



manashni

Volume 37 Issue 9 – September 2023

MANASHNI SPONSORED BY

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OFFICE 713-963-4229

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: September 10, 2023

Children's Session: The Sunday School session starts at 10:30 a.m. in-person and by Zoom

Middle Group: The Sunday School session at 11:00 a.m. – in-person and by Zoom



Youth Group: The Sunday School session at 10:00 a.m. In person



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 22 – Protecting against Scams and Fraud
- **Speaker – Aban Chhor** (Control Senior Advisor in the Fraud and AML Risk and Compliance at USAA Bank)
- Dinner at 7 pm, Event at 8 pm
- Rates - \$15 for Members, \$20 for Non-Members
- RSVP: by Sept 19th to Yasmin @ 713-301-1521
See flyer below for more details

Sunday, October 1 – Fasli Mehergan & Maedyozarem Gahambar followed by presentation of the Zoroastrian Museum Proposal.
[RSVP at this link by 24th September](#) (for regular rate). See flyer below for more details.

Friday, October 20 – WZCC Event – Wills and Trusts
Saturday, November 4 – A Play from Shahnameh: Gordafarid - The Fearless Warrior. SAVE THE DATE - See flyer below for more details.
Friday, November 10 & Saturday, November 11 – 24th Annual Library Event

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT

By: Jangoo Mistry

Library Event a Resounding Success

“Triumphs and Tribulations: a film producer’s story”, an event presented by our own Cyrus Bharucha, and sponsored jointly by the ZAH Library and WZCC, was held on Friday, August 25. Quite apart from previous Library events, this event covered a topic of universal interest, exciting and fun. Cyrus Bharucha of Houston kept us enthralled with what goes on behind the scenes to produce a movie or TV production – the politicking and the financial challenges. He focused on the commitment, the effort, and the time spent on how to get into the business - the good, the bad, and the ugly of show business.

ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairperson
Percy Master – Secretary
Farokh Billimoria – Treasurer

Zia Anklesaria – Member
Nikita Gagrati – Members
Kershaw Khumbatta – Member
Fiona Setna – Member

Nazanin Sarkari – FEZANA Rep

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

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

LIBRARY EVENT TRIUMPHS & TRIBULATIONS: *A film producer's story*

CYRUS BHARUCHA



Jangoo Mistry introduced Mr. Bharucha as an international award-winning and triple Emmy-nominated producer who worked in the TV and motion picture industry covering 3 continents for over 50 years.

Cyrus based his talk on the feature film, ON WINGS OF FIRE, that he produced in the 1980s in India, with Zubin Mehta and a host of English and Indian stars. The incredible effort he had to make over several years, and the lengths to which he had to go to secure funding and convince people with deep pockets made for some interesting, and at times hilarious, anecdotes. Cyrus pursued sponsors for funding from Bombay, Singapore, and Hong Kong, to Canada, Germany, and London, meeting people he knew only through referrals, or from their reputation. He was told: "I will give you all the money but you have to get Charlton Heston to play Zarathushtra in the movie"! Or: "Take out that bandmaster (Zubin Mehta) and put me in his place in your movie because I am a millionaire, highly educated, and I have a lot of charisma!". Breaking through the high odds stacked against him, Cyrus persevered and finally was able to secure all the funding he wanted to translate his vision to celluloid. Cyrus was a colorful raconteur and held the audience spellbound through his entire presentation. and came up with some interesting questions in the Q&A part of the program.

Since this Library event was jointly sponsored with the WZCC, a short ceremony was held to give the WZCC Outstanding Young Zarathusthi Professional of the Year 2022 to our Ervad Bahrom Firozgari, M.D. This was a truly well-deserved recognition of a very exceptional young man who we are proud to have in our community.

The evening ended with a scrumptious potluck dinner. A word of appreciation for that. Every potluck dinner the ZAH Library has sponsored has always been amply supported – with displays of all kinds of sweet and savory food, both homemade and purchased. We are truly grateful to our community for their generous support and efforts.

PROPOSAL - ESTABLISH A ZOROASTRIAN MUSEUM IN NORTH AMERICA – PLAN, DEVELOP, SUSTAIN

Calling all community members!

