SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE: ZHCC, 8787 W. Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071 Tel: 713-270-9339
TIME: Different times for each group
DATE: November 13, 2016.

Children's Session: The Sunday School session will start at 10.30 am
- Gujarati - Please have your child learn a simple sentence (preferably in 3rd person) and its meaning. We will have each child say the sentence for others to learn.
- Thanksgiving as it relates to Gahambars
- Activity related to the Gahambar feast.

Middle Group: The Sunday School session will start at 11.00 am

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Sunday – Nov 12, 13
Middle Group Lock-in

Sunday – Nov 13, 1 pm
ZAH Annual General Meeting

Saturday – Nov 19, 6.30 pm
Zarathushti Dinner Theater Group presents “In the Face of the King”
Tickets available from Persis Behramsha
Ticket Prices - $100, $75, $50, $35
(see attached flyer for details)

Friday, Saturday – Nov 25, 26 (offsite)
Youth Group Dallas Lock-In

Thursday – Dec 1 and Friday Dec 2
Library Event – Silk Roads, Arab Invasion & the Flight to China and Yalda celebrations. See flyer for details

Sunday – Dec 11
Christmas Party + Toy and Food Drive

SPECIAL REQUEST

Shop Using AmazonSmile To Support ZAH
AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support ZAH every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you are shopping for anything on Amazon please do the following:

1. Go to ZAH.org
2. On Left side of Page there is a link to go to Amazon smile. Click on this link
3. When you are taken to the smile.Amazon.com page you will be asked to choose your Charity.
4. Type ‘Zoroastrian Association of Houston’ in the search bar. Then select it when it appears.
5. You will then be automatically taken to the Smile page
6. If you are using Google Chrome as your browser on a MAC then they will ask you to install an extension. Say Yes. This extension will automatically take you to the Amazon smile page whenever you open your browser.

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>
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<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>
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REPORTS

EC REPORT

ZAH AGM 2016 NOTICE

This is a kind reminder that the annual General Body Meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston will be held on Sunday, November 13, 2016, at The Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, 8787 W. Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX 77071 at 2:00PM. The agenda is as listed below:

**Agenda for the 2016 ZAH Annual General Body Meeting**

- **Meeting Date:** November 13, 2016
- **Meeting Time:** 2:00PM
- **Meeting Chair:** Aderbad Tamboli

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Percy M. Master</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Establish quorum</td>
<td>Aderbad Tamboli</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Adoption of the Agenda</td>
<td>Aderbad Tamboli</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM</td>
<td>Aderbad Tamboli</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Chairperson’s Report</td>
<td>Aderbad Tamboli</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Treasurer’s Report</td>
<td>Mitra Khumbatta</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Youth Report</td>
<td>Katie P. Master</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Entertainment Committee Report</td>
<td>Yasmin Mehdora</td>
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<td>Investment Management Team Report</td>
<td>Vispi Sagar</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Library Committee Report</td>
<td>Aban Rustomji</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Building Maintenance Committee Report</td>
<td>Aderbad Tamboli</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Sports Committee Report</td>
<td>Sheryo Havellwala</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Legacy Scholarship Report</td>
<td>Homi Davier</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>ZAHCares</td>
<td>Homi Davier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Web Committee</td>
<td>Danesh Desai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>New EC and AKC members welcomed</td>
<td>Aderbad Tamboli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Benediction and meeting close</td>
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LIBRARY REPORT

ZAH Library’s Annual Event a Notable Success

By Jangoo Mistry

The ZAH Library (Home of FIRES) hosted its 2-day annual event in Houston starting on Friday, October 28. The theme, “Exploring Zoroastrian Identity”, was covered by two sessions on Saturday by our esteemed guest speaker, Dr. Daniel Sheffield.

We were indeed fortunate and felt privileged to have such a distinguished and accomplished scholar in Houston with us. Dan Sheffield is a well-known scholar of Zoroastrianism, featured often in several publications, a prolific author of numerous papers, and a frequent guest lecturer around the world. A Ph.D. from Harvard in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations has been followed by teaching and faculty positions at Harvard, University of Washington, and most recently, Princeton University.

As always, on Friday evening, we had the informal Meet-and-Greet session, mainly for the community to meet Dr. Sheffield, and listen to a short informal talk. After Meheryar Rivetna introduced him, Dr. Sheffield related how a Westerner brought up in Kentucky steered his interests and his career towards the study of Zoroastrianism. The meeting was adjourned after a brief session of questions from the audience and ended with an impressive potluck dinner.

