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: February 13, 2011

Children’s Session: This month the “Let’s Learn Gujarati Together” session will start at 11 am and will include a recap of prior year and start with the “Gujarati Alphabet”.

Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am. We will have a mock Navjote ceremony. Children are encouraged to wear their Navjote clothes: dugli for boys and Navjote dress or sari for girls. Each child is encouraged to bring a flower so that we can make a bouquet.

Volunteer parents are reminded to bring Ravo, patlo, ses and chalk, and camera for videotaping.

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 you 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

Saturday, January 29th, 6.30 pm – Jash-ne-Sadeh Festival. Event is open to all Zarathushtis. No RSVP required. ZAH gratefully acknowledges the Irani Zarathushtis for their contribution towards this function. Donations of any amount welcome

Saturday, February 5th – Bollywood Night – Youth Group Event. More details coming soon

Saturday, February 27th – Library Event. More details coming soon

MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOLDEN GROUP</th>
<th>Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</td>
<td>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 <a href="mailto:aban@coatingindustries.com">aban@coatingindustries.com</a></td>
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REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT
by Jangoo Mistry

During the NAZC 2010, speakers and key FEZANA dignitaries were escorted to the ZAH Library. The visitors were very impressed with the facility, the setup of the library, and the collection we have assembled.

Dr. Pallan Ichaporia, an Avesta/Pahlavi scholar, and one of the presenters at the North American Congress in December, has bestowed parts of a digitized copy of the most ancient manuscript of the Yasna (with Pahlavi commentary) in existence today. Additional content totaling some 800 pages, will also be added to the FIRES collection, as it is digitized.

Arish Rustomji has donated a Sony Viao laptop to the Library that can be used in conjunction with the TV during presentations. Ervad Soli Dastoor of Florida has donated several expensive books that will enhance our collection. The PARZOR Foundation has donated coins that add to the collection of artifacts in our Library. As always, we are very grateful to all our benefactors for supporting our efforts through their contributions.

On Sunday, February 27, the ZAH Library is bringing Armaiti May for a presentation on “Vegetarianism in Zoroastrianism”. In addition to the health and environmental advantages of a plant-based diet, and animal issues that support vegetarianism, Armaiti will bring together passages in our Zoroastrian scriptures and heritage that support a vegetarian diet. Details for the event are being finalized and will be published shortly.

Another exciting Library event is coming your way. The ZAH Library is planning a one-day bus trip to the George W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station sometime in April. Look for more details in future issues of Manashni.

If you haven’t done it yet, check out the wall between the entrances to the Library next time you are at the Center. It has been repainted and now displays pictures of our ancestors in traditional garb that were submitted by members of our community. Everyone who has seen the “picture wall” has commented very favorably on the display.

ZAH YOUTH GROUP REPORTS
By Rayomand Katrak – Youth Treasurer

The Youth Group continues to be an active part in their community. We plan to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity for the second time, participate in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, and the ‘Keep Sugar Land Beautiful’ Trash-off. At our very own Center, we cleaned up our Youth room and painted a white board on one of the walls to make our learning easier and more fun for future Youth members! In addition, a big thanks to our President Fram Haveliwala and his dad, Sheroy Haveliwala for beautifully upgrading our “new” room and making it look spectacular. On another note, we held a food/clothing drive for the East Humans Need Ministry and Star of Hope which was a big success; thank you to all those who donated.

We also continue to hold fundraisers for the Youth Congress in Vancouver, Canada that will occur this summer. During the 2010 NAZC, Avan Bhathena generously donated three of her gorgeous paintings to our Youth to raffle off. Congratulations to our three painting winners:

- Yasmin Haveliwala - #1 Hydrangea
- Rustum Challa - #2 Farohar
- Diana Katgara - #3 Divine Flame

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and supported our Youth Group!
***By purchasing a painting from Artbyavan.com before March 31, 2011, Avan aunty has graciously decided to donate 35% of the profit back to the Youth towards our Vancouver congress fund.*** Furthermore, any donation amounts given to our Youth group towards the North American Youth Congress in Vancouver would be greatly
Fifteenth North American Zarathushti Congress Pledges to Preserve the Past, Protect the Present and Perfect the Future!

