



manashni

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: October 11, 2026

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 **11:00 a.m. – in-person & by Zoom**



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



EVENTS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER

4th October, Sunday – Gahambar
9th & 10th October, Friday & Saturday – Library Event

EVENT POSTPONED

7th November, Saturday – Play by Shahnaz Sidhwa – Postponed
New date to be announced.

BREAKING NEWS

The first ever **Athravan**, Dr. Hormuzdiar Katki, was initiated at **Bhandara Atash Kadeh** after rigorously following the requirements of two **Barashnum Nahns** and **Yasna Ceremonies**. Detailed account will appear in **November Manashni**.

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT

Library event of October 9 & 10 was a great success. A detailed report will appear in next November Manashni.

ATASH KADEH REPORT

By: Mitra Khumbatta Mistry – Atash Kadeh Committee

The month of September began with the Farvardin Mahino Farvardin Roj Jashan on September 2nd sponsored by Sharmeen and Jehangir Irani, Mahnaz and Bakshi Irani, and Sanobar and Aderbad Tamboli. Farvardin Mahino is the month dedicated to the *Fravashis* and represents a month dedicated to spiritual prayers and honoring our dearly departed. Prayers such as *Satum-No-Kardo* and *Farvardin Yasht* invoke blessings and guidance of the *Fravashis*.

The next day, September 3rd was our monthly Behram Roj Jashan sponsored by Mahrukh and Rohinton Deputy. This day is dedicated to Behram Yazad who represents triumph over obstacles and the destruction of adversity.

**Ardibehesht Amshaspand Parabh
Jashan Sponsors Anahita Kanga family**



Farvardiyannu Parabh Sponsors



**Mahnaz & Bakhshi
Irani**



**Jehangir &
Sharmeen Irani**

Aderbad & Sanobar Tamboli



**BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN
Mahrukh & Rohinton Deputy**



**FASLI MEHRGAN GAHAMBAR
SPONSORS**



The Houston Zoroastrian Study Group met on September 13th to discuss the themes of Yasna 33, which reminds humankind that life, in essence, is a constant struggle between good and evil. It is humanity's obligation to fight against evil. Mankind should act in accordance with the law of Asha and focus on treating those that are righteous with goodness and care.

Ardibehesht Mahino Ardibehesht Roj Jashan was held on September 16th and sponsored by Anahita Kanga and family. This auspicious day is dedicated to Asha Vahishta, the Ameshaspand overseeing truth, righteousness, and cosmic order. Asha Vahishta is the guardian and protector of the flame.

September 25th kicked off the inaugural day of our Athravan Initiation Ceremony, which will continue through October 17th. During this period, the Athravan will be formally initiated via a series of Bareshnums and the performance of four Yasna ceremonies. This is a deeply significant occasion for our community and a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in service of our faith and the Atash Kadeh.

Our AK Team is constantly working in the background to keep our beautiful hall running in full force. Machis and Tandarosti prayers continue each month as always. We also continue to zoom these prayers for the benefit of those who wish to attend remotely.

A special note of thanks as always to our Mobed, Ervad Pervez Gonda, who tirelessly keeps our Atash Kadeh flourishing with the help of Ervad Khushrav Nariman.

You can reach us at AtashKadeh.ZAH@Gmail.com or call any of our committee members if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Committee Members: Khushrav Nariman, Feroze Bhandara, Shernaz Bhandara, Persis Behramsha, Mitra Khumbatta Mistry.

MISCELLANEOUS

FASLI MEHERGAN GAHAMBAR - Sunday, October 4th, 2026 By Entertainment Committee

The Fasli Mehrgan Gahambar, once again this year, had an awesome turnout of 21 families of the Pickleball and Table Tennis group sponsoring the event. We made a net profit of approximately \$2,500 for our ZAH center, with approximately 219 people registered for the event.

We are thankful to "The Pickleball & Table Tennis group" that have sponsored the gahambar, namely, Ruby & Rohinton Aga, Roshan & Percy Behramsha, Sherry & Eddie Berana, Serena & Kaiwan Bharucha, Nina & Rustum Challa, Dee & Shaki Commissariat, Thrity & Rohinton Desai, Farida & Neville Divecha, Jamshed Dudha, Nargis & Kersi Edulji, Mahnaaz & Farrokh Firozgari, Arnaz & Jehangir Mistry, Manek & Khushrav Nariman, Cushrow Parakh, Elvia & Ronnie Patel, Avan & Farokh Rajkot, Pervin & Vispi Sagar, Shermeen & Jal Sethna, Sanobar & Aderbad Tamboli, Anita & Suhrid Thakore, and Nazneen & Mehlie Warden.

ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairman
Percy Master – Secretary
Neville Divecha – 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
Masani, Cyrus
Masani, Neville
Nariman, Khushrav
Nariman, Viraf
Pavri, Shapur
Sanjana, Bahmanshah
Sanjana, Kurush
Sidhwa, Kayomarz
Sidhwa, Yazad
Unwalla, Peshotan
Vimadalal, Freyaan
Vimadalal, Khushroo

SPORTS – SENIORS STAYING ACTIVE PICKLE BALL



TABLE TENNIS



We are also thankful to all our members who donated towards it.

