



**manashni**

**Volume 34 Issue 02 - February 2020**

**MANASHNI SPONSORED BY**

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**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:** February 9, 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, Mar 21, 2020 – Jamshedi Nauroz Hambandagi/Function**

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

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

**Friday, July 24 to 26 – Z-Camp 2020**

**REPORTS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – MIDDLE GROUP**

For the first time, the Sunday School session had participation from overseas. Barzin & Rashna Chiniwala were ZAH Members and regularly participated in all the events including Sunday School, with their kids, Yohan and Yash. In April 2019, Barzin was transferred to Aberdeen, Scotland and the kids missed the Sunday School and their ZAH friends. Taking advantage of communication technology, they joined the Sunday School from Aberdeen, Scotland. Barzin writes: "Khursheed, thank you very much for all your efforts to keep us and specially the boys connected. The boys really enjoyed and we will definitely try and do it as regularly as possible."



Parsa Edalat is seen here talking about Jashne Sepandar-Mazgan. This festival is an ancient Iranian celebration of love, happiness commitment and loyalty that goes back to more than two thousand years ago. Ancient Iranians believed that love is a force that exists in the Universe and demonstrates itself whenever we allow it to flow

## **EC MEMBERS**

**2020**

Dungor, Nozer – Chairman  
Gandhi, Kamalrukh  
Hormuzdi, Khursheed  
Katrak, Percy  
Khumbatta, Kershaw  
Dastur, Khursheed - Secretary  
Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer

## **YOUTH GROUP OFFICERS**

**2018 - 2019**

Mistry, Cyrus – President  
Hormuzdi, Dina – Vice President  
Italia, Zara – Treasurer  
Mehta, Natalya – Secretary  
Bastani, Niusha – 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

through us unbridled. In today's Iran Jashne Sepandar-Mazgan is known as Iranian's Day of Love and is celebrated on February 17 much like western world's Valentine's Day.

## **ZAH AGM**

The following is the new Executive Committee for the year 2020

Dungor, Nozer – Chairman  
Gandhi, Kamalrukh - Member  
Hormuzdi, Khursheed - Member  
Katrak, Percy - Member  
Khumbatta, Kershaw - Member  
Dastur, Khursheed - Secretary  
Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer

A more detailed report will be given in March Manashni.

## **Youth Group Report**

By: *Cyrus Mistry*

Dear ZAH Community Members,

We hope you have all started the New Year 2020 in good health. Your Youth group started the new year by volunteering to clean the Atash Kadeh and the storage container in the month of January 2020. It was a lot of hard work, but the results were gratifying and well received. The prayer area and hall of the Atash Kadeh were vacuumed, mopped, and cleaned under the guidance of Mr. Edul and Mrs. Tanaaz Chikhliwalla. The container was cleaned and organized by a large group of parents and youth under the guidance of Mrs. Lyla Daroga and Mrs. Arzin Italia. Mr. Edul Chikhliwalla, as always helped with all the heavy lifting, and Mrs. Khursheed Hormuzdi bought hot and spicy sandwiches for the hard-working crew.

Your youth have also been very busy this past month choreographing, and rehearsing their skit and dances for the Youth Fundraiser. Over 200 people have already registered and we will close at 250. Don't miss a chance to win awesome door prizes, play BINGO, sip on complimentary wine (adults only), enjoy a spread of yummy north Indian food catered to perfection, and dance to some of your favorite tunes from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s courtesy of DJ Gary.

We thank our ZAH family and friends who have wholeheartedly supported our fundraiser. If you have not registered, please do so at your earliest. If for any reason you are not able to attend, please consider making a donation to this worthy cause.

Here are additional event details

When: Saturday, Feb 15, 2019; 7:00 PM onward

Where: ZHCC - 8787 West Airport Blvd, Houston, TX

Registration and Donations: <http://zah.org/events/zah-youth-fundraiser-2020/>.

We look forward to serving your every need and making your Valentine's Weekend Special, so we hope you will also join us.

