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 a.m.
DATE:  February 12, 2012

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 try and bring at least one item each, beginning with .Ta and .Tha for the show and tell. **Sunday school will begin promptly at 11.30 am.** Parents who would like their children (5 yrs and older) to participate in the Navroze function song and dance, please plan on staying back after Sunday School so that we can map out the song and dance.

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, 12th February, 11.15 am onwards – Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4.
Thursday, 16th February, 6.30 pm onwards – WZCC (Houston Chapter) Presents - 2012 Update on Changes in the Tax Laws. See attached flyer
Saturday, 25th February, 10 am to 4 pm – Library Event (NAMC Seminar). See attached flyer
Sunday, 4th March, 9.30 am onwards – ZAH Olympics. See attached flyer
Sunday, 11th March - Rumva Chaloji 1-2-3-4
Saturday, 17th March – Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-thon
21st March/Nowrooz day – Humbandagi
Saturday, 24th March – Nowrooz Function
Sunday, 8th April – ZAH Annual Carnival

MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOLDEN GROUP</th>
<th>Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (281) 304-6611</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT
By Jangoo Mistry

Mark your calendar for February 25, 2012
The ZAH Library Committee is proud to sponsor a day-long religion education seminar on Feb 25, 2012. The seminar is organized by the North American Mobeds Council with the theme, “Passage of Time and its Influence on Zarathushtrian Tradition”. The speakers are Ervad Jehan Bagli from Montreal, Ervad Cawas Desai from Philadelphia, Ervad Soli Dastur from Florida, and Ervad Gustad Panthaky from Maryland.

You may recall that we had sponsored the previous Lecture Series of the North American Mobeds Council (NAMC) in April 2009 and it was very well received. The four speakers were very well prepared, with PowerPoint presentations, and lots of pictures and slides. The audience showed its interest throughout the all-day session, with lots of questions for the speakers, and prevailed upon the speakers for a lively panel discussion at the end of the day with even more questions that lasted for another hour! This time around we also expect to present a very interesting and enjoyable program.

People from out of Houston are also planning to attend, so please mark this date on your calendar for a unique opportunity to learn from the masters. Further details are in the attached flyer. As always, please help us in organizing the event by sending your RSVP to Arnavaz Sethna before February 20.

The K. R. Cama Oriental Library in Bombay has gifted our FIRES collection with four books that will be cataloged and shelved. Our sincere thanks also to Pervin Sagar for donating six books to the ZAH Library. These are hard-to-get books that are mostly out of print. One of the books, published in 1937, has songs in Gujarati that are sung at Navjotes and weddings.

Slowly and surely, we are building up a unique collection that is the envy of other Associations in North America, and one that ZAH can be truly proud of.

**YOUTH REPORT**
By Rayomand Katrak

At our last Sunday School session we were led by Noshir and Kayomarz Uncle, as Sarosh Uncle was out of town. Together they taught us how we can tie the 7 Amesha Spentas into our own lives. We also learned how to incorporate the Amesha Spentas into our school projects and how they will help us excel at them, or whatever else we choose to do in life. I also gave a presentation on the Boi Ceremony and how it is significant to preserving our religion. With one month already behind us in the New Year, we hope to continue to strive forward and help our community out more than ever before!

**SPORTS REPORT**
By Kayo Sidhwa

**13th Zoroastrian Games, York University, Toronto, Canada – June 29 – July 3, 2012**

We have something very exciting and competitive coming up next year and we need to diligently and meticulously prepare for it. Zoroastrian athletes across North America, varying in all ages will be congregating in Toronto, Canada for the 13th Zoroastrian Games from June 29th through July 3rd 2012. The ZAH Sports Committee is coordinating this effort and would like to encourage all, especially our youth, to participate in these unique, one of a kind Games. We are trying to assess how many would be interested in participating so we can start planning for requirements, fundraising activities, logistics, etc. for the entire trip.

**DETAILS:**
- What: 13th Zoroastrian Games
- Where: Toronto, Canada
- When: 29 June to 3rd July, 2012
- Fees: Finalized charges are awaited from Organizers
- Events: Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Track, Basketball, Volleyball
- Visas: Visa requirements need to be checked per your passports from concerned authorities

**ACTION REQUESTED:**
If you are interested and available to participate please respond to the Sports Committee email box zahsportscommittee@gmail.com with your full name, contact details and the events you would be interested in, as soon as possible. The last date to respond would be February 28th 2012 so please hurry and send in your interests before it’s too late.

