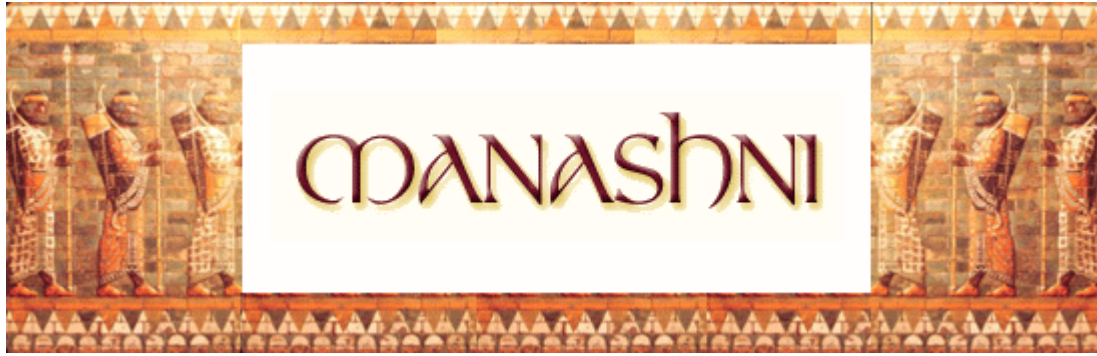




Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11:00 AM

DATE: March 13, 2011

Children's Session: This month the "Let's Learn Gujarati Together" session will start at 11 am and will include a review and intro to the "Gujarati Alphabet".

Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am. Vehishta will be out of town. Scheherazade Dastur will be doing a beautiful lesson on the Haftseen table and will be assisted by Khursheed Dastur. All children are encouraged to attend.

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

Senior Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this session. See a write up by the Youth Chair.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 19th – Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-Thon, 10 am. See details below.

Monday, March 21st – NoRouz Humbandagi – 6.30 pm at the Center

Saturday, March 26th – NoRouz Function – 8.00 pm. Celebrate NoRouz with family and friends!!

Thanks to the generous donation from a ZAH Community member towards the NoRouz function, it is possible to charge low rates (as shown below) for this function:

ZAH member* : 11 years and up - \$15

ZAH non-member : 11 years and up - \$30

All Children (3-10 yrs) : Pizza - \$7; Regular food - \$12

RSVP and Checks to be received by 21st March, after which non-member rates will apply. **See attached flyer.**

Sunday, April 10th – Carnival. See attached flyer.

If you would like a booth, please let Yasmin Medhora know at 713 466 3908.

Rashna Oak will be getting children to make arts and crafts. Parents interested in having their children participate please contact Rashna Oak by email (rashna_oak@hotmail.com). Any age children welcome.

Sunday, April 17th - ZAH Library is organising a bus trip to the George W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station. See Library report for details.

Saturday, May 7th – Hollywood Meets Bollywood Night – Youth group extraganza. See attached flyer

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

LIBRARY REPORT by Jangoo Mistry

On Sunday, February 27, the ZAH Library sponsored Dr. Armaiti May for a presentation on “*Vegetarianism in Zoroastrianism*”. For the attendees, it was truly an eye-opener on many fronts. A vegan herself, Dr. May made a strong case for the elimination of animal-based products in our food. Numerous studies have shown that several serious diseases, from osteoporosis to heart disease and cancer, can be controlled or even reversed if animal-based and processed foods are avoided in our daily diets. Also, starvation and malnutrition in countries can be substantially lessened if land, water, fertilizer and other resources are used to grow grain for human consumption directly, rather than using ten times the resources to feed cattle and other animals in a very inefficient food supply system. Unbelievably ruthless and inhumane treatment of animals for slaughter is yet one more reason for not supporting these “animal factories”. In addition, Zoroastrian scriptures and heritage support a vegetarian diet that shows more respect for animal life, takes better care of our bodies, and is more favorable to the environment. Dr. May also educated us on how a vegetarian diet can still be satisfying, delicious, and healthful.

