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: 11:15 AM.

DATE: February 10, 2008

Children’s Session: Vehishta will conduct the Children’s 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 Zarathushhti 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.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 2, 2008 - Jashn-e-Sadeh. The festivities will start around 6:00 p.m. Atash Niyayesh will start at 6:30 p.m. and the bon fire will be lit immediately thereafter. Please send in your RSVP to - Cyra Kanga @ crkanga@yahoo.com or call 281-969-8057. See Heritage Highlights.

Sunday, February 3, 2008 – SuperBowl Party. Arranged by our Yout h(Organized by the Dads)!! Don’t miss the fun starting at 5.00 pm. Food ( desi style chicken wings, meat balls, masala papeta, chips and dip, nachos and cheese) and soft drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring your beverage of choice. Charges $5/person. Please RSVP to Naomi Bhappu - volleybalchic421@msn.com / 281 859 6248 or Darius Byramji - darjidude@yahoo.com / 713 849 5561

Friday, February 8, 2008 7 pm – Library Event – Naomi Bhappu - Reads her award winning essay; reports on the 4th WZYC; Friday Nite at the Movies. See attached flyer for details

Sunday, February 10, 2008 - Car Rally/Scavenger Hunt. This is like a “Treasure Hunt” on wheels. Rules for this event will be provided on that day. Entry Cost $5/person(includes Dhansak Lunch for participants); non-participants- $5/person for Dhansak Lunch. Please RSVP by Feb 2 to Cyra at crkanga@yahoo.com. See Heritage Highlights for details.
Sunday March 2, 2008 – Shehanshahi Ayithrima Gahambhar. Jashan starts at 11 am at ZHCC. Please RSVP by Feb 25 to Hoshang Sethna at hsethna@comcast.net or 281 499 1832. See attached Flyer for details

Heritage Highlights– ZHCC 10th Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrating TEN YEARS of pride – the Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center - Houston

February 2008
Celebrations Begin- Jashan-e-Sadeh

Our 10th Anniversary Celebrations start with Jashan-e-Sadeh. This year the organizers, Bahram Yazdani, Darioush Vafadari and team are set with a live band, and delicious, traditional Iranian food catered by Papa Bar & Grill restaurant. For those of us that have been in Houston for a while, we can clearly remember the first time we held Jashan-e-Sadeh. It was eleven years ago, before our Center was built, that Fereshteh Khatibi and Bahram Varjavand introduced this event at Feroze Bhandara’s property in Katy, Texas. The first bonfire, 16ft high, was a huge success in spite of the freezing weather. Since then, the bonfires have gone smaller to comply with the city codes, we have held them at our Center and the observance of Jashan-e-Sadeh has become an integral part of the community events.

Scoop from the group- Car Rally

Our next event, the Car Rally, will take place on Feb 10th. Organizers Cyra Kanga, Arnavaz Sethna and Ken Bhappu have mapped it out and they warn contestants that the internet does not hold the winning clues. The route is expected to take two hours. So get your teams ready and register for this prize-winning, fun event. Participants, cheer leaders, and spectators can all partake in a delicious lunch - everyone needs to register for a chicken dhansak lunch for only $5.00 by calling or emailing Cyra Kanga at 281-969-8057 or crkanga@yahoo.com.

Sports Day - March 9th

Sports Committee Chairs Ken Bhappu and Rustom Khosravian are setting the stage for a fun day with light athletic events the entire family can enjoy. The cost will be $10/adult, $5.00 for kids under 5. A lunch of hot dogs, chips and cookies will be provided. Watch for the souvenir item that will be available for purchase.

Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon

Saturday, March 15th is the date for the 2nd Annual Dar-ni-Pori bake-a-thon. Organizing and continuing the event is Roshan Engineer, who introduced this fun event to commemorate A van-roj-A van-mahino, a very special day for hundreds of years. Last year all profits were donated to the Center and a good time was had by all who worked at making the poris as well as the ones that enjoyed the sampling.

Navrooz Festivities - Humbandagi is on Friday, March 21st and entertainment and dinner is on Saturday, March 22nd.
Religious Education Seminar
On Saturday, April 12, the ZAH Library Committee brings in three eminent scholars, Almut Hintze from SOAS UK, Jenny Rose from California, and Mathew Stolper from Chicago, for a day-long religious education seminar. Lunch and tea breaks will be provided for a nominal cost. A meet and greet dinner is also being planned for Friday, April 11th. Speaker topics will be detailed later.

Annual ZAH Carnival
Headed by Yasmin Medhora, Zia Sagar and a whole host of volunteers we will have our Annual festival of food, games and fun. The ZAH Carnival will also be announced to the greater Houston Community.

May 23-25
Entertainment Committee Chairs, Pervin Sagar and Roshen Sethna, along with Homi Davier, Kaemerz Dotiwalla and Bahram Yazdani are finalizing both Galas - the Iranian nite and the ZAH Gala. The events are designed for maximum attendance at the lowest price point. Both galas will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the program is packed with cultural and entertainment events that promise to be the glitz and glamour Texans are accustomed to. So, stay tuned and mark the dates on your calendar and join us for the festivities.

