



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PLACE:** ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071 Tel: 713-270-9339  
**TIME:** 11.30 a.m.  
**DATE:** February 9, 2014

**Children’s Session:** The Sunday School session will start at our usual new time 10:30 a.m. We hope to see full attendance in the coming year.

**Middle Group:** This group is for the children in the middle school. If your child falls in this age group, do please bring him/her to the Sunday School.

**Senior Group:** Sarosh Collector conducts this session.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Saturday, February 15, 2014 – NAMC Seminar – See attached flyer**
- Sunday, February 16, day, 2014 – Informal discussion with NAMC Speakers**
- Saturday, March 8, 2014 – Dar ni Pori Bake-a-thon**
- Friday, March 21, 2014 – Navroze Humbandagi**
- Saturday, March 22, 2014 – Navroze Function**
- Tuesday, March 25, 2014 – Avan Yazad Parab Jashan – location to be announced**
- Saturday, March 29, 2014 – Outdoor Sports Track and Field**

**MEETINGS**

<b>GOLDEN GROUP</b>	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611
<b>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</b>	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 <a href="mailto:aban@coatingindustries.com">aban@coatingindustries.com</a>

**REPORTS**

**EC REPORT**



From ZAH Treasurer’s Desk  
 Kayomarz Sidhwa

Starting this year I would be giving you periodic informative snippets for greater transparency and awareness rather than just presenting the financial statements once a year at the AGM.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Did you know our annual 2012-13 operating expenses were approx. \$80,000?**

In order to defray these costs and to maintain our Center, we apply **membership dues, donations as well as residual income from our programs** and events. So far we have received only half of the total 2014 membership dues and to have a consistent positive cash flow, we urge you to please pay your membership dues online or via check as soon as possible if not already done so.

As you all know, ZAH is a 501 (c) 3 organization and any donations to ZAH can be claimed as a tax deduction on your yearly tax returns. These benevolent gestures go a long way in supporting and maintaining our Zarathushti Center which has given us and our kids so many wonderful moments. There is a "Donate" button on our website that can be used for donations for any purpose so stop thinking and start donating.

## LIBRARY REPORT

By Jango Mistry

### ***Oral History Project***

We have been excited about an ambitious and much-needed endeavor to document and preserve the rich backgrounds and experiences of fellow Zoroastrians in Houston. Previous write-ups in Manashni have talked in detail about this important effort.

In this project of Rice University, we will begin collecting oral histories among first generation Zoroastrians. Houston Zarathushtis have moved here from different places, with different backgrounds and experiences. It is in our interest to record your stories, especially while our elders are still with us.

On Saturday, February 8, about 24 volunteers will attend a 6-hour training session conducted by Rice University. These are primarily younger members of our community who will interview elders and develop audio recordings that will also be transcribed and entered into the Zoroastrian Archive at Rice.

While we have enough volunteers who will conduct the interviews, ***we are still looking for more volunteers who are willing to be interviewed*** – people who are willing to share their interesting experiences and recollections of personal, religious, and historic events, and daily life dating back to their early years in their homeland and as immigrants in the U.S. It will be a very satisfying experience to be able to share your stories and preserve them for posterity.

Time is running out, so please step forward and participate by calling Pervin Sagar today, ([pervinsagar@yahoo.com](mailto:pervinsagar@yahoo.com), or 713-436-0518).

### ***Upcoming February Event***

As we have done in past years, the ZAH Library Committee is proud to sponsor a day-long religion education seminar on February 15. The seminar is organized by the North American Mobeds Council, and will feature our learned Mobeds in America and Canada. Among the speakers will be Ervad Tehemton Mirza who will present: "*Concept of Heaven in Zoroastrianism*", Mobedyar Khushroo Mirza who will talk on: "*Zarathushti Core Principles in Our Daily Lives*", Ervad Poras Balsara who will talk on "*Persepolis - Rising from the Ruins*" and Ervad Faraidoon Pundole who will talk on "*Concept of Sin in Zoroastrianism*".

