SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE:  ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071  Tel:  713-270-9339
TIME:  11:30 a.m. – Different times for different groups.
DATE:  July 13, 2014

Children’s Session: The session was incorporated with the Z-Camp that was held over the weekend
Middle Group: The session was incorporated with the Z-Camp that was held over the weekend
Senior Group: The session was incorporated with the Z-Camp that was held over the weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 3, 2014 - Pool and Bowling (Offsite)
Friday, August 8 to Sunday, August 17, 2014 – Muktad Prayers – See details
Monday, August 18, 2014 – Shehanshahi Navroze Humbandagi
Saturday, August 23, 2014 – Shehanshahi Navroze Dinner & Dance – See Flyer
Friday, August 29, 2014 – Library Event – Talk by Kersee Kabraji – See Flyer
Sunday, September 21, 2014 – ZAH Picnic (offsite) – Details to be announced

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

EC TREASURER’S REPORT
Kayomarz Sidhwa - Treasurer

From the Treasurer’s Desk

DID YOU KNOW?
Did you know how much does it cost ZAH per person at Gahambers?
Although ZAH charges a $5-7 per person for the Gahambars, on an average it costs ZAH approximately $15-17 per person. Yasmin Medhora and her entire Entertainment Committee work very hard and diligently to keep the costs down but the fixed costs as well as the catering expenses keep rising every year and all this exudes tremendous strain on ZAH coffers.
So far our benevolent donors have always come through with their unflinching generosity and supported the Gahambars and hope they will continue to do so in future. Thank you very much to all the donors and to all others who are thinking of sponsoring Gahambars in future. It really helps!!

**LIBRARY REPORT**
*By Jangoo Mistry*

**Upcoming Library Event – not to be missed**

On Friday, August 29 at 6:30 pm we have a distinguished speaker, Kersee Kabraji, from Pune, India who will give us a talk on our religion as interpreted in the Gathas. We are fortunate to have a rare opportunity to learn from a scholar who has published a book and lectured extensively in India on this important topic: “A Gathic View of Zoroastrianism and Ethical Life”.

Please note the details in the attached flyer, and mark your calendars for yet another ZAH Library event that will both entertain and educate you.

**We have Written History**

As mentioned in last month’s Manashni, we began collecting oral histories of first-generation Zoroastrians on Saturday, May 3. Previously, we have talked in detail about the ZAH Library’s Oral History Project which is an attempt to document and preserve the rich backgrounds and experiences of our fellow Zoroastrians in Houston.

In this project, guided by Rice University, we have now completed interviews of 34 members of our community. Depending on personal preferences, the interviews took place in our Center, at the person’s home, or at the Rice University campus. Audio recordings of their talks have been transcribed and given to Rice for their Zoroastrian Archive. We also plan to have copies on the ZAH computer in the library.

So far, the interviews have given us an immensely interesting and absolutely fascinating account of experiences and recollections of personal, religious, and historic events, as well as their daily lives dating back to early years in India or Pakistan, and as immigrants to the U.S.

For now, we have concluded this round of interviews. We may have a second round sometime early next year if needed.

**Save this Date (November 1, 2014)**

Dr. Sarah Stewart is coming to Houston for our annual gala event later this year. Sarah is the well-known project director and curatorial advisor for the much-acclaimed exhibition: “The Everlasting Flame: Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination” running in the Brunei Gallery of the University of London. Sarah is also lecturer in Zoroastrianism at the University’s SOAS Center which is the only higher education institution in the UK specializing in the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

We are truly honored that Sarah Stewart has agreed to cross the Atlantic to be with us. We are planning a memorable event, and will give you details as they are finalized. But for now, be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join the expected large turnout on November 1.

**ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Shahenshai Dae Mas Gahambar**
*By the Entertainment Committee*

The Shahenshai Dae Mas Gahambar took place on June 1, 2014 and was attended by approximately 340 adults and 24 children. This Gahambar was sponsored by Arnavaz Godiwalla and her family in memory of late Adil Godiwalla. Estimated $2,500/- plus (inclusive of 22% on expenses towards maintenance) was given to ZAH.

