Zoroastrian Association of Houston
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX  77071
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY IN PUBLISHING THE NOVEMBER MANASHNI

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071   Tel:  713-270-9339
TIME:  11:30 a.m.
DATE:  November 13, 2011

Children’s Session: Just for November, we will start with the Sunday School session followed by the Gujerati session.

You are cordially invited to the Creative Dance Class Holiday Recital “The Nutcracker” to be held at the Zoroastrian Center on Saturday Dec 3rd at 11:00 am. Refreshments to follow. If attending please RSVP to Vehishta at salveh@comcast.net or by phone 281-564-1148.

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, November 13 – Annual General Meeting

MEETINGS

<table>
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<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

ZAH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston was held on November 13, 2011. A detailed report will be published at a later date. The following were elected unopposed for the open positions.

Jehanbux Mehta - Member
Kamalrukh Gandhi - Member
Kayomarz Sidhwa – Treasurer
LIBRARY REPORT
By Jangoo Mistry

The ZAH Library hosted a very special event over the weekend of October 22 and 23. We had with us a world-renowned scholar and authority on the Gathas, Dr. Stanley Insler, for a presentation and discussion on a topic that is so important for us. Dr. Insler, who is a retired Professor of Sanskrit and Philology at Yale University, has authored books and articles on the Vedas, the Avesta, and Sanskrit classical and epic poetry. His translation of the Gathas, entitled the *Gathas of Zarathustra: Text, Translation, Commentary*, is the foremost scholarly work on that subject.

Zarathustra’s despair about the then current state of affairs led him to question and seek enlightenment, and the Gathas are the poems that resulted from his conversation with God. Zarathustra’s gained insight – that for every good and positive thing in the world there is a counter negative evil force, and this leads to the continual battle between good and evil that we all face. The essence of the Gathas that emerges from the verses is a “philosophy of living”, and the free choice between truth and deception that each one of us has. However, unlike Moses, who forcefully laid down the laws of God, Zarathustra only hints at the path to truth.

For several hours on both days, we had a chance to share the learning of this recognized luminary in an informal setting, and ask questions on topics ranging from rituals (“the grammar of religion”) to abortions and the death penalty. Dr. Insler’s quiet, unassuming demeanor, his uncanny ability to express complicated thoughts in simple language, his widespread knowledge of religion, culture, linguistics, and history made for a truly unforgettable experience for those who attended the event.

New Additions
A delightful new addition to our Library collection is the book: “Laughter in the House: 20th-Century Parsi Theatre” by Meher Marfatia. Featuring masters of theatre like Adi Marzban and Pheroze Antia, and the cast and crew that brought these hilarious plays to life, the book is gorgeously illustrated by the famous award-winning Sooni Taraporevala. It even has a two-page spread featuring our very own talents Nozer and Persis Buchia whose work we have all enjoyed. If you have ever laughed at the slapstick comedy of yesteryears, this “unabashed journey of joy” dedicated to the community that knows how to laugh at itself will delight you. We are indebted to Gulu and Sarosh Manekshaw for bringing this book from Bombay and donating it to our library. It is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face!

Youth Report
By Zenia Sunavala (Z.A.H. Youth President)

In our October Sunday School session, Sarosh uncle and Kaemerz uncle enlightened us as to the meaning and power of prayers. It was a very interesting and inter-active session, enjoyed by all the youth. Thank you Kaemerz uncle for joining us and sharing your thoughts, we all appreciate it.

As one of our service projects, the youth have planned a “clean up” day on November 12th at the center. We will also be making posters for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer that day.

Since the lock-in that we hosted for the Dallas youth, during the Labor Day holiday, was such a success, they have invited our youth group to join them for a lock-in at their new center in Dallas. This lock-in has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday of the Thanksgiving holidays.

SPORTS REPORT
By Kayo Sidhwa

**ZAH Family Cricket Festival and Indoor Games Day – Nov 6th, 2011 - By ZAH Sports Committee**

Once again it was a great fun-filled day at ZAH and all had a great time at the Family Cricket Festival and Indoor Game Day on Sunday, Nov 6th. We started promptly at 10.30 a.m. with three teams (Red, Blue and Green) going head to head against each other. There were almost 45 active players in all (12 to 15 players a side) with a mix of women, men and children in a total crowd of 107 attendees.

