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: April 12, 2009

Children’s Session: Vehishta conducts this session.

Middle Group: Amavaz Sethna and Pearline Collector conduct this session. The theme for this year is “Ceremonies” and the April Session is on consecration of Atash Adran.

Senior Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this 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, May 16th, 8 pm - Two act comedy play – “Darling, I am Finally Out!”
VENUE: ZAH, 8787 W. Airport Blvd, Houston
Ticket prices:
VIP SECTION – Front Row (25 seats only) – 100.00
$50.00 / $35.00 / $20.00 (limited quantities in each category)
BOX OFFICE DETAILS: Call Cyra Kanga to get your tickets.
Phone # 281-969-8057
Email – crkanga@yahoo.com
(Flyer and Seating Chart attached below)

Sunday, May 31st – Shehanshahi Dae Month Gahambar - Maidhyaiya (16-20 Daê)
Aug 9th – Aug 18th - Mukhtad Prayers (Weekday mornings @ 7.00am, Weekends @ 11.00am)
Wednesday, Aug 19th, 6 pm – Humbandagi
Saturday, Aug 22nd – Shehanshahi New Year Function

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS
Stay tuned for the EC report in the next edition of Manashni

ZAH Membership
For all those who are still undecided about paying your ZAH membership dues for the year 2009, here are some reasons why you should step up and do so. Your ZAH membership pays for:
1. All operational costs, wear and tear, repairs, replacements, and day-to-day maintenance of our center
2. Absolutely free use of the Dar-e-Meher for Prayers, Jashans, Religious Ceremonies, Mukhtad and Sarosh prayers, etc.
3. A gate card and key to the center for easy access and entry at all times
4. Subsidized or free events such as Sunday School, Youth and Middle School Lock-Ins, Ghambars, Jashne-Sadeh, Navroze, Parsi New Year, AGM Luncheons, Library events, Golden Group events, Men’s Night Out, WVCC events, NAMC events, annual Daar-ni-Pori Bakeathon, Carnival, ZAH Sports Day, Dinner Theaters, Halloween and Christmas Parties, Dance and Play practices, Hall Rentals, etc. to name a few
5. A sense of ownership and communal togetherness
6. A safe place for members and their children to gather, interact, and socialize

Here are some past and current facts about ZAH that may interest you
1. The first phase of our Center was completed in November, 1997 on a 7 acre land from funds that were donated by some of our well respected members and with the proceeds put together by 40 member families. These 40 ZAH member families donated $20 a month for 10 years from 1987 to 1997. If not for their long-term commitment and support we would not have this wonderful place we now call the Zarthushti Heritage and Cultural Center
2. The ZAH Library has a collection of 823 Books on Zoroastrian topics, Audio/Video and other media
3. The ZAH Legacy Fund gave out $12,000 in scholarships to ZAH Youth in the last 2 years
4. The recent March 2009 daar-ni-pori bake-a-thon made a net profit of $1300+ that was donated for ZHCC maintenance while bringing our community and children together to pass on a very important yet fun Avan Maheno, Avan Roj Daar-ni-pori making tradition
5. We had a little over 400 Iranis, Parsis, and their friends and family who attended the Jashne-Sadeh Festivities
6. We had close to 400 ZAH member families, their out of town guests and friends who participated in the Navroze 2009 Celebrations
7. In the past few months we sponsored two major fundraisers with a net income of $31,000 plus that was donated to charities supporting Zoroastrian and Non-Zoroastrian causes while raising an awareness of our existence as a community not only in Houston but around the world
8. For the last several months our center has been hustling and bustling on Friday evenings with Arzan Gonda’s dance practices, Kamalrukh Gandhi’s Play practices, Vehishta Kaikobad’s Navroze practices, Men’s Night Out Gatherings, and family members of participants were hanging out in the atrium simply relaxing while their kids were playing and hanging out with their other member friends.
The ZAH EC would like to thank existing members for their past and present support and request undecided members to consider becoming ZAH members and support our current generation and our generations to follow.

Library Report – by Jangoo Mistry
Stay tuned for the library report in the next edition of Manashni

MISCELLANEOUS

DAR NI PORI EVENT (By Roshan Engineer)
We had our 3rd annual Dar-ni-pori Bake-a-thon on Saturday, March 14th, and are happy to report that we're getting bigger and better with this project each year! We surpassed our goal and collected a total of $1,564.00 for our ZAH Maintenance Fund.... well done, team!

We sure had a fun, food and fellowship day as we made the "dough" for ZAH! Approximate count was 185 poris!

A big THANK YOU to each and every volunteer who participated and gave of their time, materials, effort and donations towards this event which we hope will become a ZAH annual tradition. We are delighted to see more folks joining us each year with their suggestions, enthusiasm, and of course, more orders for our poris!

FASLI NOROUZ FUNCTION:
The NoRouz function was a grand success. We had a turnout of nearly 400 folks.

The hall was very tastefully decorated. We also had a beautiful Haft Seen table, thanks to our Iranian community.

The evening started with Humbandagi prayers followed by the festivities.

The festivities started out with stage performances by Vehishta Kaikobad's kids and Arzan Gonda's troupe. It was wonderful to see so much talent in our children. Many thanks to Vehishta, Arzan and all the kids, and of course their parents, for organizing a fantastic and entertaining evening.

The food was by La Sani and seemed to disappear very quickly. Yummy!!.