You may recall that we had sponsored the previous Lecture Series of the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) in April 2009 and in February 2012, and both were very well received. This time around we also expect to present a very interesting and enjoyable program. Details of the event are in the attached flyer.

### ***A Significant Addition to our Collection***

You owe it to yourself to look at a beautiful glossy book just published: "Across Oceans & Flowing Silks; From Canton to Bombay 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries", and includes "No Parsi is an Island". The oversized almost 400-page book is put together by the same two authors who gave us the much-acclaimed "A Zoroastrian Tapestry" in 2002 – Pheroja Godrej and Firoza Punthakey Mistree. The authors are curators of the exhibition of the same name running in Bombay from December to February, and coinciding with the 10<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress there.

The first part of the book has interesting essays by scholars, but the bulk of the book is a "catalog" of the exhibits, full of beautiful pictures of porcelain vases and ware, carved furniture and glassware, with short write-ups that bring our history to life. The second part of the book parallels a separate part of the exhibition that displays the work of Parsi

artists whose work embodies a century and a half of cultural achievement in all arts – from painting to weaving, from carving to filmmaking.

So take a tour of the exhibition in your comfortable armchair and revel in those adventurous and opulent times when our minority community achieved so much and reached out to so many.

We thank Yasmin and Shapur Pavri who has donated this noteworthy book to the ZAH Library to honor Nargesh Sethna on her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

*By Vispi Katrak*

Our Youth Group has started the year off pretty well so far. We just accomplished a very successful camping trip at Lake Livingston on the weekend of January 18th and 19th. Not only that, but we will also be having a lock-in on February 15th-16th, and will get to join and discuss with the NAMC speakers.

Also, I, Vispi Katrak, will be selling Youth calendars that I have created with Shenshahi roj and month as well as English calendar. Although, they are selling very quickly, so if you ever see me around at the Center and would like one, feel free to ask. I cannot reserve any calendars, it is a first come, first serve deal. The prices for the calendars are 1 for \$15, 2 for \$25, and 3 or more for \$10 each. For example, 3 for \$30, 4 for \$40, and so on. Thank you.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **NAMC SEMINAR**

ZAH Library, home of FIRES (FEZANA Information Research & Education Systems) is pleased to host the third NAMC (North American Mobed Council) Seminar on **February 15, 2014** at the ZHCC from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

#### ***Topics and presenters are:***

**1. Mobedyar Khushroo Mirza from ZSO, Toronto - "Zarathushti Core Principles in Our Daily Lives"**

What are these Core Principles? What do they mean to us in simple terms? How do we adhere to these principles?

**2. Ervad Faraidoon Pundole from ZAH, Houston - "Concept of Sin in Zoroastrianism"**

What constitutes sin and what is its nature? How do we know if we are committing sin or not ?

**3. Ervad Tehemton Mirza from ZSO, Toronto - "Concept of Heaven in Zoroastrianism"**

Explore these questions: Do you know the path to heaven? How did Prophet Zarathushtra describe heaven? Do you have to be a Zoroastrian to reach heaven? How is life in heaven?

**4. Ervad Poras Balsara from ZANT, Dallas - "Persepolis - Rising from the Ruins"**

Explore a brief construction history and interesting features of Persepolis through its present ruins brought to life by various recreation projects.

**Lunch 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. - \$15.00 per person. RSVP Arnavaz Sethna – [asethna@comcast.net](mailto:asethna@comcast.net)**

**PLEASE NOTE: There is no cost for Seminar, but if you are attending the lunch as well, do please respond as soon as possible**

**February 16, 2014 - Informal Session – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Check out the flyer for more details.**

### **NOROUZ**

*Contributed by Scheherazade Dastur*

Date and Time for Norouz: March 20, 2014 at 11:57 am Houston time. The animal this year is Horse and the color is white.

