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:  11:00 AM
DATE:  April 10, 2011

Children’s Session: This month the “Let's Learn Gujarati Together” session will start at 11 am and will include a review and intro to the “Gujarati Alphabet”. Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am. Parents please bring unwrapped gifts for the fishpond at the Carnival on Sunday. The gifts can be $5 or under for ages toddlers to teenagers.

Middle Group: This group is for the children in the middle school. Last year they learnt about the ceremonies, this year they will be learning the Kusti prayers and their meanings. If your child falls in this age group, do please bring him/her to the Sunday School.

Senior Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this session. See a write up by the Youth Chair.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 7th – WZCC Dinner Meeting 6.30 pm at Madras Pavillion on the Lake in Sugarland. The topic is "Negotiating with the Savvy Buyer" and will be presented by Ms. Annette Monks Muckelroy. RSVP to zarirs@sbcglobal.net or call (713) 963-4229

Friday, April 8th – Library Event - 7pm at the Center – Book reading and signing of “SUITS: A woman on Wall Street”

Sunday, April 10th – Carnival from 12.45 pm onwards. Welcome Kids and adults. See attached flyer. Every Penny goes to ZAH except to the rental tables. Eat a variety of foods including grilled tikkas, play games, Bingo, egg hunt, Pinata, buy crafts made by our own kids etc
If you would like to help, please call Yasmin Medhora and Nargis Cooper.

Sunday, April 17th - ZAH Library event is cancelled due to poor response.

Saturday, May 7th – Hollywood Meets Bollywood Night – Youth group extragavanza. Not to be missed, one of a kind event !!. Be there for our youth. Mail in your checks before 1st May. See attached flyer
To RSVP:
Email: ZAHyouthgroup@gmail.com; Phone: Viraf Nariman:713-679-4079, Shayan Bhathena: 281-224-0555

Sunday, June 5th – Maidhyairem Gahambar

MEETINGS

| 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@coatingindustries.com |

**REPORTS**

**LIBRARY REPORT**
By Jangoo Mistry

The bus trip to the George W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station on Sunday, April 17 organized by the ZAH Library has been canceled. We had about 30 persons confirmed for the trip, which was short of the 50 we needed to meet the expense of booking the bus. Also, we had kept the cost of the excursion down by having the entrance fee to the library waived because the group was to be made up mainly of students. However, even though this trip was aimed primarily at our Sunday School “middle and youth groups”, only 7 children were among the 30 who had registered. To those of you who had reserved their seats and were looking forward to the trip, our sincerest apologies.

Every culture and country has a set of folktales associated with it. We are planning an initiative around Parsi folktales. As you know, folktales are a part of the oral tradition of a people, and are usually tales circulated by word of mouth among the common folk. A folktale can be a myth, a fable, an epic, or an anecdote based on historical figures and events that has been retold for generations and is well known through repeated storytelling. Examples of folktales include tales of Puss in Boots, Rapunzel, Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, and our own “Mamai ni Musafir”. So if you have any Parsi or Zoroastrian tale told to you by your grandmother at bedtime or on rainy days, or something you have heard through the years, help us put these together before we lose them. You can write them out, or have a Library Committee member tape your narrative. Please come forward and contact me (jbmistry@yahoo.com; (281) 565-5577) if you have any stories or thoughts on this topic. Later, we can have an event planned around these folktales that we can all share with each other.

Just like the photo gallery of our ancestors we have displayed in the Library, this project will also preserve part of our culture and traditions.

**ZAH YOUTH GROUP REPORTS**
By Ziba Colah – Youth Historian

This month, our youth group has been learning about the meaning of prayers, and continuing to understand and apply the use of the three Zoroastrian Calendars. An on-going project is to discuss and celebrate each Ghambar which is going to continue all year long.

Although our volunteer project last month was cancelled, the Youth group had a blast designing and making posters for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. We spent over three hours decorating some lovely posters that passed on great messages and encouragements to the runners!

