

BASZA newsletter

Issue 4/2022

The House Journal of Borivli & Suburban Zoroastrian Association (Registration no. F-3992)

Editor: **Khurshed Pastakia**

Views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of BASZA



**Happy New Year 2023 & Jamshedi
Naoroz Mubarak to all BASZAites**

**HOUSIE EVENING
& Dinner**

Subsidised contribution: Rs 150 per member; Rs 200 per guest

6:30 pm Sunday, 26th March, 2023

Rustomjee School, Borivli

PLEASE REGISTER WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LATEST BY THURSDAY, 23 MARCH

Minoo/Perviz Khan: 9821332733/9821917242; Yazdi/Khurshid Motiwala: 9892102033;

Khurshed/Veera Pastakia: 9820622136; Jimmy/Keshmira Adajania: 9930737197;

Minoo Kotwal: 9820500523; Banoo/Mehernosh Mehta: 9773306261

Living Practices for a Zoroastrian

After a considerable lapse of time, BASZA held its first religious lecture post-pandemic. Senior priest, Erv Dr Parvez M Bajan accompanied by Erv Darayesh R Katrak gave an impactful presentation to about 40 members on how a Zoroastrian should live in modern times.

Erv Katrak introduced Erv Bajan by saying that while lakhs of people come into this world and lakhs leave, there are only a very few who make a mark to leave behind a legacy. One such person is the respected Erv Parvez Bajan. BASZAites will readily recall that both Erv Bajan and Erv Katrak have always accepted our Association's invitations to come and enlighten us on religious matters.

The following were among the gems of wisdom that Erv Bajan shared with the gathering:

- Get up early in the morning. It is mentioned in our scriptures that he who gets up early gets more time to do good deeds, paving his way to heaven when he moves on.
- After getting off the bed, let us pray one Ashem Vohu to invoke the sense of righteousness within us – a sense that should permeate our being all the time.
- After performing morning ablutions, we should pray Shekaste Shekaste

Shaitaan, using taro or nirang. This purifies us spiritually, drives away all forms of “druj” from our mind, and promotes positivity.

- Pray daily. This is the best way to express gratitude to Ahura Mazda for giving us this life and all else that He has given us.
- There is both good and evil in this world. We must exert to fight like a soldier of God to make the good prevail.
- Following the example of Cyrus The Great (who founded the Iranian Empire extending over 23 nations and gave this world its first bill of human rights), even while we rule over others we should exercise the principles of tolerance and respect for all.
- A contented mind is the best, and one should not aspire to accumulate more wealth than required. Alexander conquered many lands with cruelty and accumulated humongous wealth, but when he died, he left empty-handed: as all of us will eventually do.
- Do charity. This is the highest virtue in our religion. There is a proverb that says: what I earn, I spend; what I save, I lose; but what I give, I still have!

During the question-answer session, on the topic of rebirth, Ervad Saheb opined that life is given to us only once and there is no belief of reincarnation in our religion.

BASZA takes this opportunity to profusely thank both Ervad Sahebs for making efforts to enlighten us, and we trust that they will continue to do so in the future too.

BASZA at FPZAI AGM

The Federation of Parsi Anjumans of India's Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd and 23rd January 2023 at the Banaji Atash Behram Hall, the first time after it was last held in Ahmedabad in 2019. **Yazdi Motiwala and Khurshed Pastakia attended the meeting on behalf of BASZA.**

After a great deal of to and fro and waste of time between the lobby led by ex-Chairman of BPP, Dinshaw Mehta, and the one comprising WAPIZ members, the following were elected as office-bearers:

Chairperson: Armaity Tirandaz (ex-officio as BPP Chairperson)

Zonal Vice Presidents: West "A" - Percy Karani (Thana); West "B" – Sam Chothia (Valsad); *North:* Tehmtan Anklesaria (Ratlam); *East:* Russi Jeejeebhoy (Calcutta); *South:* Cmde Medioma Bhada (Belgaum)

Hon Secretaries: Viraf Mehta (BPP) & Anahita Desai (BPP)

