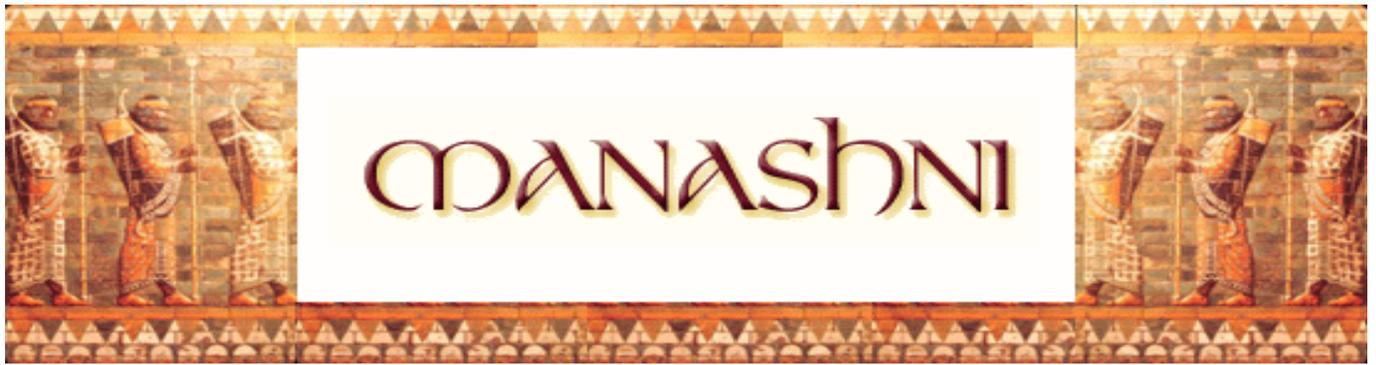


Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071



SUNDAY SCHOOL

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY IN PUBLISHING THE NOVEMBER MANASHNI

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

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

DATE: December 11, 2011

Children's Session: There will be no Gujarati session for December.

The Sunday School session for the young group will be conducted by Sharaine Vakil this month. Besides the Sunday School lesson, they will also be creating a lovely angel project.

Holiday Season Gift Exchange

Following the Sunday School session, there will be a gift exchange amongst the young Sunday School group. Parents are requested to bring a gift and place it under the Christmas tree, which is already set up in the hall. Kindly keep the gifts general so it could be given to a boy or a girl. Children will exchange gifts amongst each other. Hopefully all children will get one so no one goes home disappointed. 5 extra gifts will be provided by Vehishta so no one gets left out. Sharaine Vakil will coordinate the event. Hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday season.

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 your 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 Vice President

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8, 2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
January 28, 2012	Saturday	Jash-ne-Sadeh
February 25, 2012	Saturday	Library Event (NAMC Seminar)
March 4, 2012	Sunday	ZAH Olympics
March 11, 2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
March 17, 2012	Saturday	Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon
March 21/2012 Nowrooz day	Wednesday	Humbandagi
March 24, 2012	Saturday	Nowrooz Function

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

ZAH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston was held on November 13, 2011. After confirming that the quorum was present, Chairman Jehanbux Mehta called the meeting to order.

All the reports are on the web however, highlights were presented at the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Chairman, in his report presented the year's events, the most successful one was the 15th North American Zoroastrian Congress held in December 2010. It was successful in terms of program, entertainment and economics. The program had eminent speakers, entertainment and hilarious natak by our own talent and with frugal spending and aggressive fundraising, some of the surplus funds will be used towards the Scholarship fund and balance in the ZAH coffer.

The 5th World Youth Congress held in Vancouver in July 2011 saw the largest contingent of 33 delegates from Houston. Our youth returned rich in friendship from all over the world. The youth raised funds through various means to provide subsidy to the students, and ZAH sponsored one Zarathushti youth from Iran.

Other building related report included, completion of roof repairs, ice maker, water fountains, purchase of two new refrigerators and two food warmers, padded benches in the Prayer Room, and wall mounted projector in the main hall. Entry to the kitchen was resurfaced and a cabinet for the permanent storage of our audio/video equipment was installed. All these items were from donations received from members. Thank you ZAH members.

Two new sub-committees were added – Sports Committee and Public Relations Committee.

Our members unhesitatingly contributed to relief funds, Meals on Wheels and Baylor Shoulder to Shoulder program.

