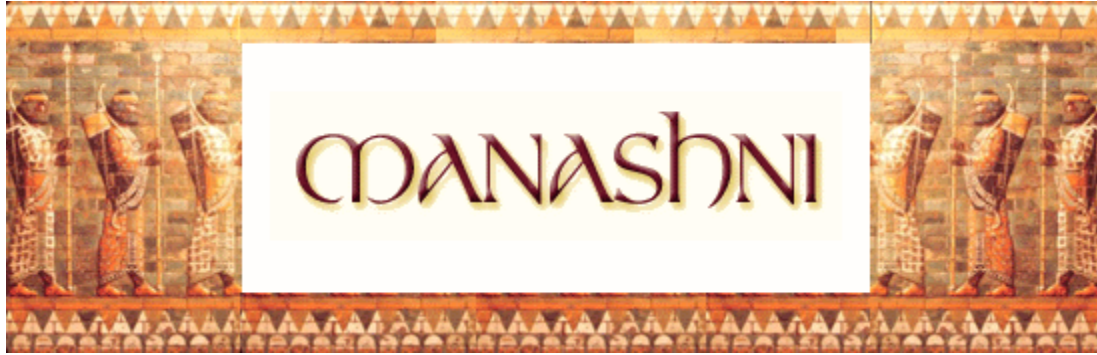




Zoroastrian Association of Houston  
8787 W. Airport Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77071



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**PLACE:** ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071 Tel: 713-270-9339  
**TIME:** 11:00 AM.  
**DATE:** April 11, 2010

**Children’s Session:** The “**Let’s Learn Gujarati Together**” session will be from 11 am to 11.25 am. Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am. For this month’s Gujarati session we will review the names of fruits and vegetables with their colors. Kids can get a fruit or vegetable for which they know the Gujarati name for a Show and Tell.

**Middle Group:** Arnavaz Sethna and Pearline Collector conduct this session.

**Senior Group:** Sarosh Collector conducts this session

**Adult Sunday School Classes** – If you are interested in joining Adult Sunday School classes, please contact Nazneen Khumbatta, preferably at [nazneekhumbatta@yahoo.com](mailto:nazneekhumbatta@yahoo.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, April 11** – Carnival (after Sunday School). **See attached flyer for details**  
**Sunday, May 31** – Shahenshahi Dae Month Gahambar – Maidhyaiya (16-20 Daê)

### MEETINGS

<b>ZARATHUSHTI INVESTMENT GROUP</b>	Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Interested? Please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.
<b>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Interested? Please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.
<b>GOLDEN GROUP</b>	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611
<b>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</b>	First Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM. Interested in helping? Or would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at <a href="mailto:aban@coatingengineers.com">aban@coatingengineers.com</a>

### REPORTS

**YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS**

The EC would like to thank Kershaw and Nazneen Khumbatta for their sponsorship of ZAH athletes to the XIIth Zarathushti Games in Long Beach, CA, July 1-5, 2010. ZAH will field two complete teams. Anyone interested in going should contact Bahrom Firozgary or Sarosh Collector for complete details. Due to the high cost involved in sending ZAH athletes, ZAH is also looking for additional sponsors for our athletes. Members interested in sponsoring ZAH athletes should contact the ZAH Treasurer, Nazanin Sarkari. The EC would like to thank Kershaw and Nazneen Khumbatta for their generous support of this important activity for our youth.

The EC is happy to announce that once again ZAH has collected \$2400 from our members for the Houston Meals on Wheels program – this amount is adequate to sponsor two deserving seniors via the Interfaith Ministries.

We regret to announce that Jasmine Mistry has decided to resign from the EC. We thank her for her hard work on the EC and also wish her the very best. Jasmine continues to remain involved with other ZAH activities, such as the North American Zarathushti Congress committee.

Remember to visit the *JUST NEWS* link on the ZAH website for the latest news on ZAH. Until next month, we, your EC, wish you the very best and look forward to seeing you at the Center. If there is anything you would like to discuss with the EC, please be sure to contact Percy Master (the ZAH secretary) by email at [percy.master@hp.com](mailto:percy.master@hp.com), so that your issue can be added to the agenda for the next EC meeting.

The ZAH EC - Sarosh Collector, Kershaw Khumbatta, Kamalrukh Gandhi, Jehanbux Mehta, Nazanin Sarkari, Rustom Setna and Percy Master.