Join us for a pivotal presentation where we'll unveil an exciting initiative - The Museum of Zoroastrian Religion & Culture. The 20/30 minute presentation will be on October 1, 2023, directly after the Mehrgan and Maedyozarem Gahambar.

ArZan Wadia, President FEZANA, will join Aderbad Tamboli and Aban Rustomji to answer your initial questions.

Your input and support are essential in making this vision a reality. Let's unite to celebrate our rich history, culture, and incredible heritage.

Please mark your calendars and be part of shaping our shared legacy.

ATASH KADEH NEWS

By: Persis Behramsha



**A PACKED AUDIENCE LISTENING TO
CYRUS BHARUCHA**



MOBEDS PRAYING AT THE ATASH KADEH



The busy month of August with its hot weather flew by extremely fast, with all the preparations for the Muktd, the Navroze Humbandagi, and several other prayers.

We start this article by thanking our wonderful Mobeds without whom we would not be able to carry on our traditions. Ervads Pervez Gonda and Maneck Sidhwa, please know that we appreciate you and your extreme dedication to our Atash Kadeh. We thank you for your service and for your unwavering support to keep our Holy Fire aflame at all times. A special thanks to Ervad Pervez Gonda, for taking care of all the Muktd Vases single-handedly each day and making sure that all Boye Ceremonies were performed timely. Additionally, we want to thank Ervads Khushrav Nariman, Khushroo Vimadalal, Freyaan Vimadalal, Noshir Khumbatta and Kyrus Buchia for joining whenever they could during the Muktd days. Ervad Freyaan Vimadalal made a special effort to participate on quite a few days. We enjoy hearing our young Mobeds pray and happy to see all of you join.

Preparations for the Holy Muktd days begins weeks prior with announcements, Vase collections, purchase of Flowers and Fruits assignments. This year, we had additional help from Mahrukh Deputy with the Flower purchase which was truly appreciated. Thanks to our ever willing and generous donors who helped with Satum Food, Malido, and Snacks every day. To all our volunteers, we cherish your good heartedness and your kindness to make the Muktds very successful. Thank you to the families of Persis & Naozer Behramsha, Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara, Nozer & Persis Buchia, Nargis & Homi Cooper, Nergish & Jenisteen Davier, Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, Roshan & Yezdi Engineer, Yasmin & Rustom Engineer, Yasmin Medhora, Arnaz and Jehangir Mistry, Dilnaz & Zubin Mory, Manek & Khushrav Nariman, Pervin & Maneck Sidhwa, and Sanobar & Aderbad Tamboli. Another special thanks to Faredun Bhader for helping Ervad Pervez Gonda in the morning with the Vases & Flowers. We apologize if we missed mentioning someone, but please know that we appreciate your gesture of support and generosity.

The Navroze Humbandagi was led by our Arnavaz Sethna as she has done in the past years so willingly and conducted so well each year. Dear Arnavaz, we thank you for continuing to keep this Humbandagi tradition alive for so many years. Everyone enjoys joining and singing the Gatha Hymns.

The busy month of August is scheduled to be followed with a busy September, with the monthly Jashans and the first of the Gatha Study Group. Stay happy and healthy.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Tenaz Sunavala

The ZAH community celebrated Shehenshahi Navroze on August 19th 2023 with over 200 attendees. It started with mouthwatering appetizers of samosas and chicken chapli kabab. It was wonderful to see everyone wishing each other Navroze Mubarak and chit chatting with each other. The entertainment was super and a bit different this time around. A stand-up comic act and the cutest dance performance ever – Bawa Charlie Learns to Dance. It was performed by our young ZAH members, Jidina Mory and Dairen Vimadalal. The dance act was choreographed by none other than Vehishta Kaikobad. Soon it was time for dinner! The volunteers took their places at the food stations to

FREYAAN VIMADALAL PRAYING AT THE ATASH KADEH



NAVROZE CELEBRATIONS JIDINA MORY AND DARIEN VIMADALAL BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE – BAWA CHARLIE LEARNS TO DANCE



serve our members heaps of delicious food. On the menu from Himalaya restaurant was goat biryani, masala dal, jardaloo chicken and naan. Ample food enjoyed by all of us with dessert to follow with gulab jammun and ice cream. As all were savoring their desserts, the dance floor was open. DJ Noshir Khumbatta spun toe tapping songs for everyone to dance to. The fabulous, festive evening of celebrating Shahenshahi Navroze came to a stop around midnight. Thank you to all our volunteers and the membership for making this event memorable year after year. Until next time!

