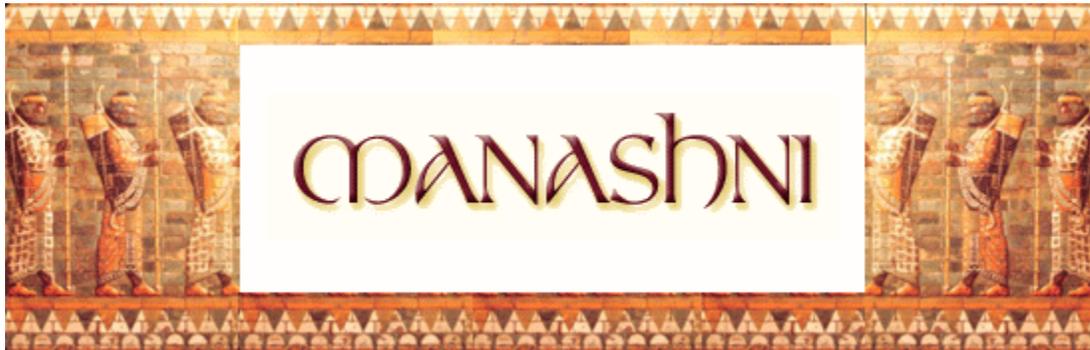




Zoroastrian Association of Houston  
8787 W. Airport Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77071



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071 Tel: 713-270-9339  
TIME: 11:00 AM.  
DATE: May 9, 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.**

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**

**Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 11 am-** Creative Dance Presentation of "An Invitation to Dance". **See attached flyer**  
**RSVP Vehishta at [salveh@comcast.net](mailto:salveh@comcast.net) or 281 564 1148.**

**Sunday, May 30** – Shahenshahi Dae Month Gahambar – Maidhyaiya (16-20 Daê)  
 Nominal charge of \$8 for adults; \$5 for Seniors and children from 4-10 years  
**RSVP at [zahrsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:zahrsvp@yahoo.com) or call Roshan Engineer at 281 545 3467**

**Saturday, Jul 10** - Dinner Theater (Tentative)

**Friday, Aug 9** – Start of Muktaḍ 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 Jangoo Mistry

At the FEZANA Annual General Meeting last year, its 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. At this year's FEZANA AGM held in Toronto last month, we were ably represented by ZAH Library Committee member Behroze Daruwalla who presented the FIRES Annual Report and budget. As a result of Behroze's efforts, FEZANA has approved funds to cover operational expenses for a dedicated web-site, scanners, etc. The goal is to have a functional North American Zarathushti Library, accessible by all FEZANA Associations and individuals for information and research purposes.

The next ZAH Library event will be the screening of a two-hour movie: "Iran, the Forgotten Glory" on a Friday evening in June. More details will be provided in the next Manashni.

Adil Godiwalla has generously donated a rare book from his personal collection, titled: "The Zoroastrian Doctrine of a Future Life". Written by Jal Dastur Cursetji Pavry and published back in 1926, the book is now out of print. According to the author, our religious beliefs divide the soul's journey into three phases: (1) the period from death to Industrial Judgement at the Chinvat Bridge, (2) life in Heaven, Hell or the Intermediate Place, and (3) General Judgement. This book mainly covers the first phase – until the soul's passing at the Chinvat Bridge. Our sincere thanks to Adil for making this book available to the community.

ZAH Library's project to have a permanent display of old black-and-white pictures of our family members on one of the Library's walls is progressing quite well. ***You have one last chance to bring these photos with you to the Center on the day of the Ghambar, Sunday, May 30.*** 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 could include the one from your collection, if it dates back to 1930 or earlier. Each picture in the exhibit will have a caption describing the characters in the picture and how they are related to a ZAH member. We are looking for pictures that portray priests performing a *jashan*, or a *navjote* ceremony. 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.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### CARNIVAL (by Yasmin Medhora)

The 2010 Carnival raised \$4,500/- for ZAH.

Thank you so very much to each and every one of you who attended the Carnival or helped out to make the Carnival a grand success.

Thanks to all the donors who made the delicious food items, desserts and trimmings; gave cash or gift items. Our valuable volunteers who helped selling the food items, organize games and activities are very much appreciated. Thanks to all of you who rented tables to sell your products. All three Sunday school groups play a vital role in the success of the Carnival. Thanks to all the parents and kids for your help and participation. ZAH appreciates everyone's hard work.

### SHEHANSHAHI DAE MAS (MAIDHYAIYA) GAHAMBAR...A Call for Sponsors

This Gahambar will be celebrated on Sunday May 30, 2010.