The prayers were conducted by our Ervads Bahmanshah Sanjana, Khushrav Nariman, Maneck Sidhwa, Shapur Pavri, Bahrom Firozgary, Kyrus Buchia, Pervez Gonda, Noshir Khumbatta and Yazad Sidhwa. Sarosh Collector and the Youth group had an interactive presentation of the meaning of the prayers.
The prayers were followed by a talk given by our young Ervad Kyrus Buchia who explained the meaning of “Gahambars” in general and the meaning of this particular Gahambar and celebrations that go with it. Later, ZAH EC chair, Mr. Aderbad Tamboli thanked the Ervads, the volunteers and the Sponsors for their kind gesture. Aderbad paid tribute to Adil stating that he was a very noble and an unassuming person. His presence will be missed in the ZAH community. Amy Godiwalla said a few words about her father. Aban Rustomji talked about Adil’s involvement with ZAH before and during the time the center was built. Adil will be missed by our community.

Fiona Setna, Tenaz Sunavala and their volunteers cut the fresh fruits for chaasni and kept the mixed nuts and malido ready for the attendees. Thanks to Nargis Cooper, Cillie Mehta and Kamal Unwalla for donating the tasty malido. The attendees raved about the delicious food specially prepared in memory of Adil by Chef Kairasp Laskari of Himalaya Restaurant – goat biryani, dhansak dal, naan, boneless chicken in rich jerdaloo gravy with more jerdaloo & potatoes for topping. The dessert of delicious gulab jamuns prepared by Kairasp was enjoyed by all. Ice cream was also served which was donated by an anonymous donor.

ZAH EC and the Entertainment Committee thanks the Sponsors, our Ervads and all the precious Volunteers who put in tremendous work to make this gahambar a grand success.

Last but not the least, we would like to thank Farrokh Firozgary for being the MC; Roshan Engineer for registration and volunteers for serving food; Nozer Dungor for the ZAH rsvps and registration; our Treasurer, Kayo Sidhwa for accounting; the Web Team for website administration; Arna Sethna and Khursheed B. Dastur for eblasts; Fred Bhader for stage setup and lunch coordination; Yasmin Medhora and Khursheed Dastur for hall setup and table décor; Fred Bhader, Mahnaaz Firozgary, Arish Rustomji and Noshir Medhora for bringing the food from Himalaya Restaurant. The Entertainment Committee took care of bringing all items required for the function like paper products, sodas, etc.

Thanks to all of you who logged on to the ZAH Website to respond and pay online and hope you will continue to do so in future.

Following is the list of persons who contributed donations for the Gahambar:
Arnavaz Godiwalla; Barry & Shanaya Averill; Bomi & Naju Bharucha; Sarosh & Pearlne Collector; Homi & Nargis Cooper; H.K. Chubb; Kaemerz & Havovi Dotiwalla; Kershaw & Nazneen Khumbatta; Noshir & Yasmin Medhora; Khushrav & Manek Nariman; Firoozeh Roointon; Jal & Sharmeen Sethna; Shireen Thakore; Suhrid & Anita Thakore; Khurshed & Zarina Wadia.

YOUTH GROUP REPORT
By Natalya Haveliwala

During the month of June, the Youth Group held an interactive Ghambar. Prayers were portrayed on the power point, and we lead the participants in standing and sitting, with Sarosh Uncle’s help. The Youth also held the Tirghan festival at the end of June. The Sunday School students who learned what the Tirghan festival was about then had a blast with water balloons, guns, water slide, and food. Thank you to Sarosh Uncle for donating the pizza! Now we are focusing on perfecting our Youth Show, which is on Saturday July 26; don’t miss out!

We will also be holding officer elections on July 20th for the 2014-2015 officers. We want to say good bye to our 5 graduates and wish them luck at college: Zal Daroga- University of Texas at Austin, Farzad Sunavala- Lousiana State University, Rhea Engineer- San Jack, Danielle Dubash- Texas A&M University at College Station, and Natalya Haveliwala- Texas A&M University at College Station. We will miss y’all!

MISCELLANEOUS

MUKTAD CEREMONIES

Muktad Ceremonies at the ZAH will be performed by Ervad Bomanshah Sanjana:
**DAYS:** August 8 to 17, 2014.
**TIMINGS:** Weekday Timings: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Weekend Timings: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Muktad Prayer ceremonies will be performed in the Prayer Room of the Center. The ceremony includes Saturn, Afringaan and Farokshi with the offerings of Fruits, Sweet dishes, flowers and home-cooked food for our dear departed Farohars.
Those who wish to have their Asho Farohar names to be recited in these Prayers should email Ervad Bomanshah at 7850bms@gmail.com before 5th August positively.

SHEHANSHAHI NAVROZE

Shahenshahi Navroze Celebration - Saturday August 23, 2014 Doors Open at: 7:00 p.m. Program Starts Promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Plan to join us for a Traditional Navroze Celebration complete with chawk-toran, and Parsi “Bhonu”!
By Special Arrangement: Tarkash Entertainment, Unlimited!!

