



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: April 13, 2025

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



**MANASHNI SPONSORED BY
SETHNA FINANCIAL GROUP LLC, ZARIR J. SETHNA,
CLU®, ChFC®, LUTCF®
WWW.SETHNAFINANCIALGROUP.COM
OFFICE 713-963-4229**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 Mehrgan Gahambar
- Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11, 2025 – Library Event

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT
By: Aban Rustomji

**Unlocking the Past:
Tavdi Agyari and Professor Toledo's Connection**

In 2021, former FEZANA President Bomi Patel played a key role in securing five invaluable manuscripts from the Tavdi Agyari for preservation. Wrapped tightly in a traditional sari, the manuscripts had to be carefully unknotted—a moment rich with symbolism, as layers of history were quite literally being unveiled for future generations.

Given their fragile condition, the manuscripts were sent to Professor Alberto Cantera in Salamanca, Spain, for assessment. Of the five, only one was a manuscript and stable enough for digitization, and its digital copy is now preserved for scholarly research. The remaining were lithographs, too delicate at the time, were carefully returned to the ZAH Library.

During his visit this past March, Professor Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo, a former student of Professor Cantera, examined the collection and shared a remarkable discovery. The lithographs contained texts in

ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairman
Percy Master – Secretary
Lyla Daroga – Treasurer
Zia Anklesaria – Member
Nozer Dungor – Member
Zubin Mistry – Member
Fiona Setna – Member

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

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

MARCH BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN SPONSOR



multiple languages—Avestan, Gujarati, and facsimiles of the original scripts—offering valuable insights into historical transliterations and potential textual changes over time.



However, Professor Toledo also noted the manuscripts' worsening condition. Recognizing their historical and scholarly significance, he offered to digitize the entire collection on his next visit. This effort would not only preserve these irreplaceable texts from further decay but also make them accessible to scholars worldwide.

The ZAH Library deeply values Professor Toledo's expertise and dedication to safeguarding Zoroastrian literary heritage. Through such collaborations, we remain committed to honoring and sharing the wisdom of our ancestors, ensuring their legacy continues to inspire generations to come.

Atash Kadeh News – for April 2025 Manashni

By: Persis Behramsha

We hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful Spring weather.

Our Two Million Fund campaign which started on January 1, 2025, with a lot of gusto, is still ongoing. We are very grateful to all that have generously contributed and pledged to contribute.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our 5-year commitment donors, along with others who have generously contributed to the Mobeds and the ongoing operations of the Atash Kadeh for the last five years:

\$25,000 and above

- *Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara*
- *Yasmin & Rustom Engineer*
- *Manek & Khushrav Nariman*
- *Sanober & Aderbad Tamboli*

\$15,000 and above

- *Roshan & Zarir Sethna*

\$5,000 and above

- *Persis & Naozer Behramsha*
- *Mahrugh & Rohintan Deputy*
- *Farzin Dinyarian*
- *Yasmin Medhora*

We are also deeply thankful to all regular contributors whose generosity and participation support the Atash Kadeh's activities. Your continued support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

The March 2025 Behram Roj Jashan was sponsored by **Anahita Kanga** and attended by many. As usual food, fun and chatter followed the Jashan which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you so much for your support to continue with these Jashans.

Navroze was celebrated on March 21, 2025, with a Humbandagi at the Atash Kadeh. Warm wishes for good health and happiness were exchanged with everyone present.

AVA MAHINO AVA ROJ PARABH



The following day was Avan Mahino and Avan Roj Parab Jashan which was hosted by a generous group. Thank you to **Sam Bhadha, Nargis & Homi Cooper, Tehmi & Firdosh Dastoor, Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, Roshan & Yezdi Engineer, Yasmin & Rustom Engineer, Hufrish & Jamshed Irani, Dilnar & David Menesse, Arnaz & Jangoo Mistry and Shirin & Bahadur Sarkari** for sponsoring the Parab.



During the March Gatha class on March 9, 2025, Meheryar Rivetna discussed Zarathushtra's teachings from Yasna 50.

Zarathustra probes his mind to seek the means of protection, for himself and humankind, from the depravity and wickedness in the world. Using his Good Mind (Vohu Manah), the answer he gets is that truth and good thinking are the tools for the betterment of the human condition.