December 29-31, 2010, The Intercontinental Hotel, Houston, TX: Over 550 delegates from the US and Canada attended the 15th North American Zarathushti Congress held in Houston. The Congress was hosted by the thriving Houston Zoroastrian community. Aptly, the theme of this Congress was “Preserve the Past, Protect the Present, and Perfect the Future.” In the words of NAZC 2010 Chair, Jasmine Mistry: “With a diverse group of speakers, performers, and participants between the ages of two and eighty-five, we were definitely able to convey this theme via a grand opening ceremony and Jashan (prayer ceremony) conducted by nineteen priests, informative and well-balanced sessions, and entertainment for all ages”.

Mayor Anise D. Parker proclaimed December 29-31, 2010 Zoroastrian Days in Houston. The opening ceremony captivated the audience with a performance of The Silk Road, conceived by Vehishta Kaikobad.

The Keynote Speakers, Dr Niaz Kasravi (Zoroastrianism of the Future: Preserve, Protect, Perfect and Progress), Dr. Jamshedd Choksey (Zoroastrians in Current Day Iran), and Dr. Rashna Writer (Zoroastrians in the Diaspora: The Challenge to Remain Distinguishable, be it in Lydia, India or the USA) captivated the audience on each of the three days respectively. Side sessions included Dr. Niloufer Ichaporia-King (Parsi & Food: The Enduring Connection), Chef Jehangir Mehta (Past Influencing the Present), Dan Sheffield (Contesting Calendars, Connecting Communities), Meher Noshirwani (The PARZOR Project), Dr. Homi Dhalla (My Contribution to Zarathushti Culture and Interfaith Movement), Nerina Rustomji (How to be a Family Historian), Fariborz Shahzadi (Iranian Zarathushti Identity in the Western World), Sarosh Maneckshaw (Parsi Identity...Lost?), Dr. Saroja Voruganti (Genetic Studies of Texas Parsis), Shirin Abadi (Cancer & You), Dinyar Patel (Preserving our Heritage & Community), and culminated with Dr. Farrokh Mistree (Gaining Ground from Past Experiences).

The youth prevailed at the Congress. The youth sessions, “Towers of Success”, “Youth Career Connect”, and an “Inter-Generational Dialogue”, were dominated by dynamic panelists who inspired the youth and discussed their callings in life, their struggles, and their experiences, with a spark that all of the attendees in the room. Young Mitra Khumbatta was the winner of the ZAH Shahnameh essay contest and talked about how the text, the Epic of Kings, took Firdausi almost twenty years to write.

To educate and entertain the tiny tots, a mini congress was co-ordinated by the Zoroastrian Association of Houston’s (ZAH) very own Elementary Sunday School teacher Ms. Vehishta Kaikobad. It provided a wonderful opportunity for children of the adult congress attendees to learn about the Zarathushti faith.

All of the speakers at the Congress were from diverse backgrounds and spoke on topics that were rich in variety and content. They featured time-honored values, the innovative spirit of entrepreneurship, and the progressive outlook that the Zoroastrian community is known for all around the world. For a detailed record of the Congress and its speakers, please visit http://zah.org/nazc-10.

Winners of the 2010 North American Zarathushti Community Awards, sponsored by FEZANA, were: Dinyar P. Patel, Harvard University, (Shirin Dastoor Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award), Kayhan N. Irani, (Dinshaw Joshi Excellence in Performing Arts, Painting or Literature Award), Dr Noshir Langrana, (Excellence in Business or Profession Award), Farookh Nadaran, (Jamshed Pavri Humanitarian Service Award) and Ervad (Dr.) Soli Dastur, (Rohinton Rivetna Outstanding Zarathushti Award).

One of the highlights of the Exhibit room, put together by Meher Rustomji, Villi Bhappu and Behroze Daruwalla. Displays of old Zoroastrian heritage shed light into Zarathushti culture and heritage.

Other highlights of the Congress included:
• A pre-Congress social for the youth held at nightclub owner Aaresh Jamshedji’s trendy Signature lounge.
• The newly-formed ZAH choir was directed by Nozer Buchia and sang a number of beautiful original songs, including “Heal the World” and “We Are Zarathushtris”.
• Farobag Homi Cooper conducted the World Zarathushti Symphony Orchestra, which included several local musicians, as well as Zarathushti members, starting with a stirring rendition of the US National Anthem. A special treat was the original composition of a Zarathushti Yasna set to music, and ended with the audience proudly singing “Chaiye Home Zarathushtri”.
• A frenzied pace was set by Arzan Gonda, of the Rhythm India dance studio, presenting several performances with a mixture of old and young dancers.
• The music of Generation I, a local Zarathushti band of seven Zarathushtis from the Houston Metropolitan area.

appreciated and put to excellent use. This year’s Youth is working very hard to raise funds and we hope to receive support from our great community in upcoming fundraisers.

