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:  June 12, 2016

Children’s Session:  Sunday School session as follow:

10.30 am - 12.30 am – Gujarati, Stories and activities

May Sunday School
Vehishta’s Sunday School group conducted a version of the Oral History projects as part of the May Sunday School on 8th May. We had 4 parent volunteers who came from different Zarathushti backgrounds (Iran, India, US) who talked about their lives before coming to the US and the ways in which they continue their traditions in the western culture environment. It was a very interesting discussion, with the children asking many questions to each of the presenters. The presenters brought many articles of interest e.g. family albums, photos of agiaries, ses, articles from Iran etc which made the presentation very interesting and interactive.

Many thanks to the parents who came forward and shared their stories – Tanaaz and Edul Chikhliwala, Banafsheh and Toshar Mondegarian, Scheherazade Dastur.

This would not have been possible without the support of Debra Kolah, who brought the program to ZAH via the library committee and Aban Rustomji. Debra introduced the session at the Sunday School. Thank you for all your help.

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

Saturday, July 2, 2016  Tirgan
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  Muktad Prayers
Wednesday, August 17, 2016  Navroze Humbandagi and Maachi
Saturday, August 20, 2016  Navroze Function

MEETINGS
REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT

Annual Gala Event in October

The much-awaited annual Library Gala is planned for October 28, 29 and 30. Harvard-educated Dr. Dan Sheffield, now affiliated with Princeton University and University of Washington, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Sheffield’s web site www.dansheffield.com portrays his impressive scholarly achievements as author, lecturer and speaker on Zoroastrianism.

Dr. Sheffield will present two talks on Saturday: (1) ‘Yearning to See You’: Friendship and Alliances between Iranian and Indian Zoroastrians, and (2) Mother Tongues: Language, Education, and Zoroastrian Identity. The Sunday session, more in the form of discussion and questions will be on present-day study of Zoroastrianism at American universities and the future of Zoroastrian studies in America.

These annual galas organized by the ZAH Library Committee have always been very well received. Further details will be forthcoming in the next few months, but for now, please put these dates on your calendar.

Book Donation

Minoo Shroff has graciously donated two copies of his book: “Never a Dull Moment”. Past Chairman of the BPP, Chair of the global WZCC, and a much sought-after management consultant, Minoo has rubbed shoulders with heads of state, Queen Elizabeth, and business tycoons like Ambani around the world.

The book, small in size, but enormous in its impact to the reader, is a fascinating chronicle of the man’s interaction and achievements over the years. Check out a copy and learn from Minoo Shroff the mentor, as he leads you through his life experiences.

YOUTH REPORT

By Rayhan Nariman – Youth Webmaster

The month of May was a busy one for the Youth Group, mostly revolving around our trip to the Park Manor Senior home. The Youth conversed with and entertained many of the residents in the home, many of the Youth saying it was a fun and enjoyable experience.

In June, we plan to help around the Center, specifically, the container behind the building. Cleaning the small shipping container holding a majority of the centers proms and materials is a project the Youth has tackled before, and enjoy doing each time. In addition to the container, the Youth also plans to focus on cleaning the Youth Room itself, a project our group takes on annually to maintain the room.

Last but not least, the Youth Group will soon hold elections for officer positions for the 2016-2017 school year. I can say this is a bitter-sweet moment for many of the current officers, me included, for it means the seniors are going away to college and being replaced by a new set of equally capable Youth Officers.

As always, the Youth would like to thanks the ZHCC community for their unwavering support in us!

VISION 2020 PROGRAM REPORT

Providing financial stability and maintainability to ZAH:
Dear Community Members,

The first half of the year is almost over and we have had 3 major functions besides a couple of minor ones as well as the Sunday school classes that really benefit our future leaders of the Community. We have already had almost 1,000 attendees during those functions which is incredible and absolutely amazing as it demonstrates that our Center is being utilized over 100% capacity.

Now it’s time for us to regroup and think about the wear & tear and maintenance / expansion needs of our building that we all so frequently use. Please spare some time to reflect and think how you can be a part of this journey that we have embarked upon in 2013 to maintain our Center and keep it as beautiful and strong as it was when we started for years to come.