A brief outlines of the dates and events are:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Sunday, February 10</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 15</td>
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<td>Friday, May 23</td>
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<td>ZAH Welcome Lunch</td>
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<td>Reminiscing ZAH history</td>
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<td>Arts and Treasures Exhibits in the ZHCC atrium</td>
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<td>ZAH Gala Ball &amp; Dinner</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 25</td>
<td>WZCC World Session - Lunch and Keynote address</td>
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<td>WZCC Chapters Meet</td>
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<td>Monday, May 26</td>
<td>Excursions for out of town guests</td>
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<td>December 2008</td>
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And the festivities continue with the WZCC AGM that will take place right here in Houston in December 2008. Plan on bringing in the New Year with us!

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS – By Percy Master

The ZAH EC met on Sunday, January 20, at 11:00AM for our monthly meeting at the ZHCC.

The meeting’s main topic of discussion was the costs borne by ZAH for creating and mailing printed copies of our newsletter, Manashni, to those members who insist on getting printed material, instead of downloading it from the internet. We have located sponsors for the February and March issues of Manashni. Moving forward, the EC has decided that as of April 2008, printed copies of Manashni will only be mailed out to those members who would be willing to pay an annual surcharge of $15 for the yearly cost of the printed-mailed Manashni. We realize that this
surcharge may be hard on certain members of our community - especially those who do not have access to a computer, and request such members to please notify a member of the EC, so that we may take care of this issue for you. Members who wish to continue receiving their printed copy of Manashni should add $15 to their membership fees for 2008 and notify the treasurer, Nargesh Sethna, of their desire to continue receiving printed copies of Manashni – please be sure to send in your check prior to March 31, 2008, to ensure that your printed issue of Manashni is not interrupted. Also, due to space limitations, articles in Manashni will be limited to a half page, and event flyers will be limited to one page, and only for events that are taking place in the near future, although the Manashni Editorial Board has the final say on article length and content. We encourage members to make further use of the ZAH website (www.zah.org) to publish articles or announcements, instead of the space-limited Manashni.

The EC also agreed that Sarosh Collector will represent ZAH at the FEZANA AGM in Los Angeles in May 2008, since our current FEZANA representative, Roshan Sethna, will be unable to attend. We thank Sarosh for his hard work on the behalf of ZAH.

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 Nazneen Khumbatta, our secretary, so that your issue can be added to the agenda for the next EC meeting.


MISCELLANEOUS

AN APPEAL FOR PARSEE GENERAL HOSPITAL: The following equipment is not available at the Parsee General Hospital in Mumbai forcing many Parsi patients to go elsewhere. The poor are worst effected.

- Biopsy Procedure Facility = 2 lakh rupees
- Dialysis machine = 10 lakh rupees
- C.T. Scan = 1 Crore rupees
- M.R.I. = 1 Crore rupees

If you would like to help, their phone number is: +1 91 22 23633212, +1 91 22 23633641

ALUMNI OF MAMA PARSI GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL: The first, ever, Re-Union of the Mamayans in North America will be held in Houston in October 10, 11 and 12. This will be in celebration of the School’s 90th birthday.

A kick-off meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 11:00 at our Center. All alumni are invited to attend this meeting to get acquainted with the Committee Members and learn more about the project.

DALLAS NEEDS OUR HELP: As we are celebrating 10th Anniversary of our Center, we find ZANT (Zoroastrian Association of North Texas) are getting ready to have a Center of their own. Just like ZAH, ZANT has been raising funds over the past 15 years and in November 2007, purchased a 2.6 acre property for $253,000. Continued hard work has enabled them to raise $550,000 in cash and pledges and they now need an additional $50,000 to initiate building Phase I. The building has been designed by architect Cyrus Rivetna. Phase I will consist of a beautifully designed prayer room, class rooms, library, meeting rooms, office, kitchen and restrooms.

Please visit ZANT’s website at http://www.zant.org/Center.htm for further details, including their donor recognition policy. If you have any questions, please contact Behram Irani, Chair of the Fundraising Committee at 972-867-0509 or email president@zant.org.

Please make your check to ZANT Building Fund and mail to ZANT, P. O. Box 271117, Flower Mound, TX 75027.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Khubyar Percy Behramsha has achieved the rank of Eagle scout. Below is the details about his project to beautify our center.

Project: For my Eagle Project, I plan to re-stripe the parking lot areas of my church and repaint the fire zone curbs. There are eighty lines in the parking lot that will be neatly striped. The fire zone curb will be painted red, to meet safety requirements.
**Benefits:** First of all, the parking lot will look a lot better. Secondly, there have been problems with cars being parked incorrectly and crossing over two parking spots, since the lines are very faint. Finally, the place will be a lot safer because the fire zone will be clearly visible allowing for a smooth operation in case of an emergency.

All members, especially seniors, of the church will be very glad to be able to see the lines clearly in the dark and park correctly, avoiding any possible accidents.