Zarathustra asks that humans put their faith in the wisdom in natural law (Ahura Mazda) and abide by that knowledge. Then, with truth and good thinking, Ahura Mazda's will to rejuvenate the world to perfection with humans as co-workers will be fulfilled.

**ARTICLE BY MEHERYAR RIVETNA
GOOD THOUGHTS GOOD WORDS
GOOD DEEDS**

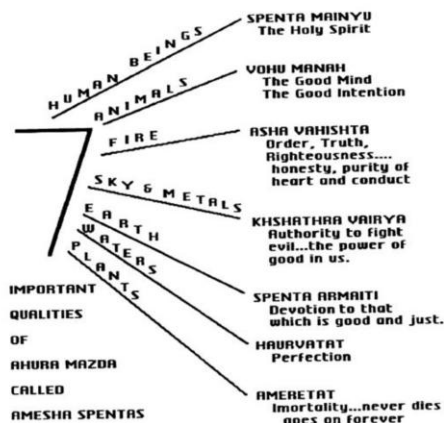
April will bring a new host of events like the Adar Parab along with the Behram Roj Jashan. If anyone is interested in sponsoring or being part of the sponsoring Community Jashans, please let us know and we will be happy to add you to the list of sponsors.

Best wishes to all from The Atash Kadeh Committee



**Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds:
What Does It Mean?
By: Meheryar N. Rivetna**

AMESHA SPENTA CHART

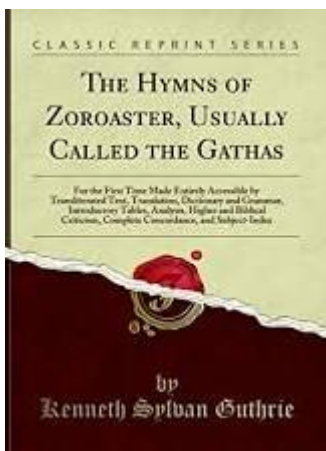


A Zoroastrian if asked to describe the Zoroastrian religion in one sentence would probably say: "The religion emphasizes good thoughts, good words, good deeds". That would be in line with Zarathustra's doctrines. However, the response from the questioner might be, "What's so special about that? Which religion teaches you to have bad thoughts, speak bad words, do bad deeds?" None, of course. Not surprisingly, there are Parsis who pose that question. A clear indication that many Zoroastrians have not grasped the depth of Zarathustra's profound triad. This is not a trivial concept. It is not an idle call for pleasant thoughts, gentle words and kind deeds.

The Supreme Wisdom in nature, Ahura Mazda, has six attributes, the Amesha Spentas, that humans must incorporate within themselves. These attributes are tied to the triad thought, word and deed. The term 'Amesha Spentas' does not occur in the Gathas, but the individual characteristics are stressed throughout the profound verses.

Humankind was created to help Ahura Mazda bring the world to its original perfect state—defined as *frashokereti*—from the decay wreaked by Angra Mainyu. Humans are not born possessing the gifts of the Amesha Spentas. They must acquire them to help Ahura Mazda in His objective (Ha 33.13).

HYMNS OF GATHAS



YOUTH KABAB BOOTH



WZCC HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT

Our Panel of doctors
Kaizeen Mody, Malcolm Irani and
Natalya Katrak



The Gathas tenaciously state that humans must be devoted (*Armaiti*) to truth and righteousness (*Asha*) using their wisdom and rational thought (*Vohu Manah*). Using the gifts of Ahura Mazda to think and act to effect good moral conduct, in self and society, increases righteousness (defeat evil) creating a perfect dominion (*Kshathra Vairya*) (Ha 44.6). Human destiny is shaped by wisdom. Good words and deeds originate from wise thoughts (Ha 48.4). Righteous thoughts lead to righteous words which lead to righteous actions resulting in well-being (*Haurvata*) and eternal bliss (*Amerata*) right here on earth.

Zarathustra's followers are expected to teach all of humankind the path he has laid out. This helps humans advance towards Ahura Mazda's design of an immaculate world with thought, word and deed using Ahura Mazda's gifts of the Amesha Spentas (Ha 53.2).

Thoughts, words and deeds must conform to Zarathustra's religious principles, vanquish evil, uplift humankind and move the world towards perfection. Herein lies the meaning of Zarathustra's trilogy **Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds**.

