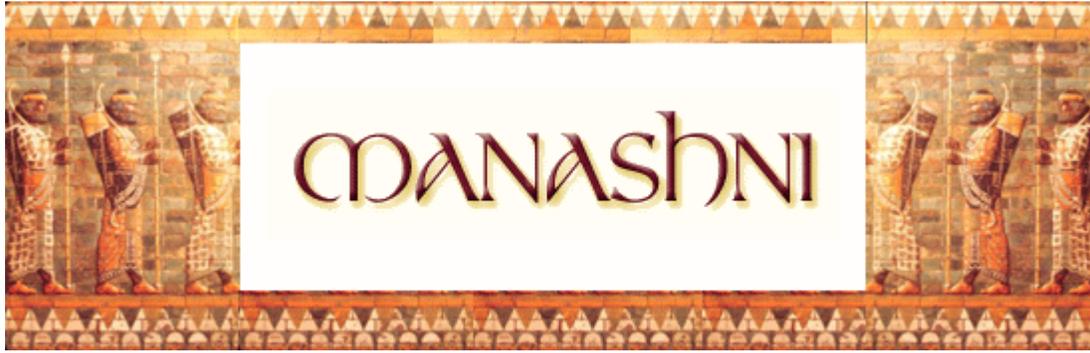


Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071



Volume 23: Issue 11

November 2010

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11:00 AM.

DATE: November 14, 2010

Children's Session: The "Let's Learn Gujarati Together" session will be from 11 am to 11.25 am. Topic will be "Pronouns and Verbs" and building sentences. **Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am.**

Middle Group: This group is for the children in the middle school. We have at least four sleepovers a year where the children have projects to work on. During the Muktaad season they help clean the prayer room. They listen to stories from Shahname and watch informative videos. We try to cover the basic Zarathushti tenets, kusti prayers and their meanings and the explanation of various ceremonies. Last year they learnt about the ceremonies, this year they will be learning the Kusti prayers and their meanings. If you child falls in this age group, do please bring him/her at the Sunday School.

Senior Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this session. See a write up by the Youth Chair.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 14 – ZAH Annual General Meeting

Dec 29th to Dec 31st – North American Zoroastrian Congress in Houston. Read the weekly NAZC Newsflash for the latest information.

MEETINGS

GOLDEN GROUP	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611
LIBRARY COMMITTEE	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 aban@coatingindustries.com

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT by Jangoo Mistry

We are proud to announce the winner of the ZAH Library Essay Competition that was held to promote Zoroastrian scholarship amongst our youth. The topic of the essay was: "*The Shah Nameh: A Glorious Past – A Prologue to the Future*", and entry was open to all Zoroastrians in United States under 25. This year's winner (drumroll please) is our very own Houstonian, Mitra Khumbatta, a sophomore at the University of Houston. Mitra wins the cash prize of \$1,000, as well as free registration to the 10th North American Zoroastrian Conference in Houston coming up next month. Congratulations Mitra on a job well done. We are proud of you.

Your ZAH Library now has a very welcome addition to its collection that is sure to interest many of us. During his recent visit to Houston and meeting our community, Jehangir Mehta donated a copy of his book: "**Mantra: The Rules of Indulgence**" for the ZAH Library. Jehangir, with his own restaurant, Mehtaphor, that opened just

last month in Manhattan, is a renowned chef who became famous recently as the second place winner of the Iron Chef cooking competition on TV.

Jehangir Mehta draws endless inspiration from his Indian heritage and from Ayurveda, the ancient science of health and medicine. Now, in this gorgeous book, Mehta shares his holistic approach to refreshing the body, mind, and spirit through delicious recipes using only the purest and most beneficial ingredients. As a reader, you will enter a world of adventure and indulgence in this exotic cookbook. Whether you are whipping up *Falooda with Fresh Strawberry Ice Cream* for your friends, or baknig a superlative *Tres Leches Cake with Coconut-Curry Emulsion, Pears, and Almond*, whether you are preparing a spectacular feast for a dinner party or a simple dessert on a whim, you'll be inspired by the amazing range of ingredients in the book —from the most common to the rather unusual.

According to the Washington Post, the mere reading of this cookbook's index draws the reader in, and causes him or her to linger. Check out your copy today before somebody else does!

