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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 – New Year’s Eve Gala. See flyer on last page. [Click here to Register.](#)

Calendar of Events for 2026:

- 31st January, Saturday - Jashan Sadeh
- 21st March, Saturday - Navroze Humbandagi and Function
- 12th April, Sunday - ZAH Carnival
- 31st May, Sunday - Gahambar
- 15th August, Saturday - Navroze Humbandagi and Function
- 4th October, Sunday - Gahambar

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT

By: Aban Rustomji

A Treasured Addition to our Library

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the thoughtful donation of Zoroastrian books to our library. Your generosity not only strengthens our collection but also supports the growth of new association libraries at ZAKOI and ZAMWI, where many of these duplicate titles will help build much-needed resources for emerging communities.

Among the books, one volume brought us particular delight: Mary Boyce’s *Zoroastrianism: Its Antiquity and Constant Vigour*. Long out of print and much sought after, this classic work has been on our wish list for years. Thanks to your kindness, we are now able to add this rare and invaluable text to our permanent collection. The book has been cataloged, and the donor duly recorded.

Mary Boyce—renowned scholar and Professor Emeritus at the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies—remains one of the most influential voices in Zarathushti studies. In this seminal work, drawn from her Columbia University lectures and edited by Dr. Ehsan Yarshater, Boyce offers a sweeping yet intimate study of the world’s oldest living religion. Her fieldwork and close association with

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: November 9, 2025

Children’s Session: The Sunday School session starts at **10:30 a.m. in-person and by Zoom**

Middle Group: The Sunday School session at **10:00 a.m. – in-person & by Zoom**



Youth Group: The Sunday School session at 11:00 a.m. **In person**



A Treasured Addition to our Library
Zoroastrianism: Its Antiquity and Constant Vigour By Mary Boyce



**Khordad Mahino Khordad Roj Parab
Jashan Sponsors
(Tamboli and Irani Families)**
**L to R: Aderbad and Sanober Tamboli,
Sharmeen, Behraam and Jehangir Irani**



**YOUTH GROUP REPORT
Halloween Party**



Zoroastrian communities in Iran and India enrich her analysis of how rituals, traditions, and community life have preserved the faith's vitality across millennia.

Tracing Zoroastrianism from the time of Zarathushtra around 1200 B.C. to its modern manifestations, Boyce highlights the remarkable *fidelity and endurance* of our tradition—qualities that continue to inspire scholars and community members alike.

The book is now available for reading at the Library.

ATASH KADEH NEWS

By: Atash Kadeh Committee

Daylight Saving Time has already ended, which means Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays are just around the corner! How did this year go by so fast! In reality, it is really great to be busy and enjoy the hustle-bustle in our community throughout the year.

October, as in the previous months hosted two Jashans at the Atash Kadeh.

The monthly Behram Roj Jashan was sponsored by ***Aileen & Naddir Patel and family.***

Behram Yazad is widely known as the bestower of victory and triumph. He helps all devotees triumph over both external enemies and internal vices such as anger, greed, and lust. Invoking him bestows courage, confidence, and strength, especially for those working for a righteous cause.

The Khordad Mahino Khordad Roj Parab Jashan was sponsored by: ***Sharmeen & Jehangir Irani family and Aderbad & Sanober Tamboli family.***

Khordad, translates to "Perfection". It is the sixth Amesha Spenta and the divine power representing the pursuit of perfection in all aspects of life. It embodies the spiritual and temporal aspects of life, signifying, that balance between the soul and body leads to cosmic harmony. Khordad Ameshaspand is symbolized by the lily flower, which represents beauty and perfection.

We thank all the families for their generosity in sponsoring these Jashans and know how much everyone appreciates attending, enjoying and bonding. We are very grateful for your dedication and support year after year.

