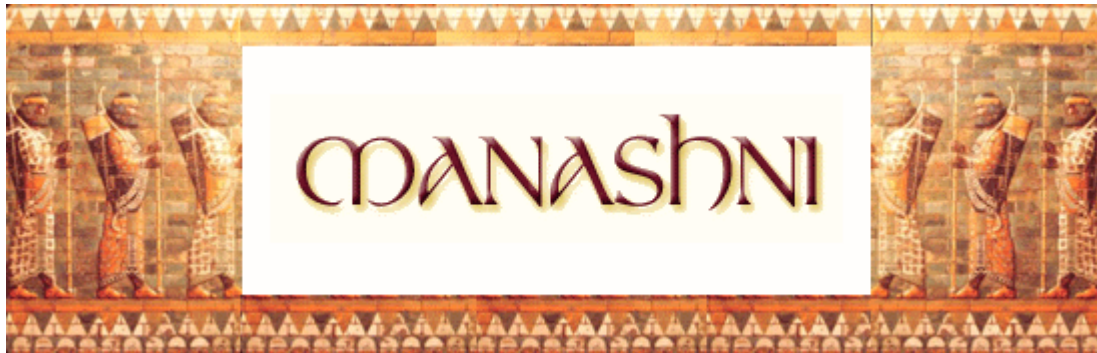




Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11:00 AM.

DATE: September 12, 2010

Children's Session: The "Let's Learn Gujarati Together" session will be from 11 am to 11.25 am. Since this is the 1st session after end of summer, we will review all the topics that we did in the past few months i.e. objects, fruits, vegetables, colors, numbers, parts of the body. Next month onwards we will start with "Pronouns and Verbs" and building sentences. **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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 3, 11 am - Fasli Mehrgan Gahambar

So far we have received \$800 in donations towards the Gahambar. Thank-you very much for your generosity. However this amount will not cover the cost of the Gahambar, therefore any donations received will help towards other expenses.

If you wish to donate towards the Gahambar, please do send an email to ZAHRSVP@yahoo.com pledging the amount you would like to donate.

Please RSVP by September 21st at the same email address. See attached flyer for rates and other details.

Friday, October 8, 7 pm - Library Event - "Iran, the Forgotten Glory" Movie. See Library report for details

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

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS

No reports at this time

LIBRARY REPORT – by Jango Mistry

Two books have been donated to our already impressive collection at the ZAH Library. Bapsi Sidhwa has donated a book written by her brother, Minoo Bhandara, titled: *“Calling a Spade a Spade”*. Minoo capped a very illustrious career in business and politics by becoming a leading newspaper columnist of Pakistan who never hesitated to tell it like it is – calling a spade a spade. His selected newspaper columns compiled in the book are an unbiased chronicle of our times, presented with a deep understanding of Pakistani history and Minoo’s prophetic vision. Be sure to check out this impressive work from a highly regarded Zoroastrian that will expose you to new ideas and principles, and make you think.

In memory of Shahnaz Sidhwa’s mother, Khorshed Meherji Bharucha, the ZAH Library has dedicated a book: *“Peonies and Pagodas: Embroidered Parsi Textiles: Tapi Collection”*. The stunning embroidered textiles pictured in this visually enticing work present a fascinating record of Parsi women and children’s clothing from the mid-nineteenth century and the preference for Chinese-made silks and embroideries. Different chapters contributed by different scholars examine the splendid *garas* (sarīs), *jhablas* (tunics), *ijars* (pyjamas), *kors* (borders), *topis* (caps), and explores bird symbolism in Parsi embroidery. It is indeed remarkable how Parsis have managed to retain their own ethnic identity through the centuries – especially in their ceremonial dresses. This book is a feast for the eyes and the soul.

To promote Zoroastrian scholarship amongst our youth, the ZAH Library is once again holding an essay competition open to all Zoroastrians in North America under 25. Since this year is the 1000th anniversary of the composition of *The Shahnameh*, the renowned national epic of the Persian-speaking world, the topic of the essay has been chosen as: *“The Shah Nameh: A Glorious Past – A Prologue to the Future”*. Exciting prizes (\$1,000, as well as free registration to the 10th North American Zoroastrian Conference in Houston in December 2010) are expected to attract many participants, so please encourage the youngsters in your family to start now and take sufficient time to prepare and submit a quality entry before school gets into full swing. Remember that entries have to be submitted by October 31, 2010. Details of the Essay Competition are given in the attached flyer.

