ashirvad ceremony sanctify the union of their hearts. Inspire them lay to heart the wise counsel of Zarathushtra and live the life of Vohu Manah – good thoughts, and of Armaiti's devotion. The twain in one are joined today. May their hands be tied by the bond of love in lasting union. May the mind of one blend with the mind of the other and heart be in time with the heart.

Locked up in the embrace of the wedded love, may they live for each other, may they share each other's feelings, may they lighten each other's load of life, and may they live in the loving fellowship of minds and hearts. May each one be the life of the other.

MILESTONE

OBITUARY

Dr. Meherwan Boyce, one of the original members of ZAH, passed away on December 21, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Zarine, son Phiroz and daughter Anita.

Shahrokh R. Irani, 67, brother of Shaheen Rustom (Sugar Land, TX), Shireen, Shahnaz and Rashid (India) passed away in Pune, India on December 27, 2017. He is survived by his wife Firoza, son Cherag, daughter-in-law Parinaz, and grandchildren Tia and Kyron Irani.

Pervin Behram Bilimoria, wife of (late) Behram Bilimoria (of Multan), mother of Dr. Thrity R Desai (Houston), Cavas (Diana) Bilimoria (Michigan), Kashmira (Yezdi) Kharas (Michigan) and Farah (Pakistan), passed away in Peshawar on Thursday January 4, 2018. Thrity has gone to Pakistan to attend her mother's funeral

ZARATHUSHTI RESOURCE FEZANA'S ZOROASTRIAN SHOP IS NOW OPEN:

Sudrehs, Kushtis, caps, prayer books, sukhad, loban and other liturgical items available for order. Visit www.fezana.org and click on "Zoroastrian Shop" at the top of the page, or use this direct link: <https://fezana.org/productcategory/z-shop/>

"Zoroastrianism is the oldest of the revealed world-religions, and it has probably had more influence on mankind, directly and indirectly, than any other single faith." - [Boyce, Zoroastrians, 1979, p. 1.](#)

MEHERWAN BOYCE – A TRIBUTE

By Nerina Rustomji

Meherwan Boyce was a civic and community leader ahead of his time. It would be easy to point to his vast experience in the field of industry, his years as a professor in academia, and his commitment to the city of Houston in politics and the arts. But let us not forget that he also was committed to the first youth group led by Yezdi and Magdalena Rustomji.

As an advocate of lifelong learning, Meherwan and his wife Zarine were dedicated to providing opportunities to the youth. When our Sunday School home was not available, they would hold meetings in their factory on I-59. They hosted youth retreats in their home, delighting in children running up and down the halls and playing pool on their elephant-legged (for the Republican party!) pool-table. When it was time to eat, they could call over the intercom that it was time to sit down for the delicious meal. And they would enjoy the sheer energy, antics, and life of the children. They were not just hosts, but encouraged education and international connections. When the World Zoroastrian Organization held its Gatha conference, Meherwan and Zarine held an essay contest to send a member of the youth to London. Over the years, they always delighted to hearing from the youth and celebrated their accomplishments and milestones.

No matter their successes, Meherwan and Zarine were always happy to connect with the youth. Meherwan Uncle leaves behind a legacy of accomplishment, service and dedication. But most of all, his commitment to and investment in us will be missed.

MIDDLE GROUP LOCK-IN – DECEMBER 2017

By Roshni Chikhliwalla

At 5 o'clock everyone started to arrive at the Center. There were 13 kids and 8 adults. The 13 kids were Emma Kolah, Natasha Dungor, Natasha and Neville Kanga, Yohan and Yash Chiniwalla, Shanaya and Cyrus Vakil, Anjalee Patel, Freyan Vimadalal, Sameer Chakraborty, Zal Italia and Roshni Chikhliwalla. Arnavaz aunty and Nazneen aunty were the hosts at the lock-in.

Zal and Sameer created a scavenger hunt with 3 teams and 13 clues. This took about 1 hour to do. After this we had dinner. While the parents were having dinner the middle school kids performed a play. This play was called Mulan. Neville Kanga then gave a presentation on his Navar ceremony. After this we played games. We went to bed around 12:00 midnight after saying our Nirang-E Sarosh Yasht Vadi prayers.

The next morning we said our prayers, had our breakfast and helped clean the center. After that we got ready for the Middle group school.

We had fun and enjoyed our lock-in. Thank you Arnavaz Aunty, Nazneen Aunty and all the parents who helped organize the lock-in.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN UPCOMING VISIT TO OUR CENTER

Faith and culture are an important part of any city. We at ZAH have been active participants in Interfaith events. On Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 1:00 pm we will be hosting a group of 30 AAUW (American Association of University Women) who are interested in learning about our religion and culture will be visiting our Center. The group will learn about the funda-

MEMBERSHIP DUES

CATEGORY AND RATES

Patron Family Membership	\$500
Patron Single Membership	\$250
Patron Senior Family M'brshp	\$250
Patron Senior Single M'brshp	\$125
Family Membership	\$275
Family Senior Membership	\$ 65
Associate Membership	\$275
Single Membership	\$135
Single M'ber Head of Hshold	\$150
Single Senior Membership	\$ 40
Student Membership	\$ 25
Manashni Surcharge For Printed/Mailed copies	\$ 15

Definition of Categories

Family Member

Parents and their children under 18

Family Senior Member

One spouse is over the age of 65

Single Member

Unmarried individual over the age 18

Single Senior Member

Individual over the age of 65

Single Member Head of Household

Single parent with children under 18

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK

PAYABLE TO: ZAH

AND MAIL TO:

ZAH Treasurer
8787 W Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071

Or pay online:

<http://zah.org/?event=zah-annual-membership-2018>

mentals of our religion, take a tour of the center and visit the library where a special display about the upcoming Jashan-e-Sadeh that leads to the celebration of Navroze will be featured.

