

MANASHNI SPONSORED BY
SETHNA FINANCIAL GROUP LLC, ZARIR J. SETHNA, CLU®, ChFC®, LUTCF®
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**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 29, 2024 – Jan 1, 2025
NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS
 CHECK OUT THE PROGRAM ETC AT <https://nazc2024houston.com/>

February 1, 2025 – Jashn Sadeh

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT
 By: Jango Mistry

A Historic Display

The ZAH Library and FIRES are proud contributors to the latest exhibitions of The Houston Museum of Fine Arts. According to the Museum's announcement:

*The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, is presenting a monumental exhibition, **Living with the Gods**, a thematic survey of major world faiths. The exhibition will display a spectacular collection of items loaned from across the globe, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the collection of His Highness The Maharaja of Jaipur, and the Zarathusti Heritage and Cultural Center. ZAH has lent (1) their silver Afarganyu, (2) the "Toran" and two bulls (from the old prayer room), as well as (3) a Mace and Axe from the FIRES collection donated by Doug Lange.*



ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairman
Percy Master – Secretary
Lyla Daroga – Treasurer
Zia Anklesaria – Member
Nikita Gagraat – 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

=====

FARVARDIAN JASHAN SPONSORS – FEROME & SHERNAZ BHANDARA



To further celebrate this historic event, there is going to be a gallery of the MFAH's Department of Asian Art dedicated to the first-ever exhibition of Zoroastrian and Parsi works of art. Labeled "At Home in Houston: a Zoroastrian Story of Faith, Culture, and Belonging in the Heart of Texas", it will showcase extensive loans from the ZAH and Houston Parsi communities. Items donated by us include:

- the 14 portraits we had hanging on The Wall of Ancestors
- two silver caskets (from our Dastur Dhalla collection)
- a red feta and a silver dish (from the K. D. Irani collection)
- a handwritten Vendidad (donated by Bomanshaw Sanjana)
- two miniature Avesta prayer books (donated by Nargesh Sethna and Kati Tamboli), and
- A silver ses (personal loan)

The special presentation also includes textiles from the entire world-renowned Banoo and Jeevak Parpia collection of nearly 500 textiles, acquired by MFAH.

The ZAH Library has painstakingly built up a notable collection of books and artifacts over the last 20 years or so. This display will be a testament to the appreciation and awareness of our religion and culture by reputed organizations like the Museum of Fine Arts.

Atash Kadeh News – for September 2024 Manashni

By: Persis Behramsha

Three special events took place in the month of September.

The first important event of the Farvardian Jashan took place on September 2, 2024, sponsored by **Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara and family**. This is a special and important day to revere and worship Ahura Mazda by performing a Jashan to adore and remember all Good Souls. Farvardin is synonymous with Fravashi, Farohar or Arda-Fravash. Fravashi is the Divine Spark of God within us. Fra means forward motion and Vashi means to evolve. So, it is something that makes things Grow and move Forward. It is the Divine Essence of God that dwells within each and every object of Creation of God.

Our usual monthly Behram Roj Jashan was sponsored by **Ruby & Ron Aga, Ruby & Bejun Anklesaria, Shireen & Adil Bharucha, Huty & Farokh Billimoria, Jessica & Jamshed Dubash, Aban & Savi Patel, Roshan N. Sethna and Shahnaz & Yazdi Sidhwa**. We thank each family for participating and attending the Jashan and celebrating Behram the Angel of Victory.

The third event that took place for the very first time since inauguration was the Ardibehst Mahino, Ardibehst Roj Jashan generously sponsored by Anahita Kanga, who single handedly took a lot of trouble to organize that evening. Ardibehesht is an Amshaspand (Archangel) or Amesha Spenta (Bounteous Immortal) who presides over the energy of fire. In the Avesta, Ardibehesht is referred to as Asha Vahishta. Asha is variously translated as Truth, Righteousness and Divine Order.

Fasli Mehrgan and Maedyozarem Gambhar was held on Sunday September 29, 2024, sponsored generously by a group of families. Jashan prayers were held at the Atash Kadeh at 11 a.m. after which food was served at the ZAH Center.

BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN – ATTENDEES



YOUTH GROUP OFFICERS

President

Natasha Dungor



Vice President

Shireen Anklesaria



Secretary

Darius B Dastur



Treasurer

Darian Bharucha



Historian
Cyrus Desai



Thank you to all the families that are signing up for the Behram Roj and Parab Jashans for the year 2025. It is so very heartening to see the enthusiasm from so many generous and involved sponsors.

