



## Chairman's Report for 2014

2014 promises to be the beginning of an exciting journey as we launch our ZHCC 3.0 initiative. The ZHCC 3.0 Initiative consists of additions to the existing ZHCC, as well as building a new stand alone, fully functioning Atash Kadeh. In order to fulfill these ambitious projects, we have also created a 7 year master plan, named Vision 2020.

### Phase III-A

The journey started in Dec 2013 with an incredibly generous and magnanimous donation of \$200,000 from Aban Rustomji and Family, to expand the ZHCC, with Phase III-A. The expansion will include the Purvez Shiavax Rustomji Room. This room will be big enough to accommodate 150 people (theater style) and will be wired for multi-purpose / multi- media and conferencing facilities. The plan is to have state of the art audio/video equipment to allow for use as a theater and to host seminars and conferences. It may also be used for other banquet style events and allows ZAH to accommodate a larger number of people at key events like Navroze, Jasne-sadeh etc. As part of the Phase III-A expansion, we will also be building another classroom for the middle group kids. If adequate funds are collected, we will also update the bathrooms and the kitchen.

### Atash Kadeh

Longtime ZAH members and donors Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara are donating the full construction cost (upto \$500,000) for the construction of a stand alone, fully functional Atash Kadeh. This tremendously generous and magnificent gift from the Bhandara family is sure to build one of North America's finest Atash Kadeh's.....the story started out as....

In February 2014, the EC was approached by Kobad Zarolia, President of NAMC, asking if ZAH was interested in building an Atash Kadeh. He was representing an anonymous donor who was willing to fund the entire construction cost of this standalone Atash Kadeh, provided that ZAH and the Houston community was willing to take on its operational and maintenance costs after construction.

At the Special General Body meeting on April 6, 2014 the members were asked to vote on a proposal to build an Atash Kadeh at the ZHCC. We had a donor who is willing to fund the entire construction cost, but we needed to raise additional money for operations in addition to a 25% maintenance reserve.

We had a record number of members present for the meeting and a vote was taken on the following motion:

**The General Body authorizes the Executive Committee to collect funds , finalize plans, get bids and to construct the Atash Kadeh on ZAH property**

The results of the Vote were: The Total Ballots cast were 186. Yes: 148, No: 37 and Abstain: 1. An overwhelming majority of 80% approved the motion and this vote allowed us to proceed with the collecting funds and start construction of an Atash Kadeh at ZAH.

## Zoroastrian Association of Houston

On Saturday, August 16th, at an informal session, the donors of the Atash Kadeh were finally announced. They are none other than long time ZAH members Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara of Sugar Land. Shernaz and Feroze have a long history of supporting the ZAH and they were also major contributors to the building of the ZHCC Phase I. The ZAH is so blessed to have such magnanimous members, willing to give for the improvement our community.

The Atashkadeh will be capable of accommodating approximately 150 persons. The focal point is the inner sanctum that holds the fire and Afarghan. The Atash Kadeh will also include an Urvishgah for use in Paav Mahel ceremonies such as the Yazashne, Visparad, Vendidad, Nirangdin and Baj. In addition, there will be areas for the Navars to reside in during training. This will allow Houston to become one of the first places in North America for Navar training, allowing more young people to become Navars, especially those who cannot travel to India.

In October we had a public meeting to discuss the modifications to the ZAH bylaws related to the Atash Kadeh. These rules will be voted on during the November AGM.

### Vision 2020

The Vision 2020 program was initiated in November 2013 as a strategic financial 7-year program where our vision is "To build a strong financial foundation that will sustain and grow ZHCC for present and future generations".

While developing this strategic plan, the Atash Kadeh and Phase III-A projects were introduced and subsequently Vision 2020 was enhanced to include both these projects. As part of Vision 2020 our goal is to raise \$700,000 in 7 years. The plan includes raising money for the new construction of the Atash Kadeh, the Purvez Rustomji room and a new classroom (Phase III-A). The money raised will also be to upgrade/enhance the bathrooms and kitchen. A part of the fundraising will be used to build a reserve for the Building maintenance fund. The breakdown of the funds are:

	Required	Available	Pledged	Shortfall
Phase III - A	\$375,000	\$25,000	\$200,000	\$150,000
Atash Kadeh Construction			Full Amount	\$0
Atash Kadeh - Reserves and Operations Exp	\$175,000			\$175,000
Building Maintenance Fund	\$345,000	\$95,000		\$250,000
Bathroom + Kitchen upgrade	\$125,000			\$125,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$700,000</b>

### Commit for 5

A key component of our comprehensive fund-raising strategy is a new program Commit For 5. As part of the Commit for 5 program, you pledge to pay a certain amount each year/quarter or month for 5 years. There are 5 levels ranging from \$1,000 / month to \$50/month.

Diamond	\$1000 or more per month
Platinum	\$ 500 or more per month

## Zoroastrian Association of Houston

Gold	\$ 250 or more per month
Silver	\$ 100 or more per month
Bronze	\$ 50 or more per month

To make our Treasurer's life a little easier 😊, we encourage everyone to pay annually or quarterly. We will be adding this program to our website soon.

The Commit for 5 program has taken off at full speed, and to date we have received 18 pledges totaling over \$260,000.

I encourage each and every one of you to pledge as well as ask all your family and friends to pledge towards this noble cause.

While all this excitement about new possibilities was building, we did not slow down in our regular events and functions. We had all our annual events, such as Navroze, Jashne Sadeh, Ghambars and the Carnival. In fact, our center was busier than ever this year. After the success of the first ZCamp, we had our 2nd Annual ZCamp which had a record 78 young campers from Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Cincinnati and Boston. This is turning out to be a fun event, and when asked, all the participants want to not only come back next year, but also want it run longer than one weekend.

The ZAH is growing and we would like to thank each and every donor for their contributions. We would not be able to have many of the programs, events and fun without your donations, and we hope that you continue to assist the ZAH in the future.

Also, a very big thank you to all our volunteers and subcommittee members. It takes a dedicated group of people to manage, maintain and entertain at the ZAH. The success of our ZHCC and the sense of community is only possible with the hard work and dedication of this tireless crew. Without all their unstinting efforts behind the scenes, none of our events or functions would be possible, nor nearly as enjoyable. The EC would like to thank each and every one of you, for giving us the most precious commodity of all...your time!

In closing, "Pardon our Dust" signs will soon be going up as we start construction of the Atash Kadeh and Phase III-A.

2015 promises to be another exciting year and we all look forward to the new and improved ZHCC 3.0.

Thank You and Best Always

Aderbad Tamboli