With Best Wishes,

Your 2019 - 2020 Youth Group

## 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>

## Membership Dues

Have you paid your Membership Dues yet? 2019 ZAH Membership ended on December 31, 2019. Exciting things are happening at the ZAH. Preparations are in progress for the XVIII North American Zoroastrian Congress from December 29, 2020 to January 1, 2021.

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.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Atash Kadeh 2019-2020 News

By: *Persis Behramsha*

Our Atash Kadeh has been in operation for less than one year, yet we have had an amazing number of activities since its inauguration on March 21, 2019.

Our Mobeds have been an integral part of continuing the Boye tradition every single day. The daily Boye ceremonies are performed every day at 11 a.m. and either 6 p.m. during winter months or 7 p.m. during spring and summer months.

Our sincere thanks to all our Mobeds, young and old, who give their time willingly and happily, participate in all our prayers.

Every month a Family, or a Group, sponsors the Behram Roj Jashan which is regularly attended by about 40 plus individuals. Families have sponsored Parab Jashans through the year as well. Our special thanks to all the following sponsors that enabled the Atash Kadeh to host all the Jashans without interruption every single month in 2019 and we hope to continue the trend in the coming years:

Diana & Adil Balsara, Kashmira Behramsha, Persis & Naozer Behramsha, Roshan & Percy Behramsha, Sam Bhaddha, Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara, Villi & Ken Bhappu, Avan & Noshir Bhathena, Shernaz & Affraz Boomla, Bakhtawar & Kershaw Byramji, Nina & Rustom Challa, Aban Chhor, Pearline & Sarosh Collector, Nargis & Homi Cooper, Lyla & Raymie Daroga, Nilufer & Phiroze Darukhanawala, Tehmi & Firdaus Dastoor, Mahrukh & Rohinton Deputy, Farida & Neville Divecha, Zarina & Jamshed Elavia, Roshan & Yezdi Engineer, Yasmin & Rustom Engineer, Aban & Homi Erani, Kamalrukh & Minoo Gandhi, Yasmin & Sheroy Haveliwala, Nazneen & Kershaw Khumbatta, Jasmin & Percy Katrak, Percy Master, Yasmin Medhora, Delna Minwalla, Arnaz & Jangoo Mistry, Manek & Khushrav Nariman, Zarin & Jorge Rodriguez, Nazanin & Rohinton Sarkari, Shirin & Bahadur Sarkari, Arnavaz & Hoshang Sethna, Farzana & Kayomarz Sidhwa, Tenaz Sunavala, Sanobar & Aderbad Tamboli, Jasmine & Justin Trainor.

Every month requests are also made for Machis and Tandarosti prayers. All requests for prayers/ceremonies are made through the Atash Kadeh Committee.



Mukhtad at Atash Kadeh



Strake Jesuit High School Students



Interfaith Group



Mobed Bhandara of California Visits Houston



The Atash Kadeh hosted the first Mukhtad in August 2019 which was presided harmoniously by Mobeds Pervez Gonda, Bomanshah Sanjana and Maneck Sidhwa along with visiting Mobed Soli Dastur from Florida. We also thank all the young Mobeds that joined in the Mukhtad prayers.

All members are entitled to a FOB which allows access to both, the ZAH Center and the Atash Kadeh. The FOB also opens the Entrance gate leading to the property. If you are already a member but do not have a FOB please let a committee member know so we can provide you with one.

The Atash Kadeh has generated quite a bit of interest from the other communities and the general public. Groups were organized for visits so they could tour the facilities.

### **November 6, 2019**

A tour of the Atash Kadeh was arranged by Kaemerz Dotiwalla for Strake Jesuit High School.

Mobed Bomanshah Sanjana led the group through a vivid tour of the Atash Kadeh, explaining the significance of the rooms, the murals, and the gist of the Zarathushti religion. The group also witnessed the Boye Ceremony performed by Mobed Bomanshah who explained what it meant and why it was performed. Mobed Bomanshah answered all questions that the group had regarding the tour and the religion/Boye Ceremony. The group then proceeded to the ZAH Library where Aban Rustomji gave them the tour and showcased the manuscripts and artifacts. Snacks donated by Yasmin Medhora, were served after the tour.

