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: February 14, 2016

Children's Session: Sunday School will be held at 10:30 a.m. Topics for this month include Navar presentation by our youngest Ervad, Neville Kanga. This will be followed by a Valentine’s day project on 12 months of the year. The Navroze function practice for the entire cast of kids will be from 11.30 am to 1 pm.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 27, 2016</td>
<td>International Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 19, 2016</td>
<td>Dal Pori Bake-a-thon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 21, 2016</td>
<td>Jamshed-i-Navroze Humbandagi and Maachi – 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 24, 2016</td>
<td>Ava Yazad Parab Jashan</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 26, 2016</td>
<td>Jamshed-i-Navroze Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 10, 2016</td>
<td>ZAH Annual Carnival – 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 22, 2016</td>
<td>Library Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, 2016</td>
<td>ZAH Picnic – 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. – Offsite</td>
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MEETINGS

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOLDEN GROUP</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at 281-304-6611</td>
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<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

LIBRARY REPORT
By Jangoo Mistry

ZAH Library’s Oral History Event
On February 5, the ZAH Library presented a fascinating session based on the Oral History project launched in 2014. Under the guidance of Rice University, a little over 30 seniors were interviewed, who graciously shared their life stories that were transcribed and entered into the Zoroastrian Archive at Rice.
The Friday evening session was organized to report on the progress of the project, showcase a few of these histories and discuss plans for the second phase of this endeavor. Over 100 people showed up, forcing us to move the event from the Library to the main hall.

After Aban Rustomji’s welcome address, Yezdi Engineer and Jangoo Mistry showed videos and slides of different phases of the project. The audience got a pictorial overview of the how the project was conducted and how actual recordings of oral history by some of the participants were made.

This was followed by presentations of snippets from some oral histories that have been recorded so far.

- Nano Daroowala presented some highlights from his life experiences based on a book he has written. Funny and enlightening, the attendees enjoyed accompanying Nano on his trip down memory lane.
- Adi Desai, as one of the earliest Zoroastrian pioneers of Houston, reminisced on his early life and the events that led to his admission to Rice University.
- Jangoo Mistry narrated the early childhood experiences of his father-in-law who was interviewed at 97, less than six months before he passed away.
- Pervin Sagar facilitated Meherwan Boyce recalling glimpses from his early days when he came to the U.S. at 18 as a student, and went on to becoming a Professor of Engineering, a successful entrepreneur, wrote 8 books, and was one of the early founders of ZAH.
- Rustom Engineer, based on his interview of Homi Erani, recalled how Homi’s sister married an American who was serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Bombay, moved to South Dakota with him − and right into his family’s sheep ranch. Rustom talked about Homi’s early days in India before he joined his sister in South Dakota, and his professional achievements in the U.S. Rustom also recollected how he himself had landed as a student in the middle of a deserted area in Utah surrounded by mountains, with no human being in sight.

Debra Colah presented important information on the Rice University's digital archives where all our Oral Histories are saved, along with the Ph.D. dissertations of Rice University students and other very important records. Anyone anywhere in the world can access any of our oral histories recorded and stored there. The audio recordings, as well as the written transcript of the recordings are both available on the web site. Thanks to the wonder of Google, just typing in the name of any community member who was interviewed followed by Rice University will find the actual interview for you (for example: Homi Davier Rice University). Or, more simply, you can just search on “Zoroastrian Community Interviews” and the entire list of people whose oral history is recorded will show up, and you can click on any name to read or hear the oral history.

**Important**

Recognizing the importance and success of this project, we are about to launch a second phase of this project that will interview and record the life stories of many more of our members. We urge any member who has not come forward to record his life experiences to do so in this second phase. We are also looking for volunteers to conduct and record the interviews, as well as volunteers for transcribing the audio recordings into text. Please contact Pervin Sagar at pervinsagar@yahoo.com if you can help us in any of these three ways as we extend this project to include more community members.

