



Volume 31: Issue 3

March 2017

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: **March 12, 2017.**

Children's Session The Sunday School session will start at **11 am to noon**
Topic - Navroze and Haftseen followed by lunch

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

Tuesday – March 21, 2017, 6.30 pm

Navroze Humbandagi at Rothko Chapel

Due to renovation at the Center, the Humbandagi will be held at Rothko Chapel - 3900 Yupon St, Houston, TX 77006; TEL: (713) 524-9839

Navroze is on 20th March at 5.28 am Houston time

- **Color – White**
- **Year of the Rooster**

Friday – March 24, 2017, 6 pm

Ava Parab Jashan - 6:00 p.m.

**Venue: Residence of Shahnaz and Yazdi Sidhwa
Address(Highway 6 and Glenn Lakes):
2027 Glenn Lakes Ln, Missouri City, Texas 77459**

6:00-7:00 p.m. Prayers / immerse dal poli

7:00-8:00 p.m. Potluck snacks / Tea

In case you have any questions, please call Yasmin Medhora at 713-301-1521.

Thursday – April 27, 9 am onwards

FEZANA Pre-AGM function

9 am to 4.30 pm - WZCC will meet and visit the center

Evening - ZAH Library event to showcase FIRES.

Fri to Sun – April 28-30, 2017

FEZANA AGM

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

Thursday, April 27 – Guest Speaker Aban Marker Kabraji.
Dinner \$15.00 per person

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

Please Note:

****Navroze function (previously scheduled for March 25, 2017, is now cancelled due to ZAH Renovations (The humbandagi on 21st March will be at Rothko Chapel. See Events section for details)**

****ZAH Annual Carnival (previously scheduled for April 9, 2017 will be moved to a future date)**

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

LIBRARY REPORT

By Jango Mistry

An Evening with FIRES

Preparations are in full swing for FEZANA's 3-day Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the end of April. On the evening of Thursday April 27, the day before the AGM starts, the Library Committee is planning a fabulous event to showcase FIRES to our members and out-of-town guests.

A noted dignitary, Aban Marker Kabraji who now lives in Thailand, has accepted our invitation to be 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 in the new Purvez 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 linked to the exhibits that will bring them to life. The evening will conclude with a delectable dinner catered by our very own Naushad.

Like previous ZAH Library events, this evening promises to be entertaining and informative. 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.

BE AN INSPIRATION TO GENERATIONS ---SHARE YOUR TREASURE

A wide range of exhibits showcasing our Zoroastrian heritage will be on display at the FEZANA AGM, April 27 –30. And while we are excited to feature beautiful *garas*, *kors* and *torans* we are searching for unusual artifacts that you may have and would like to add to the display.

In particular we are looking for medals that were awarded to your family members, or postage stamps or first day covers of Zoroastrians, or any other unusual memorabilia that you would like to share.

Please contact one of the exhibit team members and we can share with you the secure measure we plan to undertake to display your item.

Team: Lyla Daroga; Arzin Italia; Vehishta Kaikobad; Zeeba Kayani; Yasmin Medhora; Aban Rustomji

YOUTH REPORT

By Alyssa Tamboli – ZAH Youth Group Historian

As the year continues on, the youth group is moving forward with our attempts to join and enrich the Zarathushti community. In February, the youth group completed a Lunches of Love activity to help end childhood hunger.

For the month of March, the youth group is planning a trip to the Houston Food Bank on Saturday, March 18th. We hope to be able to help those in need around the Houston area. We will be packaging and sorting food for donation to those in need.

The youth group will also be holding a food drive to donate to the Houston Food Bank on Saturday March 12th. Please bring non-perishable items for donation before this date!

Once again, the youth group would like to thank the ZAH community for their unwavering support and encouragement! Thank you all so much!

