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:  March 8, 2009

Children’s Session: Vehishta will be setting up the Haft Seen Table and give seeds to the children to plant. Lets hope they come up well and tall by NoRouz day.

Middle Group: We will have Haft Seen Table and discuss the NoRouz significance. NOTE: The Session will start at 11:00 a.m. The previously announced date for the lock-in has been changed. We will now have our lock-in on March 14/15. 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 Zarathushiti 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

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)
May 2 Saturday, Play – *Darling, I am Finally Out*
May 31 Sunday, Shehanshahi Dae Month Gahambar - Maidhyaiya (16-20 Daê)

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS

The ZAH EC had its regular monthly meeting on February 8, 2009 at the ZHCC at 2PM. Thanks to all the members who volunteered for the various chairs for the North American Zoroastrian Congress, to be held in December 2010 in Houston. After some hard decision-making, the EC selected Jasmine Mistry and Roshan Sethna as joint co-chairs for the congress. Jasmine and Roshan will be contacting all those who very kindly put their names forward for the various volunteer opportunities; so watch your email – there will be work galore for everyone.

The EC would like to especially thank Yezdi Engineer and Hoshang Sethna for their efforts on the upkeep of the ZHCC. Two beautiful microwave ovens have recently been added to the kitchen. In addition, both gentlemen have taken great pains to fix the exit gate by themselves. The EC would also like to thank Rustom Setna for ensuring that the landscaping is done and fixing the main door to the center. Thanks to these individuals for maintaining the upkeep of the center. Finally, the EC gratefully acknowledges a donation from the Houston Chapter of the WZCC for $1501. Thank you, WZCC-H, for spotlighting our vibrant community and our beautiful center to the WZCC members!

The deadline of March 15th for membership renewal is fast approaching. Be sure to maintain your ZAH membership in order to avail of all ZAH facilities. 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 Setna and Percy Master.

AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark your calendar. A grand Fundraising Gala, Saturday, November 7, 2009. The theme “*Chaiye Hamay Zarathushti*” – all proceeds to go towards ZHCC Maintenance.

Library Report – by Jangoo Mistry

The ZAH Library Committee is proud to announce a Lecture Series organized by the North American Mobeds Council on Saturday, April 11 at our ZAH Center. Details of the four lectures, given by authorities on the Zoroastrian Scriptures (from 9:30 am to 4:45 pm), are given in the attached flyer. People from out of Houston are also planning to attend, so please mark this date
on your calendar for a unique opportunity to learn from the masters – Ervads Panthaki, Bagli and Dastur, and our very own Sarosh Manekshaw. The lectures are free, but there is a small charge of $10 for lunch.

Two books have been donated to the ZAH Library in memory of Debra Kolah’s mother, Doris Dry, who passed away recently. The first is: “Happy Nowruz: Cooking with Children to Celebrate the Persian New Year” by Najmieh Batmanglij. Much more than just a recipe collection, this book is an ideal guide to customs that are thousands of years old, and can be used by parents, teachers and children as a compendium of customs and cookery about a holiday that is rarely covered in books. The second book: “The Parsi Theatre: Its Origins and Development” was originally written by Somnath Gupt in Hindi, and is now translated by Kathryn Hansen. It covers the first 20 years of Parsi theatre, and is a fascinating volume that credits the earliest Parsi nataks with inspiring the South Asian theatres that followed in its tradition.

At the heart of whatever the Library has been able to achieve is the tireless effort and increasing support we are receiving from so many of our members. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to: (1) Kersi Engineer and his family for generously donating his brother Jimmy Engineer’s painting for display at the Library, (2) Jehanbux Mehta for donating towards the TV set-up from the Mehta Trust, (3) Percy Master for painting the Library wall and getting rid of the wall dents (please let’s keep the wall clean by not sticking anything on them without permission), (4) Persis Behramsha for Library set-up and clean up during Akbar Ahmad's dialogue session, (5) Yezdi Engineer for fixing the wobbly podium and helping to archive and arrange CDs of all the pictures and videos of events that he has taken, and (6) Arnaz Mistry, Magdalena Rustomji, and Purvez Rustomji for a Sunday effort to arrange and take inventory of Library items.

MISCELLANEOUS

DAR NI PORI EVENT - Only a few days left!! Get ready for our 3rd Annual Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon on Saturday, March 14. 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!

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: Over 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.
SPORTS DAY: ZAH Sports Day has been scheduled for Sunday, March 29, 2009. You can start forming your volley ball or basket ball team. See attached flyer.

AT THE MUSEUM: - By Vehishta Kaikobad

The Afghanistan Exhibition is currently showing at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and drawing crowds in thousands. It is my sincere request that all members of our community can attend and see this historic collection which brings to light our ancient culture through Greco Bactrian artifacts and more. In fact, an entire collection of gold was discovered on an ancient “bronze age” site with reference to “fire temples”.

I have worked with the curator and researched as extensively as possible so that we can connect with our past through this wonderful display. This exhibition is here only up to May and filling up very fast with tour requests and visitors. It will be my pleasure to organize a tour for this exhibition for our community specially the Sunday School students of middle group and youth group plus the adults. Sunday School teachers kindly encourage your students and parents so we can set up a date for April or May or maybe even during Spring Break (depending upon my availability since I am already in the process of doing several tours and workshops on this topic).