The ZAH Library is organizing a bus trip to the George W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station on Sunday, April 17. While it is aimed primarily at our Sunday School “middle and youth groups”, it is open to other community members as well. We plan to meet at the Center at 9 am, before the bus leaves at 9:30 for the Library. Youngsters who come without their parents will be chaperoned by adults on the trip. After a one-hour self-guided tour of the Library, the bus will bring us back to the Center by 4 pm or so. You are asked to bring a sack lunch for yourself. Since it is subsidized by the ZAH Library, and since we have managed to have the entrance fee to the library waived, the charge for the entire whole-day trip (including the bus ride, and admission) is only \$10. The bus can only hold 50 passengers, so reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call Arnavaz Sethna, (281) 499-1832 to reserve your seat and plan to pay your dues on April 10, the day of the ZAH Carnival. For any questions about the logistics of the trip, please contact Behroze Daruwalla at behrozepersonal@yahoo.com or (832) 640-3306.

It is with great pride that we are highlighting a recently-published book “*Suits: A Woman on Wall Street*” by our very own Nina Godiwalla. The book is a riveting read, and a fascinating page-turner that will keep you engrossed until the end. Nina offers a behind-the-scenes look at the recklessness and competitive culture that rules Wall Street’s male-dominated world. Described by critics as “heartwarming, heart-breaking, and hilarious”, a “gripping read”, a “vibrant snapshot of an immigrant family with big dreams”, the book has been added to our ZAH Library collection. Nina, who has written for the *Washington Post*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and the *Austin Business Journal* will be honored by us at a book-signing ceremony on Friday, April 8 at the Center. Copies of the book can be obtained from Amazon for around \$15, or bought at the book-signing for around \$24, which is price that the publisher will supply the books to us. Please make it a point to attend this event as it is not often that we get a chance to acknowledge and honor such a talented youngster from our community.

Dr. Stanley Insler, Professor at Yale University, has agreed to come to Houston for the ZAH Library’s annual gala function during the weekend of October 14 – 16. We are delighted that we have managed to secure such a world-renowned scholar on the Gathas to share his knowledge with us. This will be an event not to be missed, so please put it on your calendars from now.

ZAH YOUTH GROUP REPORTS By Shayan Bhatena – Youth Historian

This month, the Youth Group has been learning about the Zoroastrian calendar and the different Ghambars throughout the year. We are learning how and why these Ghambars are celebrated, as well as thinking of ways our community can celebrate various Ghambars this year.

Our lock-in in February was very successful. Although we had to cancel our trip to Habitat for Humanity due to bad weather conditions, we still had fun cleaning the ceiling fans at the Center. In our sessions, we learned about why we pray and went in depth in analyzing different prayer meanings. We also had open controversial discussions in which we picked different topics to discuss.

Although we did not get to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, the Youth Group is still very active with volunteer projects. One project we are doing is decorating and donating posters for the Avon Walk for breast cancer in April. We will also participate in the Keep Sugar Land Beautiful Trash-Off.

The Youth Group has also been very active with fundraising for the World Zoroastrian Youth Congress coming up this summer, as well as planning for community volunteering. We will be hosting our "Hollywood Meets Bollywood" night on May 7th. We will also be participating in the ZAH's annual carnival in April by holding a car wash, a sari-raffle, and our always-successful Youth stand.

***Please view the attached "*Hollywood meets Bollywood*" flyer!

MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thank you to all those who have promptly paid their ZAH membership dues. For those that haven't yet paid, please do pay promptly. The funds from our memberships help keep our Center running. See the attached form for membership rates.

SAVE THE DATE: 5TH ANNUAL ZAH DAR-NI-PORI BAKE-A-THON

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 19, 2011** for our 5th Annual ZAH Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-Thon and help us make some dough for our Center!

We will start at 10:00 a.m. and make and bake our poris till we're done... and have fun while we work at this community project together... and, of course, enjoy our lunch and tea breaks, as well!

We welcome your pori orders in advance, and do let us know how you'd like to pitch in: with ingredients, lunch/tea items or help with the making and baking; and donations towards our project are welcome.

Please call: Nagu Cooper @ 713-937-4441 or Roshan Engineer @ 281-545-3467 or Jasmin Katrak @ 281-858-7857 or Yasmin Medhora @ 713-466-3908.