The Houston Zoroastrian Study Group met on Sunday October 12, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. In this session, Meheryar Rivetna discussed Life After Death: A Journey Into The Unknown. The presentation provided an explanation of the concepts and historical development of the contemporary understanding of this subject. The presentation also covered elements of these beliefs as portrayed in the Gathas. The talk touched upon eschatology as illustrated in the Arda-Viraf Nameh.

We anticipate more Jashans, Machis and Tandarostis in November and December.

We accept donations for Water, Sukhar, Diva, Cleaning supplies, and help with keeping our Atash Kadeh clean. If anyone wishes to help at any time in whatever capacity you can, please connect with any of the Atash Kadeh Committee members.

Trick or Treat!



GOLDEN GROUP REPROT GOIN' THE GOAN WAY



In appreciation,
Your Atash Kadeh Committee - Khushrav Nariman, Feroze Bhandara,
Shernaz Bhandara, Mitra Khumbatta, Persis Behramsha

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

The Youth Group organized a fun Halloween party after October Sunday School. Lunch was pizza and activities were organized for the kids as well. Then came the moment that the kids were waiting - Trick or Treat! It was 'Treats' all the way and the kids had a blast when the Youth were giving out candy to them. The kids went home happy and high on sugar. Thank you Youth Group for organizing such a fabulous Halloween Party!

GOLDEN GROUP REPORT

GOIN' THE GOAN WAY

By Jehanbux Mehta

Growing up in Karachi in the 40's, there was no way I could escape being with Goans. A third of my school, St. Patricks, was populated by Goans. Mehta House, where my dad, his two younger brothers and their families resided in the old main building had three Goan families staying in the new wing. Our cook, the rotund but gentle bloke, was also a Goan. What fun I had mingling with and learning from them.

My constant companions were Anton, Diego and Joquim who, a Goan by all means fancied himself an anglo-indian. Cricket was played in our compound with others from the gali at the back joining in. Smashed window panes were repaired at dad's cost. To no avail were his admonishments. No sentence was uttered without "what, man", "no" even though it meant yes and another word which I dare not print here.

Got to savour their curry and sorpotel and love them. Quite often, I would be escorted by our cook to his "coor" where the many males present in shorts and (once white) banyans would sing along to the music played by their band comprising a saxophone, violin, bass and drums. A banjo or mandolin at times too. Home distilled feni encouraged them to play well into the night. I was not permitted to taste this head turning drink and interestingly, it was here in Houston at a Portuguese café in the heights that I had my first, and last, shot of the potent potion.

So, when someone mentioned that we should have Goan cuisine at one of our Golden Group events, our Helping Hands jumped at the suggestion. After two very enjoyable functions at restaurants – the café by the sea at Moody Gardens and halwa puri at Aga's – it was decided to convene at our ZAH Centre. 64 persons signed up for the unusual afternoon. But for it clashing with another event, there would have been many more. A lady, known for her Goanese cooking, agreed to prepare for us "phish carry" swimming with cuts of pompano - one tray medium spice level and the other the real mccooy - rice, sorpotel and beef croquets. This was supplemented by *saana*, Goanese bread and *baath*, a Goanese dessert, all prepared by our Hand, Anita Kavina. Helping Hands, with Parveen Irani volunteering, served the lunch, ensuring that no one went without a piece of the fish and croquet. In addition to chilled beer to temper the spicy food were two bottles of wine left over from a previous event and three bottles of wine, compliments of Shirin and Bahadur Sarkari. Nobody was shy in paying a visit, or two, at the drinks table. A bottle of wine brought by Adil Irani, a guest, if you please, and the two offered by Mani Surkari have been hidden in our cellar for consumption at our next event.



**CELEBRATING PEARLINE
COLLECTOR**
Our Sunday School Teacher



When everybody had settled in, I requested them to join in a few minutes of silence and a silent prayer on the recent passing of Ervard Maneck Sidhwa who had served the community as a priest. Get well prayers were also offered for members Mike Engineer and Freny Rajot, who, as I write, are recovering well. After that, I welcomed our members and guests, and introduced new members Kamal Dubash and Yasmin & Shapur Pavri whose induction raises total membership to 121. Anita was then requested to familiarize the people with Goanese cuisine.

