SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: April 8, 2018

Children’s Session
The Sunday School session starts at 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Middle Group: The Sunday School session starts at 10.00 a.m.

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

ZARATHUSHTI HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTER CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

20 years ago, April 1998, Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center was inaugurated.

After a commemorative Jashan on December 21, 1997, a flurry of activities started to make the facility ready for use. For the prayer room, we got the large Afarganyu from Sukkur, Pakistan and the inner sanctum bell from Mumbai, India. Donations for various items, like furniture, telephone system, landscaping, supplies, etc. etc. poured in. After about four months, Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center (ZHCC) was ready for a formal opening.

On Friday, April 10, 1998, with great fanfare, the Opening Ceremony was held. Nearly 500 people were in attendance. Houston Zarathushtis were never more proud and happy as they were on that day. And rightfully so, as after nearly 20 years their dream of having a Center had materialized. A three-day celebration culminated in a carnival with food, fun and games. This tradition of an annual carnival has been carried on for the past 20 years.

As the ZHCC expanded with Phases II and III, we now have Sunday School Rooms, a multimedia room, and a Library which is the repository for FEZANA Information Research Education System (FIRES). Many stellar events have taken place at the ZHCC, most notably hosting the World Zoroastrian Congress in the year 2000 (the first one held outside Iran or India) when a time capsule was buried, and which will be opened in the year 2050.

On April 8, 2018 ZAH held a celebratory Jashan followed by luncheon of dhan daar and patio where the community members were invited. Jashan was performed by eight Ervads. Nearly 275 people attended the Jashan. Those who were present at the Opening Ceremony reminisced about the events leading up to that point.

All this could not have been possible without the untiring volunteer efforts of the young and not so young. We hope our future generations will be as enthusiastic about the ZHCC as we have been over the last twenty years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 8, 2018 – ZHCC 20th Anniversary Jashan

Saturday – April 21, 2018 – Libray Event. See attached flyer

Sunday – June 3, 2018 – Maidhiyarem Gahambar. Details to be announced

Sunday, June 16, 2018 – ZAH Picnic Details to be announced
MEETINGS

GOLDEN GROUP

Fourth Sunday of each month.
Interested? Call Zarine Balsara at (832) 288-2436

ZAH LIBRARY

First Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. If you would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at aban@coatingindustries.com

QUOTES FROM AVESTA

Work is Worship
(From Daily Dips into Avesta by Dr. Maneck B. Pithawalla)

Avesta
Ava padho, ava zaste, ava ushi
Darayadhwem, Mazdayasna
Zarathushtrayo, Daityanam, rathwyanam
Hvrashtanam shkyaothnanam Varezai
Pairi adhaityanam a-rathwyanam
Duz-Varashtanam shkyaothnanam Varezai
Verezyatamcha idha vohu vastraya!
Uyamra an-uyamnaish dasta

Translation
Hold ready, O Mazdayasnain
Zoroastrians, your feet, your hands
and your brains, in order to perform
good deeds, according to the Law
and the right time and to avoid bad
deeds, not according to the Law at
the wrong time!

Here do good and industrious deeds!

Visparad (Karda 15)

REPORTS

Library Committee Report – by Jangoo Mistry

Our Next ZAH Library Event -- a Double Feature

On Saturday, April 21, the ZAH Library Committee is presenting two distinguished out-of-town speakers in two sessions before and after lunch. At 10 am, Dinyar Patel will present a talk on Dadabhai Naoroji. After lunch, Cyrus Rivetna will enlighten us with a talk on using architecture to complement and preserve Zoroastrianism. (See attached flyer for details).

On June 30 last year, fell the 100th death centenary of Dadabhai Naoroji, endearingly known as 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. Dadabhai Naoroji’s death centenary aroused so much interest that all kinds of events were held globally to remember one of the most illustrious Parsis of all times. The Government of India has recently issued yet another (a 4th) stamp in his honor.

