

**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:** November 10, 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/>

**Friday, January 24, 2025 – WZCC Event**  
**Saturday, February 1, 2025 – Jashn-e-Sadeh**

**REPORTS**

**LIBRARY REPORT – Book Review**

By: Aban Rustomji



***Echoes of Survival: Unravelling my Iranian Zoroastrian Ancestors' Enduring Legacy*** by Mehrborzin Jamshid Soroushian.  
 ISBN: 9798337897738.  
 (available at amazon.com).

In *Echoes of Survival*, Mehrborzin Jamshid Soroushian explores his Iranian Zoroastrian heritage through a compelling mix of family documentation, business records, and oral histories. Published in 2024, this work offers readers a rich narrative of his ancestor's endurance amid religious and societal pressures, providing insight into the resilience of the Zoroastrian community in Iran.

Soroushian meticulously traces his family's lineage, both maternal and paternal, over four centuries, highlighting their perseverance through periods of challenge and change. The inclusion of personal photographs enhances the depth of his storytelling, adding a visual layer to the vivid descriptions of his family's experiences. These images not only complement the historical accounts but also offer an intimate view of the personal and cultural trials his ancestors faced as a religious minority.

**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
- Katruk, Rayomand
- Katruk, 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

=====

**ZARINE BOYCE  
AT LIBRARY EVENT – 2019**



A compelling aspect of Echoes of Survival is its balance between personal story telling and broader historical context. Soroushian’s reflections on heritage and identity feel deeply sincere, while his thorough research shines in the detailed portrayal of Zoroastrian rituals, traditions, and the ongoing struggle to preserve cultural identity.

By weaving his personal quest to honor his family’s legacy with a wider historical perspective, Soroushian delivers a work that not only preserves Zoroastrian culture but also highlights its significance in today’s world. His exploration of Zoroastrianism’s impact on civilization, coupled with its relevance to contemporary society, makes Echoes of Survival a profound addition to both religious studies and cultural preservation. Through his heartfelt storytelling, Soroushian sheds light on the endurance of a culture that has faced immense adversity, offering readers a rare and valuable glimpse into a faith that continues to influence the world today.

**Remembering Zarine Boyce 1942- 2024**

By Aban Rustomji



Zarine touched many lives with her dedication and unwavering commitment to making a difference. She carried herself with a profound sense of purpose, especially in championing education and youth-oriented activities—qualities that endeared her to everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Before we had a ZAH Center, Zarine opened her doors at Boyce Engineering on Highway 59. She provided a space for the first youth group to meet and even hosted overnight retreats at her home. She filled these moments with warmth and generosity, with indulgent chocolate cakes and exotic treats. Her passion extended into her service as a member of our ZAH Executive Committee. She and her husband Meherwan played a vital role in organizing the 7th North American Zoroastrian Congress, inviting Zubin Mehta to attend. Remarkably, Zubin stayed as a guest in her home—a testament to Zarine’s welcoming and gracious spirit.

More recently, Zarine’s involvement in the Library exhibit held during the Atash Kadeh opening was just another example of her commitment to preserving and promoting our heritage.

Zarine’s influence was not limited to our community; her involvement with organizations like Virtuosi, Jones Hall, and Houston Public Library underscored her dedication to enriching the lives of others through art and culture. Her vision was always forward-looking; she had a rare ability to see what would benefit future generations, and she worked tirelessly to bring those visions to fruition.

But Zarine was more than a community leader—she was a friend. Her hospitality was legendary. Her home, filled with beautiful orchids and antiques, was open to her friends, and everyone was welcomed and valued.

As we say farewell, we hold on to how Zarine enriched our lives. Her legacy lives on through the organizations she championed, the community she helped build, and the hearts she touched. May we honor her memory by carrying forward her spirit of service, generosity, and commitment to perfection.

**BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN  
SPONSORS**

**PERSIS & NAOZER BEHRAMSHA**



**NADDIR & AILEEN PATEL**



**JASHAN**



**GOLDEN GROUP  
BROOKWOOD OUTING  
GROUP PICTURE**



**ATASH KADEH NEWS – FOR OCTOBER 2024 MANASHNI**

By: Persis Behramsha

As we begin to ease into Fall, we are beginning to get some nice weather to enjoy.

We are earnestly making plans to prepare for the Grand Jashan on January 1, 2025 and expecting a grand turnout.

Our monthly Behram Roj sponsors for October 2024 were families of Persis & Naozer Behramsha and Aileen & Naddir Patel. As we enjoyed the spread of Sev, Dahi, Ravo, Kababs, and Dhan Dar Patyo, we realized how much fun we have with all these get-togethers after we offer our utmost thanks to Ahura Mazda and Behram Yazad, for giving us the opportunity to continue with this tradition.

We value our sponsors who host all our community Jashans and Gahambars. We encourage everyone to attend and show our support to all our generous sponsors who willingly take the time and put a lot of effort into organizing these events. Thank you to all our sponsors always.

The Gatha class of October 13, 2024 discussed the Honor for Spenta Mainyu and Disdain for Angra Mainyu. Zarathustra proclaims to those who have come from distant places to listen to him about the nature and importance of faith and devotion to the laws of Ahura Mazda. Zarathustra has conceived that there is order in nature (Asha) with which to realize a blissful life and he asks that people distance themselves from blind faith, but with a Good Mind (Vohu Manah) have faith in Asha.

We continue with requests for Machis, Tandarostis and other prayers. While we are happy to accommodate everyone's requests, please know that all requests for prayers must go through the Atash Kadeh Committee. Our Mobeds do their best to inform us, however, they may not have the most updated information since we take requests on an as needed basis on short notice. This avoids unnecessary clashes with multiple requests and enables us to maintain proper accounting along with a smooth schedule.

**ENJOYING FALL AT BROOKWOOD**

By: Jehanbux Mehta

Fall is the time of the year when green is replaced by vibrant purple, orange and yellow colors. Those living in Canada and Northern United States look forward to the season and celebrate it through field trips before the trees turn bare. Unfortunately, all this, other than the naked trees, pass us by in Houston.

Not to be outdone by nature, the Golden Group nevertheless decided to enjoy the colors by driving up to Brookwood to bask in the community's well maintained garden. The other reason and an important one at that, for selecting this venue was that the community is a residential center for disabled persons, with the entire proceeds from the café, garden and gift shop sales going toward supporting them.

## **GOLDEN GROUP BROOKWOOD OUTING**

### **LUNCH AT BROOKWOOD CAFÉ UMMMM SALAD LOOKS GOOD**



### **ENJOYED YOUR LUNCH?**



### **ENJOYING CARROT CAKE OR TIRA MISU?**



### **TIME TO GO HOME**



Although the destination was nearly 40 miles away from our ZAH Centre, it was worth the visit, 'cause it was not just a drive away from the madding crowd, but to also enjoy a delightful lunch at their Café. Thanks to Helping Hand Anita Kavina, a bus was arranged to drive us there, courtesy the city of Houston.

Of the 48 members and two guests, 32 took up the offer of the complimentary ride with the others coming to the venue on their own steam. The planned sing along in the bus was surrendered to the incessant chatter and the rumbling of the bus itself, but, boy, was it fun! Unfortunately, City mandate prohibited serving the ubiquitous pora pao and chutney sandwiches that Parsis enjoy on a bus trip, but the lunch at the café made up for the loss. The large place was chock-a-block full with diners. Just as well that a separate area was reserved for us. On arrival, we were warmly greeted by the staff, most of whom were disabled persons, who guided us to our tables, one long one with seating on both sides and several round ones, all set with carafes of iced tea and water, their specially baked rolls and butter.

