



manashni

Volume 34 Issue 01 - January 2020

MANASHNI SPONSORED BY

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**WWW.SETHNAFINANCIALGROUP.COM**  
**OFFICE 713-963-4229**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: January 12, 2020

#### Children's Session

The Sunday School session starts at  
**10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.**

Middle Group: The Sunday School  
session at **10.30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**



Youth Group: Sarosh Collector,  
Kaemerz Dotiwalla conduct this session.



**MANASHNI WISHES ALL ITS READERS HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, Feb 1, 2020 – Jashn-e-Sadeh – See Flyer below**

**Sunday, Feb 9, 2020 – ZAH Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday, Feb 15, 2020 – Youth Group Fund Raiser**

**Saturday, Mar 21, 2020 – Jamshedi Nauroz Hambandagi/Function**

**SAVE THE DATE – DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

**Sunday, Apr 12, 2020 – ZAH Carnival**

**Sunday, May 31, 2020 – Maidhyrem Gahambar**

### **REPORTS**

#### **Library Report**

*By Jangoo Mistry*

#### **Check out these New Books**

Your ZAH Library is constantly acquiring new books that add to our astonishing collection. From time to time, we have highlighted some books that would be of interest to our community members. Check out these books. You won't be disappointed.

#### ***J.R.B. Jeejeebhoy's Bombay Vignettes***

*J R B Jeejeebhoy, (1885–1960), celebrated as a leading city historian of Bombay during his lifetime, has painted a fascinating picture of this iconic city. For nearly four decades, he wrote numerous long and short pieces on Bombay, and exposed various facets of its history to public view for the first time. Linking the past to the present, he was perhaps one of the first to be concerned with the city's heritage and its loss.*

*"Bombay Vignettes" is a selection of JRB Jeejeebhoy's writings on Bombay. Drawing on a wide range of printed and manuscript sources, Jeejeebhoy paints a vivid picture of the city. His subjects include historical vignettes and contemporary images of the city, its public institutions, especially those associated with the law and judiciary, famous Bombay denizens like Pheroza Shah Mehta, Rudyard Kipling,*

### EC MEMBERS 2019

Daroga, Lyla  
Dungor, Nozer - Chairman  
Hormuzdi, Khursheed  
Katrak, Percy  
Sethna, Sweta  
Dastur, Khursheed - Secretary  
Khumbatta, Mitra – Treasurer

### YOUTH GROUP OFFICERS 2018 - 2019

Mistry, Cyrus – President  
Hormuzdi, Dina – Vice President  
Italia, Zara – Treasurer  
Mehta, Natalya – Secretary  
Bastani, Niousha – Historian  
Sarkari, Rukhshana – Web Master

### MIDDLE GROUP OFFICERS 2018 – 2019

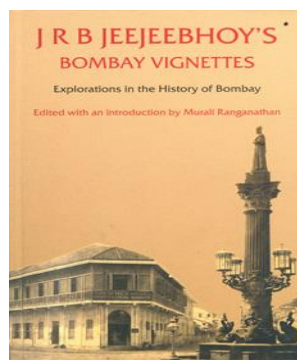
Kanga, Neville – President  
Dungor, Natasha – Vice President  
Dastur, Mahtab – Secretary  
Kanga, Natasha – Treasurer  
Dastur, Darius – Historian

### OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar  
Buchia, Kyrus  
Dastur, Barjor  
Dastur, Darius  
Desai, Adi  
Desai, Farokh  
Firozgari, Bahrom  
Gonda, Pervez  
Kanga, Neville  
Katrak, Rayomand  
Katrak, Vispi P.  
Khumbatta, Noshir  
Kotwal, Zubin  
Masani, Dara  
Nariman, Khushrav  
Nariman, Viraf  
Pavri, Shapur  
Pundole, Faraidoon  
Rashidi, Farhood  
Sanjana, Bahmanshah  
Sanjana, Kurush  
Sidhwa, Kayomarz  
Sidhwa, Maneck  
Sidhwa, Yazad  
Unwalla, Peshotan  
Vimadalal, Freyaan

and James Mackintosh, and the relationship of the Parsi community to the city.

