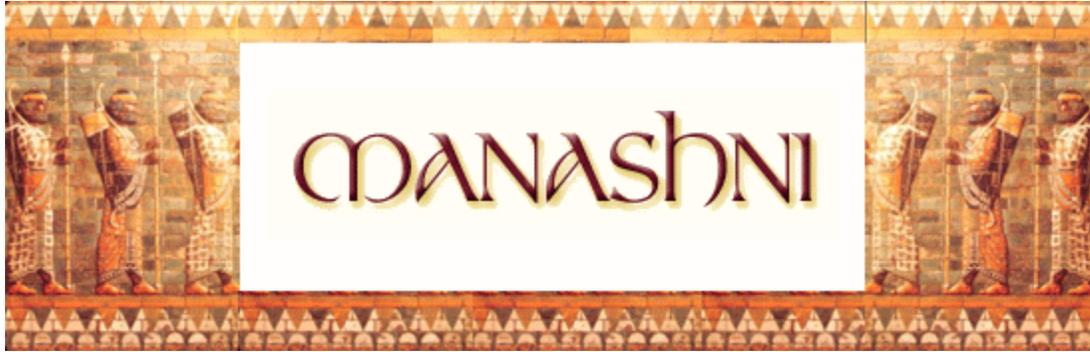


Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071



Volume 23: Issue 2

February 2010

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11:15 AM.

DATE: February 14, 2010

Children's Session: Vehishta will conduct the session.

LET'S LEARN GUJARATI TOGETHER

Vehishta and Khursheed Dastur will partner to teach Gujarati to our kids before Sunday School. The Gujarati session will be from 11 am to 11.25 am. Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am. For this month's Gujarati session we will start with - Introduction to Gujarati through pictures, activities, songs.

Middle Group: Arnavaz Sethna and Pearline Collector conduct this session.

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

Friday, February 5 - Library event

Sunday, February 14 – Car Rally. See attached flyer

Saturday, March 13 - Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon

Saturday, March 20 - Fasli Norouz Function

Sunday, March 21 - Fasli Norouz Hambandagi

MEETINGS

ZARATHUSHTI INVESTMENT GROUP	Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Interested? Please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING	Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Interested? Please call Yazdi Sidhwa 281-265-0589.
GOLDEN GROUP	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611
LIBRARY COMMITTEE	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 aban@coatingengineers.com

REPORTS

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS

The EC would like to thank the youth and the volunteers who cleaned the storage container and the fountain at the ZHCC on Sunday 1/24/10. In particular, thanks go to Joel Balsara, Khubyar Behramsha, Faredun Bhader, Ashtad Boomla, Kyrus Buchia, Cyra Byramji, Cyrus Byramji, Ziba Colah, Zubin Colah, Neville Divecha, Fram Haveliwala, Sheroy Haveliwala, Rayomand Katrak, Kershaw Khumbatta, Nazneen Khumbatta, Noshir Khumbatta, Jehanbux Mehta, Pervin Sagar, Arnavaz Sethna, Hoshang Sethna, Kevin Setna, Rustom Setna, Farzad Sunavala, Zenia Sunavala, and Adarbad Tamboli.

The EC would like to welcome the new ZAH Outreach Committee, comprising Persis Behramsha, Kaemerz Dotiwalla, Bahram Hormozdi, and Nazneen Khumbatta. We look forward to many interfaith events with our new Outreach Committee.

Finally, the EC would like to thank Jasmine Mistry whose term of EC chair finished, and welcome our new chair, Rustom Setna.

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 at percy.master@hp.com, so that your issue can be added to the agenda for the next EC meeting.

The ZAH EC - Sarosh Collector, Kershaw Khumbatta, Kamalrukh Gandhi, Jehanbux Mehta, Jasmine Mistry, Nazanin Sarkari, Rustom Setna and Percy Master.

LIBRARY REPORT – by Jangoo Mistry

Our entire Center is now Wi-Fi enabled and the annual cost for the connection is borne by FEZANA, in recognition of our Library being selected for their FIRES initiative. You will recall that FIRES (FEZANA Information Research & Education Systems) is envisioned as a North American repository that will house a centralized collection of Zarathushti books, manuscripts, literature, magazines, and scholarly research, with the eventual goal of linking collections from libraries located at other FEZANA member associations.

