SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: July 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 at 11.00 a.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 27, 2018 – Z-Camp begins for Out of Towners
Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29, 2018 – Z-Camp
See Registration details below

Tuesday, August 7 to Thursday, August 16, 2018 – Muktad Prayers

Friday, August 17, 2018 – Hambandagi & Maachi
Details to be advised

Saturday, August 18, 2018 – Navroze Function
Celebrating - 40th Anniversary of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston and 20th Anniversary of Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center
See attached flyer

Sunday, September 9, 2018 – ZAH Annual Carnival
1:00 pm - 6:00 p.m. – Save the date, details to be advised

Sunday, September 30, 2018 – Fasli Mehrgan & Maediozarem Gahambar
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Save the date, details to be advised

Saturday, October 27, 2018 – Retro Night
8:00 p.m. – Midnight – Save the Date, details to be advised

Friday, December 7, 2018 – Library Event – Movie Night
Save the Date – details to be advised

REPORTS

Library Committee Report – by Jangoo Mistry

Cyrus Bharucha's Donation to the ZAH Library

In the 1980s, Cyrus Bharucha made a feature film in India, “On Wings of Fire” with Zubin Mehta, that covered the history of prophet Zarathushtra. This old film was recently digitally restored with subtitles and screened last December as a ZAH Library event. After the screening, Cyrus joined us by video to discuss the film and answer questions.

In January of this year, the ZAH Library screened the movie on Nani Palkhivala, with Cyrus this time presenting the movie in person. Details of the evening are in the January 2018 Manashni online, and in a subsequent article in The FEZANA Journal. Cyrus’s accomplishments during his 40 years in media, with the BBC in London, CNN, A&E, TV-Asia, and two Public TV
stations, are exceptional, and we are happy that Cyrus has moved to Houston very recently.

Cyrus has gifted us an original script of "Wings of Fire " with notes and letters, Since this is the only really serious docudrama that's ever been made about our religion, the script with its accessories makes a fascinating addition to our collection. Among other books, Cyrus has also given the Library a Videvdad Sade manuscript (i.e., a manuscript of the Videvdad, or Vendidad ceremony). There is a colophon in Persian, and the date given there is Anno Yazdegerd 1090, i.e. 1721 Christian Era. The colophon also states that the manuscript was completed in Navsari. The ZAH Library sincerely thanks Cyrus Bharucha for his precious donations.

**Bomanshah Sanjana’s Rare Manuscript Donation**

Our Ervad Bomanshah Sanjana has presented to the Library a rare oversized manuscript of the Vendida hand-written by Mobed Marzban Aibara in 1957. In those days, it was a tradition for mobeds to meticulously write prayer books in good handwriting.

In 1972, Mobed Aibara presented it to Bomanshah’s father, Mobed Pirojshah Maneckji Sanjana, in Valsad, who handed it down to Bomanshaw. This rare manuscript has been in Bomanshah’s family for three generations, and the ZAH Library is honored to own these now for safekeeping. Our deep gratitude to Ervad Sanjana for entrusting us with this valuable document.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**MANASHNI Banner Contest**

Don’t Miss the Deadline – Only a few days left for submitting MANASHNI Banner contest.

Please send in your entry to Khursheed Dastur at kbdastur@yahoo.com – definitely by July 31, 2018.

See flyer below for rules of this contest. Get your creative ideas flowing and win $101 for the best entry.

**OUR GRADUATE**

Zareen Bhandara will be graduating with an M.Ed. in Counseling from University of Houston in August 2018. Zareen intends on becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor in 2019.

**MANASHNI and its readers congratulate Zareen and wish her the best in her career.**

**WEDDING**

Berzin Bhandara, son of Feroze & Shernaz Bhandara, was married to Perendi Birdie, daughter of Purviz & Tiraz Birdie, on June 30, 2018 in Houston, TX.

**MANSHNI and its readers extend their best wishes to the newlyweds.**
MEMBERSHIP DUES

CATEGORY AND RATES

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<th>Category</th>
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Manashni Surcharge $15
For Printed/Mailed copies

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 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

ZAH CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY & 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZHCC

As we celebrate these milestones, let us look at our past and the events that got us to where we are today:

First Annual Membership Fees: $7 Family Membership

May 1980 – Sunday School started for the young children and the youth. The Youth quickly formed a group and named it The Youth Group of Houston. Sunday School has continued up to the present. From two groups we now have three groups – young, middle and youth.

April 8, 1985, Dr. Oxtoby, Professor of Religious Studies at University of Toronto gave a talk on Zoroastrianism – A Continuing Religion, under the auspices of Asia Society, co-sponsored by ZAH.

1985 also saw visits by two Dasturs from India – Dastur Minocher-Homji and Dr. Dastur Kotwal.

