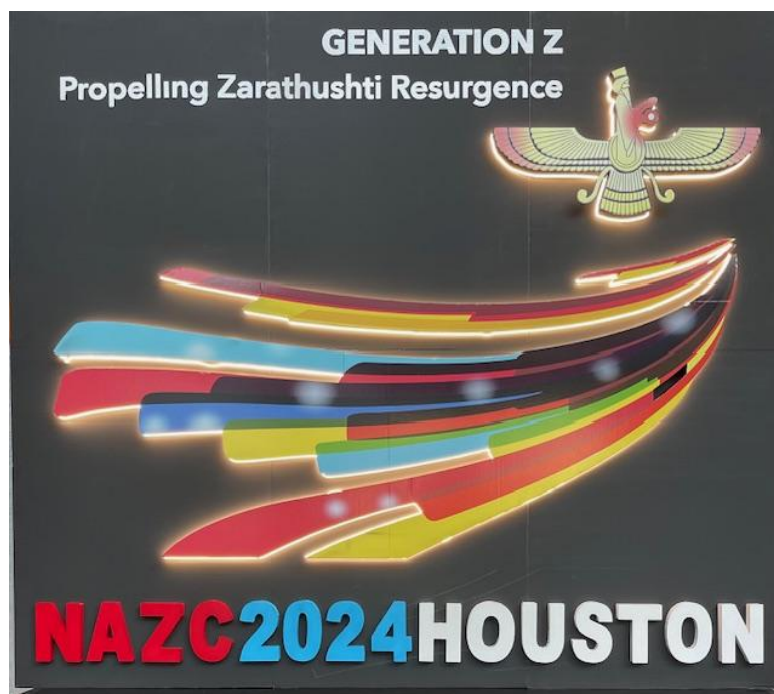




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SPECIAL EDITION – NAZC2024

NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS NAZC2024HOUSTON



GRATEFUL TO OUR 110+ VOLUNTEERS, WHO WORKED 1000'S OF HOURS
OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS TO HOST A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS IN
HOUSTON (NAZC2024) FROM 29TH DEC 2025 TO 1ST JAN 2025.

BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES CREATED THAT WILL STAY WITH US FOR A VERY
LONG TIME!

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND GROWTH: A RECAP OF THE 18TH NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS

By NAZC 2024 Team

The 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress (NAZC), held at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria Hotel in Houston from Dec 29th 2024 to Jan 1st 2025, brought together over 700 attendees for four transformative days of worship, learning, and fellowship. Themed “Generation Z: Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence,” this biennial gathering highlighted the role of youth in shaping the future, with an impressive 42% of attendees under the age of 40. From captivating performances to thought-provoking discussions, the Congress celebrated the enduring spirit of the Zoroastrian faith.

Lighting the Fire

Before starting the Congress, Mobeds and Mobedyars from across North America and the world congregated on the stage and lit the fire followed by reciting the Atash Nyaesh prayer, the words and meaning of which were also displayed on the screen for the audience to follow along.



Mobeds across North America and the globe praying the Atash Nyaesh

The USA and Canada National Anthems

The US and Canada National Anthem were sung beautifully by Naushad Mehta and Shanaya Patel respectively



Naushad Mehta and Shanaya Patel singing the USA and Canda National Anthem respectively

A Grand Opening: Visions of Paradise

The Congress began with a spectacular opening ceremony featuring *Visions of Paradise*, a theatrical production. Inspired by the Persian Garden (*Pairidaēza*), the performance traced its historical roots from the Achaemenid Empire to modern-day Houston.

Once the opening show concluded, City Council Member Letitia Plummer, At-Large 4 presented the Proclamation where Honorable Mayor of City of Houston, John Whitmire proclaimed Dec 29th 2024 through Jan 1st 2025 as Zoroastrian Days in Houston.



Kayomarz Y. Sidhwa (NAZC 2024 Co-chair) and Aderbad Tamboli (NAZC 2024 Co-chair) with Leticia Plummer (City Council Member At-Large 4)

Keynote Moments and Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Involvement

Legendary Bollywood Icon Boman Irani delivered a stirring keynote address, weaving humor and heartfelt anecdotes into a powerful message of resilience and faith. Later that day, Irani's impromptu songs with the Z-Band brought an added layer of charm to the evening. His keynote was followed by the Youth Keynote speaker Sanaya Master aptly representing the Congress theme.



Left: Kayomarz Y. Sidhwa (NAZC 2024 Co-chair) and Aderbad Tamboli (NAZC 2024 Co-chair) with Boman Irani (NAZC 2024 Keynote Speaker)
Right: Sanaya Master (NAZC 2024 Youth Keynote Speaker)

Youth participation was a cornerstone of the Congress. The dynamic Young Adults of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (YAYA) team organized engaging activities, including a Silent Disco and Bollywood dance workshops. These events energized younger attendees and fostered camaraderie and a deeper connection to their heritage.

The Zoroastrian Ceremonies was one-of-a-kind session with interactive immersion into the ceremonies that a Zarathushti experiences during their lifetime e.g. the agarin (??), besna, pag ladoo, Navroze haftseen, navjote, wedding and many more



YAYA Zoroastrian Ceremonies Session – this picture featuring Navroze and Haftseen being presented by Freya Daroga

The YaYA team's influence extended beyond their programs. Youth volunteers managed registration and social media and emceed key events like the opening ceremony and fashion shows. They energized the crowd with dance demos and performances, including Rhythm India's Bollywood fusion. Youth perspectives were central to the congress. Through leadership, programming, and participation, they demonstrated the pivotal role of youth in shaping the Zoroastrian community's future.

The Religious Connection

After all, a Zarathushti Congress cannot be complete without religious debate and discussion. The opening Ceremony began with priests across North America gathering in their priestly attire on the stage in front of the burning fire and reciting Homage unto the Fire prayer

Throughout the Congress there were sessions discussing religious nuances as well as debates on various topics between the Youth, Young adults and the young at heart.

Dynamic speakers, panelists and experts provided much food for thought with lectures and interactive panel discussions on various topics related to our religion, history, culture, and contemporary existence.



Poras T. Balsara (Program Co-chair) and Aban Rustomji (Program Co-chair) with Parisa Khosravi (award-winning journalist and advocate)

The Food

No Zarathushti event however small can be complete without lots of food. An event at the scale of the Congress was manna for the gastronomical senses with batasas, khatais, and the world famous Honey Bell cakes flown in from India many thanks to Roshan & Yezdi Engineer and Sharmeen & Jehangir Irani. The variety of cuisines - from Cajun, Persian, Mexican, American, Indian and to ‘almost’ Parsi cuisine had the audience satiated and happy. The numerous dessert options were the icing on the cake. The NAZC2024 Committee is grateful to the various food sponsors.

Exploring Faith, Technology, Sustainability and other panel discussions

Interactive sessions and discussions offered a deep dive into faith, history, technology, and sustainability. This was accomplished via panel discussions, debates, and storytelling.

We also had an exciting “Tween-Teen” program for the 10-15 years with age-appropriate topics including interactive sessions.

During the second day luncheon we took time to honor those in our North American community who have tirelessly worked to preserve and propagate our values and traditions with the FEZANA Awards. Two of our very own ZAH community members were recipients of FEZANA Awards 2024. These ladies need no introduction. Their incredible contribution and service to the ZAH community and the Zarathushti community at-large is immensely appreciated.

Aban Rustomji was awarded the **Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award** for her outstanding and well-recognized contributions to further the cause of Zarathushtis in North America and worldwide through outstanding leadership and service. Aban was presented this award by her entire family.