If you like to curl up by the fire when it's cold outside, your ZAH Library has an ever-growing collection of books, CDs and DVDs for you to browse and check out. Whether it's fiction or non-fiction, religion, history or cooking, we have it all. Our latest additions (contributed by FIRES) include:

Alphabet of Dreams by *Susan Fletcher* (Young adult fiction, with historical notes)

Fourteen-year-old Mitra, of royal Persian lineage, and her five-year-old brother Babak, whose dreams foretell the future, flee for their lives in the company of the magus Melchoir and two other Zoroastrian priests, traveling through Persia as they follow star signs leading to a newly-born king in Bethlehem.

Zarathustra and Zoroastrianism by *Michael Stausberg*

A compact, concise, and accessible survey of Zoroastrianism. This tiny religious community traces its roots to Zarathustra, a prophet who lived some 2,500-3,500 years ago. Chapters address Zarathustra and the origins of the religion, religious concepts and narratives, ethics and gender, priesthoods and rituals, transitions and festivals. A postscript by Anders Hultgård, one of the leading experts in this field, discusses the influences of Zoroastrianism on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The Parsis of India: Preservation of Identity in Bombay City by *Jesse Palsetia*

This book examines a much-neglected area of Asian Studies. The key points are the development of Parsi history, and accounts for the ability of Parsis to preserve, maintain and construct a distinct identity amidst historical change.

The book amply details the Parsis' evolution from an insular minority group to a modern community of pluralistic outlook, and the significant role the Parsis played in the commercial, educational, and civic development of colonial Bombay City. Filling a lacuna in the literature on British colonialism, Indian society and history, and, last but not least, Zoroastrianism, the book broadens our knowledge of the interactions and role of one of the world's smallest communities in history.

The Zoroastrian Myth of Migration from Iran and Settlement in the Indian Diaspora - Text,

Translation and Analysis of the 16th Century Qesse-ye Sanjān 'The Story of Sanjan' by *Alan Williams*

The Qesse-ye Sanjān is the sole surviving account of the emigration of Zoroastrians from Iran to India to form the Parsi ('Persian') community. Written in Persian couplets in India in 1599 by a Zoroastrian priest, it is a work many know of, but few have actually read, let alone studied in depth. This book provides a Romanized transcription from the oldest manuscripts, an elegant metrical translation, detailed commentary and, most importantly, a radical new theory of how such a text should be "read", i.e. not as a historical

chronicle but as a charter of Zoroastrian identity, foundation myth and justification of the Parsi presence in India. The book fills a lacuna that has been acutely felt for a long time.

Happy reading!

BMSC REPORT – by Pervin Sagar

The new Building Management Sub Committee (BMSC) has taken over the custodian of our ZAH Center from Persis Behramsha in November 2009 after the AGM meeting. Persis after years of managing the center single handedly with great efficiency and dedication decided to step down. Over the years the activities, "vasti" at our center have grown tremendously and the demands were way too much for one person to manage and keep up with hence a team of six members was formed. The members of BMSC are Faredun Bhader, Roshan Engineer, Jehanbux and Shireen Mehta, Arnavaz Sethna and Pervin Sagar.

The following are some of the major functions/duties of the BMSC:

- Periodic walk through of the entire center and its grounds and to report any damages, repairs, excessive clean up to the E.C. and Building Maintenance Committee.
- Manage the rental of our center to both members and non-members; give tour of the facility, review contract, collect signed contract and appropriate fees.
- Coordinating security and pre and post cleaning of our center for any ZAH functions or rentals.
- Maintain a rental/reservation calendar. We have introduced an on-line rental calendar which our members can view by going to the ZAH website; clicking on "Contacts" on the left side of the page and then clicking on "Rental of ZHCC Hall". A physical calendar is also posted on the wall between the kitchen and prayer room like before.
- Maintain supplies of cleaning products, paper towels, toilet rolls, garbage bags and soaps for the kitchen and restrooms of the center
- Keeping the kitchen and pantry organized.
- Maintaining the prayer room.
- Checking the voice mail messages that are left on the center's answering machine and responding accordingly.

The new BMSC team has taken the "Divide & Conquer" approach. We have divided the tasks amongst us but anyone of us may be contacted. If you have any recommendations as to how we can better maintain and or manage our center please do not hesitate to contact any of the BMSC members.

This is "YOUR" Center, and we encourage you to make full use of it but please do take care of it.

MISCELLANEOUS

4th DAR-NI-PORI BAKE-A-THON - by Roshan Engineer

Please mark your calendars for the **4th Annual Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon** on **Saturday, March 13** at our center. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and bake our poris to make 'dough' for ZAH. Calling all volunteers to donate the "dar" filling, raw materials, griddles, lunch and tea items.... the dar recipe will be provided, and we hope to have enough to make more poris to fill our orders and have some to sell at the Navroze function as well.

