

congress2000legacy



October 20, 2016

congress2000legacy – 2016 AGM REPORT

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that we have our TWO winners for the **2016 congress 2000 legacy awards**.

We at ZAH recognize and honor our youth going off to college in order to recognize their excellence in the Academic Arena and their contribution to the ZAH center through community service, both, within the ZAH community & mainstream America. This Legacy Scholarship was established in 2006 as a result of the funds generated from the success of World Zoroastrian Congress 2000 & the additional grants received thereafter.

This year, again, the applicants were just spectacular, and it took careful deliberation for the selection committee to come up with our winners. All applicants went through the full award selection process set by an executive judgment of the Legacy Planning Committee Team and acknowledged by the ZAH-EC.

IT IS A TREMENDOUS HONOR TO BE THE RECIPIENT OF THESE GRANTS!

THE 2016 OUTSTANDING WINNERS ARE:

Rayhan Nariman - the congress 2000 legacy award

Rayhan has always been an enterprising young man, with a passion for life and a thirst for knowledge. He graduated from Clements High School in Sugar Land. While at Clements, Rayhan was inducted into the National Honor Society and was selected to be the co-chair for Ranger Camp, an annual event for incoming freshmen.

He was also an active member of the Theater Society, and was selected for the Peer Assisted Leadership program where he mentored kids with special needs.

Rayhan has always been available for his Zoroastrian community and at a moment's notice can be counted on to step up and volunteer his time for his fellow Zarthushtis.

His passion for science has led him to pursue his studies in Electrical Engineering at Penn State University.

Freya Daroga - the Cyrus Rohinton Desai award

Freya graduated from William P. Clements High School ("Clements") in Sugar Land, TX in June 2016, and is now an undergraduate student at the C. T. Bauer College of Business at The University of Houston. At Clements she was inducted into the National Honor Society and received several Academic Excellence Awards and was also a member of the Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) program where she had the opportunity to mentor and work with elementary and middle school children.

At the community level, Freya has been actively involved with the Zoroastrian Association of Houston ("ZAH") since she was a toddler and has had the privilege of holding the positions of Secretary and President of the ZAH Youth Group. Her leadership skills were evident when she organized the Blood Drive, International Night (fundraiser), and Car Washes, and other social events at the ZAH which were aimed to foster and promote community involvement.

Besides being active at the ZAH she organized and participated in volunteer activities in the community at large, notably the Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, the Houston Food Bank, Senior Homes and the Second Mile Mission.

On a personal level, Freya loves rhythm and is an accomplished dancer who has proved her versatility by excelling at both, Bollywood and Drill Team forms while participating in several contests at the national level.

The ZAH Legacy Awards recognize young ZAH students who are studying at the University level and who have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra- curricular activities and who have made substantial contribution to community affairs

The "**Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award**" was set up by the Desai family in memory of their son, a courageous young Houstonian who lost his battle with cancer. It was Cyrus's ardent desire to go, even for a day, to college but sadly this was not meant to be. **That is why this award is given exclusively to the person who is going off to college for the first time!**

Let us not forget our distinguished panel of judges who are selected by Dr. Farrokh Mistree from major learning institutions across the USA. **This year the judges were; Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna; Dr. Poras T. Balsara; Dr. Tinaz Pavri; Dr. Farah Shroff; and our ZAH Youth representative on the committee Mrs. Pearlina E Collector.** We at ZAH are fortunate to have such a dynamic panel of judges from across North America and who care for our kids!

The ZAH Executive Committee and the **congress 2000 legacy** Committee congratulate our winners. We believe these students deserve to be recognized as innovators and leaders for tomorrow's global community. By supporting the next generation of great minds we pay tribute to the success of the World Zoroastrian Congress we had in 2000 from which the initial funds were generated!

In ending we would like to seriously identify and locate new funds by requesting families and corporations who would like to bequeath funds and have an award set up in the memory of a family member and/or an institution.

With our best wishes,

The legacy committee

**Homi Davier - Chair
Farrokh Mistree
Vispi Sagar**

The congress 2000 legacy is an award program of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston