



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11.30 a.m.

DATE: December 9, 2012

Children’s Session:

Gujarati Session starts at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School session will start at 11:30

Please bring passport size photographs of your children for the ‘Zoroastrian family tree

Middle Group: This group is for the children in the middle school. Last year they learnt about the ceremonies, this year they learnt the meanings of Kusti prayers. If your child falls in this age group, do please bring him/her to the Sunday School.

Senior Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this session. This session takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 6, 2012 – ZAH Library – Museum Tour of “Henry Ossawa Tanner, Modern Spirit”.

Saturday, February 3, 2013 – *Jashn-e-Sadeh*

Friday, February 8, 2013 – *Library event*

MEETINGS

GOLDEN GROUP	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611
LIBRARY COMMITTEE	First Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM. Interested in helping? Or would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at aban@coatingindustries.com

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (By Jehanbux R. Mehta)

The Annual General Meeting of ZAH was held at the Center on Sunday, November 11 at which 140 members entitled to vote were present. At this meeting, in addition to the presentation of reports by the respective sub-committees, two motions, circulated earlier among all members, were tabled. One pertaining to the operation of the Association’s bank account by only one authorized signatory for amounts not exceeding \$2,500 was passed unanimously. The other, relating to the ZHCC revised Operating Guidelines was also adopted but with two [2] members dissenting. These Guidelines may be seen on our website – <http://zah.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/ZHCC-Proposed-Operating-Guidelines-21-Oct.pdf> The meeting was preceded by a complimentary lunch of biryani and jalebi, not to mention, of course, the always popular *fudina ni chai*.

Behroze Daruwalla, Kershaw Khumbatta and Percy Master [Secretary], having completed their terms retired and were replaced by Rohintan Deputy, Manek Nariman and Diana Balsara [Secretary] unopposed. Kayo Sidhwa [Treasurer], Kersi

Daroga, Kamalrukh Gandhi and Jehanbux Mehta are the other members on the EC. Sarosh Collector, our representative to FEZANA, also having completed his term, retired. In his place, Roshan Sethna, having previously been associated with FEZANA, was elected unopposed.

At the AGM, in response to the Chair's proposal that two members from the Youth Group selected from among themselves attend all EC meetings as observers was readily accepted by the youth. The EC looks forward to their presence at the meetings not just as observers but as participants – a stepping stone to preparing our youth for leadership roles.

An appeal was made by the EC for donations to help the victims of the disastrous hurricane Sandy. A total of \$1,000, including around \$250 from ZAH, was sent to FEZANA to help those Zoroastrians who were stricken by this calamity. Yet another appeal was made to all by e-blast for those who had missed out earlier to send their checks directly to FEZANA.

While awaiting the start-up of the new electronic security system, as additional deterrent to intruders, steel bars with an aesthetic look have been affixed on all 36 windows of the building.

LIBRARY REPORT (By Jango Mistry)

MFAH Tour

The Library Committee has arranged for a special tour at the Museum of Fine Arts of Houston of the "Henry Ossawa Tanner: Modern Spirit" exhibit. The one-hour free tour, conducted by Vehishta Kaikobad, will be offered at 7:00 pm on December 6.

How deeply do your religious and cultural roots influence your profession and life? How does an internationally famous person respond with a universal approach while also being cognizant of his community's sentiments? The exhibition provides minority communities an aesthetically unique experience to delve into the life and works of an African American artist of international reputation, while leaving the visitors to reflect upon their own identity. Please RSVP to Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com).

Inter-Library Loan of Books

From time to time we receive requests for books to be loaned to other libraries in the U.S. We have received one such request for a student's research from his professor at St. John's University Library in New York for Pahalvi Vendidad and Pahalvi Rivayat books that are in our collection. The books are mailed out for about a month, with the understanding that they are to be used only on the premises of the library and not to be checked out by that library's users. As our web site gets more exposure, and as word of our collection spreads around the country, we expect many more such requests from scholars and religion experts outside of Houston.