As Houston prepares for the Congress in December, we reach out to everyone to help showcase our community with a lot of gusto. Help will be needed in many areas and if you would like to be involved, please connect with us so we can avail of your assistance in the right areas. A Grand Jashan will be held at the Atash Kadeh on January 1, 2025, which will be the highlight of that day. The NAZC committee has been working tirelessly to make all our events successful and we want to send our good wishes to them for a fantastic Congress.

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

By: Natasha N Dungor (ZAH Youth Group President)

Officer Elections for the 2024-2025 School Year:

Our ZAH Youth Group had elections in July. The officers representing the Youth Group for the 2024 - 2025 term are:

- President: Natasha N Dungor
- Vice-President: Shireen Anklesaria
- Secretary: Darius B Dastur
- Treasurer: Darian Bharucha
- Historian: Cyrus Desai
- Mentors: Natalya Haveliwala Katrak, Nerius Mehta, Rayhan Nariman

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers! We thank our previous youth board for their time and service towards the Youth Group and the community and wish our outgoing seniors all the very best as they begin their college journey. We would also like to welcome all the new students who have moved up from the Middle Group.

We look forward to an amazing year ahead!

Youth Group Blood Drive:

On Sunday, September 29, 2024, the day of the Gahambar, the ZAH Youth Group hosted its annual blood drive at the Zoroastrian Heritage and Cultural Center.

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. We had 12 successful donations, totaling 14 pints of blood donated, which can help save up to 42 patients in need. Thank you to all who donated, helped spread the word, and supported our ZAH Youth Group!

Fasli Mehrgan & Maedyozarem Gahambar

Sunday, September 29, 2024

By Khursheed Y Hormuzdi & Dilnaz Z Mory

We celebrated the Fasli Mehrgan & Shenshahi Maedyozarem Gahambar in September 2024 with approximately 185 people that

**GAHAMBAR
SPONSORS GROUP**



SPONSOR FAMILIES KIDS SERVING



**GOLDEN GROUP
SOME MORE RECENT PICTURES
AS THERE WERE NO PICTURES
TAKEN IN THE EARLIER YEARS**

**GOLDEN GROUP AT BISMILLAH
RESTAURANT**



gathered together for a beautiful Jashan at our Atash Kadeh followed by a delicious lunch at our ZAH center.

The gahambar was sponsored by seven families, Rustom & Zia Anklesaria, Kaiwan & Serena Bharucha, Danesh & Nali Desai, Kersi & Thrity Engineer, Kershaw & Nazneen Khumbatta, Ronnie & Elvia Patel, and Jal & Sherry Sethna. We are very thankful to them for sponsoring the event. We would also like to thank Bakhtaver Kermani for donating towards the gahambar in memory of her dear father Kaikobad Billimoria, as well as all our other members that made donations towards it.

We had delicious goat dhansak & kachumbar made by Kairasp Lashkari (Himalaya Restaurant) and great tasting turkey kheema kababs by Naushad Mehta (Cillies Cakes). This was followed by a spread of a variety of desserts - gulab jamuns, lip smacking mango kulfi, home made by our sponsor families and the super hit ice cream sundaes, once again coordinated and served by our sponsor family children.

We made a net profit of approximately \$3,600 for our ZAH center.

The Jashan was performed by our mobeds at the Atash Kadeh and the chasni, fruits and mouth watering malido were served in the Atrium at ZAH.

Thank you to all Entertainment Committee members that helped organize this and many such events through the year!

**GOLDEN GROUP
Down Memory Lane**

Sometime in the year 2000, Late Katie Patel, being a senior herself, talked about her vision to have a Seniors' group at ZAH. She lamented that she couldn't drive but requested the more active seniors to organize a group and plan outings. Late Zarine Balsara took up the challenge and requested to announce it in Manashni. This announcement went out in April 2001 Manashni:

GOLDEN GROUP:

Your children have grown up and
you have raised them well

Entrepreneur or Professional, Married or Single
They are on their own and successful,
as everyone can tell

With no care in the world and you still have zest to enjoy
Come to the meeting at 2:30 on Sunday, May 13
to tell us how your ideas we can employ
Picnic, outing, travel, or cruise

Or just meet and exchange some news.

Want to talk about the time

When you wanted to impress your boss

Your son came out and said

Dad is he the one you said is a total loss?