We request you RSVP and pay online for this event. Please refer to attached flyer for additional details.
If you have any questions please contact Yasmin Medhora at: (713) 466-3908

- Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs and payments received after 8/17/2014
- Individuals over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents
- Member rates apply to out-of-town house-guests of members (if RSVP and payment received by 8/17/2014)
- Should anyone over 10 years want to opt for pizza, please inform at the time of payment. Adult rates apply.

ZAH Z-Camp 2014 – FUN !!! FUN !!! FUN !!!

After a lot of planning, preparation and hard work, the day was finally here. Our annual event, “The ZAH Z-Camp 2014” was held over the weekend from July 11th – 13th, 2014. It was attended by 78 campers from Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Cincinnati and Boston. There were a lot of activities and sessions conducted by experts in their respective profession which included dancing, cooking, acting, presenting, innovations and sporting skills besides other interactive fun sessions like treasure hunt, web design/security and how to be successful / community leader.

At around 7.30 pm on a hot and sultry Friday, July 11th we got news that our out-of-town guests had already covered half the distance and were relishing on the “ribs” strategizing on how to create mayhem in Houston. In the meantime, our local participants were trickling in and already making plans for the next two days. By around 10 pm the Dallas, Austin and San Antonio entourages were at the center along with a couple of participants from Cincinnati and Boston. The kids were at the basketball courts playing / talking to their hearts content and the adults as usual, gorging on the lagan-nu-custard, bataasas, phudina chai, etc. with the locals after a feast at dinner. After some “leg-pulling”, boisterous laughs and inconsistent noise levels all went to bed around 11 pm (yeah right!!!!) waiting for the official Z-Camp to kick-off the next day.

Come Saturday morning, our ZAH Center started buzzing around with kids, with some parents running around trying to pacify their hyper active kids who were very eager to begin the camp. In fact, some kids were doing the same to their overzealous parents©. Once the registration activities concluded, the Z-Camp started with our customary prayers and housekeeping announcements with the campers divided into 4 teams. The Raging Super Sexy Kolmi No Paatio, Zoro’s Finest, Oh Really, that’s what your Momma Told Me Last Night and The Wet Goatlas (how did they possibly come up with these names???) started their rivalry in right earnest.

The Z-Camp kicked off with some sporting activities like “Nargoloi or seven tiles” as well as the Ultimate Freezbie games. After a sumptuous lunch the Treasure hunt session began around 1 pm and soon the teams were seen running around for the concealed clues. Kids had a lot of fun and once that got over the kids got an opportunity to show their talent at dancing. The way they were dancing and swinging, we believe we have at least a couple of them waiting in the wings to be picked up by Bollywood.

The kids got a respite after the dancing session and cooled off with some lemonade and snacks.

The Cooking skills session started right after the break and the campers were ready to show off their culinary skills. The teams were divided into age appropriate groups and all the Iron Chefs got to work. Oh Boy, the talent they disclosed was just amazing and in a matter of minutes some Kheemo was ready along with some dessert as well as some pasta that was demonstrated during the session.

Once the cooking skills session was over the campers were given some props and had to come up with their own innovative costumes for three models from each team. The ideas and the dresses were mind boggling, especially the kids between 5-10 years had a lot of fun walking on the ramp to model in front of a large vociferous crowd.
Dinner was served around 8.30 pm and we were treated to some delicious “Curry Chawal” and the dessert that the campers made in the cooking session followed by tea and some more lagan-nu-custard. It was time for the last session after dinner where the campers were given some unique topics and had to come up with a short skit including the script, dialogues, rehearsing, etc. all under a half hour. The talent on display was of great quality and found some really good child artists who performed with aplomb. Once this session was over it was time for smores followed by lights out at 12 midnight (yeah right again !!!)

The next day, Sunday July 13th started a bit late with some of the campers (and volunteers) looking a bit tired with just about 4 hours of sleep. Sessions on Web Design and Internet Security were conducted followed by the regular Sunday School sessions for each group.

All the campers were frantically looking at the time because, the time for the kick-off of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Soccer Finals was fast approaching. We brokered a deal with the campers and got the last session on Success underway right after Sunday School. The teams were given a task to come up with a skit and show the audience what they learnt in the session, which they did very astutely. The other two groups took the much awaited rest and some good hearty sumptuous lunch after which they convened for their last session on Community Leadership and finished around 2.30 pm. By then the parents had started to trickle in and once the last presentation was over, the campers, parents and volunteers had lunch that seemed like a feast before the wrap up session.

