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:  May 10, 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

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

The ZAH EC had its regular monthly meeting on April 12, 2009 at the ZHCC at 9AM.
FEZANA is offering a subsidy to any FEZANA member organization youth interested in attending the Zoroastrian Youth North America (ZYNA) Congress in San Jose. ZAH encourages our youth to attend and strongly recommends that interested candidates apply for the limited number of subsidies still available. Please contact Nargesh Sethna, the ZAH Treasurer, if you require documentation proving your membership in ZAH.

The EC would like to thank everyone who made the April NAMC lecture series such a success. Our guests were most impressed with our beautiful center and the interest and enthusiasm of our members.

Thanks also to all the participants and volunteers who made the annual carnival such a success.

It has already been four months since the new EC took over, and it is time once again to rotate the EC chair. The EC thanks Kershaw Khumbatta for his chairmanship over the past few months, and we welcome Rustom Setna as the new chair for the next four months.

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.

Library Report – by Jangoo Mistry

The ZAH Library Committee sponsored a Lecture Series organized by the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) on Saturday, April 11 at our ZAH Center. The lecture series entitled, “The Divine Message: Journey through Zoroastrian Scriptures” had four speakers, three of whom were NAMC members; Ervad Brigadier Behram Panthaki from Washington DC, Ervad Jehan Bagli from Toronto, and Ervad Soli Dastur from Florida. The fourth speaker was Houston's own Sarosh Manekshaw. Attending the lively event were eighty of our ZAH members and three other office bearers of the NAMC – the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of NAMC.

We learnt about the Khordeh Avesta, the meaning and contents of our everyday prayer book, the Yasna ceremony with a brief overview of all 72 Has of the Yasna, the Visperad and its various Ratus, and the Vendidad and its relationship to the Gathas. All this may sound too high-brow and boring, but the day in fact turned out to be very interesting and enjoyable.

The four speakers were very well prepared, with PowerPoint presentations, and lots of pictures and slides that brought to life what could otherwise have been a dull affair. Houston is fortunate to be the first venue for this NAMC presentation that is slated for Chicago, Toronto, and other cities in North America later this year. The audience showed its interest throughout the all-day session, with lots of questions for the speakers, and prevailed upon the speakers for a lively panel discussion at the end of the day, with even more questions, that lasted for another hour!

To those of us who regularly attend and look forward to Library functions, it was yet one more vindication of the quality of programs that the Library Committee provides for all ZAH members. Questionnaires collected after the event praised the luncheon arrangements, as well as the presentations (“food for the mind and soul”). Come feed your mind at the next Library function. You won’t be disappointed, and we would love to see some new faces.
Planning is already under way for the gala annual Library function for the October 17/18 weekend. We hope to present Peter Clark who will be coming from the U.K. for what promises to be an extraordinary event. More details later.

Our sincere thanks to Don Gard for donating $100 to the Library Fund to “honor Aban and Purvez Rustomji” – a well-deserved honor.

MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH FAMILY FISHING TRIP - (MAY 24, 2009 - 9 A.M. ONWARDS)

Are you guys ready to catch the big one!!! Lets go get ‘em at our ZAH Family Fishing trip planned for Sunday, May 24th, 2009. Bond with your kids, friends, and families for a fishing trip to Galveston’s Seawolf Park. The park has a fishing pier, picnic and bar-b-que areas and is right on the Gulf. See kids, (both big and small), faces light-up when they have a fish on the line, and, bring along those cameras!

Directions: Take I-45 south towards Galveston. Once in Galveston make a left on 51st Street and cross the Pelican Island causeway bridge. The road will end into Seawolf Park. We’ll meet on the fishing pier inside the Park.

Park hours are sunrise to sunset; Phone: (409) 744-5738 and (409) 797-5114.

Bait: Please bring along 1 pound of shrimp per family, a fishing rod, about eight each of #2 hooks and 1 ounce weights per person fishing. Kids under 17 do not need a fishing license.

Food and Drinks: Please bring along food and drinks for the day. There are no restaurants or snack-shops in the park, so bring along those coolers, pora-pau’s and chutney sandwiches.

Please call Farrokh Firozgary at (281) 685-7245 if you have any questions or need additional information.

CHECK OUT THE PARK's WEB-SITE FOR RATES AND OTHER INFORMATION: http://www.galveston.com/seawolfpark /

ZOROASTRIAN STIMULUS PLAN: ANONYMOUS JOB SEARCH & CAREER COUNSELING SERVICE

Recently laid-off from your job? Worried that your job is at risk? Looking for a new job? Thinking about starting your own business? Register with the Zoroastrian Stimulus Plan!

FEZANA and the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) are excited to offer this anonymous Job Search, Career Counseling, and Entrepreneur Mentoring service to the community.

Visit http://tinyurl.com/zorostimulus to register for this service. We’ll work with Zoroastrian associations across North America to help connect you with other Zoroastrians who can be of assistance in finding job opportunities, career counseling, starting a business, etc. The service is designed to protect your privacy, so your name and contact info will not be shared broadly.

More details are available at http://tinyurl.com/zorostimulus. If you have additional questions, feel free to email zorostimulus@fezana.org.

MUMBAI'S PARSI RESTAURANTS: GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT by Deena Guzder
(Article in TIME magazine by our very own Deena Guzder. Below is an excerpt.)