We are grateful to Dr. Pallan Ichaporia, of Mainz Universitat and Salamanca University who has graciously donated books that he has authored to FIRES that will enhance our collection:

"The Pahlavi Yasna of the Gathas and Yasna Hapatanghaiti" by William Malandra and Pallan Ichaporia, 2010- (280 pages)

Two copies of *"The Heritage of Zarathushtra - A New Translation of His Gathas"* by Helmut Humbach and Pallan Ichaporia, Heidelberg 1994, Universitat Verlag C. Winter, 1994

"Translation of Ahunavaiti and Vahistoishtish Gathas" by Pallan Ichaporia, Fezana Research Committee, 1991.

Thank you Dr. Ichaporia for contributing to the FIRES collection. (*FIRES, you will recall, was established by FEZANA's member Associations in Houston, to be co-located within the ZAH Library. The mission of FIRES, which stands for FEZANA Information Research Education System, is to establish for all of North America, a centralized collection of books, manuscripts, literature, etc., primarily pertaining to Zarathushti faith, culture, and history.*)

ZAH YOUTH GROUP REPORTS

In the past month of October, the Youth Group has been learning about the three different calendars; Shahenshahi, Kadmi, and Fasli. This arrangement has been graciously given and presented by Hoshang Subawalla. Also, each youth group member is learning what their Zarathustri birthday is on all three of the calendars as well as learning the meaning of each specific day. In addition, we will continue learning and expand on how the three calendars connect to the Amesha Spentas and the Yazatas, during the next Sunday School session in November.

CYRA BYRAMJI

Youth Group Vice President

The youth group has raised funds for the upcoming youth congress. During the Ghambar in October, the youth's car wash raised over \$1000 in one afternoon. Other Sunday school activities include the continual volunteer activity with habitat for humanity and planning more events to raise funds for our congress trip.

VIRAF NARIMAN

Youth Group Vice President

MISCELLANEOUS

Homecoming King

Memorial High School students rally around their Homecoming King, Arman Avasia!

In many ways, Arman claims that he is an average high school student. He likes to read, enjoys writing and is editor of his school newspaper, ANVIL. But on Saturday, October 30, Arman was more than an average student. He was elected Memorial High School's Homecoming King 2010. He was crowned at the Homecoming Dance in front of his friends and peers, many of whom voted for him. The buzz, the excitement and the emotion are still going strong with his parents, Shernaz and Cyrus Boga and his grandparents, Gooloo and Sam Polad. The ZAH community rejoices with Arman and wishes him the best in his senior year of school.

BULLYING

An Essay by RAYHAN NARIMAN

October was National Bullying Prevention Month. All the kids in my 7th grade class wrote an essay on Bullying. Mine was selected to be read out in front of the entire school on the morning announcements. This is not a true story – just my interpretation of how a bully would behave.

Last year I was bullied a lot. I didn't want to fight with anyone, but one day I was walking down the hall when a mean kid just knocked over my books for no reason. He laughed along with his friends; I thought it was just a joke, so I laughed too. That's when they stopped laughing, and walked away. The next day, I was outside and I didn't see him coming out the door. I accidentally bumped into him, and knocked over his lunch. He pushed me over; I got up and pushed him back. That was a big mistake.

The next day I was just walking through the hall again and he tripped me over. My friends and I confronted him, and the talking turned into shouting, then pushing. Soon a crowd gathered chanting "fight, fight, fight, fight". I stopped short of punching him. "What am I thinking?" I thought to myself. I put down my fists and tried to walk away. But his friend grabbed me and turned me around. I tried to get away, but they were too strong. I looked up, and the next thing I saw was his fist across my face. They dropped me to the ground like a piece of dirt. My friend rushed up and checked out what the bully had done. He took me to the nurse and, fortunately, all I had was a bloody nose. When I got home that day, I tried to hide it from my mom. But she saw me and frantically asked what had happened. I was thinking of lying and saying that I had tripped and fallen. I told her everything and got ready for my next day of torture. The following day, I didn't see the kid around at all. I came home smiling a mile wide; he was gone from the school for good.

In the story that I just told you, I was the victim of physical and verbal bullying. The moral here is that you should always talk to your parents or tell an adult or teacher if you're being bullied. Bullying is just one of the many behaviors that my school will not tolerate. Don't be a fool, bullying is not cool!

NAZC Corner

Have you bought the raffle yet?

Kurti Raffle that began on October 3, 2010 will continue until the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 14th November. The winner of this raffle will be announced on the day of the AGM. You do not have to be present to win, but it will be great if you are there to receive your prize!