Your grandchildren and great grandchildren will someday learn about you, their ancestor, and feel grateful and proud. This is what the power of Oral Histories is. It is not a pretentious egotistical exercise. Each one of us has changed the course of history. By uprooting ourselves and having the courage to start a new life half-way around the world, we have changed the course of future for our children and grandchildren. As such, we should be proud to document our lives for posterity. Please join us in this pioneering effort – the first by any Zoroastrian Association in North America.

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**YOUTH REPORT**

*By Alyssa Tamboli*

*Historian, ZAH Youth Group*

As January ends and February begins, the Zoroastrian Association of Houston Youth Group continues on with our theme of community service and helping those in need. On January 24th, the Youth Group, combined with the Middle Group, went to the Houston Food Bank and worked in their warehouse. We assembled and packed Backpack Buddies with various nutritious food items for distribution among school-aged children and their families around the Greater Houston area. The experience was very enjoyable for parents and kids alike, and everyone loved the opportunity to help the community. A massive thank you to the parent chaperones that accompanied us on this trip for sacrificing their sleep to volunteer and drive us to and from the Food Bank!
Coming up in the month of February, the Youth Group will be traveling to the Park Manor Quail Valley Senior Home after Sunday School on February 14th. The Youth will play games, talk, and spend time with some of the seniors living at the home. The experience promises to be very enjoyable for everyone involved.

A huge thank you to the ZAH community for your continuous support of the Youth Group, we appreciate it tremendously!

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**JASHN-E-SADEH CELEBRATION**

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston has been celebrating Jashan E Sadeh festival for many years. This year it was celebrated on 30th January, 2016 at ZAH

The evening commenced with prayers by the Ervads, Followed by the beautiful bonfire. Dinner was catered through Kasra restaurant. Guests feasted on chicken and beef kabobs and rice. Food was served by our Irani Zarathushti friends. Guests enjoyed yummy “Sirog and Osh which had been prepared by our Irani Zarathushti volunteers.

Our sincere thanks to Mr Bob and Carolyn Yazdani and Darioush Vafadari and their hardworking and excellent team of volunteers who went all out in preparing food, serving it and decorating the hall. They contributed towards the entire event.

The ZAH entertainment committee very much appreciates the donations received for the festival and thanks to all the Iranian Zarathushti family and volunteers who helped turn this beautiful event into a Grand Success.

*ZAH Entertainment Committee.*

**MEMBERSHIP**

If you are renewing your membership by check OR you wish to become a new member, please use the form given below. Please Note that if you are renewing online (zah.org), the rates reflect Membership Fees plus Paypal charges.

**FEZANA – CALL FOR OFFICERS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

FEZANA has sent out a call for nominations for the following vacancies on their Executive Committee:

**2016-2018 - Term of office:**
1) President,
2) Treasurer,
3) Assistant Secretary

**2016-2017 - Term of office:**
1) Secretary

*The deadline for receiving all nominations is midnight on February 29, 2016.*

*Current President, Katayun Kapadia,* has completed two terms. President's position is open for new nominations.

*Current Treasurer, Nilufer Shroff,* has completed one term and is eligible to run for re-election, as per terms of the FEZANA Constitution.

*Current Secretary, Saghar Javanshir,* after stepping in to serve the remainder term of her predecessor in 2014, and then elected in 2015 for a complete term (2015-2017), due to external commitments, will be stepping down as Secretary midway through her term, at the 2016 AGM. Her position is open for new election to serve the remainder of the term (through 2017) per the terms of the FEZANA Constitution.
The position of Assistant Secretary is currently not filled. It is open for new nominations.

If anyone is interested in serving on the FEZANA Executive Committee for any one of the above mentioned positions, please contact ZAH Representative to FEZANA, Roshan Sethna, rosh@sbcglobal.net

BIRTH

Twin daughters, MAYA and RUBY to Sarosh and Ami Dastoor. They were born on 2/8 and each of them weighs 5 lbs 4 ozs. Ami and babies are doing very well. Daddy Sarosh can't stop smiling, and Grandpa Firdaus and Grandma Tehmi Dastoor are in seventh heaven!