*From describing the advent of moving pictures in Bombay and complaining about the perennial problem of rash driving in the city, to remembering the long-forgotten first Indian judge of the High Court of Bombay and recalling the prevalence of slave trade in the city, Jeejeebhoy ranges far and wide.*

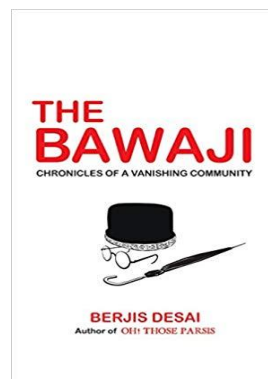


Cover page of *Bombay Vignettes*

On a lighter note:

### ***The BAWAJI by Berjis Desai (Chronicles of a Vanishing Community)***

*Many of us are familiar with Berjis Desai as a writer of short biographies of real and typical fictional characters presented with keen insight and humor. He has a unique way of transporting the reader to a nostalgic era in an entertaining way. He is a columnist of Parsiana, and has followed up his earlier work, "Oh! Those Parsis" by this new book. The story of a community is a story of its constituents. Most of these Parsis were neither good nor great, far from it. Some, of course, were compassionate, humane, philanthropic, and brave. Almost all, however, were different. The one quality required for a place in the book was that he or she had to be unforgettable. Even decades after their passing, they would be remembered with humor or honor, or even horror. Since the dead cannot be defamed, barring four of the profiles, all others are of departed Parsis. Curl up on a cold night and be prepared to be entertained.*



Cover Page of *The BAWAJI*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

### CATEGORY AND RATES

Patron Family Membership	\$500
Patron Single Membership	\$250
Patron Senior Family M'brshp	\$250
Patron Senior Single M'brshp	\$125
Family Membership	\$275
Family Senior Membership	\$ 65
Associate Membership	\$275
Single Membership	\$135
Single M'ber Head of Hshold	\$150
Single Senior Membership	\$ 40
Student Membership	\$ 25

**Manashni Surcharge** \$ 15  
**For Printed/Mailed copies**

### Definition of Categories

#### Family Member

Parents and their children under 18

#### Family Senior Member

One spouse is over the age of 65

#### Single Member

Unmarried individual over age 18

#### Single Senior Member

Individual over the age of 65

#### Single Member Head of Household

Single parent with children under 18

### PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK

**PAYABLE TO:** ZAH

### AND MAIL TO:

ZAH Treasurer  
8787 W Airport Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77071

Or pay online:

<http://zah.org/?event=zah-annual-membership-2018>

## In Recognition



Since its inception, the ZAH Library's growth and success has depended on a handful of our members who have actively supported us through monetary means and other personal efforts. Behind every item in our collection is a story of its acquisition. Perhaps the most diligent and consistent contributor to our collection is our very own **Yasmin Pavri**, a tireless member of our

community and a member of our Library Committee. Over the last several years Yasmin has provided selfless service and brought ALL the current books featured in Parsiana Book Club from Mumbai. If people wonder how we are so up-to-date with new books, it is thanks to Yasmin. She works through her sister-in-law, Khurshid Tata in Bombay, who buys books and keeps them ready for Yasmin, who then proceeds to haul suitcases full of heavy books on her return to the U.S., saving us heavy postage and risk of losing the books! Yasmin, a grateful community is heavily indebted to you.

### FROM ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP - DUES

2019 ZAH Membership ends on December 31, 2019. Exciting things are happening at the ZAH. Preparations are progressing for the North American Zoroastrian Congress to be held in December 2020. Select the amount from the list of **categories given in the column on the left**, make out a check, pay your annual membership as indicated and be a part of this vibrant community.

If you get a print copy of the *MANASHNI*, please remember to add \$15 to your membership. This is a very nominal surcharge to receive print version and covers the cost of paper and postage.

## YOUTH GROUP REPORT

*By: Niousha Bastani*

In the month of December, the Youth Group held a Christmas Party in which the Youth Group set up and had a lot of fun interacting with the other kids in Sunday School.