From December 24 to 27, 1987 First Youth Camp in Houston. MANASHNI of January 1988 reports that “delegates from Los Angeles, CA and Dallas, TX, USA and Ottawa, ONT, Canada were present. Dr. Farang Meher, an eminent scholar on Zoroastrianism, was also present at the invitation of the Youth Group.”


AGM of November 22, 1987 an amendment to the By Laws was passed. Article 20 – Zoroastrian Building Fund (ZBF) was added to the By Laws.

April 1988, Professor John Hinnels, a well known English Scholar on Zoroastrianism visited Houston and attended the April session of Sunday School. After lunch he sat among the youth and there was a free discourse of questions/answers.

August 31 to September 3, 1990 – ZAH hosted Seventh North American Zoroastrian Congress. The theme for this Congress was Zarathushti: My Past Our Future. This congress had six internationally known speakers highlighting the commonalities and differences between Zoroastrianism and other world religions, there were sessions of Zarathushti Women: Past, Present and Future; Zoroastrian Business Network and a session on Let the Zarthushti Speak.

ZAH Special General Body Meeting December 13, 1992 – members voted to accept the Zarathushti Group’s proposal of donating the land for the purposes of construction a Zoroastrian Center.

July 1994 – Construction of a Zoroastrian Center was unanimously approved at the Emergency General Body Meeting held on July 17, 1994

October 1994 – Ground breaking ceremony on October 9, 1994

February 3, 1996 – ZAH celebrated the first Jashn-e-Sadeh

August 31 to September 2, 1996 – International Gatha Conference hosted by ZAH

1997 – ZHCC Construction continues – to make the building functional for the opening.
May 1997 – FEZANA/ZAH was awarded to host World Zoroastrian Congress to be held in the year 2000.

December 21, 1997 – Commemorative Jashan Ceremony was held in the sparkling new building. This was considered “soft opening” of the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center.

April 10, 11 & 12 1998 – Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center (Phase I) was formally inaugurated and festivities lasted the weekend culminating in the community carnival.

November 8, 1998 – First Annual General Meeting of the ZAH held in the Center.

February 1999 – our website zah.org inaugurated.

May 1999 – Expansion of the Center to Phase II

1999: A Zarathushti Odyssey, the theme of the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress in the year 2000 - in Houston

July 1999 – Playground inaugurated

August 1999 – First time Muktad Prayers performed at the Center

April 9, 2000 – ground breaking ceremony Phase II

December 24, 2000 – Phase II Opened

December 28, 2000 10:00 a.m. the Opening Ceremonies WZC2000 begin.

December 30, 2000 – As a part of WZC2000 Time Capsule was buried at the Center – to be opened in 2050

April 2001 – Fountain was constructed at the entrance

2007 Congress2000 Legacy Scholarship established.

2008 – FEZANA’s entrusted ZAH to fulfill its mission to establish an Information Center for a centralized collection of a large number of Zarathushti books, manuscripts, literature, magazines, and scholarly research materials, other media (audio/video recordings) etc., i.e., a centralized and functional North American Zarathushti Library, for all Associations and all Zarathushtis. The new entity to be called the FEZANA Information Research Education System (FIRES).

ZAH continued to forge ahead - ZAH hosted North American Zoroastrian Congress, NAZC2010 in December 2010

April 2017 – Two more rooms added – Phase IIIA.

2018 sees the construction of a separate Atash Kadeh

And that dear readers is a concise 40 years history of ZAH

ZAH is vibrant. Many activities continue to be held – talks by scholars, entertainment, gahambars, etc. etc. etc. - Our Center has become an integral part of the Zoroastrians of Greater Houston area.
ZAH PICNIC – by the Entertainment Committee

The Annual ZAH Picnic was held on Sunday, June 16, 2018 at the Sugar Land Memorial Park. The picnic was attended by estimated 75 adults, children and pets who were ready to enjoy a fun day outdoors. The Entertainment Committee had reserved a spacious shelter which had lots of tables and seating. People started coming around 11:00 a.m. and of course shortly thereafter the Zoros started nibbling on some snacks followed by the potluck lunch which was a huge success. Every family had brought a dish to share - a large variety of sandwiches, Indian snack items, tasty dishes, desserts, etc. Also, two lucky kids celebrated their birthdays with the fun crowd. Both the cakes were yummy.

It was a very hot day but the crowd lucked out with a steady breeze from the lake area. Lemon and spoon race was played with the adults and kids in the shelter. A variety of Bingo games was a lot of fun too. Some bold kids and adults went to the playground to have a warm time in the heat. Some adults visited the Memorial to the fallen heroes of our Armed Forces from the Fort Bend area.

