SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071   Tel: 713-270-9339

TIME: 11:30 a.m. - Middle Group/ 10:30 a.m. - Children’s group.

DATE: April 10, 2016

**Children’s Session:** Sunday School will be held at 10:30 a.m. Topic for May
We plan to continue “Let the Children Speak” on a more formal basis in May by inviting some guest speakers from our community for a mini version of the Oral History project initiated by Rice University and introduced through the Library event by Debra Kolah at ZAH last month.
This child friendly and interactive session will involve short rotations of discussions between children and speakers. Parents are highly encouraged to attend with their children.
Questionnaires will be prepared for facilitating the flow and relevancy of the conversations.

Visitors and extended family members are welcome. At the end, the floor will be thrown open to any adults (for 3 minutes) if they wish to share their story.

The aim of this Sunday School session is to inculcate/ develop community awareness and pride by listening to firsthand accounts of Zoroastrians living in their midst.

**Middle Group:** This group starts at 11:30 a.m. and is for the children in the middle school.

**Youth Group:** Sarosh Collector and Kaemerz Dotiwalla conduct this session. Age group – High School age

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, April 22, 2016** - **Library Event** – Movie screening

**Sunday, April 24, 2016** - **ZAH Picnic and Outdoor Sports Day** – 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Sugar Land Memorial Park has been booked. See details below

**Saturday, May 21, 2016** - **ZAH Cricket**

**Sunday, May 29, 2016** - **Maidhyarem Gahambar (Dae mahino)**

MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GOLDEN GROUP</strong></th>
<th>Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (832) 288-2436</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</strong></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>
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
By Aderbad Tamboli

It's time for a status update on our ongoing projects Phase3A expansion and the Atash Kadeh. Even though it seems that nothing is happening and the projects are at a standstill, there is a lot of activity behind the scenes, and the various teams are hard at work to help finish both projects as fast as possible.

**Phase 3 A:**
The phase 3 A plans were completed last September, and submitted to the City of Houston for a building permit. We are currently in our third (and hopefully final) revision. Keeping our fingers crossed that we get the go ahead very soon. In the meantime, we have also shortlisted the contractor (KennRich Homes) to build this expansion, and are ready to sign the contract with them once all the pricing and contract issues are ironed out. The construction cost for phase 3A is approximately $280,000. Once the city approves the building permit the construction will start ASAP. Prior to construction, we will have a groundbreaking ceremony, with a Jashan, so keep tuned.

**Atash Kadeh:**
The Atash Kadeh architectural and engineering details are currently in the final stages of completion. We are anticipating the drawings will be ready to be submitted to the city of Houston for the permit by the end of April. As the permit process continues, we are in the process of creating a team to help with the interior finishes as well as some of the exterior details. We will keep everyone updated on the progress as it happens.

We are continuing our efforts to collect more funds and we hope that all of you will contribute to our ongoing Vision 2020 plan.

LIBRARY REPORT
By Jangoo Mistry

**ZAH Library’s April Event (not to be missed)**
On Friday April 22, the ZAH Library is planning to screen a movie: “The Path of Zarathustra”, a film by Oorvazi Irani, with screenplay by Farrukh Dhondy. The 1-1/2-hour film has been acclaimed by Zoroastrian scholars and reputed film makers as addressing “the essential faith and beliefs of the Parsi community” woven into an interesting love story. It is a very enlightening and evocative experience that will stay with you for a long time.

Respected Indian filmmakers have praised the film as “a wonderful film”, “beautifully photographed”, with fine performances, treating the history and today's issues of the community in a very open and honest way. The movie’s DVD is a best-seller on India’s Amazon site, and Oorvazi has been selected by critics as one of the top ten most important women Directors of the Indian subcontinent. The film has also been screened to great acclaim at several national and international film festivals.

As an added bonus, we plan to have Oorvazi live with us after the movie to talk about her experience and discuss any comments and observations we may have.

Like other Friday Library events, we will have light refreshments available at 6:30pm, followed by the movie promptly at 7pm. This is a unique opportunity to view and support a talented Parsi filmmaker. Do not miss it.

