



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: **November 12, 2017**

Children's Session The Sunday School session will start at **10.30 am to noon.**

The topic for this Sunday will be:

1. Gujarati - we will review colors, numbers, objects. The children are welcome to bring an object of their choice and we will learn its Gujarati name
2. Thanksgiving the Zoro way
 - Verses from the Gathas
 - Stories of Thanks
 - Please have your child come prepared with a sentence about something that they are thankful for.

We will have a thanksgiving lunch which will be a combination of traditional and classic. Since the ZAH AGM and lunch is also on the same day, the thanksgiving lunch (after Sunday School) will be for the children and will cater to their palette.

Middle Group: The Sunday School session will start at **11.00 am.** Look for a report from Middle Group children in the next Manashni.

Youth Group: Sarosh Collector, Kaemerz Dotiwalla and Faraidoon Pundole conduct this session.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday – November 12, 2017

Friday – December 1, 2017

Sunday – December 10, 2017

Sunday – December 10, 2017

KIDS NITE OUT – ALONG THE SILK ROAD @ ZAH Library

Library Event

Sunday School and Christmas Party

ZAH Annual General Meeting – 11:00 a.m.

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

FOLLOW-ON MEETING TO ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING 2017

We unfortunately failed to meet the quorum required for the November 12, 2017 Annual General Body Meeting. ZAH By Laws require us to have another meeting (no earlier than 10 days and no later than 30 days) in which 80% of the members present can waive the quorum requirement and conduct business.

We therefore request all members to please attend a follow-on General Body Meeting at **11AM on Sunday, December 10, 2017**, at the Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center. No RSVP is required. We look forward to seeing you there!

Your ZAH EC

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT

By Jangoo Mistry

Presentation by Yazdi Tantra

An unusual and interesting seminar was presented jointly by the ZAH Library and the Houston Chapter of WZCC. Many of us gathered on Friday, October 13, to listen to Yazdi Tantra as he presented the work he has been engaged in for the benefit of the worldwide Zoroastrian community. Living in Mumbai, Yazdi is the Global VP of WZCC and Vice-Chairman of the Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank, Ltd. In Mumbai. A Chartered Accountant by training, and a Computer Consultant by profession. Yazdi has volunteered countless hours and worked hard to create something of immense and lasting value for all of us..

The numbers of Zoroastrians on the Indian sub-continent are dwindling rapidly and the diaspora outside, though growing steadily, remains scattered all over the world. These two factors have created an urgent need for the community to stay connected at the personal, social, and professional levels. These days, with social media and virtual connections being a big part of our lives, the internet presents an effective way to unite and connect. Yazdi recalled the saying of Matthew Lieberman, a famous psychologist at Harvard University: *"We are all islands in the sea, separate on the surface, but connected in the deep."* With the firm belief that Zoroastrians need to be connected for unity, strength, and our very survival, Yazdi has created numerous web sites that puts incredible amounts of information at our fingertips, whether you are in a big city, or in a remote corner of the world.

Here's a sample of the websites Yazdi has created and maintains (note that the terms Parsi and Zoroastrian are interchangeable. Any one of the two words will take you to the same site)::

Zoroastrians.net

Chock full of information on almost anything under the sun you can think of, this has got to be the go-to place for anyone seeking news, jobs, community events, food and recipes, scholarships, songs and videos, prayers and ceremonies, calendars, missing Parsis, and Directories. This site receives over 2.1 million hits as proof of its usefulness.

TheParsiDirectory.com

A directory of Zoroastrians with more than 81,000 entries that is also available as an Android app. You can search for any long-lost friend or relative and get their whereabouts and contact information. Just input either the name, or the location or the profession of the person.

The ParsiFamily.com

Connects all Zoroastrians worldwide through a common, single family tree.

The ParsiMatch.com

An online portal dedicated to help the young Z-generation to meet their life partners.

TheParsiInstitutions.com

A comprehensive listing of more than 780 community institutions world over.

WZCC.org

A meeting place for businessmen and professionals.

A nifty feature of the Parsi calendar on Zoroastrians.net allows you to find the Roj and Mah of any birthday and automatically put that on your Google calendar every year.

There was immense admiration and lots of interest for Yazdi's single-handed efforts as evidenced by the questions that the attendees asked. Recognizing the importance of Yazdi's work, attendees also expressed concerns for ensuring its continuity in the future. Yazdi continues his mission to educate and inform Zoroastrians in North America by presenting in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and a couple of other cities in California.

An Evening with Bapsi Sidhwa and Teresa Russo

On Friday, October 27, the ZAH Library presented a joint program featuring Teresa Russo, Professor of English at the Canadian Brock University, and Bapsi Sidhwa, Houston's internationally acclaimed author and playwright. Ms. Russo had come down to Houston to share her work on compiling Bapsi Sidhwa's letters and essays into a book she will publish.

In introducing both speakers, Aban Rustomji recalled Teresa's academic and publishing credentials and Bapsi's long list of honors and awards.