YOUTH REPORT

By: Natasha Dungor

A hearty congratulations to all our Youth Group seniors who were awarded the Congress2000Legacy Scholarships at the Nowruz Function. This month, the Youth Group is having our annual booth at the Carnival selling samosas and cutlets, so please stop by and visit us.

The Youth Group will be having our annual Youth Group Fundraiser on July 19, 2025. Stay tuned for entertainment releases, opportunities to participate, and more! We hope to see you all there.

WZCC HOUSTON HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT: Celebrating Our Young Medical Professionals

Insights from Experts Dr. Kaizeen Mody, Dr. Malcom Irani and Dr. Natalya Haveliwala Katrak.

The World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) hosted a highly informative and engaging health and wellness event that brought together three esteemed professionals in the medical and wellness fields. The event, designed to educate the community on various aspects of health, featured renowned experts, Dr. Kaizeen Mody, a leading Family Medicine and Obstetrics Physician, Dr. Malcolm Irani, a distinguished gastroenterologist and Dr. Natalya Haveliwala Katrak, an experienced physiotherapist. Together, these experts shared valuable insights on maintaining overall well-being, with a focus on gut health, women's health, and physical wellness.

Dr. Kaizeen Mody: Family Health at Every Stage of Life

Dr. Kaizeen Mody, a prominent Family Medicine and Obstetrics Physician shared her expertise on health and wellness. Dr. Mody, known for her compassionate approach to patient care, highlighted the significance of preventive care at all stages of life, from adolescence through menopause and beyond. Her session was not only educational but also deeply empowering.

WZCC HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT Committee Members with Speakers



Well Attended Event



Dr. Malcolm Irani



One of the key messages Dr. Mody conveyed was the importance of regular screenings, such as Pap smears, mammograms, and bone density tests, to detect early signs of health issues. She also addressed the impact of lifestyle choices, emphasizing the need to prioritize self-care, stress management, and balanced nutrition.

Dr. Malcolm Irani: A Deep Dive into Gut Health

Dr. Malcolm Irani, a highly respected gastroenterologist, took center stage to discuss the importance of gut health and its impact on overall well-being. His presentation focused on the complexities of the digestive system, emphasizing the crucial role that a balanced gut plays in maintaining immunity, mental health, and overall bodily functions. Dr. Irani explained how modern diets, stress, and sedentary lifestyles can disrupt gut flora, leading to issues such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), acid reflux, and other gastrointestinal disorders. His talk resonated with many attendees, who left with a renewed understanding of the connection between gut health and overall wellness.

Dr. Natalya Haveliwala Katrak: The Importance of Physical Wellness

Rounding off the expert discussions was Dr. Natalya Haveliwala Katrak, a highly experienced physiotherapist who focused on the critical role of physical wellness in overall health. Her presentation was a practical and engaging session that emphasized the importance of movement, posture, and physical activity in maintaining a healthy body. Dr. Haveliwala Katrak discussed how poor posture, repetitive strain, and sedentary lifestyles can lead to musculoskeletal issues such as back pain, neck stiffness, and joint problems.

She provided actionable tips on exercises and stretches that can alleviate common physical ailments and improve overall mobility. Dr. Haveliwala Katrak also highlighted the benefits of physiotherapy in rehabilitation after injuries and surgeries..

A Collaborative Effort for Better Health

The WZCC event was a resounding success, bringing together a diverse community eager to learn from the best in the fields of gastroenterology, obstetrics, gynecology, and physiotherapy. The discussions were not only insightful but also empowering, as attendees were given the tools to take charge of their health and make informed decisions about their well-being.

By providing access to such knowledgeable professionals, the WZCC demonstrated its commitment to fostering a culture of health and wellness within the community. The collaboration between Dr. Irani, Dr. Mody, and Dr. Haveliwala Katrak underscored the importance of a holistic approach to health that considers both physical and mental well-being.

This event was a reminder that good health is a balance of many factors—nutrition, exercise, mental wellness, and preventive care

VISIONS OF PARADISE



“Persian Garden”
(the [Avestan](#) word “Pairidaēza”)



VISIONS OF PARADISE—ASIA SOCIETY PERFORMANCE

By Zubin R Mory

The Asia Society Texas had various events on Saturday March 15, 2025, to represent and highlight Nowruz, and they called it “Super Saturday: Nowruz in Bloom”. As part of this program there was a Nowruz Theater Performance by the Zoroastrian Association of Houston.

