SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071   Tel: 713-270-9339
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
DATE: July 10, 2011

Children’s Session: This month the “Let’s Learn Gujarati Together” session will start at 11 am and we will continue with the "Gujarati Alphabet". Please bring at least one item each, beginning with Ga and Gha for the show and tell. **Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am.** This month, the children will make “Kaviani Jhando” – the Kaviani Flag - and after completion, the children will march in a parade, waving the flag while the parents, grand parents, family and friends watch. Don’t miss this opportunity of learning about the history of the flag.

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 Vice President

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, August 7th 2011 (tentative) - Indoor Sports Day**
**Friday, August 19 – Shahenshahi Navroze Humbandagi. Details coming soon**
**Saturday, August 20 – Shahenshahi Navroze Function**
**Sunday, November 6th 2011 - Annual Cricket Day (including families)**

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

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Talk by Porus Dadabhoy of Chicago:**
ZAH took the opportunity of Mr Porus Dadabhoy’s visit to Houston for a talk by him following the gahambar lunch on Sunday, June 05, 2011. Porus, with many qualifications under his belt, including chemistry, chemical engineering, packing engineering and much more, projected his vision of a developed people, free of poverty, ignorance, diseases, socioeconomic disparities, ecological disasters and social disharmony in his 30 minute talk
“Think Locally, Act Globally”. The heavy gahambar lunch took its toll, but the small audience were kept wide awake on what Porus had to say.

The day earlier, Porus, who is the President of India Development Coalition of America, gave yet another enlightening talk at the First South Regional Conference at India House, Houston.

**Cricket and More:**
The cricket aficionados among our members, after having witnessed seven to eight matches of the 2011 World Cup live on screen at our Center at the unearthly hours of 3:00 a.m., once again gathered to see the last few matches of the Indian Premier League Cricket Tournament. Among the boisterous group of young and not that young males, including our EC Chairman, JR, was a brave lady, Mrs Nariman, mother of Kushrav, lumping it all calmly. The highlight of the morning was not the innumerable sixers in the match but the array of aromatic food brought by one and all: masala chicken, tumtumto kheemo, kababs, patties, do-nuts, kolaches, downed with cold beer made it a morning to remember.

Sensing the keen interest among our members, the EC at their June 12 meeting formed a Sports Committee for outdoor and indoor games, the coordinator being Kayo Sidhwa. Members interested in holding games should get in touch with him.

**LIBRARY REPORT**
By Jangoo Mistry

Dr. Stanley Insler, Professor at Yale University, has agreed to come to Houston for the ZAH Library’s annual gala function during the weekend of October 22 – 23. We are delighted that we have managed to secure such a world-renowned scholar on the Gathas to share his knowledge with us. This will be an event not to be missed, so please put it on your calendars from now, and look for further details in future issues of Manashni.

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.

**Youth Report – July 2011**
By Vice President, Viraf Nariman

This month we have been making our final preparations for the youth congress in Vancouver.

Sarosh Uncle taught us the meaning behind our Kushti prayers during this month’s Sunday School, but our main focus has been on fundraising for the congress. All of the money raised from our car washes, raffles, and the “Hollywood meets Bollywood” night have been used to help send 30 kids and 3 adults to Canada on June 30.

As a group, we want to thank all the people that helped us raise money for Vancouver and made our Hollywood meets Bollywood fundraiser the most successful in Youth Group history.

**BUILDING MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

**Prayer Room:**
Thanks to the generosity of a couple who wish to remain anonymous, padded benches were added to the Prayer Room in June. Our thanks go also to Yezdi Engineer for designing and constructing the benches.

**Side Entrance:**
The kitchen-side entrance to our Center now has a new look. Our thanks to the Mehta Fund for making it possible and also for the two food warmer cabinets which have proved to be very useful at our functions in providing hot food.

**SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Our first indoor sporting activities and events day will be held at ZAH which will include Carom, Chess, Majong and other indoor games. Get ready to show your skills and match your talents. A tentative date of Sunday, August 7 has been scheduled. As soon as this date is confirmed, the members will be advised of the details.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**ZAGNY NEEDS OUR SUPPORT**

In December 2010, ZAH passed the torch to Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) for the 16th North American Zoroastrian Congress to be held in August 2012. As one of the major fundraising efforts, on September 17 and 18, 2011 ZAGNY is presenting a hilarious Parsi Gujarati Natak *Sasoo No Suntap*, produced and acted by the acclaimed Toronto Parsi Drama Group. They are expecting 1700 attendees from New York/New Jersey area.

The two-day natak presents a great advertising opportunity. Advertising rates – black and white only.

- $500 for the Back Cover
- $300 for the Back Inside OR Front Inside Cover
- $200 Full page
- $120 for Half page
- $60 for Quarter page

Material to be submitted in PDF format, Resolution 300.

Trim Size – Full page: 5.5” X 8.5”. Half Page: 5.5” X 4.25”. Quarter Page: 2.75” X 4.25”

Type and important subject matter should be kept at least ¼” from trim. All 1/8” for bleed

For more information, contact Homi Gandhi at homidgandhi@gmail.com

**ZAH PICNIC- JUNE 19th, 2011**

The ZAH community enjoyed a picnic at Brazos Bend State Park on June 19th, 2011. Members and guests came along with children and pets to have a fun day outdoors. The potluck was a success with everyone bringing a delicious dish to share, which was complimented with the cool watermelons, drinks and popsicles provided in the picnic pavilion which was rented by ZAH. During the course of the day, attendees enjoyed listening to music, walks, pinãta, fishing and other fun activities. Your Entertainment Committee is resuming this event to be held on an annual basis and looks forward to you and your guests attending in 2012!!

**INDIAN CONSULATE RULE**

Excerpted from an article by Homi D Gandhi
FFEZANA Main Representative to the UN in consultation with DPI and ECOSOC

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has issued a circular to all Indian Missions/Posts as follows:

(i) Registration of surrender certificate: Since visa and other applicants (for consular services) of Indian origin are being put to discomfort by the request for surrender certificate every time they seek a service, all Missions/Posts have been advised to register the surrender certificate, electronically or otherwise, at the first occasion it is presented. Such a record will ensure that PIOs will no longer be required to produce the certificate on every occasion of approaching the Mission/Post for consular assistance.

(ii) ‘Deemed surrender’ cases: In order to deal with instances where a Person of Indian Origin was in possession of an Indian passport that expired more than 10 years ago, and where in the intervening period, he/she has acquired foreign citizenship, all Missions/Posts have been advised to treat such cases as ‘Deemed surrender.’ On the production of documents showing the acquisition of foreign nationality more than 10 years
ago, such persons will be issued ‘deemed surrender’ certificates, without causing the additional burden of producing passports which may not be in the possession of the Person of Indian Origin.'

MORE GRADUATES

College

Roxanne Mody graduated from UT Austin with a bachelor's degree in Bio medical Engineering. She starts medical school at UT Houston this August

*Manashni and its readers extend their Heartiest Congratulations to Roxanne and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors. You make us proud!!*

ZAH DIRECTORY

New 2011 ZAH directory is in the works with a target distribution date at Shehanshahi Navroze function. To make this a self funded project, ZAH would greatly appreciate your support for a page of advertisement/greeting from you and your family. Below are the rates for the ads. Anyone wishing to volunteer for obtaining ads, may please respond to asethna@comcast.net

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>HALF PAGE B &amp;W</td>
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With your membership checks, we have received your information to be included in the directory. However, if you have not paid your membership dues but would still like to be included in the book, please complete the attached form and either e-mail it to asethna@comcast.net or mail to 8787 W. Airport Blvd, Houston, TX 77071.

The Executive Committee has decided that each paid up membership will get one complimentary copy. Extra copies to be sold for $5.00 each. Non-members will not get a complimentary copy, but can buy at $5.00 each.