The wicket (basketball court) was quick and the bowlers were lethal as the ball was zooming around at 3 to 5 miles an hour but our batsmen and batswomen were in an equally belligerent mood smashing the ball to all parts of the ground. None of the players / teams had the same colored clothing and on odd occasions a fielder of a team would bat in another team and vice versa but it was all in the right spirit. The temporary stands
(including a VIP stand for our high profile ladies) built by our own Aspi and Zubin Colah with some Donuts, Lemonade and colorful lawn chairs, added to the ambience.

We had a breather, after a match and a half were completed and had some sumptuous lunch prepared by Naushad Mehta and Rustom Setna which included Kheemo/Pav, Chicken and Veg. lunch boxes. Everyone was so enthused about getting back on the field that we didn’t have any siesta time after lunch.

The last match between the Red team and the Green team was as exciting as the first two but was abruptly interrupted in the middle of the game as some of our Zarathushti brothers left for Tea and Brownies (nothing comes between Zarathushtis and their tea). Play finally resumed and ended up in another nail biting finish. All matches were so close and performances so electrifying that the judges had a real hard time in deciding the winners in various categories. On a side note, an Indian and a Pakistani match fixing bookie were seen on the ground trying to entice our players but our ZAH anti-corruption team swooped in on them and sent them away.

After we were done with cricket, we introduced the old fashioned game of “nargolio” (seven-tiles). It was really old fashioned as the tile breaking skills of our ‘old timers’ left a lot to be desired. The game was enjoyed by all, especially our kids, once they understood it was perfectly legal to hit someone else with a tennis ball and win! Whilst the cricket matches were going on, we had some very enthused players on the Mahjong as well as Carrom Boards, Checkers and Whist Drive tables inside the center. The day ended with some worthy prize winners and some very appetizing dinner including Chicken Dhansak, Kababs and Kachumber followed by ice cream and more brownies.

The icing on the cake was the sublime weather, which helped some players go through the entire day without any problems although there were a lot of us who had very high questionable fitness levels. All in all, it was another great day of fun and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our EC members, all our donors, volunteers, committee members and their families and above all YOU, for making this another satisfying and memorable day for all. Suggestions/ideas for past and future sporting events are always welcome at zahsportscommittee@gmail.com

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<tr>
<th>PRIZE WINNERS:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Man of the Match – Jehangir Irani</td>
<td>Most Promising Youngster – Kyrus Buchia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Female Cricketer – Jasmine Mistry</td>
<td>Best Fielder – Yazad Sidhwa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Batsman – Shaki Commissariat</td>
<td>Best Bowler – Khoji Irani</td>
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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**A DANCE WITH MOP, BRUSH AND BROOM**

Contributed by: Jehanbux R. Mehta

It may have been performed before, I wouldn’t know by whom, but I had personally not seen it done, and that so well and productive to boot. Yes, it was gala day for a clean-up of our Center by twenty of the Youth Group on Saturday, November 12, 2011.

Quite honestly, after the disappointingly no show by our youth at the informative talks by Prof. Insler at our Center a couple of weeks earlier – talks which even I could follow easily - I had practically given up on this group, particularly when almost all of them having attended Sunday School sessions at our Center. Mincing no words, I was going to talk about this at the AGM, but lo and behold, they redeemed themselves just a day earlier.

It was a day of back-breaking work, coupled with delectation. Spearheaded by their newly elected President, Zenia Sunavala, twenty of her colleagues voluntarily gave of their time to thoroughly clean the Center. With a well prepared line up of tasks, the lads and lasses went to work. Floors were swept, then mopped, window panes were polished on both sides, blinds were dusted, the kitchen was scrubbed and appliances therein washed, the pantry was rearranged and all restrooms, including the toilets were turned sparklingly clean. The Youth Room underwent a transformation. All this with their own cleaning materials. Muscle power was applied by the more able in escorting the disabled heavy tables to the dumpster and many assisted in the annual recount of furniture, fixtures, equipment and appliances to bring our inventory of these items up to date.

What made the day one to remember is not just that so many were so diligent in their assigned tasks, but they went about it with song and dance. My short participation in the impromptu Mop Dance in the atrium was a
disaster; I landed with a sore back, unknown to Sillie who would have banished me to a dark room for venturing into such activity. But, to see everybody so happy at work was a delight. I slept well, without application of balm on my back.

It was a real pleasure to be with my young friends. We thank you. BMSC and the EC join me in saluting you all. May you always be blessed with the spirit of service. I would so very much like to write next on the huge participation of the Youth Group at the next Library Event. I know it is going to happen. I am optimistic.