### **NOROUZ DAY AT ASIA SOCIETY**

Asia Society has Naoroze Day event on March 9, 2014 from 1 pm to 4 pm. This is a great opportunity to showcase Zoroastrian community to the Houston community. Please mark your calendars to participate in huge numbers with family and friends. More details and flyer coming soon. Stay tuned.

## **DAR NI PORI BAKE-A-THON: Sat., March 8, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.**

Mark your calendars to come join us on Sat., March 8 for our annual Dar ni pori Bake-a-thon to make "dough" for our ZAH Maintenance Fund.

We'll start at 10:00 a.m. and make and bake our poris till we're done, should be right around tea time! We'll also plan lunch and tea/snacks for all our volunteers, of course.

How would you like to help and participate?

Please call Roshan Engineer (281-545-3467) or Nargis Cooper (713-937-4441) and let us know what you'd like to contribute by way of ingredients, materials, lunch or tea time items, etc... as also your help with the making and baking; and yes, do place your orders, too.

Come join us in this fun community project and let's keep this tradition going in observance of Avan Mahino, Avan Roj - our auspicious Parabh!

## **JASHNE SADEH FUNCTION & CELEBRATION – FEBRUARY 1, 2014**

*From Entertainment Committee*

We celebrated the Jashne Sadeh tradition at our Center on Saturday February 1, 2014. The Center was beautifully decorated and prepared for the event by our Irani Zarthushti friends. They worked hard for several days organizing the details and it is important to mention that our Irani Zarthushti families donated all the items for the event, with the majority amount donated by Bob Yazdani and family including an Iranian DJ.

The event was well attended by 375 individuals and an impressive profit of \$4,500 was given to ZAH. The celebration commenced with prayers recited by our Ervads Bahmanshah Sanjana and Shapur Pavri. Three small fires were lit in the land behind the main hall, and traditional melodic songs and dancing continued around the bonfire.

Later, guests enjoyed abundant quantities of mixed nuts and dried fruits followed by sumptuous "Sirog" and "Osh" which had been prepared by our Irani Zarthushti friends earlier that morning, and there was plenty for everyone! Dinner was catered through Kasra Restaurant and was served by our Irani Zarthushti friends. They had provided very good food and service.

The DJ had the dance floor playing popular Iranian music for the night. During the dancing there was a break to draw lucky winners for the more than 30 door prizes generously donated by Khodadad Pashootanizadeh and family.

ZAH EC and the Entertainment Committee would like to profusely thank our Irani Zarthushti friends, our Ervads, and all donors and volunteers for making this a successful function!

## **SPORTS COMMITTEE NEWS – by Farrokh Firozgary**

Our **annual ZAH Table Tennis tournament** was held on Saturday December 14th, 2013 and was attended by men, women and children all age groups. Tables were set up inside the main hall and in the atrium to accommodate the various event categories that were organized for ages 8 and above. Competition was fun and fierce with several acrobatic offensive and defensive plays displayed by our athletic Zoro participants.

Delicious sandwiches were made available for lunch by Murphy's Deli (the Kavina family) who worked tirelessly to ensure all attendees were well fed and nutrition levels were sufficiently maintained. The [ZAH Sports Committee](#) would like to extend a "Big Thank You" to Zersis, Anita, Sean and Rhea Kavina for all their hard-work and fresh onsite preparation of the yummy sandwiches!

Table tennis rackets, balls, drinks, tea and snacks were provided by the Sports Committee. The [ZAH Sports Committee](#) would like to thank Rustom Setna, Noshir Medhora, Rustom Khosravian and Yezdi Mistry for helping us as match referees, and to Yasmin Medhora and Sanobar Baria for helping us distribute awards to the winners. Please refer to attached results of the event.

Thanks to Percy Behramsha for taking [PICS](#) of the fun and competitive event!!