We first gathered together for a beautiful Jashan performed by our dear mobeds at the Atash Kadeh, followed by delicious malido, fruits, and finally, the always enjoyed Dhansaak lunch at the ZAH center.

The food was catered by our very own Cillie's. People came in large numbers to enjoy the delicious treat of mutton dhansaak, chicken kavabs, veg dhansaak & veg potato cutlet along with the kachumbar and chips. This was followed by yummy cake and a variety of ice cream.

A big thank you to our Entertainment committee, Web team, Building Management sub-committee, and the Publications team members that helped organize this event!

PADDLES UP! TABLE TENNIS & PICKLEBALL BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AT THE ZAH CENTER

By: ZAH Sports Committee

If you've walked by the ZAH Center on the right day, you've probably heard it before you saw it — the pop of paddles, bursts of laughter, and friendly chatter emanating from the *Purvez Rustomji* room. That's our Table Tennis group in action, and it's quickly become one of the most energizing gatherings at the ZAH Center.

More Than Just a Game

What started as a small group of members looking for a fun way to stay active has blossomed into a thriving group of over **24 regular and non-regular participants** — and it's still growing. Whether you're picking up a paddle for the first time or you've been playing for years, there's a place for you here. If you want to start playing pickle ball, the fastest growing sport in the USA, come join us. We play pickle ball at the Houston Badminton Centre and other locations like 24Hr Pickle on weekdays.

The secret to our growth? A genuinely **non-competitive, friendly and welcoming atmosphere**. Players of all skill levels rally together, support each other, and help newcomers learn the ropes. We have players from 50+ to 80+ years old in our group.

Good for the Body, Great for the Spirit

Table tennis and pickleball are fantastic full-body workouts disguised as fun. Quick reflexes, footwork, hand-eye coordination — you'll get your heart rate up and break a sweat without it ever feeling like "exercise." Regulars often say they've improved their game, their stamina, and their overall fitness simply by showing up and playing consistently.

But the real magic happens off the scoreboard. This group has become a place to **socialize, network, and build lasting friendships** with fellow community members. Conversations (with *color*) flow as easily as the rallies, and many players say the group has become the highlight of their week.

SPORTS – SENIORS STAYING ACTIVE



OBITUARY



Beyond the Courts: Happy Hours & Lunches

To keep the good times rolling, our group gets together once a month for happy-hour socials and group lunches at local restaurants. It's a great chance to swap stories, celebrate wins (on and off the court), and deepen the friendships that start over a game of ping pong or a quick pickleball rally.

Not Just for Retirees — Let's Talk Evening Play

We know many of our current regulars play during the day, but this group is for the whole community — including those of you still working full-time who'd love to join but can't make daytime sessions. If there's enough interest, we'd love to explore adding an evening session for table tennis or pickleball so more members can take part — just reach out. Your input will help us shape a schedule that truly works for everyone in the community.

Join the Fun — It's Free and Open to Everyone!

Best part? This group is completely free (other than PB court fees) and open to all ZAH members. No experience necessary, no equipment worries, no pressure. Just bring yourself and a willingness to have a good time.

So, whether you're looking to get active, meet new people, sharpen your game, or simply add a little more fun to your week, come join us at the ZAH Center. Grab a paddle, take a swing, and see why this group keeps growing one rally at a time.

We'd love to see you out there!

For more information on days, times, and getting started, please contact the ZAH Sports Committee member Percy Behramsha percymb@sbcglobal.net — we're always happy to welcome a new face. See you at the next game!

Your ZAH Sports Committee

OBITUARY

Bahadur Sarkari, husband of Shirin Sarkari, father of Neville Sarkari and Natasha Sarkari Becker, father-in-law of Paula Sarkari and Tom Becker, grand father of Natalya and Ian Sarkari, and Aven and Zarina Becker, passed away early morning October 5, 2026.

**WZCC EVENT
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM**

https://www.instagram.com/wzcc_houston?igsh=MXNuZmg5a2hpcHVycw%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

INVESTING IN CHANGING ECONOMY
Zubin Mory & Zal Sethna



**INTERFAITH MINISTRIES OF
HOUSTON**



WZCC EVENT – JUNE 26, 2026

Investing in a Changing Economy: Insights, Strategies & Perspective.

WZCC Houston hosted an insightful and very well-attended event on June 26th titled “Investing in a Changing Economy,” bringing together community members and professionals for an engaging discussion on today’s evolving investment landscape.

The session featured Zubin Mory, Founder of RealTMOR Asset Management LLC, and Zal Sethna, FSCP, Financial Services Professional with New York Life Securities LLC. With significant experience on Wall Street and in wealth management, the speakers shared valuable perspectives on the current equity and real estate markets and the factors shaping investment opportunities and risks.

