SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: July 10, 2016

Children’s Session  For July, the Sunday School session will be on July 17, 2016

Middle Group: For July, the Sunday School session will start at 10:00 a.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 9, 2016  Annual Youth Fundraiser
Friday, July 29, 2016 to Sunday, July 31, 2016  ZAH Z-CAMP 2016
Sunday, August 7 to Tuesday August 16, 2016  Muktaad Prayers
Sunday, August 14  Ground breaking ceremony Purvez Rustomji Room
Wednesday, August 17, 2016  Navroze Humbandagi and Maachi
Saturday, August 20, 2016  Navroze Function

MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOLDEN GROUP</th>
<th>Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (832) 288-2436</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

EC REPORT

By Aderbad Tamboli – Chair, Executive Committee

Phase 3 Ground Breaking – Sunday August 14

We are excited to announce the ground breaking for phase 3A. We want to invite all of our members and their guests to come and share in this joyous occasion.
Phase 3 will include the 1680 sq ft Purvez Rustomji room and a classroom. The Purvez Rustomji room will be a multimedia + multipurpose room, with state of the art audio visual equipment and conference capabilities. The classroom will be the new home of the middle group. The final design of Phase 3A is attached.

Please stay tuned for the exact time as we will also be having the Muktad prayers. ZAH will host the lunch, and as always, donations as welcome.

LIBRARY REPORT
By Aban Rustomji

There was a different kind of hustle and bustle in our library last weekend. Tanaya Behramsha who is working towards her Girl Scout Gold Award lead a team of her friends that included Farzad and Rukshana Sarkari on assisting the library with needed projects. Mom Roshan Behramsha kept the group happy with snacks and lunch and assisted as well.

Tanaya shares her experience with Manashni readers and ZAH Library acknowledges her valuable contribution.

“The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can achieve. In the U.S. only 1% of the girls who start Girl Scouts actually go on to complete this award, needless to say it's a prestigious award. This past weekend my team of seven and I began my project in the ZAH library. We took inventory and checked close to a thousand books in the library. I had no idea that our library has books in Chinese, Russian, Farsi, and German about Zoroastrianism. My friends and I had fun by pulling out the old books and smelled the pages to try and guess how old the books were :) We found a few books dating back to early 1900’s!! I was amazed by the vast collection of books we had. I even stopped working a couple of times to sit and read a few pages of some books. My team members from school were so impressed by the array of books we had and even more impressed that Aban (Rustomji) Aunty could remember what each of the books looked like and where they were in the library. While the task was tedious and required time and effort we managed to have a lot fun with the project and enjoyed the opportunity to learn”.

YOUTH REPORT
By Freya Daroga – Youth Group President 2015-2016

ZAH Youth Group Report - June 2016

In month of June, our youth group conducted a youth room clean up in which we completely cleaned and organized our room. In addition, Sheroy Uncle and Aderbad Uncle assisted us by putting up a new and improved white board for us in the youth room.

June also consisted of many preparations for our month of July which is packed with events.

On July 3rd, the youth hosted a Tirgan festival which is an Iranian water celebration. The youth started the event by delivering a presentation on the meaning of tirgan and why we celebrate it. This was followed by prayers which were led by some of our old and current youth Ervads. The rest of the afternoon was filled with an abundance of food and fun with water slides, hoses, table tennis, carom, and celebration! There were about 50 adults and 15 children who attended the event.

We were very happy to see many new friends come out and join us for this event! One of the activities that takes place during the Tirgan festivities, is reading poems that convey messages. In this part, a big jar filled with water and oregano is handed to the ladies and, if they want to participate, they have to make a wish and then place one of their belongings in the jar. Then two or three young girls who haven't yet reached adulthood are asked to remove each item that is in the jar one by one, and the owner of the item is asked to come forward. An elderly lady then randomly picks a poem, and reads that message to the lady whose item was pulled from the jar. This activity was a lot fun and kept everyone very entertained.

Pretty rainbow colored Tiroo bracelets were made by Azita. The person attending the event makes a wish and the bracelet is tied around their wrist. On the day of “Baad” (wind) the person says their wish, unties the bracelet and blows it in air or immerse in water.
All of the kids also thoroughly enjoyed! In fact, one child told his mother last year that Tirgan was the "best day of his life", and they now center their summer plans around this event. We were pleased to hear this, and are very happy that everyone enjoyed this year as well!

