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: July 12, 2009

Children’s Session: Vehishta will talk about Muktad Ceremonies.

Middle Group: Arnavaz Sethna and Pearline Collector conduct this session. This will be a lock-in weekend where children will make ready the Prayer Room for the upcoming Muktad days.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Aug 9 – Tuesday, Aug 18 – Mukhtad Prayers (Weekday mornings 7.00am, Weekends 11.00am)

Wednesday, Aug 19 - 6:30 pm – Navroze Humbandagi

Saturday, Aug 22 – Shehanshahi Navroze Function – details to follow

Sunday, October 4 – Fasli Mehergan Gahambar

Friday evening/Saturday all day/Sunday morning – Oct 16, 17 & 18 – Library event with Peter Clark

Saturday, November 7 – ZAH Fundraising Gala

Sunday, November 8 – ZAH Annual General Meeting

Saturday, November 21 – Dinner Theater

Friday, December 4 – Library Event

Sunday, December 13 – Christmas Party after Sunday School
SUMMER ENRICHMENT CLASSES - FIELD TRIP: As part of her Summer Enrichment program, Vehishta is planning a field trip to NASA Space Center on July 15. She has planned this group outing at a deeply discounted group rate and will include a special session by a retired NASA person. This should be very interesting for the children. Please contact Vehishta at 281-564-1148 for more details.

MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZARATHUSHTI INVESTMENT GROUP</th>
<th>Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Interested? Please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING</td>
<td>Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Interested? Please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOLDEN GROUP</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</td>
<td>First Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM. Interested in helping? Or would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at <a href="mailto:aban@coatingengineers.com">aban@coatingengineers.com</a></td>
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REPORTS

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Dear Members, Non-Members, and Friends of ZAH,

A little over a month ago, when spearheading a fundraiser for ZHCC Maintenance and talking to member families, one ZAH family came forward and generously offered to match up to $5,000 in donations I could raise from other member families and friends. Thanks to the philanthropy and benevolence of all ZAH Members and Friends who believed in this absolutely necessary and worthy cause and generously donated toward it, I was able to raise $33,954.00 for ZHCC Repairs. These funds along with $31,649.12 received from the Insurance Company will go directly towards repairs/replacement of the ZHCC roof. The Building Construction Committee (BCC) is busy working with reputable roofing companies on estimates/bids, and will keep us informed as soon as they have made a decision.

As you all may have noticed, the roof leaks have caused considerable interior damage. We will have to take care of these interior repairs once the roof is fixed. A team of volunteers have stepped forward and offered to help fix cracks and holes in the walls, paint damaged walls, replace ceiling tiles, etc. Our very own Aderbad Tamboli has offered to rebuild the center stage that is worn-out and could become a safety hazard in the near future. We are still looking for additional skilled volunteers who can help us with this effort on the second Sunday of each month. In addition, we are looking for donors who are willing to contribute towards the cost of material, such as, wood, paint, sheetrock, ceiling tiles, tools, etc. needed for such repairs. If you did not get a chance to send in your donation earlier, and would like to contribute towards the cost of material, please mail your check made payable ZAH to Jasmine Mistry - 14303 Sandy Ripple Court, Sugar Land, TX 77498. If you would like to volunteer your time once a month or as needed, please send me an email with your name, contact information, etc.