**ZAH Library Events for 2016**

**February 5 Oral History Event**
Past event, already covered in the March issue of Manashni.

**April 22**
Screening of the movie “The Path of Zarathustra” (see above).

**October 28 - 30**
As always, there will be an annual gala event that will cover 3 days on a weekend in October. You will recall that last October, the ZAH Library organized a 3-day event that addressed the important topic: “Survival of Zoroastrianism”. This year we have managed to get Dr. Dan Sheffield, respected author, historian, professor,
speaker and Pahlavi scholar to be with us. We are working with him to select topics that will be of interest to our community. Watch for more details about this upcoming 2016 gala event in future issues of Manashni.

December 2
In coordination with the Sunday School groups and our Iranian brethren, the ZAH Library is planning to organize an event around the Iranian festival of Yalda.

Another Publication of Interest
Hot off the press, we have acquired the sequel “Parsi Bol 2” donated to us by Dinshaw Tamboly, Chairman of the WZO Trust Funds. The book is a collection of humorous Parsi idioms compiled by filmmaker Sooni Taraporevala and writer Meher Marfatia.

In 2013, Marfatia and Taraporevala published the first volume of Parsi Bol. The latest edition is a combination of all the 715 phrases in the first book with 343 new idioms. The thousand-plus humorous expressions, illustrated with cartoons by Hemant Morparia and Farzana Cooper, is categorized according to themes such as ‘anatomy’, ‘sarcasms’, ‘money’ and so on. The book also comes with a CD of idioms voiced by actors such as the pair of Dolly and Bomi Dotiwala, popular Parsi theater performers in the 1960s, ‘70s and ‘80s, and Hindi film star Boman Irani.

Give yourself a break and chuckle through every page of this book.

Inauguration in New York
Many of you must be aware of the new Dar-E-Mehr, the new home for the New York area Zarathushti community. Six hundred Zoroastrians came together to celebrate this landmark event on March 26, 2016. You can view the entire opening ceremony at: http://zagny.org/inauguration-live-streaming/
The 2-storey building has a room set aside for their library that we will help in including as a part of the FIRES collection.

We congratulate New York on their achievement – the culmination of six years of fund raising and two years of construction.

YOUTH REPORT
By Tanaya Behramsha

The ZAH youth group has continued to be successful as the year goes on. In March the youth group had a successful and enjoyable camping trip/lockin at Galveston State Park. We had a chance to enjoy the lovely weather on the beach as well learn a bit during our sessions. In April, the youth will be participating in the annual ZAH carnival on April 10. We will have our annual car wash as well as be hosting our youth food stall. We hope to impress y’all with our tasty food selections and spotless car washing, so please be sure to attend.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Navroze Function:
The Navroze function celebrated on Saturday, 3/26/16 was a grand success. It was well attended by estimated 365 people (includes 33 children under 10 years) which included guests from San Antonio, Austin and Dallas. The Atrium looked beautiful with the elegant Haft Seen table set up by Gitty & Dariush Darayan family. The attendees enjoyed nibbling the goodies on the table which was refilled all evening. ZAH received estimated $1,600+ (includes 22% on expense) from this event.

The festivities started with the Sound of Music entertainment directed by Ms. Vehishta Kaikobad and assisted by Ms. Khursheed Dastur. The unique feature of the program was the participation of the Sunday school kids and our community adults who were nick-named Socialite Order of the Sunday school moms (Nuns). We are also very proud to demonstrate the musical abilities of our Middle and Youth group kids who played pieces from the Sound of Music with a variety of instruments. The adult-child production had a spark of its own that left a memorable experience for our community to cherish. We would specially like to commend the Sunday school children for putting in sincere effort for months and make the show a grand success. The enthusiasm of the community encourages our young children to do a fabulous job.
Following the entertainment, we had a delicious dinner that was catered by Himalaya Restaurant and helped serve by our very own community members/volunteers. The scrumptious food – mutton biryani, dhansak dal, jerdaloo gos, potato/tomato/egg, etc., was devoured by all, followed by gulab jamuns and ice cream to sweeten our pallets. Yummy potato samosas, nuts, chips and hummus were served for appetizer.

Following dinner we had a live band, “The Z Band”, who thoroughly entertained us with their fun performance for about two hours. The dance floor was filled with people of all ages with popular songs being played by them. The band provided their services complete with sound equipment gratis once again. Band members comprised of KR – Vocals & Guitar; Sushim – Vocals; Navaz - Vocals; Umesh - Bass Guitar; Dhruva – Vocals & Keyboards; Imtiaz - Vocals & Keyboards.; Gary – Keyboards.