Following are the results of the winners

## **Singles:**

Age Group 4 – 13: Winner – Yazad Sidhwa  
Age Group 14 – 25: Winner – Rustom Irani  
Age Group 26 – 50: Winner – Yazdi Mistry  
Age Group 50 + : Winner – Percy Behramsha  
Age Group 50 + Ladies Singles: Winner – Sanober Baria

## **Doubles:**

Age Group 4 – 13: Winner – Arshan Aga & Yazad Sidhwa  
Age Group 14 – 25: Winner – Farzad Sunavala & Friyana Sidhwa  
Age Group 26 – 50: Winner – Kayomarz Sidhwa & Yazdi Mistry  
Age Group 50 + : Winner – Jal Guzdar & Rustom Setna

For detailed results please see the attached table.

**Sports Committee Survey:** In our continuing efforts to ensure we can provide you with an enjoyable and fun filled year of sporting activities and events, your Sports Committee is requesting you to please participate in the brief survey below:

## **[CLICK HERE FOR ZAH SPORTS COMMITTEE SURVEY](#)**

We thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the above survey. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to seeing you at our next Sports Event which is the Outdoor Sports Day on March 29th.

**Calendar for 2014:** We are pleased to announce that we have planned an equally enthusiastic calendar for this year with an offsite event included.

- Saturday March 29, 2014 – Outdoor Sports Day Day - Track & Field plus Basketball/Volleyball
- Saturday June 28, 2014 – Indoor Games – Carrom, Mahjong, Darts, Chess, etc.
- Sunday August 3, 2014 – Pool & Bowling (offsite)
- Saturday October 4, 2014 – Table Tennis tournament
- Saturday December 6, 2014 – Family Cricket Day

In conclusion, we encourage you and your loved ones to participate, enjoy, and volunteer in our events!! Please [CONTACT](#) any of our members for sponsoring towards.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Gulee's is your place for tantalizingly tasty, mouth watering homemade bhonoos! Whether you have a busy lifestyle and are looking for no-compromise dinner options or just need a break from your own stove, look no further - you have come to the right place! Every Sunday a menu-of-the-week will be e-mailed. Just place your order by email or phone by Tuesday night and we will have it ready for you by Sunday! We offer two delivery options: you can either pick up your order from the ZAH Center between noon and 4 pm on Sunday or from our home after 4 pm.

No hassle, no mess - just plain eating pleasure! Call Gulmohar at 713-283-9420 (H) or 832-646-2123 (Cell)

Here are some of the dishes and their prices.

1. Chicken Biryani with Raita - \$14
2. Kheema per eedoo - \$14
3. Vegetable Stew - \$10
4. Palak Chicken - \$14 per box
5. Chorra Daar (Black Eyed Peas) (Lobia) - \$10 per box
6. Fish Cutlets - \$10 per box (6 per box)

We are here to meet your culinary needs, whims and cravings. So pamper yourself by taking a minute to send us your order. You won't regret it, we love putting a smile on your face!

**ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF KENTUCKY, OHIO AND INDIANA - ZAKOI**

Following is an appeal from ZAKOI.

On the occasion of Jamshedi Navroze, I am once again having the Badam ni Boi (a Fish shaped Marzipan Mithai/desert) Fundraiser to raise funds for our ZAKOI Center Fund. We at ZAKOI are striving for the past several years to raise funds to have our own prayer hall to serve the religious needs of our community. The profits from this sale of the Badam ni Boi will be donated to our ZAKOI Center Fund. The ZAKOI Center Fund is an account we have to deposit all the funds we raise for this purpose only, and per our by-laws, this fund will only be used for procuring a property for our ZAKOI community to serve as our ZAKOI Center/Prayer Hall.

The Boi can be purchased single or in a pair. The price is \$15 each Badam ni Boi, plus shipping. Ordering in bulk will save on mailing cost. For instance, a single Boi delivered at an individual location will cost \$15 + \$7 for postage. However, for 15 Boi, the postage will be \$16. It would be to your benefit if more people joined together and have the Badam Boi delivered at one central mailing address.