NAZC-2010 PICTURES CD AVAILABLE FOR SALE

NAZC 2010 Pictures CD is for sale. The CD has over 300 pictures of the memorable 3-day event in Houston in Dec 2010! Price per CD - \$10 or Mail order within the US is \$12. Please contact Yezdi Engineer 281-545-3467; aengineer@comcast.net to place an order for your copy. The CDs will be handed over at the NoRouz function on 26th March. All proceeds go to ZAH.

GREETING CARDS

The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York is selling beautifully designed cards as fundraiser for their 2012 North American Zoroastrian Congress.

Cost - \$10 per packet of 9 cards of three different designs - 3 cards each "Happy Nowruz", "Congratulations" and an all purpose card with saree design cover.

Please call Arnavaz Sethna at 281-499-1832 or write at asethna@comcast.net

GARA RAFFLE

The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York is having a "Gara Raffle" fundraiser for their 2012 North American Zoroastrian Congress. It is a beautiful black gara with multi-colored embroidery from "Khordad Creations". The winning ticket will be drawn at ZAGNY's Navroze function on Sat.,

March 26th at the Darbe Mehr. **Tickets are 1 for \$20, or 3 for \$50. To purchase tickets please contact Mahrukh Cama at mahrohi@verizon.net**

PARSI CRICKETER AT THE WORLD CUP: ZUBIN SURKARI

Zubin Surkari is only the second Parsi cricketer to represent his country in a World Cup. Farokh Engineer the flamboyant wicketkeeper of the Indian cricket team was the first one, during the inaugural Prudential World Cup in 1975.

Zubin represents Canada in the current World Cup being held in India.

FEZANA SUBSIDY FUND FOR YOUNG ZARATHUSHTIS TO ATTEND 5th WZYC (5WZYC) 2011

As per the resolution passed at the AGM in Mississauga May 2010, I am pleased to launch the FEZANA 5WZYC 2011 SUBSIDY Program.

Allow me to introduce to you our new Ad-Hoc Committee for FEZANA 5WZYC2011 SUBSIDY comprising of: Zenobia Damania -- FEZANA Executive Liaison --ZACH, Shiraz Italia -- YOUTH Liaison -- ZSBC / 5WZYC, Ferzeen Chhappgar -- ZYNA Liaison -- ZANC and yours truly.

We have completed the first milestone of the PROCESS schedule for the FEZANA 5WZYC 2011 SUBSIDY PROGRAM. These guidelines were developed similar to the ones created for the 4WZYC held in Melbourne Australia Dec 2007 and WZC in Dubai Dec 2009.

For those who wish to apply for this subsidy, please send us the applications form by 30 March 2011.

Please familiarize yourselves with the guidelines and forward the following information needed:

1. The [application form](#)
2. File of the [Subsidy Program procedures](#)

Allotment will be done from applications received by the noted dead line, with a view to keep the distribution balanced; as far as possible between all the Member Associations and Small Groups.

If the number of qualified applicants exceeds 25, then an independent "Selection Panel" will be set up to complete the selection process.

We look forward to receiving applications from your young Zarathushti soon. Please feel free to contact Zenobia, Ferzeen, Shiraz or I for any questions you may have.

Firdosh Mehta

Co-Chair, FEZANA 5WZYC2011 SUBSIDY COMMITTEE

OUR THANKS TO OUR ZAH COMMUNITY

Dear One and All:

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to you all for the kind messages, phone calls, e-mails and sympathy cards we received upon the passing of Coomi mamma on Feb. 13. Thank you also for your presence at the Sarosh nu patru prayers on weekday evenings and the funeral service on a weekday afternoon!

We are indeed blessed to be part of this wonderful community, and the feeling of being surrounded by such a fine, strong circle of support affords one such a sense of belonging and security!

We commend the ZAH Bereavement Committee and thank Kersi Engineer and Dr. Katie Irani for their help in guiding us through the advance arrangements that came in so handy and helped everything fall into place so smoothly! The new location offered to us c/o our policy through ZAH, proved indeed very practical and much more convenient. We endorse the Chapel of Eternal Peace at Forest Park Westheimer for the most cooperative and professional service they gave us, with special mention of Mr. Paul Horner, Funeral Director.

