

Volume 31: Issue 4

April 2017

SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLACE: Only for April at Sethna Residence:
2603 W Pebble Beach Dr., Missouri City, TX 77459 – 281-499-1832

TIME: Different times for each group – Please check the e-mail announcements from various groups

DATE: **April 9, 2017.**

Children's Session See e-mail from Khursheed Dastur

Middle Group: See e-mail from Arnavaz Sethna

Youth Group: See e-mail from Katie Master

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday – April 27, 9 am onwards

FEZANA Pre-AGM function
WZCC: 9 am to 4.30 pm (See flyer)

FIRES: *An Evening with FIRES* (See flyer)
Guest Speaker: Aban Marker Kabraji.
Dinner \$15.00 per person

Fri to Sun – April 28-30, 2017

FEZANA AGM
Please register at link - <http://zah.org/?event=fezana-agm>.
See flyer for details

Friday, April 28

Lunch \$10.
Dinner adult/under 10 - Member \$30/\$20 - non-member \$50/\$40

Saturday, April 29

Lunch \$10.
Dinner adult/under 10 - Member \$60/\$30 - non-member \$99/\$55

Best Value - Friday & Saturday Night Gala Package
ZAH Members only Adults \$75 - Under 10 \$40

Sunday – June 4, 2017
Fri to Sun – June 23-25, 2017

Maidhiyarem Gahambar (Dae Mahino)
ZAH Z-Camp 2017

SPECIAL REQUEST

Shop Using AmazonSmile To Support ZAH !

MEETINGS

GOLDEN GROUP	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at (832) 288-2436
LIBRARY COMMITTEE	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 aban@coatingindustries.com

REPORTS

EC REPORT

By Aderbad Tamboli

Here's an update to all the construction and renovations.

Phase 3A – Purvez S Rustomji room & classroom:

Target completion Friday 4/15/17

Work remaining: Complete sheetrock, install interior doors, paint, install electrical panel and in ceiling lights & fans.

Install Fire alarm. Install gutters and cap roof panels.

Inspections remaining for electrical, sprinklers, fire alarm and final occupancy certificate

Renovation: Target 4/15/17

Atrium Sewer line:

Completely replaced the entire line from the first sink in the kitchen to the middle of the ladies room as the line did not have the correct slope and in some sections the slopes were reversed. The kitchen tiles have been replaced

Main hall:

New ceiling grid installed. Completed work around stage for new fur down, and stage lights. Side closets installed and ready (doors need to be painted)

Work remaining: Install lights and fans, install ceiling tiles. Raise sprinkler heads over stage to match new ceiling height.

Bathroom:

Both bathrooms gutted and cleaned out. New ceiling grid installed

Ladies room - new configuration, toilets moved, new walls installed

Remaining work: Complete plumbing for automated flush (requires a larger size pipe than currently installed),

Sheetrock walls and prep for paint and tile, paint partitions, paint walls, tiling, complete shower pans.

Install new electrical for hand dryers.

Tiling is scheduled to start on Monday, in this order, library, atrium, phase 3

That's all for now....Special thanks to Rohintan D. for being at the center everyday pushing both contractors along...

Cheers

Aderbad

LIBRARY REPORT

By Jango Mistry

An Evening with FIRES

The time is drawing near when the Library Committee will bring to you a fabulous event to showcase FIRES (FEZANA Information Research Education System) to our members and out-of-town guests. On the evening of Thursday April 27, the day before FEZANA's 3-day Annual General Meeting (AGM) starts, we will feature a noted dignitary, Aban Marker Kabraji who now lives in Thailand as the chief guest and keynote speaker for the evening.

A biologist and a scientist, Ms. Kabraji is the Regional Director of the Asia Regional Office of IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature. IUCN provides Asian organizations with resources for development within constraints of environmental challenges. We are indeed fortunate and very excited to have this distinguished activist with us.

We are hoping to feature the guest speaker's presentation, "Memory and Identity", in the new Purvez S Rustomji Room adjoining the Library. This will be the first event held in this new addition to our Center. The Library will also display an exhibition of our rare book collection, cultural artifacts, as well as an entertaining presentation orchestrated by Vehishta featuring our youngsters. That will bring the exhibits to life. The evening will conclude with a delectable dinner catered by our very own Naushad.

