



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**TIME:** Different times for each group

**DATE:** **July 9, 2017**

**Children's Session** The Sunday School session will start at **10.30 am to 11.30 am**

**Middle Group:** The Sunday School session will start at **11.00 am**

**Youth Group:** Sarosh Collector, Kaemerz Dotiwalla and Faraidoon Pundole conduct this session.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Fri to Sun – Aug 4 – Aug 06, 2017**

**Mon to Wed – Aug 7 – 16, 2017**

**Thursday, August 17, 2017**

**Saturday, August 19, 2017**

**Sunday, October 1, 2017**

**Friday & Saturday – Nov 3 to 4 2017**

**Saturday – November 4, 2017**

**Friday – December 1, 2017**

**Sunday – December 10, 2017**

**ZAH Z-Camp 2017**

**Muktad Prayers**

**Navroze Humbandagi and Maachi – 6:30 p.m.**

**Navroze Function – Details to be announced**

**Fasli Mehrgan and Maediozarem Gahambar**

**Library Event**

**Comedy Fundraiser Natak – Details to be announced later**

**Library Event**

**Sunday School and Christmas Party**

**MEETINGS**

<b>GOLDEN GROUP</b>	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (832) 288-2436
<b>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</b>	First Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM. If you 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**

**LIBRARY REPORT**

*By Jango Mistry*

***Looking Forward to the Next ZAH Library Event***

On June 30 this year, fell the 100<sup>th</sup> death centenary of Dadabhai Naoroji, endearingly known as the “Grand Old Man of India”. Mahatma Gandhi bestowed the title of “Father of the Nation” on him since Dadabhai was the first to call for independence from the British. Dadabhai Naoroji’s death centenary has aroused so much interest that all kinds of events are being held globally to remember one of the most illustrious Parsis of all times.

Fittingly, at this time, the ZAH Library is also planning to host an event centered around Dadabhai Naoroji, featuring Dinyar Patel, who is arguably the most recognized present-day scholar on Dadabhai's life and work. Dinyar Patel is currently an assistant professor of South Asian History at the University of South Carolina. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2015 for his dissertation on Dadabhai Naoroji, which he is currently revising into a biography. He is co-editor of "*Dadabhai Naoroji: Selected Private Papers*" (Oxford University Press, 2016). Dinyar, who was born in Houston and later moved to California, is swamped with all kinds of requests for articles and speaking engagements, but we have succeeded in getting him to come to Houston and share his learnings with us.

On the evening of Friday, November 3, as we usually do, we will have a Meet & Greet informal session with Dinyar. On the next day, Saturday Nov 4, we will feature two talks, one of which will be on Dadabhai Novroji. That same evening, ZAH is planning to present a natak, so we can all be enlightened and entertained.

Please mark the dates on your calendar and await further details as we get closer to that time.

### ***A Notable Donation***

ArZan Wadia, the Vice President of FEZANA, was in town on the July 4 weekend, and he brought with him some very rare and valuable books, donated by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous at this time. He has donated his entire collection of 50 to 60 books, which will be cataloged and listed. Due to the rare nature of these publications, we will make the books available for room use only, not for checkout.

Donations of this type endorse the FIRES collection as a safe and reliable repository of resources that will be available for generations to come. For quite some time, scholars will rely on FIRES as a valuable source of research material.

### **Youth Report**

*By Katie Master – ZAH Youth Group President*

As the Youth Group finishes out the 2017-2018 school year, we have chosen to forgo fundraising for ourselves and are hosting another clothing drive for Star of Hope which supports transnational families and children. In addition to our service project, elections are coming up with a promising new group of officers. As the former President, I would like to publicly thank my fellow officers who worked alongside me: Alyssa Tamboli (VP), Nerius Mehta (Secretary), Tanaya Behramsha (Treasurer), Zubin Master (Historian), and Yazad Sidwha (Webmaster).

### **Sports Committee**

*By Noshir Medhora*

On Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>, the ZAH Sports Committee organized a bowling event that was very widely attended by our community.

Tiny folks, young ones and the grey haired ones, all came out in force to enjoy each other's company. There were lots of strikes, spares and of course heaps of gutter balls....but all in all, we all literally had a "ball".

To top it all off, a sumptuous meal of a variety of pizzas and cold drinks was served.

The Sports Committee thanks the community for their participation and for making this a successful event.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Z-CAMP REGISTRATION**

As y'all know, the annual ZAH Z-Camp will be held this year from Aug 4th thru 6th so please register soon to avoid disappointment. We have planned for a lot of FUN activities so join all your friends for a weekend camp full of fun and games...test your noodle and learn new skills .....ZAH Shark Tank, Impossible Engineering, ZAH Iron Chef, Debate, Sports and more....