YOUTH GROUP REPORT (by Natalya Haveliwala)

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break! However, Turkey was not the only thing on our mind during the holidays. On November 24 and 25, we held a lock-in. We cleaned the Youth Room from the windows to every nook and cranny. All the items that were left there and not claimed were thrown out, stored for later use, or donated to Goodwill. While the whole youth was together, we voted on the colors to paint our room with. We cannot wait until the lock-in on December 22/23 to start painting! We also made 200 Christmas cards by cutting out ornaments from colorful construction paper. These cards will be delivered to the patients at the St. Luke's Hospital during the Christmas holidays. Right now, Sarosh Uncle is focused on helping us remember and learn the Shanahme stories. Thank you to all the parents who helped! Over all, we had a very productive and enjoyable lock-in.

We are having a camping trip on January 19-21st at Lake Livingston. Any adult who would like to venture outdoors with us is welcome!

Please mark your calendars for June 29, as we will be holding our annual fundraiser show (the theme is yet to be decided). All the money collected will be going in the savings for the 2015 Youth Congress in New Zealand.

Don't forget to order t-shirts! Please email zahyouthgroup@gmail.com with the number of t-shirts and sizes.

Youth Small- Adult XL = \$10

Adult XXL or XXXL = \$12

Our next Sunday School session is on December 9th from 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M. Now all we need is Christmas!

MIDDLE GROUP REPORT (by Katie Master)

The November lock in which took place at the center on November 10th, 2012. There was something for everyone.

I created a sorting card game that provided definitions with a primary focus on religion and culture. For example: Who created the New Day and what was it named? The answer would be King Jamshed; Navroz. The kids were split up into teams of 2. Who ever got the most correct in the fastest time won 3 pieces of candy each. Every other team got 1 piece of candy each for their effort.

In the mood of the festivities and with Thanksgiving around the corner, the middle group enjoyed their arts and craft time creating and making cards.

We also had a session with Sarosh Uncle about the Shanameh stories. We discussed what Common Era was; the 5 dynasties with the Kings, how the book was written and we also got to look at ancient coins that were used in the different dynasties. This was very enjoyable to look at because some coins were very extravagant while others extremely plain. I know everyone learned a lot.

The middle group also had fun during non-educational times like having a dance session. Here, we all danced to songs that were played in a previous show and it was a like a mini competition. Enjoying the dance show, the middle group patiently and courageously taught the adults many dance moves. We had snack times and free time after that. We got to listen to music, dance, read, talk, sing, play games or sports, etc. The next day we all read about Niyaiesses and discussed what we were thankful and grateful for.

Even though I am excited about going to the youth group, I know I will miss the fun and more relaxed class. I hope this continues in other lock-ins.

MISCELLANEOUS

SPORTS COMMITTEE NEWS (By Kayo Sidhwa)

ZAH – Dallas Family Cricket Festival at the ZAH Center, Houston, TX – Nov 10th, 2012

For the first time in ZAH history, the Sports Committee tried something unprecedented by taking the initiative to host a highly talented, well-rounded (not literally) and uniformed Cricket team from another city (Dallas, to be precise) during our annual Family Cricket Festival on Nov 10th 2012. Our sojourn began almost 4 months ago and together with our selfless volunteers and of course our benevolent donors, we could carry out the planning efforts immaculately and with razor thin precision to make this event a resounding success.

The Cricket team from Dallas was very excited about the prospects of participating in the first ever intercity Texan Zarathustis Annual Cricket Cup. They arrived in Houston the night before and we had our welcome dinner at Salaam Namaste restaurant, whose owner will be very wary of hosting us again due to the ruckus we created with the usual friendly banter constituting of Parsi Zarathusti expletives galore. Each one was having a go at the other team's players that night which we call "Psychological and Mental Disintegration" (or as some of our older Hindi radio cricket commentators used to call it, "Manovaigyanik Dabav") to have an upper hand for the next day.

The big day finally arrived and the Cricket teams from Dallas and Houston were on the field practicing by 9.30 am for a 10 am start, but as is customary now, some of the Star players (names withheld due to legal consequences) arrived a tad later and the match started around 10.30 am. The Houston players were divided into 2 teams, "Houston Mexans" (HM) and "Houston Sockets" (HS) via an unbiased selection spanning over 5 weekends by specially appointed Selectors who had to endure fierce competition. To keep things in line the Dallas team was named the Dallas Bullboys (DB) which would be the cricketing version of the Dallas Cowboys.