### **November 18, 2019**

An Interfaith Group tour was organized by Arnavaz Godiwalla, to tour the Atash Kadeh led by Kaemerz Dotiwalla, witness the Boye Ceremony by Mobed Maneck Sidhwa, and take a tour of the ZAH Library conducted by Aban Rustomji. (this was reported by Arnavaz Godiwalla in the previous Manashni).

### **December 12 -24, 2019**

Mobed Zarrir Bhandara of California, was a gracious visiting Mobed to Houston. During his visit, we had an innovative Humbandagi session, Amardad Parab Jashan, and a Refresher Course for Mobeds, besides the regular Boyes and Machis. We thank Mobed Bhandara and are very grateful to him for taking time out from his busy schedule to visit and serve our Atash Kadeh.

Sanskriti Group, The Woodlands



Jashn-e-Sadeh



### **January 4, 2020**

Tour was requested by Sanskriti Group of The Woodlands. Children and adults totaling approximately 180 visited the Atash Kadeh, the ZAH Library and the ZAH Center. Nazneen Khumbatta took charge in making all the relevant arrangements for this visit.

The tour was divided into 3 groups to devote enough time for the different tours that were happening simultaneously.

Mobed Khushrav Nariman, accompanied by young Mobed Neville Kanga gave an excellent tour of the Atash Kadeh. To facilitate the flow, Feroze Bhandara also pitched in to give a tour and overview to one of the groups concurrently.

One of the groups also witnessed the Boye Ceremony performed by Mobed Maneck Sidhwa. Aban Rustomji, assisted by Edul Chikhliwala, Roshni Chikhliwala, Natasha Kanga and Sanaea Warden presented the tour of the ZAH Library which piqued curiosity amongst the visiting kids, some of whom sat down to read books and admire the artifacts.

The ZAH Center tour was conducted by Pervin Sagar, accompanied by Shireen and Ariana Anklesaria, which the groups enjoyed immensely.

The ZAH Youth Kids – Natasha & Neville Kanga and Zara & Zal Italia made an impressive presentation with the assistance of Arnavaz Sethna, for the touring group.

The visiting group took pictures outside the Atash Kadeh.

Delicious lunch was catered by Naushad Mehta, and enjoyed by everyone thoroughly.

Many thanks to Bakhtawar Byramji, Aban Chhor, Nargis Cooper, Tehmi Dastoor, Aban Erani, Zarina Elavia, Jaiden Gandhi, Shahrukh Kanga, Yasmin Medhora, Pervin Sagar and Shirin Sarkari for all the help with serving food, providing the yummy Sev and Ravo for dessert and for helping with cleanup afterwards. Special thanks to Yasmin Medhora, for also assisting with the set-up preparations prior to the group visit.

The group was extremely impressed with the Atash Kadeh, Library and the Center. The kids in the group had lot of questions, and showed keen interest in the information that was imparted to them..

### ***January 3, 2020 - Behram Roj Sponsored Jashan***

Many thanks to Ruby & Ron Aga, Zia & Rustom Ankesaria, Jenisteen Davier, Nergish & Homi Davier, Mahnaz & Bakshi Irani and Pervin & Vispi Sagar, for sponsoring the first Jashan for the year 2020.

### ***February 1, 2020 - Jashne Sadeh***

Atash Niyaesh Prayers were performed at the Atash Kadeh by Mobeds Maneck Sidhwa and Bahrom Firozgari, after which Bahrom carried the burning embers, followed by the congregation, to light the Bonfire that was ready to be lit behind the ZAH Center building.





Folks sang and played music around the bonfire, after which everyone went into the ZAH Center Hall for the scheduled program. Several Dignitaries attended the Jashne Sadeh. Congressman Al Green could not attend due to schedule conflict but was represented by Sam Merchant. County Judge K.P. George gave a short remark congratulating ZAH members for the event. Sri Kulkarni, Candidate for US Congress also congratulated the attendees and spoke about his deep connections to the local community. Shahin Nezhad traced the history of Jashne Sadeh to Iran and also explained about the Ghambhars. Dr. Fareidun Karim spoke about the Zarathushti movement in Kurdistan, and expressed hope that the commitment of Kurdish government to freedom of religion would enable them to build an Atash Kadeh in Erbil or Sulaymaniyah.