Thanks to all of you who attended the picnic in spite of the heat; ZAH for paying the shelter fee (booking made by Zia); all volunteers who helped set up and clean up especially our young helpers Shireen and Ariana Anklesaria; Entertainment Committee members for their time and donation of table cloths, ice, water bottles, tea items, snacks and Bingo prizes (Arzin, Gary, Yasmin, Zia). The pictures will be on the ZAH website.

Z-CAMP

Z-Camp 2018 will be hosted on July 27, 28, 29 at the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center - 8787 West Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071. Our out of town friends, youth (ages 14+), and young adults are welcome to join us on Friday, July 27, 2018. Elementary and Middle Schoolers can join in on July 28-29, 2018.

ZCamp 2018 Registration is now open. Please secure your spot. Parents, grandparents, and our extended ZAH family and friends are cordially invited to register for "Camp Dinner with kids" on July 28th, 7:30 pm onward. A sumptuous dinner, dessert, and entertainment for a very small fee of $15 per person. If you would like to share ideas for ZCamp sessions, volunteer at this event, or be a sponsor/donor, please reach out to Jasmine Mistry at your earliest. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

OBITUARY

Dara F Vakil, husband of Ratan Vakil, father of Zubin Vakil and Anahita (Vakil) Nariman, grandfather of Shanaya & Cyrus Vakil, and Zenia & Cyrene Nariman, passed away the morning of Saturday, July 14, 2018.

Viraf Bharucha, husband of Rashna Bharucha, father of Armaity Viraf Patel (California), Cyrus Bharucha (Virginia), Darius (Jerafreen) Bharucha (Katy, TX); grandfather of Zain and Jasper Patel (California); Arzaan and Sanaya Bharucha (Virginia); and Nariman and Freyana Bharucha (Katy, TX) passed away June 12, 2018.

THANK YOU

Rashna Bharucha and her family - Cyrus, Armaity & Viraf Patel and Darius & Jerafreen, would like to thank the community members for their support and messages of condolences at the time of passing away of her beloved husband & father Viraf.
Ashodad/Kadr-Dani To Mobeds. Guidelines By North American Mobed Council (NAMC)

In response to requests from several North American Zoroastrian Associations, NAMC has provided the following guidelines for “Ashodad” or “Kadr-Dani" for performance of religious services provided by Mobeds invited by the family:

Weddings/ Gavah/Navjote/ Navjote/Sudreh–Pushi: $ 500 per Mobed per ceremony

Jashan/Jashan–Khani/Afargan/ Seeom/Saal: $ 250 per Mobed per ceremony

Funeral Ceremonies:

Geh Saarnu, Sarosh nu Patru, Day Uthamnu, Night Uthamnu, Chaharom: $ 250 per Mobed per ceremony

Sareh Khak, Poresh $ 500 per Mobed per ceremony

Travel and accommodation (in addition to above amounts):

a. Pre-paid Air ticket and / or mileage as appropriate

b. Overnight accommodation as appropriate

Use of Association facilities and supplies:

As per Association regulations

This list is intended to be a guide and is not mandatory.

Consideration should be given to geographical and logistical variations through North America and financial ability of the family questing these prayers.

These guidelines are subject to change.

Issued: May 2015

2018 ZAH Annual Bowling Event brought to you by your Sports Committee!!

Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018;
Time: 1 to 2:30 PM
Place:
AMF Stafford Lanes
4919 S. Main Street,
Stafford, TX 77477

$8 per person; includes shoe rental, pizza & drinks, and $10 Arcade Card to spend on arcade games after bowling.

All attendees must pre-register. Pre-register at http://zah.org/?event=2018-zah-annual-bowling

Don't bowl - no problem; bring your favorite board game. Play cards, mahjong, whatever, gossip, or just sit back, relax and watch the bowling.

Contact: Sheroy Haveliwala, 281-217-3243 or hwala@hotmail.com

AWARDS AT WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS

At the World Zoroastrian Congress in Perth, Australia, Ziba Colah received the Outstanding Young Zoroastrian award. This award was given by the Global Working Group Awards Committee.

Ziba Colah is a member of ZAH and is a bright star among young Zarathushtis in Houston. She has not only achieved high grades in her scholastic studies but also been a winner of several scholarships from prestigious Medical Institutions and Colleges in Houston. Currently, she is doing her MD. Since 2010, Ziba has been making substantial contributions to the Zoroastrian Association of Houston and has helped the Zoroastrian community in that area in many ways. Ziba was 2017 Z Camp Speaker on Teamwork and 2015 Z Camp Speaker on The Transition to College.