The Library Committee is planning to hold a movie night at the ZAH Center on October 8 at 7 pm. The 1-1/2 hour movie, “Iran, the Forgotten Glory”, will be screened with a break, and refreshments will be provided free of charge. More details about the movie will be provided in the next Manashni, but until then please mark this date on your calendars.

MISCELLANEOUS

SAVE BAHROT CAVES (by Percy Master)

Dr. Homi Dhalla, the Founder-President of World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation, has taken immense pains to initiate gigantic efforts to Preserve and Save the Bahrot Caves as a precious heritage structure since the last several years.

In a first of its kind, he has now initiated an online signature campaign, to be submitted to the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India, to step up efforts in that direction. You can read the petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/savbah/petition.html> and if you agree to the contents, you may sign it online. It just takes a minute to sign.

Please do spread the word and take action now !

BAHROT AND THE ZARATHUSTI CONNECTION

Bahrot is the 1500 feet (500 m) mountain 20 kms south of Sanjaan on which our brave Zarathusti ancestors took refuge from the Muslim invaders for 13 long years, in the year 1351 AD. They also took along with them to Bahrot their greatest shrine, the *Iranshah Flame*. The brave Parsis of our ancestors lived in such harsh conditions of Bahrot just in order to keep their Faith in Ahura-Mazda burning.

Pottery, glass ware and coins dating back to the Sassanian period in Iran (the last Zoroastrian dynasty) have been found. It proves the thesis of historians that the Iranian Zoroastrians had close trading connections with the Gujarat coast, and that Sanjan was a well known and prosperous port with whom the Iranians had close connections. This was the reason for the Parsis to seek refuge there and also why they

received such a warm welcome. They did not come to Sanjan as total strangers, but were familiar with each others language and customs.

Today, the caves are in a very bad shape and need repair and maintenance. Zoroastrian groups go up a very difficult path to offer their reverence and perform *jashan* ceremonies throughout the year. The Government of India was prevailed to declare the cave a protected monument, to prevent further deterioration.

NAZC CORNER

NAZC SILK ROAD PRODUCTION (by Vehishta Kaikobad)

For the NAZC Silk Road production Vehishta Kaikobad is collecting old (and/or unused) silk saris and saris of other material to create costumes. If anyone can DONATE these saris we would greatly appreciate it. We are also looking for small Persian carpets, large silver bowls and Chinese porcelain items on LOAN for the production. We would take good care of them and return them promptly after the Congress. If anyone can LOAN these items please contact Vehishta at 281-564-1148.
Thank you.

NAZC – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Yasmin Medhora, Hospitality Committee, is looking for volunteers during the Congress to transport speakers and other dignitaries from airport to the hotel. The speakers will start arriving from Tuesday, December 28, 2010. Yasmin would greatly appreciate any help that she can get. Interested volunteers may please e-mail directly to Yasmin at chiefyas1@sbcglobal.net

Yasmin is also trying to collect fillers for the Registration Bags. Any businesses or any one who has access to businesses that can give about 500 items of notepads, small calendars, letteropeners, or anything that is generally given out in congress/conference registration bags, please contact her at chiefyas1@sbcglobal.net

THE IRON CHEF WAS IN HOUSTON

Spot on to Jehangir Mehta for accepting ZAH's invitation to meet and honor him on July 18th.

Chef Mehta's visit to Houston was to promote healthy eating habits and adventurous cooking for kids and their parents at the Bellaire Whole Food Store. Sophisticated, soft spoken and skinny Jehangir charmed both young and old as he talked about his choice of career, his determination to succeed, what it meant to be a husband and how he treasured being the father of twins, and how important it was to have a positive attitude and to believe anything is possible with hard work and persistence.

Audience members that had followed and cheered him through the Iron Chef shows were thrilled with his unassuming answers to their questions. He had every opportunity to brag and he did not.

Not to be undone, our local pastry chef and family - Naushad and Natasha Mehta, Jehanbux and Sillie Mehta catered and donated a wonderful spread with mouth watering delicacies to honor Jehangir. A good time was had by all attendees. Jehangir returns to Houston as speaker at the NAZC 2010 and at the WZCC Gala dinner in December.

SHAHENSHAHI NAVROZE CELEBRATION

Navroze started off with Humbandagi at our Center on Navroze evening (August 19th).

Then celebration and festivities took place at the Center on August 21st. A good time was had by all !!.

The MC - Roshan Sethna, with her usual flair filled with humor, took through the program, which commenced with dance numbers by Arzan Gonda's Rhythm India kids followed by an enthralling dance number TWIST from the movie LOVE AAJ KAL by our very own Jesil Bharucha.

