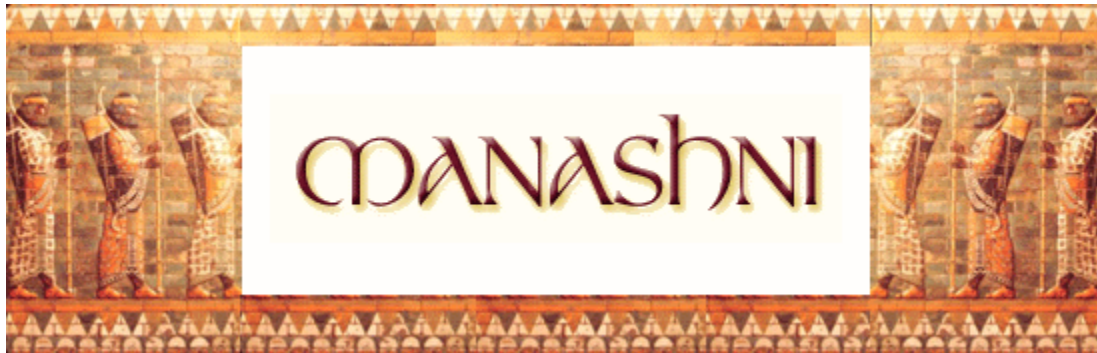




Zoroastrian Association of Houston  
8787 W. Airport Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77071



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071 Tel: 713-270-9339  
TIME: 11:00 AM.  
DATE: June 13, 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”. **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**

**Sunday, Jun 13, 3 pm - College Financial Planning Seminar at ZHCC (Center). See below for details.**

**Friday, Aug 9** – Start of Mukta Prayers

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

**Saturday, Aug 21** – Parsi New Year Function

**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 Jango Mistry

2010 has been declared by the United Nation's cultural body (UNESCO) as the 1000th anniversary of the composition of *The Shahnameh*, the renowned national epic of the Persian-speaking world.

*The Shahnameh*, has for centuries been a source of pride and honor not only to the Iranian people, but also to people in Tajikistan and Afghanistan who are still loyal to their cultural identity.

To commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the composition of *The Shahnameh*, the ZAH Library Committee is proud to present Ervad Parvez Bajan, for a special event on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> (which is a holiday following the long weekend).

Ervad Bajan a Panthaky (head priest) of the Mevawalla Agiary in Bombay. He also serves as Hon. Lecturer in the Department of Avesta-Pahlavi and Ancient Iranian Languages at the St. Xavier's College. His distinguished scholarship stems from his Masters degree in Avesta-Pahlavi where he was a gold medalist.

Additionally Ervad Bajan also has a Masters degree in International Law, and a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Mathematics. Ervad Bajan has been invited to the U.S., Canada, and Pakistan to deliver religious lectures and Shahnameh recitals many times in recent years.

Members of ZAH and their guests will have a unique opportunity to hear Ervad Bajan speak about the Shahnameh, recite and perform stories from the *Shahnameh* in the Kirtan style that he is famous for. Kirtans are poetical renditions of the *Shahnameh* stories which are sung in verse.

This promises to be an event that you will not soon forget – one that will be unique in its presentation, style and substance – and all from a world-renowned scholar. **For now, mark your calendars for July 5 and watch for further details on the program to be announced soon.**

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **CARNIVAL CHARISMA (by Persis Behramsha)**

I had decided after attending this year's Carnival in April, that I would send a small write-up about it, since it is so well deserving.

Every year since 1998, ***Yasmin Medhora*** has been single-handedly heading this fun and “scrumptious” event year after year, raising more and more funds for our center.

While we all come in and enjoy, eat delicious food, play fun games and go home with loads of goodies, we don't realize how much work and pre-planning has gone into this one-day event! Yes, we all pitch in and help, and are always happy to do so, but the major planning, organizing, coordinating and smooth flow, only takes place because of ***Yasmin***.

Yes, we all think she does an amazing job, however, I want to vocalize this major effort on her part, without which we would not be enjoying this event every year. As always, of course, without all the wonderful volunteers and donors this event would not materialize.

