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:  October 12, 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, October 18th – Library Gala. See the library report and attached flyer for details
Saturday, November 1st, 7 pm – You have surely heard of Halloween but have you heard of Zoroween? The Youth Group is having a Zoroween Evening as their annual fundraiser. Look forward to costume competition for adults and children, Chinese food, Bingo, Hamper prizes costume prizes and dancing!! Rates - $12 per adult; $8 for children 3 to 10 years of age. See attached flyer for details
Saturday, November 8th – Library event. See the library report and attached flyer for details
Sunday, November 9th, 2.30 pm – ZAH Annual General Meeting at the ZHCC. See attached flyer for details.
Saturday, December 6th – Charity Event organized by Arzan Gonda, to benefit the Navsari Parsi General Hospital. Come and be dazzled by a talented group of young and not-so-young performers performing some of the best Bollywood dances, many of whom will be our ZAH members. See attached flyer for details.
Wednesday, December 31st – New Year’s Eve Gala with WZCC. More details in next Manashni.

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS – By Percy Master

The ZAH EC met on Sunday, September 28, at 2PM for our monthly meeting at the ZHCC.

The EC continues to work on the 10th North American Zoroastrian Congress in Houston. We have successfully persuaded ZAGNY to step aside and let Houston have the Congress, since it will be exactly 10 years from the last World Zoroastrian Congress held right here in Houston. ZAGNY has reacted favorably to our proposal. We will strive to have the youth heavily involved in this undertaking. We are now looking for volunteer chairs for the organizing committee for the Congress – please let Nazneen Khumbatta know if you are interested.
Watch your email for nomination forms for the new EC. Several members of the current EC have completed their terms and will be stepping down. In anyone has an interest in becoming a member of the ZAH EC, please let Nazneen Khumbatta know. Also, mark your calendars for the ZAH AGM, scheduled for November 9, 2008.

The EC appreciates the hard work done by our BCC in maintaining the center, especially in the wake of the recent hurricane. Special thanks to Hoshang Sethna for diligently coordinating the repair work, especially on the roof.

The EC also appreciates the dedication and hard work of our mobeds on behalf of our community. Therefore, as a token of our appreciation, the EC unanimously agreed to discount rental rates of the ZHCC by 60% for any ZAH mobed who is active in the community and a member of ZAH.

Mark your calendars for a charity function organized by our very own Arzan Gonda on December 6th, 2008, at the ZHCC. Proceeds from this function will benefit the Navsari Parsi General Hospital. Come and be dazzled by a talented group of young and not-so-young performers performing some of the best Bollywood dances, many of whom will be our own ZAH members.

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
Preparations are underway for two exciting Library events coming up soon. On October 18, the ZAH Library will host our annual Gala Function that is always eagerly awaited by our members. The program will start with the screening of a movie, “Merchant Princes of India”, an unusual documentary that presents the spectacular business successes of four stalwarts of the nineteenth century. This will be followed by a presentation by our Deena Guzder, as she shares with us her observations and insights into the minority religious communities as she traveled across Iran and other major cities in the U.S. Deena has already achieved an astonishing list of credentials that would make any Zoroastrian proud, and this will be a unique and memorable opportunity to share a personal journey with Deena. More details are given in the attached flyer. Your ZAH Library continues to make strides towards growth and recognition in the wider North American Zoroastrian communities; this event is a culmination of our year’s efforts and a celebration we share with all our community members, so please join us.

On November 8, the ZAH Library brings Mitra Sharafi to Houston. With two law degrees and a doctorate in history from McGill, Cambridge, Oxford and Princeton, Ms. Sharafi is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Ms. Sharafi will trace the events surrounding 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. Mitra Sharafi’s interest in comparative cultures and the legal fights for social justice will make for a fascinating opportunity to listen to a recognized scholar. Please mark your calendars and look for more details in the attached flyer.

Members who donate their magazines to the ZAH Library are urged to leave them in a box designated for them next to the computer at the entrance to the Library, and not on the shelves. This will allow us to file them in their proper places. Space limitations force us to restrict your donations only to current year issues, and to magazines such as National Geographic, Time, and other such magazines of general interest. Thank you for your support of the ZAH Library.

MISCELLANEOUS

SHEHANSHAHI NAVROZE
Once this year, the ZAH had 10 days of Muktad ceremonies performed by Ervad Bomanshah Sanjana in the ZHCC Prayer Room and Ervads Peshotan Unwalla and Faraidoon Pundole and over the weekend joined by Ervads Shapur Pavri, Maneck Sidhwa, Noozar Boomia, Kyrus Buchia, Rayomand and Vispi Katrak, Noshir Khumbatta, Khushrav and Viraf Nariman in the other room. Flower vases adorned the tables in both the rooms and the rooms wore a look of tranquility. Listening to the names of the loved ones being recited gave one the feeling of comfort and serenity. It was heartening to see many children attending the Muktad prayers with great solemnity.