Congratulations to all the graduates who were honored. You make us proud. Gary Firozgary talked about the youth and we had a winner of the netbook from the NAZC raffle

Dinner by Indian Ocean was delicious and very different from the usual fair. After the entertainment and scrumptious dinner the heat was turned up on the dance floor until the wee hours of the morning with 'dhamaal' music by DJ Saz. What a night !!

The ZAH Entertainment committee would like to thank Roshan Sethna and the many volunteers who helped with the event.

MORE GRADUATES

Ashdin Medhora graduated as a mechanical Engineer from University of Texas, Arlington (UTA)

Jimmy Sethna (son of Jeroo and Pervez Sethna) graduated in August with a Doctorate in Clinical Neuro Psychology from the University of Denver, Colorado and is now doing a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Forensic Neuro Psychology & Forensic Assessment Psychology in Miami, Florida.

Heartiest congratulations to the graduates. You make us proud!!

TRAVELING TO GULF COUNTRIES

Recently the laws in UAE and other Gulf countries have been revised and carrying certain food items is punishable with minimum 20 years of imprisonment or even worse with death penalty.

Travellers should not carry even minutest quantities of the following items when traveling to Gulf countries:

1. Khas Khas whether raw, roasted or cooked.
2. Paan
3. Beetle nut (supari and its products, e.g. Paan Parag etc.)

The penalties are very severe. There have been cases reported where some Zarathushtis have been put in jail because they were carrying Khas Khas which is a commonly used spice in some Indian curries and sweets. Khas Khas is also known as poppy seed which can be sprouted to grow narcotics (afeem etc.).

BAYLOR SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

In July 2010, a group of fifteen individuals went to Honduras on a trip that was different from the usual medical brigade. This trip was organized by Roshan Sethna and Dr. Fareed Khan and was envisioned as a "Goodwill Mission".

The group that went to Santa Ana from the USA comprised of members from the Zoroastrian Association of Houston and included youth and adult community members, two students from Rice University and three physicians and their families.

The stated goal of the trip was two fold. It was an opportunity for the trip participants to know first hand the issues that face the remote community of Santa Ana , Intibucá , Honduras . It was an excellent way to engage the community in Santa Ana to demonstrate the spirit of Hombro a Hombro.

The youth constructed a french drain around the clinic. This was hard work given the enormity of the task, the unrelenting heat and the muddy terrain. They also started work on a perimeter fence. They worked alongside community volunteers.

Another group did a cultural exchange by visiting homes and sharing healthy recipes and cooking tips to enhance infant nutrition.

The three physicians saw 130 patients in 4 days with an emphasis on pediatrics. Despite all this hard work the group found the time to reflect and to have fun: nature walks and vigorous soccer games with the children of the village.

The goodwill mission became a significant medical brigade when it was called upon to respond to a serious motor vehicle accident. This incident alone made a huge impact on the trip participants and the community.

The group was comprised of Drs.Fareed & Rubina Khan, Sara & Assad, Roshan Sethna, Nilufar Kasnavia, Nasreen & Darius Khosravian, Burjis Cooper, Bahrom Firozgary, Malcolm Irani, Dr.Nadeem & Hasan, Jacinta Leyden, Nathan Lo.

Below is an article by a Chronicle Correspondent where three members of the group (including our Bahrom Firozgary) recount their experiences

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

By Kim Morgan - CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Three Memorial-area teenagers have shared some good, fun, and life-changing experiences over the past few months. All three graduated from Stratford High School in May and spent some time working at a medical clinic in Honduras before returning home to being their freshman year at Rice University.

Medicine is cool

Bahrom Firozgary, 18, said they were on a team of 15 working in the Central American country through the Baylor College of Medicine's Shoulder to Shoulder Foundation.

"I would love to be a doctor," said Firozgary, who is majoring in biochemistry. "Ever since I was a kid I've wanted to be one."

That's why, in addition to digging mud in order to build a fence and place an irrigation system, Bahrom particularly enjoyed shadowing the physicians also visiting Honduras.

“Medicine is cool and all, but you can’t be a doctor without having the human aspect, the social skills to interact with others,” Firozgary said.

The most memorable experience, Firozgary said, was when two young girls were brought to the clinic, broken and bleeding after falling off the side of the road while on their way to market. They were trying to avoid a car on the narrow, gutted road, and after they fell, they were pinned by a tree.

No time for emotions

Jacinta Leyden, 18, who was co-valedictorian along with Firozgary at Stratford High School, said she remembers they were all asleep when the call came in.