The next morning, Saturday, October 29, began with a morning session titled: “Yearning to See You: Friendship and Alliances between Iranian and Indian Zoroastrians”. Relying on Zoroastrian Literature which exists in 5 different languages, Dan Sheffield traced the fascinating history of contacts between Iranian and Indian Zoroastrians that began in the 15th century. Though slow and challenging in those days, strong alliances and friendships were formed, providing opportunities to learn and exchange information with the priestly community in Iran. This eventually led to the formation of Quadimi and Shahanshahi groups in India in the eighteenth century.

After lunch, the afternoon session: “Mother Tongues, Language, Education and Zoroastrian Identity”, addressed the evolution and translation of texts written in Old Avestan and Pahlavi into New Persian (in Iran) and into Sanskrit (in India) by scholars and Zoroastrian priests. The 19th century, in particular, saw a lot of books published in Parsi Gujarati.

In response to the feedback we have received on previous meetings, there was ample time for questions from the audience. Judging from the depth and number of questions, it was evident that the attendees had taken a keen interest in Dr. Sheffield’s talks.

The event was an unqualified success, with many who filled the main hall of the Zarathushti Center of Houston remarking that this was one of the most interesting ZAH Library meetings they had attended. It’s not often that we come across someone who has crammed so much knowledge on Zoroastrianism, and gained so much recognition everywhere. That Dr. Dan Sheffield took the time to be with us for the weekend was a real gift to our community, though a larger audience for the event would have been more gratifying.

December Event

On Thursday, December 1, K.E. Eduljee, a scholar and author of the acclaimed Zoroastrian Heritage website www.zoroastrianheritage.com will present, “Silk Roads, Arab Invasion & the Flight to China”.

When Persian royalty and a large group of Iranians fled to China after the Arab invasion, they found a large group of Iranians settled there with roots dating back many centuries – to when the Silk Roads were first formed. We will explore the Iranian-Zoroastrian role in establishing the trade routes, find out what the Chinese Books of Tang and the diary of Persian Prince Narsieh have to say, and try to find out what happened to the large numbers of Iranians living in China.

On Friday, December 2, Mr. Eduljee will present, “Yalda, Mithraism & Christmas Day – Are There Any Zoroastrian Roots?”
We will blow the dust off on the earliest available Latin and Arabic literature to uncover some surprising facts about Mithraism, claims that Christmas Day originally celebrated the birth of Mithra, check if Yalda has any Zoroastrian roots and discuss a little known mysterious sect that surfaced in our search.

Join us on a journey of discovery. You may be surprised.

YOUTH REPORT
By Tanaya Behramsha - ZAH Youth Group Treasurer

In November we are looking forward to fun-filled weekend of Nov. 25th-26th for a joint lock-in with the ZANT youth. We will be leaving the center Friday morning at 8:00 am and be returning Saturday evening. The youth is excited for another great lockin with our fellow Zoros. Thank you to the community for your continued support!

MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH KITCHEN SPOTLESS AND ORGANIZED
(By Arzin Italia – Middle Group Parent)

Hello ZAH members!

As soon as our kids got back from their summer vacation, they were excited to get back in the routine of Sunday school. In our September parents middle group meeting, a few parents came up with the idea of volunteering.

Usually we drop off kids at Sunday school, with some parents leaving to run a few errands and with a few staying back. So why not put in a few hours of volunteer work?

A few parents came up with the idea of cleaning the ZAH in our September meeting.

We all volunteered to bring supplies and started cleaning our ZAH kitchen on the 9th of October. Being pakka bawas that we are, our first thought is always food and that is how the kitchen was picked first. The kitchen is the heart of ZAH.

Khursheed Hormuzdi, Nilufer Surveyor, Zubin Vakil, Tanaaz Chikliwala and Arzin Italia volunteered. Nilufer also mentioned that we should try cleaning up all the other rooms at ZAH as time permits in the future. It was an excellent opportunity for our children to come together and to reiterate what it means to be a true Zarthushti.

We always teach our kids to volunteer but I am so glad that we as parents got a wonderful chance to volunteer together.

Thank you!

(Middle Group Moms and Dads scrubbing the ZAH kitchen clean !)
SADRA STITCHING
Gohar Demavandi stitches Sadras, Lengha, Sari Petticoat etc. She can be contacted at geeti66@hotmail.com Tel: 929-309-9220.

