

manashni

Volume 36 Issue 3 – March 2022

MANASHNI SPONSORED BY

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE: ZHCC

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: March 6, 2022

<u>Children's Session</u>: The Sunday School session starts at **11.00 a.m. Join** in by Zoom

Middle Group: The Sunday School session at 10:00 a.m. - physically & Zoom





Disclaimer and Authorizations – When attending any events at ZHCC premises, please abide by all the State of Texas and Harris County regulations prevalent on the day. The attendee(s) will NOT hold ZAH or any board member or the organizer(s), responsible for any COVID-19 related or any other sickness, accidents and/or mishaps either to themselves, to their vehicles or any other vehicle(s), person(s) and/or property. All the rules, regulations and disclaimers are effective upon members entering ZHCC premises on the "day of the event" and shall remain effective until they leave the ZHCC premises that day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

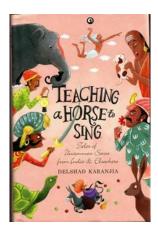
Sunday, March 20, 2022 – Atash Kadeh Anniversary Jashan Sunday, March 20, 2022 – Norouz Hambandagi after Jashan Saturday, March 26, 2022 – Norouz Function – See Flyer below Sunday, March 27, 2022–Prepaid Funeral Expense See details below – page 7 Sunday, March 27, 2022 – AGM – See Notice of the AGM below

Sunday, June 5, 2022 - Maidhayarem Gahambar

REPORT

LIBRARY REPORT

Book Review by Aban Rustomji



Teaching A Horse To Sing: Tales Of Uncommon Sense From India & Elsewhere by Delshad Karanjia. New Delhi, Aleph Publishing, 2021. 978-89390652570 Akbar and Birbal, Krishnadeva Raya and Tenali Raman, Vikram and Vetal, Mullah Nasruddin.... The exploits of these legendary wits, rulers, wise men, riddlers, and tricksters are familiar to every Indian who loves a good story and a good laugh. In Teaching a Horse to Sing: Tales of Uncommon Sense from India and Elsewhere, Delshad Karanjia retells the best-known stories featuring these characters and a few others from around the

ZAH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Dungor, Nozer – Chairman Gandhi, Kamalrukh Hormuzdi, Khursheed Katrak, Percy Khumbatta, Kershaw Dastur, Khursheed – Secretary Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer Sarkari, Nazanin – FEZANA Rep

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar Buchia, Kyrus Dastur, Barjor M Dastur, Darius Desai. Adi Desai, Farrokh Firozgary, Bahrom Gonda, Pervez Kanga, Neville Katrak, Rayomand Katrak, Vispi Khumbatta, Noshir Kotwal, Zubin Masani. Dara Nariman, Khushrav Pavri, Shapur Sanjana, Bahmanshah Saniana, Kurush Sidhwa, Kayomarz Sidhwa, Maneck Sidhwa, Yazad Unwalla, Peshotan Vimadalal, Freyaan Vimadalal, Khushroo

BOYE



world. This volume is an eclectic collection of 150 tales from across the world. Teaching a Horse to Sing brings together some of the timeless themes in storytelling like the difference between good and evil, and the trials of day-to-day life. Equally humorous and wise, this collection is an entertaining and instructive read for all ages.

ATASH KADEH NEWS

By: Persis Behramsha

February 2022 has already rolled on by and spring is now around the corner. Despite cold temperatures, rain or shine, our Atash Kadeh has stayed open every single day. We were reminiscing the Texas Freeze last year in February and still in awe of our Mobeds Maneck Sidhwa and Pervez Gonda who somehow drove to the Atash Kadeh to tend to our Holy Fire. Kudos to them then, and continuing Kudos to them now, for their ever-willing attitude to serve at any time.

Our sponsors for the upcoming Behram Roj Jashan for March are the families of: Nargis & Homi Cooper, Tehmi & Firdaus Dastoor, Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, Zenobia & Jal Guzdar, Roshan & Yezdi Engineer and Yasmin & Rustom Engineer. Thank you sponsors – you continue to show up and support this wonderful tradition of the Behram Roj Jashan. We cannot thank all of you enough!

We will be celebrating Navroze and plan on having a Jashan at the Atash Kadeh to welcome the New Year and Spring. More information will follow soon.