Aban Rustomji (recipient of the Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award) with her family.



Vehishta Kaikobad (recipient of the Dinshaw Framroze Joshi Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award) with her brother (on her right) and her nephew (on her left)

Vehishta Kaikobad was awarded the **Dinshaw Framroze Joshi Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award** for her commitment to enrich our society through visual, performing arts, and painting. Through literary education and artistic endeavors, she remains committed to promoting the Zarathushti community and advancing its global recognition. Vehishta was presented the award by Kaemerz Dotiwala. Her grand-nephew Ryan Vajifdar accompanied her on stage.

The Exhibits Hall was a bustling hub of activity showcasing Zoroastrian history, culture, and enterprise. Booths featured religious artifacts, traditional clothing, handcrafted jewelry, and literature celebrating the rich tapestry of Zoroastrian identity.

Entertainment

The ZAH knows a thing or two about good entertainment, which continued with Denim & Diamonds Nite: Tradition Meets Modernity - an unforgettable evening blending entertainment and artistry featuring a musical comedy skit interwoven with a stunning fashion show by Ashdeen Lilaowala. Fun and laughter were woven into the Congress through events like the *Pestonji Pakrai Giya* (a parsi-gujarati comedy play), an enchanting magic show on New Year's, spectacular dancing by Rhythm India dancers, DJ Gary and the Z-Band rocking the house with foot stomping music. These performances provided much-needed moments of laughter and relaxation, balancing the intensive discussions and networking opportunities.

Planning and logistics

Organizing an event of this scale requires careful planning and coordination. Each day was meticulously planned to provide the audience with the best experience possible. The logistics and details for accommodations, banquet room setups, catering, décor, theme of the day – everything was superbly executed to the minutest detail.

Pre-congress activities were arranged to show out of town audiences a good time by taking them on tours in and around Houston such as Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Port of Houston, NASA. The theme nights were designed to give a taste of Texas as well as honor our Persian heritage and our Parsi culture. Transporting the audience to the Zarathushti Heritage Cultural Center and Bhandara Atash Kadeh on New Year's Day for New Year prayer service and lunch was a feat in itself. The fun continued with a cruise from Galveston departing Jan 2nd 2025 on Royal Caribbean. We Zarathushti Houstonians do know a thing or two about Southern hospitality.

A Memorable Conclusion

The Congress culminated in a moving New Year's Day prayer service conducted by our Head Priest Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor, and a passing-the-torch ceremony to Sacramento, the host city for the 2028 Congress. A midnight celebration welcomed 2025, marking the end of a vibrant and meaningful event.

Throughout the Congress, keynote speakers, interactive sessions, and cultural showcases reinforced the strength and unity of the Zoroastrian community. Attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to champion their heritage and propel their faith toward a brighter future. Plans for the next Congress in Sacramento are already underway, promising to build on the success of this unforgettable gathering.

Reflections on Unity and Growth

The 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress was more than an event; it celebrated faith, fellowship, and growth. By embracing tradition while looking toward the future, the Congress inspired attendees to continue building a resilient and thriving Zoroastrian community.

The core team consisting of Co-Chairs - Aderbad Tamboli and Kayomarz Sidhwa, Treasurer - Lyla Daroga and Secretary - Percy Master, express heartfelt gratitude for the dedication of the volunteers and performers, support and generosity of Sponsors and Donors, and the enthusiasm of the attendees.

OUR STELLAR PROGRAM

The 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress: Reflections and Highlights

By Aban Rustomji

The 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress, themed “*Generation Z: Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence*,” was a transformative experience celebrating heritage, tackling challenges, and forging a bold path forward. Held in Houston, Texas, over three vibrant days, the Congress brought together Zoroastrians from across the globe to connect, reflect, and inspire a vision for the future.

A Celebration of Leaders and Visionaries

The Congress opened on a high note, with actor Boman Irani captivating attendees with his wit, warmth, and heartfelt anecdotes. His stories of resilience and community resonated deeply, setting a joyous tone for the days ahead.

Sanaya Master, a youth keynote speaker, delivered an inspiring address on the “*Virtues of Sacred Leadership*.” Her message struck a powerful chord, emphasizing the importance of integrity and purpose-driven action, sparking meaningful conversations that extended beyond the conference halls.



Left: Boman Irani (NAZC 2024 Keynote Speaker)



Right : Sanaya Master (NAZC 2024 Youth Keynote Speaker) with YAYA Program Co-chairs Rayomand Katrak and Natasha Dungor

Adding to the stellar lineup was Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur, whose spiritual wisdom enriched the Congress, and Parisa Khosravi, an award-winning journalist and advocate, who shared poignant reflections and a compelling vision for the global Zoroastrian diaspora. Together, these voices inspired a renewed sense of unity and action.



Left: Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur



Right: Parisa Khosravi

Generation Z: The Vanguard of Our Future

The Congress' theme placed Generation Z at the center of discussions, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping the future of the community. Youth-led initiatives like *"Bridging the Gap: Preserving Zoroastrian Heritage with Gen Z"* showcased the innovation, creativity, and passion of younger generations. *"The Great Zoroastrian Debate"* tackled sensitive topics like interfaith marriage and the relevance of religion for today's youth. Real-time voting and audience participation made this session dynamic and inclusive, offering a platform for diverse perspectives.



The Great Zoroastrian Debate; From L to R – Daisy Pithawalla, Ervad Burzin Balsara, Afriti Chinoy, Tanya Hoshi (Moderator), Dr. Kaizeen Mody, Zubin Mistry, Ervad Poruz Khambatta.

These sessions emphasized solutions to identity challenges, highlighting the importance of cultural preservation through education, historical projects, and global networks. They underscored a vital

truth: the future of Zoroastrianism lies in empowering youth to embrace their heritage while reimagining it for a modern world.

Religious Understanding

Sessions such as “*Zarathushtra’s Gathas and the Art of Living*” offered fresh perspectives on the



relevance of the Gathas to contemporary life, while “*A Gateway to Zoroastrian Renaissance*” offered two key viewpoints on understanding the origin and significance of the Zarathushti doctrines and exploring Zarathushtra’s principles through the lens of Asha through science. These

A Gateway to Zoroastrian Renaissance
From L to R: Barjor M. Dastur (Speaker), Ketayun Kapadia (Moderator), Mehryar Rivetna (Speaker)

presentations deepened attendees' appreciation of Zoroastrian doctrines while inviting them to reflect on their practical applications in daily life.

The session, “*Embrace the Future: Initiating Atharvans and Consecrating Atash Kadehs in North America*,” sparked impactful dialogue on adapting religious traditions for the diaspora. Well-attended and deeply resonating with the audience, it highlighted the need for tailored processes to foster spiritual leadership and create consecrated worship spaces—a vital step forward for Zoroastrians in North America.



Embrace the Future; Speakers from L to R: Ervads Brig. Behram Panthaki, Tehemton Mirza, Khushrav Nariman, Cyrus Pavri

Diverse and Dynamic Programming

The Congress catered to a wide array of interests, offering something for everyone:



- *The Jungalwala Lecture*
Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo delivered the prestigious Khorshed Jungalwala Lecture, encouraging youth to delve into Zoroastrian history and philosophy. His eloquent address highlighted how ancient teachings could inform modern challenges, though the lack of youth attendance was a missed opportunity for engagement.

