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WWW.SETHNAFINANCIALGROUP.COM  
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 8, 2024

**Children's Session:** The Sunday School session starts at **11:00 a.m. in-person and by Zoom**

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



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



**ZAH PET POLICY**

While we all love our pets, they don't belong in the center or Atash Kadeh. The ZAH EC has decided to implement a NO PETS policy at the center after hearing numerous complaints regarding pets at the center.

Service Animals are exempt from this policy, however, all service animals must be properly trained/certified, and must be on a leash or tethered and monitored at all times. NO SERVICE ANIMALS will be allowed anywhere near where food is prepared or served.

**Thank you for your continued support  
ZAH EC 2024**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, September 29, 2024 – Shehenshahi Maedhyozarem & Fasli Mehrgan Gahambar**

**Dec 29, 2024 – Jan 1, 2025  
NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS**

**REPORTS**

**LIBRARY REPORT**

By: Jango Mistry

**A Memorable Experience**

The Houston Museum of Fine Arts is having a Special Exhibition of Japanese art, *Meiji Modern: Fifty Years of New Japan*, scheduled to run through September 15.

## ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairman  
Percy Master – Secretary  
Lyla Daroga – Treasurer  
Zia Anklesaria – Member  
Nikita Gagrat – Member  
Zubin Mistry – Member  
Fiona Setna – Member  
Nazanin Sarkari – FEZANA Rep

## OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

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

## MFAH

### *Meiji Modern: Fifty Years of New Japan*



A favorite accessory of well-known Japanese kabuki actors such as Ichikawa Danjurō IX (1838–1903), bowler hats made by the bamboo artist Hayakawa Shōkosai, became fashionable in the Meiji period (1856–1912), a time that saw new exposure to non-Japanese cultures and the transformation of fashion choices.



Billed as “A monumental exhibition” by the National Review, the exhibition offers an extraordinary look at Japan’s Meiji era (1868–1912), when the country emerged from near-total isolation to enter a modern, global period. Over these pivotal decades, Japan experienced radical social and political shifts. The exhibition brings together nearly 200 remarkable works of Meiji art from more than 70 public and private collections.

Vehishta Kaikobad, who is a docent at the MFAH, offered to guide the Library Committee members through the highlights of the exhibits. A group of about 20 people gathered at the Museum to see the exhibits. Vehishta’s expertise in art history gave the visitors a deeper appreciation and a more educated interpretation of what we were looking at.

Through the objects on view, Meiji Modern reveals the profound cross-cultural impact of Japan’s developing relationships with the wider world. Paintings, sculptures, prints, posters, and fine examples of enamel, lacquer, and textiles reflect a blending of cultures and techniques as well as the innovative interchange of old and new. This period marked the birth of Japanese Modern Art when Japanese artists sent their works to the great Exhibitions and World Fairs in Europe and America. Among the themes in the exhibition are the role of the sea in Japanese culture; changing gender roles; the nation’s religion, traditions, and myths; and plants and animals embraced internationally as motifs for export.



**Not to be missed:** the newly acquired MFAH work *Tigers*, an exceptional pair of gold-leaf folding screens.



The exhibition also features several recently discovered masterpieces of Japanese art, many of which have never been shown publicly.

**MUKTAD SETTING  
TAKEN AFTER EVENING PRAYERS**



**MUKTAD PRAYERS**



**MUKTAD PRAYERS**



**MUKTAD ATTENDEES**



**Atash Kadeh News – for August 2024 Manashni**

By: Persis Behramsha

The month of August started with busy preparations for the Holy Muktab Prayers. We appreciate all our Mobeds who make time and take a keen interest in performing the special prayers, and for also helping with Boye ceremonies to relieve our Atash Kadeh Mobeds when other prayers were requested during the day.

Ervad Pervez Gonda takes great pains to shine the vases, and replenish flowers daily while maintaining the timings for all the Boye ceremonies throughout the day. It is always a beautiful sight to see the flower adorned vases on the Muktab tables.

Ervad Maneck Sidhwa could not attend all 10 days, being unwell; however, he made every effort to join and pray as much as he could, for which we admire him.

Ervad Khushrav Nariman, our go-to Mobed for the past couple of months, served ever willingly to step in whenever he was needed.

