SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11:15 AM.

DATE: February 8, 2009

Children’s Session: We will be doing a “Farohar” project. The children who missed making the “sudrahs” from the last session, will also have an opportunity to sew one. We will also practice for the Navroze program immediately following the class. Parents kindly bring your children by 11:15 am for the class so that we can have an early start and fit in our Navroze Program practice before breaking for lunch for the younger ones.

Middle Group: The “Ceremonies – Religious, Social and Cultural” theme continues. The children learned about the Purification and Consecration ceremonies involved with consecrating Atash Behram. In February they will learn about the consecration process for Atash Adaran. Mark your calendar for Lock-in on March 7/8. A detailed program will be sent later.

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

February 6  Friday, Library event – Movie Parzania – see Library Report
February 28  Saturday, Latin Night (ZAH Co-sponsored fundraiser event for Children of Honduras)
March 14   Saturday, Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon
March 21   Saturday, Fasli Norouz Hambandagi and Function –See Flyer
March 29   Sunday, Sports Day
April 11   Saturday, NAMC (North American Mobed Council) Seminar coordinated by ZAH Library
April 12   Sunday, Carnival (after Sunday School)

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS

The ZAH EC had its regular monthly meeting on January 11, 2009 at the ZHCC at 2:00 p.m. and unanimously elected Kershaw Khumbatta as the next ZAH chairperson. Congratulations, Kershaw!

The EC has been discussing the issue of members not renewing their ZAH memberships on time. Although ZAH memberships for the current year expire December 31, there have been many instances of members not renewing their memberships at all, or very late in the next year, while availing themselves of all ZAH facilities. The EC has decided to adopt March 15 as the deadline for accepting memberships for the current year. Members choosing not to renew their memberships after this date will be charged a higher, non-member rate for any events they wish to attend, and their use of ZAH facilities will be curtailed.

Several concerned members have written to the EC questioning ZAH’s decision to co-sponsor the Baylor Shoulder to Shoulder (BSTS) fundraiser planned for 2/28/09. The EC wishes to reiterate that ZAH will not incur any out-of-pocket expenses by co-sponsoring this fund-raiser. In addition, ZAH will gain valuable recognition in the local Houston community, becoming more visible to a very important section of our local community. The event will also encourage ZAH youth who may have an interest in medicine to gain valuable contacts with many medical professionals, as well as have the opportunity to sign up for exciting trips abroad with BSTS staff. Finally, we are not neglecting our own ZAH – the EC and the Entertainment Committee have planned a full agenda of events throughout the year to keep the community engaged and entertained, while also raising funds for our center. Watch your email for your gentle reminders!

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, Nargesh Sethna, Rustom Sethna and Percy Master.

Library Report – by Jangoo Mistry

The ZAH Library Committee is proud to present the screening of a full-length off-beat movie filmed in India, “Parzania”. It is the harrowing real-life tragedy of a Parsi family, Cyrus and his wife Shemaz who are caught in the Gujarat riots that cause them to lose their 10-year old son Parzan. What follows is the heart-wrenching story of the struggle to search for their lost son that will stay with you long after the movie is over. This movie, filmed in English, starring the talented Naseerudin Shah and screened at international festivals, is not available on Netflix or in video stores. So come to ZHCC Library for a memorable experience on Friday, February 6 at 7 pm and enjoy this free movie with friends and family. And while we project the movie on our big screen, we will even supply the pakoras and jalebis.

The Library has acquired a book, Ancient Iran, a pictorial history for young readers by Massoume Price, that has won the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards bronze medal for one of the best multicultural non-fiction books in 2008. The Moonbeam Awards, one of the most prestigious in U.S., are dedicated to “identifying the best children's books published each year for books that inspire our children to read, to learn, and to dream”. Massoume Price, the author, is a social anthropologist educated in both Iran and England, and has written extensively on many aspects of Iranian culture. Her website (www.cultureofiran.com) is used widely as an on-line reference source. The book has already become a bestseller amongst the Iranian community in North America.
MISCELLANEOUS

JASHN-E-SADEH: Jashn-e-Sadeh was celebrated on Saturday, January 31. The evening started with recitation of Atash Niyayesh followed by the congregation going out to light the bon fire. Many sang songs and danced while the flames from the bon fire leaped high in the sky. After a sumptuous dinner of delicious Iranian dishes, the live band livened up the room and people danced till their feet hurt. Over 400 people attended the function. A big Thank You to all those who cooked, cleaned, served, and did all the things that make a function successful in every respect.

FASLI NOROUZ FUNCTION:

Hambandagi: Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

NoRouz festivities: Entertainment starts at 8:00 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing

Rates:
- Adult ZAH Member*: $16
- Senior** ZAH Member: $10
- Children age 3-10, of ZAH Member - for pizza: $5
- Adult or senior non-ZAH Member: $25
- Children (age 3-10, for pizza) of non-ZAH Member: $10

*Definition of Member: Those whose 2009 membership dues have been paid by March 15, 2009
**Definition of Senior: One spouse having attained the age of 70

Food by La Sani.