The Jungalwala Lecture: Professor Migues Angel Andres-Toledo with Ferzin Patel

- *Valor and Virtue: Stories of Resilience*

This session honored Zoroastrians in military and civil service, celebrating their contributions to society. Attendees were inspired by the panelists' humility and dedication, which exemplified the enduring values of faith and duty.



Valor and Virtue; From L to R: Yasmin Pavri, Keshwar Buhariwalla (Moderator), Speakers (Huban Gowadia, Rayomand Bam, Cainaz Vakharia)

- *Storytelling to Feed Our Souls*
Master storytellers explored the intersection of food, art, and literature. Through personal anecdotes and cultural narratives, the session underscored the importance of storytelling in preserving heritage and fostering intergenerational connections.
- *“Empowering Zarathushti Communities with AI”* demonstrated the transformative potential of technology. Experts showcased how AI could enhance education, preserve cultural heritage, and streamline community operations, equipping attendees with practical tools for leveraging innovation



Empowering Zarathushti Communities with AI; From L to R: Farzad Sunavala (Moderator), Speakers (Cyrus Jamula, Eric Engineer)

- *Breaking the Chains of Bias: Reclaiming Zoroastrian Unity in North America*
This session emphasized the urgent need to bridge divides within the community, highlighting inclusivity and mutual respect as essential for preserving Zoroastrianism's legacy in the diaspora.
- *Good Stress and Minimizing Bad Stress*
Bridging Zarathushtra's emphasis on balance with modern neuroscience, this session offered techniques to harness good stress (eustress) while minimizing bad stress (distress). Mindfulness, gratitude, and living in alignment with Asha (truth and order) were presented as tools to build resilience in today's chaotic world.
- Sessions exploring global narratives were "*Tajikistan's Persian Zoroastrian Heritage*" and "*Zoroastrians in Iran: Speaking About Their Religious Life*" provided rare insights into the lives of Zoroastrians worldwide. These presentations deepened attendees' understanding of the faith's diverse expressions and challenges across different regions.
- "*Sustainable Philanthropy*" emerged as a key theme, with panelists emphasizing long-term, impactful giving. Scalable solutions to critical challenges encouraged collaboration between generations to ensure a vibrant future for Zoroastrians globally.

Community Engagement and Advocacy

Several sessions addressed community engagement and advocacy:

- **“Make Your Voices Heard”** This interactive session invited participants to present ideas for strengthening the Zoroastrian community. Topics ranged from inclusivity in interfaith families to retaining youth engagement and defining Zoroastrian identity.



Make Your Voices Heard: From L to R: Darius Tamboli, Zubin Mistry

- **“Carving the Zoroastrian Public Brand in North America”** A panel of experts explored strategies to enhance Zoroastrianism’s visibility in media, arts, and public policy, emphasizing the importance of public advocacy, Nowruz recognition, and showcasing Zoroastrian contributions to society.



Carving the Zoroastrian Public Brand in North America: From L to R: Mahtab B. Dastur (Moderator), Speakers (Xenia Byramji, Mahfrin Santoke, Anahita Hormozdyari, Parshan Khosravi)

- **“Preserving the Flame: The Role of Museums and Cultural Organizations”** This session offered a fresh perspective on cultural preservation, demonstrating how Zoroastrianism contributes to the broader historical narrative.



Preserving the Flame: The Role of Museums and Cultural Organizations: From L to R: Bradley Bailey, Amy Poster, Jennifer Kapral, Banoo Parpia

- **“Bridging the Gap: Preserving Zoroastrian Heritage with Gen Z”** was IZYN initiatives to join the Yazd Cultural and Heritage project to strengthen ties with Zoroastrian heritage.



Preserving Zoroastrian Heritage: From L to R: Aban Rustomji (at the Podium), Fezana leadership Team including Kayomarz Sidhwa (President), Xerxes Commissariat (Vice-President), both dressed as airline pilots

Building the Road Ahead

The Congress culminated in *“Our Tomorrow Starts Today: A Path Forward for the Next Decade,”* a session that served as a clarion call for proactive measures. Panelists highlighted the need for cultural preservation, community engagement, and innovative solutions to address pressing challenges, laying the groundwork for a vibrant future.



Our Tomorrow Starts Today; From L to R – Arzan Wadia (Moderator), Speakers (Persis Driver, Bahrom Firozgary, Kayras Irani, Khodadad Pashutanizadeh, Kimiya Shahzadi)

Reflections and Takeaways

The 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress was not merely an event but a movement—a spark that reignited purpose and propelled the community toward a brighter future. It celebrated the wisdom of elders, championed the energy of youth, and underscored the power of collaboration across generations.

As we move forward, the insights gained from this Congress will guide our steps. From embracing technology and fostering leadership to preserving cultural heritage and driving sustainable philanthropy, the opportunities are boundless.

FIRST EVER YAYA PROGRAM BY THE YAYA (YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS) COMMITTEE

By the Youth. For the Youth: A Glimpse of Youth & Young Adults (YaYA) at NAZC 2024 Houston

The **YaYA team** at NAZC 2024 was a dynamic force, with over 30 youth and young adults from Houston and beyond, united by a passion for Zoroastrianism. Their goal was clear: to make youth a central focus at the congress, and with over 42% of attendees under 40, they succeeded. The theme, "*Generation Z: Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence*", highlighted the power of youth in shaping the future of the faith.



Pre-Congress Activities

Two days before the congress began, 200+ youth gathered for an exclusive pre-congress experience, which included a group walk to Houston's Water Wall, icebreakers led by Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA), and a visit to NASA. Youth also enjoyed a rooftop holiday lights experience at The POST Houston and a lively Texan-style evening at Bayou Heights Biergarten.

Silent Disco

A standout event during the congress was the Silent Disco. From the moment attendees walked in and put on their Silent Disco headsets, the entire room was transformed into a vibrant dance floor, with everyone on their feet dancing freely to the beat of their chosen channel in their all-white attire and neon lit accessories. The event was organized by the YaYA team with great guidance and help from the NAZC Operations and AV teams. The YaYA Team also took on roles as DJs, bouncers, and setup crew, ensuring an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.



YaYA Program Track

The YaYA Programs team spent months selecting and collaborating with speakers and panelists, creating memorable and engaging sessions, starting with an inspiring youth keynote by **Sanaya**

Master. One of the most impactful and unique sessions was the “**Celebration of Life through Zoroastrian Ceremonies**”, which allowed attendees to learn and interact with different ceremonious traditions. Each of the 7 key ceremony exhibits was facilitated by **Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH)** youth and alumni.



Youth Impact Across the Congress

The YaYA committee’s impact stretched far beyond their own programming. Youth volunteers played key roles across the entire congress, from behind-the-scenes work with Registration and Operations to managing the congress’s Social

Media platforms. They also brought energy to the stage, participating in various aspects of the entertainment, including emceeing several nights, the opening ceremony’s “*Visions of Paradise*” and the captivating “*The Good, The Bad & The D’Ugly*” fashion show.



Additionally, they hyped up the crowd and got them on the dance floor, hours before midnight, as Rhythm India led everyone in a high-energy Bollywood fusion dance demo.

With immense gratitude to the NAZC2024 Core team for the opportunity to represent, lead, and co-execute the NAZC vision; the YaYA team ensured that their perspectives and presence were woven into every aspect of the congress experience.





From curating content to leading events and performing—both on and off the stage—NAZC 2024 was truly a celebration of youth and their pivotal role in the ongoing journey of the Zoroastrian community.

