



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



Volume 23: Issue 3

March 2010

NOROUZ MUBARAK TO ALL !!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11:15 AM.

DATE: March 14, 2010

Children's Session: Topic for this session is **HaftSeen**.

The "**Let's Learn Gujarati Together**" 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 learn the names of some fruits and vegetables. Kids can get a fruit or vegetable for which they know the Gujarati name for a Show and Tell.

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

Saturday, March 13 - Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon, 10 am onwards

Sales will start from 3 pm. Call in your orders in advance. The poris will be sold for \$8 each.

Electric girdles needed a plenty.

If you have one that you can spare,

Then let the volunteers have your ware

Rest assured it will be used gently

If you would like to volunteer for the event in anyway, please call Nagu Cooper @ 713-937-4441 or Roshan Engineer @ 281-545-3467 or Jasmin Kattrak @ 281-858-7857 or Yasmin Medhora @ 713-466-3908 or just roll up your sleeves and show up to make some much needed 'dough' for our Center !!.

Saturday, March 20 - Fasli Norouz Function. starts at 8:00 p.m. Entertainment starts at 8.30 pm followed by dinner and dancing.

ZAH member* : 11 years and up - \$18; Senior**- \$15

ZAH non-member : 11 years and up (incl. Senior)- \$25

All Children (3-10 yrs only) : Pizza - \$7 ; Regular food - \$12

Non-member guests of ZAH members: \$25

*Definition of Member: Those whose 2010 membership dues have been paid by March 15, 2010

**Definition of Senior: One spouse is over 65 yrs old (applies to ZAH Members only)

Non-member rates apply to all RSVP checks received after March 15th

See attached flyer for RSVP details

Sunday, March 21 - Fasli Norouz Hambandagi, 6.30 pm

The timing of Norouz is March 20 at 12.33 pm (CST)

Saturday, April 10 – Library Event

Sunday, April 11 – Carnival (after Sunday School). **See attached flyer for details**

Sunday, May 31 – Shahenshahi Dae Month Gahambar – Maidhyaiya (16-20 Daê)

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

No Reports from the EC this month

LIBRARY REPORT – by Jango Mistry

Our long-awaited event on February 5 featuring producer/director Tenaz Dubash, who had come down from New York, was a smashing success. The screening of her film: “*Crisis in Faith: Zoroastrians Today*” was followed by a lively question-and-answer session based on the issues the film addressed. Through personal narratives and views of Zoroastrians on both sides of the issues, the film tackled three controversial subjects: (1) conversion into the faith, (2) dwindling numbers of Zoroastrians in the world, and (3) the treatment of Zoroastrians as a religious minority in Iran. The film was shot in Vancouver, Chicago, Boston, Bombay, New York and Iran. Reviews of the film have praised “*the rich and relevant diversity of opinions that confront Zoroastrians today*” and how “*the struggles between change and conservatism within our community are vividly shown*”.

The film was totally engrossing and left us wanting for more. After the screening, the floor was opened up to Q&A. The views and opinions shared by our members included some unusually candid and personal observations. The event had clearly energized the gathering as many members continued animated discussion of the issues long after the conclusion of the program.

It was gratifying that the attendance easily set a new record for a Library function, especially with many members attending a Library event for the first time.

You may recall that we are planning to have a permanent exhibit of old black-and-white pictures of our family members on one of the Library’s walls. We are again reminding you to bring these photos with you to the Center on March 7, 13, or 14. Recognizing that these are precious and irreplaceable memories, your pictures will be treated with utmost respect and care, and returned to you, if possible, on the same day. We already have some wonderful pictures but are still looking for more that would be equally interesting and worthy of inclusion in our showing. So don’t miss out on this opportunity -- scour your attic and closets for photographs of your ancestors dressed in traditional garb or otherwise, and make them come alive again through this permanent display we have planned.

MISCELLANEOUS

CAR RALLY/SCAVENGER HUNT - By Car Rally Committee: Cyra Kanga, Roshan Sethna, Hoshang and Arnavaz Sethna

Our Fourth Car Rally/Scavenger Hunt held on Sunday, February 14, 2010, was another successful event. There were 17 vehicles with 98 participants.

The Car Rally Committee started organizing and preparing weeks in advance of the event. The route was planned, the clues were thought out and put in rhyme, and we physically drove the route to check for accuracy.