In January, we are cleaning the Atash Kadeh on the 12th of January and have an additional volunteer opportunity to help Arzin Aunty clean outside the ZAH container shed on the 26th. During the duration of this month we are putting the finishing touches on the Youth Group

Fundraiser approaching next month (dance practices, securing donations, collecting RSVP's, etc.)



Youth group



Youth Volunteers



Valentine's Day



In February we have our Youth Group decades themed fundraiser on the 15th at 7 pm. As of now, we are getting prepared for success.

1. Cyrus is sending out emails to secure donations to make sure we can decrease the cost of the expenses (i.e. food, drinks, etc.) as much as possible and we've had very sizable and generous donations from multiple donors as of now
2. Dina and I are having dance practices and are trying to increase the number of little kids that will be part of the dance and having practices almost weekly to ensure the best performances
3. The Youth Group as a whole is finalizing the budget and making sure we are on track to raise enough money to make an outstanding impact.

### MISCELLANEOUS

## ZAH Youth Fundraiser - Valentine's Day Celebration on Saturday, Feb 15, 2020

Dear ZAH Family and Friends,

Your ZAH Youth Group wishes all of you A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2020.

As you may know, your ZAH youth are very actively involved with serving ZAH at Navroze Functions, Carnivals, Ghambars, Congresses, Lock-ins, Prayer Room Cleanup, etc. and other non-profits in your community by putting in countless hours at the Houston Food Bank, The Regional Gulf Coast Blood Bank, Lunches of Love, St. Jude's Cancer Center, Second Mile Mission, Parks Youth Ranch, just to name a few. Some of your ZAH youth are long-term volunteers at hospitals and senior living centers.

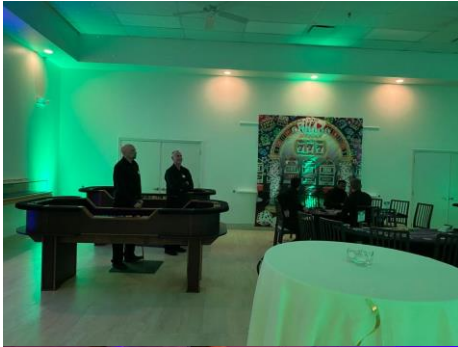
To support some of these causes, and to subsidize the cost of attending NAZC 2020 (for deserving community members), your ZAH youth are working tirelessly to raise funds by planning a fun and entertaining Valentine's Day Celebration on Saturday, Feb 15, 2020 with musicals and skits, Hollywood and Bollywood Dances, awesome door prizes, Karaoke style singing, yummy appetizers, dinner, and desserts, Apro DJ Gary, and more.

Please take a moment to register for this event - <http://zah.org/events/zah-youth-fundraiser-2020/>. You can also call Cyrus Mistry at (281) 265 4351 and register over the phone. We hope you will all join us with family and friends. All members, non-members, and your Zoroastrian, and Non-Zoroastrian friends and families can join us for one low rate of \$30 per adult, and \$15 per child. Kids 4 and under are free.

If for any reason you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to this worthy cause - <http://zah.org/events/zah-youth-fundraiser-2020/>. For those who have already sent in your donation, we THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.

With Best Wishes,  
Your ZAH Youth Group

## NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH



## New Year's Eve Fundraising Event

NAZC2020 New Year's Eve Celebration Committee gratefully thanks the following sponsors of this very successful event:

Diamond - Kershaw K Khumbatta PLLC

Emerald - Kersi and Thrity Engineer

Gold - Aban Rustomji and Shireen, Jehanbux, Kaezad & Naushad Mehta

The Committee also thanks all the other sponsors who gave donations in cash and kind and all the volunteers who helped with the set-up, days ahead of the event.

This year's New Year's Eve theme was Las Vegas Night, and the team truly achieved the ambiance of a casino.