NEW BUSINESS

Adil (Al) Balsara, a long time ZAH Member has started a new business *Omega Photography.* Al offers his services for:

NAVJOTES
ENGAGEMENTS
WEDDINGS
PRIVATE PARTIES
SPECIAL OCCASIONS
PORTRAITS *(Coming soon)*

To discuss an event, please contact

*Al Balsara*

*Omega Photography*

2630 Kismet Lane
Houston, Texas. 77043

Tel: (713) 962-5124
MANA OF ANGELS – THE RECIPE BOOK BY KZBM

The much-acclaimed Recipe Book published under the auspices of the Karachi Zarithostti Banoo Mandal (KZBM) has now been reprinted and is for sale for $30.00. Limited number is available from Arnavaz Sethna. Please call in your order to Arnavaz at 281-499-1832 or e-mail her at asethna@comcast.net. All proceeds go to KZBM. KZBM is a philanthropic organization in Karachi, Pakistan and has helped a many Zarathushtis over the past few decades.

NAVJOTE MUBARAK

Roxanna and Isabelle Irani, daughters of Drs. Adel and Natasha Irani, grandchildren of Dr. Katie Irani of Houston, TX and Dr. Dolly Dastoor of Montreal, Canada and Dr. Phiroz N Dastoor of Toronto, Canada had their Navjote performed on June 18, 2011. Ervads Shapur Pavri and Zubin Dastoor performed the ceremony. Family members and guests came from across the US, Canada, Singapore and from India for the event.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS/ARRIVALS

Fali and Irene Captain moved to Houston from Calcutta, India in May of this year. They reside at:

5413 Loch Lomond Drive
Houston, Texas 77096
(713) 726-8598

Kurush and Kashmira Aga with their two children, Parinaz and Arshan have relocated from Cincinnati, OH. Their address is:

3211 Matisse
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Tel: 513-767-6247 - Kurush
Tel: 513-884-4491
e-mail: kashmr10@gmail.com

Adil and Cashmira Irani with their two children Rustom and Charlene have relocated from Florida. Their address is:

100 West Texas Ave, Apt # 117
Webster, TX 77598
Tel: 727-450-9509
e-mail: cairani@gmail.com

MANASHNI and its readers extend a warm Texas-style welcome to the new families.
THE FIRST VENDIDAD SADE AND BAJ IN NA AT A DAR-E-MEHER INAUGURATION, AND ENTHRONEMENT OF DADGAH IN THE ZANT BRAND NEW BUILT FROM SCRATCH ZCNT (ZOROASTRIAN CENTER OF NORTH TEXAS) APRIL 29-30 2011!

By Solida Dastur

Background

At the FEZANA AGM in Dallas in 2007, I first saw the dreams and plans of ZANT (Zoroastrian Association of North Texas) for building a brand new Dar-e-Meher in their Zoroastrian Center of North Texas (ZCNT) in Dallas. And I instantly made a pledge that I will be there to celebrate their Center’s opening! And with the grace of Ahura Mazda and with the blessings of Pak Iranshah, Jo Ann and I were so fortunate to attend this inauguration with the prayers of the Vendidad Sade and Baj performed the first time in a NA Dar-e-Meher inauguration!

Over the years, I have been in contact with Firdosh Mehta and my good fellow Mobed friend Ervad Poras Balsara as regards their Dar-e-Meher installation, what prayers to perform, etc. We contacted Dasturji Feroze Kotwal, Ervad Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia, London ZTFE President Malcolm Deboo and my fellow Mobed Rustom Bhdewar of ZTFE, and others to learn from their experiences and to seek advice and guidance for these ceremonies!

After a number of false starts, I received an email from Poras in Mumbai that the inauguration is finally set to be on April 28th Friday morning with the Vendidad Sade prayers starting after the mid-night, followed by a Baj next day in the morning and the inauguration Jashan and Dadgah installation in the afternoon. I had to change my plans to arrive in Sarasota on Tuesday 26th from Mumbai and to Dallas the next day! So, here we were at the center on Wednesday helping out with the next day prayers.

Vendidad Sade Prayers

The first ever Vendidad prayers were performed by Mobed Poras Balsara, Mobed Yazdi Dastur, grandson of late Vada Dasturji Ferozeji Dastoor of Udwada, both from Dallas and me. We started the prayers around 12:20 AM with the participation of about 35 local ZANT members and were very happy and relieved to complete all the 22 Fargarads of Vendidad by 6:10 AM! About 25 ZANT members were still there to see the completion.