RSVP: Roshan Engineer: 281-545-3467 E-mail: ryengineer@comcast.net Please mail your check to Roshan Engineer at 8910 Four Leaf Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77479 at your early convenience to give us an idea of headcount for dinner.

CONGRATULATIONS ZANT – From Firdosh Mehta: Groundbreaking ceremony for our ZANT Center will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009. To mark this auspicious occasion, we will start the ceremony by a Jashan performed with the Kshnuman of Spendarmard (Spenta Armaiti), the Amesha Spenta associated with the creation "earth". The jashan will promptly start at 9:30 am at the residence of the ZANT President, Kamran Behroozi, in Flower Mound. After the Jashan, we will move to the ZANT Center site at 11:15am and conduct on-site prayers and bury a box containing symbolic Zarathushti items, like Sudreh, Kusti, Khordeh Avesta book, coins, etc. in the ground under the foundation. We invite one and all to join in this auspicious occasion and pray for the success of this once-in-a-lifetime project.

DAR NI PORI EVENT – Roshan Engineer: Calling our ZAH chefs: Save the date for Saturday, March 14 for our 3rd Annual Dar-ni-pori Bake-a-thon! We'll start at 10:00 a.m. and knead, roll, stuff and bake our poris - all while having fun and fellowship in our effort to make some dough as donation towards the ZAH Maintenance Fund....

Please call Roshan Engineer @ 281-545-3467 or Nargis Cooper @ 713-937-4441 or Yasmin Medhora @ 713-466-3908 or Jasmin Katrak @ 281-858-7857 to let us know how you'd like to help, and also to call in your pori orders!

We'll need cooked sweet dar filling, dry ingredients, kitchen items, paper products, electric skillets/grills if you have them, lunch and tea items.... we'll coordinate and delegate as we get your responses.

We hope to make enough poris to fill orders and have some available to sell @ the Navroze function on the 21st and in time for the Ava mahino Ava roj Parabdh which falls on the 26th.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ZAH Sports Day has been scheduled for Sunday, March 29, 2009. You can start forming your volley ball or basket ball team. Details will be announced later.

PARSIS IN POLITICS: Mohur Sidhwa moved from Lahore to the U S to obtain a Master's Degree in Anthropology and has spent the past 22 years in Tucson Arizona. Mohur has been intensely involved with the Democratic Party ever since Obama came on the scene and the county Democratic Party welcomed and encouraged her. She has held a number of positions in the Tucson area, both elected as well as appointed, including Vice Chair of the Pima County Democratic Party.

A couple of months ago she was encouraged to stand for the position of Vice Chair of the Arizona State Democratic Party and was both surprised and delighted to win the elections in late January, '09. She is extremely nervous of the enormous
responsibility she suddenly faces and the added work demanded of her. She has to travel to Phoenix [state capital] several times a week and she’s had two fairly serious accidents in the past 2 years. But Mohur is an optimist and is anxious to fulfill her duty and meet the challenges her new position brings.

OUR CENTER – SAFETY FIRST – From the Executive Committee: While it is very heartening to see that the use of our Center has increased, we would like everyone to be safe while on ZAH premises. Our Center is used for various meetings and rehearsals for the entertainment programs, which extend into late hours. We earnestly request everyone to keep the gates closed at all times and the building door locked. All members have been given the card key and the building key. Also, around dusk, the parking lights and the building lights must be turned on and above all do not let your children play in the dark. Please appoint one person responsible from your group to attend to lights and locking the gate. If you need assistance, please call Persis Behramsha, the Building Management Chair, at 281-859-1302 or Cel 713-294-7747

OUR CENTER – CLEAN-UP: The Executive Committee and the Building Management Committee are planning a major clean up of the Center. Many personal items of clothing, books, shoes, eye glasses, phone chargers etc. are lying around in kitchen cabinets and around the Hall. If you are missing these items please pick them up positively by February 8 (after the next Sunday School). Any personal items found after this date will be thrown away. The Building Management Committee earnestly requests that members check with Persis Behramsha before bringing any item of furniture or decoration. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Executive Committee and Building Management Committee

ZANT - 20th Anniversary Celebration – From Firdosh Mehta:
The Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT) will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary in 2009. Our vibrant association consists of more than 120 Zoroastrian families, who may be few in number, but are big in their sense of community participation!