We lucked out with weather. It was a beautiful day. The cars were lined up in the new parking lot and each team was given the first clue sheet as they left. They had to solve the riddles, get to the next station and bring back whatever was requested. There were two stops, manned by our volunteers who gave them the clue to the next route.

As each car came to the starting point, Cyra handed the driver the clue sheet. The passengers in the car eagerly started reading the first clue. At the gate Serena kept time on her stop watch, and allowed each car to leave at one minute interval. The checkered flag was lowered and off they went.

With the capability of the cell phone, the teams freely contacted their friends to do google search and/or look for answers to some event unique only to our community. Some even carried laptop and some carried all the possible items they could think of in case any was required.

The winning teams are:

First – Khushrav, Manek and Rayhan Nariman, Aderbad and Sanober Tamboli, Vispi Katrak and Kyrus Buchia.

Second – Kaizad and Freny Rajkotwalla, Farrokh Firozgary, Parveen Irani

Third – Rustom and Zia Anklesaria, Danesh and Nalli Desai and Shahrzad Nariman

It was fun to listen to some encounters of the participants

NAZC TWENTYTEN

We set a high standard for ourselves when we hosted the World Zoroastrian Congress in December 2000, and we will again raise the bar in December 2010. We at ZAH are known for our innovative and creative ability and with your support we will have a memorable congress.

Our Registration Fee is kept at a very low rate to attract maximum participation. Our Program Committee is trying to bring a stellar program and our Entertainment Committee is getting ready to entertain the registrants. Don't wait till the end, register now and take advantage of the early bird registration. Visit our website at http://www.zah.org/nazc-10/registration_form.htm

Our Fund Raising Committee needs your help. Do buy the raffle ticket (flyer attached). We also need your help in sponsoring sessions or buying advertisement in our Souvenir Program. Advertise your business as this program will be going nationwide. Anyone interested in helping with fund raising, please contact Jimmy Kumana at 281-437-5906 or e-mail him at jkumana@aol.com

Arnavaz Sethna
Secretary NAZC

HAMĀ ANJUMAN PRAYERS FOR NOROUZ IN ENGLISH, FARSI AND GUJARATI

Ervad Soli Dastur of Sarasota, Florida was tasked by FEZANA with a project in the year 2007, to assemble a prayer book which could be used by Zoroastrians worldwide at Jamshedi Norouz. Soli consulted Dastoorjis, Mobeds, and Scholars from India, Iran, and North America and assembled eight prayers. This book is the culmination of these efforts, and may be a first ever book with prayers transliterated in English, Farsi and Gujarati with interpretations all in one place. Copies of the book, are in time for this year's (2010) Norouz Celebrations. This is a humble effort to bring all our Zarathushti Groups together in a common prayer environment.

If you need a copy of the book, please contact: Soli P. Dastur at: dastur@comcast.net
Donations to defray costs of printing and postage are encouraged and can be made on www.fezana.org

FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Call for Applications for the 2010-2011 Annual competition and the Application Form for 2010-11. The forms have been uploaded on the FEZANA website www.fezana.org

Applications are invited for:

FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI (MMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR.

FEZANA 20th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

THE KHORSHED PANTHAKY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

BANOUBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA (BMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP:

Scholarships for the academic year 2010-2011 will be awarded in September 2010

WANTED A ROOMMATE AT A RETIREMENT HOME

Mrs. Shirin Khosravian, mother of Rustom Khosravian, has moved to a beautiful retirement community - The Terrace, A Retirement Community, 16900 Lexington Blvd., Apt. 2205, Sugar Land, TX 77479. She is looking for a roommate. Requirement for a roommate is that she must be a senior retired lady and be able to speak English. Anyone interested may please call Rustom at 832-746-5163.

NAVJOTE

Yazad Sidhwa, son of Kayomarz and Farzana Sidhwa of Houston, had his navjote in Mumbai on January 9, 2010 at Albless Baug

Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes to Yazad and Sidhwa family

WEDDING

Farrah Elavia, daughter of Zarina & Jamshed Elavia, was married to Himesh Gandhi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mukund Gandhi on March 6, 2010. Farrah looked radiant and made a beautiful bride.

Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes to the newly weds.