As always, we continue to learn about our religion by our teachers Sarosh Uncle, Hoshang Uncle and Zal Sethna and continuously receive generous help and support from our three mentors: Behroze Aunty, Tanaz Aunty, and Jenisteen Davier. I hope that this New Year will be more successful and fun than last years; we definitely hope to make it one.
- A traditional Parsee “natak” (play), “Vari Banna Pachhal Thi”, written and directed by Nozer Buchia, which was met with thunderous applause
- The music of Adi Tamboli, which allowed the audience to try out their own vocal skills.
- Piano prodigy Neville Bharucha from Bangalore, who enthralled the audience at the keyboard with his own composition, “Christmas Bells”, as well as several of his favourite pieces.
- Duelling Drums was a piece presented by ZAH’s very own young drummers, Viraf Nariman and Darius Tamboli.

The 3 day Congress culminated with a grand New Year’s Eve ball, with singing and dancing lasting into the wee hours of the first day of the new year.

Thanks to all our volunteers for working tirelessly to make this Congress a success. It is obvious that you had as much fun working for it, as the attendees!

MISCELLANEOUS

BAPSI SIDHWAL HONORED

DALLAS: Bapsi Sidhwa was honoured by the Central Asia Institute (CAI) at a gala fundraiser in Dallas on November 13. Sidhwa was awarded the 2010 Spirit Lifetime Achievement Award by the CAI founded by Greg Mortenson. The gala took place at the Dallas Hilton Anatole.

The CAI is an American organisation dedicated to uplifting the people in the remote northern areas of Pakistan and building schools there, especially for girls. During an unsuccessful attempt by Mortensen to climb K2, he was rescued by some villagers and afterwards he dedicated himself to do what he could for the tribesmen living in that area. His best-selling book ‘Three Cups of Tea’ has chronicled his life and his efforts for the welfare of the tribesmen.

The guests were welcomed by Sadia Ashraf, the outreach coordinator for CAI, who also gave a moving account of the devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan.

The ceremony was compered by TV and film actor Michael Rady. Award winning actress Geena Davis gave a special address, followed by a talk by TV actor Danny Pudi.

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Shopping or searching through iGive.com means a donation for FEZANA at no extra cost to you. A penny or more per search, a $5 bonus for your first purchase and up to 26% of your purchases at over 730 stores like Amazon, eBay, Travelocity, Home Depot, and many many more. Plus, you SAVE money with exclusive coupons/free shipping deals.

All you need to do is (1) go to www.iGive.com; (2) select FEZANA as your Cause; (3) register yourself; (4) select your favorite stores; and (5) shop or search for what you need.

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MORE GRADUATES

Malcolm Irani graduated from UT Austin with a Bachelors of Arts in Biology.

Darius Meher-Homji graduated from UT Austin from the College of Communication with a degree in Advertising.

Zubin Bhandara graduated with BS in Computer Science from University of Houston, Victoria.
Congratulations to the graduates. You make us proud !!

BIRTH

Baby girl, Sophia Danielle was born to Danny and Alfiya Spencer on December 15, 2010 at 3.30 a.m.

Congratulations to Danny and Alfiya on the new addition to their family

OBITUARY

Mehernosh Barjorji Dastur, husband of Nargesh M. Dastur, father of Banoo A. Makoojina and Barjor M. Dastur, father-in-law of Adil R. Makoojina and Khursheed B. Dastur, grandfather of Rustom A. Makoojina and Mahtab and Darius B. Dastur, passed away in Mumbai on 25th December 2010. All prayers are being performed in India.

Manashni and its readers send their heartfelt condolences to the Dastur and the Makoojina families

Darius Maneckji, brother of Zarina Elavia, passed away in Mumbai on December 26, 2010. All prayer ceremonies were performed in Mumbai.

Manashni and its readers send their heartfelt condolences to Zarina.
Jashne-Sadeh 2011
Saturday January 29, 2011

Prayers start at 6:30 PM
Location: ZHCC – 8787 W Airport Blvd., Houston

- Iranian, Western & Indian music provided by ZAH DJ
- Aush, sorogho with lork shall be served

This event is open to all Zarathushtis
No RSVP Required

ZAH gratefully acknowledges the Irani Zarathushtis for their contribution towards this function.

Donations of any amount welcomed