SILENT AUCTION:
As part of our Vision2020 Program we have a lot of programs/initiatives in place and one of them are the silent auctions that you see during our major events. Yasmin Medhora, our creative genius has been doing a tremendous job of planning and organizing these silent auctions and here is her write-up that reflects how we did this time.

The second Silent Auction for 2016 was held at the Gahambar on 5/29/16. ZAH received $970/- for the six items auctioned. We would like to thank the following donors and the highest bidders for the items:

- **Donors:** Sarosh & Pearline Collector, Villie Daboo, Firduas & Tehmi Dastoor, Zersis & Anita Kavina, Yasmin & Nosh Medhora, Contribution by 10 families at Dinner Party.
- **Highest Bidders:** Feroze & Shernaz Bhandara, Sarosh & Pearline Collector, Rustom & Yasmin Engineer and Nosh & Yasmin Medhora

COMMIT – 4 – 5:
Our Commit-4-5 program is a great initiative we have undertaken where anyone in the Community can be a part of by committing to a certain amount for 5 years. **If you are not interested in committing for 5 years you can still be a part of this program and donate a Lump sum amount every year as per your desire and capacity.** The current categories that we have are:

- Diamond - $1,000 per month
- Platinum - $500 per month
- Gold - $250 per month
- Silver - $100 per month
- Bronze - $50 per month
- Lump sum amount

There are a few other programs that we already have in place as a part of our Vision2020 program like Adopt-a-Utity and Shop on AmazonSmile.com and we would really like to encourage you all, to please take part in those programs as well.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM:
Father's Day is Sunday, June 19 so please remember to shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate a part of the sales to ZAH. Please use the link below and you will be directed to great Father's Day gift ideas in support of Zoroastrian Association of Houston.


ADOPT-A-UTILITY:
You can adopt any utility for a month or months by sending a check to our current Treasurer clearly marking the check as V2020 Program - Adopt a Utility. Current approximate cost of each utility per month can be obtained from our current Treasurer, Mitra Khumbatta at treasurer.zah.ec@gmail.com

**All donations are tax deductible** and in case of any queries or questions regarding the Vision2020 program please contact Aderbad Tamboli at axtamboli@windstream.net or Kayo Sidhwa at kaysid@hotmail.com.

Kayo Sidhwa
MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH Z-CAMP 2016 REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The ZAH Z-Camp is back after 3 very successful endeavors and will be held from July 29th thru 31st so check out the attached flyer and please register soon to avoid disappointment.

Calling all Kids ages 5-25….Yes, we mean 25!!! Join all your friends for a weekend camp full of fun, games and more…test your noodle and learn new skills ......Zumba, Food Truck tour, ZAH Iron Chef, Treasure Hunt, Drama and more....

Online Registration closes on July 15th, 2016. No late registrations allowed!!!

- When : Saturday July 30th, 2016 10:00 am – Sunday July 31st, 2016 3:00pm (Friday July 29th @ 8:00 PM onwards Pre-Camp Sleep Over for Outstation and over 14 attendees ONLY)
- Ages 10 and Up – Camp overnight (Bring your sleeping bag and pillows)
- Ages 5-9 – Day Camp Only (Sat 10:00am – 11:00pm and Sunday 9:00am – 4:00pm)
- Cost: $25 per attendee

Parents/Grandparents and guests please join us on Saturday, July 30th at 7.30 pm for "Camp Dinner with Kids" ($15 pp - Registration reqd.) and on Sunday July 31st @ 1:30pm for final skit by the kids, awards and more...

If you would like to be a Sponsor or Donate towards the camp please email Kayo Sidhwa at kaysid@hotmail.com

ZAH Z Camp Core Team

ZAH MADE NEWS – FEZANA BULLETIN

ZAH made News in the FEZANA Bulletin (April 2014) where FEZAN wrote about the Oral History project conducted at ZAH, where over 30 senior members have been interviewed and taped, sharing their interesting experiences and recollections of personal, religious, and historic events, as well as their daily lives dating back to early years in their homeland, and as first-generation immigrants to the U.S. Read the entire article here

ASIAN AMERICANS OF TEXAS

The Asian Americans of Texas group is a Facebook group to bring all Asian American communities in Texas together to create a common platform and fulfill the following purposes:

- Promoting Asian Events in Texas
- Supporting Asian Political Candidates and Campaigns
- Promoting Asian owned Businesses in Texas
- Relaying efforts of various Asian Non Profit entities
- Enabling Asians to volunteer for causes they care about
- Posting Job and Internship opportunities

All are welcome to join the group as well as provide any information that you would like to share with all Asian American communities in Texas.