Ervad Freyaan Vimadalal joined in for the prayers on many days and we admire his eagerness and thoughtfulness. Evrad Noshir Khumbatta has a special demeanor in rendering help and we are so happy with your willingness to assist.

Ervads Zubin Kotwal, Neville Kanga and Rayomand Katrak, you all helped out to fill in the void for the Boye ceremonies and we cannot thank you enough for helping us continue with the traditions we strive to maintain at the Atash Kadeh.

Thanks to all our wonderful families for taking joy in helping to make our Holy Muktab successful. Thanks to Manek Nariman and Anahita Kanga for the supply of Malido. Thanks to the families of Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara, Persis & Naozer Behramsha, Rushna & Nauzer Bilimoria, Bakhtawar & Kershaw Byramji, Nargis & Homi Cooper, Farida & Neville Divecha, Roshan & Yezdi Engineer, Yasmin & Rustom Engineer, Anahita Kanga, Nazneen & Kershaw Khumbatta, Yasmin Medhora, Mitra & Zubin Mistry, Dilnaz and Zubin Mory, and Sanobar & Aderbad Tamboli, for providing food for Satum Prayers, and snacks that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks also to Yasmin Engineer, Bakhtawar Byramji, Anahita Kanga, Nargis Cooper, Nozer Buchia, Nazneen Khumbatta, Dilnaz Mory and Manek Nariman, for helping out with additional help pre and post prayers, and for helping with delivery of Fruits and Flowers. We really appreciate you all helping in countless ways and so grateful for your whole-heartedness and willingness to do whatever was needed.

To our Arnavaz Sethna, we thank you for being ever present for all the Humbandagis – we rely on you every Navroze to initiate the Fakras and the Monajat, and have such a wonderful time greeting and wishing everyone Navroze Mubarak.

To Mahrukh Deputy and to the Chikhlivalla family we thank you for the year round volunteering you continue to do.

We cannot thank Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara enough for bequeathing this beautiful Atash Kadeh, to our community.

## YOUTH GROUP – BLOOD DRIVE



## NAVROZE FUNCTION



## ZAH YOUTH GROUP HOSTS THEIR ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE SEE FLYER

On Sunday, September 29, 2024, the day of the Gahambar, the ZAH Youth Group will host a blood drive at the Zoroastrian Heritage and Cultural Center (ZHCC) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is a non-profit organization accredited, licensed, and recognized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and numerous local and state officials and authorities.

If you would like to donate blood, please sign up by using the link below or by scanning the QR code on the flyer! You will be asked to select a time slot from 11:00 am at 15-minute intervals until 3:00 pm. Alternatively, you may contact me at [natashadungor@gmail.com](mailto:natashadungor@gmail.com) and give me three time slot preferences, and I can put you in the best available slot.

[https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/393062](https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/393062)

Listed below are some things to note before donating:

- Bring a picture I.D.
- You MUST be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 lbs. and be in good health; or 16 years old, 122 lbs., and have a consent form signed by parent or guardian (attached below)
- Eat a nourishing meal before the donation but avoid fatty foods a day before
- Make sure to eat iron-rich foods such as lean meat or fish and leafy vegetables
- Drink plenty of water or fruit juice the night before and the morning of the donation
- Avoid caffeinated drinks as they may cause dehydration
- Get a good night's sleep!

After You Donate:

- Make sure to eat sodium-rich foods
- Drink more water to prevent dehydration
- Avoid strenuous activities such as sports or exercise for a day.

On the day of the donation, you will be provided a questionnaire to verify and affirm your donation.

Lastly, we highly encourage everyone to please register and donate as every donation could save up to the lives of three people!

Hope to see y'all there,  
Natasha Dungor, Shireen Anklesaria, and Mahtaab Mondegarian

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Dilnaz Mory & Arzin Italia On Behalf of Entertainment Committee

The ZAH community celebrated Shehenshahi Navroze on August 17th, 2024 with approximately 180 attendees. The full menu was catered by delicious mouth watering food from Lasbela Restaurant. We had lahori fried fish, patakha chicken & samosa chat for appetizers, with a vast menu of mutton biryani, chicken malai boti, reshmi malai handi, sangam kabab, bhunna gosht, palak paneer & much more for the main course and finally gajar ka halwa & gulab jamun for desserts.

