



MANASHNI SPONSORED BY

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OFFICE 713-963-4229

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: November 13, 2022

Children's Session: The Sunday School session starts at **10:30 a.m. in-person and by Zoom**

Middle Group: The Sunday School session at **10:30 a.m. – in-person & by Zoom**



Youth Group: The Sunday School session at 10:00 a.m. **In person**



Disclaimer and Authorizations – When attending any events at ZHCC premises, please abide by all the State of Texas and Harris County regulations prevalent on the day. The attendee(s) will NOT hold ZAH or any board member or the organizer(s), responsible for any COVID-19 related or any other sickness, accidents and/or mishaps either to themselves, to their vehicles or any other vehicle(s), person(s) and/or property. All the rules, regulations and disclaimers are effective upon members entering ZHCC premises on the "day of the event" and shall remain effective until they leave the ZHCC premises that day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, November 4, 2022 – WZCC Event at ZHCC
- Friday, November 11 & 12, 2022 – Library Event
- Friday, December 2, 2022 – WZCC Event
- Friday, December 31, 2022 – New Year's Eve Gala
- Saturday, February 4, 2023 – Jashn-e-Sadeh

REPORT

LIBRARY REPORT

By: Jango Mistry

ZAH Library Annual Gala (a 2-for-1 Event)

November 11 and 12

The much-awaited annual gala that the ZAH Library Committee organizes is upon us again. On Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12, we will have the opportunity to listen to two distinguished speakers on a vital subject of our history.

Most of us know well the sailing out of Iran to escape persecution, and our knowledge of history begins over there. But who among us has not wondered *what conditions in Iran caused us to risk our lives and sail over the ocean to distant lands? And what of the forefathers who were left behind?* At this Library event, we will get answers from Janet Kestenberg Amighi, our featured speaker on Saturday morning. She has done a lot of scholarly research on the challenges faced by

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

An Invitation



Gallery Exhibition

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Katrak, Percy – Chairman
Gagrat, Nikita
Hormuzdi, Khurshed
Khumbatta, Kershaw
Mistry, Jasmine
Dastur, Khurshed – Secretary
Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer
Sarkari, Nazanin – FEZANA Rep

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar
Buchia, Cyrus
Dastur, Barjor M
Dastur, Darius B
Desai, Farrokh
Firozgary, Bahrom
Gonda, Pervez
Kanga, Neville
Katrak, Rayomand
Katrak, Vispi
Khumbatta, Noshir
Kotwal, Zubin
Masani, Dara
Nariman, Khushrav
Pavri, Shapur
Sanjana, Bahmanshah
Sanjana, Kurush
Sidhwa, Kayomarz
Sidhwa, Maneck
Sidhwa, Yazad
Unwalla, Peshotan
Vimadalal, Freyaan
Vimadalal, Khushroo

BEHRAM ROJ PRAYERS



Zoroastrians in Iran after the fall of the Sasanian Empire. She has first-hand knowledge through her stay in Iran and her interviews with Iranis on the subject of preserving their religion in austere times. This is going to be a fascinating journey into the roots of our unusual history.

From history to present-day life. A related theme will be covered in the second presentation after lunch on Saturday, featuring our own Banafsheh Mondegarian. Banafsheh spent the first 25 years of her life in Kerman, with Farsi as her first language, while picking up her Bachelor of Arts degree from Azad University in Kerman.

Alongside this exciting event will be an Art Exhibition showcasing the astonishing talents of our members. Their artwork will be unveiled during the Annual Gala and will continue to be displayed for another month after that. But only during the gala you will get to meet and chat with the artists and discuss their exhibits. We have paintings, we have models, we have almost 20 items that showcase the creativity and artistic talents of our members. Come and be impressed, and amazed, and encourage our artists to continue their impressive work.

On Friday evening, we will have our usual meet-and-greet event with a potluck supper that will set the stage for both talks on Saturday. These two days will be enlightening, exciting, and enjoyable – a feast for your brain, eyes, and stomach!

Details have been emailed to all our members. If you still haven't RSVP'd, please do so at your earliest to Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com, 281-468-4988)

ZAH Library would like to thank Kermeen Kanga and Yasmin Pavri for their help with taking the inventory of the books, and thank Arzin Italia, youth group and accompanying parents for their help with tracking misplaced books and straightening shelves.

ATASH KADEH NEWS

By: Persis Behramsha

Fall season is giving us some beautiful weather to enjoy, and we are almost catching up to Thanksgiving celebrations.