### **LIBRARY REPORT – by Jango Mistry**

At the last FEZANA Annual Meeting, FEZANA member Associations voted to establish the FIRES in Houston, co-located with the ZAH Library. The mission of FIRES (FEZANA Information Research Education System) is to establish a North American centralized collection of books, manuscripts, literature, etc. primarily pertaining to Zarathushti faith, culture, and history. FIRES will also house fiction and non-fiction books by Zarathushti authors. It will be a functional North American Zarathushti Library, accessible by FEZANA Associations and individuals for information and research purposes.

In keeping with the expected heavy reliance on use of electronic media for digitizing and transmission of documents, Aban Rustomji has set up [www.libraryworld.com](http://www.libraryworld.com) as a catalog of the contents. All requests for books and documents will be routed through member associations only, who in turn will be responsible for the return of the loan item. ZAH Library Committee has prepared the Annual Report that will be presented at this year's FEZANA Annual Meeting later this month. ZAH will also present a budget that FEZANA has allotted to cover operational expenses for scanning, digitizing, etc.. We will keep ZAH members informed on the progress of this important initiative.

*You may recall that we are planning to have a permanent exhibit of old black-and-white pictures of our family members on one of the Library's walls. **You have one last chance to bring these photos with you to the Center on Carnival Day, Sunday, April 11.** Recognizing that these are precious and irreplaceable memories, your pictures will be treated with utmost respect and care, and returned to you, if possible, on the same day. We already have some wonderful pictures but are still looking for more that would be equally interesting and worthy of inclusion in our showing. So don't miss out on this opportunity -- scour your attic and closets for photographs of your ancestors dressed in traditional garb or otherwise, and make them come alive again through this permanent display we have planned.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **NOROUZE CELEBRATION**

The NoRouz function was a grand success. We had a turnout of 400+ folks.

The hall was very tastefully decorated. We also had a beautifully decorated Haft Seen table in the center of the atrium which was admired by all. Many thanks to our Iranian community for organizing the table.

The festivities started out with stage performances by Vehishta Kaikobad's kids – the little ones were adorable and it was very apparent to all, that it was a very talented group of children. Vehishta has done a fantastic job with the kids. Anushka Oak did a fabulous performance of Khatak dance and enthralled the audience with her grace and talent. Many thanks to Vehishta, Anushka, all the kids, and of course their parents, for providing a very entertaining evening.

Jasmine Mistry encouraged our members to take advantage of the early bird registration for the North American Zoroastrian Congress (NAZC) in December.  
Vehishta talked about the activities being planned for children (ages 5 – 12)

The food by Mezban was delicious and seemed to disappear very quickly.

Dinner was followed by music by DJ Saz. There was a good mix of Western, Bollywood, Iranian music that had the dance floor rocking till the wee hours of the morning!!

It was wonderful to spend NoRouz evening with family and friends.

### **RAFFLE DRAW**

A mini raffle was run to raise funds for the North American Zoroastrian Congress to be hosted by us from December 29 to December 31. Donated items were a machine embroidered gara and a George Foreman Grill. And, the winners are:

Rustom and Fiona Setna - Gara  
Rustom and Yasmin Engineer - Grill

The raffle netted \$775.

Jimmy Kumana is the Fundraising Chair and needs to be commended for undertaking this task. Watch out for another raffle for the drawing of a mini computer (netbook) in May. The tickets will be on sale as soon as possible.

### **WANTED A ROOMMATE AT A RETIREMENT HOME**

Mrs. Shirin Khosravian, mother of Rustom Khosravian, has moved to a beautiful retirement community - The Terrace, A Retirement Community, 16900 Lexington Blvd., Apt. 2205, Sugar Land, TX 77479. She is looking for a roommate. Requirement for a roommate is that she must be a senior retired lady and be able to speak English. Anyone interested may please call Rustom at 832-746-5163.

### **GENETIC STUDY FOR TEXAS PARSIS**

The Genetic Study for Texas Parsis is well on its way and you can check the progress of the study on the website <http://grip.sfbgenetics.org/>.

Many thanks to the 17 participants who completed the first round of interviews in February with Faredun Bheader's expert help in liaising.

The 2nd round of interviews is scheduled on **Saturday, April 10th from 11:00 - 5:00 pm** and **Sunday, April 11th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**. Interview will take 20 minutes only **IF** you have already filled out the necessary questionnaire. You may choose to mail the questionnaire back to Dr. Saroja or bring it with you to the interview session. Completed questionnaires can be mailed to: Dr. Saroja Voruganti  
Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, PO Box 760549, San Antonio, TX 78245

To obtain the necessary questionnaire, email or print copy, and to schedule a time, please email Aban Rustomji - [aban@coatingindustries.com](mailto:aban@coatingindustries.com) and set up a preferred date and time. Walk-ins are encouraged, but members who are scheduled will have priority.

