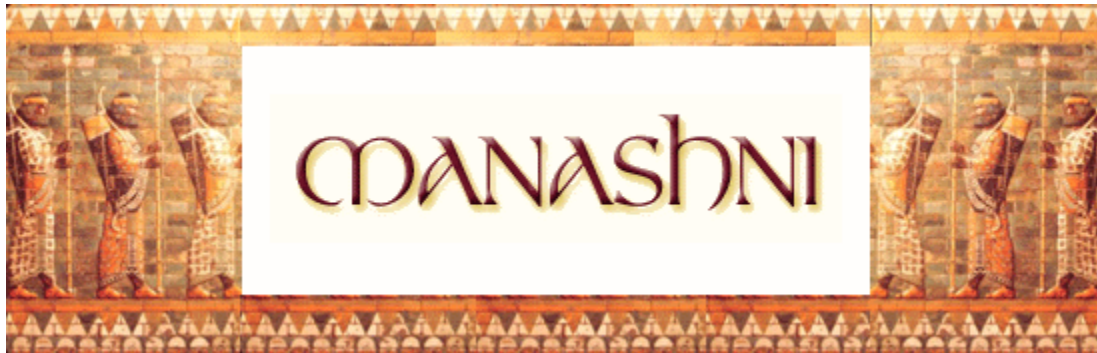




Zoroastrian Association of Houston  
8787 W. Airport Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77071



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

TIME: 11:00 AM.

DATE: July 11, 2010

Children’s Session: The “**Let’s Learn Gujarati Together**” session will be from 11 am to 11.25 am. Topic will be “Parts of the Body”, numbers and colors. **Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am.**

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**

**Monday, Aug 9** – Start of Muktaḁ Prayers

**Thursday, Aug 19** – Parsi New Year – Humbandagi

**Saturday, Aug 21** – Parsi New Year Function. **Lookout out for the flyer next week !!**

**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@coatingindustries.com">aban@coatingindustries.com</a>

**REPORTS**

**YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS**

No reports at this time

**LIBRARY REPORT** – by Jangoo Mistry

On July 5th, the ZAH Library Committee hosted a distinguished speaker, Ervad Parvez Bajan for an unforgettable experience.

This year has been declared by United Nations as the 1000th anniversary of the composition of The Shahnameh, the renowned national epic of the Persian-speaking world. Therefore, it was only fitting and timely that we were able to listen and interact with one of the foremost world-renowned authorities on Firdosi and the Shahnameh. Ervad Bajan, a Panthaky or head priest of the Mevawalla Agiary in Bombay, is also an Hon. Lecturer in the Department of Avesta-Pahlavi and Ancient Iranian Languages in the St. Xavier's College. With a Masters in Avesta-Pahlavi, another Masters degree in International Law, and a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Mathematics, he is actively sought to deliver religious lectures and Shahnameh recitals in many countries in recent years.

Since Ervad Bajan also happens to be a scholar of Avesta-Pahlavi, Zoroastrian literature, and ancient Iranian languages and history, his presentation had a much wider appeal because it put Firdosi's poems into a broader historical context.

For almost three hours, the audience sat spellbound as Ervad Bajan poured forth a capsule summary of the ancient Iranian dynasties, and then proceeded to recite and sing in Kirtan style, verses selected from Shahnameh's 60,000 couplets that told the story of Rustom and Aspandiyar. His sonorous voice applied to the Gujerati-translated couplets left the audience wanting for more. After a short break, most people stayed back for another hour of slide presentation of Iran and its historic monuments accompanied by Ervad Bajan's interesting commentary and insight.

The Library Committee wishes to thank Kaemerz Dotiwala for sponsoring Ervad Bajan and hosting him during his stay in Houston.