Thanks to our Arnavaz and Hoshang Sethna for always being our "go-to" couple to get things lined up at ZAH under these circumstances; and to our respected Ervads Maneck Sidhwa and Peshotan Unwalla for their priestly services.

Gratefully,

Yezdi & Roshan Engineer

PRE-ARRANGEMENT FOR FUNERAL AND CREMATION

Forest Park Westheimer is providing cremation packages for ZAH. thru their new Funeral Chapel and Crematorium "The Chapel of Eternal Peace" located at Forest Park Westheimer.

By having the new Chapel and Crematorium at one location, it allows families to view the beginning of the cremation process immediately after the memorial service without traveling across Houston.

Being that this is a new service that is being provided to families in Houston, this allows them to offer services at a much lower cost than other locations. They also have an additional discount for ZAH. families on prearrangement only. With the discount that the company has included off the \$8475.00 package and the \$1000.00 discount for Z.A.H. members, the price is \$4488.88.

Families must act before prices go up as they increase every year on an average of 10%.

By prearranging families lock in their prices guaranteeing that the services will never go up and making sure that the families do not have to face making decisions at the time of death.

This may also be set up in low monthly installments for your convenience.

Please contact the below to schedule an appointment for further information and/or to set up your prearrangements and please mention that you are a ZAH Member.

Raquel Medina - email: raquel.medina@sci-us.com ; phone: 832-259-4415

Ray Brokken - email: ray.brokken@sci-us.com ; phone: 281-224-6252

For further questions, you can also contact Kersi Engineer (ZAH Bereavement Committee).

WEDDING BELLS

Firdosh Khambatta, son of Viraf and Shahnaz Khambatta and **Shireen Irani**, daughter of Aban and Khodadad Irani, were married on January 24, 2011 in Mumbai.

Manashni and its readers send their heartiest congratulations to the newly weds

BIRTH

A 7 lb 8 oz, 19-1/2 inch bonny baby girl, **Ariana**, was born to Zia and Rustom Anklesaria on March 2, 2011.

Shireen is very happy to have a younger sister.

Manashni and its readers send their heartiest congratulations to the Anklesaria family

OBITUARY

Coomi A. Engineer, mother of Yezdi Engineer, mother-in-law of Roshan Engineer and Rita Engineer (Boca Raton, FL), grand mother of Rehan Engineer (Dallas, TX), Michelle (Engineer) Patel, (Toronto, Canada) and Percy Engineer (Midland, TX) passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 9:00 p.m.

Manashni and its readers send their heartfelt condolences to the Engineer family

ZAH 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES TO BE PAID BY 15TH MARCH 2011

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.....	\$150.00
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	 \$ _____

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
SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: SINGLE PARENT WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: CALENDAR YEAR – JANUARY TO DECEMBER

MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO ZAH AND **MAIL TO:**

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



NoRouz Celebration March 26, 2011

At The Zarthushti Heritage and Cultural Center

Let's Celebrate!

Entertainment starts at
8:30 p.m.

Live Entertainment !!
Delectable Persian
Dinner !!
BYOB

Dance the night away!!
Foot Stomping, Hip
Swaying music!!!

RSVP

Please RSVP to: ZAHRSVP@yahoo.com
Your checks must be received by March 21st at :
The Treasurer
8787 West Airport Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77071
Please write (in the memo of the check):
- Number of ZAH members/non-members (11 yrs+),
- Number of children (3-10yrs) for pizza or regular food
Please write "NoRouz 2011" on the envelope

RATES

ZAH member* : 11 years and up - \$15
ZAH non-member : 11 years and up - \$30
All Children (3-10 yrs) : Pizza - \$7; Regular food - \$12

*ZAH Member: Those whose 2011 membership dues have been paid prior to March 21, 2011

PLEASE NOTE

- Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs received after March 21st
- Non-member rates apply to all attendees who have not paid their ZAH membership dues by March 21st.
- Kids over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents



CARNIVAL

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2010 AT 12:45 P.M.
(After Sunday School)
AT ZHCC**

Bring your family and friends....

for the energetic..... participate;
for the laid back..... eat and watch the activities;
for the weekly cooking types
come & buy food to-go and relax the next week!!