A twenty question quiz on Goa's culture and food compiled and conducted by Anita was a real brain teaser. Several prizes were awarded with the top one going to Hufrish Irani. Also popular was the photo studio which almost everybody took advantage of. The background of palm trees on a beach with blue waters beyond, made one wish they were in Goa.

Tea with cookies, as always, was very welcome. The jovial chatter continued till nearly 4:00 p.m. making one wonder where more than three hours had gone. Memories of having had an enjoyable and unusual afternoon will remain for long with photos taken at the "studio" reminding them of it. Guests started trickling away with echoes of *barem yetam*. What man, it was great fun, no?

CELEBRATING PEARLINE COLLECTOR

By: Aban Rustomji

We celebrate the life of a truly remarkable woman — **Pearline Collector**. To each of us, she was someone special — a wife, a mother, a colleague, a teacher, a friend — but to all of us, she was the same steady presence of kindness, intelligence, and quiet strength.

Pearline's journey was one of purpose and grace. Professionally, she reached for the stars — quite literally — as an engineer at **NASA**. Her brilliance, discipline, and curiosity were matched only by her humility. She brought the same precision she used in her work to everything she did — whether designing systems that explored the heavens or organizing a Sunday School lesson that helped young minds discover the light within themselves.

As a **Sunday School teacher**, Pearline nurtured generations of children, guiding them gently with faith and patience. She didn't just teach the principles of Zoroastrianism — she lived it. Her warmth, her laughter, and her belief in doing what's right leave lasting imprints on young hearts. At the **library**, as a committee member, she brought her love of learning to life. Books, ideas, and history were her companions, and she delighted in sharing them. She helped make the library not just a place for reading, but a space for community, reflection, and connection.

But beyond her many roles, Pearline's most significant legacy is the love she poured into her **family and friends**. She was a devoted wife, a loving and proud mother, and a loyal friend whose compassion knew no bounds.

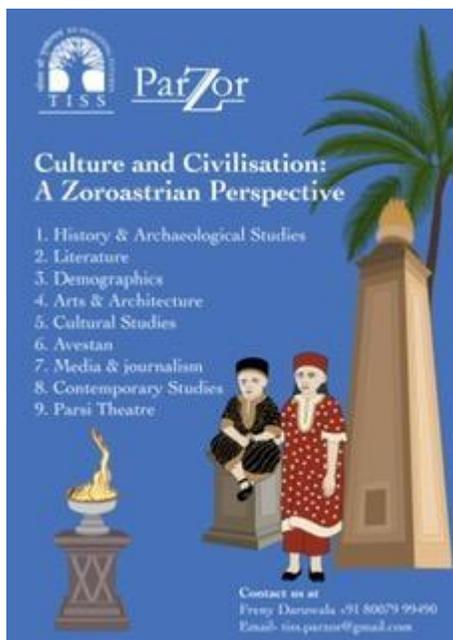
She listened deeply, gave generously, and always found time — even when life was complete — to lend a hand, a smile, or a word of encouragement.

To know Pearline was to know someone who quietly made the world better — one thoughtful act at a time. Her life was a reflection of all she believed in: service, knowledge, faith, and love.

KERSI ENGINEER
Selflessly supporting our Community



**TISS-PARZOR Academic Programme:
Second Launch Announced**



As we say goodbye, we take comfort in knowing that her light — the same light she kindled in so many of us — will continue to shine. Her spirit will live on in every student she taught, every friend she inspired, and every person lucky enough to have shared a part of her journey.