To those of us who regularly attend and look forward to Library functions, it was yet another vindication of the quality of programs that the Library Committee continues to provide for all ZAH members. With each event, the ZAH Library strives to provide a unique and memorable experience for all attendees, and the regular attendance by the "faiithfuls" is proof of our success. To others who have not yet joined us for one reason or another, we urge you to make an extra effort to participate in Library functions; they do not provide the usual entertainment value that we all seem to enjoy, but are more intellectually enlightening. In the space of an hour or two, you will get to take advantage of the years and years of research and study that these recognized scholars bring to you. We are working hard to capture and transfer some of this knowledge from scholars of our religion to within our own community. Please help us in this effort, especially by exposing the younger members of our community to our culture and legacy, outside of mere recitation of prayers. We look forward to your support.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS FROM THE YOUTH CO-CHAIR – Zeeba Kayani YOUTH GET-TOGETHER**

OF the Youth, BY the Youth, FOR the Youth!!! Mark your calendar to have a fun evening on December 28, 8 pm onwards. Many of the youth suggested that it would be better to get acquainted prior to the Congress. The Youth Chairs listened to you and an evening of "lets get to know each other" has been planned a day before the Congress starts for a great social and ice breakers. Details will be confirmed in the upcoming months. Any questions? Please feel free to contact Zeeba Kayani via email @ [Zeeba.Kayani@gmail.com](mailto:Zeeba.Kayani@gmail.com).

### **Start Monkey-ing Around and Complete the 2010 Survey of Next Generation Zarathushtis on Surveymonkey!**

Help us reach our goal of getting 2,011 completed surveys by 2011

NextGenNow is pleased to join forces with the 15th North American Zoroastrian Congress this December. As part of our dynamic panel and interactive town-hall Q&A, we will be spotlighting the 2010 Survey of Next Generation Zarathushtis.

Nearly 100 surveys have been completed, but our goal is to top 2,011 completed surveys in time for the new year. We need Zarathushtis of all ages and walks of life to visit [www.surveymonkey.com/nextgennow](http://www.surveymonkey.com/nextgennow) because your opinion on the most pressing issues and challenges of our time matters!

*Some of our survey questions include:*

How concerned are you about the 10 percent per decade population decline of Parsee Zarathushtis in India?

What do you view as the top three MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES facing our Zarathushti community?

What is needed to make your vision of the Zarathushti community a reality over the next 20 - 50 years?

How do you see yourself getting involved in the Zarathushti community?

So carve out 10 minutes to jump-start those brain cells and start thinking about ways in which the collective 'we' can advance our ship forward! Visit [www.surveymonkey.com/nextgennow](http://www.surveymonkey.com/nextgennow) to let your voice be heard.

Our highly-anticipated session will showcase insights and perspectives from an engaged and forward-thinking panel of shining stars, followed by a common sense, solutions-based all-hands Q&A. Working together, we will produce a much-needed *vision* for the North American Zarathushti community

Yours in Zarathushti friendship,

The NextGenNow Leadership Team:

Mantreh Atashband (Toronto), Jim Engineer (Chicago), Armaity Homavazir (Toronto), Nikan Khatibi (SoCal), Zubin Mistry (DC)

Any questions? E-mail [nextgennow5@gmail.com](mailto:nextgennow5@gmail.com). Follow us on Twitter @nextgennow, Facebook or LinkedIn. [www.nextgennow.org](http://www.nextgennow.org)

### **NAZC – EXTENSION OF EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE AND BABY-SITTING FACILITY**

Children ages 5 – 12 years, registered for the Congress, can avail of the mini congress that will run parallel with day time congress sessions. There are limited seats and they will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Infants and young children registered for the congress can also avail of gratis “supervision” on site, through a certified and licensed caregiver on the evenings of

**29<sup>th</sup> DEC, 2010 – ON THE OPENING GALA NITE FROM 7:00 PM TO 12:45 AM**

**and**

**31<sup>ST</sup> DEC, 2010 – ON THE NEW YEARS EVE GALA NITE FROM 7:00 PM TO 12:45 AM**

***NOTE: Additional “Sitter Services” can be arranged at other times throughout the Congress for an extra charge. Parents will need to contact the provider directly for such services. These additional services will also be available on site at the hotel. The provider has requested cash payments only.***

Parents with young children can take advantage of this benefit and attend the Congress.

In view of this late notification, the “Early Bird Deadline” to register for the Congress has been extended to July 16, 2010.

There will not be another extension, so do not procrastinate any further. Visit the NAZC website at <http://www.zah.org/nazc-10/default.htm> and register now !!

