SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071   Tel: (713-270-9339)
TIME: 11:15 AM.
DATE: December 14, 2008

Children’s Session: Vehishta will conduct this session.

Middle Group: Pearline and Arnavaz will conduct the Middle Group session.

Senior Group: Sarosh Collector will conduct the Senior Group session

Adult Sunday School Classes – If you are interested in joining Adult Sunday School classes, please contact Nazneen Khumbatta, preferably at nazneekhumbatta@yahoo.com

MEETINGS

ZARATHUSHTI INVESTMENT GROUP: The Zarathushti Investment Group meets on a regular basis on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Those interested please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING: The Building Construction Committee (BCC) meets on regular basis on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Those interested please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.

GOLDEN GROUP: The Golden Group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. To join this group, please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611

LIBRARY COMMITTEE: The Library Committee meets on a regular basis on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM. If you are interested in helping, or would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at aban@coatingengineers.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 6th – Charity Event
Tuesday, December 30th – WZCC Awards Night – dinner and entertainment – See attached flyer
Wednesday, December 31st – New Year’s Eve Gala with WZCC – See attached flyer

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS

The ZAH had its annual general meeting on November 9, 2008 at the ZHCC. We thank all the members who attended and therefore established the quorum for the meeting. Three EC members stepped down – Kaemerz Dotiwala, Nazneen Khumbatta, and Zia Anklesaria. Elected in their place were Kershaw Khumbatta, Rustom Setna, and Jasmine Mistry. In addition, the FEZANA representative has now changed from Roshan Sethna to Sarosh Collector. We thank all these members for their efforts over the past two or more years. The role of the secretary has now been passed from Nazneen Khumbatta to Percy Master.

Please remember that your ZAH membership expires at the end of December 2008, regardless of when you actually paid your dues in 2008. We urge all members to renew their membership in the new calendar year as soon as possible, and definitely by April 1st, 2009.
Remember to visit the JUST NEWS link on the ZAH website for the latest news on ZAH.

Until next month, we, your EC, wish you the very best and look forward to seeing you at the Center. If there is anything you would like to discuss with the EC, please be sure to contact Percy Master (the ZAH secretary) by email, so that your issue can be added to the agenda for the next EC meeting.

The ZAH EC - Darius Bharucha, Rustom Challa, Sarosh Collector, Kershaw Khumbatta, Jasmine Mistry, Narges Sethna, Rustom Setna and Percy Master.

**Library Report** – by Jangoo Mistry

On Saturday, November 8, the ZAH Library Committee presented an exciting opportunity to listen to Mitra Sharafi, speaking on “The Judging of Conversion to Zoroastrianism: Behind the Scenes of the Parsi Panchayat Case (1908)”. Ms. Sharafi is an Assistant Professor of Law and History at the University of Wisconsin’s Institute of Legal Studies, and has two law degrees and a doctorate in history from McGill, Cambridge, Oxford and Princeton.

Ms. Sharafi brought to life the fascinating characters, political drama, manipulation, and religious sentiments surrounding the case of Petit vs. Jeejeebhoy of 1908. This was the first Parsi Panchayat case that defined the legal backdrop for conversion exactly 100 years back – and still remains as controversial now as it was then. Precipitated by the Navjote ceremony and subsequent marriage of R. D. Tata to a French woman, the case addressed conversion issues that had caused an uproar in the community.

In the months of trial that followed, the two presiding judges of the Bombay High Court, Sir Dinshaw Daver (the first Parsi judge) and the blind British judge Frank Beaman, heard testimony from several witnesses and addressed several issues. Mitra Sharafi studied thousands of pages of notebooks kept by the judges to weave together a fascinating story of: (1) how the judges examined the origin of the distinction between Parsis and Zoroastrians, (2) how Sir Daver changed his mind halfway through the trial – being for conversion at first, and later against, (3) how Justice Beaman went along reluctantly with the court’s ruling due to his junior status on the bench, (4) how J. J. Vimadalal, with his belief that “superior but separate races” should not be mixed, was chiefly responsible for turning Sir Daver’s opinion around, (5) how the star expert witness J. J. Modi, a respected priestly scholar and Bombay Parsi Panchayat secretary, had waffled and wavered in his confused testimony, and (6) how even the so-called “conversion” of emperor Akbar to Zoroastrianism was debated during the trial.