So, come and join the fun

For now it is your turn

To embarrass your son

**GOLDEN GROUP AT BISMILLAH RESTAURANT
January 2020**



Lunch at DiMassi's – September 2022



VEHISHTA KAIKOBAD



And the **GOLDEN GROUP** was born. In the first meeting that was held on May 13, 2001, Zarine Balsara reported for Manashni:

“GOLDEN GROUP: (By Zarine Balsara) We will meet at 1:30p.m. every 2nd Sunday, after Sunday school. We met for the first time in May. About **twenty** seniors came, even though it was Mother's Day. Annual fee of **\$6.00** per person was collected. The following Friday, a group of about sixteen met at the center and went together to the Miller outdoor theater to see Motown (music and dancing of the fifties to eighties). It was very good and everyone enjoyed themselves. At the next meeting on June 10th, Mr. Bob Marlowe of Insurance Solutions and Services will inform the group about Long Term Care. Come and join the group! Please call Zarine Balsara at (713) 462-4467 by June 6th if you plan to attend so Mr. Marlowe can bring enough information packages.”

Seniors' activities included pot luck lunch and watching a movie – documentary or a feature film; they visited Museums, Forbidden Gardens, Miller Outdoor Theater and participated in various other field trips. Zarine thought up interesting topics and invited speakers to give talks of interest to the seniors till her health no longer permitted and eventually she passed on May 12, 2019.

Golden Group's membership has increased over time and now stands at over 100. Of course as everything else has increased the Group's annual membership is now \$20. Diana Balsara, Lyla Daroga, Jamshed Dudha, Anita Kavina and Jehanbux & Sillie Mehta have taken over planning and organizing the Golden Group's activities with Jehanbux Mehta writing excellent, humorous and engaging reports for Manashni. The activities are varied and often have themed events. All the members participate and have fun.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

VEHISHTA KAIKOBAD

We are delighted to announce that Vehishta Kaikobad has been awarded the prestigious Intercultural Bridge Builders Award. This award celebrates her extraordinary contributions to education and intercultural understanding.

The award ceremony took place on Wednesday, October 9, at Asia Society, Texas.

Vehishta's dedication to advancing global education and her relentless efforts to foster intercultural connections has truly set her apart. Her work has not only broadened the horizons of her students but has also significantly impacted her community. By cultivating a deep appreciation for diversity and encouraging dialogue between different cultures, Vehishta has empowered countless individuals to embrace global awareness.

ASIA SOCIETY EXHIBIT



Vehishta Kaikobad has been an educator for 25 years, working in the field of early childhood education based on the Montessori Method.

SABRINA WARDEN President's Volunteer Service Award



SHARA GODIWALLA AWARD FROM ZAMC



The selection committee for the **Y. Ping Sun Educator Award** was profoundly impressed by Vehishta's application, recognizing her commitment to creating educational experiences that bridge cultural divides. Her approach to education promotes inclusivity and highlights the importance of understanding and respecting diverse perspectives in our interconnected world.

This award is a testament to Vehishta Kaikobad's passion for fostering a globally-minded community and her dedication to preparing future generations for success in a multicultural world. Her contributions inspire educators everywhere, and we proudly celebrate her remarkable achievements.

ZAH is proud of Vehishta. Heartiest congratulations to her.

SABRINA WARDEN

Sabrina has been honored with the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award by the White House for her outstanding volunteer service and leadership at Stephen F. Austin High School. Her dedication to community service has had a meaningful impact, demonstrated through her active involvement in multiple school clubs, and taking on key leadership roles.

As President of a school volunteering club, Sabrina has led the group in partnering with Texas Children's Hospital, donating 175 + items to children there. Her ability to organize events, mentor peers, and drive positive change reflects her deep sense of responsibility and passion for making a difference in the community around her.

This recognition underscores the vital role of leadership in shaping a brighter future for our nation.

Congratulations Sabrina, you make us proud.

SHARA GODIWALLA

Shara Godiwala was given a Community Service Award by the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago. The plaque read:

"In Sincere Appreciation for your outstanding service, commitment and dedication to ZAMC religion classes and for your outstanding leadership and guidance to ZAMC youth in their fund raising efforts. Your contributions have made a difference in the lives of so many."

Shara writes "In Houston, my youth group hosted car washes and eventually pool parties, but this Chicago group of 6 young ladies went big and as a first-ever fundraiser hosted a Valentine's gala. 98 community members came (that's big for Chicago - equivalent to a Navroze function) with games/entertainment, a chef catered Italian meal, and raffle. They made \$2,000. A first ever youth fundraiser."