Time is running short, so please go to the Events section of www.zah.org to register for "An Evening with FIRES" dinner for the evening of Thursday, April 27. Like previous ZAH Library events, this evening promises to be entertaining and informative. Do not miss it.

Soon after, on May 12, we are fortunate to have yet another internationally-acclaimed dignitary, Zerbanoo Gifford coming to Houston. Ms. Gifford, the first non-white woman to stand for the British parliament, is a forthright human rights campaigner. She was at the heart of the women's movement relentlessly fighting for social and economic empowerment of women. She has also fought passionately for neglected children and those subjected to bonded labor and abuse. Zerbanoo went through baptism by fire, literally, when the xenophobes threatened to burn down her home and kidnap her children.

Accompanying Ms. Gifford will be Farida Master, a New Zealand-based senior journalist and author, who has written "An Uncensored Life", a biography of Zerbanoo Gifford. "An Uncensored Life" is a motivational memoir/biography that is spirited, thought provoking and fun to read. The book has been launched in India and New Zealand and is now being launched in the U.S., with Houston as one of the venues. Readers of her biography will be charged up by Zerbanoo's electric energy, inner grace, and her passion for life without a pause.

The Friday evening event (on May 12) at 6:30pm is planned as a potluck with further details to be announced later. For now, please mark the date on your calendar to attend this most uplifting event.

YOUTH REPORT

ZAH Youth Group Historian
By: Zubin Master

As another month passes by, the ZAH Youth Group volunteered at the Houston Food Bank, for their community service event. The ZAH Youth Group helped pack about 16,000 meals along with other volunteers!

For the month of April, the ZAH Youth Group will help put on a fabulous show for the 30th Anniversary for the Fezana AGM that will take place in Houston on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The show that will be presented is about preserving the art of Kusti making. Hope to see you all there!

MISCELLANEOUS

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING - ZAH MEALS ON WHEELS

In the spirit of Nauroz, we would like to remind everyone of our annual fundraising drive for Meals on Wheels.

Interfaith Ministry's (IM) *Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston* program feeds many seniors every day and there are hundreds more who are waiting to be on the list. While the number on the waiting list keeps increasing, IM has to raise enough money to keep feeding those currently on their program as well as adding everyone who needs a meal as fast as they can. To this end, IM **does an annual fundraising drive for one year's worth of hot meals home-delivered to seniors for \$1200 of donations.**

The cost to sponsor a whole year's supply of hot home-delivered meals is \$1,200 for one senior.

Growing up in the Indo-Pak subcontinent, we kept hearing about the munificence of Zarathushti charities to all communities. ZAH has been in this community for over 30 years. We need to keep that charitable spirit alive by actively stepping forward and DOING charitable actions. In addition to the legacy of Dar-e-Mehers and trust funds, our future generations need to have a legacy from us not just of wealth and structures, but of consistently kind, charitable and community-minded actions. With that motivation, the future generations of our Zoroastrian community can take a leading role in the world once again.

We are appealing to the membership to donate whatever they can afford so that one Senior can be sponsored by The Zoroastrian Association of Houston. Apart from helping the cause, this will “create awareness” of Zoroastrians in the Greater Houston area which is so important for our survival and growth.

We would appreciate if you could mail checks to
The ZAH Treasurer
Attn: Meals on Wheels Donation
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071

Or you may hand the checks to Nazneen Khumbatta. We would like to send a check to Interfaith Ministries Meals on Wheels program by May 15, 2017.

We are sure, you, the Zoroastrian Community of Houston will come forward with a generous donation.

Ushta Te
Nazneen Khumbatta

AVAN YAZAD PARABH – By: Arnavaz Sethna

Avan Mahino and Avan Roj according to Shehanshahi calendar was observed on March 24 at the residence of Yazdi & Shahnaz Sidhwa. As forecast, it rained that day but by the evening it cleared up a bit. Bahmanshah Sanjana performed the Jashan ceremony in the room facing the lake.