TWEEN, TEEN AND KIDS MINI-CONGRESS PROGRAM

Tween-Teen Congress

The Congress had an exciting “Tween-Teen” program for the 10-15 year olds and a fun “Kids” program for the 5-9 year olds with age-appropriate topics including interactive sessions. The Tween-Teen mini-Congress which had made a successful debut at the World Zoroastrian Congress in NY in 2022, was designed by our “Youth and Young Adult Dream Team” comprising Zane Commissariat, Mahtab B. Dastur, Natasha Dungor, Farzad Sarkari, Farhaan Shroff, Freyaan Vimadalal, Sabrina Warden with the guidance of mentors and co-chairs Vehishta Kaikobad and Khursheed B. Dastur.

Day 1 started with a ‘Get to Know You’ icebreaker and the Tween-Teens writing their goals and expectations for the Congress. Then we delved into a Career Round table session where Zarathushtis from various professions visited the Tween-Teens and talked about their professions and answered their questions.



Twenty-two bright eyed youngsters from across America and the world were ready for the Tween/Teen Congress on 29th December 2024.

We are grateful to our Mentor professionals – Dr. Freny Mody, Dr. Kaizeen Mody (medicine);

Capt. Eric Avari, SN Farzad Sarkari and ENS Rukshana Sarkari (Military); Mahfrin Santoke (Arts); Ashdin Medhora (Engineering); Eric Engineer (Technology, Business, Finance); Arzan Wadia (Architecture, Technology and Community Leadership) – for their guidance, mentorship, and leadership to the Tween-Teens



The Tween-Teens loved the discussions and asked a lot of questions. They enjoyed holding the artefacts that the professionals had brought to the roundtable. At the end of the 3 days, we had budding architects, doctors, engineers, military personnel, musicians, and technocrats in our midst

On Day 2 the Tween-Teens built a beautiful



“Chaar Baug” garden model based on Cyrus the Great’s Vision of Paradise. This model was put on display outside the tween-teen room near the exhibit hall and it brought in rave reviews from the visitors, who were impressed by the creativity and acumen of the Tween-Teens.



Many thanks to Yezdi Engineer and Edul Chikhliwala for building the foundation for the models.

On Day3, curious minds were captivated by the concept of Avan (Water) preservation and consumption using ancient concepts such as the Qanat system. They did engineering experiments related to water to show how a Qanat system works, how water can be used to tell time etc. Our resident engineer Edul Chikhliwala piqued the curiosity of the young minds through his explanation of the Qanat system and guided the Tween-Teens through the engineering experiments



Through all the three days of the Congress, the Tween-Teens also joined YAYA and Adults sessions such as Who are We, The Great Zoroastrian Debate, Zoroastrian Ceremonies, Fezana session and many others.

All in all, it was a fun Tween-Teen min-Congress with old friendships renewed and new connections made which are

sure to last a lifetime!

Kid's Congress

The Kids' Congress made a popular return at the NAZC 2024. More than fifteen happy kids made their way excitedly for all three days to socialize with new friends, while also learning about religious traditions, prayers and cultural concepts through interactive presentations and projects.

Some of the topics included the story of Zarathustra, designing beautiful photo frames with picture, role playing the navjote ceremony and learning about navjote prayers and even making a mini prayer book!



Hands on Jashan ceremony, its symbolic connection with the Amesha Spentas. playing a Jashan bingo, making Amesha Spenta pinwheels, learning about the parts of a ses and its function, left the kids wanting more.

Games and additional activities filled their

days with joy, including visiting the exhibition and learning about the exhibits that left them with awe.

The highlight were the gift boxes that each participant received with real stainless steel mini ses, beautiful brocade tops, the tiny handmade prayer book and self-crafted flowers and more.



Our deepest gratitude extends to our professional teachers Tanaaz Chikliwala, Thrity Engineer and also to Hufresh Vania and Sharaine Bharucha who volunteered their time and energy in making the Kids' Congress yet another highly successful one.

Special acknowledgment to our wonderful youth leader Zane Commissariat for keeping the kids engaged and entertained.

DAY TRIP - BY THE WZCC HOUSTON CHAPTER

World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce Houston Chapter, (WZCC), organized a Day Trip on Saturday, December 28th to the Port of Houston and Museum of Fine Arts.

90 attendees embarked on an enriching day trip that combined history, culture and Industry.

The journey took them from the bustling Port of Houston, one of the largest and busiest ports in the



United States, to the heart of Houston's vibrant cultural scene—the Museum of Fine Arts (MFAH), where they had the chance to explore a special exhibit dedicated to the Zoroastrian faith.



The day began with a fascinating tour of the Port of Houston, where the group was greeted by an expert guide who provided insights into the port's vast operations. Observing the intricate workings of the port firsthand, participants were impressed by the sheer scale of operations and the advanced technology that facilitates the movement of goods across continents.

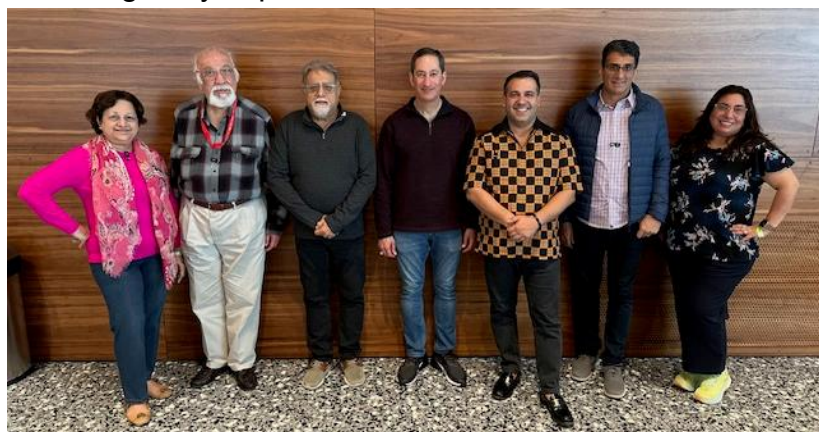
After a morning filled with industry and logistics, the group made their way to the

Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) for the second part of their day. Following a buffet lunch the group celebrated Rohinton Rivetna's 90th Birthday, Rohinton Rivetna is a founding member of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce in 2000, we were honored to celebrate his milestone birthday. After a buffet lunch the group went on a guided visit to a special exhibit titled "*Living with the Gods: Art, Beliefs and People*".

The most prominent exhibit in one of the first galleries was the "*Devine Fire: Zoroastrianism and Ritual Purity*" which showcased the afarganya from the ZAH center which originally resided in the Sukkar Agiyari in Pakistan 125 years ago. The exhibits were very educational, they drew attention of the viewers at large who had no concept of Zoroastrians. It was wonderful to see our culture exhibited in such a prominent space.



A small gallery captioned: "*Zoroastrians, at home in Houston*" honored our Zoroastrian legacy and community with a remarkable collection of photos from the "Wall of Ancestors" loaned by the FIRES library in Houston. The gallery also displayed a collection of ancient Jhablas and Garas from Banoo and Jivak Parpia and Annette Finnigan collection.



The artifacts displayed provided a fascinating glimpse into the rituals, customs, and beliefs that have shaped the Zoroastrian community for millennia.

For WZCC attendees, the exhibit was a deeply personal experience, allowing them to connect with their own heritage while learning about the faith's profound impact on world history.

As the day came to a close, WZCC attendees reflected on the rich experiences they had enjoyed. The day trip served not only as an opportunity to connect with each other but also as a reminder of the enduring legacy of the Zoroastrian faith in a rapidly changing world.