MIDDLE GROUP REPORT

By: Zenia Nariman & Ethan Gagrut

The Middle Group had elections in August. The Executive Committee of the Middle Group is an enthusiastic bunch who enjoy dedicating their time to volunteer work for their community.

The officers of the Middle Group for the 2023-2024 term are:

President: Mahtaab Mondegarian

Vice President: Jidina Mory

Secretary: Ethan Gagrut

Treasurers: Cyrus Masani & Neville Masani

Historian: Zenia Nariman

This year we plan to...

- Clean Atash Kadeh
- Lock-In (Animal Shelter, Houston Food Bank, Saint Jude)
- Middle Group Picnic
- Bowling & Pizza (Main Event)
- Lemonade Stand
- Competitions (Group Skit, Essays, Debates)

Congratulations to all the officers! We cannot wait to share this amazing year with you!

MISCELLANEOUS

In loving memory of

Dinshaw Pirozeshaw Sethna

July 16, 1930 – August 7, 2023



ZAH YOUTH CHILLIN' AT THE NAVROZE FUNCTION



GOLDEN GROUP – A TRULY PARSİ AFTERNOON



CELEBRATING MIKE ENGINEER'S BIRTHDAY



SAREE DISPLAY FOR THE GOLDEN GROUP WITH ANITA KAVINA



Dinshaw "Dinsu" Sethna was born in Karachi on July 16, 1930, and lived there until he, his wife Perviz and their son Minoo, moved to Houston, Texas in the early 1970s.

Dinsu was a committed and loving son, husband, father, father-in-law, and brother. Many of you remember him as a tutor and table tennis champion in Karachi. Dinsu enjoyed traveling, reading, the beach and was an enthusiastic fan of the Houston Astros. He often shared interesting stories from his time in Pakistan and India.

For all who knew Dinsu, he was a kind, gentle, generous, gracious, and spiritual human being who helped and supported many families that migrated to the US from Pakistan and India, and numerous others. Dinsu was not only a proud Parsi but also loved America and Houston. He was family oriented and enjoyed spending time with friends. Dinsu lived a full life recently celebrating his 93rd birthday.

Dinsu's memory will live in our hearts and his spirit will inspire and uplift us forever. He will be remembered fondly and missed deeply.

GOLDEN GROUP'S ADVENTURES A TRULY PARSİ AFTERNOON

By: Jehanbux Mehta

This year, Naoruz was observed on August 16, but why restrict the celebrations just to that one day? No, said our Golden Group. Let's extend the joy that the new year brings by a few more days as is done by our friends in Iran.

Thus, it was that the Group met on Saturday, August 26 at our ZAH Centre for an afternoon of fun that only we Parsis are capable of creating. Fifty persons signed up for the well planned event, but with three having dropped out at the last minute, 47 were in attendance, a record number to date, nevertheless. Not daunted by this number, Helping Hands, the small group of six who plan and organize the functions, made it sure that the "Parsi" theme would live up to its name. Thanks to Yasmin and Sheroy Haveliwala, Parsi songs and those that we grew up singing filled the air from the moment the members started pouring in to the time it was to say goodbye.

Thanks to the generous donation by our member, Mike Engineer, in celebration of his birthday – age to be revealed only on request to the Hands – the event charge was a very modest \$10 per member and \$15 for non-members. With the Hands chipping in with wine, beer, sev, *mitthu* dahi, ravo, batasas and the birthday cake, expenses were held in line with no damage to the Kitty.