### NAVROZE FUNCTION TABLE DÉCOR



### GOLDEN GROUP OUTING LOS GALLITOS



### ENJOYING DINNER



It was wonderful to see everyone wishing each other Navroze Mubarak and chit chatting together. The entertainment was organized by Jasmine Mistry & co-hosted by Zubin Mistry with a lot of fun interactive games like charades, musical chairs, four corners, freeze dance & bingo (special thanks to Yasmin Medhora). Dinner was served after the games were done. A big thank you to Banafsheh Mondegarian who created the beautiful centerpieces. As always, we had great music by our very own DJ Gary.

The raffle for the NAZC2024 was announced by Aderbad Tamboli and Kayo Sidhwa (NAZC Co-Chairs) at the event.

The fabulous, festive evening of celebrating Shehenshahi Navroze with our ZAH family and friends is always special.

Thank you to all our volunteers and the members for making this event memorable year after year. We look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Gahambar. Until next time!

## MISCELLANEOUS

### GOLDEN GROUP OUTING

#### HOLA MEXICO

By Jehanbux Mehta

Cheerful cries of “Buenas tardes” and “hola” rang out as members of Golden Group and their guests started pouring in for an afternoon of fun at Los Gallitos. Two Parsi amigos in colorful sombreros greeted and guided them to their seats. One would imagine that we were in Mexico. But then, we were: virtually. Such was the atmosphere.

All 44 of us were seated comfortably in a separate room overlooking a lake on two long tables, one across the other. Serene, but for the incessant chatter. Several plates of crunchy tortilla chips placed on the tables with queso dip and two types of salsa to munch on while sipping soft drinks or margaritas. Lunch was served by the staff at the tables in individual tummy-filling platters of beef and chicken fajitas, two flour tortillas, Mexican rice, refried beans, guacamole and pico de gallo, the type that mamaiji used to make but called it katchumber. Seconds were available, but doubt if anybody took up the offer. Even for the dessert of two cakes – chocolate and tres leches – we did not have to raise our derrières. Pardon my French. Our Helping Hands and volunteers served each of us smilingly. We were truly pampered!

The charge was \$25 per member and for guests \$30. The Kitty was dipped into by a significant amount as the restaurant is by no means cheap. As was the case at our lunch in Keemah, dessert was from a bakery to keep the cost down. After lunch, I addressed the crowd in my well tutored Mexican Spanish, thanking the ladies of Helping Hands for the hard work that went into the function and the members for being sporty by not confessing to understand what I was saying. A new member, Hormuzd Beziz was introduced and two guests welcomed. The announcement that the membership had gone up to 108 was met with a roar of approval. The torch, or rather, the sombrero was then passed on to Anita Kavina to entertain the guests.

**GOLDEN GROUP – LOS GALLITOS**



Several door prizes of two Mexican pottery bowls with organic salsa and tortilla chips from Whole Foods were given to the lucky winners. A quiz on salsa, compiled by Anita followed with the winners bagging similar prizes. Never imagined that that there was such a lot to learn about the unpretentious salsa. I am sold on the chunky variety with a few drops of tequila in it.

After having put on our best smile and stomachs drawn in for photographs on the hot patio outside, it was time to say adios. With rounds of vivas to our grupo dorado, Los Gallitos, Mexico, Tejas and Estados Unidos de America, we made our way out to utterances of hasta la vista. What a memorable afternoon.

**JUDGE SONIA BEHRANA RASH HONORED**



**AWARDS & ACCOLADES**

**Sonia Behrana**

On Friday, August 23, 2024 Judge Sonia Behrana Rash was awarded Fort Bend County Democratic Party’s “Trail Blazer” Award during the FB Democratic Gala. The Gala was a huge success with a constant reminder that “we win when we vote” and that we are stronger together.

**FEZANA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

MANASHNI is very proud to announce that this year four ZAH students are the recipients of FEZANA Scholarships.