THE ENTERTAINMENT

The Opening Production - Visions of Paradise NAZC 2024

By Zubin R Mory

The 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress 2024 in Houston TX was a highly successful event. The spectacular opening ceremony with the Visions of Paradise as the centerpiece event made a grandiose statement and set the tone! 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. This entire program was conceived and presented by Vehishta Kaikobad.



The opening ceremony couldn't have been entrusted to a more worthy individual, it was at this Congress that Vehishta was awarded the Dinshaw Framroze Joshi-Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award by FEZANA. And this production of the Visions of Paradise lived up to expectations and the honor bestowed upon her. The program started with the Zarathushtis of Houston welcoming one and all with a nice and lively Texan theme. This newest and still unfolding chapter in the Zarathushti story was right before

the audience made the segway to the ancient world under the Achaemenids, probably the oldest chapter in the Zarathushti story.

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!

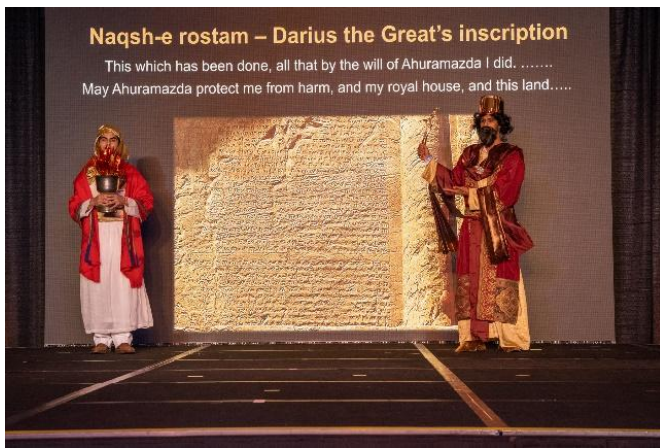
From then on, the audience had to strap in for a truly spectacular extravaganza of color, sound, dance and a large dose of “PRIDE” through various grandiose segments portraying 2,500+ years of history in 45 minutes journeying through various eras and locales that included Iran (PERSIAN GARDENS): Pasargarde, Persepolis/ Babylon/Ctseiphon, Isfahan; India: Mughal Agra; Europe: Rome, Versailles, Spain, Austria; and North America.



There were some truly memorable and noteworthy events: the singing by various participants was of exceptional quality (they sounded like trained opera singers), the water flowing out the rock at the start was impeccable in its timing and was mesmerizing in terms of the dance steps and the lights in the costume giving it a “sheen of light on water” effect, the trees and flowers were joyful to watch, the memorable dance recital in the India segment, the pomp of Rome, the statue gracefully dancing in Versailles, the lively

flamenco dancing in Spain and the accompanying saxophone recital and singing, the clarinet recital and the elegantly dressed Empress of Austria, the spectacular Flowers dance was accompanied by live flute and violin music and the lilting rendition of America the Beautiful, the lit up costumed water flowing in and out of various segments signifying continuity (water and garden), and last but not the least there were the two little butterflies and the little astronaut that lit up the stage!





Vehishta Kaikobad, supported by her stage managers and overall coordinators - Lyla Daroga and Khursheed B. Dastur - set up a true “showman” like production. The props, backdrops and images by Edul Chikhliwala; costume support by Rashna Oak, Dhun Vajifdar, Persis Colah, Kati Tamboli, Lyla Daroga; A/V support by Khurshrav Nariman, Sheroy Haveliwala, Khursheed B Dastur; added a beautiful dimension to the show.

A big shout out goes to all the 60+ performers and also to the backstage/behind the scenes crew – Dilnaz Mory, Hufereh Vania, Jasmin Katrak, Kam Gandhi, Lyla Daroga, Minaz Dungor, Rashna Oak, Sharaine Bharucha, Tanaaz Chikhliwala, Yasmin Haveliwala for making this show an event to remember.



This show transported the watcher on a journey through history, using the theme of the sensuous and colorful Persian garden, and then catapulting one into the future with Houston’s pride and joy, NASA.

Watching the show would leave one awe-struck, my trying to provide a visual to the reader may not be doing full justice to the awesome spectacle and is an incredibly hard task!



Rhythm India Performance

By Arzan Gonda

As part of the opening night entertainment for NAZC 2024, Houston's finest - Rhythm India Bollywood Dance Company - delivered an exhilarating dance performance to remember. Eight dancers from the Rhythm India troupe took the stage with an electrifying medley of three songs, each showcasing a distinct style of Bollywood. From seamless transitions between the grace and elegance of semi-classical movements to the high-energy, street-inspired tapori style - the performance was a vibrant display of artistry and versatility. The cheers from the crowd only made the energy on the stage more vibrant.

Those dancing in their seats during the performance were in for a treat! Just a few hours before midnight on December 31st, Rhythm India brought the celebration to life with a surprise Bollywood dance demonstration!



The whole ballroom transformed into a massive dance party accompanied

by a live Dhol player, as Rhythm India led the way through fun choreography through a Bollywood remix. Leading the crowd through fun choreography and steps, were Rhythm India instructors Arzan Gonda, Dilshad Patel, Anushka Oak & Natasha Dungor. Many former Rhythm India dancers along with the NAZC Youth and Young Adults (YaYA) team helped hype up the energy inviting the crowd to the dance floor. The entire audience was on their feet, clapping, dancing, and celebrating the last few moments of 2024 together.

Both performances by Rhythm India were a spectacular tribute to the spirit of NAZC 2024, celebrating and uniting the community through dance and rhythm.



The Good, The Bad & The D'Ugly

By Kam Gandhi

The recent performance of The Good, The Bad and The D'Ugly written, directed and produced by Kam Gandhi at the Denim & Diamonds Nite at NAZC 2024 in Houston, featured a unique blend of musical comedy and fashion. The event seamlessly combined entertainment and artistry, leaving the audience in awe and thoroughly delighted.



The musical comedy skit was a riot of laughter from start to finish. The cast delivered a pitch-perfect performance, effortlessly blending witty humor, engaging storytelling, and toe-tapping musical numbers.

The clever script and impeccable timing of the actors made for a highly engaging and interactive experience, with the audience laughing and cheering throughout. It was the kind of humor that resonated with all age groups—a rare and commendable feat.

Incorporated into the comedy skit was a jaw-dropping fashion show featuring the renowned Designer Ashdeen, who's intricate gara work is synonymous with elegance and tradition. However, the models surprised everyone by infusing his signature style with a bold and unexpected country-western flair.

The collection was a dazzling celebration of cultural fusion, where traditional embroidery met cowboy boots, jeans, fringed jackets, and wide-brimmed hats. Each model commanded the runway, wearing pieces that told a story of craftsmanship and creativity.

The interplay of vibrant colors, delicate handwork, and contemporary western elements created a visual spectacle - a perfect example of Ashdeen's genius in reinventing tradition for a modern audience. The event was a testament to the power of cross-genre creativity. It celebrated the beauty of tradition while embracing innovation, leaving the audience inspired and entertained.



From the hearty laughs of the comedy skit to the breathtaking elegance of the fashion how, the evening was a masterpiece of artistry.

This performance was a reminder of how diverse talents can come together to create something extraordinary, and it's safe to say it left everyone eagerly anticipating the next show!



The Z-Band

The 1st day evening was rounded off with a dham-dhamaka music night by the **Z-Band** who played exhilarating entertaining musical scores with a mix of Hollywood and Bollywood songs which had the audience dancing well into the wee hours of the morning. Our keynote speaker Boman Irani couldn't resist belting out a few songs himself much to the glee of the audience. It was a phenomenal evening rounding off the 1st day of the Congress.