Zarathushti hospitality will be reflected with light Parsi delicacies and refreshments of tea along with *batasas*, *Dar ni Pori* and *khatai* will also be offered to attendees.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, whether it is to be a tour guide or provide some tasty Parsi treats then please contact Kaemerz Dotiwalla at kaemerzd@comcast.net OR q.environmental@sbcglobal.net

ZAH anticipates your participation in welcoming our guests to our Center.

WZCC GLOBAL MEET 2017 BANGALORE

By arZan on Dec 19, 2017



The World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce held its 2017 Annual Global AGM and Meet in Bangalore on 15th and 16th December 2017. The event was hosted at the Clarks Exotica Resort on the outskirts of Bangalore by the Bangalore Chapter of WZCC. Zarin Kharas spearheaded the meticulously detailed event under the watchful eye of Bangalore Chapter Chair Air Chief Marshal (Retd.) Fali Major.

Over 120 participants from all over the world gathered for this two day event that had a plethora of speakers including the amazing Zerbanoo Gifford and Adrian Locher from the ASHA Center in the United Kingdom.

The first day saw the formal business of the Annual General meeting followed by a panel of youth discussing issues and brainstorming with the crowd. The next day a panel of business people discussed the Zarathushti ethos in doing business in India.

Zerbanoo and Adrian through a series of participatory games addressed team dynamics, leadership and other issues vital to any business.

The event ended with the glittering Awards Gala where the WZCC Global Awards were presented.

Entrepreneur of the year award was presented to Feroze Bhandara of Houston, Texas USA for his entrepreneurial success over the last few decades in the United States.

Professional of the year award was presented to Ferzaan Engineer for his pathbreaking work in setting up cancer care.

Young professional of the year award was presented to Zerick Dastur for his success in the legal field.

Edul Daver, the Global Chair of WZCC announced and welcomed the participants to the next AGM in Central Florida, United States in May 2019.

NAZC2020 - December 2020 in Houston, TX

NAZC2020 LOGO SUBMISSION

We wish you a very Happy New Year and hope y'all had a great holiday season. As you are aware, our Theme for NAZC2020 is GENERATION Z: PROPELLING THE ZARATHUSHTI RESURGENCE and now we need a suitable, attractive Logo to complement it. Due to a few requests from the community we have decided to extend the deadline for submission of the NAZC Logo to February 28th 2018. As informed earlier, there will be a grand prize of \$150 for the best entry selected by the designated selection committee and here are some guidelines:

1. **Should highlight the importance of Zarathushti religion and culture**
2. **A brief description of how it relates to and aligns with the NAZC2020 Theme above**
3. **Individuals can send one or more entries**
4. **NAZC2020 Logo artwork submission should be in JIF, JPG or BMP format and must be easy to use, handle, resize and manipulate for all reproduction purposes**
5. **The selection committee will consist of the NAZC2020 core committee and/or its selected judges**
6. **Entries should be emailed to the NAZC2020 Secretary, Percy Master latest by Feb 28th, 2018**

Also, some preliminary activities have started and Committee team meetings will start soon so please have a look at the committees below and send in your volunteer nominations at your earliest convenience via email to Percy Master, NAZC2020 Secretary.

- Program
- Entertainment
- Hospitality (Operations)
- Registration
- Tours and Transportation
- Audio Visual / Technology
- Website / Social Media
- Public Relations / Publications / Press Relations • Fundraising
- Exhibits/Booths
- Youth and Young Adults (under 30)
- Kids' program
- Medical

Thank you and Regards,
Your NAZC2020 Core Committee



Jashne Sadeh

Saturday February 3, 2018



At The Zarthushti Heritage and Cultural Center
8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071

RSVP LINK WILL BE PROVIDED SHORTLY

Please RSVP AND PAY ONLINE

Prayers: 6 p.m.

Sadeh Fire: Immediately Following Prayers

Charge: \$5 (Ages 4 & Up)

POTLUCK: PLEASE BRING A FOOD ITEM TO SHARE:

Covered entree or similar food item to share.

**Please do not bring: Cakes, Cookies, Pies, etc. in lieu
of your covered dish. Thank You. 😊**

**ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS OUR ERVADS FOR
PERFORMING PRAYERS AT THE JASHNE SADEH FUNCTION**

**ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS ALL DONORS FOR
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF THE
JASHNE SADEH FUNCTION**

If you have any questions
please contact:
Farrokh Firozgary
(281) 685-7245
or Email:
firozgary@yahoo.com

Organized By: [ZAH Entertainment Committee](#)