**Online Registration closes on July 20th, 2017 and NO late registrations will be allowed!!!**

- When: Saturday Aug 5th, 2017 10:00 am – Sunday Aug 6th, 2017 3:00pm (Friday Aug 4th @ 8:00 PM onwards Pre-Camp Sleep Over for Outstation and over 14 attendees ONLY)
- Ages 10 and Up – Camp overnight (Bring your sleeping bag and pillows)
- Ages 5-9 – Day Camp Only (Sat 10:00am – 11:00pm and Sunday 9:00am – 4:00pm)
- Cost: \$25 per attendee

Parents/Grandparents and guests please don't forget to join us on Saturday, Aug 5th at 7.30 pm for "Camp Dinner with Kids" (\$15 pp - Registration reqd.) and on Sunday Aug 6th @ 1:30pm for final event, awards and more...

As the prices are extremely subsidized please consider being a Sponsor or Donate towards the camp. If interested, please email Kayo Sidhwa at kaysid@hotmail.com

Thank you,  
ZAH Z Camp Core Team

### **SHEHANSHAH NAVROZE FUNCTION**

For ZAH Nvroze function on August 19, there will be a Variety Entertainment program. – anyone with talent and interested in performing pls call Arzin Italia 713-679-4998 [SORABITALIA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SORABITALIA@YAHOO.COM)

### **SAVE THE DATE – NATAK – November 4, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.**

The ZAH Natak group is back with a brand new comedy play "Love and Marriage". Mark your calendar and save the date. This is one play you don't want to miss.

All proceeds go towards Vision2020

***Details regarding tickets will be sent at a later time.***

### **A RED, WHITE, AND BLUE FLAME**

*By Mitra Khumbatta*

(This article appeared in California Zoroastrian Center Publication *ChehreNama* Issue 182 - Summer 2017)

Zoroastrian-American. That's who I am.

As a young woman growing up in one of the most diverse cities in our nation, I've never had trouble finding my foothold within a larger community. Houston has it all. It's an urban oasis full of young professionals focused on making a name for themselves and a meeting place for individuals fostering change from across the globe. Most importantly, Houston is home to my family. Of course, "family" means both my biological family and the aunties and uncles of the Zoroastrian community who have become my second family over the years.

While many will say that their community has given them everything, the Houston community is just different. The people of this community are a force to be reckoned with. They tirelessly donate their time to bettering our community, they strive to incorporate the teachings of the past, and they provide a platform for individuals to express their opinions. This community thrives on blending hundreds of differing viewpoints and creating one resounding impact. There may never be enough words in the English language to paint a proper picture of the community I've been blessed to grow up in, but in essence, our Zoroastrian community in Houston has given its members a voice. A voice to state their feelings, to engage others for a cause, to influence others to stand up for their beliefs. Our Houston community has made me strong, passionate, and optimistic about our future.

So I am a Zoroastrian, and I am an American. Not or.

America is a melting pot of religious practices and ideologies. We're a bowl of chicken noodle soup, but sometimes some of the ingredients get forgotten. We see Christianity as the chicken, Islam as the noodles. Those are the easily identifiable ingredients, the obvious ones. Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and so many others are the vegetables of

our soup. But we're missing the very foundation, the most important ingredient. The broth. Without it, our soup was never really soup to begin with.

Zoroastrianism to me is the broth. We are the basis for religious homogeneity. We provide a stronghold for other religious platforms to branch and progress forward. Zoroastrianism is the beginning, the middle, and the end. It is the very foundation upon which individuals structure their mentality and live their life. Zoroastrianism provides a choice between righteous and evil, an opportunity to spread prosperity through good actions, and an ability to take ownership of our decisions and our consequences. So why then is our religion facing a threat of extinction?

Living in America and identifying as a Zoroastrian is a challenging balance act. Speaking to our generation about the tenants and virtues we hold dear to our heart will provide a surprising revelation. The progression we crave for our religion now is the same that prior generations have fought for. We strive to find the truth above all else in our daily activities. We want our religion to adapt with the modernization of society. If our religious teachings cannot provide guidance on the issues facing our society today, our generation will shy away from religion in fear of "living in the past" or not finding any relevance to an outdated practice. We, as individuals, rarely understand the true importance of our religious teachings until we are placed in a personal dilemma with nowhere to turn but to a higher power. History tends to repeat itself and the Zoroastrian faith is going through its next cycle of necessary adaptation.

I want to believe that our religion will prosper. Our religion is beautiful and effortless. It allows choice, freedom, and a life without restrictions. Reading the teachings as a modern-day woman show just how progressive our religion can be. So yes, I do affiliate with Zoroastrianism - more than with any other religion I have encountered. The beauty of our religion is the sense of warmth and wholeness I feel. While our religion may be small in numbers at the moment, no matter where you are in the world you can find a connection to us. There's a sense of solidarity in the thought process of every Zoroastrian; a will to keep the flame within each of us ablaze. So in essence I was asked if I would carry the torch of Zoroastrianism, and I know that I will. However, I'll pass our religion on in my own way.

