

Volume 31: Issue 8

August 2017

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: August 13, 2017

Children's Session The Sunday School session will start at **10.30 am to 11.15 am**. The topic will be Muktaf
Middle Group: The Sunday School session will start at **11.00 am**. Topics will be partial Satum No Kardo with the meaning. Please bring one (or two maximum) names of the departed ones in your family so that we can invoke their presence to our room to bless us. This will be followed by a presentation on Muktaf
Youth Group: Sarosh Collector, Kaemerz Dotiwalla and Faraidoon Pundole conduct this session.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon to Wed – Aug 7 – 16, 2017
Thursday, August 17, 2017

Muktaf Prayers

ZAH Atash Kadeh Groundbreaking, Jashan and Dinner – 6:00 p.m. (Hosted by the Bhandara family and ZAH)

Jashan will start at 6:30PM, followed by Humbandagi and Dinner. Dinner will be gratis, hosted by The Bhandara Family & ZAH. Please RSVP at this [link](#)
RSVP Deadline is midnight Sunday August 13, 2017, so we can keep an accurate count for dinner
Donations are always welcome, for both the dinner and the Atash Kadeh. If you have any questions, please contact Aderbad Tamboli at axtamboli@windstream.net

Saturday, August 19, 2017

Navroze Function – Doors Open at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment starts at 8:00 p.m. Please RSVP at this [link](#). See attached flyer.

RATES: (Under 3 yrs. Gratis) RSVP Deadline: 8/13/17

ZAH Member: 11 years and up - \$27

ZAH Non-Member: 11 years and up: \$45

Member Children (3-10 yrs): \$15

Non-Member Children (3-10 yrs): \$20

For queries, please contact: Zia Ankleseria at: (832) 646-0510 or zsankles@gmail.com

Sunday, October 1, 2017
Friday & Saturday – Nov 3 to 4 2017
Saturday – November 4, 2017
Friday – December 1, 2017
Sunday – December 10, 2017

Fasli Mehrgan and Maediozarem Gahambar

Library Event

Comedy Fundraiser Natak – Details to be announced later

Library Event

Sunday School and Christmas Party

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. If you would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at aban@coatingindustries.com

REPORTS LIBRARY REPORT

By Yasmin Pavri

Annual Library Program

Mark your calendars for the 15th Annual Library Program on *November 3 and 4, 2017*.

June 30, 2017, was the 100th death centenary of Dadabhai Naoroji, the “Grand Old Man of India”. Mahatma Gandhi bestowed the title of “Father of the Nation” on him since Dadabhai was the first to call for independence from the British. Our invited speaker is Dinyar Patel, who is arguably the most recognized present day scholar on Dadabhai Naoroji.

Dinyar, who incidentally was born in Houston, is an assistant professor of South Asian History at the University of South Carolina. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2015 for his dissertation on Dadabhai Naoroji, which he is currently revising into a biography. He is co-editor of “Dadabhai Naoroji: Selected Private Papers” (Oxford University Press, 2016), a treasured volume that is in our collection.

The tentative program is:

Friday, November 3, 2017

6:30 to 7:00 p.m. - Meet & Greet

7:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Informal session with Dinyar Patel

Saturday, November 4

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon: Evaluating Dadabhai Naoroji's Legacy a Hundred Years after his Death

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. – Light lunch

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. – Preservation of our Heritage

Stay tuned for more information.

Kid's Nite @ ZAH Library

We are excited to announce that Vehishta Kaikobad will be conducting a *Kid's Nite @ ZAH Library* program that will be educational and entertaining. A variety of themes and activities are planned for young people of different ages. The kickoff is on *Friday, September 22*, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. The program features *Tales from the Shahnameh*, and kids from ages 8-13 are invited to attend (parents also welcome). There will be story-telling, followed by a project, creating an illuminated Shahnameh folio, and pizza for dinner.

Youth Report

By Yazad K. Sidhwa – ZAH Youth Group Treasurer

As every year, we conducted our ZAH Youth elections in July to elect the Officers for the new school year and I am extremely excited to let you know the results – Nerius Mehta (President), Cyrus Mistry (Vice-President), Natalya Mehta (Secretary), Yazad Sidhwa (Treasurer), Dina Hormuzdi (Historian), Zubin Master (Webmaster).