### **2010 USA TABLE TENNIS NATIONAL TEAM**

The 2010 USA Table Tennis National Team was announced Friday by the organization. This group of athletes is led by a mix of veteran and youth players. The USA Table Tennis National Team will represent

the United States throughout the year at various international competitions, which includes the 2010 World Championships in Moscow, Russia, scheduled for May 23-30. **Niraj Oak** qualified for the Men's team by placing at the USA Table Tennis Team Trials.

Niraj, Rashna and Anushka Oak are long time ZAH Members and have participated in and volunteered for many ZAH activities.

You can visit [http://www.usatt.org/news1/2010\\_national\\_team.shtml](http://www.usatt.org/news1/2010_national_team.shtml) for more information.

***Congratulations, Oak family, we are proud of you.***

#### **THE ZARATHUSHTI STIMULUS PLAN**

Help find jobs for 170 unemployed Zoroastrians!

The **Zarathusti Stimulus Plan** ([www.zorostimulus.org](http://www.zorostimulus.org)) has 170 registered Zoroastrians who are un/under-employed and seeking a job. Please take a few minutes of your time to do your part in assisting fellow Zoroastrians find a job and support their families during these historically difficult economic times. Registrants are from all over the world, and several are in your local community.

- **Post a job opening.**

Is your company hiring? Know of a new job opening? Post the job information at [www.zorostimulus.org](http://www.zorostimulus.org).

- **Reach out to those registered for the program.**

Take a few minutes to review the profiles of fellow Zoroastrians seeking job assistance at [www.zorostimulus.org](http://www.zorostimulus.org). If you have a network in an industry/geography and can be of assistance to a specific individual, please don't hesitate to reach out to them. You can also register to be an official Mentor at the website.

***If you are unemployed and would like to register for the Zoroastrian Stimulus Plan, visit [www.zorostimulus.org](http://www.zorostimulus.org)***

If you have any questions/concerns, feel free to email the Zoroastrian Stimulus Plan team at [zorostimulus@fezana.org](mailto:zorostimulus@fezana.org).

#### **THE BAYLOR SHOULDER TO SHOULDER FOUNDATION (BSTS) ANNUAL GALA MAY 15, 2010**

Last year Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) co-sponsored The Baylor Shoulder to Shoulder Foundation (BSTS) gala at the Zoroastrian Heritage Cultural Center. The ZAH Community opened our arms wide to embrace this worthy cause. Thanks to all your help and generosity the fundraising gala was very successful. Our involvement has helped BSTS maintain its key operations in Honduras. The BSTS Board and the people of Santa Ana, Honduras are deeply grateful.

This summer our children will experience first hand the plight of the people of Santa Ana, Honduras when we take our first ZAH Youth Brigade there. With your support we can further enhance this mutually beneficial relationship.

It is time for our Second Annual Gala. Baylor Shoulder to Shoulder and The people of Santa Ana, Honduras are counting on our support. Please attend and make this second Annual Gala a resounding success. We have a nice evening planned for you.

Please see attached flyer and we hope you attend and support this wonderful cause.

#### **OBITUARY**

We regret to announce the passing away of NARIMAN KAIKHUSHROO IRANI in Karachi on March 23, 2010.

Husband of Franey ( Dolly )

Father of Vica

Brother of Piroja Noshir Wadia and Gooloo Sam Polad.

***Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families***



# CARNIVAL

***SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010 AT 12:45 P.M.***  
***(After Sunday School)***  
***AT ZHCC***

Bring your family and friends....ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ZAH.  
Checks in name of ZAH for the Carnival are more than welcome.

**Enjoy the fun and festivity, a variety of food to eat and  
to-go, desserts, snacks, etc. Lots of ZAH and Rental tables.**

**Paani Poori, Bhel, Dahi Poori, Grilled Chicken Tikka, Dhansaak, Curry Rice, Sali Margi, Biryani, Paapri, Cutlets, Potato Poori, Rolls, Pizza, Malido, Lagan Nu Custar, Faloodo, Brownies and surprises.**

**To-Go food: All above items plus masoor, chicken, jhinga patio, turkey kheemo, chana dal and more.**

**Plus achaars, bataasa, dalpoli, bhakhra and lots of other goodies and food items worth checking out.**

**Games for Kids and Adults. Also tarot card, *cake walk, egg hunt, limbo rock, floor open for talent show and of course BINGO!!!***

**Table rates are: \$35.00 for Members and \$100.00 Others**

**Contact:**

- Yasmin Medhora at 713-466-3908 for renting tables, donating food items / to-go food.
- Lyla Daroga at 281-794-5563 for help/ideas for the games in the atrium and Vehishta Kaikobad at 281-564-1148.
- Nargis Cooper at 713-937-4441 for games in the hall.
- Tenaz Sunavala at 281-242-0626 for help/ideas for the Youth Stall.