Finally, our youth group is working long and hard on the entertainment for our upcoming fundraiser – **HOLLYWOOD MEETS BOLLYWOOD Youth Extravaganza!!** With less than two months to go, we have been spending long hours singing, dancing and practicing, all so that our community can enjoy! Come support and join us on May 7th!

Other fundraisers we have been working on are going to be held the day of the ZAH Carnival. Arzin Italia has graciously donated us a gorgeous sari, which we are raffling off at $5 a ticket. All proceeds will go towards our 2011 World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Vancouver this summer. Also, on the day of the Carnival, we look forward to serving you, either at our annual youth table, filled with delicious foods, or near the entrance, by washing your car in our Youth Spring Car Wash! Make sure to come down and support our group!

***ATTACHED IS THE OFFICIAL “HW Meets BW” flyer… Check it out!***
NOROUZ CELEBRATIONS
Norouz, the moment when the sun crosses the equator and equalizes night and day, in other words spring equinox, arrived at 6:20:45 p.m. in Houston. The Zoroasthrian community in Houston, Texas, celebrated the advent of spring heralding a new year with great fanfare on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at the Zoroastrian Cultural and Heritage Center.

Hambandagi was, performed at the Center on March 21st evening. Hambandagi started with singing of selected Avesta fakras, followed by Din-no-Kalmo and Tandarosti led by Ervand Peshotan Unwalla ending with Munazat sung by Ervand Peshotan Unwalla. Even though it was a week-day, we had about 150 people and even more heartening was the fact that the parents had brought their young children. Er Bomanshaw Sanjana performed the machi after the Hambandagi.

The Norouz function on 27th was a resounding success. An amply supplied haftseen table beautifully laid out by Gitty Darayan and her team, in the atrium, greeted the guests before they proceeded to the main hall where tables of ten were laid out with humus amd red-pepper dip with pita bread and nuts. The 325 or so guests ate heartily as they watched the delightful entertainment program.

Vehishta Kaikobad’s Sunday School children were regally dressed, gave a beautiful haftseen performance to the lilting waltz of Strauss. Not to be outdone, seven youngsters enthralled the audience to a diva dance and tiny Jesil Bharucha did a magnificent solo to the music from an Indian movie. Our melodious four teenagers captivated us with a modern song-dance routine. Behzad Irani and his team sang soothing Iranian songs to the accompaniment of a santoor and a dombak.

The youth sold raffle tickets for a gara, proceeds of which will be used towards their trip to Vancouver for the World Youth Congress.

Dinner was announced after the entertainment concluded and the buffet lines moved fast through the scrumptious Iranian spread served with different types of kabobs, rice, dal, salad with a selection of vegetarian dishes followed by Baklava and Pistachio icecream

Young ladies took a survey sheet around. The Entertainment Committee wanted to get the feel for members’ preference for food so as to cater to the taste of our members for the future.

After dinner, our youth DJs in the making, Noshir Khumbatta and Viraf Nariman took over the evening with a footstomping line-up of music and the dancing continued till wee hours of the morning

The Entertainment Committee conveys their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the work put in by the numerous volunteers, youth as well as adults, towards making the function a success and enjoyable by all. It was very heartening to see our youth, who came forward in many numbers to help towards the function both before, during and after the event. Thank you very much!!

FEZANA ACADEMIC 2011-2012 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
This is a call for applications for the 2011-2012 FEZANA Academic Scholarship Program. Applications are invited for:

FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
THE FEZANA SCHOLAR
FEZANA 20TH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
BANOOBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA (BMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
THE KHORSHED PANTHAKY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Application forms available from the FEZANA website, http://www.fezana.org

Completed applications must be sent electronically to Dr. Dolly Dastoor, Chair FEZANA Scholarship Committee at the following address: academicscholarship@fezana.org

Application must be received no later than August 1, 2011
HISTORY ABOUT THE PAK IRANSHAH – THE HOLIEST OF HOLY FIRES

In the year 1297 AD, Gujarat was ruled by King Karan Vaghela, one of the descendants of King Jadav Rana. In the very same year, the Mughal ruler, Allaudin Khilji sent his army under the command of Altaf Khan to conquer Gujarat.