Pearline's story doesn't end here. It continues — in us, through us, and with us — in the ways she taught us to live, love, and care.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THANK YOU KERSI ENGINEER

By Persis Behramsha

A quick Shout-Out to Kersi Engineer

Our community has sadly lost several beloved members and while they are lovingly surrounded by family and friends, Kersi Engineer has provided staunch and unwavering support to all the families during their most vulnerable times. He not only guides them through the difficult process of funeral arrangements but personally accompanies them to make the process as seamless as possible.

A very special thanks, to you Kersi, for being such a strong presence in the utmost time of need for all the families. We want you to know that we notice your service and want to acknowledge your thoughtfulness for your help and guidance, and also to appreciate what you do, without any need for gratitude.

Our community is blessed to have your support during those rough overwhelming days.

TISS–PARZOR Academic Programme: First Iteration a Success & Second Launch Announced

Discover the richness of Zoroastrian culture in a fun, accessible way! The TISS–PARZOR Online Certificate Programme is back by popular demand — full of inspiring sessions, great speakers, and meaningful conversations.

Join us and be part of a vibrant global learning community!

The TISS–PARZOR Online Certificate Program on *Culture & Civilisation: A Zoroastrian Perspective* commences January 2026.

For further details, please contact **Freng Daruwalla**, Administrative Officer, on WhatsApp: **+91 80079 99490**.

ZAH VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTING

By Percy Behramsha

Since the launch of our volunteer hours tracking tool in July 2025, ZAH volunteers have collectively recorded over 350 hours of service in just the first three months! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has taken the time to log their hours, as your dedication keeps our community thriving. However, it appears that many members are actively volunteering but have not yet logged their time. We know where you live 😊. On a serious note, the ZAH Executive Committee urges everyone to record their hours regularly.

For example, if 10 members attend a meeting but only 3 record their time, we capture only about 30% of the actual effort. Let's make sure every contribution is counted!

MEHRGAN CELEBRATIONS



Please note:

- Record in whole hours whenever possible (e.g., 2 hours or 3 hours).
- If needed, use half-hour increments (minimum 0.5 hours).
 - Example: Two and a half hours should be entered as 2.5, not 2.30.

Reporting every contribution matters, whether it's attending Zoom calls, buying supplies, preparing for meetings, participating in EC or subcommittee work, helping with landscaping, or any other ZAH activity.

This effort helps us showcase the strength and commitment of our community, so please continue to log your valuable time.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for making ZAH proud!

MEHERGAN

By Meheryar N. Rivetna

(This piece is an adaptation of the author's article Mehregan: Festival Honoring Mehr Yazad in Chehreh Nama No. 202, 2022).

Festivals are a characteristic part of the Zoroastrian faith enjoining humans the pleasant duty of being happy⁽¹⁾. One such festival is the celebration of Mehregan—the autumnal festival celebrated 196 days from Nowruz (March 21)—on the day of Mehr, the sixteenth day of the month of Mehr in the Iranian Zoroastrian calendar, which coincides with the Autumnal Equinox.

Mehr (Persian) or Mithra (Avestan) was a pre-Zarathustra personified divinity among the Indo-Iranians—inhabitants of the Iranian steppes. Over time, the group split into two with one group moving to western Iran which in due course became the Median Empire. The Medes continued the polytheistic practices they had on the Iranian plateau, with Mithra becoming their premier divinity⁽²⁾. Zarathustra was born in Eastern Iran and disavowed beliefs in all the *yazatas* venerated by the Indo-Iranians as no mention of them is made in the *Gathas*.

The Zoroastrian religion experienced syncretism post-Zarathustra during the Achaemenid dynasty with the conquest of Media. Mithra, once again, became the most conspicuous deity⁽²⁾. While it is suggested that the festival of Mehregan was celebrated in ancient Iran, i.e. pre-Zarathustra, it really gained prominence during the Achaemenid era, most likely under Artaxerxes I, under the power of the Median priests—the Magi.

Mithra is associated with light, truth, justice, keeping one's word, friendship and love. The Avestan hymn to Mithra (*Mehr Yasht*) was composed in the second half of the 5th century B.C.E⁽³⁾.