Again, my sincere thanks to the anonymous donor family and all ZAH members/non-members listed below who have pledged/contributed toward this effort
Aga
Anklesaria
Anklesaria
Ardeshir
Behramsha
Bhappu
Bharucha
Bharucha
Bhathena
Boyce
Byramji
Choudhury
Cooper
Daroga
Daroowala
Daruwala
Dinyarian
Dudha
Engineer
Friends of ZAH
Gandhi
Godiwalla
Golden Group
Gonda
Guzder
Haveliwala
Italia
Kaikobad
Katrac
Kayani
Khosravian
Khumbatta
Kumana
Medhora
Mehta
Mehta
Donation "In memory of Sorab Hommie Mehta"
Merchant
Mistry
Mistry
Mody
Nariman
Oak
Pundole
Patel
Patel
Pavri
Polad
Rivetna-Mehta
Rustomji
Sachinvala
Sagar
Sarkari
Sethna
Sethna
Lyla and Danny
Ruby and Bejun
Zia and Rustom
Farhad
Roshan and Percy
Villi and Ken
Jerafreem and Darius
Rashna and Viraf
Avan and Noshir
Zarine and Meherwan
Bakhtawar and Kershaw
Chloe and Tayte
Nargis and Homi
Lyla and Raymie
Roshen and Nano
Sona and Adil
Farzinn
Jamshed
Yasmin and Rustom
Kamalrukh and Minoo
Arnavaz and Adil
Arzan and Ruzbeh
Zenobia and Jal
Yasmin and Shery
Arzin and Sorab
Vehishta and Sarosh
Jasmine and Percy
Shaheen
Nasreen and Rustom
Nazneen and Kershaw
Jimmy
Yasmin and Noshir
Nerius and Natalya
Shireen and Jehanbux
Farida and Kamal
Cyrus Yazdi
Jasmine and Yazdi
Dina and Rustom
Manek and Khushriv
Rashna and Niraj
Zarina and Faraidoon
Aban and Savak
Elvia and Ronnie
Yasmin and Shapur
Gooloo and Sam
Meheryar and Zubeen
Aban and Purvez
Villi and Navzer
Pervin and Vispi
Shirin and Bahadur
Arnavaz and Hoshang
Roshan and Zarir
If you have any questions/concerns/comments about this fundraiser, please feel free to send me an email at Jasmine.Mistry@airliquide.com or call me at (281) 265 4351.

With Best Regards,
Jasmine Mistry
(Member, ZAH EC)

LIBRARY REPORT – by Jangoo Mistry

The ZAH Library Committee is hard at work planning for the upcoming annual Library gala planned for the October 17/18 weekend. Peter Clark, the well-known author of “Zoroastrianism: An Introduction to an Ancient Faith”, has agreed to come from the U.K. for what promises to be an extraordinary event. An informal meet-and-greet with dinner is scheduled with the author on Friday evening, October 17, with more formal presentations planned for Saturday, October 18 that will be on the “Legacy of Zarathustra and its impact on major world religions” and the function of our Zoroastrian rituals. This is going to be yet another memorable experience, and we urge you to mark these dates on your calendar. We will keep giving you more details as the date of the event draws near.

The ZAH Library has acquired a 52” Samsung flat-panel TV thanks to the donation by Noshir Sidhwa and the Bhalla family in memory of Minoo Bhandara, along with the Mehta Trust. The TV has been installed on the wall above the cabinet that displays the books and authors. A DVD player connected to the TV is in the locked cabinet below the TV. The TV and DVD player will be used for presentations and shows for Library and other ZAH events.

Any collection of books and publications is only useful if it is cataloged properly and made available to anyone seeking information. Now you can access the entire catalog of ZAH Library books on the Internet from our ZAH web site. If you go to www.zah.org, click on the link ZAH Library in the left banner, and click on “List of Books at ZAH Library” at the bottom of the page, you will be able to see the entire list of Library books and DVDs giving the author, title and subject for each entry. Our thanks to Aban Rustomji who has spent countless hours inputting all the data for the impressive collection we have assembled at the Library.

MISCELLANEOUS

CONGRESS 2000 LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

ZAH Executive Committee and Congress 2000 Legacy Team would like to thank Thrity and Rohinton Desai for their generous donation of $3,000 to honor the memory of their beloved son Cyrus. This contribution is a tremendous asset to the Legacy 2000 Congress funds and is added to the principal of the Legacy scholarship fund. Let us hope that this generous action be the start of other donors coming up and adding to the principal of this fund that we envision being a boon for future generations of Houstonians as the fund increases. This is the single most important fund for the prosperity of our community and we hope that more members, like the Desai family, come forward on their own and grant us such aids.
Since its inception in 2007, the Congress Legacy 2000, has awarded grants to two deserving students each year. This year it will continue to recognize two of our brightest ZAH young student who have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra-curricular activities and who have made substantial contribution to Zoroastrian community affairs. At the 2008 ZAH AGM it was announced that one of the Legacy Awards would be named after Cyrus Rohinton Desai and the scholarship would be given to a youth going to college for the FIRST year.

In today’s challenging economic climate, continuing with the Congress Scholarship is more important than ever. After all it is going directly back to our children at ZAH. And this is only possible because of thoughtful contributions from people like the Desai family. We hope for continued support in the future from our ZAH members.