Fittingly, last November, the ZAH Library was planning to host an event centered around Dadabhai Naoroji. But in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, the event had to be canceled. Now, on April 21, the Library event will feature Dinyar Patel, who has spent years researching Naoroji’s life and work. Dinyar is currently an assistant professor of South Asian History at the University of South Carolina, where he teaches courses on modern South Asia, the Indian nationalist movement, and the British Empire. He received his PhD in History 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). Dinyar, who was born in Houston and later moved to California, is swamped with all kinds of requests for articles and speaking engagements, but we have succeeded in getting him to come to Houston and share his learnings with us. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to listen to the most recognized present-day scholar on Dadabhai, with an emphasis on women’s education, a cause Dadabhai pioneered.

The afternoon session will feature Cyrus Rivetna from Chicago, the founder and principal at Rivetna Architects, Inc. He has an impressive portfolio of residential, institutional, religious and commercial projects. Yet, his deepest interest lies in the design of Zoroastrian centers and places of worship. He has travelled to Iran and India to study the design of Zoroastrian fire temples, and applied his studies to designing new structures that reflect ancient traditions for Zoroastrian communities in North America. He is the architect of our upcoming Atash Kadeh generously donated by Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara. His lecture, “Building For the Future - Using Architecture to Perpetuate Zoroastrian Religious Practice in North America” will present an interesting brief history of traditional fire temples in Iran, Pakistan and India, followed by a description of the new Houston Atash Kadeh, which is currently under construction on our site. He’ll walk through the plan and discuss the intended uses for each of the different spaces in the building. The building will be the first of its kind in North America, allowing for the full range of religious rituals while also allowing for the natural elimination of smoke.

Please contact Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com) to register for this exciting day. This will help us in planning for proper accommodations and lunch.
**EC MEMBERS 2018**

Daroga, Lyla  
Dungor, Nozer  
Haveliwala, Sheroy  
Katrk, Jasmine  
Sethna, Sweta  
Khumbatta, Mitra – Treasurer  
Master, Percy – Secretary

**YOUTH GROUP OFFICERS 2017 - 2018**

Mehta, Nerius – President  
Mistry, Cyrus – Vice President  
Sidhwa, Yazad – Treasurer  
Mehta, Natalya – Secretary  
Hormuzdi, Dina – Historian  
Master, Zubin – Web Master

**MIDDLE GROUP OFFICERS 2017 – 2018**

Vakil, Shanaya – President  
Italia, Zal – Vice President  
Patel, Anjalee – Treasurer  
Chikhliwalla, Roshni – Secretary  
Dungor, Natasha – Historian

**OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)**

Boomla, Noozar  
Buchia, Kyrus  
Dastur, Barjor  
Desai, Adi  
Desai, Farokh  
Firozgary, Bahrom  
Gonda, Pervez  
Kanga, Neville  
Katrk, Rayomand  
Katrk, Vispi  
Khumbatta, Noshir  
Kotwal, Zubin  
Masani, Dara  
Nariman, Khushrav  
Nariman, Viraf  
Pavri, Shapur  
Pundole, Faraidoon  
Rashidi, Farhood  
Sanjana, Bahmanshah  
Sanjana, Kurush  
Sidhwa, Kayomarz  
Sidhwa, Maneck  
Sidhwa, Yazad  
Unwalla, Peshotan

**Remarkable Donations to ZAH Library**

Nothing validates our efforts more than the donations and contributions made to support us, and from time to time, we have received donations from several people in the U.S., England, and India. Recognizing the importance of preserving resources that primarily pertain to Zarthusiness faith, culture and history, we have just received two notable donations.

Bapsi Sidhwa has given us a munificent donation of $20,001 in appreciation of our work and towards further enhancement of our resources and facilities. This contribution has humbled us, and strengthened our resolve to do even better for the North American community we serve. Our sincere thanks to Bapsi, Houston’s very own internationally acclaimed author and playwright.

