SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11:15 AM.

DATE: May 11, 2008

Children’s Session: Special Sunday School Session in May

Children - 5 years and older
For the Sunday School Session on May 11th we have a Field Trip and guided tour of the Shri Swaminarayan Temple in Stafford for children who are 5 years and older.
The beautiful temple is the first traditional stone and marble Hindu temple in the United States. This cross cultural and interfaith session will be an informative and enjoyable experience for children.

The tour starts at 11:30 a.m. sharp. We will meet at the Center by 11:10 a.m. and reach the temple by 11:20 a.m. in time for the tour. They have religious rituals held strictly according to time. Any delay will lead to the tour not being completed. Alternatively, parents and children can directly come to the temple by 11:20 a.m.

Volunteer parents are requested to drive and chaperone the children.

Please RSVP to Vehishta (salveh@comcast.net) if you and/or your child will be attending and if you can help with transportation to and from the Center and chaperone during the tour. A headcount is required so please respond latest by May 7th.

Children - under 5 years
Sharmeen Irani will conduct a story time session in the Sunday School room for children under 5 years. Children of this age group are encouraged to attend.

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

It is here at last!!! The much awaited ZHCC 10th Anniversary Gala Celebrations.
Don't miss this fabulous line-up of events:

As our celebration draws closer our excitement builds. Here is some information we need to share with you

Rejoicing in Our Heritage

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

Celebration 2008

SUNDAY, MAY 24th

ZAH Jashan

Our jashan start time is 10:00 AM sharp. The jashan and chasni is hosted by ZAH and there is no cost for this event. –however we request you RSVP Roshan Engineer, <ryengineer@comcast.net> or tel # 281.545.3467, so that we have an accurate count for the malida and meva. Please email or call her today and let her know how many in the family are attending.

Community Picture

Promptly after the jashan ceremony gets over, we look forward to having each and every one of you outside for a ZAH group picture at 11:15 AM. A professional photographer, one that takes graduation senior class pictures, is contracted to take a group picture of ALL. He is hired by the hour and we will need to be very organized and speedy to get this accomplished.

Treasures Exhibit

The Treasures exhibition will be open at this time in the ZHCC library. You will also have an opportunity to view the antique garas, the rare coins and exquisite jewelry in the evening hours as well.

Gala Night Reservation - Deadline

Reservation deadlines for the Gala event on Saturday, May 24th will be in effect. Your checks for table reservation and individual tickets and the names of the attendees on your table need to be completed by May 11th. PLEASE let Cyra Kanga know. <crkanga@yahoo.com> tel # 281.969.8057. After that date unpaid reservations will be released. May 18th is the FINAL date and no further reservations will be entertained after this date. Click here for the Gala Flyer

SUNDAY, MAY 25th

WZCC Event

You are encouraged to attend this stellar event that features keynote speaker Homai Daruwalla, India’s first Zoroastrian lady. Chairperson and Managing Director of Central Bank of India along with the Indian Consul General Mr. S. M. Gavai. Call in your reservations for lunch to Cyra Kanga.

PLAY

Our ZAH performing artists rock! They are hard at work to ensure we enjoy an evening of rip roaring fun. This is our fund raiser and your contribution to a delightful evening should be a must on your calendar. A snack box with titillating eats is included in your ticket price and will be provided during intermission. For ticket, please call Cyra Kanga.

Souvenir Book

Your stories, pictures, memorable moments and more are needed to make our Souvenir Book alive and a vibrant record of our time in Houston. Please send in your contribution to Homi Davier, <Homi@DavierLnc.com>, so he and his team can get to work on this project.

Iranian Nite - September 27th new date

By popular demand the new date for the Iranian Nite is set for September 27th. A fabulous evening is planned and Dariosh Vafadari is heading the team. Stay tuned for further information. We have started accepting table reservations. Visit the website for the updates.

SEE YA'LL MAY 24th
Sunday, May 25, 2008 - World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce-The Houston Chapter presents “The Global Business Connection” - ZAH has dedicated May 25th, 2008 as “THE WZCC DAY”. Be a part of the celebrations and share in the moment of “Rejoicing Our Heritage”. RSVP By May 10, 2008 – Cyra Kanga @ 281.969-8057 or email her at crkanga@yahoo.com. See attached flyer for details.

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS – By Percy Master

The ZAH EC met on Sunday, April 20, at 11AM for our monthly meeting at the ZHCC. The main topic of discussion was whom ZAH should back for the post of the FEZANA president. Two very well-qualified candidates are running. The EC had the opportunity to meet one of the candidates, Homi Gandhi of New York, in person, on 4/13 at our Center. We then spent about 45 minutes with the other candidate, Bomi Patel of San Francisco, on the phone during our 4/20 EC meeting. After much deliberation, the EC decided to back Bomi Patel. We wish both candidates good luck with their campaigns.

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.