With the warmth of an endearingly eccentric relative, 86-year-old Boman Kohinoor of Britannia Restaurant, tel: (91-22) 2261 5264, in south Mumbai, exclaims, “You must try the berry pulav, which my wife introduced in 1982 after returning from a trip to Iran.” A waiter appears moments later with saffron golden rice and tender chunks of curried potatoes, fried cashews, wisps of crispy onions and ruby-red barberries imported from Tehran. “In Iran, the food is dry and bland by Indian standards so my wife experimented to find the right spices to liven up the dish,” says Kohinoor. “But the exact recipe is a closely guarded family secret.”
Kohinoor's head chef, his son Romin, prepares other Britannia favorites such as sali boti (succulent cubes of mutton marinated in garlic-ginger paste, covered in a sweet cinnamon gravy, and sprinkled with crispy matchstick potatoes) and patrani machii (pomfret seasoned with coconut chutney and steamed in banana leaves). (See pictures of Mumbai's entrepreneurs.)

Britannia — founded in 1923 by Kohinoor's father, Rashid — is part of a dying breed of family restaurants run by Mumbai's rapidly dwindling Zoroastrian, or Parsi, community. "Fifty years ago, there used to be around 500 Parsi restaurants along the stretch of south Bombay; now there are hardly 15 left," says Kohinoor, who doubts his own restaurant will survive him…

(See pictures of Mumbai's entrepreneurs.)

KUSTI WEAVING

**THE KUSTI**

View step by step complete process of weaving of the Zoroastrian sacred girdle-the kusti. This 20 minute video is a must for all households as you can see how a kusti is spun from 72 threads of lamb's wool representing the 72 Haas starting from spinning the yarn "chantri": to the finished kusti

Directed by Cyrus Dastoor of Farohar Films
Sponsored by
The Religious Education Committee of FEZANA
Donation $10 plus postage to FEZANA
Place order with
Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Gohar Firozgary for receiving the "Girl Scouts Gold Award". The award was recently awarded to Gohar at a ceremony held by the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, located at 3110 Southwest Freeway in Houston. The Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout up to age 18 can earn, and instills leadership and organizational skills, and sense of community and commitment that come from "going for the Gold" which set the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship. Gohar joined Girl Scouts of the USA in the first grade, and stuck with the program through her senior year in high school, until she achieved her goal. We are so proud of her!

TIME TO ANNOUNCE OUR GRADUATES

High School:
**Mitra Khumbatta** is graduating from Clements High School and will be going to Texas A & M College at College Station.

**Kayaan Collector** is graduating this May. He wants to apprentice and do internship in Cinematography and screenwriting whilst attending San Jacinto College for a year.

**Hormazd Minwalla** will graduate Summa Cum Laude from Langham Creek high school June 6th 2009 with CORDS for Science and National Honor Society.

**Mitra Mehta** is graduating Cum Laude, National Honor Scholar from Memorial High School. In her senior year she was president of the senior girls spirit group, Sigma Gamma. She is very excited to be attending The George Washington University in Washington DC in fall 2009 as a
GW Board of Trustees Scholar. She hopes to double major in History of Art and International Affairs. We are very proud of her and wish her all the best for the future.

**Graduates:**

**Kashmira Behramsha** is graduating with a Bachelor's degree from the Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management from the University of Houston. She plans on continuing her current job at the Drury Inn & Suites for the time being.

**Scherezade Mama** graduated from the University of Texas with a Masters in Public Health.

**Burjis Cooper** graduated in Dec 2008, from UT Austin and secured his BSEE (Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering). He started full time job with Halliburton in Houston in the R & D department from Jan 2009.

**Zal Zarir Sethna** graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelors Degree in Business Management.

**Cyrus Sachinvala** (New Orleans) will graduate with JD from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, Law School on May 17.

**Veera Sidhwa** completed her Masters in Educational Psychology from California State University in May 2008 and is now completing her Pupil Personnel Services Credential in May 2009. This credential gives her license to work as a school psychologist in CA. She is currently seeking employment as a school psychologist in CA.

**Jamsheed Minwalla** graduated in September 2008 from University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in Business and Finance

*Manashni and its readers extend their heartiest congratulations to all the graduates. You make us proud!!*

**WE HAVE MOVED**

Sanober and Aderbad Tamboli have moved with their family, to the below address:
19 Waterford Pointe Circle
Sugarland, TX-77479

Their telephone number has not changed.

**OBITUARY**

**Shiraz Cooper**, who had been fighting cancer for the past few months, passed away on late Saturday, April 17, evening at Ben Taub Hospital.

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

**Tehmurasp Boatwalla**, Age 72 years, father of Niloufer Minoo Mehta, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday April 19, 2009 late evening, CST.

*Manashni and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to Niloufer and her family*

**Veera Bharucha** passed away May 1, 2009, surrounded by family and friends. While ZAH members are deeply saddened by the loss of this courageous lady, they will always remember her with admiration and affection as she valiantly struggled with her cancer with optimism and dignity. Our condolences go out to her husband Adil Bharucha; daughter and son-in-law, Lyla and Danny Aga; daughter and son-in-law Lillian and Cyrus Irani; mother Mehrroo Dubash; brother Jamshed and Jessica Dubash; brother Raymond and Anahita Dubash; sister Kemal Dubash; and sister Gulmohr and Meheryar Bharucha.

*Manashni and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to the Bharucha and Dubash families*
“Congress 2000 Legacy” SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
There will be two awards of $1000 each. As announced at our last ZAH AGM in Nov 2008 one of the awards will be the “Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award” for the student going to college for the first time!
Application form available in the “Just News” section of the ZAH website http://www.zah.org.

NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS-THEME COMPETITION
For the North American Zoroastrian Congress, scheduled for December 2010 in Houston, we need to have a theme that will attract the maximum attendance. Do you have ideas for a theme with a catchy slogan? If you do, send in your entries to Arnavaz Sethna, Secretary, NAZC by May 23, 2009. The entries will be judged at the Committee’s next meeting on May 30, 2009 and the best entry will win $100.00. This competition is open to ZAH Membership only - age no bar. Get your creative juices flowing and send in your entries.

ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH OF NORTH AMERICA (ZYNA) CONGRESS