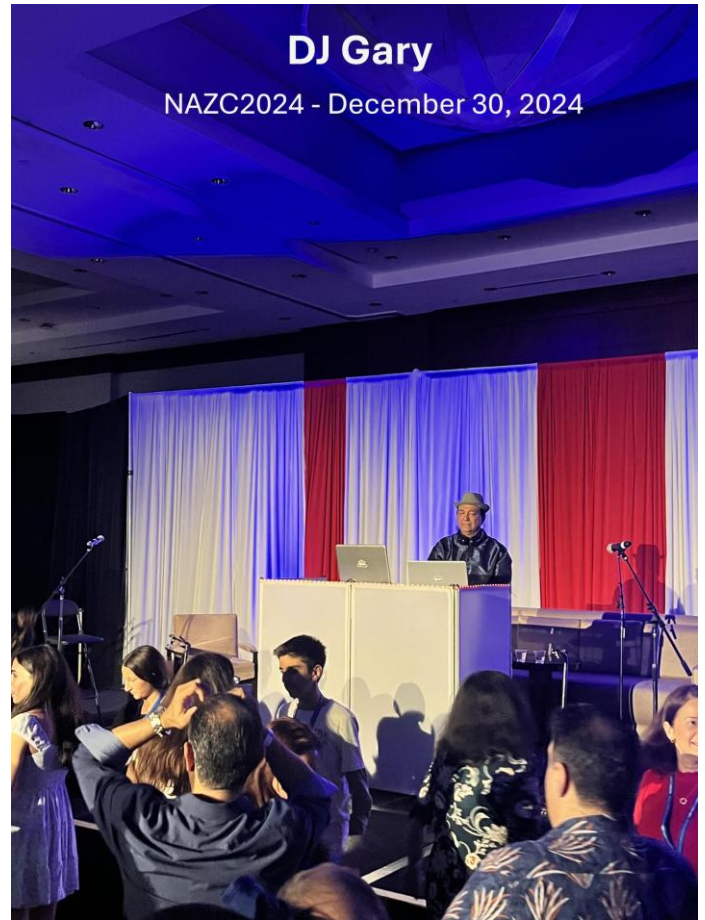
Pestonji Pakrai Giya

The 2nd day evening performance was a hilarious Parsi Gujarati Natak "**Pestonji Pakrai Giya**", written, produced & directed by Nozer Buchia, and supported by a talented cast of performers, both onstage and offstage. Set in a Parsi Colony in Mumbai, where neighbors simply consider it their birth-right to walk in and out of homes without any prior invitation, an utterly fed-up Pestonji, lives with his interfering and controlling wife Dinamai, who takes immense pleasure in turning his life upside down. This situational comedy of errors had the audience's tummy's tickling and brought laughter into the room.

DJ Gary rocks the night

After the Natak, the world famous “aapro” DJ Gary electrified the guests with an eclectic, foot stomping mix of English, Bollywood, Latin, Country Western, R&B, and more music that had the guests on the dance floor, grooving, dancing and some of them even singing well into the night!

The guests couldn't get enough of DJ Gary's music. It was certainly a night to remember and cherish for years to come!



Closing Performance



On the final evening, beautiful vocal performances by Shanaya Patel and our very own Naushad Mehta with candle lit accompaniment was a somber reminder that the Congress was almost coming to a close.

Illusions by Crescent Circus

The New Year's Eve Gala event started with a mesmerizing show – Illusions by Crescent Circus – which as the name suggested was replete with illusions, magic, circus arts and comedy that enthralled the audience and even had them interacting and being part of the show.



DJ Masti kept the festive mood going and got the guests dancing their way into the New Year!

EXHIBITS AND BOOTHS – SHOWCASING OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE

By Dilnaz Mory

The resurgence theme of 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress 2024 set the tone for the creation of the Exhibits Hall. The exhibition captured the mosaic of the Zoroastrian people, “Zoroastrian, Persian, Parsis in India, Pakistan and USA/ other Western countries and Zoroastrians in Iran”. It embodied a rich history capturing the journey of the Parsis to India and their successful Indian assimilation while touching on the struggles of the Zoroastrians of Iran culminating in the creation of an accomplished Zoroastrian diaspora in the USA and other western countries, over the last 50 years. The exhibits captured the glory and legacy of the past, the optimism of the present and attempted to help propel the Zoroastrian community successfully and effectively into the future. The team members manning the Exhibits Hall displayed mastery of the subject matter and imparted a wealth of knowledge to the attendees.

The team re-constructed and exhibited icons related to Zoroastrians throughout history and up to the present. A person with no knowledge of who the “Zoroastrians, Persians or Parsis” are, could review these exhibits and be impressed, but still be well informed about this group. The “journey” from the Audience Hall of Persepolis to the Parsi glory/stature in Mumbai to the Bhandara Atash Kadeh/ Houston Fires Library in Houston TX was laid out.



One was truly transported to different eras from table to table and wall to wall. Models/posters spanned continents and ages: Persia (historical Persian works of art, literature, construction etc.); India (important Parsi landmarks in Mumbai); European artifacts (Raphael Painting featuring Zarathustra, the Cyrus Cylinder--British Museum); and North America (Freedom Sculpture Los Angeles and priceless artifacts from the Houston Fires Library).



Lastly, in keeping with the theme of the spectacular opening ceremony of the NAZC 2024—Visions of Paradise, there were models and posters which celebrated the Persian gardens.

The Booths at the NAZC captured the Parsi spirit of commerce, enterprise (big and small) and the love for all good things



in life. Parsi themed garments which included saris, ready-to-wear jackets and other items were presented by award-winning textile designer Ashdeen Lilaowala (from Mumbai India). Exquisite jewelry with Zoroastrian themes were superbly showcased by Radiance and Finesse (from Mumbai India). New Zealand based The Zoroastrian Culture Shop, sold Zoroastrian religious and cultural products. An important booth was hosted by the Bhandara Atash Kadeh (Houston TX) which aimed at fulfilling the spiritual and ritualistic needs of the community.



There were other booths that sold traditional Parsi food items, gift wrappings, playing cards and other items. The cacophony of sound and the large footfall on the 2nd floor exuded an environment of an Indian bazaar.

Overall, the team which was co-chaired by Minaz Dungor and Dilnaz Mory and included Aban Chhor, Arzin Italia, Behroze Daruwalla, Edul Chikhlwala, Fiona Setna, Firozi Sabawala, Kayzad Vajifdar, Khursheed Hormuzdi, Mahrukh Deputy, Percy Engineer, Tanaz Chikhlwala, Villi Bhappu and Yezdi Engineer deserves a shout-out for setting up such an awesome experience.



OPERATIONS – THE GLUE THAT BRINGS EVERYTHING TOGETHER

By Co-Chairs: Meher Vakil and Yasmin Medhora

Producing a conference of 750 persons for a nonprofit at a hotel involves careful planning and coordination to ensure the event runs smoothly and meets its goals. The Operations Co-Chairs and their volunteers did just that. They were a pivotal point of contact with every sub-committee including audio visual and youth committees.

They were an integral part of the 3-day congress event at the hotel plus the pre and post congress events. They organized logistics details for accommodations for the attendees & VIPs, banquet room setups, catering, décor in conjunction with the theme of the day and finally having a minicon with the hotel executives. This liaison with the hotel and our sub-committees helped reduce errors, delays and ensured exceptional service from the hotel staff.