My parents were never extremely orthodox individuals and my grandparents were far from it as well. Yet both generations understood the importance of inculcating the teachings and traditions of our religion and of the cultural components of being a Parsi in America. So my brother and I learned about the kusti, the sudreh, we read stories from the Shahnameh as children, we attended Sunday school and jashans – my family made its best effort to immerse us in all aspects of our religion and our culture. Now as an adult, I've got to admit that all of their pestering, which was done out of love, was worth it. I've developed my own sense of what Zoroastrianism is to me. I've found my own balance within the religion and rely upon its teachings when I struggle to find my way. I don't believe my generation doesn't want to carry on our religion. It's not that being Zoroastrian is an inconvenience. We just don't have a sense of pride, and that fault lies with our community. It's not just about teaching the future generation what a sudreh symbolizes and how a kusti should be tied. The continual existence of our religion means that its members need to find a way to show my generation why being a Zoroastrian is important. This can only be achieved at the level of the parents and the grandparents of young children today.

Make the time to bring your children to Sunday school. Explain to them what Nowruz means and what their roj birthday is. Anything to create relevance in your daily life will help keep your children on this path to continuing Zoroastrianism. This isn't a foolproof plan, nor do I shun or look down on those who have chosen another religious path. All I can base my opinion on is what my family and community did for me. I'm grateful that they were able to see the importance of creating this web of importance.

If we as adults of the Zoroastrian faith choose to keep this legacy alive, it will prosper.

There's not a feeling that embodies being Zoroastrian. It's who I am; it's what I was born to be. Zoroastrianism as a religious whole is the definition of physical, mental, and spiritual harmony. It's about progressing towards that perfect light. Our religion is about understanding and finding the balance within our daily life as we juggle families, relationships, and our careers. Zoroastrianism is an acknowledgement of the spiritual battle between light and darkness occurring within oneself, and the belief that our destiny is tied to the choices we make.

## WELCOME

Niloufer & Zarkis Italia have moved to Houston recently. Their address is:

4211 Reagan Ridge Court (Effective 26 July 2017)  
Harvest Green  
Richmond, TX 77406

## WEDDING

**Burjis Cooper**, son of Nargis & Homi Cooper, was married to **Amanda** daughter of Esther Peña and Milton Valentin on June 16, 2017 in Dripping Springs, Texas.

**Jimmy Sethna**, son of Shermeen and Jal Sethna, was married to **Whitney Franklin**, daughter of Pam and Darrell Franklin, on July 8, 2017 in Houston, Texas.

**MANASHNI and its readers wish the newlyweds a long and happy married life.**

## OBITUARY

Jerbanoo Bhadha, 95, wife of late Peshotan Bhadha, mother of Sam Bhadha and Arnaz (Jangoo) Mistry, grandmother of Cyrus, Zareen, Benaifer and Shanaya, and **Great Grandmother** of Devin, Shanaya, Rashna and Jehan, passed June 22, 2017.

**MANASHNI and its readers convey their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family**

## WE HAVE MOVED – XPERTTOURS HAVE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION



The image is a promotional graphic for XPERTTOURS. It features a yellow moving truck on the left with the text "WE ARE MOVING" on its side. To the right is the "xperttours" logo in white text on a blue background, with a collage of travel-related images below it. Below the truck and logo, it says "effective July 10, 2017 business as usual at". The main text in the center reads "OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATION" in red, followed by "7207 REGENCY SQUARE, SUITE 140, HOUSTON, TX 77036" and "281-491-4000". At the bottom, it says "SINCE 1983 WE GIVE THE BEST IN .. AIR CRUISES & TOURS" in red.

## WE HAVE MOVED – CORRECTION

Maneck & Pervin Sidhwa have moved. Their new address is

9503 Wheatfield Lane  
Rosenberg, TX 77469  
Tel: 281-980-5894 (H)  
Tel: 713-988-4545 (Cell)

## TRAVEL TO IRAN WITH SILLOO MEHTA

“The Iran Experience **with Silloo Mehta**” – 2017 Fall Tour. **Oct 30 - Nov 21, 2017**  
**There has never been a better time to visit Iran, than now!**

**Join us for an unforgettable experience of a lifetime?!** We have planned an attractive and comprehensive itinerary which will give you a fascinating and unique insight into the land of our ancestors.