Before the slated time of 12:30, the Hands with help from friends set up the tables with banana leaves – Amazon.com to the rescue – and candles alit in lovely glass holders. Baskets and bowls of potato chips and peanuts to munch on while sipping wine or guzzling beer were placed on each table. The two tables in the center draped with beautifully embroidered saris and garas per Anita Kavina's well laid out plan drew quite a few deserved aaahs. Wearing a fetta, I welcomed our friends but only after condoling the recent loss of our member, Dinshaw

MIDDLE GROUP OFFICERS



L to R: NAZANIN SARKARI (Teacher), CYRUS MASANI (Treasurer), ZENIA NARIMAN (Historian), NEVILLE MASANI (Treasurer), MAHTAAB MONDEGARIAN (President), JIDINA MORY (Vice-President), NAZNEEN KHUMBATTA (Teacher).
Missing from this picture ETHAN GAGRAT (Secretary)

BAHROM FIROZGARY RECEIVING THE GLOBAL 2022 OUTSTANDING YOUNG ZARATHUSHTI ENTREPRENEUR/PROFESSIONAL AWARD AWARD FROM RUSTOM ENGINEER



Sethna, lovingly known to us all as “Dinsu”. It was a disconsolate moment for his wife Perviz who had kindly graced the occasion.

Three new members were introduced, raising membership to 66, followed by a prayer of thanks to Ahura Mazda beautifully worded and recited by Anita, who then outlined the entertainment planned for the afternoon. Thereafter, the much anticipated announcement: “Lunch is served” was very well received by all, as always at Parsi functions. A truly sagan nu bhonu it was: dhandar, jinga (kolmi) no patio, papeta per eedu, supplemented by gajar-mewa nu achar gratuitously provided by Jasmine Katrak and Avan Bhathena. Two large trays of crispy sarias melted away in no time. The cake, which our birthday boy was asked to cut to the chorus of “happy birthday” was walloped off fast along with sev, dahi and ravo. Piping hot tea prepared by the Hands was provided with batasas. How much more “Parsi” could we get? The adage ‘always feasting, rarely fasting’ was very appropriate this day. Food there was aplenty for some to happily take home.

Soon after lunch the entertainment began. Several rounds of Bingo, with Sheroy calling out the numbers. Several persons bagged a prize. Then came a brain tickling quiz on Parsis and their religion compiled by Anita. More prizes. Who would have imagined that with a mere 61,000 Parsis in Mumbai, there are as many as 40 agaries? Or for that matter, 167 of them all over the world serving a total of 120,000 hamdins?

It was way past closing time. Good byes were reluctantly said. The incessant chatter was replaced with unbecoming silence. Along with the prizes won and doggy bags of unconsumed dhandar-patio, happy memories were carried home. Truly, it was a great afternoon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAHROM FIROZGARY

By: WZCC Houston Chapter

Congratulations to Bahrom Firozgary for winning the **Global 2022 Outstanding Young Zarathushti Entrepreneur/ Professional Award**. This award, instituted by the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce (WZCC), annually recognizes outstanding members for their distinguished service.

Bahrom is a true all-rounder. Growing up in Houston, his passion for academics, athletics, and community service was evident from a young age. His accomplishments are in many areas, and his diverse interests are well-recognized. As an Ervad, he participates in community prayers and Gahambars and Jashans. He is also an Eagle Scout, a High School Co-Valedictorian, excelling in sports, and loves to play the guitar.

Bahrom received his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from Rice University, where he also played on the Men's Basketball team and received awards for being a Scholar-Athlete. After his undergraduate education, Bahrom attended Texas A&M University's M.D. Program and received his medical degree.

As a Medical Resident, Bahrom was elected Chief Resident, where he was involved with decision-making, admissions, and managing the

BAHROM WITH HIS PROUD FAMILY



OUR YOUNG HELPER – RYAN VAJIFDAR



So Proud of You!

residency and its residents. He worked at the frontline of medicine during the COVID pandemic, worked in the ICU during Houston's COVID surge, and devoted his time to addressing the needs of sick patients' needs. He also provided medical support for various collegiate and professional sports teams. He has mentored young Zoroastrian undergraduate students (some are now medical students) and offered them shadowing opportunities and personal tutoring sessions.

Bahrom will be getting married in September 2023. The couple will move to San Diego, California, where he will practice Sports Medicine, and Tara, his spouse, will practice Dermatology.