Many thanks to all the families who have sponsored the Jashan:

- Flowers/Fruits
- Sukhad/Loban
- Malido/Nuts

Sponsors are also requested for paper products, table covers, drinks and lunch following the jashan. Please write to us at [zahrsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:zahrsvp@yahoo.com) or call Roshan Engineer at **281 545 3467** and let us know the amount you wish to contribute towards these items, at the same time RSVP for the event. Charges will be \$8 per adult and \$5 for Seniors/children (4 to 10 yrs)

## COLLECTION AND DONATION TO MEALS ON WHEELS THRU INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

Dear Friends: Just wanted to update you all that we managed to collect \$2400 thru the ZAH which is enough to sponsor 2 seniors for 1 whole year of hot meals delivered to their home each day.

Personally, I am extremely happy as this is a project very close to my heart and I thank you all profoundly. However, being busy at work during tax time, I could not collect the check from our Treasurer and mail it off in March 2010 during Navroze as I had planned.

Finally, when I got around to sending the check out after April 15th, 2010, we found out that Interfaith Ministries had a donor-matching program in April 2010 where every dollar being donated to Meals on Wheels was going to be matched in donation by a private foundation.

So our donation of \$2400 will be matched by the private donor and the ZAH donation will enable 4 seniors to get hot meals for 1 whole year. I guess sometimes it pays to procrastinate. Not bad for a small community of 150 families in Houston.

Many thanks to all of you for making it happen.  
Nazneen Khumbatta

### TAKE A BOW, SPEAKERS (By Aban Rustomji)

Sitting in M D Anderson I was presently surprised to see the April newsletter for patients, families and visitors focusing on spirituality and healing through Zoroastrianism. And to my further delight I saw **Kaemerz Dotiwala** was the speaker. Earlier **Sarosh Manekshaw** talked about Zoroastrianism at the Boniuk Center for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance. And on June 16, 2010, **Meheryar Rivetna** and **Fali Engineer** will be featured speakers at Rothko Chapel in the series "Compassion: Key to Peace?" And as the borderless world recognizes more diverse societies around the globe, dialogues such as these are important device for reconciling religious, cultural and social differences.

### 2010 RICE UNIVERSITY VISIT BY OUR YOUTH

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2010, six members of the youth group of the ZAH got a unique opportunity to attend a business plan contest at the Rice University. This contest is the largest university-sponsored contest in the world in terms of prize money, awarding more than 1 million dollars in cash and prizes in 2010. This opportunity came about for our youth through the courtesy of Eric Engineer who was a judge for this competition. As a judge, he was able to nominate high school kids to get free admission to observe the event and sit on the "Teen Judging Panel". They were able to help judge the Elevator Pitch Contest portion of the event. An elevator pitch is a presentation of extremely short duration where the contestants are to state what they are trying to market; what would be the benefit from the product or concept; and how much it would cost to make the concept economically viable.

This was a great opportunity for young, would-be entrepreneurs to get exposure to business plans, pitches, investing, etc. Forty two teams of entrepreneurs took part in the competition and presented ideas which would help better our society but needed a bit of funding to make it happen.

Following are the comments of some of the youth who attended this contest.

**Bahrom Firozgary:** The Rice University Business Plan Competition opened my eyes to how competitive and diverse entrepreneurs around the world are. There are a myriad of unique pitches that some companies had, some being extremely impressive while others seemed insufficient. The company that appealed to me was that of Rebellion Photonics, which delivered a smooth CLEAR message of what they were trying to put into the market. Their ingenious pitch of creating a real-world situation made their project seem lucrative and beneficial to everyday people. All the companies helped me realize how brave and confident presenters are; also, they taught me that grasping the audience's attention is imperative. Although I get a tad nervous or flustered before speaking in front of large groups, I strongly believe that I have the ability to deliver a speech of similar caliber and in front of an audience the same size. By attending competitions like these, I further expand my knowledge of the essentials to becoming a successful public speaker and entrepreneur. Bahrom

**Zenia Sunavala:** I was most impressed with the teams that "promised" to cure cancer, diabetes, or one of the other chronic diseases. Many of the presentations had some kind of relation to things in the medical field. The intentions and goals set by these entrepreneurs truly amazed me. It made me realize how impressive our modern technology has become. Our modern world is fully dependent on technology. At least, every other presenter had an iPhone in hand explaining how it adds to their service/product. Without computers and phones, our businesses would go nowhere. I can see myself in such a competition. I love speaking about something I am truly passionate about. If I can put my mind to it and invent a product/service that I believe can be turned into success, I would love to participate in such a competition.