SEWING/EMBROIDERY/CROCHET CLASS

The Sewing/Embroidery/Crochet class was not held this month as Nazneen Khumbatta was out of town. If you are interested in learning or have comments please contact Nazneen Khumbatta at nazneenkhumbatta@yahoo.com

THANKSGIVING

27th Annual Houston Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday, November 17th at the Rothko Chapel 1409 Sul Ross at Yupon Street. Nine faith traditions will offer prayers and reflections on the theme, “The Challenges of Science and Religion”. Reception to follow. All are invited. Information at 713-774-0097.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2012

The ZAH Entertainment Committee is in the process of preparing the calendar of events for year 2012. If anyone from the community is planning on organizing a community event, please do send in the details with the event dates (tentative or otherwise) to ZAHRSVP@yahoo.com email address by 15th November. This will help us avoid date conflicts on the calendar for next year. Any suggestions on the type of events that you would like to see are also most welcome. If you would like to be a part of the committee please let us know and we will gladly get you onboard!!

MANASHNI – PARTICIPATION FROM READERS

Manashni seeks ways to create more interest or looks for new ideas. When we first started in 1987, it was only a two-page document. The format changed to two columns, and sometimes graphics were added. Later we prepared it in “Publisher”, giving it a more professional look. A new header was added. We stopped mass-mailing and took advantage of the technology by uploading it to our website. And throughout all these cosmetic changes, we never lost sight of keeping the members informed of important events taking place in the community.

We would now like to hear from you. Write on issues about which you are passionate. But, we would like to lay down some ground rules before we start accepting articles or essays.

1. The Manashni Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or reject or may use its editorial privileges when an article is submitted
2. The Article needs to be researched if any facts are to be quoted and due credit given to the source.
3. The length should not exceed more than 700 words - we use Arial 10
4. Articles containing personal attacks will not be accepted

ZAKOI

Like other pockets of Zarathushtis in North America, Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky Ohio Indiana is planning to have a Zoroastrian Center in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana tristate area within the next few years. This Center will be the hub of our religious and cultural lives. It will serve as a space for having community and family functions; like gahambars, religious education, navjotes and weddings. The Center will also provide an anchor for our community’s youth to share social activities; as well as, for adults to meet regularly. It will be like a second home for our community. They have nation-wide for a request for donation.

For donations and additional information on our Proposed Zoroastrian Center please contact
In 2005, ZAKOI was officially registered as a non-profit organization with the State of Ohio; and received Section 501(c)(3) IRS exemption from Federal income taxes in 2007. The Zoroastrian community has grown steadily to about 50 Zoroastrian families, comprising 150 individuals.

MATCH MAKING

Aban Vazir from Toronto, Canada is providing a wonderful FREE Service to the young youths of our community and within a short span of time. She has a huge database of young Zarthushti boys and girls, seeking matrimony within our community. Many Zarathushti couples have already been married. If interested, please contact her directly at: aban_vazir@yahoo.ca

TRAVEL

Interested in travel to China? Here is a deal for you.

14 Day China Yangtze Special
Departs May 18, 2012
Escorted by Nilufer Mama with Air, Land, Hotel, Cruise and Meals
Early Booking Bonus! Shanghai Acrobatic Show tickets for bookings by Jan 20, 2012
All 5-star hotels & ship accommodations

For details, call Nilufer Mama at 416-962-2200 Ext 216 or e-mail at nilufer@milleniumtravel.ca

Toronto/Vancouver $3535
Land Only - Includes China domestic flights - $2899

IRANIAN ARTIFACTS

Shaheen and Mehrdad Mehrabanizadeh have donated some Iranian artifacts for sale. The entire proceeds will be donated to ZAH. Please call Arnavaz Sethna (281-499-1832) if you are interested.

MANA OF ANGELS – THE RECIPE BOOK BY KZBM

The much-acclaimed Recipe Book published under the auspices of the Karachi Zarathosti 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 many Zarathushtis over the past few decades.

OBITUARY

Naushir P. Daruwalla, father of Behroze Daruwalla, passed away Monday, October 17, 2011 in Mumbai. Naushir had been to Houston a few times and had made many friends. Behroze is in Mumbai and was with him till the end.

Purosshusp Kerawalla, husband of Viloo, father of Karl and Samara, father-in-law of Kywan Kerawalla and grandfather of Zivan Kerawalla, passed away Monday, November 7, 2011.

MANASHNI and its readers convey their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.