As soon as the officers were elected, we scheduled a meeting with all the Youth group members, teachers, mentors and parents and worked hard to set up the Youth group activities calendar for the entire year. As the month of August has a lot of activities at the Center like the Z-Camp, Mukta prayers, Navroze function, etc. we will start our activities from September 2nd when we shall be visiting the Parks Youth Ranch besides planning a Blood Drive to be conducted on Gahambar day on October 1st. A lot of other exciting community service activities have been planned for ZAH Community and for communities outside ZAH. All the activities have been uploaded on the main ZAH website under Events.

A big thank you to Thrity Aunty and Kersi Uncle Engineer for repainting our Youth room and getting it ready before the Z-Camp.

All of us are very excited and looking forward to all the great and exciting activities planned for the year. We will need all your support and participation as always to make all activities a huge success.

Thank you and we look forward to a great year.

MISCELLANEOUS

PRAYER ROOM CLEANED IN PREPARATION FOR MUKTAD

Parents and the kids of Middle Group Sunday School came on Sunday morning to clean the Prayer Room in preparation for Mukhtad ceremonies. It's because of the parents' enthusiasm that the kids enjoyed the work. To enumerate what was done - all silver in the prayer room was polished, washed and cleaned. For the large Afarganyu, the adults removed the "thali", emptied the ashes in a bag, washed, polished and cleaned the thali outside in the front yard and brought it back. The Afarganyu itself was polished and cleaned inside. The fans and blinds were cleaned too as was the floor mopped and cleaned. It was fun while they worked and we didn't see a single child make a boring face.

Once the work was completed, pizzas were ordered and everyone said "Jamvani Baj" before digging into pizzas.



SAVE THE DATE – NATAK – November 4, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.

The ZAH Natak group is back with a brand new comedy play "Love and Marriage". Mark your calendar and save the date. This is one play you don't want to miss.

All proceeds go towards Vision2020

Details regarding tickets will be sent at a later time.

CHHAIYE HUMAY ZARTHOSHI – OUR COMMUNITY ANTHEM (By Jehanbux R Mehta)

Mystery surrounds the origin of the tune of *Chhaiye Humay Zarathosti*. In the July issue of *What's On*, (a monthly newsletter published by Karachi Zarthoshti Banu Mandal) in the note accompanying the lyrics written by Firoz Batiwala, it is stated that the tune is based on "Blue Bell" composed by Theodore Morse in 1904. Did he compose it or was it "borrowed" from somewhere else?

When abroad at company conferences, I always took a couple of days off to go sightseeing. On one such occasion, when in Seville, Spain, after a hearty Sunday pub lunch downed by a pint of strong ale, I was wandering aimlessly among the picturesque cobbled lanes and suddenly stood mesmerized at hearing two boys humming “our Z anthem”. With very little Spanish to my credit, I asked them what the tune was. They were surprised that I was not aware of it being a very old popular Spanish folk song. This was confirmed with energetic nods and toothless smiles by the elders who were witnessing the boys playing a game of marbles. And how amazed they all were when I joined in, albeit singing in a strange language. Forthwith there was another round of cerveza, compliments of my new friends. Viva Espania!

Ah, so Mr. Morse, it was from Spain that you brought it, didn't you? But the mystery deepens and surprises don't end! A few years ago, while shopping with Sillie at a Chinese – yes, you read right, Chinese – supermarket, very much here in Houston, over the PA system was this lilting tune played on Chinese instruments. So beautiful! Yes, it was *Chhaiye*. Both of us made a dash to the service counter to ask what the tune was and whether we could purchase a CD. We were informed that it is a Chinese spiritual song which they have been singing for many centuries. Unfortunately, we were not able to acquire a CD. So, Spain, move over. The Chinese must take the credit unless some other reader of this story comes up with yet another surprise.

The tune has indeed been popular. I believe that the British army used to march to it. Not to be undone, the Nazis during WW II also plagiarized it and turned it into a boisterous tune starting with a drum roll – which we have unashamedly built into the start of our own anthem – with thundering ‘heils’, clicking heels and swaying swastikas. [Some ‘researchers’ claim that the Brits took the marching tune from the huns. Whatever!]

The tune is beautiful and the words of our anthem so inspiring. I am proud to sing it out aloud at our gatherings and I should believe all other Zarthostis share my sentiments. British? German? Spanish? Chinese? Maybe, but it is very much Zarthosti. And, we sing it sans boundaries. Let's keep it ours.

AN ODE TO THE MUKTAD (*Written by Noshir H. Dadrawala*)

Silver vases of those once loved in times gone by
Beautifully arranged in rows on marble top tables
Such a peaceful place of many sweet memories
Where the living walk among solemn rows
Looking for the vase where fond memories lie
As they recall the day of the final goodbye.