Hon Treasurers: Xerxes Dastur (BPP) & **Khurshed Pastakia (BASZA)**

Executive Secretary: Paricheher Daviervalva (Davier)

Other members of the Executive Council were:

Co-opted members: Paricheher Daviervalva, Pervez Irani, Rumi Zarir, Khushroo Daboo, and Yazdi Karanjia

Zonal Representatives:

BASZA & Thana (WZ "A"), Bilimora & Baroda (WZ "B"), Belgaum (SZ), and Mhow, Ratlam, Indore & Jabalpur (NZ)

CEO (New post created): Brig. (Retd) Jehangir Anklesaria (Ahmedabad)

The Defunct Anjumans Committee was re-constituted with the following members:

Five Zonal Vice Presidents, two Hon Secretaries, two Hon Treasurers, Executive Secretary, seven BPP Trustees, National Commission for Minorities Representative (Kersi Deboo), Aspi Pastakia (Saronda), Rumi Zarir (Tavdi) and Pervez Mehta (Bardoli).

Aban excels

BASZA member, Aban Marazban Sarkari distinguished herself by winning a golden memento and a cash prize in the Kusti Weaving Competition plus a beautiful "ses" in the Prayer Competition held by the Bombay Parsee Association in its centenary year.

BASZA congratulates Aban on this achievement and hopes that the dying but important art of kusti weaving is preserved by the likes of her.

Parsi Community's rising star

Jehangir (s/o Rohinton) and Sandeepa Batiwala cannot hide their happiness and pride as their son, Farohar, continues to create records with his academic brilliance.

Excellent in maths and science throughout his school career, Farohar is an all-rounder who is equally skillful in elocutions, debates and quizzes. **He recently cracked the SSC Boards (2021-22) scoring a whopping 96% and topping the prestigious Hansraj Morarji Public School, Andheri.**

He has participated in highly competitive exams such as IOQM (Indian Olympiad Qualifier in Mathematics), SOF (Science Olympiad Foundation) Olympiad, Maths Concept Examination, Maharashtra Scholarship Examination, and Homi Bhabha Balvaidyanik Examination. His inquisitive mind, calculative approach, scientific inclination, thirst for knowledge, a voracious reading habit and out-of-the-box thinking has also

helped him stand 3rd in Maharashtra in the Indian Science Olympiad (ISO).

Farohar has also memorized the entire Periodic Table of Elements, an icon of chemistry, in which elements are arranged in the order of increasing atomic numbers and show trends of similarities based on their electron configuration.

His skills in robotics, have won him a trophy and gold medal for his project "SmartBin" which fetched the 1st prize for his school in Maharashtra in the Robokart STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) Expo.

Farohar has set himself a definite goal in life: he wants to join IIST (Indian Institute of Space & Technology), Thiruvananthapuram, affiliated to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) by becoming an aerospace engineer, and help the country in constructing new spacecraft and propulsion technologies. For this he is currently preparing to achieve a good all-India rank in JEE. BASZA salutes Farohar, a rising star of our Community, and we pray that he achieves what he has set his heart upon.

We also congratulate his parents and grand-parents for providing him with the means and enthusiasm to dream and to fulfil his ambitions. May Ahura Mazda be with you, Farohar.

Two distinguished community leaders depart'

Arez Pirojshaw Khambatta and Dadi Eruchshaw Mistry, two distinguished leaders of the Parsi communities of Ahmedabad and Delhi, respectively, have sadly passed away.

Arez Khambatta was best known for having created India's original start-up, the "Rasna" brand of soft drinks: a truly Make in India brand, that sells across 60 countries! A huge job-creator and philanthropist, he was honoured with the National Citizen's Award by the President of India for outstanding contribution to commerce, and a Samman Patra by the Ministry of Finance for being the highest tax-payer of Gujarat. A past president of Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayet, a former chairman of WAPIZ and a former vice president of FPZAI, Arez chaired many trusts and foundations involved in healthcare, scholarship, education, etc. Late Arez Khambatta was awarded the prestigious "Padma Shri" in 2023 posthumously.