The theme nights were designed to give a taste of Texas, honor our Persian heritage and our Parsi culture. The Legends ballroom had a new decor touch on each of the 3 days and looked especially gorgeous on the New Year's Eve. DJ Masti rocked the night and brought in the New Year 2025. Arrangements were also made to setup lunch for 550 persons at the center on the first day of 2025 after the grand jashan at the Bhandara Atash Kadeh.

PRE AND POST CONGRESS - ANTICIPATION AND SEE YOU SOON

This committee organized a cruise from Galveston departing Jan 2 on Royal Caribbean in which 14 persons who attended the congress chose to go on. Pick up and drop to and from the airport was also arranged for some of the speakers and dignitaries with three volunteers who provided the service. (Could put in name of these volunteers – all others seem to be named).

Motorcoach buses were arranged for the Youth for two evening activities and a trip to NASA. Buses were also arranged for the WZCC trip to the Houston Port and Museum of Fine Arts.

On Jan 1, the day of the Jashan at the Atash Kadeh, three buses were provided to the out of towners staying at the hotel to shuttle them between the Hotel and the ZAH.



PUBLICATIONS – YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW

BECAUSE OF THIS COMMITTEE.

A big part of the Congress was to keep the community informed of all the happenings via our newsletter NAZC Times, program and speaker bulletins, answering numerous queries from our readers, proofreading program and speaker notes, collecting and validating content for brochures, coordinating with promotions team for Social Media, publishing special editions.

The Publication co-chairs – Khursheed B. Dastur and Percy Katrak are immensely grateful to the entire Publication team – Yasmin Pavri, Nazanin Sarkari, Leea Contractor for their support over the last 2 years. A special shout-out goes to Leea Contractor for designing and creating the beautiful NAZC2024 program brochure and special thanks to Arzan Wadia for all his technical support with the communications.

THE NAZC 2024 – AFTER PARTY

As we know, nothing ends without a Party for Zarathushtis and more so for our wonderful ZAH Community. On January 24th we had the NAZC2024 Congress after-party where we invited our Sponsors, Performers, Committee Volunteers and Helpers to thank them for the tremendous work and countless hours everyone put in to make our Congress so momentous for ZAH. We saw some entertainment program recordings and the core team gave away token of appreciation gifts to all the Sponsors and Volunteers.

This is the NAZC2024 team signing of now until next time!



We Thank Our Sponsors

Diamond

Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara

Emerald

Nazneen & Kershaw Khumbatta

Platinum

Aban Rustomji & Family, Manek & Khushrav Nariman, Pervin & Vispi Sagar, Yasmin & Shapur Pavri, Sanober & Aderbad Tamboli, Erach & Vahbeez Songadwalla, 12th WZC 2022NYC

Gold

Dr. Shahriyour Andaz & Family, Parvin & Mehraban Dinyarian, Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali, Sam Bhadha & Family, Niloufer & Edul Daver, Arzan Sam Wadia & Family, Sethna Financial Group (Zarir & Roshan Sethna & Zal Sethna), Nali & Danesh Desai, Dina & Rustom Mody, Meher & Khush Mehta, Reza Persian Grill

Silver

Dilnaz & Zubin Mory, Arzin & Sorab Italia, Yasmin & Rustom Engineer, Sillie & Jehanbux Mehta and family, Farzana, Kayomarz, Friyana and Yazad Sidhwa, Lyla & Raymie Daroga, NAMC, Nasreen & Rustom Khosravian, Yasmin Noshir Medhora & family, Sheroo & Vispi Kanga, Cyrus Desai Foundation (Thrity, Rohinton & Anahita Desai), Huty & Farokh Billimoria, Nikita, Eric and Family, Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, Elvia & Ronnie Patel, Behroze & Astad Clubwala, Anhaita & Cyrus Jamula, Serena & Kaiwan Bharucha, Nancy & Jahanbux Daruwala, Shahnaz & Yazdi Sidhwa, Sharmeen & Jehangir Irani, Parinaz & Khodi Irani, Anita & Suhrid Thakore, Karin & Sarosh Nayar, Elite Title Settlement Services, LLC

Individual Session Sponsors

The Khorshed F. Jungalwala Fund (FEZANA Jungalwala lecture), The Prof K. D. Irani Estate (Unlocking Endless Potential), Arni & Piloo Ilavia (The Celebration of Life Through Zoroastrian Ceremonies in honor of Mr. Sarosh Collector), Arda-e-Viraf & Hootoxi Minocherhomjee (Embrace the Future: Initiating Athravans and Consecrating Atash Kadehs in N. America in honor of Ervad Soli Dastur), Zoroastrian Association of Houston (Flourishing in Fine Arts: Spotlights on Creative Minds in honor of Mr. Homi Davier)

It takes a village to put on a NAZC 2024!

Core Committee

Aderbad Tamboli (Co-chair), Kayomarz Y. Sidhwa (Co-chair), Lyla Daroga (Treasurer), Percy Master (Secretary)

AV and Technology Committee

Khushrav Nariman (Co-chair), Sheroy Haveliwala (Co-chair), Farrokh Firozgary, Rutton Kavasmaneck, Xerxes Commissariat, Zubin Vakil

Entertainment Committee

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Minaz Dungor (Co-chair), Dilnaz Mory (Co-chair), Aban Chhor, Arzin Italia, Behroze Daruwalla, Edul Chikhliwala, Fiona Setna, Firozi Sabawala, Kayzad Vajifdar, Khursheed Hormuzdi, Mahrukh Deputy, Percy Engineer, Tanaaz Chikhliwala, Villi Bhappu, Yezdi Engineer

Fundraising Committee

Kayomarz Y. Sidhwa (Co-chair), Aderbad Tamboli (Co-chair), Edul Daver, Farzana Sidhwa

Hospitality (Operations) Committee

Meher Patel (Co-chair), Yasmin Medhora (Co-chair), Arzin Italia, Jasmin Katrak, Mitra Mistry, Nali Desai, Nazneen Khumbatta, Neville Divecha, Zal Sethna, Zia Anklesaria

Kids and Tween-Teens Program Committee

Vehishta Kaikobad (Co-chair), Khursheed B. Dastur (Co-chair), Edul Chikhliwala, Farhaan Shroff, Farzad Sarkari, Freyaan Vimadalal, Huferesh Vania, Mahtab B Dastur, Natasha N. Dungor, Rashna Kaikobad, Sabrina Warden, Sharaine Bharucha, Tanaaz Chikhliwala, Thrity Engineer, Yezdi Engineer, Zane Commissariat. **Special thanks to Mentor Professionals -** Arzan Wadia, Ashdin Medhora, Capt. Eric Avari, Eric Engineer, SN Farzad Sarkari, Dr. Freny Mody, Dr. Kaizeen Mody, Mahfrin Santoke, ENS Rukshana Sarkari.

Medical Committee

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It takes a village to put on a NAZC 2024!