Please call to let us know how you'd like to help and also call in your orders:

Nagu Cooper: 713-937-4441 Roshan Engineer: 281-545-3467 Jasmin Kattrak: 281-858-857

Yasmin Medhora: 713-466-3908 Jasmine Mistry: 281-265-4351

Come join us in this community project and let's have a fun day while we work to contribute towards our ZAH Maintenance Fund!

THANK YOU FROM THE BMSC

The Building Management Sub-Committee (BMSC) would like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to all our youth and adult volunteers who so willingly gave up their Sunday Morning, January 24th to clean and organize our Center. Your energy and enthusiasm was so genuine and the way you all cooperated was simply marvelous and you all have indeed set the bar for not only such activities but to our entire membership body.

In just about 3 hours you all helped not only remove trash and haul it to the dumpsters but organize the storage container building, kitchen, library, the storage room, the classroom and the outside fountain. It was indeed heartwarming to see all the dedicated and focused activity to get our Center cleaned. What a positive way to start the New Year!

Also thank you to the generosity of Rustom and Fiona Setna and Kershaw and Nazneen Khumbatta for providing lunch and drinks to the well deserved but hungry volunteers.

The BMSC once again requests all our members to use our lovely Center just like you would your home. We want it "used but not abused".

KUDOS to following:

Youth Group Members:

Cyra Byramji, Cyrus Byramji, Khubyar Behramsha, Fram Haveliwala, Kevin Setna, Noshir Khumbatta, Zenia Sunavala, Zubin Colah, Ziba Kolah, Rayomand Katrak, Joel Balsara, Ashtad Boomla

Middle Group:

Farzad Sunavala, Kyrus Buchia

Thank You!

Yours Sincerely,

BMSC Team - Arnava Sethna, Roshan Engineer, Faredun Bhader, Jehanbux Mehta, Sillie Mehta, Pervin Sagar

NOWRUZ RESOLUTION IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

On January 27th, 2010, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved a resolution which honors the Iranian New Year (Nowruz), therefore bringing it one step closer to being voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives. If passed, it would be the first time that the U.S. Congress has officially recognized the Iranian New Year. This will help to foster a greater understanding of Iranian culture and heritage as well as projecting an accurate and positive image of our Zoroastrian community to the American public as well as policy makers. Click [here](#) to urge your member of Congress to support the Nowruz resolution.

TRAVEL TO INDIA

In December 2009, India introduced a new rule that prevents Tourist visa holders from re-visiting India within 2 months after last leaving. That rule has been updated recently to include the following:

- **All Tourist visa holders, including 6 Month visa holders, and Non US citizens holding a Tourist visa are impacted by the new rule.**
- **Some exceptions can be made on a case by case basis as decided on by the local Consulates. Exception reasons include sick family members in India .**

More details are available here: https://indiavisa.travisaoutsourcing.com/pdf/Tourist_Visa_FAQ.pdf

12th ZOROASTRIAN GAMES

Dear Friends,

The Zoroastrian Sports Committee (ZSC) cordially invites you to join us for the 12th Zoroastrian Games, to be held in Long Beach, CA from July 1 - July 5, 2010. Applications and registration info will be available soon at <http://www.zathleti.cs.com/>.

Save the date and plan to register early because we fully expect to get at least 2000 attendees, and events sell out very quickly.

What: The 12th Zoroastrian Games
When: July 1 - 5, 2010
Where: The Beautiful California State University, Long Beach

Please tell your friends and help spread the word.

If you are on facebook, join the ZSC page (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=43558193195&ref=search&sid=728218174.1989029443..1>)

If you have any questions, contact us at: zsc@fezana.org

See you in July!

Sincerely,

ZSC (Zoroastrians Sport Committee of FEZANA)

ZAH MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thank you to all those who have promptly paid their ZAH membership dues. For those that haven't yet paid, please do pay promptly. The funds from our memberships help keep our Center running. See the attached form for membership rates. There was previously an error in the rate for member category of "Single Member Head of Household" which has now been corrected in the attached membership form. Going forward, please use this form for ZAH membership rates for 2010.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship is accepting applications for the 2010 year. This scholarship is for US and Canadian residents who are studying in the field of performing and creative arts. So if you are studying to be a dancer, artist, singer, actor etc., please apply. Applications are due by May 31, 2010. Applications are on www.fezana.org. You can also contact Sherazade Mehta chair of the P&CAS committee at 972-385-4847 or sherazadem@yahoo.com for further information.