And, true to our culture, these solemn ceremonies were followed pot luck lunch on Saturdays, and catered lunch by Chef Lashkari of Himalya Restaurant on Sundays – this time we had two weekends.

On Navroze day, about 150 Zarathushtis gathered in the evening at the Center for the usual Hambandagi led by Ervads Peshotan Unwalla and Shapur Pavri. This was followed by a Machi performed by Ervad Bomansha Sanjana.

And then came the Navroze celebrations on Saturday. Over 200 people gathered to celebrate Navroze with friends and family – from the oldest, Noshir Sidhwa, 83 years, to the youngest, 3 weeks old Shirin Anklesaria – daughter of Zia and Rustom Anklesaria. There were a few out of towners too, from Dallas or parents visiting from India. Entertainment was dance performances by Arzan Gonda’s group. The young performers were Zenia Sunavala, Natayla Haveliwala, Ashuka Oak, Tanaya Behramsha, Serena Setna, Rukshana Sarkari and Freyana Sidhwa. And, as is our tradition, the High School grads and Sunday School teachers were recognized.

While the dinner was being laid out, everyone enjoyed visiting with each other. Dinner was by Bombay Gardens, acclaimed by all as very good. Faredun Bhader needs to be commended for the smooth operation in the kitchen – from the appetizers to the dinner, everything moved very smoothly. Thank you Faredun.

After dinner, our very own DJ, Farrokh Firozgary started in full form with music to suit everyone’s taste – the dance floor was full and everyone enjoyed the music mix. At around 1:30 a.m. Farrokh ended the evening with Chhaiye Hamay Zarthoshti. And, thus ended another successful event.

Entertainment Committee wishes the community a very Happy Navroze.

CENTER NEWS (By Persis Behramsha)
Thankfully our Center did not suffer major damages during Mr. IKE’s visit to Houston. Thank you Hoshang Sethna for previewing the property before the hurricane to make everything was secure to minimize any chance of damages. Most of us do not realize how often you go there and how much you do. We appreciate your hard work always.

After the hurricane, a small group of kind-hearted volunteers also helped me in cleaning up the interior. This is to thank them for giving their precious time and effort for our center. Thank you to Nargis Cooper, Roshan & Tanaya Behramsha, Jasmin, Rayomand & Vispi Katrak, and Kashmira Behramsha for working so hard to make our center look spick and span. I know it was a task cleaning without any electricity especially the refrigerator and the kitchen, but we somehow managed it and it was all so worth it!

2008-09 FEZANA ANNUAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS

The FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program Committee is pleased to announce the results for the 2008-2009 annual competition. The 25 applications received were judged by 5 independent judges in two categories: graduates and undergraduates.

**The Mehraban and Morvorid Keradi Endowed Scholarship ---- The FEZANA Scholar $5000**
Parisa Javedani - Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine

**The FEZANA 20th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship $4000**
Behroz Nowrojee - Special Education, University of Florida

**FEZANA Scholarships $3000**
Farzad Kamyar - University of California, Irvine School of Medicine
Jimmy Antia - Fletcher School of Law, and Diplomacy, Tufts University
Shabnam Rostamirad - Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of British Columbia
Bahareh Abadian - Biology, Orange Coast College, CA
Yasaman Demehri - Biology, Orange Coast College, CA
Meherazade Sumariwalla - Biochemistry, Wesleyan University, CT

**The Khorshed Panthaky Endowed Scholarships for Undergraduate Studies $3000**
Fariba Khoshnasib-zeindabad - Applied Mathematics, University of Texas at Dallas
Benaz Colabewala - Graphic Design, Fullerton Union High School, CA

**The Banoobai and Maneckshaw Kapadia Endowed Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies $1000**
Kainaz Mistry - Psychology, McGill University

*We wish these outstanding students all the very best in their chosen careers.*

On behalf of the Academic Scholarship Committee
Dolly Dastoor Ph.D., Chair

**WE HAVE MOVED**

Yazdi and Shahnaz Sidhwa have moved. Their new address is:
2027 Glenn Lakes Lane,
Missouri City, TX 77459
Tel: 281-741-5557
Cell(Yazdi): 281-682-9800
Cell(Shahnaz): 281-682-9802

**NEW ARRIVALS**

Farhad, Dinaz and Danny Davar have just moved to Houston from Karachi, Pakistan. Their address is:
2929 Hays Road
Houston, TX 77082
Tel: 832-366-6540