A “men’s group” that meets regularly at the center for cards and enjoyment has given us a donation of $1,200 collected over months from the money they set aside at each of their sessions. This is heartening as it comes from an unexpected source. The amount will go towards a much-needed new projector and audio equipment for our future events held in the Rustomji room. We thank the “men’s group” sincerely for thinking of us even during their fun and games.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**NAVROZE FUNCTION Write-up by Entertainment Committee**

The Navroze function held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the ZAH Center was attended by estimated 285 people (including kids). The ZAH received estimated $2K plus (includes 22% on expenses) from this event. The picture frames donated by Khodadad & Kian Pashootanizadeh fetched $165/- as donation to the ZAH.

The Hall was decorated with pastel table cloths and flowers. The Atrium looked beautiful with the exquisite Haft Seen table put together by Parvaneh Kehani and friends.

Our emcee Farrokh Firozgary did a great job of starting the program on time and welcoming the guests. The Sunday school groups did a beautiful rendition of Haft Seen in the court of King Jamshid. They depicted the objects that beautifies the Haft Seen table through music and dancing to symbolize spring time and the advent of Navroze. The spectacular presentation was enjoyed by all. It brought back memories to parents whose children had performed this segment over 15 years ago. The same morning the group had also performed at the Children’s Museum of Houston where they got a lot of accolades. It also brought ZAH into lime light in the greater Houston community.
MEMBERSHIP DUES

CATEGORY AND RATES

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<td>Single Member Head of Household</td>
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<td>Single Senior Membership</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Membership</td>
<td>$25</td>
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</tbody>
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Manashni Surcharge
For Printed/Mailed copies $15

Definition of Categories

Family Member
Parents and their children under 18

Family Senior Member
One spouse is over the age of 65

Single Member
Unmarried individual over the age 18

Single Senior Member
Individual over the age of 65

Single Member Head of Household
Single parent with children under 18

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK
PAYABLE TO: ZAH

AND MAIL TO:

ZAH Treasurer
8787 W Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071

Or pay online:
http://zah.org/?event=zah-annual-membership-2018

The above segment was followed by a high-powered dance by Diana Sabawala on a medley of Indian songs.

Yasmin Pavri introduced Mike Engineer who presented the MNE (Mike N. Engineer) Scholarship to Katie Master for $3,500-. Katie’s brother Zubin read the thank you note from Katie since she could not attend the function.

The Bone Marrow Drive also took place at the Center with the help of our Youth group volunteers.

All guests enjoyed the freshly made bhel poori and tava chicken served for appetizer. The tasty dinner was catered by Aga’s Restaurant - Goat meat Biryani, Peshawari Chicken, Okra Salan, Tadka Dal, Vegetable Pulav, etc. Later the crowd enjoyed Kulfi and tava Mixed Mithai for dessert.

We appreciate very much the FREE DJ service by our very own Farrokh Firozgary (DJ Gary) for the last several years. We also thank his wife Mahnaz for her support.

Arzin Italia from the Entertainment Committee worked very hard on organizing this function with her team. She would like to thank her team members and all Sunday school parents who helped in setting up the hall and the atrium for this event. If you have any constructive criticism, please inform the Entertainment Committee your suggestions. They would also like to thank the Web Team for making the RSVPs and Online Payment easy for our community. Thanks to Yazad Sidhwa of the ZAH web team for sending the rsvp dumps timely to the committee.

May Happiness and Prosperity bestow on our vibrant community.
Some pictures of the ZAH participation at the Children’s Museum of Houston on March 24 to celebrate NoRouz.

A ZAH parent helping the children at our arts & crafts table

A ZAH Member helping the kids with some arts and crafts table

Some visitors at our display table.

**ZAH RECEIVES ACCOLADES FROM CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON.**

From Vehishta Kaikobad

So proud to share this with you all.

**From:** Haniyyah Boxie [mailto:hboxie@cmhouston.org]

**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2018 2:27 PM

**To:** Sarosh and Vehishta

**Subject:** Letter of Thanks

Greetings,

On behalf of the Children’s Museum of Houston I wanted to say Thank You! Our March 24th, 2018 Navroz Celebration would not have been possible without the community partnership from the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH). This was our second year celebrating Persian New Year at the museum and we have hopes to make it an annual event.