Other activities included events organized by Library, Entertainment Committee and Sports Committee. Hall rentals were undertaken by Building Management Sub-Committee and conducted periodic inspection of the premises. It was quite frustrating to see trash lying in the cans after the use of the premises by the members. The chairman made a plea once again to the members to clean up before leaving and ensuring that air-conditioners, lights and fans have all been turned off.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all the volunteers and his committee members.

Treasurer's Report:

Sarosh Collector presented the Financials. It became apparent that the Membership fees covered barely 50% of the ZAH Operating expenses. Sarosh therefore emphatically stated that the Center needed more funds over and above the membership fees to keep it operational.

Other Committee Chairs gave brief highlights of their reports, all of which are on the web

New Committee Members:

Since there were no other nominations received the following were declared elected unopposed.

Jehanbux Mehta - Member
Kamalrukh Gandhi - Member
Kayomarz Sidhwa – Treasurer

LIBRARY REPORT

By Aban Rustomji

The ZAH Library would not be what it is today without the generous financial support from several members of our community. Your gifts have allowed us to make great strides this year. We urge you to continue to be as generous as your circumstances allow to a project that is meaningful and will remain in perpetuity. Please add to our collection of books on Zoroastrianism or books written by Zoroastrian authors. All books donations are acknowledged with your name on a bookplate.

New Copy machine for FIRES (FEZANA Information Research Education System):

The library has a new copy machine that was purchased from FEZANA funds budgeted for FIRES. Plans are for the Library Committee to use the machine to scan and digitize needed magazines and books. FEZANA also annually reimburses ZAH for the WiFi connection and we are grateful for their financial support.

Books Donations:

We have added three books to our collection. *Zoroastrianism: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Jenny Rose and *The Spirit of Zoroastrianism* by Oktor Skjaervo were donated to honor Nergish Cooper by Ken & Villi Bhappu and Nuzhat Noorani.. The third, *Why Entrepreneurs REALLY Fail* was donated by author Nozer Buchia.

Book Launch:

On Friday November 11, 2011 we had a very successful book launch to honor Nozer Buchia. The event, co-sponsored by ZAH Library & WZCC, was held at the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center. Pushing boundaries and exceeding expectations is what Nozer does best, and we wish him continued success in all his endeavors. The evening was filled with speeches and endorsements from several community leaders. Entertainment was provided with a dance performance by Arzan Gonda's talented troupe, Rhythm India.

Library Display:

Have you viewed our seasonal display of the Magi cards and figurines courtesy of Pam and Ken Vincent? Copies of Ken's book, *The Magi: From Zoroaster to the "Three Wise Men"* is in the library.

MFAH Tour for ZAH Members:

This month our special thanks and recognition goes to Vehishta Kaikobad, our docent extraordinaire. Her personal relationship with MFAH has enabled her to conduct a specially designed tour "Gifts of the Sultans" for ZAH members on December 22, 2011. We commend Vehishta on her ability to communicate effectively, her warm and friendly attitude and her willingness to commit to time and effort to ZAH causes.

Mark your calendar for February 25, 2012:

The North American Mobed Council will present a day-long religion education seminar on Feb 25, 2012. The theme of the presentation is "Passage of Time and its influence on Zarathushtrian Tradition". The speakers are Ervards Jehan Bagli from Montreal, Cawas Desai from Philadelphia, Soli Dastur from Florida, and Gustad Panthaky from Maryland. More details to follow.

Percy Katak and Harvard Pluralism Photography Contest:

Congratulations to Percy Katak for being one of the finalist to Harvard Pluralism Photography 2011 Contest. The photograph chosen was from the "The Silk Road Ensemble" that was a star attraction at our 15th NAZC Congress in 2010. Check it out at <http://pluralism.org/photosets/view/1131>

Smithsonian Project:

The Smithsonian in Washington DC is planning a new exhibit called *HomeSpun: A Project of Indian American Heritage*. The *HomeSpun* Project will consist of an exhibition, public programs, a curriculum guide for middle school students, an interactive website, and objects that will be added to the Smithsonian's permanent collection. The exhibition will open in April 2013 and will be on display at the Smithsonian until September 2013. After the showing at the Smithsonian, the exhibition will go on a national tour organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Houston will be one of the cities on the national tour.

The project planning committee has asked us to tell the story of ZAH for possible inclusion in the exhibit. A committee is at work on the project and we have already sent some preliminary information to the curator. However, we need more primary source material. For example, if you have receipts of checks that you sent for our \$20 a month maintenance fund for the Center we would love to have them. If you have any other archival photos, certificates, or plaques, or if you have suggestions on what we could send, please call Aban Rustomji or Percy Master. We would appreciate any help that our always resourceful members can give us.