It was the first Vendidad Sade by me after some 60 years when I became Martab in Pak Iranshah! I prepared for this by going over the prayers in Udwada, as well as at over 30,000 ft. in the planes coming from Mumbai! A great way to be closer to Ahura Mazda!

Baj Prayer of Sarosh Yazad

In the morning of Saturday April 30th, we started the Sarosh Baj prayers, performed by me. The first ever Baj ceremony may have been performed by my brother Mobed Palanji P. Dastoor, Panthaki of JD Colaba Agiary in Mumbai, in May 1986 in the home of Roshan and Pervaze Rabadi in Toronto at the occasion of Varadh Pattar for their son Neville’s wedding. Also, Mobed Gustad Panthaki has performed Baj ceremony in OZCF Dar-e-Meher during Muktad Days. However, this is the first time in NA that a Baj ceremony is performed for a new Dar-e-Meher inauguration! There were about 50 ZANT members to witness this ceremony.

Inauguration Jashan

In the afternoon, at about 4:15 PM, under the leadership of Ervad Poras Balsara, the inauguration Jashan was performed with 6 other Mobeds: the youngest Ervad Burzin Balsara, son of Poras, Yazdi Dastur, Cyrus Dastur, Zubin Kotwal, Hormuzd Karkaria, and me. The Jashan was performed with 5 kardas.

Dadgah Investiture

After the Jashan, the fire in the Afargaanyu was led by the Mobeds in a solemn procession to the sanctum sanctorum and was transferred to the main Afargaanyu in the Dadgah. 6 sandalwood pieces were used for the first Maachi arranged over the transferred embers. Then all seven Mobeds participated in the first Boi ceremony
performed by Ervad Poras with the recitation of Atash Nyayesh, Doa Naam Setaayashne and Doa Tandoorasti! The first 3 peel of the bell created a magical moment with many a wet eyes in the prayer hall! The outside weather was cloudy throughout the Jashan ceremony but just about the time when the Mobeds were able to set the fire ablaze, the sun burst through with its wonderful golden rays right on the fire which created a surreal atmosphere to be remembered by all present! Someone up above was showering HIS blessings to this new wonderful Dadgah!

Almost 150 ZANT members attended the Jashan and the Dadgah Investiture as well as the dinner there after.

Personal Reflections

In our 45 years together, Jo Ann and I have been very fortunate to have uplifting moments in our lives! However, our participation in this inauguration and my personal involvement in all the prayers will always be with us as one of our most uplifting moments in our lives! We want to thank Dadar Ahura Mazda for allowing us to witness this as well as the whole ZANT community who has adopted us both as one of their own and we bow our heads to all of them in humility and gratitude for allowing us to be one of them! We pray that this center will bring this wonderful community together as one, for ever in HIS service and prosper and achieve all that they want to for their wonderful community and the ZCNT.

Final Prayer

In the last Para of Atash Nyayesh, “Upa-thwā hakhshoit geush vānthwa”, the fire blesses the devotee who brings an offering (sukhad, incense, etc.) to him.

“Unto thee (i.e. in thy family) may the flock of cattle increase - have ample means. Unto thee may there be an increase of heroic men (sons having heroic strength) – Blessed with many worthy sons! May thou have an active mind (may thou be clever and intellectual) – Endowed with active and alert mind! May thy life be active (may thou perform benevolent and virtuous deeds) – Spending the life for others! Mayest thou live a joyous life – Enjoying life of larger interests! Those nights that thou livest. This is the blessing of the Fire (for him) who brings to that fire dry fuel! ”

May these blessings of the ZANT Dadgah Fire be bestowed upon all ZANT families and all the FEZANA families so that we all help to spread the knowledge of our beautiful religion among all our fellow Zoroastrians and to all with whom we come in contact!

Atha Jamyaat, Yatha Aafrinaami! (May it be so that I wish!).