Transporting the audience back to the atmosphere of those times, Mitra Sharafi brought the characters to life and held the audience spellbound throughout her presentation. A stimulating question-and-answer session followed, that had to be cut short – much to the disappointment of the attendees.

The ZAH Library has a book: “Judgements: Petit vs. Jeejeebhoy” that has published the arguments and rulings of the two judges. Check it out; it makes for fascinating reading.

On an editorial note, those of you who regularly attend the Library events are already aware of the high quality of programs we strive to offer, and we thank you for your support. To others who have not joined us for one reason or another, we urge you to make an extra effort to participate in functions that do not provide the usual entertainment value that we all seem to enjoy, but are more intellectually enlightening. In the space of an hour or so, you get to take advantage of the years and years of research and study that many recognized scholars bring to you. While it is gratifying that there are so many non-Zoroastrian scholars of our religion, wouldn’t it be great if we could capture this knowledge within our own community? If you have a favorite topic or speaker that you would be interested in bringing to Houston, please let any Library Committee member know of your preference, and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

The ZAH Library wishes to sincerely thank the anonymous donor who has generously donated $2,000 to the Library Fund. Perhaps nothing demonstrates your support of what we bring to you than your attendance, positive feedback, and your monetary contributions. Thank you.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**CREATIVE DANCE CLASS RECITAL**

Vehishta Kaikobad has been running Creative Dance Class for a number of years. The Recital is scheduled on Sat December 13, at 11:00 a.m. at the ZAH Center. Like all previous times the event is open to all community members free of charge.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY GOVERNMENT**

R. Brad Deardorf, Supervisory Special Agent with FBI in Houston talked about Community Relations with slide presentation. He said Outreach is normally intended to create relationships that have significant impact on Law Enforcement Programs. He then talked about the work performed by Viral Daroga and Sunshine Vesuna at the time of Pan Am Highjacking incident in Karachi, Pakistan in 1986. They were both given awards for their heroic deed, beyond the call of their duty. He also talked about how FBI can help by understanding other cultures. He talked about linguists and
showed a slide which stated “FBI Houston is currently hiring qualified Contract Linguists with Proficiencies in Urdu, Hindi, Gujarati, and many other languages” with respective salary scales. He then talked about what types of services can FBI linguists provide. Among other things they can translate and interpret, provide intelligence analysis, provide cultural, political, and historical subject-matter expertise, and more. Everyone present was bi-lingual and Brad requested that if anyone was interested in a job with FBI – full time or part-time – can go to www.fbijobs.com and apply. In case any one needed to contact Brad his email address is Robert.deardorff@ic.fbi.gov. This presentation was made prior to the Annual General Meeting on November 9, 2008.

**BIRTH:**

Darian, a boy, to Anahita Deboo and Cavas Pavri, brother to Ariana and grandson to Yasmin and Shapur Pavri of Houston, TX and Gulistan and Farrokh Deboo of New Canaan, CT on November 19, 2008.

Nadia, a bonny 7lb 4oz baby girl, to Serena and Kaiwan Bharucha, and sister to big brother Darian on November 20, 2008. Grandparents are Roshan and Khursheed Bharucha of Quetta, Pakistan and Farida and Cyrus Vania of Karachi, Pakistan. Dr.

**WEDDING:**

Sonia Mehelli Behrana was married to Ronald Rash on November 22, 2008 at the Sweetwater Country Club in Sugar Land, TX. The Behrana family is one of the few first families who came to Houston, TX even before the ZAH was established.

Zenobia and Mehelli Behrana thank all the guests for their good wishes and generous gifts.

**POETRY GROUP:**

Farida Bamji has initiated a new website ZoroastrianPoetryGroup@googlegroups.com for poetry lovers. The reason being that MSN groups are being shut down. Anyone wishing to join may send a request to Farida at bfar@sympatico.ca and she will be more than willing to sign you in as a member.