The entertainment committee thanks all the attendees and the volunteers who helped in making this event a grand success. They would also like to thank the Web Team and the Maintenance team. In case you have any constructive criticism please contact any of the members of the Entertainment Committee – Zia Anklesaria, Nozer Dungor, Farrokh Firozgary, Arzin Italia, Yasmin Medhora, Fiona Setna and Tenaz Sunavala.

FIFTH ANNUAL AVA YAZAD PARABH:

ZAH celebrated the Ava Yazad Parabhb on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the residence of Ronnie and Elvia Patel in Sugarland. It was a gorgeous evening with peaceful setting of the waterfalls in the background. The jashan was attended by 25 people.

We would like to thank Ervad Sanjana for performing the jashan. This was followed by an informative talk of the significance of water in Zoroastrianism. He requested the younger generation to continue this tradition wherever they are in the world. Also, a piece of dal pori was immersed in the water for Ava Parabhb.

After the jashan the guests enjoyed the chaasni, potluck snacks, tea and a variety of desserts. ZAH would like to thank the Patel family for opening their home for this event and for making excellent arrangements for the evening.

We hope more families can attend the Ava Yazad Parabhb in the future years.

SILENT AUCTION for VISION 2020:

The first Silent Auction for 2016 was held at the Navroze function on 3/26/16. ZAH received estimated $1,200+ for the seven items auctioned. We would like to thank the following donors and the highest bidders for the items:


MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH PICNIC AND ZAH SPORTS DAY ON 24TH APRIL – A FUN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

The ZAH Entertainment Committee and the ZAH Sports committee are collaborating together to bring you a fun-filled afternoon on 24th April!!

ZAH SPORTS DAY

Your fun-loving SPORTS COMMITTEE is ready to conduct the 2016 Annual Outdoor Sports Day. We understand well the numerous commitments in our active community and have thus coordinated to have this event on the same date as the ZAH Picnic (see the collaboration!)

We have planned a bunch of fun games and events for all age groups. We will have lemon-and-spoon races, three-legged races, sack races, shot-put, tug-of-war, 7-tiles (nargolia) etc. We will also have frisbee, badminton and volleyball.
Registration: **FREE** (Sponsored by your Sports Committee)

**Date:** Sunday 24th April, 2016

**Time:** 12.30 - 4pm

**Location:** Sugar Land Memorial Park
15300 University Blvd.,
Sugar Land, TX 77479
(281) 271-2885

Come and join the fun, and don't miss it!!!

Should you have questions/suggestions, please contact any member of your **Sports Committee**

**AND THE ZAH PICNIC**

**ZAH PICNIC**
Sugar Land Memorial Park
Sunday April 24, 2016
Noon Onwards

ENJOY A DAY OF FUN, GAMES, AND FOOD
THE SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL TAKE CARE OF GAMES

FUN ITEMS TO BRING ALONG:
Frisbees, soccer ball, football, bikes, and other fun outdoor activity items.
Since we have a pavilion suggest bring your favorite board games, cards, etc.

POTLUCK: PLEASE BRING A FOOD ITEM TO SHARE:
Covered Entree or similar food item to share. Please do not bring: Cakes, Cookies, Pies, Soda, etc. in lieu of your covered dish.
Dessert, Tea and sodas will be provided by ZAH.

PLEASE BRING YOUR WATER BOTTLES & ICE-CHESTS

DOGS PERMITTED ON LEASH. DOG PARK NEARBY

No Charge - Free Event
ZAH is covering costs for Venue Rental, Paper Products, Dessert, Tea and Sodas

CLICK HERE FOR PARK DETAILS

Sugar Land Memorial Park
15300 University Blvd.,
Sugar Land, TX 77479
(281) 271-2885

**AWARDS & ACCOLADES**

Friyana Sidhwa receives Margaret Rudder Community Service Award, Texas A&M University (TAMU)

The 2016 Margaret Rudder Community Service Award is awarded to students who significantly impact their community in TAMU as well as in general. This award is designed to inspire student volunteerism on a continual basis, encouraging the utilization of various service organizations and the Leadership and Service Center at TAMU. After a very competitive selection process, the Selection Committee selected 6 recipients for this year’s award with Friyana being one of the winners of the 2016 Margaret Rudder Community Service Award which includes a plaque and a cash award.

Friyana has been invited to attend the Community Agency Breakfast in September 2016 where her achievements will be recognized and she will receive the award.