**ZAH STUDENTS WINNERS OF FEZANA SCHOLARSHIP**



**Mahtab B Dastur**



**Arnaz S Irani**

**PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWEDSCHOLARSHIP**

**Mahtab B Dastur** will be attending Rice University to study Social Policy and Medicine.

**FEZANA PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**

**Arnaz Irani** will be attending Savannah College of Arts & Design working towards a BFA

**SOONU AND JAL BIRDY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

**Natasha Kanga** will be attending University of Texas, Austin and will be studying Biochemistry



**Natasha Kanga**



**Neville Kanga**

**FEZANA Scholarship AND FEZANA Community Award**

**Erv. Neville Kanga** will be attending the University of Texas at Austin to study Aerospace Engineering.

**Neville won two FEZANA Scholarships**

## NATIONAL PUBLIC DATA BREACH



## SANJAN STUMBH



## IRANSHAH ATASH BEHRAM



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**Find out whether your information was compromised.**

By Farokh Billimoria, CPA

The cyber intrusion involved National Public Data, a background check company. According to a statement from the company, the breach likely occurred in December 2023, with additional leaks in April 2024 and this summer. The compromised data includes names, email addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and mailing addresses. National Public Data is currently working with law enforcement to investigate the breach and will notify individuals whose information was exposed.

In the meantime, you can check if your information was compromised. The following website, operated by online security company Pentester, allows you to verify whether your data was stolen without requiring you to submit a Social Security number:

<https://npd.pentester.com>

**Editorial Note:** Email scam is on the rise. You may receive an email from a community member stating that they are feeling miserable and need for you to write back. Please DELETE immediately. Call the person if need be but do not use the email.

## WAS THERE ANY PARSI SETTLEMENT IN HINDUSTAN PRIOR TO 716 AD?

From Kissa-e-Gulistanbanu  
By Rustom B. Paymaster

About seven shiploads of Iranian Zoroastrians from Iran came to this country about 12 centuries ago by sea. But that doesn't mean that Iranian Zoroastrians had not set foot in India prior to this Group or had stayed here. It's a fact that prior to this Group there were many Zoroastrians who had traveled North West by land for business or anything else, however, this was the first large group who had fled Iran to preserve their religion and for their personal safety and had come to Hindustan.

A priest named Henry Lord had come to Surat in 1620 A.D. In one of his books he had written that all together there were seven ships that had sailed from Div of which two had landed at Port Sumari near Surat and settled in some of the towns like Variav and Vankanair. The other five went further south and landed in the Gujrat port of Sanjan.

Our forefathers encountered a deadly storm after leaving Div, and they had pledged that if they got out alive, they would establish an Atash Behram in the first stop they make. To honor that pledge, they immediately started the work of settling in the small town of Sanjan. According to the book "Kiss-e-Sanjan" which is written to enumerate the events they started the process of establishing the Atash Behram. With the help of the Aalat that they had brought with them when they left Khorrasan, they were able to establish the Atash Behram within five years of their residence on the land given to them by Jadiv Rana for this purpose. The Atash Behram was established with all the splendor and pageantry in the year 721 A.D. and was given the name Paak Iranshah. This Atash accompanied them wherever they went.

# 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress

## Chance to Advertise in Program Brochure

The 18<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress (NAZC) Program Brochure will be a compilation of all the details and everything happening at the Congress. Each of the 700+ attendees, as well as our Donors, Sponsors and well-wishers in North America and internationally will receive this as a keepsake.

Here is a great opportunity to advertise in our Program brochure. You can advertise your business/initiative/program/organization.

The advertisement rates are as follows:

Inside Back Cover: US\$ 5,000

Center Spread (two full pages): US\$ 3,500

(only 1) Full Page: US\$ 1,500

Half Page: US\$ 800

Details of the advertising artwork, size etc. can be found on our website and you can submit your artwork and pay for the advertisement [HERE](#). If you need help designing your artwork, let us know and we will do it for you.

**Last date for all ads is Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

For any questions / clarifications please get in touch with us at [contact@nazc2024houston.com](mailto:contact@nazc2024houston.com).

Thank you once again for your generosity as your valuable contribution will go a long way in making our Congress a huge success.



# 18<sup>th</sup> NAZC2024 RAFFLE 1

## Winners



The raffle drawings were conducted at the August Navroz function at the ZHCC on August 17, 2024. We are so happy and excited to announce the winners of our Raffle No. 1, they are:

First Prize – 2 Free Congress Registrations

– Zia and Rustom Anklesaria (Ticket number NAZC2024 – 1085)

Second Prize – 1 Hotel room for 4 nights

– Thrity and Kersi Engineer (Ticket number NAZC2024 – 1161)

Third Prize – 2 New Year's Eve Gala Tickets

– Jeroo and Darius Captain (Ticket number NAZC2024 – 1517)



# FASLI MEHRGAN AND SHEHANSHAHI MAEDIOZAREM GAHAMBAR

## FASLI MEHRGAN AND MAEDIOZAREM GAHAMBAR

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

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



Registration is needed and walkins will be restricted to a certain number.