To accommodate the large number that we were, the café suggested three options to choose from their a la carte menu. Sillie and I, working closely with their banquet manager Michele, a charming young lady – I kept her hidden from the rest of the guests – came up with the following:

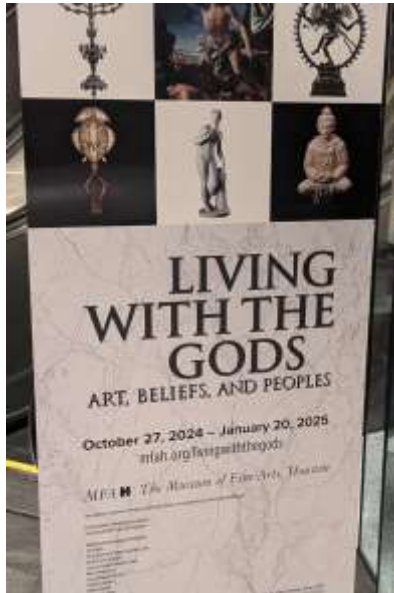
- Option 1 turkey, bacon and avocado on their signature bread, chips and tiramisu
- Option 2 a six ounce burger and cheese atop their special bun, fries and key lime pie
- Option 3 grilled chicken, veggies & mashed potato and carrot cake.

To convey beforehand the number to the Café for each selection, members were requested to choose their selection when sending in RSVPs. I offered to prepare different colored slips with the option number printed on them for handing over to each guest once seated to place before them on the table for the server's convenience. Worked faultlessly, with everyone being served what they had opted for. The café had a different charge for each option, but to keep the cost at a reasonable level, the levy per member was kept at \$30 and that for non-members \$35, the difference subsidized by the Kitty.

The portions were ample and preceded by a large plate of garden salad with dressing and croutons. The food was simple and nothing to shout about, but the desserts were outstanding. The setting was fine linen, glass and sparkling silverware: no sight of paper or plastic. The Ritz, what? The service was impeccable: each server performing his/her well defined duty smilingly. After introducing our new members – the total now having reached 110 – I gave over the floor to quizmaster Anita for distributing her compilation of questions on the fall season. Never could one have imagined that there was such a lot to learn about fall. A bag containing fall related items from Canada: a trinket or two, maple leaf cookies and maple syrup were awarded to each of the several winners. Similar gifts were also handed out as door prizes. Khaw piyo nay gheray bhi laee jao. And, why not!

After a satiating lunch, a walk in the garden was called for with the group lining up for photographs. A round of the gift shop, if you please, before embarking for the way back. A memorable afternoon, indeed, befitting the pleasant fall weather a la Houston.

MFAH



## Divine Fire: Zoroastrianism and Ritual Purity—led by Vehishta Kaikobad, ZAH and MFAH Docent By Zubin R Mory

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is celebrating its centennial and has currently organized a remarkable exhibition which showcases religions and artefacts with a history over thousands of years. The exhibition is called LIVING WITH THE GODS: Arts, Beliefs and Peoples and features exhibits with various religious connotations made by artists from across the globe, over millennia. The exhibition will be ongoing at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston from October 27, 2024 to January 20, 2025 (MFAH, <https://www.mfah.org/exhibitions/living-with-the-gods>). It will feature multiple gallery conversations, global music and dance performances, film screenings/ discussions and artist talks. Over 200 works of art are being displayed and attendance to various events is free (pursuant to purchase of the museum entry pass).

The first of the gallery conversations, held on November 7, 2024, featured Zoroastrianism and was called Divine Fire: Zoroastrianism and Ritual Purity and it was presented by Vehishta Kaikobad. Over 100 people attended this gallery conversation, which was engaging and interactive, and the crowd included both non-Zoroastrians and Zoroastrians.