GRADUATE

Kevin S Haveliwala graduated Cum Laude with a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Houston Baptist University in Dec 2015

CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Please note the change in Telephone Number of Ervad Bahmansha and Freny Sanajana
Home: Phone 832-615-0651
Cell Phone: 832-538-5421
E-mail:7850bms@gmail.com

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE APPEAL

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) has received an appeal from Mitra & Kaeyan Behram Quettawala (Cell No. +92 333 2343057) of Karachi, Pakistan for critical medical assistance for their daughter Aryana. Aryana was diagnosed on 27th January 2015 with Severe A-Plastic Anemia at the Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan. After a year, having exhausted all options, the parents are faced with only one option left for treatment which is Haplo-identical transplants in which they use one of the parent’s stem cells and transplant this into the patient. After due research the parents found out that this is done in Singapore with reasonable success but costs nearly Singapore $300,000. The parents have sent out an appeal to save their 3-year daughter.

As ZAGNY is making arrangements to pay directly to Singapore, please send your contributions to them
Online: please go to zagny.org and make your donation
By check: please make your check payable to ZAGNY, write in the memo “Critical Assistance Aryana” and mail to:
Cyrus Pavri
ZAGNY Treasurer
961 Franklin Turnpike
Allendale NJ 07401-1315

RETURN TO ROOTS PROGRAM – MESSAGE FROM ARZAN WADIA

The Zoroastrian Return to Roots is pleased to announce the opening of applications for Return to Roots 3 Trip scheduled to take place from 11th to 23rd March 2016. This will be the third tour after the first two very successful tours in 2013-14 and in 2015.

This year the added bonus of the program is that all the participants will be VIP guests at the opening of the three major Zoroastrian themed exhibitions in New Delhi that the Government of India has sponsored. The program starts on March 11 and ends on March 23.

Return To Roots website: www.zororoots.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ZoroastrianReturnToRootsProgram/
To Apply: [http://zororoots.org/apply/](http://zororoots.org/apply/)

The aim of Zoroastrian Return to Roots is to bring together young Zoroastrians from across the world between the ages of 20-40; to return to their roots, reconnect with their culture, and revive the community. Participants ('Fellows') will explore various significant Zoroastrian historical, religious, cultural, and archaeological sites in India over a trip of 12 days.

Fellows from previous trips returned from India with a deep understanding and appreciation for our small but powerful community. They are becoming more involved with their local Zoroastrian associations, giving back to the community, and encouraging other youth to participate in Return to Roots.

Applications close on February 15, 2016.

We encourage applicants to apply using the link ([http://zorroots.org/](http://zorroots.org/)) before the deadline and approach one's local community members and associations for funding and sponsorship. Applications are accepted on a rolling-basis.

"ZOROASTRIAN FESTIVALS" - WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY ZANT RELIGION CLASS KIDS

The children of the Zoroastrian Association of North Texas (ZANT) have written and illustrated a book on Zoroastrian Festivals. This book is a "must have" for every Zoroastrian home library and we urge our community to purchase this Special Limited Edition for your own family and friends. Please support our children's hard work and effort in raising funds for the ZANT Center Operation and Maintenance Fund.

The book is available from ZANT for a donation of $15 or more (checks made payable to ZANT). Please contact Pearl P. Balsara in Plano, Texas (ppbalsara@gmail.com) for more information.

OBITUARY

Yazdi Mistry's sister Bakhtawar passed away in India on Thursday, February 4, 2016. Please keep Bakhtawar and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Yazdi and Jasmine would like to thank their ZAH family for their concern, inquiries, and prayers this past week. It is sincerely appreciated.
ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

2016 ZAH MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: ________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________________________  STATE ______  ZIP: ________________________

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

E.Mail: ________________________

CATEGOR(Y OF MEMBERS (PLEASE TICK ONLY ONE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY)

PATRON MEMBER. – FAMILY .......................... $500.00
PATRON MEMBER – SINGLE .......................... $250.00
PATRON MEMBER – FAMILY SENIOR .................. $250.00
PATRON MEMBER – SINGLE SENIOR .................. $125.00
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
NO SURCHARGE IF PAID BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2016

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 YOUR PAYMENT TO:

ZAH Treasurer,
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071