*Congratulations to Khubyar on this achievement. You make us proud. Thanks to you, our center parking lot gets a facelift in time for its 10th Birthday!!*

**ONE MORE EAGLE SCOUT IN THE MAKING**

Zal Bhathena's Eagle Project

I am a Boy Scout with Troop 1296 and am currently working on my Eagle Project. The aim of my project is to beautify the extension of the parking lot at the Zoroastrian Center by planting live oaks and crepe myrtles along the side of the road connecting the two lots.

To carry out the project, I must raise $600 for the trees and supplies and another $500 to extend the sprinkler system. I would be most grateful for any contributions you could make towards my Eagle Project. If you wish to contribute, you can mail a cheque made out to me to my home address (16810 Laguna Springs Drive, Houston, TX 77095), or meet me at either the January or February Sunday school at the Center. Thank you for your help and support. -Zal Bhathena

**NEW GRADUATE:**

Justin Mody graduated in December 2007 from UT at Austin in business with finance major. He is presently interviewing for a job.

*Congratulations to Justin and Best Wishes for a successful career.*

**DAR-NI-PORI BAKE-A-THON - Announcement**

Our 2nd annual Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-Thon has been planned for Saturday, March 15th at the Center from 10 am through early evening.

Reminding all our gals and guys and youth who participated last year to plan on helping out again; and inviting more of our ZAH folks to join us in this community event…. we will make and bake our poris, and buy and sell them to fill orders and thus make "dough" for our Center. The goal is to top last year's total donation towards the maintenance of the Center from our first event and in the process have a fun-filled day of camaraderie; learning and making a traditional recipe in time for Navroze and our Navroze function and the Avan Roj nu Parabh which falls on Wednesday, March 26th.

This will be a community event totally worked and supported by our volunteers, so please call in your responses if you will attend and how you'd like to help. We'll need volunteers to bring along cooked 'dar' for our filling (standard recipe will be provided for consistency); and offers to bring raw materials needed; also please let us know if you can help with providing lunch and tea/snack for all our chefs! And, of course, do call in your orders for our poris! You can pick them up that evening or at the Navroze function.


I will be out of town till March 9th, but we will together coordinate this group event to make it a fun and profitable day for ZAH. Join us! - Roshan Engineer.

**CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBER:**

Anita Wolfe’s home phone number has changed. The new phone number is Home: 281 304 6611; Cell: 281 468 7414.

**BIRTH:** Baby Mazreen born on 28th Dec 2007 Friday Roj Khorsheed Mah Amardad weighing 7 pounds in San Antonio to Shernaaz and Ervad Dr. Hormazd Bahmanshah Sanjana. Karl and Frezine are proud brother and sister. Nawaz Viral Wadia and Frey and Bahmanshah Sanjana are Proud Grand Parents.

*Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Sanjana family on this happy occasion*

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:** All current memberships expired December 31, 2007. Please recognize the need for your support and contribution and renew your subscription to ZAH.

The table below, as approved by the 2004 AGM, shows the current minimum membership dues for calendar year 2008.
Patron – Family $500
Patron – Single $250
Patron – Single Head of Household $250
Regular Family $225
Associate Family $200
Regular Single Head of Household $115
Regular Single $115
Senior Single (over age 65) $40
Senior Family (one spouse over age 65) $65
Students $25

Please mail your membership dues to:
Treasurer - Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd, Houston, TX 77071

ZAH LIBRARY PROGRAM
Friday, February 8, 2008
7:00 PM

Naomi Bhappu - Reads her award winning essay & reports on the 4th W ZY C
& Friday Nite at the M ovies

Showcasing two of Farohar Foundation’s telecast of “Humata H ukhta H varshta”.

"T ata-A C entury of T rust " – V iew an exhibition highlighting the contribution of the three eminent leaders, Jamshedji T ata, JRD T ata and N aval T ata. T his 30 minute video showcases the industrial development, the entrepreneurial spirit and role towards nation building in the last century. T he exhibition narrates the story of the T ata Group in the context of the key events in Indian history over the past 120-odd years.

“K avyani Zando-Surat” – C elebration of 183rd A nniversary of M odiji Atash Behram and an unusual observance of the ancient lore of K aveh. (in Gujarati).

Everybody Invited - Light Refreshments Provided - Donations Welcome
SHEHANSHAHI AYATHRIMA GAHAMBAR

MARCH 2, 2008
AT THE
ZARATHUSHTI HERITAGE
AND CULTURAL CENTER

JASHAN CEREMONY WILL COMMENCE
AT 11:00 A.M.

RSVP: DEFINITELY BY FEBRUARY 25, 2008
To Hoshang Sethna at 281-499-1832 or
e-mail: hsethna@comcast.net

THIS GAHAMBAR IS HOSTED BY KHOSRAVIAN FAMILY

***************
CAR RALLY/SCAVENGER HUNT
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008
AT 2:00 P.M.
ENTRY COST: $5.00 PER PERSON
Lunch: Chicken Dhansak & Kachumbar
Participants: Lunch included in the entry cost.
Non-Participants: $5 per person for dhansak lunch
RSVP - very essential

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MAKE UP A TEAM AND SEND YOUR REGISTRATION TO
CYRA KANGA at crkanga@yahoo.com
NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 2, 2008