



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: December 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**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, February 15, 2025 – Golden Group Event
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 Zoroastrian Day, at Austin, TX
Thursday, March, 6 2025 – Z at Rice University, Houston
Friday, March 7, 2025 – Joint Event – LIBRARY & WZCC.**

LIBRARY – 6:00 TO 7:00 PM – Meet Prof. Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo – FEZANA Professor of Zoroastrian Languages & Literature, University of Toronto

WZCC – 7:00 TO 9:00 PM – Talk By Dr. Malcolm Irani, Dr. Kaizeen Modi And Dr. Natalya Katrak

**Saturday, March 15, 2025 – Nowruz Celebrations at Asia Society
Friday, March 21, 2025 – Nowruz/Navroz Hambandagi
Saturday, March 22, 2025 – Nowruz/Navroz dinner event
Sunday, April 13, 2025 – Annual Carnival
Friday, July 11 to Sunday July 13, 2025 – ZAH Z-Camp 2025
Friday, August 15, 2025 – Navroz Humbandagi
Saturday, August 16, 2025 – Navroz Function
Sunday, September 28, 2025 – Fasli Mehrگان Gahambar**

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT

By: Arnavaz Sethna

I wonder how many of you read the Library Report in December Manashni. Jangoo Mistry, one of the Library Committee Members assigned to write reports for Manashni wrote:

“The “Founding Fathers” of this country are often remembered for the Constitution they gave us in 1787. This effort by the ZAH Library helps

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

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FIRST ZAH EC MEMBERS



us to remember the “founding members” who had the vision to start and shepherd the Association and the buildings that we enjoy to this day.”

FORMATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

In 1975, a group of Zarathushtis, whom I will call the initial visionaries, started thinking about forming an Association. In those days there were not more than 60 people. It was the early 70's and most of them were trying to establish themselves professionally in Houston. However, whenever they met, they talked about forming an association.

The initial visionaries who worked on the Draft of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were Late Aspi Sethna, Late Sarosh Collector, Late Mehelli Behrana, Kaemerz Dotiwalla, Khurshed Wadia, Maneck Chichgar and Late Hoshang Karai. They argued each time they met, and nothing would be accomplished (sounds familiar?). Eventually, Sarosh asked for Chicago and New York's Articles of Association. Based on these two Articles of Incorporation, Sarosh drafted, and HAND WROTE the ZAH Articles of Association and Bylaws. The first and the last page of the handwritten Bylaws are displayed on the Board in the PR Room.

Once these documents were approved by the initial visionaries mentioned above, they presented them to the General Body to adopt them. After about an hour and half of bickering by the attendees, (Late) Adil Godiwalla made a motion that the document be accepted as is, it was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

ZAH was now formed by filing with the Secretary of State and it was registered as a 501(c)(3) organization. And thus the ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON was formed on August 8, 1977.

We will feature the next episode of ZAH History as presented on the display board in PR Room, in the next Manashni.

Editorial Note: An appeal from the Octogenarians of ZAH – Please **Do Not Forget** to observe ZAH's 50th Anniversary in 2027 with a bang. Form a Sub-Committee to start with the program and ideas for celebrating this big event from now.

WHAT INTERESTS YOU

By Jango Mistry

Since 2004, when the ZAH Library was established, it has strived to fulfill its mission to serve as a repository of Zoroastrian literature, history, and culture. Thanks to Houston being named the home of FIRES (FEZANA Information, Research Education System) our library has an impressive collection of over 1,300 books and rare artifacts and is the de facto Library of all things Zoroastrian in North America. The library also houses some permanent displays from valuable historical collections. From time to time, it has also collected and displayed Zoroastrian items of cultural and historical interest (kusti-weaving, garas, wall of ancestors' photographs, etc.).

To further its mission of disseminating knowledge, the ZAH Library/FIRES has consistently sponsored several distinguished speakers from all over the world. In addition to lectures, we have shown movies and organized field trips to special museum exhibits. We are grateful to those of you who have attended these events and given us valuable feedback.

ALMUT HINTZE
Discussing Multimedia Yasna Project



BEHRAM ROJ – GRAND JASHAN



BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN – JANUARY 31



As we continue down this path, we are looking to build upon these efforts by providing opportunities for a variety of interesting and exciting events that attract a larger participation from our members.

As most of you may know, we have participation from a core group of interested members who show up consistently and enjoy what we present. The library has tried to expand participation to a wider audience that also appeals to more of our other members, especially our youngsters, and Iranian brethren. But we haven't had much success so far.

If you have been attending Library programs, tell us what you have enjoyed in the past, and what we can do differently or better. If until now, you have not had the opportunity or the inclination to participate in our programs, please take a minute to let us know what we can work on to see you at a future event.