If you have not had a chance yet, please do visit – you will be greeted with a wonderful array of blooming flowers and plants on your way to the steps of the Atash Kadeh. Once inside you will find the peace and serenity as you stand praying, in front of the Kebla. When the sun begins to peek in and you see and feel the rays of the sun filtering through the tall glass windows, it is definitely magical!!!

Besides the regular Boyes every day and Machi requests throughout the month, October started off with dual celebrations.

Our Behram Roj sponsors were Dilnavaz, Hoshang, Yasmin & Shernaz Subawalla and family. What is commendable about this Behram Roj, is that though some of the family members knew they would not be able to attend, being a working day, they still sponsored, so we could continue with the ongoing tradition, without any breaks. Thank you, Subawalla family. It is individuals like you and everyone that has sponsored the monthly Behram Roj that we have been able to continue with this tradition. Thank you to all of you that have willingly participated and continue to do so.

AFTER BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN



What could they be talking about? Can anyone guess?

LIBRARY



EFARGANYU



We thank the families of Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara, Zarine Boyce, Dilber Bulsara & Abhijit Kulkarni, Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, Jessica & Jamshed Dubash, Nikita & Eric Gagrat, Viloo & Pervez Gonda, Mahnaz & Bakshi Irani and Vira and Arzan Mehta for sponsoring the Farvardegan Jashan. It was so heartwarming to see everyone at the prayers and the happy chitter-chatter afterwards during the Chasni and snacks.

To all our supporters, who regularly hold Machis, to all those that volunteer, to all those that participate and to all that visit our Atash Kadeh, we are so glad you are part of our community – we enjoy having everyone and would love to see more of you stop by.

It is worth mentioning again that we are so fortunate to have the Atash Kadeh in our midst. Folks make special attempt to visit us from different cities and states and vow to come back whenever possible.

Mobeds Pervez Gonda and Maneck Sidhwa – we are so happy to have you serve with so much dedication – Thank you!!!

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

By: Roshni Chikhliwala

On October 28th, the youth group teamed up with Aban Rustomji to volunteer for library clean-up. The youth group sorted books in numeric order and made sure to try and find the "lost" books. A big thank you to Aban Rustomji since without her we would not have been able to participate in the event. The Youth group looks forward to future volunteer opportunities in the Library.

On November 18-20, we will be having the Dallas lock-in where our youth group goes to Dallas and participates in a lock-in with the Dallas group for that weekend.

On December 11th, we will be having the annual Christmas party! Please save the date! More information will soon follow.

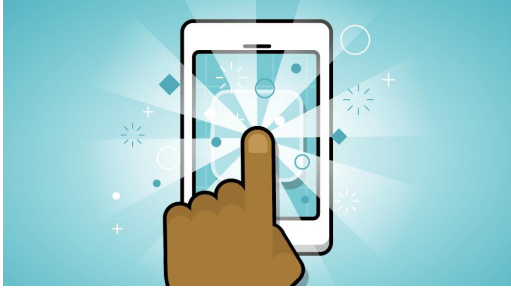
Finally, thank you to all the youth, youth mentors, and youth teachers as none of this would have been possible without your help and support.

MISCELLANEOUS

Efarganyu - Labor of Love

For the past three years Jamshed Elavia had been working on developing an app naming it eFarganyu spending his own time and money. Jamshed started it for the children to learn their Kasti prayers to prepare for their Navjote. He started with developing in IOS but it is now on Android also. Many other prayers can be uploaded as the project progresses.

At the last ZAH AGM, a proposal was passed by the members to fund the eFarganyu app at \$1,000 per year for the next three years. The funds will be used in the development and marketing of the app. For details see the flyer below.



BABY JOCELYN MAI TRAINOR



MICHELLE & ASHER



It is heartening to know that there is great interest from the community in this project and here Jamshed would like to acknowledge a donation of \$5,000 from Jimmy Kumana for future developments. Jamshed has taken the first step in facilitating the disseminating of Zoroastrian prayers with 21st century technology. This project is picking up momentum – Percy Behramsha, Khubyar Behramsha and Veroon Behramsha (Australia) have now joined the team.

In case anyone wishes to contribute towards this project in any way, please contact Jamshed Elavia at elviajamshed@yahoo.com or call him at 281-979-2655

BIRTH

Jolene Makenna Trainor was very excited to welcome her baby sister **Jocelyn Mai Trainor** on October 23, 2022, Mah Khordad, Roj Adar. She says baby sister is so tiny and so cute but cannot understand why baby sister won't play with her yet! She agreed to let her Mamaiji and Pappa (Persis & Naozer Behramsha) take care of her while Mama & Dada went to the "hospital" to have baby sister.