MISCELLANEOUS

DID WE MISS AN ANNIVERSARY? (By Aban Rustomji)



January 28, 2017, was the 100th anniversary of the *aferganyu* in our prayer room. The inscription in the prayer room says it was gifted by Seth Phirojshaw Rustomji Mehta to the Sukkur's Dar-e-Meher. Over the years the Sukkur Zoroastrian community dwindled and the *aferganyu* sat in an abandoned *agari*. So how did it get to Houston? The journey was not a simple one. Permission was first sought from the guardian Quetta Parsi Anjuman. Then came the arduous task of getting permission from the Pakistan government, who initially refused as it was considered to be valuable; in fact, an antique. After some persuasion, it was allowed to leave only if it was placed in a place of worship. So it traveled from the dusty roads of Sukkur to the Karachi harbor where it was packed and shipped to Houston. A few will remember the *aferganyu* was jet black when it arrived and we were worried it was made of copper and not silver. And while Phase I of ZHCC was being constructed, the *aferganyu* sat in a home garage for a long time. Community members

took turns in cleaning it and finally a silver shine emerged. So there you have it -- a 100 years later we treasure this gift donated by a railway engineer named Seth Phirojshaw Rustomji Mehta and thank all those who were responsible for bringing it Houston.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Vanessa Behrana Jensen, received an award for Outstanding Clinical Veterinarian In Laboratory Animal Medicine for the State of Texas.

Congratulations Venessa !



BIRTH

Baby boy ***Xerxes*** and baby girl ***Pearl*** were born to Nikita and Eric Gagrat on February 15, 2017. Ethan Gagrat is so proud to be a big brother !

Baby girl ***Mila***, born on February 27, 2017 to Nadine (nee Kanga) and Daniel Weatherall in Dallas TX. Grandparents Cyra Kanga (Houston) and Rustom Kanga (Switzerland) and Cindy and Paul Weatherall (Dallas) are overjoyed!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Gagrat, Kanga and Weatherall families !

OBITUARY

Phiroze Pestonji Gandhi, husband of Katy Gandhi, father of Khursheed Hormuzdi and Persis Shroff, father-in-law of Yezdi Hormuzdi and Farhad Shroff, grandfather of Rayomand, Dina, Rohan Hormuzdi and Armaan and Aiden Shroff passed away on 14th of February, 2017 in India.

Dariush Darayan, husband of Gitty Darayan, mother of Natasha and Navid passed away on 15th February 2017.

MANASHNI and its readers convey their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families

STORY OF KING JAMSHED

The fourth King of the Peshdadian dynasty to adorn the throne of ancient Iran was the radiant and glorious Jamshed. Not only the Mazdayasnis (good people), but even the daevayasnis (evil people) regarded him as their King. In the Shahnameh he is referred to as King Tehmurasp's son, but in the Avestan scriptures he is mentioned as the grandson of King Tehmurasp and son of Vivanghan. Vivanghan was the first person to pray to Home Yazad (a divine being) and as a result he was blessed with an illustrious son, Jamshed.

The Golden Age

King Jamshed was a divinely inspired King. He had received the Caymanian Khoreh (Divine Energy for the Kings) for his devotion and obedience to God and commitment towards his duties. On account of King Jamshed's just rule his subjects were very healthy and happy. Ill-health and vices had vanished from his kingdom. It was indeed a Golden Age in the history of ancient Iran. As a result of prosperity and healthy living conditions, the population increased manifold, and King Jamshed increased the boundaries of his kingdom, towards the South.

People in King Jamshed's reign were introduced to many new arts, skills and trades like brick-making and clay-plastering, mining, cloth making, making musical instruments and practicing medicine.

The practice of using wine as a medicine started from King Jamshed's time.

King Jamshed divided his subjects into four professional groups Athornans "priests," Ratheshtars "warriors," Vastriyosh "farmers" and Hutaokhsh "craftsmen and artisans." One of the reasons for this fourfold division was to enhance the work quality, as the respective trades would be handed over from father to son, which would provide an opportunity of learning the trades early in life, perfecting them and then passing over the superior techniques to the following generation resulting in greater efficiency.