### **12<sup>th</sup> ZOROASTRIAN GAMES (by Bahrom and Farrokh Firozgary)**

Over the July 4th weekend, (July 1 – 5, 2010), eight members of our Z.A.H. Youth Group participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Zoroastrian Games, held at California State University, Long Beach. The Z.A.H. Zoros (aka The Houston Hound Doggies) traveled to California to compete against 14 different basketball teams and to claim the championship title. Although the Zoros, captained by Bahrom Firozgary, came up in Fifth place, they played hard and learned a lot about their capabilities, camaraderie, teamwork, and above all respect for each other. With the optimistic and encouraging words of wisdom from chaperones Farrokh Firozgary and Rustom Setna, the team had fun and made it to the quarter-finals.

Aside from basketball, Bahrom and fellow team member Khubyar Behramsha won medals in swimming, while Kevin Setna participated in track and field, and placed fourth in his event. Rustom did well in the ping pong tournament as well, winning in his group.

All in all, the entire Z.A.H. Zoro's met and interacted with numerous fellow Zoroastrians, attended various dances and social events when they weren't working hard participating in basketball and other sporting events. Although the youngest team that participated, (adult age-group is 15 years and above), they portrayed excellent inter-personal, behavioral and competitive skills, and the chaperones were

complemented by the organizers on more than one occasion. The Zoros would like to thank all sponsors and support that the Z.A.H. community has given them, without which their trip would not have been such an entertaining, successful, and worthwhile experience!

The next Zoroastrian Games will be held around the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in 2012, in Toronto, Canada and we look forward to having a good turnout and continue to make ZAH well represented and proud!!

### **WANTED**

Wanted: A couple to manage 30 room franchise Motel in the Hill Country, Hazard School District, in the town of Junction, Texas. Has very low crime rate and is one hour away from San Antonio. Perks include an apartment and a car. Other help available. Please write to [khushdastoor@yahoo.com](mailto:khushdastoor@yahoo.com)

### **WE HAVE MOVED**

**Dara and Scheherazade Dastur** have moved to:

20022 Mayfair Park Lane

Spring, TX – 77379

**Tel No.** – 281 257 5444

### **BIRTH**

Delna Darius Surveyor, a baby girl, to Nilufer and Darius Surveyor, sister to Cyrus, born on May 17, 2010. Ratan D. Surveyor (Mumbai) and, Farida and Noshir B. Dungor are proud grandparents. Blessings from late Nerges R. Surveyor."

### **OBITUARY**

**Purvez Shiavax Rustomji**, age 72, passed away in Houston on June 26, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 46 years Aban, son Arish and daughter-in-law Meher, daughter Nerina and son-in-law Shehriyar Antia, two adorable grandsons Aaryan Rustomji and Azad Antia, his brother Shahrokh Rustomji of Toronto, and his AFS brother Jay Booker of New Hampshire.

Purvez always had a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. His life was suffused with a great passion for giving and an abundant love for all things Zoroastrian. His early years were spent in Quetta, Pakistan, a town that was dear to him for its wild roses, fruit trees, and life-affirming neighbors. Yet, even as a graduate from Pierre S. DuPont High School in Wilmington, Delaware, he had a passion for the innovative spirit of America. He later graduated from N.E.D. Engineering College in Karachi, Pakistan, and received his Masters in Structural Engineering from Columbia, Missouri. After he settled with his family in Houston in 1979, he soon started his own business – Coating Engineers Inc., later renamed Coating Industries Inc. – renowned for delivering quality work. As a founding member of the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, he was deeply committed to developing a religious home for Zoroastrians in Houston. Community members rightly claimed that he knew the placement of each and every brick in the institution.

Purvez was known for his heart, humility, humor, and most of all character. He had the most gracious, engaging way of talking with everyone. He was also a man who had a gift for conceptualizing projects in ways that he would claim only an engineer could. His love for making a contribution and talent for envisioning the future made him the best husband, father, son, and friend in the world. Always ready to listen, always ready to develop a project to make your life better, he will be missed and missed again.

***Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the Rustomji family.***

**Dr. Kaiyan Homi Kaikobad**, age 59, younger brother of Sarosh Kaikobad, passed away on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 in Durham, U.K.

***Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the Kaikobad family.***

**Piroja Meherwan Irani**, mother of Aspi (Livingston, TX) and Soli and Feroze of Houston, TX, passed away on Monday. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Garden Oaks Funeral Home, 13430 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77083

***Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the Irani family.***

**Sam Savaksaw Dhunjeebhoy**, a resident of Houston for over 20 years, passed away in Karachi, Pakistan on Thursday, July 1, 2010.

***Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the Dhunjeebhoy family.***





FIFTEENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS  
DECEMBER 29 – 31, 2010

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

*NAZC TWENTYTEN – JULY 2010*

**Countdown Continues 173 days left for the Congress - 8 days left for the extended “early bird” rate!!**

***A Moment of Silence***

We start our July newsletter on a somber note. **Purvez Rustomji**, a resident of Houston for over 30 years, passed away on June 26, 2010. Purvez was the strong force behind getting the ZAH Center built. At the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress, he initiated “Zarathushti Field Student” program. Students from all over the world were invited to participate in a competition and some 21 students were invited to attend the Congress following a stringent selection process. For this dream to materialize, Purvez worked tirelessly to raise funds so 21 students can have a memorable lifetime experience. We, at ZAH, will miss him terribly. Purvez is survived by his wife Aban; son Arish, his wife Meher and their son Aaryan; and daughter Nerina, her husband Shehriyar Antia and their son Azad.

***Another First!!!***

*You asked and we listened!* Supervised care for children has been arranged through a certified and licensed caregiver – this service is included in the registration fee and will be available on the evenings of **December 29, 2010 – Opening Gala Night from 7:00 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. and December 31, 2010 – New Years Eve Gala Night From 7:00 p.m. to 12:45 a.m.** Additional “Sitter Services” can be available at other times throughout the Congress for an extra charge for registered and non-registered children. Parents will need to contact the provider directly for such services. Contact details will be given at a later date.

***Early Bird Registration Extended***

Early Bird Registration rate has been extended to July 16, 2010. We need to hear from you. Visit our website at <http://www.zah.org/nazc-10/default.htm> - complete the registration form, mail your check, or earn travel miles and register with your credit card. This will be the only extension so don't miss the opportunity to save on registration.

***Showcasing our culture through artifacts***

Those who missed seeing Parzor exhibits in Dubai at the World Zoroastrian Congress in December 2009 will have an opportunity to see this display at NAZC 2010 in Houston. This exhibit consists of rare coins, books, tapestry, shawls and various other rare artifacts and other educational and informative material. The exhibit will be open from December 29 till the afternoon of December 31 during the Congress hours (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). In addition to Parzor exhibits, the Exhibit Committee is inviting interested individuals to send/bring articles of history and culture, original garas, jhabhlas, topies; unique silver sais, or any other article of interest for display at this exhibition. Security arrangements have been made for overnight storage.

Do you want to sell books on Zoroastrian culture or Parsi Recipe books, arts, crafts, bottled jams, jellies, achars or packed and sealed tea snacks such as batasas, bhakhras or other parsi goodies? Tables are available for \$150.00 for the duration of the exhibits.

Interested individuals may contact Meher Rustomji at [meherp@gmail.com](mailto:meherp@gmail.com)

## **Entertainment**

Ten years ago, the Zarathushti Symphony Orchestra (ZSO) made its début at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress held in Houston, December 2000: Since then the ZSO has performed at North American Congresses in Chicago and Toronto. With the help and support of FEZANA, the ZSO will once again perform on December 29, 2010 at the Opening Night Gala. Anyone interested in participating may please communicate directly with Farobag Homi Cooper at [f\\_homi\\_cooper@yahoo.com](mailto:f_homi_cooper@yahoo.com). We welcome your generous donation towards the Performance of the Orchestra at the Congress. Checks can be made payable to: **FEZANA**, with a footnote: Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra, and mailed to the **Treasurer**, 1258 Water Lily Way, San Jose, CA 95129

In addition to the Orchestra, you will be thrilled to witness some of our local talents performing at the Opening Ceremony and for all three evenings of the congress...Houston is proud to introduce for the first time it's Zoro Choir which will be making it's debut at the opening ceremony of the Congress. Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Evening entertainment will take you on a journey of music and dance as you sit back and enjoy the production of "Those Were The Days" Dec 30<sup>th</sup> evening brings you laughter, laughter and more laughter as Nozer Buchia and his team presents a Parsi Gujrati Natak – Vaari Baana Paachal Thi. Following the Natak we have a musical evening with Adi Tamboli who will entertain you with foot tapping and hip swaying hits for the rest of the night. Dec 31<sup>st</sup> our Entertainment committee has planned a fun evening with various acts to bring in the New Year.