The dear departed bring memories of joy and sorrows
For loved ones walking among the silent rows
Some stand by the vases in hushed reflection
Others speak aloud of heartbreak and affection
Some visit for just a moment and others for a while
Then walk away with a tear or memory's fond smile

Each vase has a life story once known
Stories created as life's seeds were sown
Some stories live on in family histories
While others wane into unknown mysteries
All eventually forgotten as time passes by
When all those memories grow old and die.

Such a peaceful place of many sweet memories
Where the living walk among solemn rows
Looking for the vase where memories lie
Sadly remembering until their own final goodbye
When their memories too, in a vase will lie
And loved ones shall mourn for the times gone by.

The Family Prayer

(Excerpted from Homage Unto Ahura Mazda by Dr. Dastoor M. N. Dhalla)

Our fathers have worshipped you, O Ahura Mazda, in this house and we worship you now and will worship you as our strength holds out.

We raise our hearts to you in praise and adoration, O Ahura Mazda. Our devotion for you animates our hearts. We will open our hearts every morning, when the radiant sun shows his shining face and sheds his light upon our house. Please hear our daily prayer.

In this house may life throb with health and happiness and prosperity and peace and concord and contentment and humility, devotion, piety and purity, truth and righteousness. Give us a long and useful life. Help us to infuse cheer and joy and hope among the young and the old in our house.

May the Fravashis of the righteous keep their nightly vigil over our house. May they enter our house attended by blessings. May the Amesha Spentas and the Yazatas bless our family with their august presence. And may thou, above all, be with us and near us by night, and we will raise our hands and bend our knees and bow our heads to offer you our prayer of gratitude.

Open our eyes to our daily duties and help us in their loyal performance. Fill our minds with the thoughts of you and your ideals. Elevate our ideals, help us to live up to them and lead us from day to day to be near their realization.

WE HAVE MOVED

Nozer and Persis Buchia have moved. Their new address is

21818 Oleaster Springs Ln
Richmond, TX 77469
Tel: (281) 762-1072

Minoo and Sweta Sethna have moved. Their new address is

5334 Valkeith Drive
Houston, TX 77096
Home: (713) 840-8203
Cell: (832) 316-5845
Email: swetasethna@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBER

We have a new student member who has moved from California

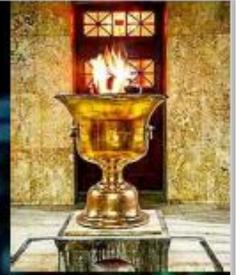
Shahveer Charna
6015 Winsome Lane
Houston, TX 77057
Tel: 949-449-3556
E-mail: shahveerc11@gmail.com

Welcome to ZAH, Shahveer.



Shahenshahi Navroze Celebration

SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2017 at ZAH CENTER
Main Hall Doors Open at 7:30 p.m.
Entertainment Starts at 8:00 p.m.



[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

We request you RSVP and pay online for this event

For questions please call Zia Anklearia at (832) 648-0510 or email at zsankles@gmail.com



RATES: (Under 3 yrs. Gratis) RSVP Deadline: 8/13/17

ZAH Member : 11 years and up - \$27
ZAH Non-Member : 11 years and up - \$45
Member Children (3-10 yrs) : \$15
Non- Member Children (3-10 yrs) : \$20



If paying by check, your check must be received by 8/13/17, at:

ZAH
Attn: Shahenshahi Navroze 2017
8787 West Airport Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77071

PLEASE WRITE (IN THE MEMO FIELD):

- No. of ZAH members/non-members (11 yrs and up)
- Number of ZAH member/non-member children (3-10yrs)
- Please write "Shahenshahi Navroze 2017" on the envelope

- Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs and payments received after 8/13/17. Kids over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents
 - Member rates apply to out-of-town house-guests of members (if online RSVP, online payment, and check (if applicable) is received by 8/13/17)
 - Our goal remains to keep these functions as affordable as possible so you as a ZAH member can attend and enjoy. However if you feel that you are unable to attend solely due to the cost please let us know. We have donations in place to subsidize your cost and we will guarantee confidentiality. Financial ups and downs are a part of most families life cycles. In a way, they are a blessing because they allow innovation, dedication and hard work to take root in oneself. Please use this facility and in better economic times, there will be plenty of opportunities to remember and help your own community members and your own association a thousand times over.
 Please note this is only available to current ZAH Members in good standing.