Percy Behramsha percymb@sbcglobal.net will co-ordinate and liaise all activities related to the 13th Zoroastrian Games with the organizers going forward on behalf of the ZAH Sports Committee.

As you all may remember our ZAH community was represented in the 12th Zoroastrian Games held in Long Beach, CA in 2010. We went with a basketball team and made it to the quarterfinals. Our swimmers, table tennis players and athletes participated as well, with the swimmers winning medals. As has always been the
tradition, there are very high expectations from ZAH and we need to keep up our stature of being one of the best and brightest in the North American community, so let’s assemble a strong contingent for the Games and bring back some more medals. GO ZAH !!!!

We eagerly look forward to hearing from you soon.

**ZAH Olympics on Sunday, March 4th 2012**

Your ZAH Sports Committee shall be hosting the first major Sporting event of 2012, the “ZAH Olympics” on Sunday, March 4th 2012. Our Youth Group will be assisting us to conduct the event as well as host a concession stand to raise funds for their future Youth related events. So please come in large numbers to support our Youth as well as your Sports Committee and make this event a grand success. There are lots of exciting events during the day for all ages with approximately 100 awards/medals to be won. We are really looking forward to this event and we promise you a great day full of fun with great food and lots of prizes. The details of the event are attached in the flyer below.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**JASHN-E-SADEH**

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston has been celebrating the Jashn-E-Sadeh festival for the past 16 plus years. This year it was celebrated on January 28 at the Center.

The simple décor of the hall was enhanced by the new tiles laid recently and the polished dance floor. A table was set up in the center of the dance floor with the afarganyu, fruit bowl and mevo.

The evening started with the beautiful prayers recited by Ervads Bahmanshah Sanjana, Bahrom Firozgary and Noshir Khumbatta. Sarosh Collector then thanked the Ervads and requested the guests to proceed for the festivity outdoors.

The fire setup was made possible with the Boys Scout expertise of Bahrom Firozgary & Sarosh Collector and helpers Fersheed, Farrokh and Faredun. The pyre of firewood was then set ablaze. Singing, dancing and merriment around the fire took place. The soothing sounds of the tambourine, dhol and vocal singing were perfect for the ideal weather that evening.

In the mean time the kitchen was a hub of activity as the lavish spread of about 40 delicious dishes was taken to the dining area. Thanks to the suggestion of Nazneen Khumbatta of the Entertainment Committee to have pot luck dinner this year. Everyone enjoyed tasting a variety of dishes and take leftovers home. Our hard working Iranian women had made the tasty Osh and Sirog that morning. Each year all guests are delighted to have these Persian dishes at this function.

Traditional Persian music set the mood for the evening. Guests danced all evening enjoying a variety of music provided by Cyrus Saffari and Farrokh Firozgary.

The ZAH Entertainment Committee very much appreciates the donations received for the festival and thanks to all the Iranian families and all volunteers who helped during the evening and to tidy up the hall later.

**ENDURING LEGACY : PARSI OF THE 20TH CENTURY** edited by Nawaz B. Mody, a 4 volume set of books is available for $100 from Parvez Commissariat, 2641 Veteran Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90064. Tel: (310) 475-5624.

A treasure trove that belongs in every household, the notable people covered in each volume are: v. 1. Politics : before and after independence -- Trade & industry : building a self-reliant nation -- v. 2. The professions : a distinguished record of service -- v. 3. Arts & culture : artistic vision -- v. 4. Sports & cricket : an illustrious tradition.

**MIDDLE GROUP ACTIVITIES**

The first of the 2012 Middle Group “lock-in” was held on January 7 and 8. It started with a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts to view the exhibits Gifts of the Sultan. For the children’s interest, Vehishta conducted the tour at their level of understanding. She focused on the pictures from the Shahnameh to help the children get a better appreciation of stories they have heard at Sunday School sessions. The children viewed the rarest miniature paintings/illuminations in the world with great interest. Special magnifying glasses were provided which made the paintings come alive and leave the spectators fascinated. The children got to view one of the oldest carpets in the world and found the Zoroastrian connection with it. A rare game board, swords and daggers and gold jewelry all combined made this a spectacular exhibition to visit.
Upon their return to the Center, Serena Setna gave a cooking demonstration. Here is what Alyssa Tamboli has to say:

“On the weekend of January 7th 2012, our middle group had a lock in with almost the entire middle group. During this lock in, we had a cooking demonstration led by Serena Setna. We baked M&M cookies. We had an amazing time baking with everyone. We made 2 batches and after dinner, we devoured them greedily. They were gone by morning. We hope to have another baking demonstration somewhere in our other lock-ins.”