A short Fundraiser talk was initiated by Parvin Bagherpour after which a delicious Persian dinner from Avesta Restaurant and dancing followed. Thank You to our DJ Gary. We are grateful for all our donors and attendees.

The Entertainment Committee would also like to thank Bob Yazdani for his generous contribution to help continue the tradition of Jashne Sadeh.

Behram Roj Jashan



### **February 2, 2020 - Behram Roj Jashan**

We are very grateful to Sarosh & Pearline Collector, Rayomand, Sarah, Sarosh & Asha Lynnea Collector, Dina, Ian and Natalia Kuecker and Kian Collector for their continued support in sponsoring this Jashan for the community.

The Atash Kadeh Committee would like to thank our community for happily participating and showing all their love and support throughout the year. We hope all of you will continue with your support by participating and attending the Jashans, Boyes, Machis, Ghambhars, Ceremonies, Mukhtads and visiting our beautiful and serene Atash Kadeh whenever possible.

Youth Fundraiser Event



### **Youth Fundraiser Report – February 15, 2020**

By: *Cyrus Mistry*

Your Youth Group would like to thank each and everyone who supported our Feb 15, 2020 Youth Fundraiser by attending it, volunteering for it, donating towards it, and performing on stage. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We had a long list of donors who opened their hearts and wallets to support this event, and we published their names in our event program. We also recognized our volunteers and performers by listing their names in the event program that was placed at each table.

For those who attended the event, we hope you had a wonderful time, and liked the food and entertainment. All our Middle Group and Youth parents worked hand in hand with all of us to help support and make this event a grand success with 200+ attendees!!! All raffle prizes, wine bottles, and bingo prizes were donated by ZAH members resulting in a **whopping net profit of \$10,070.04.**

So a big THANK YOU once again to everyone who touched our hearts by supporting this event in their own special way!!!

**MORE PICTURES ON THE  
LAST PAGE**

## Golden Group Pictures



Group at January Gathering



January Birthdays



Enjoying Board games



## GOLDEN GROUP'S JANUARY 19 EVENT

By: *Jehanbux Mehta*

It was appropriate that the year's first get-together of the Golden Group was held at our ZAH Centre. A record turnout of 41 is testimony of the popularity of this venue. It's a place where all could mingle easily, walk around leisurely and talk – verbiage and volume - with free abandon without attracting scowls from non-participating folks.

As is customary, the first order of the day was to introduce new members. Parviz Katrak, who joined the group on January 1 was welcomed as were Godi & Tahamtan Aresh and Shirin & Bahadur Sarkari who had enrolled as members the previous year but had not been able to attend earlier functions. The Group now boasts 54 members, a 20% growth in the last nine months.

Sadly, the Group lost a venerable member last September. A minute's silence was observed, with all standing, in memory of Kety Patel. She with late husband Piloos were the originators of our Group, known by another name then, which subsequently became "Golden Group", lovingly nurtured for years by the late Zarine Balsara.

It was a special day for Parviz Katrak who was celebrating her ...nth [hush!] birthday the next day. For that momentous occasion, her family treated us all to cake and ice-cream. I am quite sure she was blushing when made to cut the cake to the airs of "happy birthday". Joining her at the cake table were Kati Tamboli, Kali Khumbatta and Aban Mistry whose birthdays happened to fall in January. Thank you, Jasmin and Percy for making it her day and ours too.

Before digging into the very tasty and plentiful lunch of puri-papeta and dhandar with prawn patio catered by Gulmohor Bharucha, with kheer thrown in by her for good measure, members were treated to wine and beer, compliments of certain wellwishers. Delicious saive, prepared by Kati Tamboli rounded off the dinner.