Organized By: ZAH Ex. Committee



ZAH Library Kids' Nite

Every 4th Friday of the month 7:30-8:30 pm*

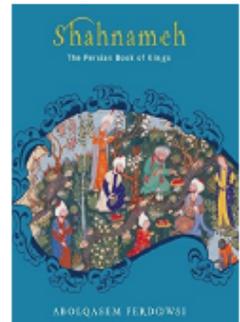
Conducted by Vehishta Kaikobad

Venue: ZAH Library

Beginning September 22, 2017

September Topic: Tales from the Shahnameh

Ages 8-13



Followed by a project: creating an illuminated Shahnameh folio

Dinner: Pizza

NAZC 2020

GRAND PRIZE OF \$150 TO BE WON

As we all know it is extremely critical to have a solid impactful **Theme** for any Congress, so please put on your thinking caps and send us your ideas and suggestions. There will be a grand prize of \$150 for the best NAZC2020 theme entry selected by the designated selection committee. Here are some guidelines:

1. The theme should highlight the importance of the Zarathushti religion and culture in N America
2. It should ensure continuity, diversity, and balance from one Congress to the next and focus on future aspects
3. Individuals can send one or more entries but they should be a current ZAH member
4. The selection committee will consist of the NAZC2020 core committee and/or its selected judges.
5. The NAZC2020 core committee members, judges and their immediate family members will not be eligible to participate and win

	Date	Held at	Theme	Chairperson	Host Association
First	May 18, 1975	Toronto, ON	“The Future of the Zoroastrian Community”	Jamshed Mavalvala	The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Second	May 21, 1977	Chicago, IL	“Survival and Perpetuation of Zoroastrianism”	Keki Bhote	The Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Third	October 6, 1979	New York, NY	“Aspects of Zoroastrian Belief”	Lovji Cama	The Zoroastrian Assn of Greater New York

All those who are still procrastinating, please have a look at the committees below and send in your nominations at your earliest convenience. We need volunteers for these important Committees.



If interested to Volunteer for any of the above Committees and / or to submit your NAZC2020 theme, please send in your nominations soon to the [NAZC2020 Secretary](#).

Your NAZC2020 Core Team

PAST NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS THEME LISTING

Fourth	April 10, 1982	Montreal, Que	"The Zoroastrian Challenge"	Dolly Dastoor	The Zoroastrian Assn of Quebec
Fifth	August 30, 1985	Los Angeles, CA	"Preservation of Zoroastrian Identity through Adaptation of Changing Environment"	Dhunmai Dalal	The Zoroastrian Association of California
Sixth	April 1, 1988	Toronto, ON	"Prospects of Zoroastrian Renaissance in the New World"	Kobad Zarolia	The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Seventh	August 31, 1990	Houston, TX	"Zarathushti: My Past – Our Future"	Meherwan P. Boyce	The Zoroastrian Assn of Houston
Eighth	Sept. 4 – 6, 1992	Vancouver, BC	"Looking Ahead to the 21 st Century"	Bella Tata	The Zoroastrian Society of BC
Ninth	July 1 – 3, 1994	Valley Forge, PA	"Preservation of Zoroastrian Culture at the Turn of a Generation"	Freny Ranji; Katayun Kapadia	The Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania & New Jersey
Tenth	July 4 – 6, 1996	San Francisco, CA	"Zoroastrian Leadership: Past, Present and Future"	Esfandiar Anoushiravani	Co-hosts: Persian Zoroastrian Organization Zarhosti Anjuman of Northern California
Eleventh	July 2-3, 1998	Rye, NY	A Zoroastrian Commitment in the North American Context: @	Co-Chairs: Gev Nentin; Noshir Langrana	The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York
Twelfth	July 2-4, 2002	Chicago, IL	Advancing Communities Empowering Generations	Rashna Ghadialy	Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Thirteenth	Dec 29, 2004 –Jan 1, 2005	San Jose, CA	Being Zarathushti : Looking at Issues, Searching for Anrs	Bomi Patel	Zarhosti Anjuman of Northern California
Fourteenth	June/July 2, 2007	Toronto, ON	Impact – Unleash the Spark Within	Phee Vania	Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
Fifteenth	Dec 29-31, 2010	Houston, TX	Preserve, Protect, Perfect Preserve the Past, Protect the present, Perfect the Future	Jasmine Mistry, Roshan Sethna	Zoroastrian Association of Houston
Sixteenth	August 2-5, 2012	New York, NY	Zarathusti Existence in the Contemporary World	Gev Nentin	ZAGNY
Seventeenth	December, 2015	Los Angeles, CA	Faith and Unity	Darayus Mistry	Zoroastrian Association of California and California Zoro Center
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