We wish Bahrom and Tara every success, but we are sure they will be missed at ZAH.

I WANT TO HELP!

Three and a half year old Ryan Vajifdar tugged at an adult's shirt and said – “I want to help!” - at the Farvardian potluck lunch at the Center. He was promptly assigned to assist with clearing the food tables. He helped put away the forks and spoons into their proper boxes. Thank you Ryan for your thoughtfulness in lending a helping hand to our community. We are so proud of you!

WE HAVE MOVED

Kaiwan & Serena Bharucha along with their children Darian, Nadia and Ariana have moved back into ZAH Community, after a stint of some years overseas. Their address is:

Kaiwan & Serena Bharucha
5409 Meadow Road
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Nergish H Davier has moved to her new address below:

18401 University Boulevard
Apt# 2107
Sugar Land, TX 77479



Friday, Sept 22nd, 2023

Zoroastrian Heritage &
Cultural Center

8787 W. Airport Blvd,

Houston, TX

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Event at 8 p.m.

\$15 for Members

\$20 for Non-Members

RSVP: by Sept 19th

Yasmin @ 713-301-1521

Protecting Against Scams and Fraud

Speaker: Aban Chhor

Aban Chhor is a Control Senior Advisor in the Fraud and AML Risk and Compliance at USAA Bank.

Aban has 21 years of experience in Retail Banking, Onboarding High-Risk Customers, and AML. Fraud and related losses to banks due to Fraud have significantly increased. Beginning of this year, Aban was moved to the Fraud department to provide expertise in Quality Testing procedures and reviewing SARS (Suspicious activity report) sent to FINCEN.

While testing SARS (Suspicious Activity Report), she saw types of Scams and attempts to steal money from members' accounts.

Aban felt it was necessary to educate our community members on types of scams and share tips on protecting themselves from becoming a victim.



**FASLI MEHERGAN AND MAEDIOZAREM GAHAMBAR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023**

[REGISTER HERE FOR GAHAMBAR | ZAH](#)

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APPROACHING FAST
PLEASE REGISTER DEFINITELY BY SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 TO AVAIL REGULAR RATE**

**If paying by check, your check must be received by 9/24/23
FOR DETAILS SEE BELOW FLYER**



FASLI MEHRGAN AND MAEDIOZAREM GAHAMBAR
SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 2023

Jashan at Atash Kadeh - 11.00 am
Gahambar Lunch at ZAH - 1.00 pm

We request you
RSVP and pay online
for this event.
Limited Walk-Ins!!

**PLEASE CLICK ON RSVP LINK
PROVIDED IN THE EMAIL**

For questions please contact:
Dilnaz Mory
(305) 934-0847
dilnazmory@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline Sunday September 24, 2023
Members: Ages 12 & Up: \$15; Ages 5-11: \$11
Non-Members: Ages 12 & Up: \$20; Ages 5-11: \$15
Under 5 years - Gratis
Starting Monday September 25, 2023: Rates \$20 & \$15

FOOD FOR THE GAHAMBAR SPONSORED BY A GRACIOUS ANONYMOUS DONOR

Delicious Persian Food:
Chicken/Beef Kubideh with Grilled Veggies - Gheymeh Badamjan (chana dal),
Keshk Bademjan (eggplant), Mast-o-Khiar (yogurt cucumber), Rice, Naan, Salad

ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS OUR ERVADS FOR PERFORMING THE GAHAMBAR JASHAN

GORDAFARID THE FEARLESS WARRIOR

A CAPTIVATING STORY ABOUT THE BETRAYAL OF LOVE...



SAVE THE DATE
WHEN: Sat, Nov 4, 2023

WHERE: ZHCC
8787 West Airport Blvd.,
Houston, TX 77071

**Revel in a fun packed
evening reliving history
with action, music, dance,
and more...**

**Join your very own
Talented ZAH Director
Shahnaz Sidhwa, and her
Cast Members**

**Enjoy a delectable spread
of appetizers, dinner, and
desserts**

**Registration and Ticket
details to follow soon..**

**For more information
Contact: Jasmine Mistry**
JasYMistry@gmail.com

(832) 236 4037