**See ya'll there!!**





BAYLOR COLLEGE OF  
MEDICINE SHOULDER TO  
SHOULDER FOUNDATION

*Cordially invites you to the*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shoulder to  
Shoulder Gala*

*May 15, 2010*

*7pm-midnight*

*Including dinner, dancing, and presentations  
honoring Shoulder to Shoulder supporters at*

*The Houston City Club*

*One City Club Drive*

*Houston, TX 77046*

The mission: Baylor Shoulder to Shoulder Foundation, in alliance with the Asociación San Lucas, Honduras, aims to improve health and the provision of health services for underserved people in the area of Santa Ana, Intibuca, Honduras, and to promote self sufficiency at a grass roots level. The Foundation strives to provide experience to students and faculty of Baylor College of Medicine and affiliated institutions as well as community members who share a passion to address the challenges faced by people in resource-poor areas.

Donor Tables: \$1500 for 10-person table

Individual Tickets: \$100 per person

Student Tickets: \$50 per person, limited to first 50 students

For tickets contact Roshan Sethna at 713-856-9359, rosh@sbcglobal.net

Or purchase tickets online at <http://connect.bcm.edu/sts-gala>

For information contact Cecilia Ganduglia at ceci\_gandu@yahoo.com

*Sponsored by BCM Shoulder to Shoulder and  
Houston Minority Chamber of Commerce*





## FIFTEENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS DECEMBER 29 – 31, 2010

**PRESERVE! PROTECT! PERFECT!**

**“PRESERVE THE PAST, PROTECT THE PRESENT, AND PERFECT THE FUTURE”**

### ***Congress Firsts***

Congress attendees will experience a number of firsts.

- ❖ *First time* - Children age 5-12 will have structured activities, allowing young families to participate in the Congress. Structured activities include stories from the *Shahnameh* (with projects, games etc), “Worldwide web” of trade along the **Silk Road** – a multi-age session discovering cross-cultural concepts through (historically accurate) stories, drama, pictorial presentations and crafts from Persia, China, India, Rome, Indonesia, Mongolia, ending in Zarathushti Connection – an interdisciplinary session discovering Zoroastrian concepts through a hands-on experience based on ZAH Sunday School format. Children will be creating their own material to take home.
- ❖ *First time* - Youth track planned by Youth committee chairs Zeeba Kayani, Justin Mody and Kashmirah Behramsha

### ***Early Registration***

A number of you have registered for the Congress. That is very encouraging. Early registration continues up till June 30, 2010. But why wait until then? Register now and start planning for your trip. The Registration Form is on our website [http://zah.org/nazc-10/registration\\_form.htm](http://zah.org/nazc-10/registration_form.htm). At an extra \$5.00 per registration, you can register using Visa or Master Card. Registration includes Registration Bag, program souvenir book, and giveaways. It also includes Opening Day (Day 1) lunch and dinner, FEZANA Awards Lunch on Day 2 lunch, and New Year’s Eve Gala dinner, Day 3.

#### Regular Early bird (on or before Jun 30, 2010)

Children 0 – 15	\$150
Students and Seniors	\$225
Regular	\$250
Optional – (Natak/Musical Evening)	\$ 30

(Optional event is open to any one)

### ***Fund raising***

How does one measure success? For Chair Jimmy Kumana it is receiving checks. Kumana and his committee have developed strategies to raise funds in order to keep registrations costs low. Their strategy is to establish different donation platforms for major corporations, individuals and small businesses. Mini-raffles will also be held. The first mini raffle of two donated items – a machine embroidered gara and a grill, netted \$775. Next raffle – a computer Netbook in May. And, how about advertising in our program brochures? Call Jimmy Kumana at 281-437-5906 or email him at [jkumana@aol.com](mailto:jkumana@aol.com) for more information.

### ***Houston Greeters***

Make this Congress your family vacation and we invite you to explore the multi-faceted jewel that is Houston. The Historic District, the Cultural center, Uptown market Place, NASA, the medical center are all part of our Bayou city's treasures. What better way to see the sights of Houston than through the eyes of a Houstonian who helps visitors explore the city’s not-so-obvious places, as well as those places for which Houston is famous. Visit Houston Greeters’ website [www.houstongreeters.org](http://www.houstongreeters.org)

### **Our Website**

Check out our website <http://zah.org/nazc-10> for a new and improved look with lots of new information. You will find hotel details, tours and registration details etc at your fingertips.