LIBRARY REPORT – by Jangoo Mistry

The ZAH Library was proud to host the 2-day seminar on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 featuring three distinguished speakers from London, Chicago, and California as part of the Khorsheed Jungalwala Lecture Series. The seminar started with a greet-the-speakers dinner in Houston on Friday night. After a scrumptious Thai dinner, the speakers were introduced by Aban Rustomji and the speakers gave the audience a brief insight on how they got interested in their research subjects. The program concluded with a tribute to Khorsheed Jungalwala, recognizing her intellect, her many talents, her generous nature and her immense contributions to the community.

Dr. Almut Hintze, who holds degrees from four different Universities and has been recognized widely for her lectures on Zoroastrian topics, gave the first talk titled Prophetic and Priestly Authority in Zoroastrianism. In most religions, the role of the prophet and priest is separate. Zarathushtra was unique in that he was both a prophet and a priest. He not only composed hymns of his “conversations” with Ahura Mazda but was also a priest who established a new type of ritual worship that is preserved in the Yasna Haptanghaiti. Of great interest to the audience was her assertion that Yasna Haptanghaiti indicated that men, women, and even minor children could be a Zaotar (chief officiating priest), as long they were learned.

Dr. Jennifer Rose, who has studied with the late Professor Mary Boyce at the University of London and is currently offering a course in Zoroastrian studies for the first time at Stanford University, gave a presentation, “Gods, Kings and Priests at the Crossroads – Rock Reliefs of Zoroastrian Iran”. She took us on a fascinating archeological tour of Iran. Since Iran was at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, rulers would use rock carvings to record history and publicity. They were in effect, the “You Tubes of yesteryears!”

Dr. Matthew Stolper, who is an authority on ancient texts of the period before 300 B.C., and is a professor of Oriental Studies in the Oriental Institute, educated us on The Persepolis Fortification Project: Steps in a Race to Record Unique Achaemenid Documents. The documents are thousands of tablets and clay fragments with seals, and images that were unearthed under the fortification wall of Persepolis, and brought to Chicago in the 1930’s. Dr. Stolper’s group is making extensive high resolution images of the tablets, which can allow the viewer to manipulate the object on screen as if they were holding it in their hand. These artifacts tell us about every day life at Persepolis, such that “each bit of information may seem useless, but when a number of data points get connected, we begin to see the bigger picture that is of immense historical value.”

Dr. Hinze ended the seminar with a lecture titled: Defeating Death: Eschatology in Zoroastrianism, Judaism & Christianity. Ideas common to Zoroastrianism, Judaism and Christianity include the concept of judgement, heaven and hell, the redeemer, the defeat of evil, and new life in everlasting bliss. Contrary to early Jewish beliefs that all souls, good and bad, go down to Sheol from where they never return, later beliefs shift the focus of retribution from the actions of a group to those of an individual – a concept probably borrowed from Zoroastrianism.

Though evaluation surveys filled out by the audience had one common gripe of too little time for questions and answers, almost all the attendees felt that the program was “excellent, enjoyable, and informational”. The Library committee wishes to thank the children of our Middle Group for taking the time and working hard to polish the silver Dhalla memorabilia in the Library cabinet. Their volunteer effort is truly exemplary and much appreciated.
**Carnival:**
Zia Sagar and Yasmin Medhora thank the ZAH community and friends for attending the Tenth Annual Carnival on 4/13/08 held at the Center. A total of $3,531/- was raised and donated to the ZAH. This amount was raised by selling food donated by various families, games, rental booths, cash donations and volunteer help. Thanks to all of you for your presence and team work. Also a big thanks to all the Sunday School families (Tiny Tots, Middle Group and Youth) for their contribution and participation. The function was a grand success!

Food Donated by: Haleem–Villie Daboo; Paapri–Thirty Kharas; Biryani–Persis Behramsha; Dhansak–Jasmine & Yazdi Mistry; Curry – Diana Balsara; Curry, Shrikhand, other-Yasmin Medhora; Kabobs –Arna Sethna; Chicken Tikka/Naan–Bakhtawar & Kershaw Byramji; Cutlets–Khorshed Mondegearian; Pao Bhaaji–Khrsheed Dastur; Poories–Roshan Sethna & Parinaz Irani; Potatoes and Rotli – Yasmin Pavri; Masoor–Pervin Sagar; Kolmi Pati–Khursheed Hormazdi; Sandwiches – Delna Minwalla, Manek Nariman, Nargis Cooper; Bhel–Chaat House; Faloodo–Roshan Behramsha; Custard–Jasmine Mistry, Arna Mistry; Rum Cake–Zia Anklesaria; Kopra Pak–Dilnavaz Meer; Rice –Yasmin Engineer, Ruby Italia; Kaando/Kachoobar – Thrity Engineer, Villi Bhappu, Roshan Engineer, Shernaz Boomla, Kamalrukh Gandhi, Avan Shroff.


**TIME TO ANNOUNCE OUR GRADUATES**

**High School:**

**Zubin Engineer** graduated from high school and is now attending University of Houston.

Lauren Wolfe is graduating ‘summa cum laude’ from Cy Fair High. She has been accepted at UT Austin. Lauren’s parents are so proud of this young lady!