The Atrium was already set up with appetizers by *Cillie's Cakes of Houston* and the room was scattered with Highboy Tables around which people could stand, talk, eat and drink. A huge 2020 inflated sign with balloons was by the hall entrance and we could see many patrons getting their pictures taken. What a wonderful memento to pass on to our grandchildren.

The main hall was tastefully decorated with a huge backdrop on the stage, color-changing lights, photo booths, gold Chiavari chairs and beautiful centerpieces.

The Purvez Rustomji room was converted into a casino, which had a bar, lounge, and blackjack, roulette and craps tables. Casino signs, up-lighting and music video projections livened up the room. It was buzzing with people since the entrance ticket included free play chips and many people bought additional gaming packages.

And, not to forget the children, there were movies to keep them entertained while their parents dabbled in casino gambling.

There were seven Casino raffle prizes. The winners were:

Grand Prize - Lyla Aga

Regular Prizes - Farida Merchant, Sudhir Pargaokar, Friyana Sidhwa (won 2 prizes), Zubin Master and Lyla Aga

The entrance ticket also included a couple of free Bingo tickets. Four sessions of Bingo were played in the Middle Group room, spanning the evening. It seemed to be the most popular game as it was packed at any given time. Two gift certificates and two chocolate boxes were given out for each of the bingo games.

There was a variety of food for dinner – Indian, Italian and Mexican besides a full spread of Vegetarian food. There was a full dessert bar, along with tea and coffee.

The main raffle brought in more than \$4,000. Thanks to all of you who contributed towards the prizes and everyone who bought the raffle.

The winners:





**NAZC2010  
Houston, TX**



**Nina Godiwalla was a speaker at  
NAZC2010 Program "Tower of  
Success".**

Apple Watch - Darius Tamboli  
Apple AirPods - Natalia and Nerius Mehta  
Cillie's Goodie basket - Viraf Nariman

In addition to the above, 13 door prizes were given out at regular intervals during the evening.

As midnight approached, people started winding down from the Casino and gathered in the main Hall to say goodbye to 2019 and welcome 2020 with music and dancing. As the clock struck midnight, the ceiling balloons were popped and all the confetti with smaller balloons dropped on to everyone. Everyone toasted the New Year with a champagne toast and fun things like tiaras and hats, finger lights, and other lighted props were thrown into the dancing crowd. It was great fun and everyone - from youngest to the oldest - had a great time.

Here we must acknowledge Farrokh Firozgary - DJ Gary - who donated his services as always and kept the dance floor buzzing until and after the midnight countdown.

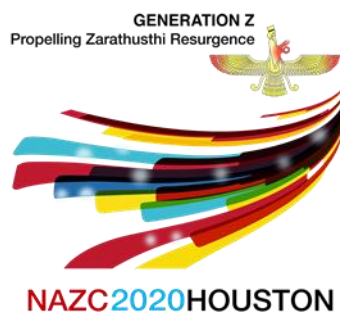
As people started leaving, midnight snacks were handed out along with more NYE cake slices. We were very happy to note that everyone drank responsibly and kept up the elegant ambiance.

At 1:00 a.m., many went to the Atash Kadeh for the final 2019 Ushehn Geh Boye. Everyone wished each other a very Happy New Year and left for home.

Calm prevailed at the Center – another evening, another year ended on a good note.

## **THE NAZC2020**

**The NAZC2020 Program Team is looking for Speakers and Panelists**



We cordially invite you to submit a proposal for presentation and panel discussion to present at the 2020 North American Zarathushti Congress, to be held in Houston, Texas, **from December 29, 2020 – January 1, 2021.**

The theme of the NAZC 2020 is:  
Generation Z – Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence.

Presentations and discussions that enhance integration among various age groups, ethnic backgrounds, and professions are strongly encouraged.

**Interested? Here is the link to fill the speaker form:**

<https://nazc2020houston.com/speaker-interest/>

### Visitors from Sanatan Sanskriti Of The Woodlands



**Prachi & Parth Natoo**



### Visit by Students of Sanatan Sanskriti

On January 4, 2020 about 100 children and as many parents of Sanatan Sanskriti of the Woodlands, visited Atash Kadeh and the Center. The tour of the Atasha Kadeh, the Library and the Center was divided into three groups starting from 9.30 am.