Dallas/Fort Worth is the place to be on Saturday, March 21 2009, as ZANT celebrates this very special occasion and of course, Jamsheedi Novrooz. We are planning a Grand Ball, which will include a Jashan and a Gala of events. To commemorate this occasion, we will be producing a 20th Anniversary Souvenir Keepsake Program. We cordially invite you or any member of your community to place an advertisement in this Program, which will be produced in full color (page size: 8.5”x 5.5”). All proceeds will go to the ZANT General Fund and your donations are tax deductible. Prices are as follows:

Outside Back Cover - $300
Inside Front Cover - $200
Inside Back Cover - $150
Full Page - $100
Half page - $ 50

For further information, please contact Zenobia Chinoy at (469) 633 1868 or send your advertisement copy (camera-ready text or PDF) along with a check made payable to ZANT, marked souvenir program advertisement, by February 15, 2009 to: zenobiachinoy@hotmail.com or 6649 Sundown Trail, Frisco, TX. 75034.

Please do extend your generosity and place an advertisement, even as a donation to this very worthy cause and feel free to forward this information to anyone you think may be interested.

Thank you and we hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,

ZANT Executive Board

BIRTH:

Darius Barjor Dastur, a bonny baby boy, to Khursheed and Barjor M Dastur, brother to Mahtab, born on Friday, January 30, 2009. Darius weighed 6 lb 9 ozs at birth. Manashni and its readers congratulate Khursheed, Barjor and Mahtab on this new arrival in the family.
OBITUARY:

Eruch Commissariat, husband of Kashmira and father of Piran, passed away Thursday, January 29, 2009 after suffering a massive heart attack. Eruch was ever helpful and always smiling. He was very well respected in the community as was evidenced by the large turnout at the Sarosh Prayers and his funeral service. Eruch will be sorely missed by the community. MANASHNI and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to Kashmira and Piran Commissariat, and Homi and Nargesh Davier.

Rajah Banerjee, husband of Cyrene and father of Aditya, passed away on January 16th in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Cyrene, Raja and Aditya lived in Houston for some time in Houston and were very helpful during the World Congress. They moved to Calgary, Alberta, Canada and have lived there for the past five years. Cyrene can be reached at : Tel. 403 263 9924. MANASHNI and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to Cyrene and Aditya Banerjee.

Debra Kolah’s mother Doris Dry passed away in Bastrop on February 8, 2009. Debra was with her at the end time. ZAH extends deepest condolences to Debra and Darayus Kolah.

2009 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School - Age - up to 9</td>
<td>January 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School - Age – 10 to 13</td>
<td>February 6</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>March 14</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>“Darling, I Am Finally Out”</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Shehanshahi Navroze Humbandagi</td>
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<td>Shehanshahi Navroze function</td>
<td>August 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fasli Mehrgan Gahambar</td>
<td>October 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday - Library Annual Event</td>
<td>October 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Event – morning</td>
<td>October 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZAH Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>November 8</td>
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MEMBERSHIP DUES:

As a community we are blessed by Ahura Mazda to have such a beautiful Cultural Center donated by the generosity of our fellow Zarathushtis. Now it is our responsibility to keep it going. It is the duty of each one of us to preserve our Zarathushti heritage by keeping our community together and united. Our spiritual and social home is our Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center (ZHCC) and without your support through membership dues or individual donations, your Center cannot function.

All current memberships expired December 31, 2008. Please recognize the need for your support and contribution and pay your membership dues by March 15.

As approved by the general membership, following are the rates for 2009

Family Patron Membership $500
Single Patron Membership $250
Family Regular Membership $250
Single Head of Household $125
Single Member $125
Senior Single (over age 65) $40
Senior Family (one spouse over age 65) $65
Students $25

Please use the form below to mail your membership dues to:

The Treasurer
Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd
Houston, TX 77071

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
First name ________________________ Last name ________________________________
Address _______________________________________
City __________________ State _______ Zip _________________
Phone no. _____________ E-mail ______________
Amount paid $_________
NoRouz Celebration
March 21, 2009
At The Zarthushti Heritage and Cultural Center

Let's Celebrate!

Dance to music by our DJ
Farrokh Finozgery
And Live Band.
Popular Iranian, Desi and
Contemporary Songs !!!

7:00 pm Hambandagi
Entertainment starts at
8:00 p.m.

Dinner by La Sani’s
Pizzas for children

RSVP
Roshan Engineer: ryengineer@comcast.net by March 15, 2009
or call 261-545-9407. Please mail your check to Roshan
Engineer at:
6910 Foul Leaf Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77479.
This will avoid congestion at the door.
Be sure to write the number of adults and children in the
memo of the check.

Menu
Goat Biryani, Chicken tikka boti, Chicken
Korma, Vegetable, Naan, Pita.
Dessert: Ras malai

PLEASE NOTE
Non-member rates will apply to all attendees
who have not paid their ZAH membership for
2009 by March 15, 2009. When mailing the
NoRouz function check, you may mail your
membership check to avail the member rate.

CHARGES
Adult 2AH member*: $16
Senior* 2AH member: $10
Children age 3-10 of 2AH member: Pizza: $5
Adult or senior non-2AH member: $25
Children (age 3-10, for pizza) of non-2AH member: $10
*Definition of Member: Those whose 2009 membership fees
have been paid by March 15, 2009
*Definition of Senior: One spouse is over 70 years old