Her next project that she will undertake soon will involve working with patients who suffer from Alzheimer's disease.
MESSAGE FROM SHAYAN BHATHENA - VOLUNTEER AT CAMP KESEM - CAMP FOR CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE DEALING WITH CANCER

My name is Shayan Bhathena. For those of you who do not know me, I have been a part of the Zarathushti community in Houston my entire life, and am currently studying as an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin. This summer, I will be volunteering as a counselor at Camp Kesem, a nonprofit camp for children whose parents have or have had cancer that is completely run by UT students.

The mission of Camp Kesem is one that I hold dear to my heart. As many of you know, my mother, Avan Bhathena, was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was very young. She underwent chemotherapy, a mastectomy, and eventually reconstructive surgery; today, I'm happy to say that she has been cancer free for thirteen years. At my age, I didn't know much about cancer and did not have friends I could relate to, but Camp Kesem would have been a wonderful resource for me as it ensures that every child affected by a parent's cancer is never alone.

This camp is completely free to the campers and their families, so the students involved fund-raise the total cost to put on the camp. Last year we raised over $61,000! Although that was a daunting amount of money to raise, we are a growing organization and therefore have changed our fundraising goal for this year’s camp to $100,000!

I am reaching out to y'all to ask for you to help me reach my goal. I have set a personal goal of $1000 which is a big feat, but with the generosity of my ZAH community, I know I will be able to reach my goal! Any sized donations are immensely appreciated.

Here is a link to my donation page: https://donate.kesem.org/fundraise?fcid=596788

If you aren't able to donate now, I completely understand, but please spread the word and give others the opportunity to change these children's lives forever!

SKEETERS BUDDIES – KIDS CLUB (SBKD)

Skeeters is a minor league baseball club, with their own stadium in the heart of Sugar Land (corner of Hwy 90 & Hwy 6). Sugar Mill Montessori School and Meadow Montessori School are the proud sponsors of Sugar Land Skeeters Buddies – Kids’ Club. Since, many of our ZAH Members with young children, live in the Sugar Land area, SBKD is a perfect way for families to spend quality time together by watching baseball games and participating in other fun activities. SBKD membership is only $25 per child for the entire 2016 season. It includes, a T-shirt, Membership card, 4 field box vouchers or 6 grassland vouchers for every Sunday home game, VIP access to Swatson's (Skeeters Mascot) birthday bash, group picture with Skeeters team and more….. Vow !!! what a deal for just $25. Your membership also allows you to attend the Opening Weekend Friday (Apr. 22) game and watch the post game fireworks. Mom & Dad take your child to the ball game……. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity !!!!!!!

To join or get more details, you can visit the Skeeters website at: http://sugarlandskeeters.com/sports/2016/1/13/Silver%20Skeeters%20Club.aspx
OR you may contact: Sallie Weir, Community Relations Manager Direct: 281-207-9155 Email: sweir@sugarlandskeeters.com OR contact Noshir Challa at 713-725-8123, nkssc@aol.com

FORT BEND CHILDREN’S DISCOVERY CENTER TILE PROJECT... THANKYOU !!
(By Nazneen Khumbatta and Pervin Sagar)

WE RAISED $2000!!!

THANK YOU! BHAUT DHANYAVAD! KHEILY MAMNOON! BAHUT SHUKRIYA! MUCHAS GRACIAS! MERCI BEAUCOUP! VIELN DANK! GRAZIE MILLE!

When we started out with our pledge drive, never in our wildest dreams did we think that we would QUADRUPLE our goal of $500 (the cost of a single 4 1/4" x 4 1/4" tile) in a matter of days. Due to the overwhelming support and generosity of our community members we can now have two, 6" x 6" tiles for $2000, as each one of these tiles costs $1000!
Our very own Sunday school teacher, Vehishta Kaikobad will be using her creative and artistic talents to paint the two tiles sometime next week. Thank you Vehishta for donating your time from your busy schedule to do this for us. One tile will have an Ashofarohar on it and the other an Afarganyu; with Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds and Zoroastrian Association of Houston written as well.

All those who have pledged, please bring your checks or cash to the Carnival on Sunday, April 10 and give them to Pervin Sagar or mail your checks to her home address - 5711 Camden Springs Ln, Sugar Land, TX 77479. Please make your checks payable to ZAH. Payment to Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center has already been to reserve our tiles and time slot for the painting in order for us to make our deadline for the tiles to be on the wall for the grand opening.