We will be adjusting to Daylight Saving Time soon and possibly making a few changes to the prayer timings. Our weekend Zoom Boye will continue since we have folks joining us from out of town. As a reminder, for those that cannot physically attend any prayers, our Mobeds will Zoom any prayers for your convenience. We do urge you to visit as often as you can, so you can feel the serenity our Atash Kadeh provides. We are blessed to have visitors from so many places who are keen on stopping by to pay respects to our Holy Fire. Do let your family and friends know that everyone is welcome, and they can join in the prayers from any part of the world.

Our Sponsored Behram Roj Jashan calendar is filling up quickly this year. We still have the following months open:

Friday July 1, 2022 Sunday September 4, 2022 Tuesday October 4, 2022 Thursday November 3, 2022 Saturday December 3, 2022

Wednesday March 23, 2022, is open for the Avan Mahino Avan Roj Parab celebration Jashan.

Saturday September 3, 2022, is available for Farvardin Mahino Farvardin Roj Farvardegan Jashan.

Please do consider donating to help with the ongoing maintenance of our Atash Kadeh so we can continue to serve our community in Houston and beyond. Ask us about adopting Monthly Utilities.

Hope to see many more smiling faces at the Atash Kadeh.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY - ATASH KADEH



NOROUZ CELEBRATION



YOUTH GROUP HELPING AT FOOD BANK





LOCK-IN





ATASH KADEH ANNIVERSARY & NAVROZE CELEBRATION

By: Atash Kadeh Committee

This year Navroze begins at 10:33 a.m. Central Standard Time, on Sunday, March 20, 2022.

Since this day marks the first day of Spring and the Renewal of Nature, we will have a combined celebration for Navroze and the Third Anniversary of our Atash Kadeh, with a Jashan at the Atash Kadeh followed by the traditional Humbandagi.

Complimentary Light Snacks will be served outside, after the Jashan & Humbandagi. We will send out a link shortly, for RSVPs and for the Online Sukhar / Diva requests for that day.

We hope to see everyone there to celebrate the onset of a beautiful New Year.

Jashan starts at 11:00 a.m. after the morning Boye.

Please note that the ZAH Navroze function will be held on Saturday March 26, 2022 at the ZAH Center, as has already been announced.

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

By Roshni Chikhliwala
On behalf of Youth Group Members and Officers

On February 19th through 20th, 2022, the youth group participated in a joint lock-in with the middle group. We participated in multiple activities and entertainment and had a great bonding experience. A special note of thanks to the following folks: Jasmine Mistry, who generously went out of her way to organize this event for both the middle and the youth to enjoy along with their parents, and to our Sunday school teachers who go out of their way to make it a pleasurable experience. On the 19th we also visited the food bank where we worked to clean areas and packed boxes for the homeless.

Thank you to all the youth parents for their support in all our endeavors.

Finally, a big thank you to our Mentors, Teachers, and the Youth Group Officers and members.

NoRouz - 2022

NoRouz: Actual Date and time

Date: March 20, 2022

Time: 10:33 a.m. Houston Time

Animal: Tiger

Color: Charcoal Grey

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Isabelle Irani



Shanaya Vakil



WINNERS OF PARTIAL SUBSIDY TO ATTEND WZC 2022, NEW YORK

Yazad Sidhwa



Farzad Sarkari



Natasha Dungor



MISCELLANEOUS



THE 2021 ZAH LEGACY AWARD WINNERS ARE

ISABELLE IRANI ZAH LEGACY AWARD

SHANAYA VAKIL ZAH - CYRUS R. DESAI AWARD

Award Certificate along with a check for \$3000 will be presented to each winner at our Navroz function on March 26, 2022

We thank our donors Thrity & Rohinton Desai for their generous contribution to make this Legacy program successful.

It is with much pleasure that we bring to you our Legacy winners every year and showcase the super talent within our community.

The Legacy Committee Homi Davier Vispi Sagar Farzad Sunavala

PARTIAL SUBSIDY TO ATTEND WZC 2022

FEZANA, in order to encourage the Youth/Young adults to attend the World Zoroastrian Congress in New York in July, offered a partial subsidy to the youth. The subsidy would be used towards the registration.

ZAH matched this subsidy and invited applications from ZAH youth/young adults to participate in this program. With the application, the applicants were required to submit two paragraphs explaining:

- 1. Why do you want to attend the World Zoroastrian Congress?
- 2. What you will do to give back to the ZAH community after returning from the Congress?