OUR CENTER: By Persis Behramsha

I had planned on making 2009 a year of organization and cleanup for our center, and thanks to my buddy volunteers Roshan Behramsha, Avan Bhathena, Nargis Cooper, and Anahita Kapadia, I was able to achieve a lot of that in the past couple of months. We collectively managed a “makeover” of the kitchen cabinets, drawers and pantry along with the storage closet, and the storage room. We are now focusing on the Youth rooms and any other areas that need sprucing up. Thanks also to Jasmine Mistry, Lyla Daroga and Tannaz Machhi along with a group of young kids who assisted in packing off the Christmas tree. Yezdi Engineer and Hoshang Sethna are constantly working hard to take care of repairs and upkeep of the building from ceiling tiles & lights to entrance gates & damage control. Rustom Setna has become a permanent fixture now at the center taking care of door issues, lawn care and pest control. With so much going on at our precious center, it takes more than one person to keep it in good shape all the time, so please take charge and if you see a mess, clean it up; if you see something amiss, fix it; if you find something wrong, make it right.

Persis Behramsha

FUNDRAISER APPEAL FROM ZAKOI: Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana (ZAKOI), is raising funds for their Center. They need to raise about $500,000 to make this happen. Their current Fundraiser is a raffle of a beautiful new Gara set (Vago) donated to ZAKOI by a member. Each ticket is $10. For every 5 tickets, you get the 6th free. The drawing is in August 2009. To buy the tickets, please contact Armin Daroona at adaroona@gmail.com. For the picture of the Gara, please go to http://www.zako.org/live/zakocenter.html. Your donations to ZAKOI Center Fund are tax-deductible, however, raffle tickets are not tax-deductible. Checks for raffle tickets should be made payable to “ZAKOI Center Fund” and mailed to:

Armin Daroona,
5139 Claridge Dr,
New Albany, OH 43054, U.S.A.

Your donation check can be mailed to:

Bakhtavar Desai,
6383 Jamesfield Court,
Fairfield, OH 45014, USA.
OPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO “FOOD SCHEME”: The FOOD SCHEME, run by MANCHERJI EDALJI JOSHI MEMORIAL TRUST, is sending their annual appeal for funds to feed the Old and Poor Infirm of our community. There are many old and infirm neglected by the Society, some of them by their own children and Family and are fighting for their survival, who need your attention. Most of them are frail, weak and bed ridden and do not have even strength to go to the roadside food stall and depend on their neighbors to bring some food for them to survive. Thanks to the munificence and largesse of benevolent individuals and donors the scheme has been able to tend to their daily meals. But the demand is much in excess of the Funds generated and hence this appeal.

Please send your donation directly:

Mrs Mithoo Jesia
Jesia Building,
797 Jam E Jamshed Rd
Parsi Colony, Dadar (E),
Mumbai 400 014
Ph 2414 9571

If you need further information, please write to: Food_aid@mejmt.org OR to H N Daruwalla at hnd@vsnl.com

COMPUTER PROBLEMS? – NEED ASSISTANCE? Sunny Jamshedji of SUNNY SOLUTIONS is in town. He can provide you with computer services at your convenience with Windows (PC) computers & home networking over Ethernet/WiFi, broadband & dial-up, virus problems, etc. You may visit his below mentioned website or contact him at

Cell: 404.824.8246
Email: Jamshes @Gmail.Com
Web: http://www.SunnySolutions.Biz

WELCOME TO NEW ZARATHUSHTI FAMILY: A new Zarathushti family has moved to Houston-Jim and Catherine Sagar, Sons - James 5 years and Lucas 3 years. Their address:

99. W. Lansdowne Cir
The Woodlands, TX 77382
cell 703-409-6395 /703-409-6396 Catherine
home 281-298-2737  - e-mail address: james_sagar@hotmail.com


FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Call for Applications for the 2009-2010 Annual competition and the Application Form for 2009-10. The forms have been uploaded on the FEZANA website www.fezana.org

The scholarships available are:

The FEZANA Scholarships (for graduate and undergraduate studies)
Post-graduate Scholarships:
The Kheradi Endowed scholarship - The FEZANA Scholar
FEZANA 20th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship
Undergraduate Scholarships
The Khorshed Panthaky Endowed Scholarships x2
Kapadia Endowed Scholarship
CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2009  AT 1:00 P.M.
(After Sunday School)
AT ZHCC

Bring your family and friends....

for the energetic...... participate;
for the laid back...... eat and watch the activities;
for the weekly cooking types ..... come & buy food to-go and relax the next week!!

Enjoy the fun and festivity, good variety of food to eat and to-go, a variety of desserts, snacks, etc. etc. etc.

Variety of games, lucky dip, cake walk, floor open for talent show.

AND, OF COURSE, BINGO!!!

All proceeds go to ZAH.

If you wish to have a separate table to display/sell your items – the rates for the table are:

$35.00  Members
$100.00  Outside Vendors

For donating or selling food items, please call Yasmin Medhora – we definitely need “to go” food items as well as to sell at the carnival. Please contact Yasmin Medhora

See ya’ll there!!