**RSVP Deadline Sunday September 22, 2024**

Members: Ages 12 & Up: \$15; Ages 5-11: \$12  
Non-Members: Ages 12 & Up: \$20; Ages 5-11: \$15  
Under 5 years - Gratis

For questions please contact:  
Khursheed Hormuzdi  
(832) 790 9870  
khushiy79@gmail.com

**Starting Monday September 23, 2024: Rates \$20 & \$15: Walkins \$30**

**Gosh Dhansak and Kachumber by Kairasp Lashkari**  
**Turkey kheema kababs by Naushad Mehta**  
**Raja's gulab jamun, homemade kulfi & ice cream sundae bars for dessert**

Gahambar is sponsored by seven gracious donors:

Rustom & Zia Anklesaria  
Kaiwan & Serena Bharucha  
Danesh & Nali Desai  
Kersi & Thirty Engineer

Kershaw & Nazneen Khumbatta  
Ronnie & Elvia Patel  
Jal & Sherry Sethna

**ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS OUR ERVADS FOR PERFORMING THE GAHAMBAR JASHAN**

\*\* Membership rate applies if 2024 membership have been paid. Kids over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents  
- Member rates apply to out-of-town house-guests of members  
- Our goal remains to keep these functions as affordable as possible so you as a ZAH member can attend and enjoy. However if you feel that you are unable to attend solely due to the cost please let us know. We have donations in place to subsidize your cost and we will guarantee confidentiality. Financial ups and downs are a part of most families life cycles. In a way, they are a blessing because they allow innovation, dedication and hard work to take root in oneself. Please use this facility and in better economic times, there will be plenty of opportunities to remember and help your own community members and your own association a thousand times over.  
Please note this is only available to current ZAH Members in good standing.

Organized by: ZAH Entertainment Committee

ORGANIZED BY THE ZAH YOUTH GROUP

# ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE 2024



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
**(SAME DAY AS THE GAHAMBAR!)**  
**11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!

[https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/393062](https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/393062)

8787 W Airport Blvd, Houston, TX 77071

For questions, contact Natasha Dungor  
([natashadungor@gmail.com](mailto:natashadungor@gmail.com))



# BLOOD DRIVE

**Zoroastrian  
Association of  
Houston**

**Sunday, September 29  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Donor Coach**

**Successful donors will receive a  
free limited-edition pair of socks!**

**Scan Code Below to Sign Up:**



*Anthony, blood recipient*

*Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.*



**EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.**

*Save lives on  
the go with*



Complete your Health History Interview before you  
come in for your donation.

Go to <https://cflexpress.giveblood.org/> and complete  
the same day as your appointment.

## **18th NAZC 2024 - Ashdeen Saal Mubarak Presale**

**Award-winning textile designer Ashdeen Lilaowala will join us at our NAZC 2024 Congress in Houston. He is known for his brilliant work in reviving and pushing the boundaries of Parsi Gara embroidery. His designs have been worn by celebrities and industrialists.**

Here's your chance to own a beautiful, hand-embroidered piece by Ashdeen by preordering from his special edition of purses, stoles and framed Asho Farohars.

**Click [HERE](#) to preorder for the Houston NAZC2024 Ashdeen hand embroidered collection.**

A **'Saal Mubarak' discount of 15 %** is applicable on **pre-orders placed between 15th August to 15th September 2024**. After that, you may still preorder **till 15th October 2024 at the regular price**.

All preordered items will be available for collection and handed to you in Houston at the North American Zoroastrian Congress, Dec 29 – 31, 2024.

If you are not planning to be at the Houston Congress, kindly mention in the **"Add a note to your order"** field at checkout, the full name, email address and cell number of the person who will pick up your item in your place. Unfortunately, **we will not be handling shipping to any location**.

Kindly email Minaz Dungor ([mdungor@gmail.com](mailto:mdungor@gmail.com)) and Dilnaz Mory ([dilnazmory@gmail.com](mailto:dilnazmory@gmail.com)) for any inquiries or questions.