Photographers

Percy Katrak, Yezdi Engineer

Post Congress / Transportation Committee

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Neville Divecha, Percy Master, Yazdi Sidhwa

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Mani Surkari (Chair)

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Sanober Tamboli, Vehishta Kaikobad, Yasmin Pavri

Publications Committee

Khursheed B. Dastur (Co-chair), Percy Katrak (Co-chair), Leea Contractor, Yasmin Pavri,
Nazanin Sarkari. Special acknowledgement to Arzan Wadia

Registration Committee

Manek Nariman (Co-chair), Sweta Sethna (Co-chair), Danesh Desai,
Danielle Dubash, Friyana Sidhwa, Nali Desai, Nazneen Khumbatta, Nozer Dungor,
Rayhan Nariman, Roshan Engineer

Web Committee

Danesh Desai (Co-chair), Arzan Sam Wadia (Co-chair),
Aderbad Tamboli, Kayomarz Y. Sidhwa

Youth and Young Adults Committee

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Tamboli, Ashtad Boomla, Cyrus J. Mistry, Cyrus Y. Mistry, Danesh Dubash, Danielle
Dubash, Darius Tamboli, Dina Hormuzdi, Farzad Sunavala, Freya Daroga, Friyana Sidhwa,
Katie Master, Kyle Jensen, Mahtab B. Dastur, Natasha N. Dungor, Nazneen Mistry, Nerius
Mehta, Nikita Engineer, Rayhan Nariman, Rayomand Katrak, Rhea Engineer, Tanaya
Behramsha, Vispi Katrak, Yazad Sidhwa, Zal Sethna, Zara Italia, Zubin Master

WZCC Houston Committee

Sharmeen Irani (Co-chair), Jal Sethna (Co-chair), Rustom Engineer, Kaemerz Dotiwala,
Aderbad Tamboli, Yasmin Medhora, Kershaw Khumbatta

The Entertainment

VISIONS OF PARADISE

Performers

Aban Chhor, Aiden Vania, Alyssa Tamboli, Anushka Oak, Ariana Anklesaria,
Arshin Mavandad Nejad, Ashtad Boomla, Avita Parvizi, Barjor M. Dastur,
Behram Hathi (Also playing the Violin), Cyrus Desai, Danielle Dubash, Darien Vimadalal,
Darius Tamboli, Deanna Tirandazian, Farida Divecha, Farzana Sidhwa (Also on Vocals),
Freya Daroga, Friyana Sidhwa, Gity Hormuzdiaran, Jamshed Dudha,
Jidina Z. Mory, Kaemerz Dotiwala (Also on Vocals), Kaizeen Mody, Katie Master,
Khursheed B. Dastur (Also on Vocals), Kyrus Buchia, Lyla Daroga (Also on Vocals),
Mahfrin Santoke (Also playing the Flute), Mahtab B. Dastur (Also on Vocals), Natalya Katrak,
Natasha Dungor, Naushad Mehta (Also on Vocals), Nazanin Sarkari, Nikita Engineer,
Nozer Buchia (Also on Vocals), Nurelle Vania, Percy Master,
Persis Behramsha (Also on Vocals), Persis Buchia, Pervin Sagar,
Rayomand Katrak, Rhea Engineer, Rosha Mavandad Nejad, Sabrina Warden,
Saloni Pargaonkar, Sanaea Warden, Shanaya Atashband, Shernaz Boomla,
Shireen Anklesaria (Also playing the Clarinet), Tehmi Dastoor (Also on Vocals),
Vehishta Kaikobad (Also on Vocals), Yasmin Medhora (Also on Vocals), Yazad Sidhwa,
Zai Gonda, Zane Commissariat (Also playing the Saxophone), Zara Commissariat,
Zenia Sunavala, Zubin Master, Zubin Mistry

Production Team

Producer, Director & Choreographer - Vehishta Kaikobad
Stage Managers & Overall Coordinators - Lyla Daroga & Khursheed B. Dastur
Artistic production - Edul Chikhliwala & Vehishta Kaikobad
Costume design - Persis Colah, Lyla Daroga, Vehishta Kaikobad, Rashna Oak,
Shahnaz Sidhwa, Kati Tamboli, Dhun Vajifdar
Backstage Crew - Naozer Behramsha, Persis Behramsha, Tanaaz Chikhliwala, Minaz Dungor,
Yasmin Haveliwala, Jasmin Katrak, Dilnaz Mory, Rashna Oak, Huferesh Vania,
Lyrics & Musical Score - Vehishta Kaikobad, Naushad Mehta, Lyla Daroga, Khursheed B. Dastur
AV & Technical - Aderbad Tamboli, Edul Chikhliwala, Khursheed B. Dastur, Khushrav Nariman,
Sheroy Haveliwala
Make-up Artists – Kamalrukh Gandhi, Rashna Oak, Sharaine Bharucha
Props - Edul Chikhliwala, Lyla Daroga
Narrators - Darius Tamboli, Kaemerz Dotiwala, Vehishta Kaikobad
Acknowledging Arzan Gonda and Naasha Dotiwala for their support

The Entertainment (Contd)

RHYTHM INDIA

Performers

Arzan Gonda, Dilshad Patel, Anushka Oak, Natasha Dungor,
Alexis Abraham, Alisha Rauniyar, Payal Mehta, Sharonya Shetty

Artistic Director

Arzan Gonda

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE D'UGLY

Performers (Actors)

Shernaz Boomla - Bobby Joe, Percy Katrak – Abbott, Natalya Katrak - Ellie May,
Darius Tamboli – Bubba, Naushad Mehta – Clayton, Persis Behramsha – Annabelle,
Zubin Mistry – Luke, Rayomand Katrak – Garth, Vispi Katrak – Toby, Kayo Sidhwa – Brooks
Percy Master – Beau, Sheroy Haveliwala – Austin, Nazanin Sarkari - Nellie

Performers (Models)

Arzin Italia, Darius B. Dastur, Freya Daroga, Friyana Sidhwa, Kevin Haveliwala,
Khursheed Hormuzdi, Kyle Jensen, Mahtab B. Dastur, Nali Spencer, Natasha Dungor,
Yazad Sidhwa, Zia Anklesaria, Farzana Sidhwa, Jasmin Katrak, Jasmine Mistry.
Kam Gandhi, Khursheed B. Dastur, Manek Nariman, Nazneen Khumbatta.
Parynaz Vimadalal, Rayhan Nariman, Sanober Tamboli, Yasmin Haveliwala, Zubin Master

Production Team

Producer & Director - Kam Gandhi
Choreography - Freya Daroga, Natalya Haveliwala, Kam Gandhi, Friyana Sidhwa
Production coordinator - Farzana Sidhwa
Audio Visual & Lighting - Khushrav Nariman & Aderbad Tamboli
Props and stage effects - Aderbad Tamboli
Backstage – Aban Chhor & Minaz Dungor
Make Up – Zanarah Karanjia & Kayla
Prompter – Aban Chhor
Fashion Designer – Ashdeen Lilaowala

The Entertainment (Contd)

PESTONJI PAKRAI GIYA

Performers

Mahtab B Dastur – Neighbor, Nozer Buchia – Pestonji, Persis Buchia – Dinamai,
Kyrus Buchia - Babu, Barjor M Dastur – Manager, Shernaz Boomla - Caula,
Farzana Sidhwa – Kachori, Parynaz Vimadalal - Niloufer, Kevin Haveliwala – Firoz,
Percy Katrak - Sohrabji, Naushad Mehta – Maneksa,
Nozer Dungor - Golimar, Kayomerz Sidhwa - Bhagwandas

Production Team

Writer, Producer, Director – Nozer Buchia
Back-Stage - Edul Chikhliwala, Affraz Boomla
Audio - Khursheed B. Dastur

THE Z BAND

Keyboards – Gary (Farrokh Firozgary),
Vocals – Navaz Kayani Irani, Sunny (Sushim Shah), KR
Guitar – KR
Bass Guitar – Doc D (Anil Dara)

DJ GARY

Gary (Farrokh Firozgary)