Teresa Russo talked about her first meeting with Bapsi at the screening of the film "Water", her interest in Bapsi's work, and the logistics of compiling, acquiring rights, and the storing of Bapsi's letters and essays in the Rice University archives. Quoting from some of Bapsi's writings that she has been reviewing for the last 9 months, Teresa was impressed with the long reach of Bapsi's contacts and interesting correspondence with people from all walks of life. Bapsi's essays, on the other hand, revealed facets of Bapsi's background, her upbringing, and her broad range of interests and accomplishments.

Bapsi Sidhwa, who does not need any introduction to the many admirers and followers in the community, recalled her childhood days, her struggles with health issues as a child, and how physical limitations inadvertently helped her to become a voracious reader, and ultimately a writer herself. She read from a letter from her mother – "a letter only a mother could write". She talked about events that got her started in her writing career, and remarked that a writer of fiction has to be an innate story-teller. Several of the characters in her books are drawn from real family and friends she met in her daily life.

The audience enjoyed both speakers and showed their interest by asking many insightful questions. It was a fascinating evening, an unusual event made memorable by the expertise and sincerity of both distinguished guests.

Kid's Nite by Vehishta

Last month, on Friday, September 22, Vehishta Kaikobad conducted a very successful Kid's Nite in the ZAH Library. The children were first introduced to the creation of the Shahnameh and its visual appreciation, followed by a dramatic narration from one of its epics. This was followed by a formal, step-by-step project in creating their own folio inspired by the Shahnameh illustrations. The children were shown the big illustrated gold-plated Shanameh that we had also displayed during the last exhibition. The children were fascinated, and impressed us with some very insightful questions. The night ended with pizza and a treat!

Since this has proved to be very interesting for the children, and has also given us a way to spark their interest in our history and their use of library resources, Vehishta is planning to offer this ***on the last Friday of every month*** for now. She will continue with the Shanameh theme with artwork, as last month they ran out of time. The class is both, educational and entertaining, and each month's event will focus on a different age group and have age appropriate themes and activities. So please look out for the next announcement, and bring your child for some creative and interesting fun.

Youth Report

By Nerius Mehta – President, ZAH Youth Group

In October the youth group had its annual blood drive during the Gahambar. Many people donated and many more wanted to but couldn't due to traveling.

This month we are doing our annual Dallas trip with a lock-in and are going to have a lot of fun.

In December we have our Christmas party on the 10th and are really excited for the kids and their experience meeting Santa.

MISCELLANEOUS

FUNDRAISING PLAY – LOVE & MARRIAGE

The ZAH Natak Group did it again. After successful performances of Gujrati natak *Minocher na Karastan* and the English Play *Love is in the Air, and Lay all your Love On Me* the group came back with a brand new comedy play "Love and Marriage" written by Kamalrukh Gandhi. After months of rehearsals, finally, the day arrived when the Play opened on November 4, 2017.

Our set designing team of Aderbad Tamboli and Aspi Colah are pro at creating sets to suit the requirements of a play and this time they designed a living room. The door with a doorbell, steps leading outside into the street, the perception of the kitchen on one side and bedroom on the other, it looked as if the audience was looking into the Smiths household's living room. Lyla Daroga and Khursheed Dastur decorated the Living Room - the pictures, the plant, the shelf, sofa and all the rest to make it into a comfortable and cozy living room.

The play had light hearted intrigue, perceived deception, love and hilarity, and all the actors performed their role to its fullest potential. Kamalrukh Gandhi, is not only a playwright but also a very versatile actress. She and her talented cast of Percy Master, Shernaz Boomla, Farzana Sidhwa, Yasmin Medhora, Naushad Mehta, Khursheed Hormuzdi and a cameo appearance by Mahtab Dastur, kept the audience entertained and laughing all through the performance.

And how can we forget Cyra Kanga for her Box Office prowess, Arnavaz Sethna for her prompting which kept the actors on their lines and Khushrav Nariman for sound and Aban Chhor and Yasmin Medhora for laying out the dining tables with all the table decorations and all other regular set up required for events. Persis Behramsha also helped sell the left over food.

Thank you all very, very much. Y'all deserve all the accolades.

RAFFLE

For the Vision2020, another initiative was the Raffle of **DRONE** – donated by Danesh & Nalli Desai, Zia & Rustom Anklesaria, Ronnie & Elvia Patel, Meher Patel, Nazneen & Kershaw Khumbatta, Zubin Vakil, Sorab & Arzin Italia, Minoo & Sweta Sethna; black **SAREE** with silver border – donated by Mahrukh and Rohintan Deputy and **FOOD BASKET**, donated by Sillie & Jehanbux Mehta. The drawing of the raffle took place after the Play, on November 4 and the winners are:

Drone – Yasmin & Rustom Engineer
Black Sari – Arish Rustomji
Food Basket – Zarius Desai

Total collected from this Raffle: \$2,960

A big 'Thank You' to Nargis Cooper and all other volunteers who aggressively sold the Raffle Tickets.

ATASH KADEH PROGRESS

Have you come to the Center recently? If not, do pay a visit, and you will be excited to see the progress of the new Atash Kadeh. Here are some pictures of the steel structure coming up.