Along with the Kurti, we now have a Topi, and two Cell Phone Covers to give away as the second, third and fourth prize also, so be sure to call Persis Behramsha at 281-859-1302 and request tickets from her.



**1 ticket for \$5.00
5 tickets for \$20.00**



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS AND
ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A General Body Meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2010, at The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, 8787 W. Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX 77071 at 2:00PM.

AGENDA: Members wishing to include any items for discussion may forward the subject matter to the ZAH Secretary, by e-mail, to percy.master@hp.com, by **October 31, 2010** so that they can be included in the agenda. **NO NEW MATTERS WILL BE ENTERTAINED FROM THE FLOOR ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING, OR WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/8/2010.**

The Executive Committee proposes the attached motion, which will be voted upon by the general body.

The Term of Office as defined in Article 5.3: The term of office for all Executive Committee members shall be two (2) years. No member shall be allowed to serve on the Executive Committee for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The preceding clause may be over-ruled for a particular case or cases by an eighty percent (80%) majority vote of a meeting called for election purposes.

The following positions on the Executive Committee are up for election:

1	Member	Rustom Setna	Completed one 2-year term	Eligible for re-election, but declined to stand
2	Member	Kershaw Khumbatta	Completed one 2-year term	Eligible for re-election
3	Member	Open		
4	Secretary	Percy Master	Completed two 2-year terms	Term Completed

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION OF MEMBERS: An Election Commissioner will be announced at a later date. The Election Commissioner will be responsible for receiving nomination forms from the Recorder (Secretary) and verifying all nominations. The Election Commissioner will also coordinate any other nomination procedure, which may include active solicitation of nominees. Additionally, the Election Commissioner will coordinate and conduct the election process. Please send the completed Nomination Forms by **October 8, 2010** to the **ZAH secretary**. **No last minute nominations will be accepted after the deadline and absolutely no nominations will be accepted from the floor.** The **nominee must sign** the "Nomination Form", which is provided with this announcement. This is to ensure that the nominee understands the responsibilities of the office and is willing and able to serve the full two-year term.

In nominating the person(s) of your choice, please be guided by the following:

- All nominees must be regular members in good standing (fees paid up) for a period of at least six (6) months prior to the election and must be eighteen (18) years of age or older (Article 5.7)
- No two members of an immediate family shall serve on the Executive Committee, or on the same subcommittee at any one time. However, they may serve on two different subcommittees at the same time. (Article 5.7).
- The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all General Body and Executive Committee meetings, and inform members of all meetings and functions, and be Custodian of the Seal of the Association, and of all books, papers, records, correspondence, contracts, and other documents belonging to the Association (Art. 8.6)

Voting will be by Secret Ballot. Proxy votes will not be accepted. All paid up members, for the year 2010 (paid up to the day of the voting) are eligible to vote.

Lunch will be served from 1:00PM to 2:00PM, immediately after Sunday School. Although the ZAH is hosting this lunch, donations are always welcome. Please RSVP to Percy Master via e-mail at percy.master@hp.com positively by November 4, 2010 to get a proper headcount.

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

Agenda For the 2010 ZAH Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Date: November 14, 2010

Meeting Time: 2:00PM.

Meeting Chair: Kamalrukh Gandhi

Agenda Item No.	Item	Presenter
1.	Invocation	
2.	Establish quorum	Kamalrukh Gandhi
3.	Adoption of the Agenda	Kamalrukh Gandhi
4.	Approval of the Minutes of the 2009 AGM	Kamalrukh Gandhi
5.	Chairperson's Report	Kamalrukh Gandhi
6.	Treasurer's Report	Kershaw Khumbatta
7.	Approval of the Treasurer's Report	Kamalrukh Gandhi
8.	Youth Report	Fram Haveliwala
9.	Building Construction Committee Report	Hoshang Sethna
10.	Entertainment Committee Report	Faroakh Firozgary
11.	Investment Management Team Report	Vispi Sagar
12.	Library Committee	Aban Rustomji
13.	Building Management Committee Report	Pervin Sagar
14.	XVth North American Zoroastrian Congress – NAZC-2010	Roshan Sethna
15.	EC Proposal Discussion & Vote	Sarosh Collector
16.	Retirement Community Update	Homi Davier
17.	WZC2000 Legacy Scholarship Update	Homi Davier
18.	Fountain upkeep	Natasha Irani
19.	Announcement of EC Nominees	Kamalrukh Gandhi
20.	Benediction and adjourn	

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE ZOROASTRIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

Background: Plans for the Center called for it to be built in several phases. Phase I included the main hall, kitchen, bathrooms, and a small prayer room. Phase II added the atrium, the library, and two classrooms. At an earlier Annual General Meeting Purvez Rustomji and Homi Davier had presented the proposed additional phases to members.