On Saturday July 9th, the youth is hosting an "International Night" fundraiser at the ZAH center. We will be featuring foods from five different countries: Iran, Indo-Pak, China, Mexico, and Italy. The fundraiser starts at 7 p.m., will include an approximately 30 minute segment of entertainment at around 7:45 PM, and then be followed by delicious food from five countries and dancing at the end! We hope to see everyone there!

Right after our fundraiser, on July 10th, we will be having the 2016-2017 Youth Group officer elections. So please stay posted to see the new list of officers that will take over and make their impact on our Zoroastrian community.

We want to thank the ZAH and all the members for their unwavering, unconditional, and unstinting support of our youth group this year. As always, there are things that we can do to improve our youth group for next year; however, it has truly been an amazing year for our group this year and we accomplished so much. We could not have done this without the continuous love that we get from our community. Thank you all so much from the bottom of our hearts.

MISCELLANEOUS

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY - PURVEZ RUSTOMJI ROOM
By Arnavaz Sethna

With the generous donation from Aban Rustomji and family the ground breaking for phase 3A – Purvez Rustomji Room - will be held on August 14, 2016.

In 1979, when Purvez, Aban and family arrived in Houston, Purvez took great interest in the workings of the ZAH. With his good business sense, he convinced the then Executive Committee and the members at an AGM that a Life Membership of only $250 would be counterproductive for ZAH. He got a motion passed to remove this category from the Membership.

Purvez then went on to forming a Building Fund Committee and relentlessly worked for 20 years, implicitly believing in "you build and they will come". He put his heart and soul into bringing it to fruition. When the building was completed, it was named Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center. Phase I ZHCC was completed with larger donations from Feroze & Shernaz Bhandara and Mehraban Zarthoshty and smaller regular monthly donations of $20 from numerous enthusiastic members. It was completed in December 1997 and formally opened in April 1998.

Within two years ZAH was fortunate to get Phase II completed with the generous donation from Yazdi & Shahnaz Sidhwa. Phase II consisted of Atrium, two Sunday School Rooms and the Library. Once again Purvez and his team worked during the construction period and completed it in time for The World Zoroastrian Congress in the year 2000.

Purvez was a visionary and had great ideas for future expansion of the building, but alas, his dream of building Phase III with new Prayer Room and expanded kitchen could not be completed as he lost his battle to Cancer.

August 14 for groundbreaking is particularly auspicious; we are in the 10-day Muktad period where we invoke souls of departed loved ones. Purvez, you will be happy to see a part of your dream coming to realization with the extension of the library and a room for Middle Group.

May ZAH/ZHCC always flourish.
Atha Jamiat yatha afrinami
Dear Z-campers and parents,

We are very excited to host the 4th edition of our ZAH Z-camp from July 29th thru 31st at our Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center (ZHCC) and invite y’all to join us for the weekend long camp. As you know the registrations are open and spaces are filling up quick so please do not wait and register soon at http://zah.org/?event=zah-z-camp-2016.

We have planned some new fun activities where the kids will learn some new skills besides making new friends and have a great time as they always do.

**Online Registration closes on July 15th, 2016 or SOONER if we reach the set limit. No late registrations will be allowed!!!**

This year, per feedback from parents we have introduced something unique where we will be allowing Parents/Grandparents and their guests as well as other community members to join us on Saturday, July 30th at 7.30 pm for a "Camp Dinner with Kids" where they will witness a couple of activities that the kids will be undergoing during the camp. It will be a great way to experience the camp first hand and also show your support and encouragement to your kids. So please register online at the above link and plan to attend.

Also, please remember to join us on Sunday July 31st @ 1:30pm for final skit by the kids, awards and more… no registration for this is required.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kayo Sidhwa at kaysid@hotmail.com or (832) 802-3036 or any of the team members listed on the website.

Please see flyer below for details and we hope to see y’all at the camp in July 2016.

Thank you,

ZAH Z Camp Team
Muktad Days Prayers
Bahmansha Sanjana

The world comprises of seen and unseen elements. There are several unseen aspects of life, which only Religion can explain, and which we need to know through Religion.

One such important aspect of Zarathoshti Deen is the Ameretat i.e. Immortality of the soul in the Spiritual (Menoi) world after death and the Existence of Fravashis “Guardian Spirits” to help the souls in this world and the next.

Muktad is the Special Time to celebrate the Contribution of the Souls (Ruwans) and the Fravashis of the previous generations and fondly remember them by offering prayers along with special gifts of fragrant flowers and prayers. The souls look forward to being remembered in a loving manner, especially during the Muktad. If happy with our love and remembrance, they bless us with health, wealth and happiness.