Having had our fill, but with tea yet to be served, it was time for games: carroms, rummy and chess. Snakes and ladders too, which our members shied away from as being too dangerous. Our thanks to our non-member friends, Yasmin and Sheroy Haveliwala, who provided the fun, spending the whole day with us to make that happen.

All in all, it was a rather out of the ordinary function for us, thoroughly enjoyed by all, made possible by the team of Helping Hands who worked hard in making it successful.

## BIRTH

Baby boy, **Ryan K. Vajifdar**, born to **Rashna & Kayzad Vajifdar** on February 14, 2020, Valentine Day. Proud and ecstatic grandparents are Dhun & Jimmy Vajifdar (Valsad, India), Vera & Adil Kaikobad (Vancouver, BC), Vehista and Sarosh Kaikobad (Houston, TX).

**FUND RAISER OF ZAKOI – BADAM NI BOI**  
**By: Bakhtavar Desai - ZAKOI**

Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio & Indiana (ZAKOI) has been doing this fundraiser for years to raise funds for their Center. The delicious Badam ni Boi's are made for this fundraiser by our very own Roshan Rivetna, who continues to inspire and encourage us to pursue our dream of having our own community worship center someday! My community and I are deeply grateful to Roshan and her husband, Rohinton, for their invaluable help to us in this fundraiser.

Fish, or a sweet dessert shaped like a fish, is often used to give as a gift of goodwill and friendship among friends and family on various good occasions. You can order it for yourself or for sending it to your friends around the country.

**This year, our fundraiser has some more delightful things to offer you!** Besides our irresistible Badam ni Boi's, we have some delicious goodies like **Bhakras, Mava Cakes (individual cupcake size), and Vasanu!** Please see the prices below (S&H is extra):

**The Badam ni Boi's are \$18 for 1 Boi, or \$35 for a Pair**  
**Bhakras are \$18 for a Dozen, or \$35 for 2 Dozen**  
**Mava Cakes are \$18 for 6 cakes, or \$35 for 12 cakes**  
**Vasanu is \$28 for 1 Lb, or \$55 for 2 Lbs**

The S & H rates for the Boi's through USPS will be:

**\$8 for 1 Boi (Small Flat Rate Box)**  
**\$15 for 2 - 8 Bois (Medium Flat Rate Box)**  
**\$20 for 9 - 20 Bois (Large Flat Rate Box)**

**For the other treats, we will package them in the most reasonable way for you, depending on the quantities you order.**

All of these delicious treats are homemade with the best quality ingredients. The profits from these sales will be deposited in our ZAKOI Center Fund, and will take us a step closer to our future worship center! So far, with all your help, we have raised about \$100,000 in the last ten years of fundraising efforts. We still have ways to go and any help you can continue to give us will be gratefully accepted!

You can place your order directly with me. You can get together with friends and place a collective order at any one family's address.

**Please place your orders as soon as possible.** Your orders always have, and will continue to help ZAKOI with this noble cause. If you don't want to buy the Bois but still want to help us, we will gratefully accept your tax-deductible donation check made to the ZAKOI Center Fund, mailed to Bakhtavar Desai, 6383 Jamesfield Ct., Fairfield, OH 45014. A receipt with our Tax ID number will be mailed to you soon.

We look forward to receiving your orders, and your valuable help in spreading the word about our ZAKOI Worship Center fundraising efforts. We are deeply grateful to all of you, our fellow Zoroastrians, for supporting this cause year after year!

Bakhtavar Desai  
Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN (ZAKOI)  
email [bfdesai@aol.com](mailto:bfdesai@aol.com)  
Text or Call 513-560-0581

**Ingredients:** Blanched crushed almonds, sugar, flavorings (rosewater, vanilla, ice cream flavors), corn syrup, & about 2 tablespoons each, of flour, and milk in each boi.

**Storage Instructions:** Keep refrigerated in air tight container. If not going to consume within few weeks, you can freeze it by wrapping it in saran wrap, and placing it in a ziploc bag to store. Take out from the freezer and leave at room temperature for a few hours before eating.



## YOUTH FUNDRAISER – VALENTINE’S DAY FUNCTION