Phase III: An additional classroom and a youth/game room (estimated cost \$300K to \$350K).

Phase IV: A large prayer room. The kitchen would be expanded to allow for more ovens and the current prayer room would be converted into an office (estimated cost \$200K to \$250K).

Phase V: Expansion of the main hall with a stage, dressing areas, lighting, etc. (estimated cost \$1.2 million).

We propose that the community agree to undertake the expansion of the Center, one phase at a time, as money is collected.

Rationale: Our community has grown significantly in the last decade. The Middle Group, which has a large number of students this year and is expected to continue to be large, needs a classroom of its own. Our prayer room is too small to accommodate more than a few people at a time and is not large enough for even small family events. The main hall cannot seat all the members during our largest functions, notably the March 21st dinner.

Phases I and II were completed ten years ago when Houston hosted the World Congress. It is time to focus our attention on expanding the Center. Given that our top priority should be the youth, we propose that we first concentrate on Phase III and that we follow that up with a commitment to a larger prayer room. The estimated cost for these two phases combined is half the cost of Phase V if we plan to include all the bells and whistles that this phase would ideally need. We will concentrate on that expansion once we have Phases III and IV completed.

Motion 1: The General Body authorizes the Executive Committee to collect funds, finalize plans, get bids and construct Phases III AND IV (new classroom, game room, new prayer room and expanded kitchen).

YES

NO

Motion 2: The General Body authorizes the Executive Committee to collect funds, finalize plans, get bids and construct Phase III only (new classroom and game room).

YES

NO

Motion : The General Body authorizes the Executive Committee to collect funds, finalize plans, get bids and construct Phase IV only (new prayer room and expanded kitchen).

YES

NO



**FIFTEENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS
HOUSTON, TEXAS
DECEMBER 29 - 31, 2010**

**WIN 2 REGISTRATIONS PLUS
2 "NATAK & ADI TAMBOLI" TICKETS...
A \$700 PACKAGE!!!**

For Tickets Contact: Persis Behramsha

Phone: (281) 859 1302 ~ Email: persisbehramsha@netscape.net

Drawing: Saturday, December 4, 2010 at ZHCC

Cost: \$10 for 1 ticket; \$25 for a pack of 3 tickets. Please make checks payable to "ZAH NAZC 2010". Checks due by 11/30/2010.

IMPORTANT

Official Rules:

1. The NAZC 2010 raffle will be conducted according to the terms of the Raffle Enabling Act, and per regulations described in Chapter 2002, Charitable Raffles, Occupations Code, Texas Codes Annotated.
2. You must be 18 years or older to participate and purchase a raffle ticket.
3. The raffle ticket will be void where prohibited by law.
4. The cost of each raffle ticket is \$10. You can purchase a pack of 3 tickets for \$25 each.
5. Each raffle ticket will be identified by a unique serial number.
6. Tickets will be issued via mail or in person within 10 working days after payment is received by an authorized NAZC 2010 representative.
7. The final drawings for this raffle award will be held at the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, 8787 West Airport Blvd, Houston, Texas 77071 on Saturday, December 4, 2010.
8. No cash prizes or cash value of prizes will be awarded to winners of the raffle.
9. Notification of winning tickets will be published in the ZAH Newsletter Ma-nashni. Winners will also be notified via phone, email, and by mail within 10 business days of the drawing. The winner will be required to hand over the winning ticket in person or via registered mail to claim an award. If the NAZC Committee is unable to contact the winner in 3 attempts, each attempt made via phone, email, and mail at 5 day intervals, the award will be considered a donation to NAZC 2010.
10. The NAZC 2010 Committee retains the authority to cancel the Raffle at any time in its sole determination, including due to lack of ticket sales. Refund checks will be mailed out to existing raffle ticket holders, within 10 business days of such cancellation.
11. The NAZC 2010 Raffle Rules, Terms, and Conditions described above are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances or where required by law. All changes will be published and sent to existing raffle ticket holders and prospective raffle participants within 2 to 10 business days of the change.