As I closed my eyes and listened to the incantation of our prayers, I went down the memory lane of observing Avan Yazad Parabh in Karachi, as a child. The baug families, mainly ladies and children as husbands were at work, got on a bus chartered by Banoo Mandal or some philanthropic Parsi families with either dar-ni-pori or other pot-luck home made snack – potato puri, dar puri, omelette rotli etc.etc. The bus took us to a place called “Native Jetty” where the ladies sat on wooden benches and prayed while we children played in the open area. Once the prayers were finished, the ladies took a piece of dar-ni-pori, and threw it in the water. My brothers and I always wondered why would all the moms throw away dar-in-pori rather than giving to us – ah well, what do we children know, just accept and eat from the remaining poris. Then all the other goodies were spread on a wooden bench draped with someone’s old clean bedsheet. I remember some of us smaller kids really had to elbow our way to the front of the table.

Much later in life I got the significance of the tradition. It was a way of getting together and establish camaraderie while maintaining our tradition. Although having understood the eco system of the Zoroastrian Religion, where we revere all the elements of nature, I couldn’t figure out why we would want to pollute the water. But as an adult, I could reason in my mind that it was probably taken from the Hindu culture of appeasing “ganga waters” while still revering “Avan” waters. However, I have still not figured out why dar-ni-pori and not any other store-bought sweets. Let’s chalk it down parsi taste-buds and not delve further into it.

Suddenly, I heard a camera click next to me and the incantation stopped, I came back into 2017 sitting on a chair in the living room of Yazdi and Shahnaz, looking at the water. The prayer part completed, we all went to the wooden deck by the lake and spread flowers and a little piece of dar-ni-pori into the lake, came back into the house and had a sumptuous snack with “lili chai and fudna” tea

BIRTH

Angela Bhandara was born on March 27 at 6:07 p.m. to proud parents Zubin and Eloisa. Feroze & Shernaz Bhandara are very happy grandparents

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Bhandara family



2017 FEZANA AGM - HOUSTON

Thursday 4/27/2017	Friday 4/28/2017	Saturday 4/29/2017	Sunday 4/30/2017
Pre-AGM Activities 9:00am – 4:30pm WZCC Meeting Visit to Zoroastrian Site 7:00pm FIRES Exhibit and Dinner	9:00am - 5:00pm FEZANA AGM 7:00 PM FEZANA Showcase Dinner	9:00am - 5:00pm FEZANA AGM 6:30 PM Gala Dinner celebrating FEZANA's 30 th & ZAH Legacy Scholarship's 10 th	9:00am - Noon FEZANA AGM Post-AGM Noon onwards Museum Tour or xpert tour Carnival Cruise

For Further Information or Questions Contact

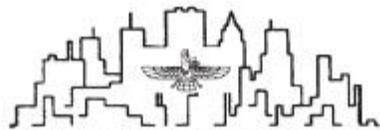
Aderbad Tamboli
Zeeba Kayani

ZAH Chair
AGM Coordinator

axtamboli@windstream.net
zeeba.kayani@gmail.com

Please RSVP by April 16, 2017
(ZAH Houston Residents)

<http://www.zah.org/?event=fezana-agm>



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

celebrate

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston
cordially invites you to celebrate
10 Years legacy2000congress Schloarship
and
FEZANA 30th Anniversary

Saturday, April 29, 2017
6:30 pm to Midnight
Formal Attire

Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center
8787 West Airport Blvd ♦ Houston Texas 77071

Sponsor your table of 10 for \$1500

Please RSVP by April 16, 2017

(ZAH Houston Residents)

<http://zah.org/?event=fezana-agm>

Adult \$60.00 ♦ Children \$30.00 ♦ Under 10 (free) – ZAH Members

Adult \$ 99.00 ♦ Children \$ 55.00 ♦ Under 10 (free) – ZAH Non-Members

(Non- Houston Residents)

<http://zah.org/?event=fezana-agm-registration-for-fezana-members-and-out-of-townners>

Please Make Checks out to ZAH



WZCC invites you to Houston to participate in the Annual North American Regional Meeting to be held on **Thursday, April 27, 2017**. As per past meetings, it will be held on the day before the FEZANA AGM, where many of our members are active participants. Our meeting is planned to provide valuable information to entrepreneurs, business owners, professionals and anybody with interest in various aspects of business, finance and industry.