The first match began between the DB and HM teams, with DB winning the toss and electing to bat in a 15 over a side match. DB progressed well for the first few overs which was creating a bit of discomfort in the HM ranks, when a sudden collapse of wickets led to a bit of panic within their ranks. This was steadied by some gutsy, never-say-die cricketers who somehow restored parity by getting DB to 84 in 15 overs. HM started their innings with a flourish and were always ahead of the asking rate of almost 6 an over. Eventually HM ran off to a comfortable win by scoring the required runs in 12.3 overs with just 2 wickets down. Although the margin suggests otherwise, it was a closely fought contest with the fortunes see sawing during the course of the match.

The most anticipated and popular period, Lunch was called in and all the players, spectators, bookies, selectors, match fixers, etc. rushed inside the ZAH Center to rest their already aching bodies and to feast on the delicious wholesome Chicken Tikka sandwiches and chips along with sodas.

The next match was between the HM and HS teams and a lot was at stake for all the players to show their prowess and skills to the visiting Dallas team as well as to the Houston community which was present in large numbers to witness the matches. The HS team won the toss (or rather informed HM that they won) and decided to bat. By then the organizers got feedback from the anti-corruption bureau that a few bookies and match fixers might be present on the ZAH grounds to spot fix. All the entrances and rooms were searched thoroughly and the situation was thwarted to restore fair proceedings.

The HS team compiled 104 runs in the stipulated 15 overs with some solid hits to and over the boundary ropes and sent shivers down the spines of the HM team players who were supposedly the better team. The HM team started their innings in a similar rollicking fashion and carved out a rather emphatic win by finishing the score of 105 with some balls and wickets to spare. The bowling actions of some players are currently being scrutinized and they risk being barred for life.

Even before the match finished and tea was called for, some of our now battered players and spectators started drifting towards the Center for some nice Mint tea accompanied by Khari and Glucose cookies for some much needed energy.

Soon after tea, the Dallas players were raring to go for another match after the narrow loss they suffered in the first match. They started the proceedings by bowling to the HS team and were bowling with full power and vengeance to let Houston know what they were capable of. They decimated the HS team and restricted them to a paltry score of 47 in 10 overs with some quick bowling and razor sharp fielding. Once they started their reply, the result was a foregone conclusion and the DB team notched up the required runs in 7-8 overs.

Once the matches got over around 5.30 pm, everyone went back inside the center and relaxed, with some watching the A&M football game while others showed their skills and prowess at Table Tennis, Carrom and other indoor games. Then came the much awaited time for some "Chhato Pani" where some of the friends sat together and reminisced about the olden days when they used to play with the likes of Farokh Engineer, Polly Umrigar, Nari Contractor and others, although the authenticity of some those conversations is still being verified. Once dinner arrived at 7 pm, all started to gorge on the delicious Mutton Dhansak and Kababs with Kachuber along with some yummy dessert prepared by our own Naushad Mehta and Rustom Setna. We finished another great fun filled day around 9 pm after a glittering award ceremony.

The icing on the cake was the sublime weather which helped some players go through the entire day without any problems although there were a lot of us who had highly questionable fitness levels. The fitness levels were summed up by comments like "Are jaraa Kavab lau, I can't even get up" and "Body na baddha parts dukhech pan paisa vasool thay giya".

All in all, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Dallas Cricket team for coming over, participating in the matches and for being a great sport. The Sports Committee would also like to thank our EC members, all our donors, volunteers, committee members and their families and above all YOU, for making this another satisfying and memorable day for all.

Please click on the link <http://zah.org/photos/?album=12&gallery=15> for the days proceedings

PRIZE WINNERS:	
Man of the Match – Jehangir Irani - ZAH	Most Promising Youngster – Yazad Sidhwa - ZAH
Best Bowler – Spenta Irani - Dallas	Best Fielder – Yazdi Kharas - Dallas
Best Batsman – Noozar Boomla - ZAH	

SHINING MOMENT FOR CHLOE CHOUDURY

At a Diwali function hosted at Constellation Field - Skeeters Stadium, Chloe Choudhury, daughter of Tanaz and Chesley Choudhury opened the event with our Star Spangled Banner to a massive sold out crowd of 8000+ people. Chloe was selected after the organizers of the Diwali Pageant heard her singing voice. You can hear her at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxbjS-8Ht6A>