We received very positive feedback from our guest who were so excited to visit the Haftseen Table display and learn about the deep symbolism of each item displayed. Children and family also loved making all of the beautiful crafts that your volunteers help to facilitate, from Spring flower bouquets to the decorated eggs. The icing on the cake was of course the play! The bright and vibrant costumes were so beautiful and the children were amazing.

Thank you so much for sharing the time and talents of your community with The Children’s Museum of Houston and its visitors. We look forward to working with you on future collaborations. I have also attached a few photos.

Take Care,

Haniyyah Boxie
Fine Arts & Cultural Educator
Children’s Museum of Houston
1500 Binz, Houston, TX 77004
O: (713) 535-7236 | F: (713) 524-6471

Our young performers at the Children’s Museum
ZAH Library
Presents

DINYAR PATEL & CYRUS RIVETNA
April 21, 2018

Dinay Patel is an assistant professor of South Asian History at the University of South Carolina. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2015. He is co-editor of "Dadabhai Naoroji: Selected Private Papers" (Oxford University Press, 2016).

PROGRAM
9:30 am—Meet & Greet
10:00 am—Dinay Patel
Her too: Dadabhai Naoroji, the Grand Old Man of India, pioneer of women’s education
12:00 to 1:00 Lunch
1:00 pm—Cyrus Rivetna

Building for the Future: Using Architecture to Perpetuate Zoroastrian Religious Practice in North America

Cyrus Rivetna, AIA, is the founder and principal at Rivetna Architects, Inc. Chicago with an impressive project portfolio of residential, institutional, religious and commercial projects. His deepest interest lies in the design of Zoroastrian centers and places of worship. He has a B. S. in Architecture from University of Illinois and a Master’s in Architecture from Lawrence Technological University.

Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center
Saturday, April 21, 2018
Lecture is FREE
Lunch is $10.00 per head
RSVP: Arnavaaz Sethna
<ahsethna@yahoo.com>
MANASHNI BANNER CONTEST

For quite some time, Publication Committee had been thinking of revamping the MANASHNI format and the banner. To bring some enthusiasm in the readership we are running a competition to design a banner/header for the MANASHNI. We give below the requirements and rules of the competition.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all readers of MANASHNI. The contest is not open to Members of the Publication Committee.

Here are the guidelines

- Should highlight the mission of Zoroastrian Association of Houston of promoting Zarathushti Religion and Culture
- The image should be a minimum of 350 dpi and should fit 8-1/2 X 11 paper size with .7" margin on both sides
- Submissions should include artwork in GIF, JPG or BMP format and a brief description of how the banner relates to the MANASHNI
- It can be in color or black & white and participants should avoid gradients and half-tones, and should be visually appealing
- The banner must be easy to handle, resize, use and manipulate for all reproductive purposes
- Individuals can send one or more entries although each submission must be sent in a separate email
- Submissions must include the full name(s) of the person(s) who designed the banner/header, email address, postal address, and telephone number
- All entries must be submitted electronically to Khursheed at kbdastur@yahoo.com latest by July 31, 2018, late submissions will not be considered
- The selection committee will consist of a panel of three judges and the winner(s) will be selected and announced at the Navroze Function on August 18, 2018

Determination of Winner and Prize

- Entries will be judged on their visual appeal, quality of design, and ease of reproduction for the purposes stated above.
- The prize for the winning entry is US $101.
- The winner will be notified via email and announced at the Shehanshahi Navroze function.

Disclaimer

- Publication Committee is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, incomplete, illegible, or otherwise unusable entries, including entries that are lost or unusable due to computer, internet, or electronic problems.
- Publication Committee reserves the right to cancel or modify the Contest and award the prize by alternate means if fraud or technical failure is determined at any time by Publication Committee, including after the submission window has closed.
- Publication Committee is not liable, for the purpose of winner and prize notification and delivery, in the event the contest winner has provided incorrect, outdated, or otherwise invalid contact information.