After the cooking demonstration, it was time for dinner and after dinner we had a session on “Good Deeds” by Zeeba. The next morning, after breakfast, we recited our kasti prayers, din-no-kalmo and tandorasti.

And, this time, we had two young visitors from New Zealand who thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of the kids.

WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (HOUSTON CHAPTER) - SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Applications are invited from North American Zarathushti students for Internships at various businesses in India. The intent is to offer an opportunity for college age and graduate Zarathushti youth to gain 4-8 weeks of work experience in India in their chosen field, during the months of May through September, 2012. No compensation will be paid by the employers and the interns will solely be responsible for their own travel, visa, boarding, lodging, personal expenses, etc. WZCC’s role will be limited to matching up qualified applicants with potential employers in India.

Please send your resume and a cover letter with area/s of interest to rustom47@hotmail.com or behrozeWZCC@yahoo.com or nazneenkhumbatta@yahoo.com by February 28, 2012.

XVI NAZC 2012 - NEW YORK

The “early bird” registration for the North American Zoroastrian Congress in New York has been extended to February 15, 2012. This date will not be extended again. The Congress has a good program and entertainment. If you haven't already registered, please visit their website http://nazc.zagny.org/registration/ and register. Congresses are always a good experience - many old friendships renewed and new ones made.

ACCOLADES

GOHAR FIROZGARY GETS FIRST PLACE IN HER AGE GROUP: HOUSTON ROCKETS RUN

Gohar got 1st Place in her age group in the Houston Rockets Run benefiting Autism Speaks which was held on Saturday January 21, 2012 at the Toyota Center. She also got congratulated and a pic with Clyde Drexler of the Houston Rockets. For timing and event details visit the websites below:
http://eztoregister.com/assets/Rockets12.htm#17

Congratulations Gohar! You make us proud !

WE HAVE MOVED:
Peshotan & Kamal Unwalla have moved. Their new address is:
2123 Ralston Branch Way
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Tel. #: (281) 980-4462

BIRTH:
Zenia Nariman, born November 23, 2011, to Anahita & Shahrzad Nariman.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the growing family !!

OBITUARY

Framroze (Fali) Spencer, husband of Nyna, father of Curtis, Ronnie, Richard and Cherl, passed on January 13, 2001 in League City, Texas at age 85. He came from Bombay to attended the University of Oklahoma then came to the Houston area in 1953

Freny Patel, mother of Katie Vazifdar, passed away in India on January 16, 2012. Sarosh Ceremony will be performed by Peshotan Unwalla, on January 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room at the Center.
MANASHNI and its readers convey their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families

World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce – Houston Chapter

Presents

2012 Update on Changes in the Tax Laws

Our Distinguished Speakers

Mr. Sarosh Collector, CPA
Mr. Kershaw Khumbatta, CPA

New rules and forms for gains and losses; Tax deductions that are often overlooked; Foreign bank account disclosure rules; Common errors on tax returns; What’s new with the IRS

VENUE: The Zarasthushti Heritage and Cultural Center
8787 W. Airport (Between Gessner & Beltway 8)
Houston, TX 77071

DATE: Thursday, February 16, 2012

COST: $12.00 – Includes Dinner & Drinks(Cash only please)

MIXER: 6:30 pm
DINNER: 7:00 pm
MEETING: 7:30 pm

Please RSVP at zarirs@sbcglobal.net or call (713) 963-4229
Passage of Time and its influence on Zarathushtrian Tradition

PROGRAM Saturday, February 25, 2012
10:00 am—4:00 pm

10:00 am - 11:15 am
Zoroastrian Connection in Feshdadian and Kayanian Dynasties
Speaker: Ervad Soli Dastur

11:15 am - 12:15pm
Evolution and Practice of Zoroastrianism in the Achaemenian and Parthian Dynasties
Speaker: Ervad Cawas Desai

12:15 pm - 1:30 pm lunch ($10.00 per person)