“They said ‘if you’re not squeamish about blood, come on, let’s go,’” said Leyden, who is an engineering major. “We went into the operating room, which is basically like a cement room. I just ran around and got the supplies the doctors needed. I would walk around and wipe blood off the girl’s faces.

“I stayed by the woman who was less hurt. She had a really deep gash in her leg, and had a few teeth knocked out. I held her hand and talked to her. I’m normally a really emotional person, but while I was there, there was no time to be emotional. You had to act fast.”

That included finding something to pass as backboards for the women, who needed to be stabilized for transportation to a hospital four hours away.

A memorable experience

Nathan Lo, 19, who is studying bio-engineering, global health and pre-med, said he remembers going outside to look for large pieces of board or plywood.

After finding some, and washing it off as best he could, the women were strapped down and transported in the village ambulance – which is no more than a pickup truck, he said.

Lo said it was memorable experience, but some of the smaller things really got to him too. Shadowing a pediatrician, he saw children who were 4 years old but looked like they were 1.

“I saw a lot of malnutrition and lack of dental hygiene,” Lo said. “We gave them toothbrushes, and they were so excited they would pop it out and start using it right there.”

Community is the key

The sense of community in the small village was truly amazing to Lo, who said people lined up at the clinic for hours before it even opened, and a simple Tylenol was pure magic for suffering villagers.

“Kids would walk for two miles, and climb a hundred feet into a tree to get mangos for us,” Lo said.

As the two seriously injured women were loaded into the ambulance, the entire community stood by, eager to help.

“There was this huge sense of community,” Leyden said. “It was mind blowing. I couldn’t believe how selfless these people were.”

For Firozgary, the trip taught him about all the things that make someone not just a good doctor, but a great doctor.

“This trip made me a better person,” said Firozgary, who is currently working part-time in the Baylor College of Medicine’s research department in infectious disease. “I learned it takes more than just smarts. It takes social skills too.”

FEZANA AWARDS NOMINATION

The North American Zarathushti Community Awards for 2010 will be presented during the Fifteenth North American Zarathushti Congress to be held in Houston, Texas from December 29 – 31, 2010.

The awards will be presented to North American Zarathushtis selected by an independent panel of judges. The judges will select those Zarathushtis who have made substantial contributions to the promotion and advancement of the knowledge of Zarathushti history, theology, culture and heritage, who have achieved excellence in their chosen business or profession, and who have given of themselves through outstanding humanitarian service or philanthropy. Awards will also be given to youth who have shown outstanding leadership and educational achievements.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

Category A: Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award

Category B: Excellence in Business or Profession Award

Category C: Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award

Category D: Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award

Category E: Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award

Category F: Outstanding Young Zarathushti Student Award

The North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) will also sponsor an award, “NAMC Community Services

Award" for services rendered by a young Mobed/Mobedyar of 35 years of age or under. The award is sponsored by NAMC and the selection of the candidate will be made by a committee appointed by NAMC. However, the FEZANA Awards Committee will be collecting the nomination forms on behalf of NAMC. Therefore all nominations for this award should be sent to the FEZANA Awards Committee as well.

The Awards Committee invites nominations of deserving and qualified Zarathushtis for each of the above categories. Nominations must be submitted through the official Nomination Form. The complete [Nomination package](#), including the rules governing the awards, details on each award category, and the evaluation criteria that will be applied by each judge, will be available from FEZANA member associations or:

FEZANA Awards Committee
Shehernaz Joshi Verahrami
Email: sjoshi@law.gwu.edu

The closing date for receipt of all nominations is September 30, 2010. Nominations postmarked after that date or not submitted in the prescribed nomination form will not be considered.

GENETIC STUDY FOR TEXAS PARSIS

The third round for Genetic Study for Texas Parsis is scheduled for October 2 & 3, 2010. Many thanks to the 40 participants who have already completed the interview process. We need at least 60 more participants for analyzing data in order for a preliminary presentation to be made at North American Zoroastrian Congress 2010 in December.

Keeping that in mind, the 3rd round of interview session is scheduled on **Saturday, October 2nd from 11:00 - 5:00 pm** and **Sunday, October 3rd from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**. Interview will take 20 minutes only **if** you have already filled out the necessary questionnaire.

Boxed lunch will be provided for 20 participants on Saturday courtesy of the Genetic Study group.

To obtain the necessary questionnaire, email or print copy, and to schedule a time, please email Aban Rustomji - aban@coatingindustries.com

You may choose to mail the questionnaire back to Dr. Saroja Voruganti 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

Walk-ins are encouraged, but members who are scheduled will have priority.

PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF

Pakistan floods are in the news every day and from all accounts the danger is increasing day by day and spreading to other regions of Pakistan. There are several charities people can contribute to for helping with the relief efforts:

Prime Minister's Relief Fund 2010 -

"All donations would be duly acknowledged with a proper official receipt. The list of donors will also be available on the Consulate's website."

"Donations can be contributed to the **Prime Minister's Relief Fund 2010** through the Consulate General of Pakistan, Houston. The donation checks can be mailed to the following address:

Consulate General of Pakistan, 11850 Jones Road, Houston, TX 77070

[All donations to the Consulate would be duly acknowledged with a proper official receipt. The list of donors will also be available on the Consulate's website.]

Imran Khan Foundation Flood Relief Fund - tax free no: 501C3

The checks to made in the name of Imran Khan Foundation Floor Relief Fund and mailed to:

Sajaad Burki, 9494 SW Freeway #35, Houston TX 7074.

[All Checks should have 'For Deposit only' written on the back.]

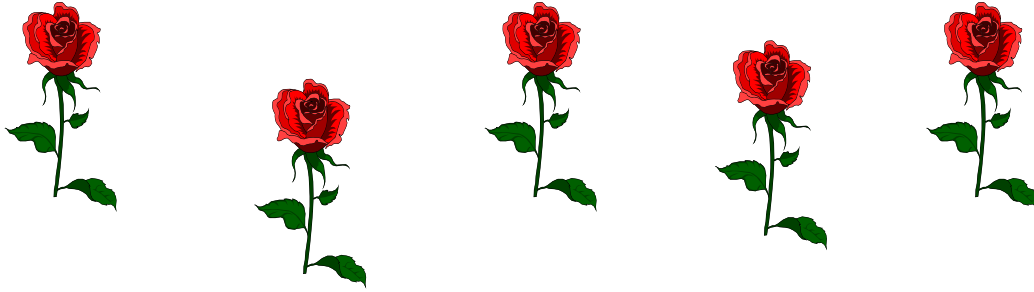
UNICEF

Go to the [UNICEFUSA website](#) and make your donation online

OBITUARY

Mani Nusserwan Rustomji passed away in Karachi on August 29, 2010. Mani was the wife of Nusserwan Rustomji and mother of Naomi and Nasha Rustomji, sister of Banu Anklesaria (Karachi), Villie, Perviz and Rohinton Deboo (Houston) and aunt of Gayve Anklesaria (Houston).

Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family!



FASLI MEHRGAN GAHAMBAR

WILL BE CELEBRATED ON

**OCTOBER 3rd, 2010
AT THE**

**ZARATHUSHTI HERITAGE
AND CULTURAL CENTER**

Rates

\$9 – for over 10 yrs, except seniors
\$5 for Seniors and kids (4 to 10 yrs)
Kids upto 3 yrs - gratis

**JASHAN CEREMONY WILL COMMENCE
AT 11:00 A.M.**

**FOLLOWED BY LUNCH
AT 1 P.M.**

RSVP: DEFINITELY BY SEPTEMBER 21st, 2010

To: ZAHR_SVP@yahoo.com



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON LIBRARY

ESSAY COMPETITION – 2010

The Shah Nameh: A Glorious Past---A Prologue to the Future

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston Library is holding an essay competition in order to promote Zoroastrian scholarship among our youth. The winner will be awarded a \$1,000 prize and free registration to the 10th North American Zarathushti Congress in Houston, TX in December 2010. The winner will also make a presentation about his or her essay at a time slot allocated at the Congress.

- Topic** The Shah Nameh: A Glorious Past---A Prologue to the Future
- Eligibility** The competition is open to all Zoroastrians living or studying in the USA & Canada under the age of 25 as of December 31, 2010.
- Deadline** October 31, 2010.
- Format** Entries must be submitted electronically to Aban Rustomji at aban@coatingindustries.com in Microsoft WORD, double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, and with 1-inch borders all around. The participant's name, address and phone number shall be on a separate cover page only. No name should appear on subsequent pages. The names will be removed, and replaced with a numeric identifier, before the essays are sent to the judges for evaluation.
- Judging** The ZAH Library Committee will select three judges to evaluate the essays on the following basis:
- Content – Original Argument
 - Content – Correctness of Facts / Completeness
 - Analysis & Supporting Research
 - Organization Structure (Transition, Mechanics, Grammar & Citations)
- All references used (including books and internet sites) must be clearly cited in the bibliography.
- Publication** The ZAH Library reserves the right to publish any or all essays in the media of their choice.
- Honor System** Entrants shall not receive assistance from others.