Our very own Farrokh Firozgary did excellent DJ-ing as always, with a perfect mix of Iranian, Hindi and Western music that had the dance floor rocking till the wee hours of the morning!!
Thanks Farrokh!!

It was wonderful to spend Norouz evening with family and friends.

CARNIVAL (By Yasmin Medhora)
We had our Carnival on April 12. The event raised $3850!! Thanks to each and every one of you, who supported the Carnival in one way or another. More details to follow in the next Manashni.

PATRON MEMBERS
Dear ZAH Members,
The ZAH Executive Committee would like to thank our past and present Patron Members, and recognize our current 2009 Patron Members for their ongoing support. The Patron Membership program came about when a well-respected senior member of our community, Mr. Sam Polad, proposed the Patron Membership at an annual general meeting about 3 years ago in an effort to
provide an ongoing source of much needed additional revenues without burdening the community at large.

In the spirit of the Patron Membership, we would like to encourage all those who are financially blessed by Ahura Mazda to contribute as Patron Members. A yearly Patron Membership costs only $1.37 per day for the entire patron family, and an Individual Patron Membership costs 68 cents per day to an individual Patron Member.

Here’s a list of our 2009 Patron Members

1. Feroze and Shemaz Bhandara - Patron Family Member
2. Meherwan and Zarine Boyce and Family – Patron Family Member
3. Sarosh and Pearline Collector and Family – Life and Patron Family Member
4. Kersi and Thrity Engineer and Family – Patron Family Member
5. Rustom and Yasmin Engineer and Family - Patron Family Member
6. Kershaw and Nazneen Khumbatta and Family - Patron Family Member
7. Farhad Mistri – Individual Patron Member
8. Khushrav and Manek Nariman and Family – Patron Family Member
9. Zarir and Roshan Sethna and Family - Patron Family Member
10. Aderbad and Sanober Tamboli and Family - Patron Family Member
11. Darioush Vafadari – Individual Patron Member

Once again, thank you very much for your current support and we hope you will continue to support this fine organization we call ZAH.

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

ODYSSEY

*Odyssy of the Mind* is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Kids apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

This year **Joel** and **Michelle Balsara** competed on the Spring Oaks MS team called "Shock Waves".

Their problem was to design and build a structure out of balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible while absorbing shockwaves. The team will test its structure by placing weights onto it. During specific intervals the team will place one or two spacers on the top weight and will then place a weight on them. The team will remove the spacers so the top weight falls onto the stack causing a shockwave. The team will add weight until its structure breaks or time ends. The team will also create and use an original method to place its structure onto the tester and will incorporate the testing of the structure into a performance.

The team placed **second in the state of Texas** and is advancing to **World Finals in Ames, Iowa** from May 26-June 1. Their 18 gram structure held 420 pounds!
Congratulations to Joel and Michelle Balsara. You make us so proud!!
Best Wishes for the World Finals!!

AWARD
Elizabeth Gillis, presented Debra Kolah with the 2009 Elizabeth Gillis Award for Exemplary Service. The award was established in 2000 by the Rice Board of Trustees to recognize outstanding achievements and service by a staff member in support of the university’s mission.

Describing the reference and collections development librarian's many accomplishments, Elizabeth Gillis noted that it is hard to picture Kolah as being only one person.

"She’s been so active since joining Rice in 2001 that maybe we should call her 'Team Debra,'" said Gillis.

“Debra’s sincere dedication, boundless enthusiasm and notable resourcefulness are evident in everything she does,” said Sandi Edwards, head of reference at Fondren Library.

But those who work closely with Kolah describe her as more than just friendly and efficient. Kolah impacts many on the Rice campus through her work, from supporting faculty members’ research and teaching to providing students with classes, research study breaks and orientations.

"Thanks to Debra, more students are using the library’s electronic resources -- and using them more effectively,” said University Librarian Sara Lowman.

BIRTH
Baby Girl, Nia, born to Shahveer and Karrie Challa, on March 24, 2009. Proud grandparents are Rustom and Nina Challa and prouder great-grandparents are Fali and Perin Engineer.

Heartiest Congratulations to the Challa and Engineer families.

OBITUARY
Rusi Sidhwa, brother of Maneck Sidhwa and brother-in-law of Parveen Sidhwa, expired in Parlin, New Jersey. at 12.00 pm, April 07, 2009. He was 57 years old.

Manashni and its readers convey their heartfelt condolences to the Sidhwa family.
DARLING...I'M FINALLY OUT!
A two act comedy play written by Kamalrukh Gandhi.

After the tremendous success of last year’s “Lay All Your Love On Me”, the ZAH Theatre series is back to entertain you with their new production *Darling...I'm finally out!*

All funds from this event will go towards the ZAH General Maintenance Fund. So please come and let us entertain you and help raise funds for our center.

**DATE:** Saturday 16th May, 2009  
**TIME:** 8:00pm Sharp  
**VENUE:** ZAH, 8787 W. Airport Blvd, Houston

**Ticket prices:**  
VIP SECTION – Front Row (25 seats only) – 100.00  
$50.00 / $35.00 / $20.00 (limited quantities in each category)

**BOX OFFICE DETAILS:** Call Cyra Kanga to get your tickets.  
Phone # 281-969-8057  
Email – crkanga@yahoo.com  
Please make your check out to ZAH and mail it to Cyra Kanga  
3022 PecanWood Drive, Missouri City TX 77459

Ticket price includes Refreshments from Cillies during the intermission

Seating Chart – (Unshaded areas are seats available as of April 12)