The ever-jovial Dadi Engineer was the past president of the Delhi Parsi

Anjuman, a founder member of (i) FPZAI, (ii) World Zoroastrian Organisation, (iii) WZO Foundation, (iv) World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC), and was a former member of the National Minorities Commission.

May their souls attain Garothman Behest.

Smriti Irani meets Community Leaders

Smriti Irani, the Union Minister of Minority Affairs, took time out of her busy schedule to meet Parsi Community leaders at the Dadar Athornan Institute Hall.

Accompanied by the Secretary, MMA, Shri Mukhmeet S Bhatia, she made the following announcements:

- Udvada railway station to have an escalator and be developed as a world class railway station
- Initial support of Rs 1 cr for preservation of Avesta Language and reinstatement of studies in Avesta-Pahlavi at MA level through distance learning
- Effort to get the status of Centre of Excellence for institute running Avesta-Pahlavi studies
- Support from government for training and medicare of mobeds
- Support from government's Krishi Vigyan Kendra for Zoroastrian farmers

¹ BASZA expresses gratitude to publications like Parsi Khabar, Jam é Jamshed, Parsi Times, Parsiana, Times of India, Mid-Day,

Parsi Bol, and others, from where we may have condensed the published items, with or without embellishment.

- Support to XYZ Foundation for promoting and preserving Zoroastrian culture
- Support for promoting traditional skillsets identified by the Community
- Support for community sports activities
- Proposal to create a federation of women's organisations so that Zoroastrian women could benefit from government schemes and programs for welfare and safety of women

The program was conducted by Erv Ramiyar Karanjia and chaired by Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor. **BASZA was represented at the meeting by Minoo Khan and Khurshed Pastakia.**

RTI reinvents its cuisine

The Ratan Tata Institute, at 35 Hughes Road, that started with the aim of providing employment to needy Parsi women in 1922 is revolutionizing its menu under chefs Arzaan Sabawalla and Hooma Billimoria.

Their new menu titled "Gourmet at 35" includes exotic dishes like: crab and artichoke dip, Vietnamese rice paper prawn wrap, Thai glass noodle salad with tofu, pearl barley risotto with mushroom and truffles, and Japanese cheesecake. Traditional dishes are also being given a new twist like Parsi-style prawn vol-au-vent and smoked potato and feta quiche. Besides, a new breed of sandwiches is on the way with offerings

like caprese salad croissant sandwich with walnut pesto and multigrain bread roll with ham, cheddar and cranberry chutney.

One doubts how much these new dishes will appeal to the earthy epicurean Parsi palate, but it appears that the RTI management is looking for a change-over in clientele to west-oriented sophisticates, and is planning to also make these items available, at a cost, on delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato.

While this is on, we also hear that RTI is simultaneously working on reviving some of the dishes from its old menus. Shernaz Buhariwala, Head of Operations at RTI, and Kaiyosh Keravala, Head of Marketing and Sales are spearheading compilation of a list of once-popular dishes at RTI that were discontinued about 30 or 40 years ago and a digital archive of old recipes is being put together.

Some of these are: Bharuchi Mutton, Kerwai, the French Religieuse, Chicken Maivala (Continental Version), Kanda-Keri ma Ghosh, Popatjee, Kera ni Ghari, Mutton Cottage Pie, Honey Twist, Bhaji Dana ma Ghosh, Kan ni Ghari, Lamb Cottage Pie, Papri ma Kawab, Baked Chicken with Pineapple in Cheese Sauce and Fish Florentine...

OBITUARY

This is to note with deep sadness the passing of our member, Mrs Manek Sheriar Guard. May her soul attain Garothman Behest.

Solve the Puzzle

Find the names of the following Parsi DAYS in the grid...

Adar, Ava, Khorshed, Mohor, Tir, Gosh, Daepmeher, Sarosh

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| S | N | O | W | Y | D | H | O | S | A |
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DROP

If undelivered, return to:

Mr Mino Khan, K-605 Nalanda, Sunder Nagar, SV Rd, Malad(w), Mumbai 400064