Sadras - own material $4 ladies. $5 gents
Sadras - material provided by Gohar: $8 ladies. $10 gents
Children's hand stitched Navjote Sadras. $10 with material.

ANCIENT ATASHGAH RESTORED BY AZERBAIJAN/RUSSIAN ZOROASTRIAN

With the joint efforts of WZO, members of Russian Zoroastrian Anjuman & Azerbaijan Zoroastrians Mr. Farroukh Jorat & Mr. Fariz Abasov… the abandoned Atashgah in Khinalig, Azerbaijan was restored to its former glory.

Ruins of the natural flame of the Atashgah were located 5 km away from Khinalig village at an altitude of 2200 metres on the slopes of Shah-dagh mountain (“Mountain of King” in Azeri) making it the highest Atashgah in the world.

This Atashgah was known in the middle ages and the local legend mentions that Pir Jomard who lived approx 1000 years ago (in IX-X century) was the last known priest at the Atashgah… There are also ruins of a dakhma approx. 40 kms from the Atashgah…

After obtaining permission from the authorities and in accordance with the ancient tradition, the Atashgah was restored using natural stone as the ‘chahartaq’ (dome with four arches) structure.

Unlike modern Fire Temples where the fire is hidden from strangers, in the ancient times Zoroastrians kept sacred fire in open altars such as ‘chahartaqs’… Design of ‘chahartaqs’ provides fresh air flow and traction of combustion products… This ensures that the flame of the Atashgah reaches up and becomes more visible from a distance.

The tradition to build fire temples on hill tops and mountains is known since ancient times… Atar Gushasp was placed on Mount Asnavand in Ataropatakan (i.e.Azerbaijan). The Zoroastrian custom of praying at the highlands was described by Herodotus in the 5th Century BC… One such ancient fire temple on a mountain top (“atashgah”) is located near Isfahan.

The construction process was completed with landscaping of the adjacent territory and the nearby spring.

OBITUARY

Jamshed S Vazifdar, husband of Perin Vazifdar; father of Avan Bhathena (Houston) and Kurush Vazifdar (Australia), grandfather of Zal and Shayan Bhathena (Houston) and Yohann (Australia), passed away in Mumbai on Wednesday, October 12, 2016.

Khursheed Minocher Bharucha, husband of Roshan Bharucha, father of Kaiwan Bharucha, Sharaine Bharucha Vakil and Thrity Bharucha Engineer, grandfather of Shanaya, Cyrus, Nadia, Darian and Aaron, passed away in Quetta on Friday, October 21, 2016 (CST)

MANASHNI and its readers convey their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families
Zoroastrian Association of Houston

ZAH Raffle 2016
Win awesome prizes while supporting the ZAH

Tickets: 1 for $20 or 3 for $50 or 10 for $100

1st Prize: 50” 1080p Smart LED TV

2nd Prize: Pink Gara Sari
Machine embroidered with fully embroidered Pallu (Includes matching blouse material and petticoat).

3rd Prize: Cillie’s Basket
Filled with delicious goodness.

For tickets contact Nargis Cooper (713)937-4441
Drawing on 11/19/2016 at the ZAH Annual Fund Raiser.
Do not have to be present to win. Free Shipping for winners outside Greater Houston.

All proceeds go to VISION 2020
ZAHL LIBRARY PRESENTS

K. E. EDULJEE

Thursday, December 1, 2016  7:00—8:30 pm
Silk Roads, Arab Invasion & the Flight to China

&

Friday, December 2, 2016  7:00—8:30 pm
Yalda, Mithraism & Christmas Day - are they any Zoroastrian roots?

K. E. Eduljee is a past director of the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (BC) and a founding trustee of the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Meher Trust for BC. He is the author of the acclaimed Zoroastrian Heritage website and his efforts in maintaining this informative site are directed towards providing objective information on the Zarathushti religion and its heritage, promoting the good name of the community, and honoring the memory of Zarathushtis who through the ages have made great sacrifices to faithfully preserve the Zarathushti heritage and its core values.

The Zoroastrian Heritage site can be accessed at:

<www.zoroastrianheritage.com>

Lectures are free and open to all
Zoroastrian Heritage & Cultural Center
Light refreshments will be served
To register call: Arnavaz Sethna
ahsethna@yahoo.com