A few highly devout priests specially resided on mountains to devote their time to prayers and invoke the blessings of God and other divine beings on the kingdom. So exalted was the position of priests during King Jamshed's reign, that the King regarded himself as a ruler as well as a priest.

King Jamshed had developed a gadget known as Jām-i-Jamshed, by which, he was able to know the past and the future. Though the word jām literally means a goblet, it was probably a gadget, somewhat like a modern telescope. It may even have been a full-fledged observatory from which King Jamshed saw the heavenly bodies and using the art of astrology came to know the past and predict the future from the stars, planets and constellations.

The world is submerged

Once God guided King Jamshed through Sarosh Yazad about the arrival of a terrible snow-storm which would submerge the entire world under snow. King Jamshed was not only fore-warned of this catastrophe, he was also advised to take a pair of each species and create a Vara "an enclosure" on a mountain to save himself and other good creations from this great catastrophe.

King Jamshed went on a mountain taking with him a pair of most species of animals and plants and established a settlement which came to be known as Var-e-Jam-Kard "the enclosure made by Jamshed." In this Vara, King Jamshed was coronated on the new year day, that is, the day on which the sun enters the house of Aries. It was also the day which heralded spring. King Jamshed sat on a jewel-studded throne wearing a golden crown. He established his benevolent reign and completely subjugated the evil.

Jamshedi Navroz

King Jamshed's ascension to the throne was celebrated with prayers, followed by wine, music and singing. This day came to be known as Jamshedi Navroz and was announced as a day of rest and festivity. Even today the festival of Jamshedi Navroz is celebrated with great joy and revelry. In the reign of King Jamshed there was health and happiness and plenty. Hunger and thirst were not known. There was no aging, debility and disease.

Pride and fall

As time went by, the prosperity and plenty in the kingdom made the king proud of his achievements.

One day he proclaimed before his ministers and subjects: "I have realized that there is none in the world like me. I have improved the world and relieved pain and suffering. The skills and trades in the world are because of me. Your life and consciousness owe me their existence. The very clothes that you wear and the food you eat is by my grace. It is in fitness of things that you call me your God."

As soon as King Jamshed uttered these words his Divine Energy fled in the form of a bird. His subjects lost respect and regard for him King. Within a short period his entire army deserted him. When King Jamshed realized his folly, it was too late to amend.

The people of Iran were very unhappy with their King. They went in search for a new king and found one in Babylon by the name of Zohak. In their eagerness to overthrow their King, they did not realize that Zohak was a very evil man.

Zohak sent a message to King Jamshed to surrender. King Jamshed challenged Zohak for a battle. Zohak came to Iran with his army and a battle ensued for days. In this battle King Jamshed proved stronger. However, the crafty Zohak changed the battle to a duel between the two Kings, which he won by treacherous means.

King Jamshed fled Iran. Changing his identity, he wandered from place to place. He reached Zabulistan, on the border of Afghanistan and Hindustan where King Kurang ruled. He married princess Samannāz. After some time, a son was born to them, who was named Tur.

Ultimately his own half-brother Spityur reported him to Zohak, who ordered to have Jamshed mercilessly killed. Thus came the sad end of one of King Jamshed, one the greatest Kings of Iran.



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	9:00am - 5:00pm FEZANA AGM	9:00am - 5:00pm FEZANA AGM	9:00am - Noon FEZANA AGM
7:00pm FIRES Exhibit and Dinner	7:00 PM FEZANA Showcase Dinner	6:30 PM Gala Dinner celebrating FEZANA's 30 th & ZAH Legacy Scholarship's 10 th	Post-AGM Noon onwards Museum Tour or xpert tour Carnival Cruise
For Further Information or Questions Contact			
Aderbad Tamboli	ZAH Chair	axtamboli@windstream.net	
Zeeba Kayani	AGM Coordinator	zeeba.kayani@gmail.com	

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

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