Congress Legacy Team -
Homi Davier, Farrokh Mistree & Aban Rustomji

AN IRANIAN ODYSSEY – By Yasmin Pavri

In April 2009, four Houstonians (the Bhandaras and the Pavris) embarked on a tour of Iran. We were part of the tour conducted by Silloo Mehta and Malcolm Bhessania of Southern California. Silloo and Malcolm have been conducting these tours twice a year for almost a decade. They put together a wonderfully diverse itinerary that allowed us to experience the ancient and the modern, the historic and the beautiful.

For three weeks we joined seven Zarathushtis from Australia and eight from the US on this once in a lifetime tour. We traveled the length and breadth of this vast country by air, road and rail. We toured large cities like Tehran, Shiraz, Yazd, and Esfahan. We visited small communities and pirs where ancient fires are still lovingly tended by simple and unassuming local Zarathustis – the true keepers of the flame. We saw archaeological sites ranging from the Achamenid time to those from the early twentieth century. Many of these sites, such as Persepolis, Pasargard, and the Atash Bahram of Azar Gushasp (my personal favorite) have been designated UNESCO World Heritage sites. We saw the spectacular beauty of Shahr-e-Kord, visited bas-reliefs in Kermanshah and Hamadan, spent two nights along the gorgeous Caspian coast, and took an overnight train trip to Mashhad.

It was a treat to enjoy the camaraderie with fellow Zarathushtis from around the U.S. and across the hemisphere that only a long bus tour brings. We felt the pull of an ancient empire and the pulse of a modern nation. The Iranians are a warm, hospitable, and very family oriented people who love the great outdoors. We were warmly welcomed by everyone we met and mobbed by school children hungry to practice their English on foreign tourists.

Unfortunately our media has portrayed Iran as hostile to Westerners. While our governments continue to have differences, we never felt unwelcome or unsafe. In fact, Iran is beginning to recognize the value of tourism and we saw many tour groups from Europe, India, and the Far East.

Silloo and Malcolm were wonderful hosts. Their thoughtfulness, patience, knowledge, and professionalism exceeded all expectations. They inspired us, guided us, and gave us a lot of information to assimilate and reflect upon. We urge everyone to hold off on European vacations and Caribbean cruises and instead visit the land of your ancestors and walk the soil of this ancient land. We promise you, your trip will be a rewarding and memorable experience.

ART SHOW – AVAN BHATHENA

Avan Bhathena’s art show on June 7, 2009 attracted over 170 people. She sold seven original paintings which included charcoal sketches and mixed media. Some prints and Giclees (high quality prints) were also sold.
Avan studied Textile Designing in Mumbai at the Nirmala Niketan Institute and worked with fabrics for several years. In India, she concentrated on fabric designs, working for the textile and garment export industry. Over the years, she diverted her artistic talents to paper and canvas and expresses herself in multiple media – watercolors, oils, acrylics and charcoal.

Avan's work has been displayed in art galleries in Houston and can be viewed on her website, ArtByAvan.com

**FARROKH AND YASHFAR MISTREE**

**Yashfar**, most recently a professor in the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, has been named the John and Mary Moore Chair and Professor in the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering’s School of Industrial Engineering.

**Farrokh**, most recently a professor in the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, has been named the L.A. Comp Chair and Director in the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering’s School of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. He follows Professor Subramanyam Gollahalli who, after serving successfully for eight years in this leadership position, stepped down as director of the school. Gollahalli will continue to serve the College of Engineering as a professor.

Farrokh and Yashfar are ZAH Members and *Manashni* and its readers congratulate them on their new appointment.

**KUSTI WEAVING PROCESS**

View step by step complete process of weaving of the Zoroastrian kusti. This 20 minute video is a must for all households as you can see how a kusti is woven from 72 threads of lamb’s wool representing the 72 Haas starting from spinning the yarn from lamb’s wool with “chantri” to the finished kusti. Directed by Cyrus Dastoor of Education Committee of Arnavaz Sethna

Directed by Cyrus Dastoor of Farohar Films - Sponsored by The Religious Education Committee of FEZANA. Donation $10. Place order with ahsethna@yahoo.com

**WELCOME TO NEW FAMILY**

Neville and Farida Divecha have relocated to Houston recently. Their address is:

20359 Field Tree Dr.
Humble, TX  77338
Cel: 910-603-5724

*Manashni* and its readers welcome the Divecha family

**BIRTH**

Baby boy, Zivan, born to Samara and Kywan Kerawalla, on May 22, 2009. Proud grandparents are Viloo and Purosshusp Kerawala (Houston) and Kerawalla (Mumbai).