**Noshir Khumbatta:** I really enjoyed hearing all the different creative ideas that these people had to share with us. I realized how so many different things that we take for granted, were projects just like these and then they expanded. I think that a competition to that extent would be amazing, the products and ideas that went through this competition are some of the best in the world. GlucaGo was one of the competitors in the competition and they specialized in solid to liquid drug storage. This would be a big help in the way that injected drugs are stored

**Fram Haveliwalla:** I was most impressed with the companies who actually promised to fix the issue of diabetes. Numerous kids, teens, and adults are diabetic in the U.S. and if the companies actually follow through with their plans and fix the issues, their advanced technology will take *searching for cures* to a whole new level. As I was sitting and observing, one word kept popping in my mind... dedication. All of the companies were dedicated to their product(s) and they all dedicated their time into the success of their product. I learned that if I want to follow through with anything, I have to put forth the time and effort into what I would like to accomplish; and with that dedication, my results will shine through. Since I am probably going to major in either Business Management or Computer Graphics, I can see myself competing in these types of competitions. Who knows, in about ten years, it can be me who is stating a product at the Rice University Competition while a teenager is observing me and being inspired... just like I was.

## **TIME TO ANNOUNCE THE GRADUATES**

### **High School**

**Bahrom Firozgary** is graduating as a co-Valedictorian from Stratford High School and will be going to Rice University to study biochemistry and cellular biology

**Josh Balsara** is graduating from Spring Woods High School and will be attending UT, Austin to pursue a career in mechanical engineering

**Kevin Setna** is going to graduate 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.

**Khubyar Bheramsha** is graduating from Langham Creek High School and will be going to UT, Austin to study mechanical engineering

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

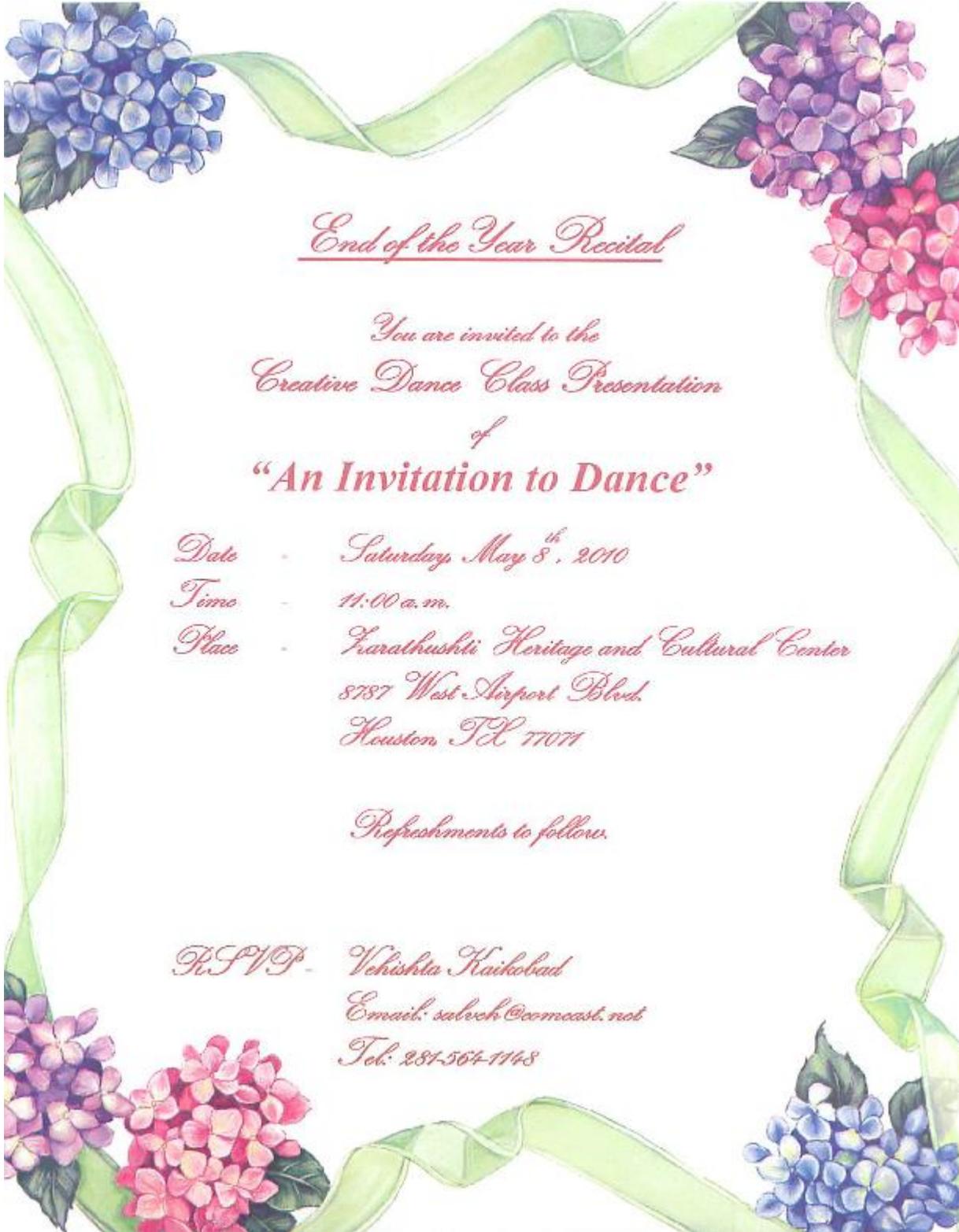
**Zaran Engineer** is going to graduate from Cypress Ridge High School and will be attending to UT, San Antonio to study business entrepreneurship

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

## **WEDDING**

**Farah Elavia** daughter of **Jamshed and Zarina Elavia** was married to **Himesh Gandhi** son of Manju and Mukund Gandhi on March 6, 2010 in Houston.

