

congress2000legacy



The congress2000legacy is an award program of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston

October 2, 2014

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that this year we have our two winners for the **2014 congress2000legacy 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 year, again, competition was fierce, the applicants were just spectacular, and it took careful deliberation for the selection committee to come up with our two 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 2013 OUTSTANDING WINNERS ARE:

NATALYA HAVELIWALA - the congress2000legacy award

The chosen recipient of this 2014 Award is to be commended on her achievement, dedication, and contributions. She is the proud recipient of **our 2000 congress legacy award** which was established as a result of the funds generated from the success of World Zoroastrian Congress 2000 & the additional grants received. The award recognizes 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.

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FARZAD SUNAVALA - the Cyrus Rohinton Desai award

The chosen recipient for the "**Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award**" is also to be commended for his achievement, dedication, and contributions. This 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!** This award also recognizes ZAH students who have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra- curricular activities and who have made substantial contribution to community affairs.

Let us not forget our distinguished panel of judges who are selected by our Dr. Farrokh Mistree from major learning institutions across the USA. This year the judges were; Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna; Dr. Poras T. Balsara; Dr Yezdi H. Godiwalla, Dr. Tinaz Pavri; Dr. Farah Shroff; and our ZAH Youth representative on the committee Mrs. Pearline 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!

This year, 2014 has been an eventful year for us at the Legacy committee insofar as the start-up team was Aban Rustomji & Homi Davier who began the start-up process and paper work in 2005 and then in 2007 they expanded further and brought in Dr Farrokh Mistree & Pearline Collector to form the first core team. Aban did want to step down last year however she agreed to stay on for one additional one and so it is sad but this year we have decided to respect her wishes. However, just like Broadway, the show must go on and so we have two more additions, Percy Behramsha & Vispi Sagar who have joined our folds.

We had jump started work on a Financial Grant based scholarship program however, that was put on the side burner in 2014. Our EC, has now shown an eagerness for us to pursue developing the process to initiate such an award and so, the original draft prepared by Aban & Homi are now back on the drawing board.

It is intended to add this additional award starting 2015 and look out for the application & details on our web page at www.zah.org/congress2000legacy . Our policy has been to use only the earnings derived from the capital at hand and we sure cannot get this accomplished without a major contribution and/or member support.

Notwithstanding that there is an urgent need for a sponsor family? We will continue to work on the Financial Grant applications, guidelines & selection criteria's. Please step forward and let us lean on you as we do with the Desai's.

We started with \$90,000 and after giving out all the awards over so many years we are now at a total balance of \$96.0000 which is phenomenal and one can ONLY thank our new and improved, IMT Team who have made prudent, careful & strategic investments to let us have no loss in initial investments.

It would be amiss if we did not appreciate the dedicated contribution being made by the magnanimous donation from Thirty, Rohinton & Anahita Desai in the memory of their lovely child Cyrus. It is the Zarathushti values that they bring forward when they came up to us this Navroz and said that they would continue with their \$3000 contribution as long as they can. Kudos to the Desai family!

In ending we would like to seriously identify and locate new funds by requesting our ZAH families being desirous to bequeath funds and have an award set up in the memory of a family member and/or an institution. Feel free to contact Homi Davier to set this in place.

With our best wishes,

The legacy committee

Homi Davier - Chair
Dr. Farrokh Mistree
Aban Rustomji
Pearline Collector
Percy Behramsha
Vispi Sagar

The 2014 congress2000legacy Awards Ceremony

It was a spectacular Navroz evening dinner setting and was special insofar as our chief guest was none other than a Iranian of Zarathushti descent whose lineage goes back to Kerman; Dr. Parvin Behroozi Bagherpour who is the Associate Vice Chancellor of International Student Services and Study Abroad at Houston Community College. She has over 30 years of experience in education including teaching, counseling and administration.

She presented both our winners with their checks and a certificate of achievement. Besides this she also presented Aban Rustomji a special recognition certificate for her dedication and contribution to our congress2000legacy project.



NATALYA HAVELIWALA GETS HER AWARD



TANAZ SUNAVALA GETS FARZAD'S AWARD



**FEROZE BHANDARA INTRODUCES
DR P. BAGHERPOUR**



**HOMI DAVIER SAYS ADIEU TO ABAN RUSTOMJI
& DR P. BAGHERPOUR GIVES THE AWARD**

PAST CONGRESS LEGACY AWARDEES ARE:

2007 -	Veera Sidhwa	& Nikita Bhappu	
2008 -	Darius Byramji	& Zarina Pundole	
2009 -	Naomi Bhappu	& Hormazd Minwalla	for the Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award
2010 -	Zal Bhathena	& Bahrom Firozgary	for the Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award
2011 -	Viraf Nariman,	& Mitra Khumbatta	
2011 -		Fram Haveliwalla	for the Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award
2012 -	Cyra Byramji	& Cyrus Byramji	for the Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award
2013 -	Shayan Bhathena	& Ervad Rayomand Katrak	for the Cyrus Rohinton Desai award

The 2014 congress2000legacy College Seminar- Dr. Farrokh Mistree

The Congress 2000 Legacy team organized a very useful Seminar that was held on 20 Sept, 2014, especially designed for our College-bound students and their parents. Dr Farrokh Mistree flew down from Oklahoma to deliver this session to a packed and engaged audience. Approximately 45 attended this well-presented session lasting for over three hours! This was an incredible feat since the atmosphere in the library was quiet and the audience attentive even though they had just returned after volunteering at the Houston food bank!

Topics like "*Which college do I pick*", "*How do I pay for college*", "*What scholarships are available*", "*Dorm or Apartment*" kept the audience interested in this interactive session.

Farrokh started off by asking each student to list at least one question they had, he wrote down each question meticulously and the end of the session repeated every question and they were all answered through the session. - structured very professionally.



At congress2000legacy it is the norm for all to participate and our new kid on the block Percy Behramsha took the lead in setting up and seeing through this session. The pre-seminar work was well executed with all documents (to be discussed) being posted on the ZAH web site with communication sent out to all attendees in order for them to come well prepared.

The item of interest was, that there were an equal number of adults with the children, the detail with which Farrokh handled the entry to college, a new life, its apprehension, its mysteries, do's and don'ts was interesting for all age groups. Overall the response and feedback was very positive with some parents even suggesting that such sessions be done every year.

Mistree's immediate comment was "I was most impressed with the quality of engagement of both the kids and parents. I was particularly impressed by the notes that were taken by the college bound kids and their responses to questions that required them to think. This was an excellent set of students. I was touched by one entry in the card: Thank you for opening my eyes"



The session was in the ZAH library and the pictures of the session display the value of this lovely venue for which we need to thank Aban Rustomji and her team. Finally, how can we ever end this before we thank the ZAH for the support they have given to our kids for ages! Like it is commonly stated in USA.....

'We are blessed'



THE SESSION IN PROGRESS.....



AAPRO FARROKH GETS A GIFT FROM THE KIDS & HE IS THRILLED!!!!!!