Toshar and Binafsha Mondagarian have relocated to Houston from Boston, MA. Their address is:
10221 Centrepark drive apt 517
Houston, TX 77043
Tel: 281 764 1950
E-mail: tmondegarian@hotmail.com

*Manashni and its readers welcome the new families to Houston.*

**WEDDING**

Wedding bells rang for **Lillian Bharucha** daughter of Adil and Veera Bharucha and **Cyrus Irani**, son of Behram and Farida Irani of Dallas, on July 5, 2008 in Dallas

*Manashni and its readers extend their hearty congratulations to the newly weds*

**BIRTH**
Baby boy, Xerxes, was born on June 12, 2008 to Sarosh and Rashna Gandhi. According to Shehanshahi calendar, he was born on Roj Zamyaat, Mah Dae

Baby girl, Shireen Rustom Anklesaria was born to Zia and Rustom Anklesaria on August 2 at 5:14 p.m. She came in at 6lbs 2.5 oz and 18 3/4" long. Shireen is granddaughter to Pervin and Vispi Sagar and niece to Ayesha.

*Manashni and its readers extend their hearty congratulations to the growing families*

**OBITUARY**

Alice Hoshang Behrana, sister of Adil and Meheryar Bharucha, Hutoxi Mulla and Kashmira Bhader; and sister-in-law of Mehelli Behrana, passed away in Karachi on August 9, 2008.

Homi Maneckji, father of Zarina Elavia, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday, September 28, 2008. All prayers will be held in Mumbai by the family.

*Manashni and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.*

**CHARITY EVENT FLYER**

The R.F. Daboo Parsi General Hospital in Navsari provides free treatment to over 100,000 poor and needy patients each year.

With rising costs, the trust can no longer sustain its operating expenses - thousands will be left without health care - please help us prevent this tragedy!

Rhythm India Dance Company & the ZAH are holding a fund raiser gala on December 6th benefitting the hospital.

Join us for a spectacular evening of dance, music, and dinner with performances by Rhythm India and other professional dancers and musicians!

Tickets - Non-Members Welcome
- Individual Tickets $50 each
- Reserve a front row table for 10 - $1,000
- Reserve all other tables for 10 - $600
- Dinner included

For Tickets & RSVP Contact
Cyra Kanga
281.969.8057
crkanga@yahoo.com

For Sponsorship & Event Info
Arzan Gonda
832.228.7979
arzangond@gmail.com

As this is a charity event, payment in full is required for all reservations:
- Book Now - Limited Seating
- All Donations Welcome
- Enjoy a great show and help make a difference!
The ZAH Youth Group
Presents...

Zoroween Night
Their Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, November 1st at 7:00PM

Costume Competitions
For Adults and Children

Chinese Food
Music and Dancing

Raffle Prizes
Desserts

$12 A Person, $8 Ages 3-10, Kids 2 & Under Free

SUPPORT US AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!

RSVP

Noemi Bhappu
281-859-6248

Hormazd Minwalla
281-345-8292

Seminar Series

Mitra Sharafi

The Judging of Conversion to Zoroastrianism: behind the scenes of the Parsi Panchayat case (1908)

ON

Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 7:00pm

Zoroastrian Heritage and Cultural Center
8787 West Airport Boulevard, Houston TX 77071

Mitra Sharafi: Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin has a history degree from McGill, Canada, has two law degrees in Britain and a doctorate in history from Princeton. She is currently on a book project that explores the special relationship between the Parsees and law in British India. In addition to teaching undergraduate courses on legal pluralism and on law in the British Empire at the University of Wisconsin, Sharafi teaches contract law at the UW Law School.

Attendance is free. Please arrive early to facilitate a prompt start.
A Light supper for $10.00 will be available.

Call Hoshang Sethna for reservations 281 499 1832 or email hshethna@comcast.net
ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON
GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A General Body Meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, 8787 W. Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX 77071 at 2:30 p.m.

AGENDA: An Agenda will be distributed at a later date. Members wishing to include any items for discussion may forward the subject matter, in writing, to the ZAH - Secretary, either in writing and/or by e-mail, by October 25, 2008 so that they can be included in the Agenda. NO NEW MATTERS WILL BE ENTERTAINED FROM THE FLOOR ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING.

The Term of Office as defined in Article 5.3: The term of office for all Executive Committee members shall be two (2) years. No member shall be allowed to serve on the Executive Committee for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The preceding clause may be over ruled for a particular case or cases by an eighty percent (80%) majority vote of a meeting called for election purposes.