HD Link: (for faster connections) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxbjS-8Ht6A&hd=1>

SAVE THE DATE: "Garas and Duglis" to be held at ZAH on Sat., Feb. 23, 2013

Please **Save the Date** for our upcoming fundraiser event "Garas and Duglis" to be held **at ZAH on Sat., Feb. 23, 2013**.... all proceeds to go to ZAH. This promises to be a fun dress-up evening with **Patra Nu Bhonu** and a fully festive ambiance with **Chalk-Toran-Lights** and **live entertainment** from California!

Please refer to attached flyer, Details to follow in upcoming Manashni issues..... stay tuned!

Your Entertainment Committee asks for your active involvement and participation. We are looking for sponsors, donors, advertisers.... how would you like to pitch in?

Hope to see you at **ZAH Baug** in your traditional **Duglis-Fentos-Paghdis-topis** and **Garas-Sarees, Navjote dresses and duglis**...or your **Iranian traditional outfits!**

MYZD JASHAN AT NEW DADGAH SITE (By Aspi Colah)

They started leaving their homes in the early morning fog. The first volunteer arriving at the gates of 9000 West Airport Boulevard before the Sun came up and soon others followed for what was to be the most important day for the MYZD group. It was Sunday morning Dec 2nd 2012, ADAR mahino & SAROSH roj, The day when the inaugural JASHAN on the future site of the first ever perpetually burning Atash Dadgah was to be performed.

All around the great city of Houston Parsi/Irani Zarathusthis were busying themselves with different chores preparing for this great event...some volunteered for fruits, some flowers, some started in earnest preparing Malido, Sev, Ravo, Lagan nu Custard and other Parsi delicacies. Over a 150 people, children and adults congregated in friendship and fellowship in what was to be a historic day in their lives when they would set ablaze the fires of our divine faith by consecrating the first ever traditional Atash Dadgah in the western hemisphere.

The MYZD group (MAZDA YASNI ZARATHUSTHI DAR-E-MEHER group) had been spearheading this effort to build this one of a kind house of worship to fulfill the spiritual void in our community and also for our young children so they can experience the power, grandeur and beauty of our sublime faith like we all did in India, Pakistan & Iran.

The word 'myzd' occurs many times in our litany and prayer rituals...more commonly in our "Doa Tandorosti" prayer when we recite "myzd roshan hame bersaad". The word 'myzd' can be traced back to old Avesta, Pahlavi/Pazend and Sogdian scripts and means rewards or gifts and 'roshan' mean bright or brilliant. When we pray "Yazdaane Minoan, Yazdaane Getian, Haft Ameshapandan, Myzd Roshan Hame Berasaad" we are beseeching the powers that be, the Yazatic Forces and Seven Ameshapandan that have dominion over our physical and spiritual world to give Brilliant rewards to the true followers of the Mazdayasni Zarathusthi Religion.

And so before long the Tent was set up, the area cleaned and purified, street signs directing traffic on the property were put out, Chairs were set up by our young volunteers and then they started pouring in...cars after cars. Our very gracious EC at ZAH had given us permission to open up a segment of the fence on the rear driveway that the MYZD shares with the ZAH so our Elders and families with young children could park and just walk over on the Jashan Site.

The Priests started coming in...9 of them, lead by none other than our Peshotan Unwalla all dressed immaculately in their pure white outfits...the youngest barely 13 years old and Navar-to-be Yazad Sidhwa. Soon the Tent was filled to capacity by the young and old, families with children all congregating with the single minded purpose of protecting, preserving and perpetuating our time honored rituals and traditions in establishing the first and only perpetually burning consecrated Atash Dadgah in Houston, Texas.

After the Jashan Chasni was had on the MYZD property while the crowd enjoyed each others friendship and camaraderie for getting together for a common cause. It turned out to be a warm sunny day (weather forecast for Dec 2nd was researched on weather channels and Farmers almanac and other sources weeks before the Jashan date) and as we all know when you take a step in the right direction unseen forces step in to smoothen out the way.