The discussion focused on practical approaches to navigating changing economic conditions, with particular emphasis on diversification. The speakers shared insights on building diversified portfolios through a range of financial products and investment instruments, while considering individual financial goals and risk tolerance.

The evening also featured a delicious dinner of authentic Parsee cuisine, expertly catered by Farzu’s Kitchen, adding a wonderful culinary touch to an informative and enjoyable evening of learning and fellowship.

VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON INTERFAITH PROJECT

IMGH (Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston) is offering interfaith service opportunities that bring people of different traditions together to serve side by side. They are looking for participants for the following upcoming event:

Saturday, October 24 at 8:00am – 12noon – plant, harvest, and weed garden at Settegast Gardens, Habitat for Humanity at 7984 Tate Street

IMGH has requested three or more members of our community join them as that would mean a great deal to the project and would help broaden the diversity of faith voices in the experience.

You can sign up at: [Houston Habitat for Humanity](#)

**Cause and Effect:
How Zoroastrian Ethics Impact Human Accountability**

By: Meheryar N. Rivetna

*This article is an adaptation of a talk **Concept of Cause and Effect in Zoroastrianism** given by the author on a webinar organized by the NAMC.*

The Zoroastrian religion functions on the natural principle of cause (the reason for an action) and effect (consequence of that action) impelled by free will. The principle of cause and effect serves as a moral compass, offering humans the direction to live in accordance with Ahura Mazda's fundamental laws of righteousness (*Asha*).

The principle of cause and effect is a dominant theme in the Zoroastrian religion. Justice is fundamental in the Gathas. The Gathas remind humankind of the link between actions (causes) and consequences (effects). This is clear from the Gathic Ha 43.5: "...Thou (Ahura Mazda) will grant (humans) the reward according to their deeds and words in accordance with Thy sense of justice...in such a way that evil unto evil and good blessings unto the good (humans)." (1).

The Biblical decree "What you sow you will reap" has its origin in the Gathic Ha 30.11: "O ye mortals, mark these commandments, The commandments the Wise Lord has given for happiness and for pain: Long suffering for the doer of Evil, and bliss for the follower of Truth, The illumination of salvation for the righteous ever after." (2).

The **causes** adopted in life determine their **effects** on life: (3).

If you...	You will...
Sow an act	reap a habit
Sow a habit	reap a character
Sow a character	reap a destiny

As in any faith, prayers are an integral part of the Zoroastrian religion. Zarathustra is emphatic that prayer lies in action.

The CAUSE (act) of prayer is to EFFECT (attain) inspiration and guidance by understanding the words recited and put into action what the words motivate us to do in order to move ourselves and our society/community to a better state.

Dastur Dhalla says, "The purpose of prayer is to guide and inspire the devotee...This penetrating influence can be exerted only if he knows what he is praying...Fantastic legends that Avesta is mystical and supernatural, that strange vibrations are wafted heavenwards by the mere utterance of its words, exerting miraculous influences do not enhance its words—they devalue it; its utility value does not increase—it diminishes; it does not gain in esteem—it loses. Such a concept of prayer pulls it down from its spiritual heights to the lowest rungs and instead of inspiring, it turns it into sorcery." (4).

What is the key takeaway from the Cause-and-Effect principle of Zoroastrian teachings? When the CAUSES (founding directives) of a religion get drowned in a sea of misinformation brought about by waves of declining knowledge...the EFFECT (result) is: The followers of the religion either renounce their faith in favor of another or create their own version of their religion. The second **effect** (distortion of the religion) is more damaging than the first. In the case of the Zoroastrian faith, people veer towards cults developed by borrowings from theosophy and other creeds which have no bearing on the teachings of Zarathustra. The Gathas are conflated with ideologies that Zarathustra renounced, such as beliefs in multiple deities, excessive formalisms, ascetism, mysticism (an idea Zarathustra abhorred) and such. The **effect** of such **causes** is devaluation of the Zoroastrian religion.

Zarathustra grasped the Laws of Nature (Ahura Mazda) and gave them to humankind for us to practice those laws for a harmonious, productive, meaningful life. Zarathustra did not give us his profound Gatha verses for us to adorn our bookshelves. He gave us worthy CAUSES (actions) to implement by which we can EFFECT (realize) a good life, for self and all of humankind.

References:

- (1). Kanga, Ervad Kavasji Edalji; *Gatha-Ba-Maani*; Bombay Parsi Panchayat. (1997).
- (2). Irani, Dinshah J.; *The Gathas: The Hymns of Zarathushtra*; The Center for Ancient Iranian Studies. (1998).
- (3). Gore, George; *The Scientific Basis of Morality*; Swan Sonnenschien & Co. Ltd., London. (1899).
- (4). Dhalla, Dastur Maneckji N.; *The Saga Of a Soul*; Dastur Dhalla Memorial Inst., Karachi. (1975)