So come on down to Houston for the NAZC 2010 and let our Entertainment committee do what they best – Entertain you!

## **Youth News**

### **Youth Get-together**

*OF the Youth, FOR the Youth, BY the Youth!!!* Mark your calendar to have a fun evening on December 28, 8:00pm onwards. Many of the youth suggested that it would be better if they got to know each other prior to the Congress, as by the time they became friendly, it was time to go home. The Youth Chairs listened to you and an evening of "lets get to know each other" has been planned the day before the Congress starts for a great social and icebreakers. Details will be confirmed in the upcoming months. Any questions? Contact Zeeba Kayani via email [Zeeba.Kayani@gmail.com](mailto:Zeeba.Kayani@gmail.com).

## **Survey**

And, have you heard about the Survey being conducted by NextGenNow? This is the first time the Youth would like to hear from every Zarathushti - they aim to get a minimum of 2,011 completed surveys by the end of the Congress. Zarathushtis of all ages and walks of life please visit [www.surveymonkey.com/nextgennow](http://www.surveymonkey.com/nextgennow) and complete the Survey now and let your voice be heard

Some of the survey questions include:

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Any questions? E-mail [nextgennow5@gmail.com](mailto:nextgennow5@gmail.com). Follow on Twitter @nextgennow, Facebook or LinkedIn. [www.nextgennow.org](http://www.nextgennow.org)

### **Do you have a question?**

Please email the committee chairs and you will receive a prompt reply – [nazc2010.information@zah.org](mailto:nazc2010.information@zah.org)

Stay connected!!! Next month... more news on the progress of the Congress

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8. Small groups mean more comfort
9. European style deluxe A/C motorcoach
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**Discover Your Religion**

**Experience the Culture**

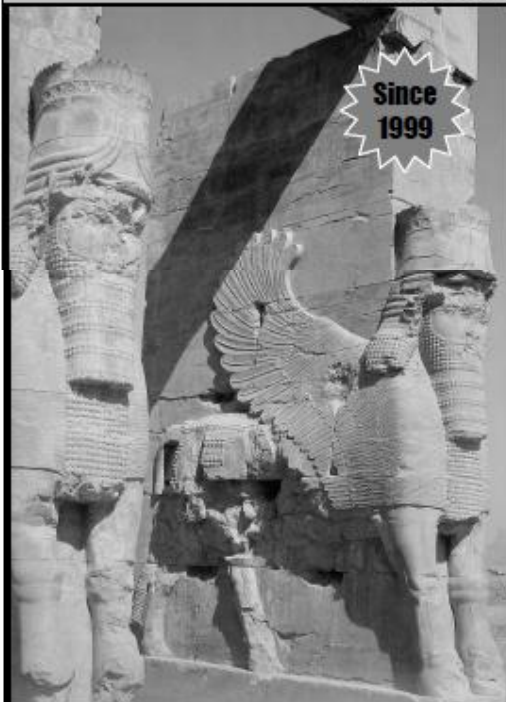
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Mahtab Patell, Sydney, Australia

*"You both clearly displayed a relationship as a host by treating all your customers as guests."*

Jehan Bagli, Toronto, Canada

*"(Our guide's) knowledge of our religion & history and the command of the language in which he spoke, was superb."*

Jeroo & Minoo Chinoy, MI

*"Those 3 weeks will live in my memory for life. It was the biggest pilgrimage of my life next to visiting Iranshah Atash Behram in Udvada."*

Pervez Patel, NY

*"We were extremely happy with all the hotel accommodations, all our baggage handling, our tour bus, and most of all, your personalized service throughout the trip."*

Roshan & Jimmy Bharucha, PA

*"I do not know of any other tour operator who would go out of the way to feed us with home-cooked sali-boti, fish curry, kid gosh, palav dal, akoori, etc."*

Purviz & Daraius Batiwalla, CA

*"Your thoughtfulness, patience, knowledge and professionalism, not to mention a very well planned itinerary and delicious cuisine exceeded all expectations."*

Zaver Shroff, CA

*"The people were so warm, caring and friendly and we felt perfectly safe at all times"*

Dr. Mehmaz Irani, CA

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