The following three Youth/Young adults qualified for this Subsidy.

Natasha Dungor Farzad Sarkari Yazad Sidhwa

Congratulations to the Natasha, Farzad and Yazad, we look forward to receiving a write-up of your experience upon return.

GOLDEN GROUP GET TOGETHER







SALONI PARGAONKAR



LET'S GO TO A MOVIE - GOLDEN GROUP

By Jehanbux Mehta

How we have longed for those days, a mere 60+ years ago, when on a Saturday afternoon we would be off to Metro, Eros or Paradise to take in a matinee to see the latest *filum* at a reduced rate. Be it a romantic comedy, a Cecil de-Mille epic with a cast of thousands or a Hindi tear-jerker at which the emotional among us would be equipped with face towels to wipe red eyes, the movie would be talked about till replaced by another the following Saturday.

One such afternoon was reenacted by the Golden Group on Saturday, February 26. It was not in a crowded cinema hall but in the comfort of the Pervez Rustomji Hall in our very own ZAH Centre. It cost us a whopping \$10 per person, a far cry from the few saved annas of "those" days, but it came with a tummy-filling lunch of snacks prepared by Naushad. Not a bad deal, what?

The movie was "My Father's Violin", a Turkish tale, dubbed in English with sub-titles. You could see from the faces at the end that it had touched the hearts of the viewers. The performance by all actors, especially the little girl, was simply superb. Our many thanks to Khushrav Nariman who took time off to screen the movie.

Snacks were served during intermission in the Atrium by the Helping Hands who sacrificed seeing the film by bringing the items from Naushad's store and serving them nice and warm. A chicken-jalapeno roll, veg pattise, cutlet and cholay; could one have asked for more? Tea was taken after the movie ended, piping hot tea, prepared by the Hands with ravo and cookies, compliments of Sillie.

The weather that day was very cold and dreary, made more uncomfortable by intermittent rain. But that did not deter the 23 persons who had signed up for the event. After all, how often do we have the opportunity to meet in a group! True that the short interval and after tea period was not enough to share the stored up gupsup, but mingling was worth it.

NAVJOTE

Saloni Pargaonkar, daughter of Afreen & Sudhir Pargaonkar, elder sister to Aayden Pargaonkar, had her 9th birthday & Navjote Ceremony on February 6, 2022, in Cypress, Texas.

Ervads Bomanshah Sanjana & Khushroo Vimadalal officiated the ceremony.

RAYOMAND-NATALYA WEDDING



WZCC HOUSTON CHAPTER EVENT NICK DHANANI



DR. DASTUR M.N. DHALLA



UNIVERSE



WEDDING

Natalya Haveliwala, daughter of Yasmin & Sheroy Haveliwala, was married to Ervad Rayomand Katrak, son of Jasmin & Percy Katrak, on February 12, 2022 in Houston, TX.

WZCC EVENT - "SENIOR HOUSING AND OTHER REAL ESTATE PROJECTS IN HOUSTON"

A very interesting and informative session on real estate projects and investment opportunities was presented by Mr. Nick Dhanani of the Dhanani Private Equity Group on February 17.

There were approximately 65 attendees who enjoyed hearing about how Mr. Dhanani started his career as a night cashier at a gas station, and slowly built his very expansive portfolio of real estate assets, with hundreds of investors participating in his developments. One of those projects is a senior housing development, which was of keen interest to the participants in the session.

Mr. Dhanani also discussed how his company differentiates itself from others by providing a high degree of transparency to its investors, and donating to charities when a project meets a certain earnings threshold.

WZCC is in the process of organizing additional educational and informative sessions for our community.

ASHA'S UNIVERSAL ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE – HOMAGE UNTO AHURA MAZDA – Dr. Dastur M N Dhalla

Life upon earth reveals a smooth and graceful and an all round ordered movement. Nature has its seasonal rhythms. Spring and summer, autumn and winter, with their seasonal succession of changes, take their unvarying course. The tides rise and fall punctually. The dawn and morn and noon and evening and night go their uninterrupted daily round. The dying day gives birth to the night. The night hangs its myriad of silvery lamps to lighten the darkness. The dawn breaks to resurrect the day and the day goes the perennial round of its birth. The heavens and their glittering hosts, the sun and the moon and the stars and the planets march at a regulated pace. Immutable are the laws that govern the movements of nature and preserve its unfailing regularity. A stable order ensures the existence of the universe.