### 2009 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regularly Scheduled Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School - Age - up to 9</td>
<td>Second Sunday of each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School - Age – 10 to 13</td>
<td>Second Sunday of each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School - Age – 13 to 18</td>
<td>Second Sunday of each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Second Sunday of each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Committee Meeting</td>
<td>First Sunday of each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zarathushti Investment Group</td>
<td>Third Thursday of each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Group</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of each month</td>
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January 31 Saturday Jashn-e-Sadeh

February 6 Friday Library event

February 8 Sunday A fun afternoon after Sunday School

March 14 Saturday Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon

March 21 Saturday Fasli Norouz Hambandagi and Function

April 11 Saturday NAMC (NA Mobed Council) Seminar coordinated by ZAH Library

April 12 Sunday Carnival (after Sunday School)

May 2 Saturday Play – “Darling, I Am Finally Out”

May 31 Sunday Shehanshahi Dae Month Gahambar - Maidhyaiya (16-20 Daê)

August 24 Monday Shehanshahi Navroze Hambandagi

August 29 Saturday Shehanshahi Navroze function

October 4 Sunday Fasli Mehrgan Gahambar

October 17 Saturday Library Annual Event

October 18 Sunday Library Event – morning

November 8 Sunday ZAH Annual General Meeting after Sunday school

November 21 Saturday Dinner Theater

December 4 Friday Library Event

December 13 Sunday Christmas Party after Sunday school
PROGEM PROGRAM UPDATE

Day 1, Sunday Dec. 28, 2008

2008 GLOBAL AGM
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Benediction, welcome, Reports, Dubai World Congress video presentation, etc.
12:30 Lunch
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Youthfully Speaking – Talks by our own young successful business professionals
Sonia Behrana, Cyrus Mistry, Eric Engineer

Day 2, Monday Dec. 29, 2008

Full Day Bus Trip to San Antonio
Enjoy Christmas decoration, lights, food, music, boat ride, etc. at the Riverwalk and experience exciting cultural scene at the Farmer’s Market – Limited seats on bus still available

Day 3, Tuesday Dec. 30, 2008

Group Visit to BODY WORLDS 2 & THE BRAIN (Trip to Oil Rig in Galveston Cancelled)
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Low Discounted Group rate for a limited size group only
An unforgettable once in a life educational experience with new exhibits of human bodies
WZCC 2008 Global Awards Dinner – 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM (REVISED STARTING TIME)
Join dozens of out of town visitors for an evening of good food, fun and entertainment by

ENTERTAINMENT
Kamalrukh Gandhi & Company and Kaemerz-Peshotan extravaganza!!
Much more for your money’s worth!!.
(dress – business attire)

Day 4, Wednesday Dec. 31, 2008

Coming Together Roundtable – 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
A worldwide meeting of Zarathushtis to preserve our community and stay together
Lunch – No charge for those who register!
NEW YEAR’S EVE Dinner & Dance (Organized by ZAH) Call in the Year 2009 in style!

REGISTRATION FOR ALL EVENTS MUST BE MADE BY FILLING OUT THE ATTACHED FORM AND TO BE SENT WITH PAYMENT (CHECK WRITTEN TO WZCC - HOUSTON CHAPTER) to
ZHCC- 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071
For Additional info contact ARANAVA or HOSHANG SETHNA at 281-499-1832 or absethna@yahoo.com
**WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**REGISTRATION FORM 2008 AGM – HOUSTON, TEXAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>COST PER HEAD</th>
<th>NUMBER OF REGISTRANT</th>
<th>TOTAL AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY 1 SUNDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;December 28</td>
<td>WZCC AGM LUNCH</td>
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<td><strong>DAY 2 MONDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;December 29</td>
<td>SAN ANTONIO DAY TRIP&lt;br&gt;(transportation &amp; sightseeing)</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>X _______ =</td>
<td>$</td>
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<td><strong>DAY 3 TUESDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;December 30</td>
<td>Body Worlds&lt;br&gt;(Museum of Nat. Sc.)</td>
<td>$23</td>
<td>X _______ =</td>
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<td><strong>DAY 3 TUESDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;December 30</td>
<td>WZCC AWARDS&lt;br&gt;DINNER &amp; ENTERTAINMENT</td>
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<td>X _______ =</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DAY 4 WEDNESDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;December 31</td>
<td>COMING TOGETHER LUNCH</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DAY 4 WEDNESDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;December 31</td>
<td>NEW YEAR’S EVE&lt;br&gt;DINNER &amp; DANCE</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Call or fax to ARNAV AZ OR HOSHANG SETHNA at +1- 281-499-1832 or Email at ahsethna@yahoo.com

WITH A CHECK DRAWN TO WZCC - HOUSTON CHAPTER IN US $ ONLY & MAIL TO Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center, 8787 West Airport Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77071