RATAN TATA



FUNERAL PROCESSION 21 Gun Salute - Mumbai Police



Parsi Priests



Ratan Tata's Dog After the Funeral



PARSI INDUSTRIAL TITAN RATAN TATA PASSES

Reflections By Zarine M Boyce

**I slept and dreamt that life was all joy
I awoke and saw that life was but service
I served and understood that service was all joy
Sir Rabindranath Tagore**

The words below are who Sir Ratan Tata was in my late husband's and my life. The words in the quote above embodies what Ratan was in all aspects of his life globally.

My late husband, Dr. Meherwan Boyce met Ratan when they were in Campion School together in Bombay. They became friends. They kept in touch through the years and in the late 80's for a few years Ratan had an investment in our company Boyce Engineering International. We remained in touch. Some anecdotes of Ratan in our life follow.

When Ratan was the guest of honor at a University of Houston, Hilton School of Hotels gala, Dr. Renu Khator knew of our friendship, so we were her guests at her table with Ratan. Throughout the evening everyone walked up to him to greet him. He patiently greeted everyone. He had no time to eat but he said it is more important to greet the guests than to eat!

Ratan was revered and respected throughout India and the world. He had a great mind and a great strength of character and courage to act on his convictions and beliefs. Against the advice of many he bought Range Rover and Jaguar and made them a success globally. For Indians he built successfully the Nano an affordable small car.

He was a simple and an unassuming human being. Had no airs about him. Meherwan and I were in Bombay once and were going to see him that afternoon. We saw him driving on Marine Drive and we both pulled over. He was taking his dry cleaning to the dry cleaners himself!

He built very successful multinational companies and recognized the worth of human beings and the people he worked with. When he was Chairman of Air India International, he took the airline to great heights. He would walk everywhere within the company including the mechanics and even sit down and share their meals!

Ratan embodied the generous, giving, and nurturing spirit of his parents and ancestors. The quote from Sir Rabindranath Tagore I believe embodies the great man that he was.

He wove fabric with threads that made the fabric of everyone's life so great.

Prayer (Houston)—James Webb at Blaffer Art Museum

By Zubin R Mory

Prayer (Houston) contains recordings of various prayers, spiritual/religious songs, hymns etc. collected from various communities and individuals in Houston TX. These prayers are broadcast simultaneously from twelve floor-based audio speakers at the Blaffer Art Museum. The speakers transmit various recordings in a loop, creating a very soothing, spiritual and ever-changing sound environment.

JIDINA, HER DAD ZUBIN MORY AND JAMES WEBB



OTHER ZAH PARTICIPANTS

Vehishta Persis Khushrav



NEVILLE & REKHA



SOFIA MAYA COOPER



The most awesome part is that, for any person, there would a completely unknown hymn that could be playing at one time and then just like that it could shift to a known and familiar prayer. Further, it is a truly surreal experience to see various people from different religious backgrounds sitting together on a carpet and listening to prayers in different tongues, all in a beautiful symphony of sound.

The “Prayer” project was started by James Webb in South Africa in 2000 and since then it has been going through various iterations globally. Prayer (Houston) is the 12th version. And James mentioned, that he was pleased that he “finally got the Zoroastrian “kusti” prayers in his exhibits!”. James started this project after South Africa ended its legislation of Apartheid. By making it so diverse, the artist is hoping to engender a spirit of co-existence.

ZAH was one of the organizations that participated in this project. ZAH members recorded some prayers: such as Ashem Vohu, the Ardibehesht Yasht Nirang, the Kusti prayer, Din No Kalmo, Dua Tandorosti, some Gatha fakras and some translations for the exhibits.

Prayer (Houston) is organized for the exhibition Makeshift Memorials, Small Revolutions. The artwork was co-produced by Blaffer Art Museum (Univ of Houston), Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts and KADIST. And the exhibition is open to the public and is at the Blaffer Art Museum (4173 Elgin St, Houston TX 77004).

WEDDING

Neville Medhora, son of Yasmin & Late Noshir Medhora was married to Rekha, daughter of Sabitri & Duryodhan Epili on September 21, 2024 in Austin, Texas. This was followed by a Wedding Reception at Safari Texas Ranch, Richmond, Texas on October 12, 2024.

BIRTH

Baby girl, 8 lb 4 oz, Sofia Maya Cooper, born in Austin on October 9, 2024. Proud parents Amanda & Burjis Cooper, Grandparents Homi & Nargis Cooper and older brother Sebastian are thrilled to welcome Sofia Maya.