The itinerary-at-a-glance is given below:

Tehran-Mt. Damavand-Caspian Coast-Zanjan-Hamedan-Kermanshah-Shahr-e Kord-Esfahan-Yazd (and the villages of Sharifabad, Zainabad, Cham, Taft) Shiraz-Pasargad-Persepolis-Firuzabad-Mashhad-Tus.

**Our group size is limited to 20 travelers only.** If you are interested in joining, please contact Silloo Mehta for more details: **Tel : [+1 949 551 5252](tel:+19495515252) Email: [silloomehta@gmail.com](mailto:silloomehta@gmail.com)**

# NAZC 2020

## **GRAND PRIZE OF \$150 TO BE WON**

As we all know it is extremely critical to have a solid impactful **Theme** for any Congress, so please put on your thinking caps and send us your ideas and suggestions. There will be a grand prize of \$150 for the best NAZC2020 theme entry selected by the designated selection committee. Here are some guidelines:

- 1. The theme should highlight the importance of the Zarathushti religion and culture in N America**
- 2. It should ensure continuity, diversity, and balance from one Congress to the next and focus on future aspects**
- 3. Individuals can send one or more entries but they should be a current ZAH member**
- 4. The selection committee will consist of the NAZC2020 core committee and/or its selected judges.**
- 5. The NAZC2020 core committee members, judges and their immediate family members will not be eligible to participate and win**

All those who are still procrastinating, please have a look at the committees below and send in your nominations at your earliest convenience. We need volunteers for these important Committees.

- Program
- Entertainment
- Hospitality (Operations) / Transportation
- Registration / Website
- Public Relations / Publications / Press Relations
- Finance / Fundraising
- Audio Visual / Technology / Social Media
- Exhibits / Booths
- Medical
- Youth and Young adults
- Kids' program

If interested to Volunteer for any of the above Committees and / or to submit your NAZC2020 theme, please send in your nominations soon to the [NAZC2020 Secretary](#).

Your NAZC2020 Core Team

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Held at</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Host Association</b>
First	May 18, 1975	Toronto, ON	"The Future of the Zoroastrian Community"	Jamshed Mavalvala	The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Second	May 21, 1977	Chicago, IL	"Survival and Perpetuation of Zoroastrianism"	Keki Bhote	The Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Third	October 6, 1979	New York, NY	"Aspects of Zoroastrian Belief"	Lovji Cama	The Zoroastrian Assn of Greater New York
Fourth	April 10, 1982	Montreal, Que	"The Zoroastrian Challenge"	Dolly Dastoor	The Zoroastrian Assn of Quebec
Fifth	August 30, 1985	Los Angeles, CA	"Preservation of Zoroastrian Identity through Adaptation of Changing Environment"	Dhunmai Dalal	The Zoroastrian Association of California
Sixth	April 1, 1988	Toronto, ON	"Prospects of Zoroastrian Renaissance in the New World"	Kobad Zarolia	The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Seventh	August 31, 1990	Houston, TX	"Zarathushti: My Past - Our Future"	Meherwan P. Boyce	The Zoroastrian Assn of Houston
Eighth	Sept. 4 - 6, 1992	Vancouver, BC	"Looking Ahead to the 21st Century"	Bella Tata	The Zoroastrian Society of BC
Ninth	July 1 - 3, 1994	Valley Forge, PA	"Preservation of Zoroastrian Culture at the Turn of a Generation"	Freny Ranji; Katayun Kapadia	The Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey
Tenth	July 4 - 6, 1996	San Francisco, CA	"Zoroastrian Leadership: Past, Present and Future"	Esfandiar Anoushiravani	Co-hosts: Persian Zoroastrian Organization Zarthosti Anjuman of Northern California
Eleventh	July 2-3, 1998	Rye, NY	A Zoroastrian Commitment in the North American Context: @	Co-Chairs: Gev Nentin; Noshir Langrana	The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York
Twelfth	July 2-4, 2002	Chicago, IL	Advancing Communities Empowering Generations	Rashna Ghadialy	Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago

**PAST**  
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Thirteenth	Dec 29, 2004 –Jan 1, 2005	San Jose, CA	Being Zarathushti : Looking at Issues, Searching for Anrs	Bomi Patel	Zarthosti Anjuman of Northern California
Fourteenth	June/July 2, 2007	Toronto, ON	Impact – Unleash the Spark Within	Phee Vania	Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Fifteenth	Dec 29-31, 2010	Houston, TX	Preserve, Protect, Perfect Preserve the Past, Protect the present, Perfect the Future	Jasmine Mistry, Roshan Sethna	Zoroastrian Association of Houston
Sixteenth	August 2-5, 2012	New York, NY	Zarathusti Existence in the Contemporary World	Gev Nentin	ZAGNY
Seventeenth	December, 2015	Los Angeles, CA	Faith and Unity	Darayus Mistry	Zoroastrian Association of California and California Zoro Center