Kashmira ("Kashoo") Masi, Zarin ("Zaen") Masi, Uncle Jorge("Hooray"), cousins Darius ("Daius") and Zara ("Zaza") are very excited to meet their newest/tiniest family member!

The Trainor family – Justin, Jasmine, Jolene and Jocelyn are all doing very well and happy to be home together!

WEDDING

Michelle Balsara, daughter of Adil & Diana Balsara was married to Ashar Malik, son of Arshad and Samira Malik on 1st October 2022 in Austin.

RESISTANCE TO EVIL

Excerpted from Our Perfecting World by Dastur M.N. Dhalla

Man co-operates with God to transform the world of imperfection into world of perfection. The world which man inhabits is imperfect, but, says Zarathushtra, he should not therefore whine against its imperfections and quarrel with God, because he has placed man in such an imperfect world. The optimist may agree with Leibnitz that ours is the best possible world. William James says that it is not true to facts to suppose that the world, with its hundred wrongs, can be in harmony with God. Zarathushtra's reply in every such case is that the world is plastic, it is not the finished product, but an imperfect world, being daily molded and built into perfection.

OUR PERFECTING WORLD



DASTUR DR. M.N. DHALLA



The struggle between Ormazd and Ahriman will end in the victory of the former and the defeat of the latter, with whom will disappear imperfection of the world and the sufferings and sins of humanity. James Mill, and his more illustrious son, John Stuart Mill, rightly saw in the Zoroastrian dualism, which teaches the incessant warfare between good and evil, perfection and imperfection, with the ultimate triumph of the good, a close approach to the rational solution of the problem of evil. They justly regarded it as a happy compromise between the extreme optimistic view that all is well with the world and the inordinately pessimistic view that irremediable wrong is involved in the very nature of things.

The imperfect world, according to Zarathushtra, is man's opportunity. The perfect world is in the making. God has planned it and entrusted man with the duty of completing it. The Gnostics held that God was redeeming the world created by the devil. But Zarathushtra maintains that God and man are co-operating for the great consummation.

Every individual human being is a fellow-worker with God in the progressive betterment of the world. It is in the power of everyone, rich or poor, great or small, learned or ignorant, to contribute his or her effort to the furtherance of perfection and the elimination of imperfection. No smallest service devoted to that cause is wasted; every single act, however insignificant, counts in the great score. Any man or woman has lived well, if by his or her living upon earth, perfection has advanced by even a hair's breadth, and imperfection has lessened by even the same small measure. Whosoever furthers health, lengthens life, promotes knowledge, spreads truth, advances peace, or assists righteousness, co-operates with the godhead in ushering perfection. Whosoever fights disease, death, ignorance, bigotry, injustice, corruption, falsehood, war, and wickedness is a comrade of God in his conflict for the destruction of the powers of imperfection.

All progress is the outcome of slow and incessant struggle. Man has made his way amid untold hardships and countless obstacles step by step. Man's physical, social, economic, political, moral and religious life has had its martyrs who have laid down their lives for the redemption of the world. The end is not yet, but humanity is hard at its work, and under God's guidance will ultimately triumph.

Mankind is still in its infancy. It is still at the break of the dawn of its long life. In man's life of some five hundred thousand years upon earth, the history of his cultural advancement barely covers ten thousand years, Let it be ten times ten thousand years, and man will have considerably furthered the world's march towards perfection. It has taken God millions of years to prepare the stage upon which human drama is now enacted, and it is only justice to allow man sufficient time to play his part in turn. We must not be impatient and grumble at the slow progress. All organic evolution advances slowly. It is progressive and not catastrophic. Man can neither cajole nor curse, neither frighten nor threaten it into advancing by leaps and bounds. What man can do is to keep it steadily on the onward path and stop its occasional backward swing. Ever hopeful and ever confident, ever cheerful and ever looking forward, let him work under God's guidance, and triumph will be his in making a new world, altogether a different world, a perfect world. Thus says Zarathushtra.



FIRES & ZAH Library Present

23rd Annual Lecture Series



Zoroastrians of Iran: A History of Transformation and Survival



Janet Kestenberg Amighi with a Ph. D. in Anthropology and M.S. in Social Work is a recognized scholar in the history of post-Sasanian Iran. She is the author of several acclaimed books notable among them: *Zoroastrians of Iran: Conversion, Assimilation, Persistence* and the very recent *Zoroastrians of Iran: A History of Transformation and Survival*. Her research on Zoroastrian history was funded by the Social Science Research Council which allowed her directly to work with the Zoroastrians of Iran.