The Asia Society called it “a day packed with music, creative crafts, and enchanting storytelling for the whole family”. There were musical, creative crafts, and enchanting storytelling for the whole family”. There were musical performances by Dorian, a Houston-based ensemble of Iranian virtuosos. And a day of Nowruz-related events set up by members of ZAH, with the ZAH program being led by and conceptualized by our own Vehishta Kaikobad.

The highlight of these events was an encore presentation of the “Visions of Paradise”, the grandiose statement of the spectacular opening ceremony of NAZC 2024, Houston. The theme of Visions of Paradise was the concept of the “Persian Garden” (the [Avestan](#) word “Pairidaēza”) and its inception during the Achaemenid Empire and then its influence throughout history and across geographies, all the way to the modern era.

The Zarthushti story was presented to a well-attended Zoroastrian and non-Zoroastrian audience at the Asia Society. The auditorium of the Asia Society is modern, spacious and professional. The stage, sound system, lighting and recording are of a very high caliber. It was truly an honor and a pleasure to perform there. The audience was transported to the ancient world under the Achaemenids, probably the oldest chapter in the Zarthushti story, and the Sassanians. And then they were taken on a journey through the ages, to India and Europe and finally to the modern era in the USA and especially Houston (the home of NASA).

There were over 50 people involved in this production, from elementary school age children to senior citizens. This show included new participants that replaced prior participants that couldn’t participate this time and the “experienced” folk that participated in the previous version. As they say, “the show must go on!”.

This grandiose production was truly a treat for the senses. The elaborate costumes with an attention to detail, the mesmerizing dance steps, the timing of various events including the entry and exit of the participants, the brilliant lighting, the enchanting music, the background visual effects and audio, the crispness and tightness of each segment transported the watcher to a bygone era of glory, pomp and circumstance!!!! The shift from one segment to the next was very well graded, supremely choreographed and maintained continuity. The length of each segment was timed just right and hence there was never a boring moment, and each segment always left the audience wanting more.

The pageantry of the various eras was on full display with the underlying theme of the Persian Garden weaving its journey throughout history and across various geographies. The history of the Persian Garden starts with Cyrus asking his subjects to dig the ground with shimmering water gushing out from behind the rock (the wings of lights in the costume gave an effect of shine!) and providing the life force for the beautiful Persian Garden! From them on, the audience had to strap in for a truly spectacular extravaganza of color, sound, dance and a large dose of

Pomp & Circumstance



BRADLEY BAILEY OF MFAH FELICITED AT NOWRUZ EVENT



“PRIDE” through various grandiose segments portraying 2,500+ years of history in 45 minutes journeying through various eras and locales:

Iran (PERSIAN GARDENS): Pasargarde, Persepolis/ Babylon/Ctseiphon, Isfahan; India: Mughal Agra; Europe: Rome, Versailles, Spain, Austria; and North America. Finally, the loop was closed with an astronaut, a Zoroastrian priest and Cyrus all coming together in the grand finale!

All the participants should be applauded for this truly professional production. The stage work, music, lights, props were effectively and efficiently managed by an awesome and dedicated back stage crew. And a big thank you to Vehishta for her dedication and contribution towards this production.

Conducting this performance at the Asia Society truly provides the Houston Zoroastrians an avenue to announce our presence in this area. It brings “good and positive” exposure to our community in the mainstream. So, we should be grateful to all the folks both from ZAH and the Asia Society that have been instrumental in creating and maintaining this relationship. We hope to make the bonds deeper and stronger.