***Yasmin Medhora, we thank you for your thoughtfulness, and are delighted with your dedication so we can have a blast every second Sunday in April. THANK YOU.***

#### **COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR**

Sheroy Haveliwalla is organizing a seminar at the Center on College Financial Planning on **Sunday June 13th in the afternoon following Sunday school at around 3 pm.**

Since college planning usually starts in the summer especially for parents of Juniors; this would be an hour well spent which will benefit all members with school going kids no matter what grade they are in.

The seminar is titled "How to pay for college without going broke" and the speaker is Brannon Lloyd who is a College Financial Advisor. He does these seminars free as a kind of community service all over Houston, and he has agreed to come and conduct this seminar at the ZAH. He will talk about the pitfalls and common mistakes many people make in college financial planning which can cost them dearly, as well as explain the

College Financial Aid process. Many people mistakenly think their kids do not qualify for federal financial aid, which is a myth.

Parents of Seniors who are already college bound or even those who feel they do not qualify for college financial aid will be able to pick up tips and some insights which could benefit them. In fact parents with children in Middle School or of High School Freshmen should come too as they will get a better idea how to start early financial planning.

Please RSVP Sheroy by June 5th, either by email ([hwala@hotmail.com](mailto:hwala@hotmail.com)) or cell (281-217-3243). Anybody can attend and it is at no cost, but a headcount is needed so that Brannon can have the required quantity of handouts ready.

### **SUMMER ENRICHMENT CLASSES**

Vehishta Kaikobad has been holding summer enrichment classes for many years. This year again, she will be holding her Summer Enrichment Program at the Center. Interested parents of children 8 years and above can contact her ([salveh@comcast.net](mailto:salveh@comcast.net)) or 281 564 1148 for further details.

### **COOKING SESSIONS DURING SUMMER**

Diana Balsara has once again, volunteered to run cooking sessions during July and August from 6:00 p.m. at the Center. First session starts Thursday, July 8, 2010 and thereafter every Thursday. She has big plans **this year and will be inviting the community cooking experts to demonstrate 'exotic' dishes. Please contact** her at [dibalsara@comcast.net](mailto:dibalsara@comcast.net) for any ideas that you may have or to sign up for the classes.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Congratulations to **Khubyar Behramsha** for receiving the Eagle Scout Award.

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest award that a Boys Scout can achieve and requires many years of hard work and dedication. Khubyar joined the cub scouts in second grade and completed his Eagle rank in his 10<sup>th</sup> grade. We are proud of him!

### **TIME TO ANNOUNCE OUR GRADUATES**

#### **High School**

**Fiona Anklesaria** will be graduating from Langhamcreek High and will be attending A&M at College Station to pursue a career in Psychology.

**Josh Balsara** is graduating from Spring Woods High School as MEGNA CUM LAUDE (top 5%) and will be attending UT, Austin majoring in Engineering

**Khubyar P Behramsha** is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Langham Creek High School and was also named University Interscholastic League (UIL) scholar. He has earned cords in Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Science.

Khubyar was Vice President of the Student Council, Vice President of our ZAH Youth Group in his senior year, and Co-captain of the varsity swimming and water polo teams.

Khubyar will be attending the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin and plans to study Mechanical Engineering. Hook 'em!

**Zarah Faredun Bhader** graduated from Lee High School. She also played Volleyball and participated in Drama competitions for her school. She will be going to University of Houston for further studies in communications

**Zal Bhatena** will be graduating from Langham Creek High School and this fall will be going to UT, Austin to study Physics

**Bijan Dinyarian** of San Antonio will be graduating Ronald Reagan High School and will attend UT, San Antonio in the fall.

**Zaran Engineer** is going to graduate from Cypress Ridge High School and will be attending to UT, San Antonio to study business entrepreneurship

**Bahrom Firozgary** is graduating as a co-Valedictorian and Magna Cum Laude from Stratford High School. Bahrom will be attending Rice University in the Fall, to study biochemistry and cellular biology

**Sean Sethna** is graduating from Klein High School and he will major in business administration at Houston Community College.

**Kevin Setna** is graduating from Seven Lakes High School and will be majoring in business Management at either Texas A&M, College Station, UT, San Antonio, or University of Houston.