INDICORPS IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2010-2011 FELLOWSHIP YEAR!

The Indicorps fellowship is a profound personal experience and an opportunity to understand participatory development through intense voluntary service. The structured program encourages participants to leave their comfort zones, place others' interests before their own, test their own potential to affect change, explore their relationship with India, and understand what it means to lead by committing themselves to innovative grassroots projects. Indicorps believes that giving one's time and energy, without any attachment to the outcome, regardless of the circumstances, is an unparalleled personal experience in service. At the same time, the fellowship is a chance for fellows to address their own identity, recognize their personal boundaries, and understand how to produce change in their environment(s). The fellowship is deeply rewarding, a transformational and challenging personal journey, and part of Indicorps' collective experiment for change. www.indicorps.org

To apply: <http://apply.indicorps.org/> . Application deadline is March 1st.

PARSEE GYMKHANA IN MUMBAI CELEBRATES ITS 125th ANNIVERSARY

Parsee Gymkhana in Mumbai celebrates its 125th Anniversary on 25th February 2010. They are organizing a 3-day celebration on February 20th, 21st and 25th which includes stage shows by professional dancers, fashion show, variety programme, jashan ceremony, formal dinner and dance. A well-compiled souvenir depicting the history of Parsee Gymkhana will also be distributed during the functions.

DR. NALI SPENCER JOINS ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CLINIC – SAN FELIPE

Dr. Nali Spencer, our ZAH member, has joined the newly opened St. Luke's Medical Clinic–San Felipe, located at 6363 San Felipe, Suite 150 (San Felipe and Winrock).

Dr. Spencer specializes in Internal Medicine and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She manages patients with chronic health conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and heart problems. She also treats acute illnesses such as cough, cold, flu and performs routine physicals and immunizations.

Her particular interests include women's health (breast cancer screening, osteoporosis, Pap smear) and preventative medicine.

The St. Luke's Medical Clinic–San Felipe is currently accepting new patients and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The clinic accepts same day appointments. Parking is available at no extra cost. To schedule an appointment, call 713-972-8900 or visit www.sleh.com/medicalclinic

WE HAVE MOVED

Dr. Darius Wania has moved his clinic, Alief Medical Clinic, to a new location. The new address is:
Alief Medical Clinic
10080 Bellaire Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, TX 77072
Tel: 281-495-5050
Fax: 281-495-4651

OBITUARY

Mrs. Viloo N. Surkari, mother of Perry Surkari and Zarine Colabawalla (formerly of Houston), passed away in London, England on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at the ripe old age of 97. She is survived by two sons, four daughters and several grandchildren.

Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the Surkari and Colabawalla families.

ZAH EVENT CAR RALLY/SCAVENGER HUNT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 1:30 P.M.

LINE UP 2:00 TO 2:15 P.M.

COST \$5.00 PER PERSON



RIDDLES TO BE SOLVED,
CLUES TO BE UNRAVELLED
**ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT
AND SOME TO BE BOUGHT**
FORM YOUR TEAM AND GIVE IT A NAME
WIN THIS RALLY AND RISE TO FAME

SEND YOUR ENTRIES WITH NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS TO

CYRA KANGA at crkanga@gmail.com

NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 8, 2010

TEA AND PAKORAS WILL BE SERVED WHILE JUDGES ARE REVIEWING SUBMISSIONS

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON
2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

TEL (h): _____ TEL (other): _____

E.Mail _____

CATEGORY OF MEMBERS (PLEASE CIRCLE ONLY ONE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY)

PATRON MEMBER. – FAMILY	\$500.00
PATRON MEMBER – SINGLE	\$250.00
FAMILY MEMBER	\$275.00
FAMILY ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$275.00
SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.....	\$150.00
SINGLE MEMBER.....	\$135.00
FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER.....	\$ 65.00
SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER	\$ 40.00
STUDENT MEMBER	\$ 25.00
MANASHNI SURCHARGE - FOR PRINTED/MAILED COPIES	\$ 15.00
DONATION	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

- FAMILY MEMBER:** PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18
- FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER:** WHERE ONE SPOUSE IS OVER THE AGE OF 65
- SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER:** AN INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 65
- SINGLE MEMBER:** AN UNMARRIED INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 18
- SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD:** SINGLE PARENT WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: CALENDAR YEAR – JANUARY TO DECEMBER

PLEASE SELECT THE CATEGORY APPLICABLE TO YOU, MAKE OUT THE CHECK TO ZAH AND MAIL TO:

ZAH Treasurer,
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071