The various events of the Super Saturday: Nowruz in Bloom included:

- 1) Events organized by ZAH
 - a. Tulip Bag Craft
 - b. Model Magic Lotus Votives
 - c. Halfseen Table Display
 - d. Shahnameh Display
- 2) Event organized by Iranian Cultural Foundation
 - a. Calligraphy Activity/Display
- 3) Event organized by Museum of Fine Arts
 - a. Houston Blossom Trees Activity

Museum of Fine Arts Houston—Mr. Bradley Bailey Felicited at ZAH Navroze Function (March 22, 2025)

By Zubin R Mory

Dr. Bradley Bailey was felicitated at the ZAH Navroze function on 3-22-2025, for his on-going work with ZAH, as an organization generally and some members specifically to help shine a positive spotlight on the Houston Zoroastrian Community. He has assisted in providing ZAH and Zoroastrians an avenue to showcase the community to the general audience in Houston. ZAH is fortunate and proud to have an ally like Dr. Bailey in the local art and cultural community. He was accorded “a traditional Parsi thank you” and we showed our appreciation with a “embroidered Parsi/Indian shawl and flowers”.

One of Bradley’s greatest contributions to the Zoroastrians, in general, and the Houston Zoroastrians, in particular, is the dedicated Zoroastrian gallery at MFAH. It is called, “At Home in Houston: A Zoroastrian Story of Faith, Culture, and Belonging in the Heart of Texas”. There are many artifacts from the FIRES Library (courtesy of Aban Rustomji and the team) showcased in that exhibit, including textiles from the Parpia Collection. Bradley is responsible for this initiative.

ZAH ARTIFACTS DISPLAY – MFAH



Our Afarganyu



Our Ancesters



Nowruz Pirooz



Our community members are highly encouraged to visit this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit gallery. It opened in November 2024 and will be on display until December 2025.

Bradley Bailey is the curator of Asian Art at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH). He focuses on the MFAH's collection of Asian art. In his words he feels, "Asian Art is a daring blend of works with great historical importance and thrilling contemporary acquisitions. This combination provides an unparalleled opportunity to showcase traditional art forms alongside works from the present-day, demonstrating their power and relevance to modern audiences". He has enriched the MFAH's Asian collections with hundreds of artworks, including major Japanese paintings and the complete Parpia Collection of Indian textiles. He also led the groundbreaking reorganization and reinstallation of the Korea Gallery at the MFAH.

Dr. Bailey earned his bachelor, master, Ph.M., and Ph.D. in art history, as well as his M.B.A., with emphasis on nonprofit management and museums, from Yale University. His publications include essays in the exhibition catalogue for Flash of Light, Fog of War: Prints of the Japanese Military 1894–1905, along with essays on the work of Hokusai and on prints from the Sino-Japanese War of 1895.

Bradley has a strong ongoing relationship with ZAH. ZAH was recently involved with the MFAH during the exhibition 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, curated by Mr. Neil McGregor under the auspices of the Director of MFAH, Mr. Gary Tinterow, was on from October 27, 2024 to January 20, 2025. There was a gallery conversation, held on November 7, 2024, which featured Zoroastrianism and was called Divine Fire: Zoroastrianism and Ritual Purity and it was presented by Vehishta Kaikobad. .

ZAH hopes to continue our relationship with the art and cultural community in Houston.

NOWRUZ FUNCTION

By: Khursheed B. Dastur

Our Nowruze Function was celebrated on 22nd March, 2025. It was attended by more than 300 guests. The beautiful Haftseen Table was set up by Lyla Daroga with Mitra Edalat and Natasha Atashband providing insights on the "S" items on the table. We would like to thank Lyla for stepping in so graciously in creating the beautiful Haft Seen display at the Center.

As the doors opened for the evening, the guests walked into the marvelously decorated hall to the sounds of soothing music by our Youth DJs Darian Bharucha and Cyrus Desai. The fragrance of the delicious

**Our Emcee's
Nazanin Sarkari & Jasmine Mistry**



Our Young Entertainers



**Our Youth DJ'S
Cyrus Desai & Darian Bharucha**



appetizers (chicken 65, cocktail samosa, nuts and chips) drew the crowds into the Rustomji Room for some noshing and 'gupshup'. Multiple photo opportunities awaited for the guests at the lovely Haftseen table and the gorgeous arch decked with charming pink cherry blossoms, exquisite flowers and flower baskets.