Mehregan is an autumnal festival associated with harvesting crops before the onset of winter. What does harvesting crops in the autumn have to do with Mithra? In the *Mehr Yasht*, the divinity is called "lord of wide pastures". Mithra is said to replenish waters (*frat āpem*) causing the plants (crops) to grow, i.e., flourish the pastures.

The Mehregan festival is to offer thanks to Mithra for the crops that will sustain the populace in the winter months. Mehregan is as important as Nowruz in the Zoroastrian tradition. While Nowruz is to celebrate renewal of life, Mehregan signifies "resurrection and the end of the world, because at Mehregan that which grows reaches its perfection and has no more material for further growth"⁽⁴⁾. Theologically, by autumn, Mithra, the light of

BIRTH

Sophia Zaran Engineer



Zev Medhora



the sun has done its work of ripening the fruits and harvest⁽¹⁾. Mehregan symbolizes harmony with nature. The ripening of fruits and crops by autumn epitomizes the world being plentiful and ripe. The harvest suggests an abundance of well-being (*Haurvatat*) culminating in eternal bliss (*Ameratat*).

The imagery associated with the Mehregan festival is splendid and inspiring. It is an auspicious day to venerate nature with thanksgiving for its bounties. It is also a day reminding humankind the importance of truth, friendship, justice, love and to avoid impiety for a harmonious life.

References:

1. Boyce, Mary; *Iranian Festivals*; The Cambridge History of Iran, Vol.3 (2). (2008).
2. Dhalla, M.N., *History of Zoroastrianism*. (1963).
3. Gershevitch, Ilya; *The Avestan Hymn to Mithra*. (1959).
4. Al-Biruni; *The Chronology of Ancient Nations*. (1879)

BIRTH

Sophia Zaran Engineer was born on October 7th, 2025 to proud parents, Zaran and Greyc Engineer and sister to Zoey, and grandparents, Kersi and Thrity Engineer.

Heartiest Congratulations to the Engineer Family.

Zev Medhora, a boy, to Rekha and Neville Medhora in Austin, Texas on November 6, 2025. Zev is grandson to Yasmin and late Noshir Medhora.

Heartiest Congratulations to the Medhora Family.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kati Tamboli has moved. Her new address is:
6427 Sienna Ranch Road
Apt 116
Missouri City, TX.77459

OBITUARY

Pearline Collector passed away on Saturday, 8th November 2025 evening, beloved wife of the late Sarosh Collector. She is survived by her children: Rayomond, Dina and Kayaanoosh; their spouses: Sarah and Ian; and grandchildren: Sarosh, AshaLynnea, Natalia, Armaiti, Micah and Ameretat; as well as her cherished extended family.



She was a long time member of our community who actively participated for many decades with things like teaching Middle Group Sunday School, assisting in the library and scholarships, and supporting Sarosh 's plans to grow and cultivate the community.

Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved Collector Family

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

[Click Here to Register](#)

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31, 2025 at ZAH CENTER

Questions? Contact:
Arzin Italia
(713) 679-4998

SUMPTUOUS DINNER
CATERED BY ALINGS!!

LD DANCE COMPANY
LATIN DANCE PERFORMANCE BY
LUCIA DARGAM
AMERICA'S GOT TALENT PARTICIPANT

BYOB

BALLOON
DROP!!

CHAMPAGNE
TOAST!!

DANCE IN THE NEW YEAR!!
DJ REY HERNANDEZ!!

RATES: RSVP Deadline 12/23/25
**Rates After RSVP Deadline

ZAH Member: 12 years and up	- \$80 / \$125
ZAH Non-Member : 12 years and up	- \$105 / \$125
Member Children (5 years – 11 years)	: \$45 / \$60
Non- Member Children (5 years – 11 years)	: \$55 / \$60
Walk-Ins At the Door	: \$150

Organized by:
ZAH Entertainment Committee