Friends, This year our Farvardegaan Days (Muktad) begins from Sunday 7th August 2016 till Tuesday 16th August 2016. There will be One Saturday and Two Sundays this time. On which days our Prayers will be between 10.30 am to 12.30 afternoon time. On all other days Monday through Friday Prayers will be done between 6 pm and 8 pm daily.

We offer Flowers in the Behras (Vases), sukhad loban, fruits, dry fruits, sweet dishes and home cooked meals in our daily recitation of satoom, Afringaan and farokhshi Rituals.

A REQUEST. If you Want to place Vases, please make sure to visit daily and change water and place Fresh flowers in your Vases as we are unable to cleanse them ourselves. Thank you.

Whoever is Interested in giving their Asho Farohar names please e-mail me at 7850bms@gmail.com, and I shall pray them for all ten days. We try to continue our tradition of Muktad in Houston, TX for the last 22 years. We are open for everybody in our Center’s Prayer Room. Please spread this message amongst all your family and friends.

I Remain, Yours in His Service,

Mobed Bomanshah M. Sanjana
6th July 2016.

VADA DASTURJI DR. PESHOTA HORMUZDYAR MIRZA

On Sunday June 26, 2016 Vada Dasturji (High Priest), Dr. Peshotan Dastur Hormuzdyar Mirza passed away. Vada Dasturji Mirza was one of the two Vada Dasturjis of the Pak Iranshah Atashbehram in Udvada, India.

The funeral was held at 5:00 pm at the Doongerwadi in Mumbai, India and the Uthamna ceremonies were held on June 28, 2016 at the Iranshah Atashbehram in Udvada and the Vutchha Gandhi Agiary in Mumbai, India.

Dr. Peshotan Dastur Hormazdyar Mirza was a fantastic combination of religious fervor and technical excellence. Born at Udvada in November 1944, Dr. Peshotan Mirza acquired his priestly Education and Training at Seth Sorabji Manekji Damanwala Madressa, Udvada and The M.F. Cama Athornan Institute, Andheri. He was ordained in the Zoroastrian Priestly orders of Navar, Maratab and Samel; and performed higher liturgical services and ‘Boi’ ceremony of the Pak Iranshah Atashbehram in Udvada, India.

He was appointed to the exalted position of Dastur (High-Priest) of Iranshah Atash Behram; Samast Anjuman, Udvada on 13th May 2004.

Apart from being a priest of the highest caliber, few in the community know that he was a lecturer in Chemistry at St. Xavier’s College; Mumbai Development and Documentation Scientist at International Draxon Industries, Tehran, Iran.
A great orator, he has lectured on Zoroastrian religious and historical subjects at various places of Parsi settlements in India, Singapore, Dubai, Karachi and Iran.

Dr. Peshotan Mirza was a shining jewel of our community. A man of not only great virtue, sincerity and spirituality, but also of technical excellence.

May his tribe increase with the divine benedictory of Pak Iranshah Atashbehram, our prophet Zarathushta and Pak Dadar Ahura Mazda. Atha Jamyat Yathra Afrinami!

Till the end he served the community with integrity, scholarship and commitment. May his glorious soul find Garothman Behest, and may his family find solace in their hour of grief.

On deepest condolences to his wife Mahrookh, and the family.

**ACCLAIMED HOST AND CHEF, ANTHONY BOURDAIN VISITS HIMALYA RESTAURANT**

*By Aban Rustomjik*

**Bourdain explores Kairasp Lashkari’s restaurant for CNN’s ‘Parts Unknown’**

The acclaimed host and chef, Anthony Bourdain, made his way around town with his film crew to profile what makes Houston the culinary capital of the south. It was no surprise that he visited our Kairasp Lashkari at Himalaya Restaurant. Lunch lasted for two hours and filming continuing for a longer period. What did Bourdain eat at Lashkari’s restaurant? Lamb biryani, chicken hara masala, steak tikka, hunter’s beef and garlic nan with Shiner Bock Beer. Bourdain got to see it ALL. He posted a dance which took place while he visited Keemat Grocers. Tanaya Behramsha was one of the performers and the dance troupe was our Arzan Gonda’s Rythmn India.

You will have to wait until the episode premieres for a full account of Bourdain’s Houston travel and food show in ‘Parts Unknown’. And perhaps next time Bourdain can savor our batasas, bhakara’s and khatai’s too. Keep tuned!