Atash Kadeh tour was conducted by Ervads Khushrav Nariman with Neville Kanga. Library tour by Aban Rustomji assisted by Roshni Chikhliwalla, Natasha Kanga and Sabrina Warden, and the ZAH center tour by Pervin Sagar with grand children Shireen and Ariana Anklesaria. Since the age range of the children was from 6 years to 11 years, the Middle Group and Youth Group kids were enlisted to assist with the tours.

After all three groups completed the tour of the facilities, they all converged in the main hall where Neville and Natasha Kanga, and Zara and Zaal Italia gave presentation on the Zarathushti faith moderated by Khushrav Nariman and Arnavaz Sethna with a brief question answer session.

After a group picture of the children, lunch of Dhan, Daar and Eggplant patio from Cillie's (Naushad) was served, with the desert of ravo and saive made by some of our volunteers.

The children and their parents were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn about Zoroastrianism and visit our facilities. This is what 6 years old Parth Natoo and his 11 year old sister Prachi Natoo had to say about their visit.

Parth Natoo, 6 years old, 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

My family went to the Fire Temple on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020. We saw the Fire Temple prayer room, library. Zoroastrians are from Iran and Zoroaster was a prophet (teacher) many years ago. We gave sandalwood to the fire. I like the library and food. We ate dhal, eggplant curry, rice and sev sweet. I had fun on my field trip. 😊

Prachi Natoo 6<sup>th</sup> grade

My name is Prachi Natoo and I am a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at the Sanskriti School in the Woodlands. On Saturday January 4, 2020 we went to the Zoroastrian Fire Temple. We learnt about the history, beliefs, and ways of life of Zoroastrians.

We toured the main hall, the Atash Kadeh, and the library. We learnt a lot about Zoroastrianism from an awesome presentation done by a group of teenagers which contained Zoroastrianism's Principles that are Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds. My favorite part was going to the library and learning about the historical artifacts. It was a great tour and everyone was so kind and thoughtful. We had a wonderful time!



### Bhandara visits the Bhandara Atash Kadeh

Ervad Zarrir Bhandara of California was invited by the Atash Kadeh committee of Houston for two weeks to quench the spiritual thirst of Houston's Zoroastrian community and to create religious awareness. During these two weeks from December 10<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> ZAH was bustling with religious fervor and activities.

Starting with the Vendidad sadeh on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>, Humbandagis, talks on various subjects, performing Bui ceremonies, Amardad parabh Jashan and finally conducting a 2 days Refresher's course for Ervads which was attended by 9 local priests. The Houston community was very thankful to Ervad Zarrir Bhandara for coming to Houston and creating awareness about our religion.

### Jashn-e-Sadeh



### Jashn-e-Sadeh

Jashn-e-Sadeh will be held on February 1, 2020. Delicious Persian Food, bring your own drinks, dance the night away with DJ music.

**Program:** Prayers at 6:00 p.m. followed by Bon Fire outside.

Member Rate Age – 11 and over \$25 per person  
Non Member Rate – 11 and over \$40 per person  
Member Rate Age – 3 to 10 years \$12 per person  
Non Member Rate – 3 to 10 years \$20 per person  
Walk-in at the door \$50

**RSVP:** <http://zah.org/events/jashan-sadeh/> **SEE FLYER BELOW**

### Dr. Dolly Dastoor



### If You Forget, IS IT ALZHEIMER'S?

A talk by Dolly Dastoor from Montreal, Que Canada

**February 9, 2020 – 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ZAH**

Followed by ZAH sponsored lunch prior to the Annual General Meeting

**Do please mark your calendar to attend this very interesting and** informative talk by Dolly Dastoor organized by ZAH and WZCC. Dr. Dolly Dastoor, Assistant Professor, past FEZANA President and an outstanding speaker will deliver a very informative and interesting talk about Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. This is a growing social concern and she will talk about how we can prepare ourselves for its challenge. She will be covering the study of causation, risk factors, dementia and pathophysiology, early diagnosis, clinical stages, prevention of dementia, information on caregiver support, etc.