It was fun to watch the finals with kids cheering their favorite team and booing the other. The match ended on an even keel during the first 90 minutes which gave us a chance to sneak in the wrap up session where we gave away the prizes.

The Super Sexy Kolmi no Paatio (still can’t figure out the name) team stole the honors and was awarded the first place but for us everyone was a winner. Most importantly, we all made new friends and long lasting relationships. Finally, thank you to all the parents, volunteers, donors, presenters and above all our dear campers without whom this camp would not have been possible.

Au Revoir and see you all in 2015!!!

2014 ZAH DIRECTORY

Did you know that 30 years ago Homi Davier and his family manually prepared and printed the first ZAH Directory? Our last directory was printed in 2011 and it is now time to get an updated directory. 2014 ZAH Directory will soon be going to print. It is our aim to distribute it at Navroze time. We are accepting ads till July 26. As mentioned before, proceeds from the Directory will be equally divided between 2000 Legacy Scholarship and ZAH. Please call Homi Davier at 832-428-4285 or e-mail him at homi@davierinc.com

WANTED A CARETAKER

By Building Management Sub Committee

Faredun Bhader has provided invaluable service as Caretaker/Custodian during non-member rentals of our Center, but due to health reasons, he needs to cut back on his commitments.

Building Management Subcommittee is looking for a caretaker for non-member rentals. The caretaker will be given an honorarium. If interested, please call Pervin Sagar at 713-436-0518 or e-mail her at pervinsagar@yahoo.com

Hours of service, honorarium, scope of duties and other details will be provided to interested individuals.

FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS (2014-2015)

Applications are invited for the

SIX FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS AND
MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI (MMK) ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR.

FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
MORVORID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
BANOObAI AND MANECKShAW KAPADIA (BMK) ENdOwMENT SCHOLARSHIP

All scholarships are open to Zarathushti students who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA or Canada.

Scholarships for the academic year 2014-2015 will be awarded in September 2014. Application forms are available from the FEZANA website at www.fezana.org or from Dr Dolly Dastoor (dollydastoor(@)sympatico.ca)

Completed application forms should be sent electronically by August 1, 2014 to academicscholarship(@)fezana.org

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON EACH SCHOLARSHIP SEE FEZANA JOURNAL SPRING 2014

ZAH YOUTH FUNDRAISER

After tremendous success from last year's youth show "Blast From The Past," the ZAH youth group returns once again with something new, something different, something that has never been done before ............

The ZAH Youth presents "Shahnameh - the Ballad of Rudy and Zal": a modern day twist to the Shahnameh story Zal and Rudabeh.

So mark your calendars and save the date - 26th July 2014. Curtain Opens at 7:30 p.m.

The rates are $100, $50, $35 and includes dinner after the show. Seating is reserved and seat numbers will be allocated.

For tickets please contact Cyra Kanga at 281-969-8057 or at crkanga@yahoo.com

AWARDS & ACCOLADE

Bahrom Firozgary

Ervad Bahrom Firozgary graduated from Rice University majoring in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology. He received the Rice Scholar Athlete Award during his junior and senior years while on the Rice Varsity Basketball Team, and was awarded the Rice Association Post Graduate Scholarship. Bahrom will attend medical school at A&M in Bryan/College Station commencing Fall 2014. Congratulations Bahrom! We wish you the very best in Med School and hope you continue to make ZAH proud!!

CHLOE CHOUDHURY

(Excerpted from an article in Sugar Land Magazine)

Chloe Choudhury, 11 year old daughter of Tanaz and Chesley Choudhury, was acknowledged again, for the second year in a row, at the Sugar Land Magazine (Compass). She is going to open the Sugar Land Skeeter’s Game on August 03, 2014

Chloe Choudhury is a vivacious 11 Year old, who has loved and lived in Sugar Land her whole life. Over the last year, she has received numerous awards and accolades, including numerous Congressional Certificates all the way from Washington D.C; Certificates of Recognition from both the City of Sugar Land and the City of Houston, along with many private special recognitions from Leaders within our Community. Oftentimes the youngest singer ever invited to perform, Chloe has opened prestigious events. Chloe was the youngest singer to be selected to open The International Citizenship month, by the City of Houston to crowds over 12000.

In January, Chloe became one of the youngest singers ever to be invited to open the esteemed Lincoln Reagan Dinner with her rendition of the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful. Chloe was also one of the youngest speakers at the Exchange Club of Sugar Land and she spoke articulately to a crowd who was fascinated by her story. Chloe was even invited to perform at the State Capitol in Austin Texas and was commended by a rousing ovation !!!