Asha is the upholder of a moral order in the inner world of man. Human life is lived the best when man's relations with his neighbours, his duty towards his fellowmen and towards the heavenly beings are regulated according to Asha's moral order of righteousness. Help me to establish order in my inner world, Ahura Mazda, thou who art the source of all order and law. May concord and not discord, order and not disorder, righteousness and not wickedness always prevail in my inner world. May Asha Vahishta, Best Righteousness, be the upholder of my life, now and forever.

PRE-PAID FUNERAL EXPENSES



DIGNITY MEMORIAL



GARDEN OAKS FUNERAL HOME



CHAPEL OF ETERNAL PEACE





PRE-PAID, DISCOUNTED FUNERAL EXPENSE SESSION MARCH 27, 2022 @11:00 AM

ZAH Community:

As our community grows, so do our needs. We now see a need because of the tremendous growth of our community.ZAHCARES has negotiated the following and this offer is available and open to all Zarathushtis living in the Greater Houston area

PRE-PAID, DISCOUNTED FUNERAL EXPENSE SESSION Dignity Memorial to make a similar presentation on

Sunday 27th March 2022 at 11am at the ZAH Center in the Purvez Rustomji room

To make it easy to attend, we have scheduled it on the same day as our ANNUAL ZAH AGM.

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING?

- A negotiated a preferred rate for funerals with Dignity Memorial ago where members were provided with an opportunity to purchase a prepaid, discounted funeral plan.
 - If you move, the plan moves with you.
 - 5 year payment plan with zero interest
 - Pay in full & get 10% additional off our prices.
 - No price increases after you lock in the contract
- If a demise occurs overseas, then they bring the body back from anywhere
- If services are NOT used overseas you get a FULL REFUND of money paid.

Dignity representatives will present TWO basic affordable packages, with various optional upgrades. The two locations that will be presented are:

- 1. GARDEN OAKS FUNERAL HOME
- 2. CHAPEL OF ETERNAL PEACE

Please RSVP to: <u>zahcares@gmail.com</u>
Or call if you need more info and/or prefer to RSVP over the phone.

Homi Davier 832-428-4285 Farokh Billimoria 847-312-8823

We wish you a safe 2022!

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET? DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE. ZAH NoRouz Celebration

SATURDAY MARCH 26th 2022 at ZAH CENTER

ZAH Center Doors Open at 7.30 p.m

Please click here to register

DJ Music
Dance the Night Away



Ashdeen Lilaowala GARA Saree Raffle

Dear Community Members,

As most of you know, we launched our Raffle drive for the **beautiful Royal Purple Hand Embroidered Gara Saree with studded pearls designed by our world renowned Ashdeen Z. Lilaowala** during the Gahambar this past Sunday, Oct 10th (Flyer attached). A lot of you were inquiring about purchasing the Raffle tickets, so we have created a page on our website to enable you to buy the Raffle tickets. To buy the tickets please click <u>HERE</u>.

This is a great opportunity for all to add this gorgeous Hand Embroidered Gara Saree (with a blouse piece included) to your collection. The Raffle Winner drawing will be during the Navroze function in March (around 3/21/2021) and you do not need to be present at the event to win. The Gara Saree will be shipped to the winner free of cost within the United States so please send this link to all your family members, friends and acquaintances across the United States. Raffle tickets are currently being printed and will be given to all the buyers in due course.

<u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> All those who have already purchased the raffle tickets during the Gahambar need not input their tickets again on our website as we will register your tickets on our website.

Thank you all for your generosity and support in advance and hope to have a very successful Raffle drive.

Sincerely NAZC2024 Committee





Notice of the Annual General Body Meeting of the Members and Election of Officers to the ZAH Executive Committee – 2022

The Annual General Body Meeting ("AGM") of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston ("ZAH") will be held on **Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 1 pm** at The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, 8787 W. Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX 77071 ("ZHCC").

Please note:

TO VOTE, SUBMIT NOMINATIONS, AGENDA ITEMS AND/OR TO ATTEND THE AGM, ZAH MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2022 SHOULD BE PAID IN FULL BY <u>SUNDAY</u>, <u>MARCH 13, 2022</u>. <u>NO MEMBERSHIP CHECKS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE AGM</u>

Lunch will be served prior to AGM.