**Heartiest Congratulations to the newly weds !!**



*End of the Year Recital*

*You are invited to the  
Creative Dance Class Presentation  
of  
“An Invitation to Dance”*

*Date - Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Time - 11:00 a.m.  
Place - Karathushiki Heritage and Cultural Center  
8787 West Airport Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77071*

*Refreshments to follow.*

*R.S.V.P. - Vahishla Kaikobad  
Email: [salveh@comcast.net](mailto:salveh@comcast.net)  
Tel: 281-564-1148*

# congress 2000 legacy



## congress 2000 legacy .....Applications

### *Recognizing Academic Excellence*

The congress 2000 legacy Award was established as a result of the funds that resulted from the success of World Zoroastrian Congress 2000. Each year, the award will recognize young Zoroastrian students who are studying at the University level and who have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra-curricular activities and who have made substantial contribution to Zoroastrian community affairs. All eligible students are encouraged to apply for this award in upcoming years.

The congress 2000 legacy Committee and the ZAH Executive Committee invite applications for the fourth year. Two applicants will be awarded \$2,000.00 this year. The winning students will be recognized as innovators and leaders for tomorrow's global community at the August Nowroze celebrations. By supporting the next generation of great minds we pay tribute to the success of the World Zoroastrian Congress.

Applications form is posted on the ZAH website [www.zah.org](http://www.zah.org). Deadline for completed application is June 01, 2010.

Past Congress Legacy Awardees are:

2007 - Veera Sidhwa and Nikita Bhappu

2008 - Darius Byramji and Zarina Pundole

2009 - Naomi Bhappu and Hormazd Minwalla as Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award

The congress 2000 legacy is an award program of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston



FIFTEENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS  
DECEMBER 29 – 31, 2010

**PRESERVE! PROTECT! PERFECT!**  
"PRESERVE THE PAST, PROTECT THE PRESENT, AND PERFECT THE FUTURE"

**NAZC TWENTYTEN – MAY 2010**

Countdown Continues - 242 days left for the Congress – and 61 days left for "early bird" rate!!

**Registration**

Here is a reminder from the Registration Committee -- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS JUNE 30.** We need to hear from you. Visit our website at <http://www.zah.org/nazc-10/default.htm> and register now. Come early, stay late! Houston is waiting for you!

**Fund Raising Activities Picking Up Speed**

Our Registration rates are kept low to make it affordable for young families to attend the Congress. The balance can only be made up by the munificence of readers like you! The Fund Raising Committee is actively seeking ads for the Souvenir Brochure. The inside back cover is already sold and we are now appealing to your sense of generosity. We have created a new Business Card size for \$75 that can fit eight to a page. A group of young entrepreneurs can get together and buy a page – what better exposure than at a congress.

Ad Location	Color	Size	Cost \$	Selection
Back	Y	Full	7500	
<b>Inside Back Cover</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>Sold</b>
Inside Front Cover	Y	Full	5000	
Middle Pages	Y	Full	1000	
Middle Pages	N	Full	500	
Inside Pages	Y	Full	1000	
Inside Pages	Y	Half	500	
Inside Pages	Y	Quarter	300	
Inside Pages	N	Full	500	
Inside Pages	N	Half	250	
Inside Pages	N	Quarter	150	
Inside Pages	N	Business Card	75	

**Program**

*Book sale:* We have some published authors among the speakers. You will have an opportunity to buy their books and get them autographed by the authors. This will be a rare opportunity for the collector of books.

*Youth:* Our Youth Chairs are excited to be hosts to a Pre-Planned Congress social to reconnect with old friends as well as to making new ones. The FaceBook link is up and running, and all users/members have to do is search "2010 North America Zoroastrian Congress" and will be linked directly to our FaceBook Congress site. We are 250+ members strong and anticipating growth as we come closer to the congress. All information is provided in regards to the pictures, hotel, registration rate, ZAH registration link, as well as contact information. Please feel free to contact us via email @ [youthforumcongress2010@gmail.com](mailto:youthforumcongress2010@gmail.com) or Zeeba Kayani @ 281-610-6593. Looking forward to seeing a full and excited turnout.