WE HAVE MOVED

Mehernosh Sodawatervala has moved to:

2542 Twain Dr.

Tallahassee, FL 32311

Cyrus and Lillian (Bharucha) Irani have moved to:

4899 Montrose Blvd #1406

Houston, TX 77006

Nasreen & Rustom Khosravian have moved to:

7402 Antrim Trail

Sugar Land, TX 77479

OBITUARY

It is with great sorrow that we would like to inform our friends in the Houston area of the passing of Neville Divecha's mother Mani Keki Divecha on the 16 of feb 2010 in Mumbai India. Mani was 86 years old and died a sudden but peaceful death. She had a long and fruitful life with all her family and friends close to her. She was an extremely kind and very generous woman and she will be missed by all who knew her.

Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the Divecha family

Rayomand Masters, son of Thrity and Firoz Masters and husband of Farida (Kanga), and cousin of Sarosh Kaikobad of Houston, passed away on March 6th in Lexington, KY. He leaves behind his parents, sisters, brother, wife and children Shaun and Sherry.

Manashni and its readers convey heartfelt condolences to the Kaikobad and Masters families



NoRouz Celebration March 20, 2010

At The Zarthushti Heritage and Cultural Center

Let's Celebrate!

BYOB



**Scrumptious Dinner
Pizzas for children only
(3-10 yrs)**

**Dance the night away!!
Popular Iranian, Desi and
Contemporary Songs !!!**

*Function starts at 8 pm
Entertainment starts at
8:30 p.m.*

RSVP

Your checks must be received by March 15th at address:
The Treasurer
8787 West Airport Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77071
Email - treasurer@zah.org for questions
Please write - The number of member/non-member adults,
seniors & children in the memo of the check
- "Norouz 2010" on the envelope

MENU

Delicious Appetizers
Sindhi Biryani, Chicken Pasanda,
Beef kebabs, Balti Aloo,
Naan, Salad,
Mouthwatering Desserts !!

CHARGES

ZAH member* : 11 years and up - \$18; Senior** - \$15
ZAH non-member : 11 years and up (incl. Senior) - \$25
All Children (3-10 yrs only) : Pizza - \$7 ; Regular food - \$12
Non-member guests of ZAH members: \$25

*Member: Those whose 2010 membership dues have been paid by
March 15, 2010
**Senior: One spouse is over 65 yrs old (applies to ZAH Members only)

PLEASE NOTE

- Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs received after March 15.
- Non-member rates will apply to all attendees who have not paid their ZAH membership for 2010, by March 15, 2010.
- Kids over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents
- Mail your membership check together with the NoRouz function check, to avail the member rate.



NAZC DOUBLE DRAW RAFFLE

FIFTEENTH NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS
DECEMBER 29 – 31, 2010

PRESERVE! PROTECT! PERFECT!
"PRESERVE THE PAST, PROTECT THE PRESENT, AND PERFECT THE FUTURE"

February, 2010

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) is sponsoring a double-draw raffle as part of its fund-raising program to help finance the upcoming Congress. The drawing and prize award will be held at the Navroze function on March 20, 2010, at the ZAH Center. You do not have to be present to Win. Tickets are only \$5 each.

1st PRIZE = Red crepe silk machine-embroidered gara (shown below) specially purchased from India in January 2010. Set includes:

- matching embroidered blouse material
- matching petticoat
- white lace sadra material.



2nd PRIZE = George Foreman Rotisserie Grill

Tickets will go on sale on Sunday 28 February at all upcoming ZAH events. You may also order by e-mail from Jimmy Kumana at jkumana@aol.com or by phone at 281-437-5906.

ZAH, 8787 West Airport Blvd, Houston, TX 77071



CARNIVAL

***SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010 AT 12:45 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**

Games, cake walk, raffle, floor open for talent show.

AND, OF COURSE, BINGO!!!

Buy wonderful décor items by our own kids..... and more

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**

Contact:

- Yasmin Medhora at 713-466-3908 for renting tables, donating food items and making to-go food. Donations are always welcome
- Nazanin Sarkari at 281-494-9643 for help/ideas for the games in the atrium.
 - Nargis Cooper at 713-937-4441 for games in the hall.
- Tenaz Sunavala at 281-242-0626 for help/ideas for the Youth Stall.

See ya'll there!!