The success of our efforts can only be measured by the satisfaction of our members. Please help us do better. Talk or send a message to Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com; 281-468-4988)

ATASH KADEH NEWS – JANUARY 2025

By: Arnavaz Sethna

BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN – JANUARY 1, 2025

We started 2025 with a big bang. As Behram Roj fell on January 1, 2025 what better place to celebrate than our Atash Kadeh. And the lead mobed for the 17 mobed Jashan was none other than our Vada Dasturji from Udwada, Dastur Khurshed Dastoor. For many Ervads from North America, it was an honor to sit at a Jashan with the Vada Dasturji.

The Atash Kadeh building was brimming with attendees as this was the last day of the Congress and many had specifically stayed behind to experience a Jashan in an Atash Kadeh, as not every association has this facility. They were in awe of the building and for which it represents.

After the Jashan, the attendees were treated to a lunch at the Center. ZAH Entertainment Committee worked very hard to figure out the logistics of preparing for luncheon for 600 people and it all went off extremely well.

This Jashan was sponsored by Jamshed & Yasmin Ghadiali of New York, NY, and both active member of Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY). Regrettably, due to health reasons, they could not attend the Congress or the Jashan.

BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN – JANUARY 31, 2025

This time, two Behram Roj Jashans happened in January – one on January 1 and the other on January 31. The January 31st Behram Roj Jashan was sponsored by Sam Bhadha, Tehmi & Firdaus Dastoor, Zarina & Jamshed Elavia, Yasmin & Rustom Engineer, Roshan & Yezdi Engineer, Abby & Homi Erani, Roshan & Bomi Gazdar, Zenobia & Jal Guzder, Arnaz & Jangoo Mistry, Ava & Farokh Rajkot. About 50 people attended.

GATHA STUDY

The Gatha class of January 12, 2025 discussed that the ultimate fate of humankind rests between their choice of righteousness (Ahura Mazda's laws) and impiety. Zarathustra questions his inner self if the destructive forces in the world will ever end. His observation and experience dictate to him that only those who are moved by truth and with a Good Mind can

SNOW IN HOUSTON – A RARE EVENT



**STATE CAPITYOL BUILDING
AUSTIN
March 5, 2025**



**RIXW UNIVERSITY
March 6, 2025**



achieve that objective. It is only with human allegiance to the laws of Nature (Ahura Mazda) will humankind move to a perfect state which should be its goal.

SNOW IN HOUSTON

Snow in Houston is a rare sight. In the past when it snowed, there were some flurries which covered the roads and roof tops that would melt away the next day. This time the snow in some places was 6 inches according to Weather Bureau. During these conditions, Ervad Khushrav Nariman took over, attended to the fire and performed boye as usual for three days to relieve our Mobeds during this inclement weather condition. Thank you Khushrav for your dedication.

ZOROASTRIAN DAY

The day will feature an Open House-style gathering of elected officials to enrich awareness and understanding for our tiny but powerful community, and explore ways we can work together to advance our shared interests. From food and drinks to information tables and mini presentations and interactions, the day will feature an opportunity for interested elected officials to learn more about our storied religion, present day successes and accomplishments of Zoroastrians in Texas, and a look ahead to our shared vision for continued growth and leadership in the Lone Star State.

On **March 5th, at the Texas State Capitol**, the FEZANA Advocacy Committee, along with our very own Aban Rustomji, Kayo Sidhwa, and Mahtab B. Dastur, will be hosting an opportunity for elected leaders in Texas state government to learn more about the many contributions of Zoroastrians residing and thriving in Texas for more than five decades. The day will feature an Open House-style gathering of elected officials to enrich awareness and understanding for our tiny but powerful community, and explore ways we can work together to advance our shared interests. From food and drinks to information tables and mini presentations and interactions, the day will feature an opportunity for interested elected officials to learn more about our storied religion, present day successes and accomplishments of Zoroastrians in Texas, and a look ahead to our shared vision for continued growth and leadership in the Lone Star State.

On **March 6th**, we are thrilled to bring Zoroastrian Day to **Rice University in Houston**, as we welcome interested administration and faculty members, students and faculty of the Rice University, FEZANA and local Zoroastrian Association of Houston leadership, and special guest Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo, the first FEZANA Professor of Zoroastrian Languages & Literatures in the Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. We also will spotlight Zoroastrian leaders and initiatives based in Texas, Zoroastrian culinary dishes, Zoroastrian small businesses and will feature a special movie screening, Persepolis Recreated, as part of the festivities.

If you are interested in attending any of the days, please fill out the form linked [here](#).