Youth Report
Darius Tamboli (Z.A.H. Youth Vice President)

In the October Manashni we talked about the Dallas-Houston Joint Lock-in that had recently occurred in Houston. It was such a success that we collaborated again to have another lock-in this Thanksgiving weekend, this time in Dallas. We had to drag ourselves out of bed early in the morning during vacation (ugh!) and caravanned to Dallas in a fleet of minivans. Once there, we were treated to several excellent sessions. Among these was an in-depth look at the ancient city of Persepolis led by ZANT head priest Porus Balsara, a session discussing the power of the mind and spirituality led by Adil Hasan, and an astronomy session that failed due to a cloudy night. The final session in the morning closely mimicked the Vancouver Congress, with a panel consisting of both older local Youth, and a few esteemed members in the higher education system. They imparted their knowledge about choosing a path for the future and answered questions posed by the audience. In between sessions we played outside, danced inside, and ate tons of delicious BONU. Overall it was an excellent experience filled with fun and games, learning and education, all the while fostering inter-city Zoroastrian relations. We hope to have another such joint lock-in sometime in spring or summer.

SPORTS REPORT
By Kayo Sidhwa

Sports Equipment Storage Closet:

As we were short of some secure space to store all our sporting equipment, we decided to build a storage closet near the vacant space between the youth room wall and the restroom door in the Atrium. After the necessary approvals and pre-requisites, The Mehta Fund made our idea and plan possible by a very generous donation and thus began our "challenging but exciting task" to construct a storage closet completely in-house.

The effort was led by "Adu - the Toolman Tamboli" and "Sheeru – the Silent Tiger Haveli....". Almost 15 of us landed at our Center on Saturday, Nov 19th to begin work and by the end of the day the frame and part of the dry wall were already up. Everyone was amazed at the precision of the measurements and by the speed and accuracy with which everyone pitched in to make it look like a truly professional job. We worked continuously for 4 straight days and have finished the construction. Despite the use of various power tools, our emphasis was always on safety and there were no untoward incidents reported. In fact, we have received 5 more prospective jobs from our own community members but our fees are pretty exorbitant and hence not affordable 😊 If you happen to be at the ZAH Center please have a look at the 8th wonder of the modern construction world.

13th Zoroastrian Games in Toronto, Canada

We have something very exciting and competitive coming up next year and we need to diligently and meticulously prepare for it. Zoroastrian athletes across North America, varying in all ages will be congregating in Toronto, Canada for the 13th Zoroastrian Games from June 29th through July 3rd 2012. The ZAH Sports Committee is coordinating this effort and would like to encourage all, especially our youth, to participate in these unique, one of a kind Games.

The fees and events are not finalized yet but the tentative events are Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Track, Basketball and Volleyball. Please check Visa requirements per your passports from concerned authorities

ACTION REQUESTED: If you are interested and available to participate please respond to the Sports Committee email box zahsportscommittee@gmail.com with your full name, contact details and the events you would be interested in, as soon as possible. Percy Behramsha will co-ordinate and liaise all activities related to the 13th Zoroastrian Games with the organizers going forward on behalf of the ZAH Sports Committee.

As has always been the tradition, there are very high expectations from ZAH and we would like to continue to be one of the best in the North American community, so let's assemble a strong contingent for the Games, bring back some more medals and leave a mark on the Games. We eagerly look forward to hearing from you soon!!

MISCELLANEOUS

THANK YOU

We are grateful for the outpouring of support from our Zoroastrian Community during the Inaugural Tackle Bone Cancer Gala. We deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of the ZAH members. Our community once again has shown the Zoroastrian spirit of giving.

Your contributions give the gift of hope to the countless children and their families who are affected by osteosarcoma. With your support we hope to make progress in our mission to find a cure and make this dreaded disease "history in Texas, in the USA and in the World"

With Gratitude,

Rohinton, Thrity & Anahita Desai

NINA GODIWALLA ON THE MOVE

Nina Godiwalla is no stranger to the ZAH Members. After her book launch organized by the ZAH Library in February this year, she has been busy traveling on speaking assignments. She is currently in India, for the launch of her book, *Suits: A Woman on Wall Street*. Times of India is hosting her (along with cookbook queen Madhur Jaffrey and filmmaker Mira Nair) as an international speaker for their annual Literary Carnival at Mehboob Studios, a prominent Bollywood film studio. Godrej will also hold a launch event for *Suits: A Woman on Wall Street*. There has been interest in turning *Suits* into a film and Nina will be meeting with the creators of *The Namesake* and *Salaam Bombay* to discuss possibilities. Before her visit to Mumbai, she was in New Delhi as a US representative for Asia Society's annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit.