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Zoroastrian Faith: Revival in Sasanian era
Speaker: Ervad Jehan Bagli

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Zoroastrian Religion and its evolution in the post-exilic era in India
Speaker: Ervad Gustad Panthaky

3:30 pm - 4:pm
Future of Zoroastrianism in North America
NAMC President: Ervad Kobad Zarolla

RSVP: asethma@comcast.net by February 20, 2012

Zarathushri Heritage and Cultural Center
8787 W. Airport Blvd
Houston, TX 77071
“ZAH OLYMPICS”
ORGANIZED BY: ZAH SPORTS COMMITTEE &
ASSISTED BY OUR YOUTH GROUP

Day and Date: Sunday, March 4th 2012
Time: 9.30 am onwards
Venue: ZAH Center - 8787 W. Airport Blvd. Houston, TX

Events: ATHLETICS – Sprints, Long Distance running, Sack race, Lemon & Spoon, Bursting the balloon, Three-legged race and many, many more events full of fun
BASKETBALL – Free throws, 3-point shooting
VOLLEYBALL (13 & over) – Team Championship with each team between 6-9 players

Feature Event: TUG-O-WAR

Prizes/Awards: First 3 places in every event

Youth Group Stand: Our Youth will host a Concession Stand
Age-Groups: U-5 (only Athletics), U-12, 13-50 and 51 & over

Lunch: Lunch Box (Chicken Tikka Roll, Chips)
Dinner: Chicken Curry Rice, Kachumber, Ice-Cream, Soda

Charges: MEMBERS - $15, U-12 - $12, U-3 – Gratis
NON-MEMBERS - $25, U-12 - $15, U-3 - Gratis
WALK-INS – Adults - $20 / $30, U-12 – $15 / $20

RSVP: Payment required by Feb 26th 2012 payable to ZAH with Sports Committee in memo field
Please send your checks with Events and Age Group for every participant to:
Percy Katrak 16811 Sandestine Dr. Houston TX - 77095
ZAH MEMBERSHIP – 2012

A startling fact came to light at the AGM when the Treasurer presented the accounts for the fiscal year September 2010 to August 2011. Membership revenue was $41,635 whereas the total Operating Expenses were $78,194. Our sincere appeal to those who are not yet members to become members and be a part of the community that is vibrant and progressive. If we wish to keep the Center for the next 50 years for our great-grandchildren to enjoy, we need to step up now and contribute towards membership as the first step. Following is the Membership Form. Please circle the category that fits you and send your check as indicated.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: ________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________________________ STATE ______ ZIP: ________________________

TEL (h): _________________________ TEL (other): _________________________________

E.Mail: ________________________

CATEGORY OF MEMBERS (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY)

PATRON MEMBER – FAMILY ........................................ $500.00

PATRON MEMBER – SINGLE ........................................
**$250.00**
FAMILY MEMBER .......................... $275.00
FAMILY ASSOCIATE MEMBER .................. $275.00
SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD .......... $150.00
SINGLE MEMBER .................................. $135.00

FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER .................................. $65.00
SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER .......................... $40.00
STUDENT MEMBER .................................. $25.00

Additional Surcharges
MANASHNI SURCHARGE - FOR PRINTED/MAILED COPIES $15.00
SURCHARGE (ONLY IF PAYING BY VISA/MASTERCARD) $10.00

DONATION $______

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:** $______

**FAMILY MEMBER:** PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18
**FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER:** WHERE ONE SPOUSE IS OVER THE AGE OF 65
**SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER:** AN INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 65
**SINGLE MEMBER:** AN UNMARRIED INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 18
**SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD:** SINGLE PARENT WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR:** CALENDAR YEAR – JANUARY TO DECEMBER

**PLEASE SELECT THE CATEGORY APPLICABLE TO YOU AND MAIL THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:**
ZAH Treasurer, 8787 W. Airport Blvd. Houston, TX 77071

We also accept VISA and MasterCard credit cards; however kindly note that a $10 surcharge will be levied on all credit card charges (donations exempted) to cover our additional processing costs.

---

**Credit Card Form**

*Only complete if paying by credit card*

**Name:** _______________________________________________
(as it appears on card)

**Card:**
(please circle only one)

[ ] MasterCard Worldwide
[ ] VISA

**Card Number:** ________________________________

**Expiry Date:** ________________________________
(mm/yyyy)

**Signature:** ________________________________