The schedule of events for 27th March 2022 is as follows: 11 am – "Prepaid, Discounted Funeral Expense" session organized by ZAHCARES 12 pm – Lunch 1 pm – ZAH AGM 2022

If you plan to attend the AGM, please RSVP to kbdastur@yahoo.com by 13th March 2022 for headcount for Lunch.

AGENDA ITEMS: Members For 2022 (as defined below) wishing to include any items for discussion may forward the subject matter to the ZAH Secretary, by e-mail at kbdastur@yahoo.com by Sunday, March 13, 2022 so that they can be included in the agenda. If you do not have access to email, submissions can be made to the ZAH Secretary by post marking your mail to ZHCC before the deadline and follow up with a text message to (281) 948-5319. Please note that no new agenda items will be accepted after the due date or entertained from the floor at the AGM.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OPEN POSITIONS: The following positions on the Executive Committee are up for election in 2022:

| Nozer N. Dungor | Member | Completed two 2-year terms | Term limit completed and not eligible for re-election |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Kamalrukh Gandhi | Member | Completed one 2-year term | Has opted not to run for 2 nd term |
| Kershaw Khumbatta | Member | Completed one 2-year term | Eligible for re-election and is running for another term |
| Farokh Billimoria | Treasurer | Completed one 2-year term | Eligible for re-election and is running for another term |

NOMINATIONS FOR ATASH KADEH OPEN POSITIONS:

No positions for the Atash Kadeh are open for election in 2022

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION OF MEMBERS: A Nomination Form is included with this notice. Only Members For 2022 may send any completed and signed Nomination Forms by **Sunday, March 13, 2022** by e-mail, to kbdastur@yahoo.com. If you do not have access to email, please post mark your nomination by the deadline and mail

to the ZAH Secretary at ZHCC and follow up with a text message to (281) 948-5319. No nominations will be accepted after the deadline and no nominations will be accepted from the floor during the AGM. The nominating Member For 2022, nominee and a seconder must all sign the Nomination Form for it to be valid.

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| Ш | All nominees for the ZAH Executive Committee must be regular members for a period of at least six (6) months |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | prior to the election and must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. This means that they should have paid their |
| | 2022 membership dues already and would need to pay their 2022 dues by 13 th March 2022 |
| | No two members of an immediate family shall serve on the Executive Committee at any one time. |
| | No member of the Atash Kadeh Committee shall simultaneously serve on the Executive Committee. |

Voting will be by secret ballot. Proxy votes will not be accepted.

ONLY MEMBERS FOR 2022 ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, SUBMIT NOMINATIONS, AGENDA ITEMS AND/OR TO ATTEND THE AGM. TO BE A "MEMBER FOR 2022" ZAH MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2022 SHOULD BE PAID IN FULL BY SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022. NO MEMBERSHIP CHECKS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE AGM TO MINIMIZE CONTACT AS AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS

Lunch will be served at the AGM. Please RSVP to kbdastur@yahoo.com by 13th March 2022 for headcount for lunch.

Lunch will be ordered only per RSVP received.

All attendees at the AGM will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing at all times.



Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) Executive Committee Nomination Form

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION OF MEMBERS: Completed, signed and scanned Nomination Forms must be emailed by **Sunday, March 13, 2022** to ZAH Secretary at kbdastur@yahoo.com. If you do not have access to email, please post mark your nomination form by the deadline and mail to the ZAH Secretary at The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, 8787 W. Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX 77071 and follow up with a text message to (281) 948-5319.

No nominations will be accepted after the deadline and no nominations will be accepted from the floor during the Annual General Meeting.

The nominating Member For 2022 (as defined below), the nominee and a seconder must all sign the Nomination Form for it to be valid.

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- All nominees for the ZAH Executive Committee must be regular members for a period of at least six (6) months prior to the election and must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. This means that they should have paid their 2022 membership dues already and would need to pay their 2022 dues by 13th March 2022
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| I hereby nominate | for the position of (select only one): | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| for the Zoroastrian Association of | Member. Treasurer Houston Executive Committee. | |
| I understand that the nominee mu and procedures. NOMINATING MEMBER: | seconded BY: | natisfies the requirements of ZAH's by-laws, policies NOMINEE: |
| Signature: | Signature: | Signature: |
| Name: | Name: | Name: |
| Date: | Date: | Date: |