Jimmy Sethna will graduate from Klein High School

Darius Byramji has graduated Summa Cum Laude from Cy-Ridge High School. He is going to attend the Business School at University of Texas, Austin.

Marc K. Irani will graduate from W.P Clements High School and will be attending UT at San Antonio.

Firoze Cooper is graduating from Cypress Ridge High School with honors as a Summa Cum Laude in the class of 2008 and has secured early admission in UT Austin to pursue Mechanical Engineering degree course.

Gohar Firozgargy is graduating from Stratsord High School and will be attending UH Main Campus. Gohar is also working towards her Gold Award from Girl Scout.

**Graduates:**

Kamran Yazdani-Beioky is graduating in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M university and will be attending University of Houston Law school from fall of 2008.

Shiva Yazdani-Beioky is graduating in Master in Bio-Medical Engineering from Texas A&M university May of 2008.

Eric Engineer will be graduating with an MBA degree from the Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts. Eric with his wife Thrity will be moving to Dallas in July where he will be joining Sevin Rosen Funds, a venture capital firm as a Senior Associate.
Farzin Dinyarian will graduate in May 2008 from UT Austin Business School with PPA. He has a position as investment banker in Houston.

Rehan Kapadia will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He will be pursuing further studies at UC Berkeley starting this fall.

Shara Tamboli is graduating this year with a bachelors degree in communication from UT.

Natasha Berana is graduating with Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and working towards her registry.

Veera Sidhwa is graduating with Masters in Educational Psychology from California State University Long Beach.

Behram F. T. Mistree will be completing his MEng in Electrical and Computer Science at MIT’s Media Lab in Summer 2008. Behram will be starting his doctoral studies at Stanford in Fall 2008. Behram is the son of Yashfara and Farrokh Mistree and was born in Houston. Farrokh and Yashfara resided in Houston from 1981 through 1992 and have maintained their membership of ZAH even after their departure.

Manashni and its readers extend their heartiest congratulations to all the graduates. You make us proud!!

OBITUARY

Nahni Kapadia, father of Rashid Kapadia, passed away in India on April 19, 2008. Manashni and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to Rashid and his mother Maki Kapadia.

Behram Sheriar Irani, father of Dilshad Bomi Hormazdi, lived his life to the fullest till the very end. He passed away in Mumbai on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. Manashni and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to Dilshad and her family.

Lydia Santiago, mother of Elvia Patel, passed away on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 in Puerto Rico after a long battle with cancer. Elvia is presently in Puerto Rico. Manashni and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to Elvia and her family.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

All current memberships expired December 31, 2007. Please recognize the need for your support and contribution and renew your subscription to ZAH. All the celebration functions carry a higher non-member rate. Do send in your membership dues urgently if you have not already done so.

The table below, as approved by the 2004 AGM, shows the current minimum membership dues for calendar year 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dues</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patron – Family</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron – Single</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron – Single Head of Household</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Family</td>
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<td>Regular Single Head of Household</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Single</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>$25</td>
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</tbody>
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Please mail your membership dues to: Treasurer - Zoroastrian Association of Houston 8787 W. Airport Blvd, Houston, TX 77071.
WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

As an integral part of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston, we, The Houston Chapter of WZCC is proud to play an active role in the celebrations. This is important for us since this is the actual birthplace of WZCC which was launched here in the year 2000 when we made our moment in Zarathushti history!

It is our honor that ZAH has dedicated May 25th, 2008 as “THE WZCC DAY”. Hence, it is our great pleasure to invite you to be a part of our celebrations and share in our moment of Rejoicing Our Heritage.

THE HOUSTON CHAPTER
Presents
“THE GLOBAL BUSINESS CONNECTION"

Sunday, May 25, 2008
At the Center(ZHCC)

10:00am – 10:15 am  Registration
10:15 am – 10:30 am  Benediction – Young Ervards of Houston
10:30 am – 10:40 am  Welcome Message – ZAH EC – Mr. Kaemerz Dotiwalla
10:40 am – 10:50 am  Houston Chapter Chair – Ms. Behroze Daruwalla
10:50 am – 11:00 am  WZCC Board Member – Mr. Rustom Engineer
11:00 am – 11:15 am  WZCC Global President – Mr. Bomy Boyce
11:15 am – 11:45 am  Keynote Speaker - Ms. Homai Daruwalla
                      Chairperson & Managing Director, Central Bank of India
11:45 am – 12:15 pm  Consul General of India, Houston - Hon. S M Gavai
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm  Award Ceremony – Mr. Firdosh Mehta -WZCC Board Member

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  LUNCH – ($10)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm  Panel Discussion – Multiple Business Chambers
                    Moderators- Zarir Sethna & Ken Bhappu
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm  Open Forum – Mr. Rohinton Rivetna
3:20 pm – 3:30 pm  The Closure – Dr. Darius Wania

RSVP
Cyra Kanga @ 281.969-8057 or email her at crkanga@yahoo.com