Last August Chloe, sang the National Anthem, at the Skeeter’s Game and was scouted and went on to Nashville, Tennessee. There she recorded with an internationally acclaimed Team, the #1 Song of the Year – Katy Perry’s ROAR. This song had over 22,000 views in just a couple of weeks of being released. Here’s the link to that achievement: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fX95HYTp5Sk&hd=1
Chloe has performed at many events, singing National Anthem, “Let it be ~ The Beatles” and “We are the World”.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS
E-mail address of Ervad Bomanshah Sanjan has been changed. Please make a note of the new address 7850bms@gmail.com

WEDDING BELLS RANG
Zarin Behramsha, daughter of Persis & Naozer Behramsha, was married to Jorge L. Rodriguez, Jr. son of Jorge Sr. and Lucila Rodriguez, on April 26, 2014 in Austin, Texas. Zarin's grandmother, Mehroo Daroowala, traveled all the way from Secunderabad, India, especially for her granddaughter's wedding.

BIRTH

Baby Boy – June 12, 2014
Baby Boy RAYAN is born to Khyati and Kurush B. Sanjana on Roj Marespand, Mah Dae 12th June 2014 in Houston, TX. Jia is the proud sister and Freny and Bomanshah Sanjana are the proud Grand parents of Rayan.

Baby Boy – June 25, 2014
Baby boy, JAIDEN, 7lbs 7ozs, born to Farrah and Himesh Gandhi on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. Happy grandparents are Jamshed and Zarina Elavia and Mukund and Manju Gandhi.

Baby Boy – June 30, 2014
Baby boy, BEHRAAM Irani was born to Sharmeen and Jehangir Irani. Behraam is younger brother to Rayaan Irani. Happy Grandparents are: Aban & Khodadad Irani and Shirin & Rustom Irani.

Baby Girl – June 29, 2014
We joyously announce to one and all,
The Dastoors today, stand proud and tall;
Our newest member has just set foot
Into this world, so fair and good.

Neville's heart is filled with sheer delight
Seeing Suki with the babe is a magical sight.

Our granddaughter is born, and AARYA is her name,
We were all going crazy, with the name-guessing game!
Her name is Persian and Sanskrit as well,
It is also Italian, as many can tell.

Our blessings on her, for a long, healthy life,
May her troubles be small, and her life without strife.
May good fortune and fame make her days oh! so bright,
May God bless her and keep her safely in His sight!

Parents: Neville & Suki Dastoor
Grandparents: Firdaus & Tehmi Dastoor
ZAH Library presents
A Gathic View of Zoroastrianism and Ethical Life
by
Kersee Kabraji
Kersee Kabraji, a native of Pune, India, aims to provide a perspective on
Zoroastrian principles as seen through the Gathic verses. Kabraji has
lectured on this topic across India and now the United States. He has recently
published a book with the same title.
Please plan to attend with your family and friends and be enlightened on the founding principles
of Zoroastrianism.

Date: Friday August 29, 2014
Place: Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center
Time: 6:30 pm - Meet & Greet
7:00 pm - Lecture
8:00 pm Q & A
Lecture is FREE—Light refreshments will be served

SHEHANSHAHI NAVROZE FUNCTION

Shahenshai Navroze Celebration Saturday August 23, 2014
At The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

Doors Open at: 7:00 p.m.
Program Starts Promptly at 7:30 p.m.

RSVP (Deadline 8/17/14)
If paying by check, your check payments must be
received by 8/17/2014, at:
ZAH
Attn: Navroze Function 2014
8787 West Airport Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77071
If you have any questions please contact:
Yasmin Medhora: (713) 456-3908

RATES
ZAH Member: 11 years and up - $25
ZAH Non-Member: 11 years and up - $40
Member Children (3-10 yrs): Pizza - $7; Regular food - $14
Non-Member Children (3-10 yrs): Pizza - $11; Regular food - $16

If paying by check please write in the memo:
- No. of ZAH members/non-members (11 yrs and up)
- Number of children (3-10 yrs) for pizza or regular food
- Please write “Navroze 2014” on the envelope

Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs and payments received after 8/17/2014
Individuals 18 years must have separate membership from their parents
Member rates apply to out-of-town house guests of members (if RSVP and check received by 8/17/2014)
Should anyone over 10 years want to opt for pizza, please inform at the time of payment. Adult rates apply.

BYOB

In Keeping With Our Theme,
We Request Traditional Attire: Saris, Garas, Duglis,
Navjote Outfits...

Event Organized by: ZAH Entertainment Committee