Winners in other categories are:

Zoroastrian Award: Dinshaw Tamboly
Community Service Award: Meher Medora
Science (Medicine) Award: Dr.Keki Turel
Social Entrepreneur: Khushroo Poacha
Woman of Distinction: Pheroza Godrej

DID YOU KNOW?

Chhaye Hamay Zarathoshti was never composed as our national anthem, but was sung at the end of a natak (play). Composed sometime after 1920, the catchy tune appealed to the Parsis, and was played at the end of the next natak with the audience standing up and joining in. The song soon became a hit, and thereafter, the Parsis started singing it after every function. (From Karachi Parsi .Banu Mandal Newsletter, August 1993).
IN PREPARATION FOR MUKTAD

For the past over 10 years, Sunday School children and their parents clean the Prayer Room in preparation for Muktad ceremonies. It’s because of the parents’ enthusiasm that the kids enjoyed the work and this year was no different; they came on Sunday, July 15, afternoon and had fun while working. 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" (tray), emptied the ashes in a bag, washed, polished and cleaned the thali, moved the Afarganyu from the kibla room to the outside room and thoroughly cleaned and polished it. The fans and blinds were cleaned too as were all the tiled areas. It was fun while they worked and we didn't see a single child make a boring face.

All this work whetted the appetite of the children and they were treated to snacks.

What are Muktad days?

Ten days before Navroze are the Muktad days when we remember and honor the souls of departed family members.

In preparation for the Muktad days, the place where prayers are going to be performed, is cleaned thoroughly – floor, windows, etc. and all silver utensils polished. At ZAH, the Sunday School kids have been doing this annual cleaning of the Prayer Room for the past several years. We thank the parents for taking interest and for making their children aware of the community work.

The first day of Muktad this year is August 7. Our Prayer Room will have flower vases on the table as we believe that during the following ten days, also called ‘Farvardegan’ days, the souls of the departed family members will visit the Earth. We welcome and honor them by the observance of various ceremonies. The prayers recited are ‘Afringan’, ‘Farrokshi’, ‘Stum’ and ‘Baj’. In Afringan prayers the names of the departed souls are remembered. Please contact Ervad Bahmanshah if you need to give any names of your departed family members.

At ZAH, Ervad Bahmanshah Sanjana will perform these prayers in the Prayer Room at following times:

Sat and Sunday – 11:00 a.m.
Monday to Friday – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Weekday timings are to facilitate those who are at work during the day.

We remember the souls of our departed family members daily for the ten days, and finally, on the tenth night, the families gather for the last farewell prayers. These prayers are recited around the wee hours of the morning (pachhli raat nu bhanvanu), and at day break, the first havan geh of the New Year (Navroze) is recited.

The congregation disperses after wishing each other a happy Navroze.
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 and a chance to WIN $101.

Eligibility
The contest is open to all readers of MANASHNI except 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 a 0.7" 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, 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 B. Dastur at kdodastur@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 and the prize for the winning entry is US $101.
- The winner will be notified via email and announced at the Navroze function in August.

Disclaimer
- Publication Committee is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, incomplete, illegible, or otherwise unusable entries, including entries that are unusable due to computer, internet, or electronic issues.
- 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 winning prize notification and delivery, in the event the contest winner has provided incorrect, outdated, or otherwise invalid contact information.
GRAND ANNIVERSARY GALA!!!
SHAHENSHAH NEW YEAR
COME CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF ZAH & 20 YEARS OF OUR CENTER (ZHCC)
SATURDAY AUGUST 18, 2018 at ZAH CENTER
Main Hall Doors Open at 7:30 p.m.
Entertainment Starts at 8:00 p.m.
CLICK HERE TO RSVP AND PAY ONLINE

LIMITED CAPACITY
Spectacular entertainment (comedy skit, professionally choreographed Bollywood dances, and a nostalgic tribute to our history in music and dance)

Dj and Live Band
PHOTO BOOTH
Elaborate Gourmet Parsi Food
Cake Cutting

For questions please contact:
Zia Ankleseria 832-646-0510
zsankles@gmail.com
Arzin Italia (713) 679-4998
sorabitalia@yahoo.com

RATES: [Under 3 yrs. Free] RSVP Deadline: 8/12/18
ZAH Member: 11 years and up - $29**
ZAH Non-Member: 11 years and up - $49
Member Children (3-10 yrs): $15**
Non-Member Children (3-10 yrs): $20

If paying by check, your check must be received by 8/12/18, at:
ZAH
Attn: Grand Anniversary Gala
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 (3-10 yrs)
- Please write “Grand Anniversary Gala” on the envelope

** Membership rate applies if 2018 membership has been paid by 7/15/18
- Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs and payments received after 8/12/18.
- 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 8/12/18)
- 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 Entertainment Committee

FORMAL OR TRADITIONAL ATTIRE PREFERRED
BYOB