After Chasni the crowd slowly made its way towards the ZAH where a sumptuous lunch of "Dhan Dar & Machi no Patio" with a desert catered by our very own Naushad Metha and Rustam Setna. There was short presentation and speech and the very young amongst us sang their lovely "Ashem Vohu" song. Soon it was time for Tea and as always batasas, bakharas and other snacks accompanied the "Fudina ni Chai"

what a wonderful day and what incredible show of support. People opened up their hearts, minds and their pocket books. Everyone wanted to help...many of them want to volunteer on the different aspects of the project, and they will, as soon as construction starts next year and we start organizing sub committees. It was so heart warming and touching to see so many of our folks that had gathered still have the fire burning quietly inside you. Lets all get together and make Houston the Ray of Hope, the Beacon of Light for all traditional Parsi/Irani Zarathusthis who reside here in these United States of America...the greatest country in the world...the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Thank you all for your love, support and blessings and may we all meet again soon in good friendship and fellowship.

Yatha Zamyat...Yatha Afrinami.

OBITUARY

Jimmy Sethna, husband of Nina Sethna and father of Zarim (Roshan) and Jal (Shermin) Sethna and Shirin (Adil) Bharucha, passed away Monday, December 3, 2012

And in Karachi, renowned columnist Ardeshir Cowasjee passed away on November 24, 2012

Ardeshir Cowasjee was born in 1926 in Karachi. He was a businessman in merchant shipping. He attended the Bai Virbaiji Soparivala Parsi High School and graduated from DJ Science College. Cowasjee started writing letters to the editor of a leading English newspaper, which led him to become a permanent columnist. His hard-hitting and well-researched columns exposed corruption, nepotism and incompetence in different local, provincial and national governments for the last twenty years.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ONLINE (BY ZAH WEB COMMITTEE)

We are delighted to announce that online payment of membership dues is now available through our website. You can pay your 2013 membership dues (Jan - Dec) online on our website www.zah.org by clicking on **Pay Membership here** on the top left hand corner of our home page. Once you click on the link please fill up the appropriate details including your membership type, number of spaces, correct email address, etc. choose the option to pay via paypal or send a check to the ZAH address, attention Treasurer, with Membership Dues 2013 in the memo field. Please treat the email you receive as your receipt and keep it safe for your records.

For new or returning members subscribing online **on or before January 31st 2013**, the convenience fees charged by paypal will be waived so please register/renew your membership for 2013 at your earliest convenience to avoid any convenience fees.

If you have any questions or concerns or wish to provide any feedback, please do not hesitate to write to zahwebmaster@gmail.com

In case you prefer to pay by check, please circle the category that fits you and send your check as indicated.

CATEGORY OF MEMBERS (PLEASE CIRCLE ONLY ONE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY)

PATRON MEMBER. – FAMILY.....	\$500.00
PATRON MEMBER – SINGLE	\$250.00
FAMILY MEMBER	\$275.00
FAMILY ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$275.00
SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	\$135.00
SINGLE MEMBER.....	\$135.00
FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER.....	\$ 65.00
SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER	\$ 40.00
STUDENT MEMBER	\$ 25.00
MANASHNI SURCHARGE - FOR PRINTED/MAILED COPIES	\$ 15.00
DONATION	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

DEFINITION:

FAMILY MEMBER: PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18

FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER: WHERE ONE SPOUSE IS OVER THE AGE OF 65

SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER: AN INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 65

SINGLE MEMBER: AN UNMARRIED INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 18

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: CALENDAR YEAR – JANUARY TO DECEMBER – MAIL TO:

:

ZAH Treasurer
8787 W. Airport Blvd.,
Houston, TX 77071

The views expressed in MANASHNI are those of the author and not necessarily endorsed or supported by ZAH.

ZAH PRESENTS

SAREES AND DAGLIS
A Gala Evening

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013

RSVP, RATES, & OTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

SCRUMPTIOUS PATRA NU BHONU
(DINNER SERVED ON BANANA LEAF)

POPULAR MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT
ENTOURAGE FROM CALIFORNIA

BABYSITTING SERVICE

BEST DRESSED GARA & DAGLI COMPETITION

PARSI VARIETY STALL

SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

CARICATURES / PHOTOS

COMMUNITY SLIDE SHOW

Organized By: ZAH Entertainment Committee