RELIGIOUS CORNER

Adar Yazad
The ninth day of the month and the ninth month of the year in the Parsi calendar are dedicated to Adar Yazad. Adar is the only Yazad who enjoys the same position - ninth - in the list of the roj and the mah. The word Adar means fire. As the name suggests Adar Yazad presides over all types of fire and fire energies. It is a Hamkar (co-worker) of Ardibehesht Ameshapsand. The second grade of fire, which we refer to as Adaran, is dedicated to Adar Yazad. That is the reason why sometimes Agyaris are also called Adarans. There is no Yasht dedicated to Adar Yazad. Atash Nyaishna which is dedicated to fire, is also dedicated to Adar Yazad. The Athro Ahurahe Mazda puthra paragraph in Atash nyaishna is a dedication to Adar Yazad. Adar Khordad, Adar Gushasp and Adar Burzin Meher, mentioned first indirectly in the paragraph of Athro ahurahe mazdao in the Atash Nyaishn, and then directly at the end of the Nyaishna, are fires created by Ahura Mazda during the creation of the world for protecting mankind. These divine fires took the form of Khoreh (Energy) and came into this world. Even today, we remember these fires when we pray the Atash Nyaishna, and we pray that the glory of these fires keep on increasing. This clearly shows that these spiritual fires are beyond the physical form. They look after and protect the world. These three Fires, mentioned together at several places, helped several Iranian kings and heroes When Adar Roj and Adar Mah coincide, it is a very auspicious day for fires. We may even consider this day as the birthday of fires. The day prior to this (roj Daepadar) is regarded as the birthday of all hearths and hearth fires, and that is why many Parsi homes decorate their cooking places with vermillion and turmeric paste and draw the Afarganyu, chipyo and chamach over there. On the auspicious day Adar Mahino Adar Roj several sacred fires were consecrated. The most important fire for all us Zoroastrians - the sacred Iranshah - also celebrates its Birthday, on this auspicious day.

WE HAVE MOVED

Arish Rustomji and Aaryan Rustomji have moved to:

514 Woodbend Lane
Houston Texas 77079
Home (832) 243-4512
Cell (281) 536-4436

WEDDING BELLS:

Naomi, daughter of Ken & Villi Bhappu was married to Malcolm, son of Parinaz & Khodi Irani on May 7, 2016.

Heartiest Congratulations to the newlyweds!!

OBITUARY

Dinoo R. (Coyajee) Jassawalla (89), wife of Rustom Jal Jassawalla, passed away this morning. She is survived by her son, Cyrus, daughter-in-law, Betty, daughter, Shernaz Billimoria, son-in-law, Rustom, as well as granddaughter, Jennifer Hester, and grandsons Neville and Eric Billimoria.

Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.
ZAH Z-CAMP 2016

Sat July 30th from 10:00 am – Sun July 31st 3:00pm
(Fri July 29th 8:00 PM onwards Pre-Camp Sleep Over for Outstation and over 14 attendees ONLY)

10 yrs. & Up - Camp overnight (Bring your sleeping bag)
5 to 9 yrs.- Day Camp Only (Sat 10am-11pm & Sun 9-3pm)
Cost: $25 per attendee
Register at  ZAH Z-Camp 2016

Parents/Grandparents and guests please join us on
• Saturday, July 30th @ 7.30 pm for "Camp Dinner with Kids" ($15 pp - Registration reqd.)
• Sunday July 31st @ 1:30pm for final skit by the kids, awards and more...

Online registration closes July 15th
No late registrations allowed!!!

If you wish to donate or have any questions please email Kayo Siahwa at kayss6@hotmail.com