King Karan needed help. He sought the same from the Parsis who had settled there since 1233 AD in the village of Sanjan under the great king, Jadav Rana.

It was here that the Parsis decided to build the First ever Fire Temple of the Highest Graded Order, i.e., ATASHBEHRAM and dedicate it as a thanksgiving to the Supreme Lord, ‘Ahura Mazda’. The Fire was called IRANSHAH, giving it a kingly status and dedicating it to Iran, the country of Prophet Zarathustra’s birthplace. The fire so consecrated is kept burning and alive even to this day and is presently located at Udvada, about 60 kms from Bordi in Gujarat.

To get back to the story of Bahrot Hills. A brave Parsi commander named Ardeshir Babekan responded to the call of King Karan. Ardeshir created his own battalion of 1400 soldiers and fought a brave battle and won against Altaf Khan. However Altaf Khan renewed his forces, mustered a large battalion of 5,000 soldiers and attacked again.

Ardeshir then went straight to the Fire Temple and invoked Ahura Mazda’s guidance and blessings.

Legend has it that whilst praying, he fell into a trance and an YAZAD (Angel) told him that in the event of danger, the Holy Fire must be shifted to the caves in the Bahrot Hills and also guided him to it. Ardeshir at once reported the incident to the High Priest Dastoor Dinyar and to his brave son Shapur. He instructed Shapur that in the event of his defeat, all Zoroastrians at Sanjan along with the Holy Fire be shifted to Bahrot.

Ardeshir was defeated and killed in the battle that ensued. Shapur his brave son did as his father had bid him to do. The Holy Fire was then properly ensconced in one of the three caves and guarded. For 12 years among many intrusions the Holy Fire was kept in the caves and looked after. When peace reigned again, the Holy Fire was then shifted to Vansda near Valsad and later to Navsari in 1419. It remained in Navsari for almost 300 years and for a short period was shifted to Surat before being brought back to Navsari. Finally in 1742 AD, it was installed in Udvada. To this day the Holy Fire is alive and burning as the Highest Grade of Consecrated Fire in the World.

THANK YOU DR. WANIA

Last December, I had to go into emergency care and was rushed to West Houston Hospital. Although Dr. Darius Wania is not my regular doctor, he visited me daily and spent time with me every day, explaining what was being done/what needed to be done. I am really thankful to him for the care and dedication with which he worked. While talking to other community members, I find that he has also helped many of our community members. I would like to publicly thank Dr. Darius Wania for all that he did for me. May Ahura Mazda’s blessings be on him always.

From:
Noshir Sidhwa

KUSTIS FOR SALE

Kustis for Sale
we have kustis of 3 sizes - 4-1/2, 5 and 5-1/2 at $20. These have been donated and the proceeds will go to ZAH. For details please call Hoshang Sethna 281-499-1832 or e-mail hsethna@comcast.net

ACHIEVEMENTS

Nerius Mehta’s painting of George Washington got selected from his school to be displayed at the Museum of Natural Science in Sugarland.

According to Nerius’ mother, Nerius’ potential in art has developed as a result of his attendance to Vehishta’s Friday Enrichment Class. Any Zoroastrian child (age 7 and up) who is interested is welcome to attend these sessions free of cost. They get an exposure to art, literature and culture in a fun way. Teenagers and adults are also welcome to inquire.

Congratulations Nerius !! You make us proud !!
Gohar Firozgary gets second place in two running events in March: The Memorial Hermann Half Marathon & Methodist Hospital Stride for Stroke 5K Run. 
Gohar gets a second place in her age group, 20-24, in these two running events, The Annual Memorial Hermann Half Marathon on Sunday March 27, 2011, Sugar Land Town Center; and the Methodist Hospital Stride for Stroke 5K run, Rice University, Saturday March 5, 2011. For timing and other details visit the websites below:
http://results.active.com/pages/displayNonGru.jsp?orgID=234636&rsID=107270
http://eztoregister.com/assets/Stroke11.HTM#16

Congratulations Gohar!! You make us proud!!