It started with an introduction to Zoroastrianism provided by Vehishta and was followed by and interspersed with an insightful and interactive discussion. The concept of fire is proudly displayed with our afarganyu. The afarganyu from Sukkur, Pakistan (currently at the ZAH prayer room) was showcased in the gallery in the Kebla format. It was beautifully displayed with the toran and other artefacts that are typically displayed in the Kebla. As previously reported in the monthly Library reports in the Manashni, various items were shared by the ZAH library with MFAH. The partnership between ZAH and MFAH is a milestone for us. It offers us an opportunity to share our rich cultural and spiritual traditions with a larger and more mainstream audience.

Important Zoroastrian history, tenets, concepts, events, practices and rituals among other items were introduced and discussed. Vehishta's talk echoed the curator, Mr. Neil MacGregor's insightful reflections related to the role of human beings and their purpose/responsibilities in life. How can man through his short lifespan based on his beliefs, be instrumental in maintaining the longevity of the community and the world. How do we perceive the concept of Divine? What role does divinity play in connecting the human spirit with God? The exhibition emphasizes the concepts of communion with God's divinity through artworks related to the cosmos, water, the body, the written word and fire among other topics.

Vehishta further connected the importance of fire as seen in other religious traditions with art works present in the galleries reflecting Judaic, Christian, Hindu and Muslim beliefs. Attention was also drawn to the permanent gold collection from MFAH as a source of its position as "flesh of gods" signifying the radiance of God as perceived by Pre-Colombian cultures, African and Indonesian traditions and more.

### PRAYER – ASHEM VOHU



Most importantly, people were made aware that there is a thriving Zoroastrian community in North America and a large and vibrant community in Houston, TX represented by Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH).

The discussion was very skillfully navigated by the presenter/moderator (Vehishta) and the non-Zoroastrian participants seemed genuinely interested in the religion and asked very insightful questions. The program lasted for just over an hour and was closed by a soul-stirring musical rendition of the Ashem Vohu prayer followed by its English translation, and it was performed by Vehishta Kaikobad, Mahtab B. Dastur and Jidina Z. Mory. Overall, it was a successful evening and hopefully people got some exposure to Zoroastrians and Zoroastrianism. It seemed like a successful and important link in creating more awareness and positive exposure for the community and cementing our community in the mosaic that is Houston TX.

### WEDDING



### WEDDING

Priyanka Kasnavia, daughter of Nilufar & Tirandaz Kasnavia, was married to Otney Crawford, Jr., son of Marva & Otney Crawford Sr., on November 2, 2024 in Houston, TX. There were many out of town friends and relatives who came especially for this happy occasion.

### PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2025 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

1st February - Saturday - Jashan Sadeh

21st March - Friday Navroze Humbandagi

22nd March - Saturday- Navroze Function

13th April - Sunday - ZAH carnival.

1st June – Sunday - Gahambar

15th August - Friday- Navroze Humbandagi

16th August - Saturday - Navroze Function

28th September - Sunday- Gahambar

31st December 2025 – Wednesday - NYE Function





**RAFFLE Alert !!!**

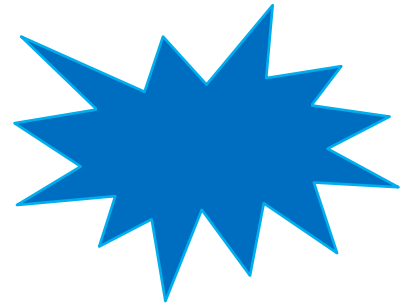


**Incredible opportunity to win two Round-Trip Business**

**Class Tickets**

***ROUNDRIP FROM TK USA GATEWAYS TO ANY TK NETWORK***

Here is an incredible opportunity to be a lucky winner of two Round-Trip Business Class tickets (**retail value over \$10,000**) on Turkish Airlines (a Star Alliance member) to ANY TK destination of your choice.



To buy your tickets please click [RAFFLE | NAZC 2024 \(nazc2024houston.com\)](https://nazc2024houston.com). The drawings will be on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at our 18<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress in Houston, Texas.

**No need to register or be present during the drawings on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.** For any queries regarding the raffle, please contact [contact@nazc2024houston.com](mailto:contact@nazc2024houston.com).