NOWRUZ CELEBRATIONS AT ASIA SOCIETY – MARCH 2023

NOWRUZ AT ASIA SOCIETY – 2023 ZAH Table



ZAH REPRESENTATION



NOWRUZ – HAFT SEEN TABLE



GREAT ZORO BAKE-OFF



NOWRUZ CELEBRATIONS AT ASIA SOCIETY

Nowruz Celebrations will once again be celebrated at Asia Society on Saturday, March 15 from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. There will be lots of activities organized by ZAH and a performance by ZAH at **1.30 pm**. All are encouraged to attend. Vehishta has made arrangement for 100 free tickets for ZAH.

And Vehishta writes:

Dear ZAH Community,

Looking forward to your support in making this event very successful as we had in 2023. The Asia Society is specially highlighting the Zoroastrian community so we need to appreciate and respect this opportunity by attending the event in large numbers and show our collective identity as a community.

Please do **save the March 15** date and share some time with us. The event is from 10.30 to 2.30 pm. Free entry and free tickets for 100 people from the Zoroastrian community will be given for the performance which will take place in their theater between 1.30 and 2.30 pm. (Our seniors from the Golden Group will be prioritized).

Other community groups who celebrate Nowruz will also be participating with their activities.

Your participation will be most appreciated.

NOWRUZ

This year, the date and the time for Spring Equinox – the start of Nowruz – is:

Date: March 20, 2025

Time: 4:05 a.m. Central time

Color: Blue

And, it is the year of the Snake.

GREAT ZORO BAKE-OFF

Calling all cooks, home chefs and home bakers of our Community!! We are excited to announce ZAH's first ever dessert competition! As a celebration of culinary creativity, we are looking for contestants to bring their best desserts forward!!

We are reaching out to invite you to showcase your culinary skills and passion for cooking and baking by participating in this exciting event during the Nowruz function.

Date- March 22nd, 20 Time- 6.30 pm onwards Venue- ZAH Center

If you are interested in participating, please email Zubin Mistry (Zubin.T.Mistry@Gmail.com). Spaces are limited so please secure your spots by February 28, 2024.

JASHN-E-SADEH



Kids Enjoying



JASHNE SADEH

By: Banafsheh Mondegarian

Jashne Sadeh was held at the Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center on February 1st at 4:30 pm, starting with Boye prayers in Atash Kadeh. Our two Mobeds, Ervad Pervez Gonda and Ervad Khushrav Nariman followed by 7 kids with candles in their hand, took the fire from Atash Kadeh to the field where bonfire was prepared. After praying Atash Niyaesah, the fire was started and the crowd was circling around the bonfire singing and dancing.

The program started inside around 6:00 pm with people eating appetizers and listening to Natasha Dangor who read the facts and significance of Sadeh.

Mr. Bhandara held a fundraising for Atash Kadeh and it was very successful.

Persian food was ordered from Reza Persian restaurant and was served at 8:00 pm. After dinner and dessert our amazing DJ Gary, made the evening even better with his excellent choice of music, keeping the dance floor busy.

As always our amazing team of entertainment committee came together and hosted a great party and made an Operating Profit: \$1,727.29 and Total Profit \$602.28.

RSVP

How many readers know what the acronym RSVP stands for? Excerpted below is an Editorial from June 1999 MANASHNI.

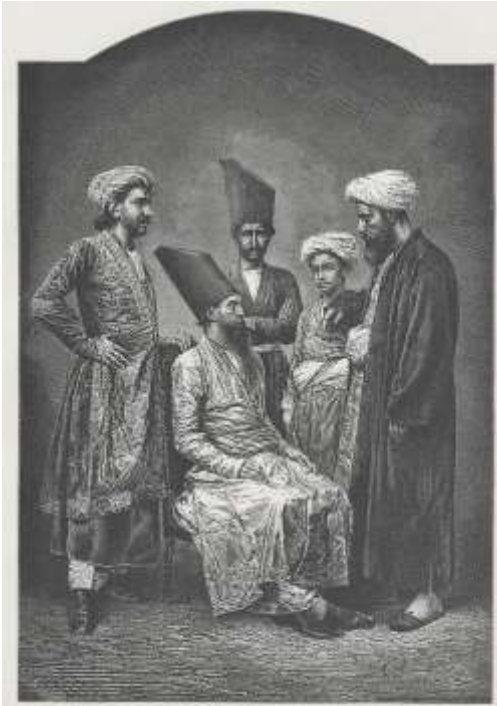
“EDITORIAL: In our otherwise busy lives, we have lost sight of the common courtesy of responding to the calls of RSVP. It is French for *Repondez s’il vous plait* – translation “**Please Reply**”. Very few diligently reply but many wait for a call to be reminded only to say that they have either forgotten about the event or had not read MANASHNI. ZAH would like to make every event a 90% participation from the community, which would be around 400 individuals.”

We are now in 2025, and into our second generation, but the complaint remains the same. The Entertainment Committee members are biting their nails until the last hour whether they will get enough participation from the Members for an event to meet their budgeted numbers.

Please do take the RSVP seriously, note the date in your calendar and respond.



