

**ZAH ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING  
ZAH LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT  
MARCH 27, 2022**



**MISSION**

To establish and provide global access to a centralized collection of materials in print and electronic form, primarily pertaining to Zarathushti faith, culture, and history.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Meheryar Rivetna, a member of the Library Committee published his book: *Zarathushtra: The Man and the Message*. The entire proceeds from the sale the books are donated to the ZAH Library. We have collected \$ 1,355 in 2021 and we continue to get monthly donations. Meheryar has started a Book Study Group that meets on the third Sunday of each month via ZOOM. If you would like to join, please call or email Meheryar.
- The ZAH Library and FIRES jointly established the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize to recognize Zoroastrian authors. The Committee spent a considerable amount of time on establishing the criteria for the Prize which was formally announced in January 2022. We are grateful to Teresa Russo, from the University of Toronto, who mentored us through the process. Feroze Bhandara generously donated \$5000 to the establishment of the award. The first award will be given out at the 12<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress in June 2022.
- The ZAH library has undertaken to write a history of the Association from its inception in 1976 to the building of the Center, its subsequent additions, and finally the establishment of the Atash Kadeh. The sub-committee of three dedicated individuals Rustom Engineer, Arnavaz Sethna and Jehangir Shroff plan to publish a booklet.
- FIRES (housed at the ZAH Library) has rebound two manuscripts that were displayed at the event in January.
- The Dhalla papers entrusted to ZAH have been digitized and available to researchers at [zah.library.media@gmail.com](mailto:zah.library.media@gmail.com).

**BOOK COLLECTION**

Our total online book collection is now 1970 books (from 2012 – present). This includes collections that are at associations at ZAGNY (NY), ZAC-Chi (Chicago), ZAC-LA (Los Angeles) and ZANT (Dallas). We continue to expand awareness of FIRES via a quarterly newsletter on our user-friendly website [www.fires-fezana.org](http://www.fires-fezana.org) and through Book Awareness in the monthly FEZANA Bulletin, and MANASHNI.

## PROGRAMS

Date	Event
January 7-8, 2022	Celebrating Houston Authors Day 1: Tribute to Bapsi Sidhwa: Rich Levy, Amanda Focke, Teresa Russo, Sadia Uquaili, Consul General of Pakistan, Feroze Bhandara. Dinner hosted by ZAH Library Day 2: Boman Desai book reading and music composition Houston Authors Panel: Meheryar Rivetna, Tenaz Sunavala, Kamalrukh Gandhi, Moderator: Sweta Sethna Exhibit of Vendidad Lithographs and manuscripts
Nov 23, 2021	Tour of the library and archival resources from University of Houston students in collaboration with visit Kaemerz Dotiwala arranged. Students were fascinated with the armor exhibit.

## NEW FURNITURE

The library has acquired two fireproof cabinets to store manuscripts and other rare memorabilia.

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Vehishta Kaikobad, Yasmin Medhora, and Edul Chikliwala who cheerfully donate their time and talents to all our endeavors.

**LIBRARY BUDGET** See ZAH Treasurer's Report

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nauzer Billimoria, Rustom Engineer, Yezdi Engineer, Debra and Darayus Kolah, Zubeen Mehta, Jehangir Mistry, Yasmin Pavri, Meheryar Rivetna, Aban Rustomji, and Arnavaz Sethna.