With her Iranian Zoroastrian spouse she lived in Iran from 1971-1978. She has also authored several articles in prestigious journals and lectured on this subject in several venues. She lives in Pennsylvania.

In her book *Zoroastrians of Iran: A History of Transformation and Survival* Janet Kestenberg Amighi offers scholarly research on the challenges faced by the Zoroastrians in Iran from the 19th to the 21st centuries. The book provides a detailed perspective on the travails of the Iranian Zoroastrian community in preserving their religion under austere conditions. Her stay in Iran gave her the opportunity to interview a vast number of Zoroastrians to gain insights into their survival in trying times. The book is available through Mazda Publishers.



Born and raised in Kerman for 25 years, Banafsheh Mondegarian will speak about the life, trials and tribulations of living in Iran as a Zoroastrian. She will share her experiences of growing up in Iran and practicing the Zoroastrian faith as a minority there. Educated in Kerman, Banafsheh has a bachelor's degree in English literature from Azad University. She is fluent in Farsi. She lives with her husband Toshar in Houston.

PROGRAM DETAILS BELOW

Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center
8787 W. Airport Blvd

Contact: Arnavaz Sethna
Phone: 281-499-1832 or
<ahsethna@yahoo.com>
Lunch—\$10.00

Friday - November 11, 2022

6:30 pm–7:00 pm:–Meet and greet. Light refreshments.

7:00 pm–7:45pm:–Introduction and getting to know Dr. Janet Kestenberg Amighi. Q&A.

8:00 pm–9:30 pm:–Potluck dinner.

Saturday - November 12, 2022

10:30 am–11:15 am:–Talk by Dr. Amighi: *Zoroastrians of Iran: A History of Transformation and Survival*.

11:15am–12:00 noon:–Q & A.

12:00 noon–1:00 pm:–Lunch break.

1:00pm–1:30pm:–Talk by Banafsheh Mondegarian.

1:30pm–2:00 pm:–Q & A.

2:00 pm–3:00 pm:–An informal interaction with the talented Zoroastrian artists of Houston.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
SATURDAY DECEMBER 31, 2022 AT ZAH CENTER

8:00 P.M. - 1 A.M.

*Questions? Contact:
Arzin Italia 713) 679-4998*



20 Elaborate Indo-Pak Food from Adaab Restaurant

BYOB

FUN GAMES!!

PARTY FAVORS

BALLOON DROP!!

CHAMPAGNE TOAST!!

RATES: RSVP Deadline 12/23/22

- ZAH Member : 11 years and up - \$55
- ZAH Non-Member : 11 years and up - \$75
- Member Children (KG - 5th grade) : \$35
- Non-Member Children (KG - 5th grade) : \$50
- Walk-Ins At the Door : \$90

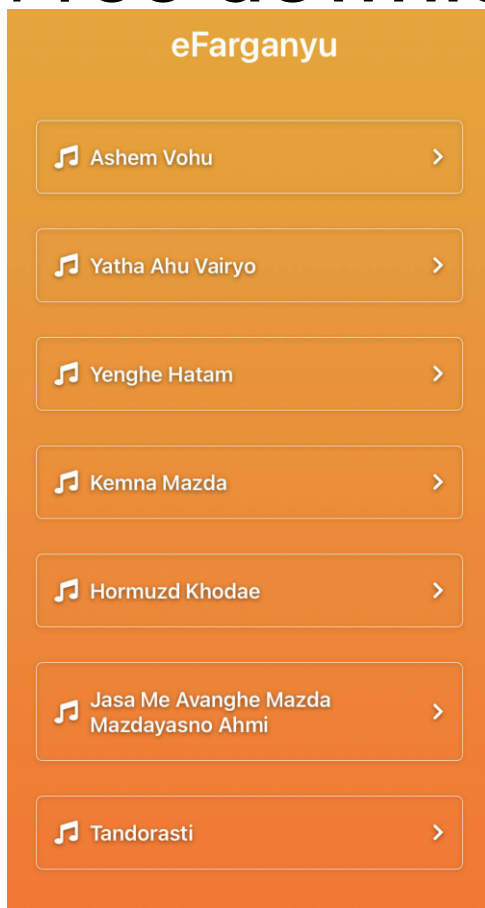
Organized by: ZAH Entertainment Committee

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efarganyu@gmail.com

For children preparing for Navjote, with
consistent diction and pronunciations

For adults to do their prayers right and gain
spiritual peace