WEDDING BELLS
Wedding Bells rang for Michelle Berana daughter of Eddie and Sherry Berana to Robert Heider on March 19th, 2011 at Sweetwater Country Club in Sugar Land, TX

Sherry and Eddie Berana express their sincere thanks to all the guests for coming and sharing this very special celebration with us, and for all the good wishes and generous gifts.

Manashni and its readers send their heartiest congratulations to the newly weds

BIRTH
Avan and Jehangir Shroff are proud grandparents – Kamran at 7 lbs 12 oz, 20 1/2 inches tall...Junior Football Player...was born on 17th February, 2011 at 7:26 AM Houston Central Time – God’s gift to Aseena & Damon and a new brother to Ashdin.

Manashni and its readers send their heartiest congratulations to the proud parents, grandparents and family!!
ZAH LIBRARY PROUDLY ANNOUNCES

Book Reading and Signing of

SUITS: A Woman on Wall Street

Author Nina Godiwalla discusses her experiences as a young driven woman entering the elite financial world of investment banking in New York City. Her book offers a behind-the-scenes look at the recklessness and competitive culture that rules Wall Street’s male dominated world.

Godiwalla explores the challenges she faced as an Asian-American woman, and how she reconciled her need for success in the high-stress investment banking world with her parents’ expectations.

Critic’s Comments:

- “Heartwarming, heart-breaking and hilarious”
- “A gripping read”
- “Vibrant snapshot of an immigrant family with big dreams”

Buy a copy of Nina’s book from a local bookstore or from AMAZON.COM and bring it with you for the book signing.

Don’t miss this unique opportunity to acknowledge and honor a talented youngster of our community.

Friday, April 8th, 2011
7:00 PM
at
Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center
8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071
Wine and cheese will be served.
You will be enlightened and entertained!
CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 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!!

GIFT CERTIFICATE WALK, LIMBO ROCK, EGG HUNT, PINATA AND OTHER FUN GAMES IN THE ATRIUM. BUY BEAUTIFUL CRAFT ITEMS MADE BY OUR OWN CHILDREN. AND, OF COURSE, BINGO!!!

NICE PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS DONATED BY OUR MEMBERS

BUY CURRY MASALA, CHICKEN TIKKA, BHEL POORI, DAHI POTATO POORI, DHANSAK, CURRY RICE, POORI POTATO, HALEEM, MEAT AND CHICKEN SANDWICHES, PIZZA, CUP CAKES, LAGAN CUSTARD, FALOODA, SWEET DAHI, CALINGAR JUICE, SWEET DAHI AND MORE.

Surprise dishes at our rental tables. Also yummy dal poli, batasas, bhaakhras, pickles, chutnies, mukhwas, craft, recipe books, etc.

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:
– Lyla Daroga and Vehishta Kaikobad for games in the atrium and to donate gift items
– Nargis Cooper for games in the Hall;
– Yasmin Medhora for food and rental tables
– Tenaz Sunavala for Youth activities.

Donations are always welcome

See ya’ll there!!
Hollywood Meets Bollywood

A Youth Group Fundraiser Extravaganza!

Mouth-watering cuisine!

Live Entertainment!

Comedy Sketches!

Musical Performances!

Don't miss out on this fun-filled event!

May 7, 2011
At the ZAH Center. The fun starts at 8:00PM!

Prices Before May 1st:
- Adults: $20
- Twelve & Under: $10
- Kids under 3 free

After May 1st:
- Adults: $25
- Twelve & Under: $15
- Kids under 3 free

Walk-in Prices:
- Adults: $30
- Twelve & Under: $15
- Kids under 3 free

Reserve a VIP table for ten for $500!
Best seats in the house!

To RSVP, please contact:
ZAHYouthGroup@gmail.com

Or call:
Viraf Nariman: 713-679-4079
Shayan Bhatti: 281-224-8555

Please mail checks (made out to Z.A.H.) to Shayan Bhatti:
16810 Logana Springs Dr.
Houston, TX 77095

Please send in all checks before May 1st.