The festivities started with our very own Emcees Jasmine Mistry and Nazanin Sarkari announcing the fabulous program for the evening. The performances for the evening were the pre-K and Elementary Sunday School group singing and dancing a medley of songs— starting with Khan Ashem Vohu, Chicken Dance, It's A Small World, Happy and You Know It and of course the Nowruz Mubarak Gujarati song – all of which took us back to our childhood days. The performance was choreographed by Vehishta Kaikobad and guided by parents. The kids ended the performance with wishing everyone a Happy Nowruze. Our very special thanks and gratitude to our Sunday school teacher Vehishta Kaikobad. It is because of her continued dedication and that of our Sunday School teachers and parents, that the kids are able to perform at ZAH at a very young age and start building their confidence at public speaking skills at a tender age of 4-5 years.

After the performance, the ZAH President Aderbad Tamboli felicitated our guest of honor Dr. Bradley Bailey and presented him with a beautiful authentic shawl (imported from India), as a token of ZAH appreciation for his numerous initiatives collaborating with the ZAH community and showcasing the Zoroastrian Community in Houston via beautiful Zoroastrian exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. ZAH appreciates his commitment to creating awareness about the Zoroastrian Community to the Houston community at-large.

This was followed by the Graduation Awards ceremony - Vispi Sagar (chair of the Legacy Committee) was invited to come on stage to hand out this Year's ZAH legacy Awards. This year ZAH awarded three Congress 2000 Legacy Scholarships and one Cyrus Rohinton Desai Scholarship to three accomplished graduating high school seniors – Natasha N. Dungor, Dinshaw Adel Irani, Sabrina Warden. Mike Engineer was invited to give out the MNE Scholarship award. The youth who were proud recipients of this award were Natasha N. Dungor, Natasha Kanga, Neville Kanga, Zubin Master and Diana Sabawalla. The ZAH community is very grateful for the generosity of Thrity and Rohinton Desai, Mike Engineer and ZAH Legacy, and applauds their commitment to further the education of our ZAH Community Youth. We congratulate the graduating students and their families.

Our community is blessed with selfless volunteers like Firozi and Rustom Sabawalla, who have been taking all the tablecloths home after every ZAH function for many years, to wash and fold them and bring them back ready for the next function. This helps save a lot of money for ZAH. The Entertainment committee and ZAH recognized the Sabawallas for their generosity and the help, that they provide year after year.

Throughout the evening, our emcees Jasmin Mistry and Nazanin Sakari kept the guests engaged with jokes, riddles, door prizes and more! We are immensely grateful to our Emcees for the fabulous job that they did.

Haft Seen Table by Lyla Daroga



Nowruz Table Centerpiece by Banafsheh Mondegarian



MANASHNI



AND THE CARNIVAL MADE

\$

We also heard thought provoking talks by various delegates who graced the function with their presence. Dinner was announced after the program concluded.

Our wonderful volunteers were already lined up and ready to serve our guests - the delicious Yakhni Pulau, dal tadka, Paneer tikka masala, chicken Koyla and more by Mezban Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the scrumptious meal followed by sweet endings of sizzling mithai with cooling icecream and ofcourse fudna-ni-chai!

Oh wait! We have more!! The evening just got started with rockin' music by our Youth Group DJs Darian Bharucha and Cyrus Desai!! With an unending line-up of foot-stomping music, these youth DJs brought the house down – there was hardly any room left on the dance floor through the night!! What a fun and fitting end to a great evening of Nowruze celebrations with family and friends!!

The ZAH Entertainment Committee is incredibly thankful to our youth Darian and Cyrus for stepping up to be the DJs for the evening. Many thanks also to our DJ Gary, who couldn't be there for the evening but took the time to guide and prepare our Youth DJs. We encourage all our Youth to come forward and help out in different ways at our many events throughout the year!

The Entertainment Committee conveys their sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work put in by numerous volunteers - youth as well as adults towards making the function a grand success. And ofcourse, kudos to the entire Entertainment Committee for organizing this function and taking care of all the little things as well as the big things that make an event like this so enjoyable.

WEDDING

Khursheed and Yezdi Hormuzdi are pleased to announce that their son Rayomand married Sara on 6th of March, 2025

MANASHNI SURVEY

As mentioned at the AGM do please let us know (Khursheed Dastur – kbdastur@yahoo.com and Arnavaz Sethna ahsethna@yahoo.com) what you would like to read in Manashni and how would you like to receive it.

STOP PRESS ITEM

The Carnival on April 13 was a great success. ZAH was given \$11,000+ from the proceeds of this event. Detailed report will be given in May Manashni.