### ZAH Sports Committee

By Percy Behramsha

*Your Sports Committee wishes you A Very Happy and Healthy New Year 2020.*

We like to inform you **about** the upcoming 2020 Zoroastrian Games which will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from 1-5<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Houston ZAH needs to send a team(s) and also individual players, to allow our youth to participate and gain the competitive experience. Some useful links:





### ZAH Team – 2010



### Janet Allen (Yashfara) Mistree



### Ethan Gagrath



### [ZGames2020 Web Site](#)

[Interest in participation worksheet](#) – Please populate

Please encourage & support our kids to participate these games. Such events need early planning and coordination, at this time we are asking those interested to indicate their willingness and availability to participate (by populating the worksheet above). Details to follow ...

Feel free to reach out to [zahsportscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:zahsportscommittee@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Awards & Accolades

**NORMAN, OKLA.** – Janet Allen Mistree, (Yashfara Mistree), University of Oklahoma professor of industrial and systems engineering, was named the recipient of the 2019 Ruth and Joel Spira Outstanding Design Educator Award.

One of the highest honors bestowed by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to engineering design education through scholarship creation, instructorship, and as a mentor and role model.

Janet (Yashfara) joined University of Oklahoma in 2009 and is one of the founders of the National Science Foundation/ ASME Travel Grant Program, which she has helped run for more than 20 years.

### NAVJOTE

Ethan, son of Eric & Nikita Gagrath, had his Navjote Ceremony on December 28, 2019, in Houston, Texas. The Navjote was performed at the Bhandara Atash Kadeh and was followed by reception/dinner at the Center.

### OBITUARY

Hoshang Darabsha Behrana, husband of (late) Alice (Bharucha) Behrana, brother of Mehli Behrana, passed away peacefully on Sunday January 12, 2020 in Karachi, Pakistan.

All prayers are being done in Karachi



# Jashne Sadeh

## Saturday February 1, 2020



At The Zarthushti Heritage and Cultural Center

8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071

Delicious catered  
Persian Food!!!

DJ!!!  
Dance the  
night away!!

Bring Your  
Own Drinks

**Please Click Here to RSVP**

WE REQUEST YOU RSVP AND PAY ONLINE

**Prayers: 6 p.m.**

**Sadeh Fire: Immediately Following Prayers**

For Questions contact:  
Benafsheh Mondegarian  
(832) 420-2586  
[bmondegarian@yahoo.com](mailto:bmondegarian@yahoo.com)

**RATES: (Under 3 yrs. Gratis) RSVP Deadline: 1/27/20**

**After RSVP Deadline Non-Member Rates Apply**

**ZAH Member : 11 years and up - \$25\*\***

**ZAH Non-Member : 11 years and up - \$40**

**Member Children (3-10 yrs) : \$12\*\***

**Non- Member Children (3-10 yrs) : \$20**

**LAST MINUTE WALK-IN: \$50**



**ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS OUR ERVADS FOR  
PERFORMING PRAYERS AT THE JASHNE SADEH FUNCTION**

**\*\* Membership rate applies if 2020 membership has been paid**

- Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs and payments received after 1/27/20. Kids over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents
- Member rates apply to out-of-town house-guests of members (if online RSVP, online payment, and check (if applicable) is received by 1/27/20)
- Our goal remains to keep these functions as affordable as possible so you as a ZAH member can attend and enjoy. However if you feel that you are unable to attend solely due to the cost please let us know. We have donations in place to subsidize your cost and we will guarantee confidentiality. Financial ups and downs are a part of most families life cycles. In a way, they are a blessing because they allow innovation, dedication and hard work to take root in oneself. Please use this facility and in better economic times, there will be plenty of opportunities to remember and help your own community members and your own association a thousand times over. Please note this is only available to current ZAH Members in good standing.

Organized By: [ZAH Entertainment Committee](#)



*HAPPY NEW YEAR  
GOOD BYE 2019 - WELCOME 2020*