Please either e-mail your order to, Bakhtavar Desai ([bfdesai@aol.com](mailto:bfdesai@aol.com)) with your address and phone number. The check can be made payable to Bakhtavar Desai and mailed to me directly at 6383 Jamesfield Ct., Fairfield, OH 45014.

If you wish to just send a tax-deductible donation for this cause, you may make the check payable to ZAKOI Center Fund. We will send you a receipt asap.

Your help, either with the purchase of these Boi's, or, your donation to our ZAKOI Center Fund, will be greatly appreciated and will help us go further in our goal of procuring our own Prayer Hall someday.

Thanking you in anticipation of your help and many good wishes from our ZAKOI community!

Bakhtavar Desai  
6383 Jamesfield Ct., Fairfield, OH 45014  
Ph 513-829-7818 (H), 513-560-0581 (C)  
email [bfdesai@aol.com](mailto:bfdesai@aol.com)

**WE HAVE MOVED**

**Noshir and Bapsi Sidhwa** have moved. Their new address is:

28 Glen Loch CT.  
Sugar Land TX 77479

Bapsi: Tel: 281 903 7128 e-mail: [sidhwab@aol.com](mailto:sidhwab@aol.com)  
Noshir: Tel 281 302 5662 e-mail: [nsidhwa3@gmail.com](mailto:nsidhwa3@gmail.com)

**Kashmira Mistry** has moved. Her new address is:

2510 Grants Lake Blvd. Unit #113  
Sugar Land, TX 77479.

Phone 832-916-8500.

*ZAH Library  
is pleased to host the  
Third NAMC (North American Mobed Council) Seminar*

Topics and presenters are:

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"Zarathushti Core Principles in Our Daily Lives"  
What are these Core Principles? What do they mean to us in simple terms? How do we adhere to these principles?
2. **Ervad Faraidoon Pundole** from ZAH, Houston -  
"Concept of Sin in Zoroastrianism"  
What constitutes sin and what is its nature? How do we know if we are committing sin or not ?
3. **Ervad Tehemton Mirza** from ZSO, Toronto -  
"Concept of Heaven in Zoroastrianism"  
Explore these questions: Do you know the path to heaven? How did Prophet Zarathushtra describe heaven? Do you have to be a Zoroastrian to reach heaven? How is life in heaven?
4. **Ervad Poras Balsara** from ZANT, Dallas - "Persepolis - Rising from the Ruins"  
Explore a brief construction history and interesting

WHERE AND WHEN:

**Date: Saturday, February 15, 2014**

Place: Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lunch 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. - \$15.00 per person.

RSVP Arnavaz Sethna – [asethna@comcast.net](mailto:asethna@comcast.net)

**Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014—Informal Session—11:00—1:00 pm**

ZAH Library – Home of FIRES



# ZAH Annual Table-Tennis Tournament - Dec 14, 2013

## SINGLES

AGE GROUP 4-13									
G1	Arshan Aga 8	G6	Nerius Mehta 17	G7	Yazad Sidhwa 16, 21, 21	WINNER: YAZAD SIDHWA			
	Nerius Mehta 21								
G2	Cyrus Mistry 14	G6	Yazad Sidhwa 21	G7	Yazad Sidhwa 16, 21, 21		WINNER: YAZAD SIDHWA		
	Yazad Sidhwa 21								
G3	Natalya Mehta 21	G8	Natalya Mehta 21	G7	Natalya Mehta 21, 15, 15			WINNER: YAZAD SIDHWA	
	Parnaz Aga 5								
G4	Rayomand Hornuzdi	G8	Rayomand Hornuzdi 8	G7	Natalya Mehta 21, 15, 15				WINNER: YAZAD SIDHWA

AGE GROUP 14-25							
G1	Farzad S 21	G3	Farzad Sunavala 6, 11	G7	Yazad Sidhwa 16, 21, 21	WINNER: RUSTOM IRANI	
	Friyana Sidhwa 19						
G2	Rustom Irani 21	G3	Rustom Irani 21, 21	G7	Yazad Sidhwa 16, 21, 21		WINNER: RUSTOM IRANI
	Noozar B 14						
						WINNER: RUSTOM IRANI	