Earlier this month, The Smithsonian Institution hosted Nina to speak about leadership and diversity at their South Asian Festival. Nina also recently spoke in Houston at the Governor's Texas Conference for Women. She reported to the Dallas Morning News that she was, "overwhelmed with the South Asian community support!"

APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – ANAHITA AMROLIA

Anahita is a single parent of a 7 year old with retired parents. She was the sole breadwinner of the family before she was stricken with Encephalitis and has been suffering since around April this year. Her treatment costs have dried up all the savings of this family.

Anahita Amrolia age 35 years was diagnosed and is being treated for Encephalitis at the Bhatia Hospital, Tardeo, Mumbai, India for the past 4.5 month. Now she is being treated for recovery from the damage she has suffered.

The expenses have been enormous, nearly Rs. 12 lakhs. So far, they have managed these expenses with help from friends, relatives and personal funds. Anahita is now home but she needs to undergo medication and physiotherapy since she is partial paralyzed due to brain damage.

The family has been given enough hope that Anahita will recover, but with no definite time frame for recovery specified. The family has received donation from trust and family contribution of INR 673,000/- (Six Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Only) but will need more for the long recovery process.

If anyone is interested in helping the family financially may get in touch with Hormuz Avari at 98207655 hormuz.avari@gmail.com or directly with Sam / Behroze Amrolia in Mumbai (9821500481 OR 9821500483).

ZAGNY FUNDRAISING FOR CONGRESS IN AUGUST 2012

Zoroastrian Association of New York will be hosting 16th North American Zoroastrian Congress from August 2 to August 5, 2012. As one of their fundraising items, they are selling a set of 9 beautifully designed greeting cards – 3 blank, 3 Happy Navroze, 3 Congratulations with blank inside, for \$9.00. Let's help ZAGNY in their endeavor towards their fundraising. Please call Arnavaz Sethna at 281-499-1832 or e-mail her at asethna@comcast.net and order your cards. Your will be greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2012

Date	Day	Function
1/8/2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
1/28/2012	Saturday	Jash-ne-Sadeh
2/25/2012	Saturday	Library Event (NAMC Seminar)
3/4/2012	Sunday	ZAH Olympics
3/11/2013	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
3/17/2012	Saturday	Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon
Nowruze day or 3/21/2012		Humbandagi
3/24/2012	Saturday	Nowroze Function
4/8/2012	Sunday	Carnival
4/15/2012	Sunday	ZAH Picnic
4/20/2012	Friday	Library event
4/28/2012	Saturday	EC Fundraiser - Chaiye Aahme Zarathusti - Minocher Na Kaarastaan
6/3/2012	Sunday	Maidhiaya Gahambar
6/10/2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
7/8/2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
7/29/2012	Sunday	TT Tournament
8/12/2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
8/18/2011	Saturday	Humbandagi +Navroze Function
9/8/2012	Saturday	ZAH Talent Show
9/9/2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
9/23/2012	Sunday	Indoor Sports Day
9/30/2012	Sunday	Maidhyoizaremaya Gahambar (Fasli Gahambar)
10/14/2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
10/26/2012, 10/27/2012, 10/28/2012	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Library Event - SSZ Conference and FEZANA Bday celebration
11/4/2012	Sunday	Outdoor Sports Day
11/11/2012	Sunday	AGM
11/17/2012	Saturday	Gara/Dagli Fundraiser
12/7/2012	Friday	Library Event
12/9/2012	Sunday	Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4

ZAH MEMBERSHIP – 2012

A startling fact came to light at the AGM when the Treasurer presented the accounts for the fiscal year September 2010 to August 2011. Membership revenue was \$41,635 whereas the total Operating Expenses were \$78,194. Our sincere appeal to those who are not yet members to become members and be a part of the community that is vibrant and progressive. If we wish to keep the Center for the next 50 years for our great-grandchildren to enjoy, we need to step up now and contribute towards membership as the first step. Following is the Membership Form. Please circle the category that fits you and send your check as indicated.

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON
2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

TEL (h): _____ TEL (other): _____

E.Mail _____

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