### College

**Karl Balsara** graduated from Baylor Medical school and will be going to Philadelphia's Thomas Jefferson Hospital to do his residency in Neurosurgery.

**Nikita Bhappu** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations with a minor in Business Foundations from the University of Texas at Austin. She has got a public relations job with the Oscar Mayer company, and will start work on 8 June.

**Aryeneesh Dotiwala** graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Trinity University, San Antonio TX. She intends to further her education in the medical field.

**Natasha Kanga** graduated from UT Austin with a Bachelor of Science degree in Advertising and will be going to New York to pursue her career.

**Cambayses Kermani** graduated with a BA degree in the first 20%

**Shirelle R. Noble** graduated from UT Austin with two degrees -Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Business Honors/Finance and Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English. She starts work in July with Bain and Company, based in Dallas, TX, as an Associate Consultant.

**Nikita Faroakh Rajkot** graduated from University of Austin with a Bachelor of Science in *Human Development and Family Science* on May 22nd 2010. Nikita will be pursuing further studies in medicine.

**Feroze Sidhwa** graduated with Masters in Public Health from Harvard. He will return to San Antonio in July to finish his final year of Medical School.

***Manashni and its readers extend their heartiest congratulations to all the graduates. You make us proud!!***

### **WE HAVE MOVED**

Kati Tamboli has moved to:  
13350 Perry Road  
Apt# 224  
Houston, TX.77070  
Phone No. 281-818-1923



FIFTEENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS  
DECEMBER 29 – 31, 2010

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

***NAZC TWENTYTEN – JUNE 2010***

Countdown Continues - 209 days left for the Congress – and 28 days left for “early bird” rate!!

***Introducing our Program Speakers?***

The benchmark of a successful congress is the quality of its program, the variety of offerings, the number of attendees and the spectacular entertainment. Our Program Committee has judiciously selected speakers keeping in mind the variety of offerings in the field of religion, culture, history and preservation of old manuscripts, and issues relating to youth.

*Dr. Niaz Kasravi* - Keynote Speaker - serves as the Director of Community Relations for the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA). She received her Ph. D. in Criminology, Law & Society from the University of California, Irvine. In her academic career, she focused on sociology of law and issues of law and inequality. Through a National Science Foundation grant, she traveled to Iran to work with Shirin Ebadi, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient of 2003, on women's role in the reform movement.

*Dr. Jamsheed Choksy* - Jungalwala Lecture Series - is professor of Central Eurasian studies, professor of history, adjunct professor of religious studies and an affiliated faculty member of India Studies and of Medieval Studies at Indiana University. He also has served as chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and as director of the Middle Eastern Studies Program at IU. He was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve a six-year term as a member of the US National Council on the Humanities.

*Dr. Pallan Ichaporia* - Preservation of Ancient Manuscripts - has BA in Avesta/Pahlavi from Bombay University and attended Columbia University for Post Graduate Study in Iranian Languages under James Russell. He has been elected Fellow of Royal Asiatic Society of Gt. Britain and Ireland. His publications include, "The Gathas of Asho Zarathushtra" Co-authored with Helmut Humbach" "The Heritage of Zarathushtra", and "Zamyad Yasht-Text, Translation and Glossary". His forthcoming books are "Concise Modern History of the Parsis" and "The Concordance of the Gathas" to be published in Germany.

*Dr. Rashna Writer* (Historian) - received her Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics. She served as a Research Assistant at Manchester University, and has been a Lecturer in Pre-Islamic Iran at Birkbeck College, London University, and at Richmond College, London. Dr. Writer has presented several talks and lectures on Zoroastrianism and the history of Pre-Islamic Islam at numerous conferences. She is the author of: *Contemporary Zoroastrians: An Unstructured Nation*, University of America Press, and the co-author of *The Memoirs of Keikhsrow Shahrokh*, Edwin Mellen Press.