AGE GROUP 26-50							
G1	Kurush Aga	G6	Kurush Aga 22	G7	Yazdi Mistry 13, 22, 21	WINNER: YAZDI MISTRY	
G2	Percy Master 5	G6	Yazdi Mistry 24	G7	Yazdi Mistry 13, 22, 21		WINNER: YAZDI MISTRY
	Yazdi Mistry 21						
G3	Kayo Sidhwa 21	G8	Kayo Sidhwa 21	G7	Kayo Sidhwa 21, 20, 13	WINNER: YAZDI MISTRY	
	Farzana Sidhwa 18						
G4	Kalzad S	G8	Kalzad Sunavala 16	G7	Kayo Sidhwa 21, 20, 13		WINNER: YAZDI MISTRY

AGE GROUP 50+										
G1	Percy Behramsha 21	G11	Percy Behramsha 21	G18	Percy Behramsha 21	WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA				
G2										
G3	Jai Guzder 21	G12	Percy Katrak 18	G18	Percy Behramsha 21		WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA			
	Sheroy Haveliwala 12									
G4	Percy Katrak	G12	Jai Guzder 21	G18	Jai Guzder 7			WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA		
G6										
G6		G13		G17	Farrokh Firozgary 24				WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA	
G8	Jehanbux Mehta 6									
	Farrokh F. 21	G13	Farrokh Firozgary	G17	Farrokh Firozgary 24					WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA
G7	Rustom Setna 21									
	Rustom Khosraviyan 16	G14	Rustom Setna 21	G17	Rustom Setna 22	WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA				
G8										
	Vispi Sagar	G14	Vispi Sagar 11	G17	Rustom Setna 22		WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA			
G9	Sanober Baria 21									
	Persis Colah 16	G16	Sanober Baria 22, 21	G18	Percy B 21, 21			WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA		
G10	Yasmin Medhora									
		G16	Yasmin Medhora 20, 11	G18	Farrokh 5, 15				WINNER: PERCY BEHRAMSHA	

WINNER: SANOVER BARIA



# ZAH Annual Table-Tennis Tournament - Dec 14, 2013

## DOUBLES

AGE GROUP 4-13				
G8	Arshan Aga 21	G10	Arshan Aga 21, 21 Yazad Sidhwa	<b>WINNERS: ARSHAN AGA &amp; YAZAD SIDHWA</b>
	Yazad Sidhwa			
Nerius Mehta 16				
Cyrus Mistry				
G9	Rayomand Hormazdi 22	Rayomand Hormazdi 19, 16		
	Natalya Mehta	Natalya Mehta		
	Parinaz Aga 20			
	Friyana Sidhwa			

AGE GROUP 14-25				
G4	Farzad S	<b>Farzad Sunavala Friyana Sidhwa</b>		
	Friyana Sidhwa			

AGE GROUP 26-50				
G8	Kurush Aga 11	G10	Kayo Sidhwa 21, 21 Yazdi Mistry	<b>WINNERS: KAYO SIDHWA &amp; YAZDI MISTRY</b>
	Percy Master 11			
	Kayo Sidhwa 21			
Yazdi Mistry 21				
G9		Farzana Sidhwa 11, 14 Kaizad Sunavala		
	Farzana Sidhwa			
	Kaizad Sunavala			

AGE GROUP 50+				
G19	Farokh F 24	G21	Farrokh Firozgary 21: 17:19 Percy Katrak	<b>WINNERS: JAL GUZDER &amp; RUSTOM SETNA</b>
	Percy Katrak			
	Percy Behramsha 22			
Sheroy Haveliwala				
G20	Jehanbux Mehta 16	Jal Guzder Rustom Setna 18; 21:21		
	Rustom Khosravian			
	Jal Guzder 21			
	Rustom Setna			