KIDS NITE @ ZAH Library

The next **KIDS NITE OUT – ALONG THE SILK ROAD @ ZAH Library** will be held on:

Date: Friday, November 17, 2017.

Time: 7.30 to 8.30 pm.

Venue: ZAH Library

Activities related to the Silk Road topic will be conducted for ages 7 and up.

Hope to have a good turnout. Please share this news with your family and friends and see the program blossom. It is both, educational and entertaining.

WZCC GLOBAL AWARDS

By: WZCC – Houston Chapter

We have just been notified by the Global body of WZCC – the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce, that Mr. Feroze Bhandara **of Houston** is the winner of the Global Outstanding Zarathushti Entrepreneur of the Year – 2017 Award.

Congratulations to Feroze and the entire Bhandara family.

The Award Ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Clarks Exotica Convention Resort and Spa during the WZCC Global Annual General Meeting in Bangalore, India. If any of our Houston Zarathushtis are planning to be in India around that time, you are invited to attend the ceremony in Bangalore and meet many Professionals and Business owners of our community from everywhere.

Besides the Global Outstanding Zarathushti Entrepreneur of the Year, there are other two categories and for 2017 the awards go to:

Category B: Global Outstanding Professional of the Year – **Ferzaan Engineer, India**

Category C: Global Outstanding Young Zarathushti Entrepreneur/Professional of the Year – **Zerick Dastur, India**

You are encouraged to nominate at least one individual from our community in each category every year. Nomination deadline for the year 2018 will be sometime around May next year (2018) and the nomination forms can be downloaded from the official website wzcc.org.

We are all proud of Feroze's achievements and the global recognition.

HAPPINESS UNTO HIM WHO GIVES HAPPINESS UNTO OTHERS

From: *Homage Unto Ahura Mazda by Dr. Dastur M. N. Dhalla*

Unquenchable is man's thirst for happiness, Ahura Mazda. In this thine wide world, there is enough room for all to live and food to eat and good things of life to enjoy and be happy. At the gray dawn of history. Zarathushtra gave thy message to mankind that the individual's happiness depended upon the happiness of all, and gave out thy golden rule that happiness came to him who gave happiness to others.

In this world of joy and sorrow, happiness and misery, life would be intolerable if it were not for the sympathy, kindness, and affection of man for man. Unbearable is the burden of life when unaided. It loses its crushing weight when men live in fellowship with their fellowmen and share one another's burden. Life is incomplete when man lives for his own self, oblivious of the happiness of others. Life is best lived when it is lived for others. Thus preached our beloved prophet, the first among thy holy prophets to teach this universal truth.

Thy sainted souls of all time and clime have loved others more than themselves and have held that the greatest pleasure of life consisted in making others happy. They have lived for others, worked for others, spent their lives for others, risked their all for others, endured everything for others, and died for others, that their fellow human beings may be happy.

Give us wisdom, O Wise One, to see that our interests are served the best by working for the common welfare in cooperation for the common good. Teach us to seek our happiness in the happiness of all, to regard the sorrows and sufferings of others as ours and to hasten to assuage them. Enable us to see that we are all fellow-mariners steering the common barque across the sea of life and that a common fate to swim or sink awaits us. Inspire us to feel that common is our goal to reach and common our ideal to realize in thy divine dispensation.

Strengthen us to stand united in thee one with another, and be mindful of the eternal fact that we are brothers and sisters all and belong to one great human family and are children of one father that art thou, Ahura Mazda.

OBITUARY

Katy Bahman Dalal, mother of Vera Danesh Dinshaw, Yasmin Dalal and Rashna Farzad Daroga, passed away this morning, October 31, 2017 in Houston.

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

NAZC2020 THEME AND WINNERS

Thank you all for your entries for the NAZC2020 Theme. Everyone did a great job as they were very innovative with some thought provoking meaning behind each one. Once we received all entries, we sent them to some of the community members and together we picked the best possible theme. The winning Theme for NAZC2020 is **GENERATION Z: PROPELLING THE ZARATHUSHTI RESURGENCE** and the joint winners are **Fram Haveliwala & Aderbad Tamboli**. Since Aderbad is part of the core team he will not be eligible for the cash prize.

As the Theme is decided, now we need a suitable, attractive Logo to go with it hence we are launching another competition for the NAZC2020 Logo, so please put on your thinking caps again and send us your entries. There will be another grand prize of \$150 for the best NAZC2020 logo entry selected by the designated selection committee. Here are some guidelines:

1. Should highlight the importance of Zarathushti religion and culture
2. Should be relatable and aligned with the NAZC2020 Theme above
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. Entries should be emailed to the NAZC2020 Secretary, Percy Master latest by Dec 31, 2017

Also, please have a look at the committees below and send in your nominations at your earliest convenience via email to the [NAZC2020 Secretary](#).

- Program
- Entertainment
- Hospitality
- Registration
- Tours and Transportation
- Public Relations / Publications / Press Relations
- Fundraising
- Audio Visual / Technology / Social Media