



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## ZAH Outreach Committee

---

Email: [kai@genvironmental.com](mailto:kai@genvironmental.com)

Kaemerz Dotiwala

Tel: 713-296-9497

As part of Outreach efforts on behalf of ZAH, the following events have taken place in 2023. Due to my health issues, there was a brief pause between April and August 2023, however, calls from private individuals and graduate students were returned and questions answered:

### **January 2023**

Topic: What is Zoroastrianism?

- Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023, • 7 Shevat 5783, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Venue: Freedman Levit Sanctuary, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, 4525 Beechnut, Houston, TX

The presentation was attended by members of the congregation and well received with requests for additional interaction with our youth Sunday School.

### **March 2023**

- March 14 – 17, 2023

Nowruz at Asia Society presented in partnership with the Zoroastrian Association of Houston. Shahnameh narration at the Asia Society

Grateful to ZAH for sponsoring the event and bringing greater awareness of religion and culture to the larger Houston society.

- Taught a high school class on Din-E-Mazdayasni at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School, Houston, Texas

**April 2023**

- Fort Bend County Interfaith Ministry requested representation at their meeting and Ms. Cyra kanga kindly represented the community at the event.

**August 2023**

- August 21, 2023, Methodist Hospital, Texas Medical Center

Methodist Hospital and Interfaith Ministry of Houston invited representatives from the Buddhist, Sikh, Bahai and Zoroastrian faiths to present religious views on healing. The event took place at the Methodist Hospital, Medical Center and was attended in person and online by over 200 attendees.

**October 2023**

We were invited to an intimate private celebration on October 4, 2023, and attended the Festival of SUKKOT SHALOM at Congregation Beth Yeshurun as guest of Consulate General of Israel to the Southwest United States. It was a very interesting interfaith meeting where faith leaders and community leaders gathered and exchanged stories of our traditions and shared values and gave thanks as we broke bread together and where we exchanged ideas on Peace with other faith communities.

**March 2024 (Upcoming)**

- March 1, 2024 – I will be speaking to a class of high school students at Strake Jesuit as part of their World Religions curriculum at the invitation of Nick Arguello, their teacher.
- March 3, 2024 – Aga Khan Youth & Sports Board for the Southwestern United States is celebrating its third annual Navroz Spring Festival at The Water Works Buffalo Bayou Park, 105 Sabine St., Houston, TX, 77007 on Sunday, March 3rd from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Kaemerz Dotiwala will be presenting a short excerpt from Sohrab and Rustom as a narration and Vehishta Kaikobad will be providing arts and crafts activities.

**General Outreach:**

I have been contacted by graduate students from the University of Colorado and Rice University asking specific questions related to Zoroastrianism as part of their thesis and dissertation. Such calls and interviews are ongoing and provided as requested.

**Goals:**

- I would like to incorporate one event/session in which local interfaith leaders that we interact with are invited to our Congress in December 2024, to witness our larger community from all over the world.
  - Set up a core group of volunteers that are trained and can assist with presentations as needed.
-