The official website states that the grand opening is May 28, 2016 at 10 am. The address is 198 Kemper St., Sugar Land. The moment we find out any other details about the grand opening of the Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center we shall pass this on to you. We hope to see some of you there - showing off our Zarathushti spirit and enthusiasm! In case some of you were not aware, this is a very special project of the Children's Museum of Houston!

Our sincerest gratitude and thanks to all the ZAH members for their donations!

**CHICAGO 2016 Z GAMES - GRAND RAFFLE**

The first ZSC games were conducted in Los Angeles in 1988 with a small number of participants. Since then, eight Zarathushti Games have been held. This event has grown to become ZSC's biggest, attracting participants and sports fans from the United States, Canada, India, Iran, European and other countries around the world. The Games are held on the 4th of July weekend of even years.

In 2016, this four-day event is hosted and organized collaboratively by the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago and The Zoroastrian Sports Committee, a standing committee of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA).

For its Fund Raising efforts, Chicago is running the following raffle.

**CHICAGO Z GAMES 2016 GRAND RAFFLE**

**TICKETS:** $20 each or 3 ticket for $50 (checks should be made to “ZAC-SC”)

**DRAWING:** On May 8, 2016. Winners need not be present.

**PRIZES:**
- Apple iPad Air (16GB, Wi-Fi)
- Kindle Fire 10" HD (16GB, Wi-Fi)
- Bose SoundLink Bluetooth Speaker
- Round Trip airline ticket(s) on Southwest Airlines using up to 75,000 Reward Points
- Up to a 5 night stay at Clarion Inn Hotel, Elmhurst, from June 30th to July 5th, 2016.

**PLEASE CALL ARNAVAZ SETHNA AT 281-499-1832**

**WE HAVE MOVED**

Eric & Nikita Gagrat have moved. Their new address is:
4318 Piper Shadow Lane
Katy, TX 77494
The Path of Zarathustra’, a film by Oorvazi Irani, with screenplay by Farrukh Dhondy. The 1-1/2-hour film has been acclaimed by Zoroastrian scholars and reputed film makers as addressing “the essential faith and beliefs of the Parsi community” woven into an interesting love story. It is a very enlightening and evocative experience that will stay with you for a long time.

Friday, April 22, 2016
6:30 PM  Meet & Greet
7:00 PM Film Show

It’s an 80 min long film and we would like a short discussion at the end.
Live interview/Q&A with the director & actor on Skype (details to follow)

Film and refreshments are no charge – please email asethna@comcast.net so we can plan accordingly.

HOUSTON - Friday, April 22, 2016
Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center
8787 W. Airport Blvd, Houston, Texas 77071
Houston TX 77071
ZAH PICNIC
Sugar Land Memorial Park
Sunday April 24, 2016
Noon onwards

ENJOY A DAY OF FUN, GAMES, AND FOOD
THE SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL TAKE CARE OF GAMES

FUN ITEMS TO BRING ALONG:
Frisbees, soccer ball, football, bikes, and other fun outdoor activity items.
Since we have a pavilion suggest bring your favorite board games, cards, etc.

POTLUCK: PLEASE BRING A FOOD ITEM TO SHARE:
Covered Entree or similar food item to share. Please do not bring: Cakes, Cookies, Pies, Soda, etc. in lieu of your covered dish.
Dessert, Tea and sodas will be provided by ZAH.

PLEASE BRING YOUR WATER BOTTLES & ICE-CHESTS

DOGS PERMITTED ON LEASH. DOG PARK NEARBY

No Charge - Free Event
ZAH is covering costs for Venue Rental, Paper Products, Dessert, Tea and Sodas

CLICK HERE FOR PARK DETAILS
Sugar Land Memorial Park
15300 University Blvd.

CLICK HERE FOR PARK DETAILS
Event Organized By: ZAH Entertainment Committee

Houston
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
Foundation

You’re invited!
8TH ANNUAL
Houston Shoulder to Shoulder Foundation
BENEFIT GALA

Listen to stories from the frontlines of global health as we celebrate the first year in our newly completed clinic. Enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing and a silent auction.

Saturday, April 16, 2016
7 o’clock in the evening
Royal Sonesta Hotel

We are excited to announce our keynote speaker, Dr. Carol Gomez, will be traveling from Honduras to speak about her experience working as medical director of the Santa Ana clinic.

Purchase your tickets online today!