OBITUARY

Nina J Sethna, wife of Late Jimmy Sethna, passed away on Friday, September 13, 2024. She is survived by her sons Zarir & wife Roshan and Jal & wife Shermeen, and daughter Shireen and husband Adil Bharucha, Grand Children, Zal & wife Tatiana and Zane & wife Ashley, Jimmy & wife Whitney, Sean and Shane and Sheroy, and 11 great grandchildren.

MADAM BHIKHAIJI CAMA STAMP



MADAM CAMA HOLDING THE FLAG



THE FLAG



Madam Bhikhaiji Rustam Cama 1861-1936

Contributed by Aban Rustomji

On Republic day 1962, the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department issued a special postage stamp to honor Madam Bhikhaiji Cama. Born on September 24, 1861, to an affluent Zoroastrian family, Sorabji and Jaijibhai Patel, her education was at the Alexandra Native Girls' English School in Bombay.

Bhikhaiji's marriage with Rustom Cama, the son of the renowned Oriental scholar, K. R. Cama, in 1885 was an arranged one. From an early age Bhikhaiji took a keen interest in social and political work and was not content with her household role.

In 1902, because of failing health, she left India for Europe, spending a year each in Germany, Scotland and France before settling down in London. She came in contact with many Indian revolutionaries. She started her political work in England under the guidance of Dadabhoj Naoroji and campaigned for his election to the British House of Commons. Her revolutionary speeches in the cause of India brought the wrath of British authorities. She started her own paper, the *Bande Mataram*.

On August 18, 1907, Madame Cama addressed the International Socialist Congress at Stuttgart, Germany. She gave an inspiring speech about the plight of her country. At the end of her speech she unfurled a tri-color flag in green, yellow and red with the words 'Bande Mataram' written on it, that became the Indian national flag.

Later she left for America where she sought help for the political emancipation in India. In a speech in America, she declared, "We are peaceful, we do not want a bloody revolution, but we do want to teach the people their rights and throw off despotism."

The British authorities looked upon her as a dangerous revolutionary and her movements were closely followed. She found it safer to move to Paris in 1909. Despite the vigilance of the British Government, she managed to send her leaflets and parcels to India. During the First World War, she was under surveillance and was interned. She lived in exile for 33 years in England and France. Physically handicapped by a paralytic stroke she was brought back to India by Sir Cowasjee in 1935 where she died a year later.

Bhikhaiji Cama lived her life as a deeply religious person who believed in the teachings of Zarathushtra to fight against injustice. Her personal assets were donated to the orphanage for girls and Rs.54,000 to her family temple in Mazgaon where a yearly ceremony is performed to remember her life as a courageous Zarathushti patriot.

SPICE UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

As a part of the NAZC2024 Booth, Aban Chhor is helping a Zoroastrian individual sell her products, authentic Parsi masalas and pickles made by Zoroastrian Women entrepreneurs from Udwada, Navsari, Surat, and Bombay. Your purchase empowers these women to pursue their dreams and build a brighter future for themselves and their families. These delectables are made from fresh ingredients and authentic recipes passed along through generations.

If you would like to place an order, please contact Aban Chhor either by phone at (832) 794-0820 after 5pm (CST) or text or via email at abanchhornazc@gmail.com. Orders will be taken till November 15, 2024.

Authentic Parsi Food Items (Price per pound):

Dhansak masala - \$25 per pound
Parsi Sambhar masala - \$25 per pound
Parsi Dhana Jeeru - \$25 per pound
Biryani masala - \$25 per pound
***Also available in half pound

Traditional achars made from recipes passed along through generations from Navsari:

Garab nu achar - \$35 per pound (Seasonal, available only in July and August)
Colmi nu achar - \$30 per pound
Lagan nu achar - \$25 per pound
Lemon and date chutney - \$25 per pound

Other Culinary Goodies:

Jeeni Sali - \$25 per pound
Batasa - \$25 per pound
Bhakras - \$25 per pound
Cashew macaroons - \$30 per pound
Long white lagan na saria - \$15 per packet

Cultural Products:

Sagan Ni Ses - \$150

In person pick up of orders will be coordinated with Aban Chhor (phone (832) 794-0820 or email abanchhornazc@gmail.com).

CHECK OUT THE NAZC2024 WEBSITE FOR

Program & Speakers

Raffle – two Turkish Airline Tickets

Reserve your Table

Advertise in the Brochure

<https://nazc2024houston.com/>