The following positions on the Executive Committee are up for election:

1. Member Zia Anklesaria Completed one 2-year term Eligible for re-election
2. Member Kaemerz Dotiwalla Completed two 2-year term Term Completed
3. Member Percy Master Completed one 2-year term Eligible for re-election
4. Secretary Nazneen Khumbatta Completed two 2-year term Term Completed
5. FEZANA Representative Roshan Sethna Completed two 2-year term Term Completed

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION OF MEMBERS: An Election Commissioner will be announced at a later date. The Election Commissioner will be responsible for receiving nomination forms from the Recorder (Secretary) and verifying all nominations. The Election Commissioner will also coordinate any other nomination procedure, which may include active solicitation of nominees. Additionally, the Election Commissioner will coordinate and conduct the election process. Please send the completed Nomination Forms by October 25, 2008 to the ZAH secretary. No last minute nominations will be accepted after the deadline and absolutely no nominations will be accepted from the floor. The nominee must sign the “Nomination Form”, which is provided with this announcement. This is to ensure that the nominee understands the responsibilities of the office and is willing and able to serve the full two-year term.

In nominating the person(s) of your choice, please be guided by the following:
Ø All nominees must be regular members in good standing (fees paid up) for a period of at least six (6) months prior to the election and must be eighteen (18) years of age or older (Article 5.7)
Ø No two members of an immediate family shall serve on the Executive Committee, or on the same sub-committee at any one time. However, they may serve on two different committees at the same time. (Article 5.7).
Ø The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all General Body and Executive Committee meetings, and inform members of all meetings and functions, and be Custodian of the Seal of the Association, and of all books, papers, records, correspondence, contracts, and other documents belonging to the Association (Art. 8.6)

Voting will be by Secret Ballot. Proxy votes will not be accepted. All paid up members, for the year 2008 (paid up to the day of the voting) are eligible to vote.

Lunch will be served from 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.- immediately after Sunday School. Although the ZAH is hosting this lunch, donations are always welcome. Please RSVP to Cyra Kanga at 281-969-8057 or e-mail her at crkanga@yahoo.com positively by November 6, 2008 to get a proper headcount.

NOMINATION FORM

The completed nomination form must be mailed to the ZAH Secretary, Nazneen Khumbatta, at 16 Massey Row, Sugar Land, TX 77479 or faxed to her at (281)-313-8036 no later than October 25, 2008.

I hereby nominate ________________________________

for the position of ________________________________

on the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) Executive Committee.

I understand that this nominee must be eligible for election, and satisfies all the laws and by-laws of the ZAH Constitution. This nomination form is considered to be valid only if it is signed by the nominee, nominating member and the seconder.

No Nominations will be accepted after this date. No nominations will be accepted from the floor on the Election Day.

SIGNATURE ____________________________ SIGNATURE ____________________________ SIGNATURE ____________________________

NOMINATING MEMBER ____________________________ SECONDED BY ____________________________ NOMINEE ____________________________

Date: ______________ Date: ______________ Date: ______________
ZAH LIBRARY ANNUAL
DINNER & PROGRAM
IN COLLABORATION WITH

WZCC HOUSTON

Saturday, October 18, 2008
7:00pm - Meet & Greet
7:30pm - Dinner & Program
Zoroastrian Heritage & Cultural Center

Join us for an evening with friends to celebrate the
accomplishments of our Library over the last year. An exciting
program follows. Deena Guzder will recreate her experience
reporting on the Persian/Zoroastrian Community in Los
Angeles, New York and Chicago as well as in Tehran, Yazd and
Shiraz. Using photos, an interactive map and a short
documentary, Guzder will convey how Persian
Zoroastrians are preserving their faith here and in the
motherland. A short film, Merchant Princes of India, featuring
lives of spectacular businessmen of India will be shown.

Dinner Ticket: $15.00 adults
For reservations call: Arnaz or Hoshang Sethna
281.499.1832 or email <ahsethna@yahoo.com>

PROGRAM

"Merchant Princes of India"

Directed by the well-known filmmaker
Zarar Haji ‘Merchant Princes of Bombay’ is an unusual half hour
documentary that touches on the life
and times of four men whose
spectacular business careers spanned
the nineteenth century: Jamsetji
Jeejeebhoy, David Sassoon, Firocchand
Boyce and Jamsetji Tata.

&

DEENA GUZDER

"The Journey of
An American Zoroastrian
in Modern Iran"

In June 2007, Deena Guzder received
funding from the Carnegie and Knight
Foundations to journey across Iran and
report on minority religious communities. Mark Glaser of PBS
commented on her reporting:

“Guzder’s quest for her Zoroastrian
roots in Iran was first person and
candid. What a relief not to hear
more bombastic elite punditry or daily
rants of politicians taking no chances to
rash. If we could only hear these voices
more often and have constant cross
cultural communications, maybe we
would have less war mongering and
more peacemaking. Maybe, with
deliberation and tough debate, we
would discover our differences and
similarities.”