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM : Visit a Zarathushti owned industrial facility, **Coating Industries Inc, CII** that provides serious corrosion protection for substrate to shipbuilders, chemical companies, major oil companies and industrial plants. We will also visit their adjacent J R Manufacturing facility, a fabricating plant for piping, skids and packages. (Lunch included)

1:30 PM to 4:30 PM - (ZHCC): A panel discussion with focus on the financial resources available to new and existing businesses. The panelists will be from the Federal Government agencies like Small Business Administration (SBA), academic institutions, private financial institutions, venture funds, etc. The discussion will cover traditional and non-traditional methods of raising funds. The second part of the afternoon session will be led by WZCC Global President Edul Daver, covering the progress made during 2016, the status of specific objectives and game plan for 2017 & 2018 and beyond. Comments, Suggestions and Participation from all our members, friends and supporters are welcome.

VENUE: Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center (ZHCC)
(Home of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston - ZAH)
8787 West Airport Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77071, USA

REGISTRATION FEE: **Complimentary** to WZCC members, friends and supporters
Due to limited capacity and advance transportation arrangements,
Registration is required by April 16, 2017

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WZCC INDUSTRIAL VISIT & MEETING SESSIONS:

Contact Regional Director - Rustom Engineer rustom47@hotmail.com

RSVP for WZCC By : **April 16, 2017** wzcc-houston@outlook.com

FOR INFORMATION ONLY - FEZANA AGM - Optional

AGM Coordinator – Zeeba Kayani zeeba.Kayani@gmail.com

Registration & accommodation, please visit <http://zah.org/?event=fezana-agm>

An Evening with FIRES



FEZANA Pre-AGM Evening:

Date and Time: Thursday, April 27, 2017

Time: 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Place: Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) Library

Cost: \$15.00 for dinner and entertainment

- An exhibition of our rare book collection, cultural artifacts, as well as an entertaining presentation linked to the exhibits that will bring them to life.
- Dinner catered by ZAH's Naushad Mehta.
- Chief guest and keynote speaker Aban Marker Kabraji



COME and MEET: Aban Marker Kabraji

Aban Marker Kabraji is a biologist and scientist and is the co-Chairperson of Return to Roots.

Her early years were spent in Quetta, Pakistan and she is currently residing in Bangkok, Thailand. As Asia Regional Director of IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Ms. Kabraji provides strategic leadership for IUCN's work in the 23 countries of the Asia region. With over 30 years of experience in conservation, Ms Kabraji has dedicated at least 20 years of her professional career to IUCN.

Ms. Kabraji has been honored with several distinguished awards. She received the Order of the Golden Ark by the Grand Master of the Order, His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, and is also a Yale University McCluskey Fellow. She has authored and co-authored a number of publications on conservation strategies, the environment and security and conflict prevention. She maintains a special interest in gender, social equality, and security. She is married, has three children and loves dogs.

Please register for this event at: <http://zah.org/?event=fezana-agm-registration-for-fezana-members-and-out-of-towners>



POST FEZANA AGM TOURS: REFLECTIONS OF THE SILK ROAD

The Museum of Fine Arts Houston provides a venue for our Fezana visitors to go on a visual journey glimpsing at works of art that reflect the world wide trade along the famous Silk Road. View artifacts from areas around Gahndara, India, Central Asia and the world of antiquity extending into arts of the western world. This visit will provide a great opportunity for our community members to savor their cultural influence on the rest of the ancient world.

- 1) Time: Any time between Noon onwards
- 2). Tour Duration : Approximately 1 Hour
- 3). Total # of people : 35-50
- 4). Date: Sunday April 30th, 2017



Expert tours

**THIS CRUISE IS TO COINCIDE WITH THE
FEZANA 2017 AGM
IN HOUSTON WHERE THE PARTY CONTINUES**



Carnival Valor®

**5 DAY CRUISE ON CARNIVAL'S VALOR
TO WESTERN CARIBBEAN.....FROM GALVESTON, TX
MAY 01, 2017 - MAY 06, 2017
MON - SAT**