*Dr. Shernaz Cama* – Preservation of Z culture (UNESCO PARZOR Project) - did her BA (Hons.) from Madras University and her MA, MPhil and PhD from the University of Delhi. During the course of her PhD researches on Blake and Zoroastrianism, she worked at the British Museum and the School of Oriental and African Studies in London under the guidance of Prof. Mary Boyce and Dr. Kathleen Raine. She has been teaching at Delhi University since 1983 and is currently Head, Department of English at Lady Shri Ram College. She is Honorary Director of the PARZOR Project on the Preservation and Promotion of Parsi Zoroastrian Culture and Heritage funded by UNESCO.

*Niloufer Ichaporia-King* – Z food (Anthropologist and celebrated culinary expert) - is the author of *My Bombay Kitchen*, the first book on Parsi food written by a Parsi published in the United States. In addition to being a cookbook author, King is also an anthropologist and details in her writing the history, rituals and beliefs of the Parsi community as seen in the food cooked and eaten by one Bombay family.

*Dr. Nerina Rustomji* - How to be a family historian (Educator and Author) - specializes in the intellectual and cultural formation of Islamic societies and the Middle East. Since joining St. John's University in 2006, she has offered both undergraduate and graduate courses in medieval Islamic, modern Middle East, and Iranian history. Nerina is the author of *The Garden and the Fire: Heaven and Hell in Islamic Culture* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.)

*Dan Sheffield* – is a Graduate student at Harvard, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His Thesis Title: In the Path of the Prophet: Sacred Narratives of Zarathushtra in Medieval and Early Modern Zoroastrianism

*Nina Godiwalla* - Addressing youth issues - has an MBA from Wharton and has spent almost a decade working for Fortune 100 corporations including Morgan Stanley and Johnson & Johnson. Her book *Suits: A Woman on Wall Street* will be published by the end of the year.

*Cyrus Mistry* – *Towers of Success*, a session by the Youth - is the Enterprise Product Manager at Google responsible for enterprise search. He has more than a decade of enterprise software experience with roles in software development, consulting, program management, product management, marketing, and business development. Mistry has four degrees from Johns Hopkins with master's work in natural language processing, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

*Eric Engineer and Afreed Mistry* – YLEP (Youth Leadership Enhancement Program). Eric graduated from Rice University in Houston, TX and did his MBA from Harvard. He is presently working as Senior Associate at Sevin Rosen Funds. Afreed is a Senior Technical Systems Analyst at Royal Bank of Canada. There is the NextGenNow Panel Discussion to pique the interest of the youth.

And how can we forget the children's program? Their sessions will be concurrent with the adult sessions so that the parents can be free to attend the adult sessions. *Vehishta Kaikobad* is a qualified Montessori Teacher and with the assistance of other teachers will take the children on a virtual tour of 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.

*What do all of these need? ... Funds!!!*

**Sarosh Collector, Treasurer, NAZC 2010, would like to point out salient facts of the budget**

- NAZC 2010 is a three day event
- It has the lowest registration cost per day in comparison to previous congresses
- The *Opening Day luncheon*, the *Awards Luncheon*, the *Opening Night Gala Dinner* with entertainment, and *New Year's Eve* dinner are **included** as part of the Congress registration.
- Of the registration price, \$200 is set aside for coffee breaks, two lunches, and two gala dinners. **The balance is not enough to fund occupancy costs at the hotel, rooms, and Audio Visual Equipment that will be used for the sessions.**

Please contribute generously. Contact Jimmy Kumana at [jkumana@aol.com](mailto:jkumana@aol.com) or Sarosh Collector at [scollector@cdadvisorsinc.com](mailto:scollector@cdadvisorsinc.com)

So What Are You Waiting For?

Register now at EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION rate, which ends June 30. We need to hear from you. Visit our website at <http://www.zah.org/nazc-10/default.htm> - complete the registration form and mail it with your check, or earn travel miles and register with your credit card. Have a nice family vacation. Come on down south from your northern snowy winter and enjoy the cool (not cold) pleasant winter days that Houston offers. You can take a cruise from Galveston - 5 day cruise on January 3 to Progresso and Cozumel, Mexico or a 7 day cruise from January 2 to Bahamas. And don't forget your passport. Check with [cruises.com](http://cruises.com) to get a good rate.

Stay connected!!!! Next month...read about the Booths/Exhibits and Entertainment