**OLD MUMBAI
PARSIS IN MUMBAI – 1873**



FISHERMEN OF MUMBAI



OLD MUMBAI



PARSIS OF 1800



Extracted from Kiss-e-Gulistanbanoo:

**First arrival of Parsis in Mumbai
Patel Family's Patriarch Vada Dorabji Nanabhai
And his brave son General Rustom**

In the olden days, Mumbai consisted of a cluster of seven small islands and was in the hands of Portuguese till 1662. In this year when the Portuguese Princess Catherina got married to England's King Charles II, Mumbai was given to King Charles as dowry. About two decades prior to that, in 1640, Mora Sumari, a village of Surat, was in the hands of Mogul king. From there, an adventurous Zarathushti Dorabji Nanabhai came with his family to live in Mumbai and in a short time was employed by the Portuguese government as a special business manager. As mentioned above, when Mumbai came in the hands of England, the Portuguese government gave all the assets together with this Parsi gentleman to the English Government. Dorabji with his business experience became a valuable employee of the new government.

Dorabji was given a land in Fort area of Mumbai where he built a house for him and his family and lived there. At that time, there was a large fishing community in Mumbai and Dorabji was in charge of collecting taxes from the fishermen. Dorabji passed away in 1689 at Mumbai.

Of the two sons of Dorabji, Rustomji was employed by the government in his father's place.

In 1690 AD, the Siddi's of Janjira State attacked Mumbai. After negotiating terms with them, the Siddis left the shores of Mumbai, however, after they left, in 1692 AD, due to an epidemic of plague, the army in the garrison was very ill and the soldiers were in near death state. Taking advantage of this weakness in English Army, Janjira's Siddi Yakutkhan brought a large army into Mumbai and captured the fortress on the hill. Rustomji Dorabji used his presence of mind and took charge of the government business and gathered an army of fishermen (known as Kolis). He led the army bravely, and fought the Siddis, drove them out of the island and took back the garrison. He sent this news via the couriers (kasads) to the English Unit near Surat and continued to run the government affairs. When the chief of the Surat unit came to Mumbai, Rustomji handed over the charge to him.

In appreciation of Rustomji's patriotic performance above and beyond his duties, Rustomji was given the title of "Patel of Mumbai" which was hereditary and was made the chief of the Mumbai community of fishermen. He was permitted to collect the taxes from them and arbitrate any disagreements among them (Justice of Peace). (Parsi Prakash Vol 1, Pages 20, 21).

In the last two and half centuries, if anyone showed the courage to gather an army and defeat the enemy, it was this courageous Parsi gentleman. For this reason he was called Rustom General and because he managed the Government, he can be called the first governor of the island of Mumbai. Additionally, Rustom Dorab's authority was spread over Fort Mumbai to Majgaon, Mahim, Worli, Dharavi, Seem, Sivri, Mori, Kelvimehm, Vanderkar fishermen (Koli). He also used to provide supplies to the government ships coming into the ports.

Rustom Dorab was the President of Bombay Parsi Panchayat right from the beginning.

NOWRUZ – MARCH 22, 2025
LINK FOR REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS READY

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER



ZAH NoRouz Celebration

SATURDAY MARCH 22, 2025 at ZAH CENTER

Join Us for a Fun Filled Evening!!

**DJ Music!!
Dance the Night Away!!**

Questions? Contact:
Khurshed B. Dastur: (281) 948-5319
Text messages preferred

BYOB

Please click on RSVP link provided separately

Elaborate Menu Catered From Mehzban Restaurant

RATES: RSVP Deadline 3/16/25

ZAH Member: (12 years and up) - \$40 / \$65**
ZAH Non-Member: (12 years and up) - \$70
Member Children (5 – 11 years): \$28 / \$45**
Non-Member Children (5 – 11 years): \$45
(Under 5 years Gratis)
** Rates After RSVP Deadline

If paying by check, your check must be received by 3/16/25, at:

ZAH
Attn: ZAH NoRouz 2025
8787 West Airport Blvd
Houston, Texas 77071

PLEASE WRITE (IN THE MEMO FIELD):

- No. of ZAH members/non-members (12 years and up)
- No. of ZAH member/non-member children (5 – 11 years)
- Please write "ZAH NoRouz 2025" on the envelope

RSVP DEADLINE: 3/16/25
AFTER RSVP DEADLINE AND AT THE DOOR:
\$85 (12 years and up) \$60 (5 – 11 years)

There will be no boxed meals to go. Only guests present will have meals served. Leftovers (if any) will be sold once all guests have eaten. Thank you.

** Membership rate applies if 2025 membership has been paid. Individuals over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents
- Member rates apply to out-of-town house-guests of members (if online RSVP, online payment, and check (if applicable) is received by 3/16/25)
- 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**