Enjoy the fun and festivity, good variety of food to eat and to-go, a variety of desserts, snacks, etc

Games, cake walk, raffle, floor open for talent show.

AND, OF COURSE, BINGO!!!

Buy wonderful décor items by our own kids..... and more

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ZAH

If you wish to have a separate table to display/sell your items – the rates for the table are:

**\$35.00 Members
\$100.00 Outside Vendors**

Contact:

- Yasmin Medhora at 713-466-3908 for renting tables, donating food items and making to-go food. Donations are always welcome
- Rashna Oak will be getting children to make arts and crafts. Parents interested in having their children participate please contact Rashna by email (rashna_oak@hotmail.com). Any age children welcome.

See ya'll there!!

Hollywood

May 7, 2011

At the ZAH Center.
Entertainment starts at
8:30PM!

A Youth Group
Fundraiser
Extravaganza!

Meets Bollywood



Delicious desi-
fusion mix food!

Adults \$20
Twelve & Under \$15
Kids under 3 free.

Live
Entertainment!
Karaoke! Dandia!

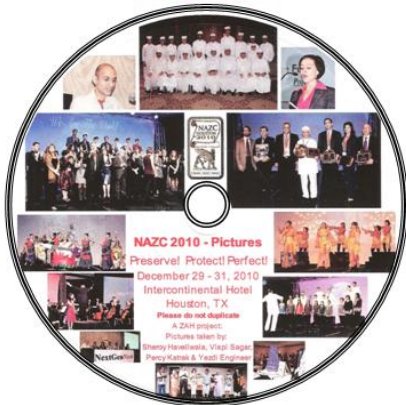


Be a Platinum
Patron! Book a table
for ten for \$500!

And much more.....

A ZAH PROJECT NAZC 2010 Pictures

CD for sale



Price \$10 each
Mail order within US \$12

Contact Yezdi Engineer 281-545-3467
aengineer@comcast.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Zoroastrians in Houston celebrate Jashn-e-Sadeh

Zoroastrians in Houston gathered at the Zoroastrian Association of Houston community center on Saturday, Jan. 29 to celebrate and observe the Jashn-e Sadeh, a mid-winter festival celebrated with grandeur and magnificence by Zoroastrians since ancient times.

The evening commenced with a short prayer by four Zoroastrian priests followed by the lighting of the bonfire which symbolizes the human yearning for the higher life.

Zoroastrians believe that Jashn-e-Sadeh recalls the importance of fire, energy and light -- the light that comes from God and is found in the hearts of all creatures.

Jashn-e (Festival of) Sadeh (hundred), considered as one of the biggest Persian festivities since ancient times, actually refers to one hundred days and nights to the coming New Year.

The festival is celebrated 50 days before Nowruz (New Year), which falls on 20th or 21st of March depending on the vernal equinox.

The highlight of the evening was a recitation by Dr Sadeghi, a scholar from Iran from the epic, Shahnameh

(The Book of Kings), written by the Persian poet Fir-



Zoroastrian priests commencing the ceremony with prayer.



The bonfire symbolizing the human yearning for the higher life.



Scholar Dr. Sadeghi reciting from the Shahnameh.

dausi, a work of prime importance in Persian culture and regarded as a literary master-

piece. Photos: ARIA VAFADARI

VOICE OF ASIA

Friday, February 4, 2011

Zoroastrians celebrate Jashn-Sadeh

Houston: Zoroastrians in Houston gathered at the Zoroastrian Association of Houston community center on January 29 to celebrate and observe the Jashn-e Sadeh, a mid-winter festival celebrated with grandeur and magnificence by Zoroastrians since ancient times.

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Jashn-e (Festival of) Sadeh (hundred), considered as one of the biggest Persian festivities since ancient times, actually refers to one hundred days and nights to the coming New Year.



Ceremony begins with prayers by Zoroastrian priests. - Photo by Aria Vafadari

The festival is celebrated 50 days before Nowruz (New Year), which falls on 20th or 21st of March depending on the vernal equinox.

The highlight of the evening was a recitation by Dr Sadeghi,

a scholar from Iran from the epic, Shahnameh (The Book of Kings), written by the Persian poet Firdausi, a work of prime importance in Persian culture and regarded as a literary masterpiece.