WINNERS OF ZAH LEGACY2000 SCHOLARSHIP

By: Vispi Sagar

Each year, the Zoroastrian Association of Houston, recognizes our young students who are graduating from high school, and those that are at all levels in University programs, with Scholarship awards. These students have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra-curricular activities and have made contribution to the Zarathusthi community. All ZAH member families are eligible to apply for this award.

In 2025, ZAH has awarded three Congress 2000 Legacy Scholarships and one Cyrus Rohinton Desai Scholarship award to three accomplished graduating high school seniors. The students were recognized at the Nowruz function held at the ZAH Center on March 22nd. The following are the winning students.

Winners of the Congress2000 Legacy Award: Natasha Dungor, Sabrina Warden and Dinshaw Iran.

Winner of the Cyrus Desai Scholarship Award: Natasha Dungor



Natasha N. Dungor is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Klein Collins High School. She plans on attending the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, pursuing an accounting and business analytics major in conjunction with public health on a pre-medical track. She has been awarded as a National Merit Commended Scholar along with earning the AP Scholar with Distinction award. Throughout high school, Natasha has been actively involved in many extracurricular activities where she has held many leadership positions, including being an elected officer in many National Honor Societies and being ZAH Youth Group President. Natasha has also trained in Bollywood and Indo-Fusion dance and is part of the Senior Company of dancers at Rhythm India Dance Company, having performed at numerous events including NBA and NFL games and community charity events, and plans to continue competitive dancing at the University level. She is also very involved in Zarathushti Community affairs including being the Co-Chair of the Youth & Young Adult Programming Track at the 18th North American Congress and has represented FEZANA at the United Nations 68th Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. After college, she hopes to attend medical school to become a physician and continue serving her surrounding community.



Sabrina Warden will be graduating Summa Cum Laude from Stephen F. Austin High School. Throughout high school, Sabrina has been awarded the Fort Bend ISD Academic Excellence Award all four years, received multiple AP awards including certificates, and was a winner of the President's Volunteer Service Award - Gold Level for her volunteer and leadership in a variety of school clubs and National Honor Societies. Sabrina serves on the board of multiple school clubs/organizations, leading fundraisers for non-profit organizations and hosting school-wide events. She is also one of the Co-founders of Center of Giving, a non-profit, where she gives back to her under resourced communities. In college, she intends to major in a field related to healthcare. Sabrina's lifelong goal is to create a positive difference in people's lives and make them feel valued and cared for.



Dinshaw Adel Irani will be graduating from College Park High School in the Woodlands. During Dinshaw's 4 years at College Park High school, he was part of the Varsity Golf Team, National Honor Society and National History Honor Society. Dinshaw also played on multiple travel showcase baseball teams and participated in many golf tours during the summer months. Dinshaw is a member of the Junior Rodeo Committee which entails volunteering for the Houston Rodeo several hours every year. Besides being a great student, golfer and volunteer, Dinshaw has had a job at the local Golf course and he enjoys spending time outdoors and hanging out with his friends. Dinshaw plans to study Petroleum Engineering at either University of Texas at Austin or Texas A&M University at College Station next fall.

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON (ZAH) - MIKE N. ENGINEER SCHOLARSHIP

The academic scholarship fund, established by Mr. Mike Nadirshaw Engineer, is in memory of his beloved parents, Nadirshaw and Homai Engineer, and his grandparents. The Scholarship aims to encourage and identify achievers in the Zoroastrian community. The MNE Scholarship is awarded to deserving Zoroastrian students to further their post-secondary education. To be eligible, a student must have a good academic record and a desire to succeed. Candidates are judged by a team based in Houston and New York. They are rated on a combination of financial need, academic excellence and community involvement. In 2025 the MNE Scholarship Fund awarded five scholarships to the following students:



Natasha Dungor will join a Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics (Pre-med) at the University of Texas, Austin.



Er. Neville Kanga is a freshman at the University of Texas, Austin. He is majoring in Aerospace Engineering.



Natasha Kanga is a freshman at the University of Texas, Austin. She is majoring in Biochemistry.



Zubin Master has a BBA and plans to do a self-paced MBA course through Baylor University.



Diana Sabawala plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the Galen College of Nursing.