SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: May 13, 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 10.30 a.m. for this month

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 3, 2018 – Maidhiayarem Gahambar.
See attached Flyer

Sunday, June 16, 2018 – ZAH Picnic
See attached Flyer

Sunday, July 8, 2018 – Tirgan Celebration
Details to be announced

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

Saturday, August 18, 2018 – Navroze Function
Details to be announced

ZARATHUSHTI HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTER
CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

CORRECTION

CORRECTION TO THE HISTORY OF PRAYER ROOM BELL
.... for the prayer room, we got the large Afarganyu from Sukkur, Pakistan and
the inner sanctum bell from Valsad, India .... And not from Mumbai, India as
reported in April issue of MANASHNI.

REPORTS

Library Committee Report – by Jangoo Mistry

On Saturday, April 21, the ZAH Library Committee presented two
distinguished out-of-town speakers in two sessions before and after lunch. In
the morning, Dinyar Patel traced the fascinating history of female education as
it evolved in the 19th century, and how Dadabhai Naoroji served as a catalyst
to promote this cause. After lunch, Cyrus Rivetna enlightened us with a talk
on using architecture to complement and preserve Zoroastrianism, with
specific emphasis on our Atash kadeh under construction.
Last November, the ZAH Library was planning to host an event centered around Dadabhai Naoroji, the subject of Dinyar Patel’s Ph.D. thesis at Harvard University. But in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, the event had to be canceled, but we were able to get Dinyar back this time.

Dinyar started by noting that the status of Parsi women was no different than Hindu or Muslim women in the 1830 to 1850 time frame. Women’s lives were controlled strongly by men who severely restricted every aspect of their women’s lives. Christian missionaries were the first to start female education, but could not make much headway because the British government refused to fund any educational effort in India and the male-dominated environment made it even harder.

Gradually, men began to want educated women, recognizing that educated mothers were important to raise educated sons. From just 50 girls enrolled in the first all-girls school in 1849, the number grew to 500 by 1853. Girl students went home and taught their mothers, sisters and aunts, spreading the fire for education in them. Even so, girls were not allowed to go to school after the age of 10 or twelve. Dadabhai Naoroji quickly realized that female teachers would be needed to keep the momentum growing, and approached Parsi Philanthropists to provide funding for girls’ schools.

Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy was the first to open four schools for girls, followed by Khurshedji Cama, the only member of the very conservative Cama family to give his support. When Mary Carpenter, an active social reformist in Britain, was approached by Dadabhai Naoroji for help, things began to happen. Mary toured India promoting her cause, and the British Government reluctantly was forced to go along and provide funding at last. Naoroji was way ahead of his time in arguing that gender equality was fundamental to India’s national interest in its goal for freedom.

Cyrus Rivetna from Chicago, is the founder and principal at Rivetna Architects, Inc. Cyrus has an incredibly impressive portfolio of commercial projects at home and abroad. Cyrus has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, India, Sri Lanka, Iran and Mexico, documenting architecture and culture through photography and sketching.

But his deepest interest lies in the design of Zoroastrian Centers and places of worship. So committed is Cyrus to his passion, that he has travelled to Iran and India to study the design of Zoroastrian fire temples, and he has applied his studies to designing new structures in North America that reflect our ancient traditions.

Cyrus began the first part of his talk by emphasizing that architecture really influences the way we think and the way we live. With pictures of beautiful buildings, Cyrus showed how good architecture, properly executed, can provide the right environment for the right reason. The design of a mosque, for example, is very different from a cathedral, both inside and outside. Our Zoroastrian places of worship are more simplistic and austere in nature, in keeping with the simple tenets of our religion, but they all have certain characteristics in common.

According to Cyrus, Zoroastrian Centers all over North America were built to accommodate the society’s social and cultural needs, with a small prayer room provided as an afterthought. He felt that younger members of our community had their social needs satisfied with their non-Zoroastrian friends outside of these Centers -- Centers which lacked the emphasis on worship and religion that would be able to draw them for spiritual solace. One has only to look back at the splendid and unique architecture of our agiaries and Atash Behrams back home to realize what an important part they played in our upbringing.
MEMBERSHIP DUES

CATEGORY AND RATES

Patron Family Membership $500
Patron Single Membership $250
Patron Senior Family Membership $250
Patron Senior Single Membership $125
Family Membership $275
Family Senior Membership $65
Associate Membership $275
Single Membership $135
Single Member Head of Household $150
Single Senior Membership $40
Student Membership $25

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 the age of 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

Cyrus Rivetna is the architect of our Atash Kadeh, generously donated by Shernaz and Feroze Bhandara. He described the outside structure, as well as the inside layout of our new Atash Kadeh, which is currently under construction just across the parking lot. He walked the audience through the plan: the entrance, as well as each room in the building with its intended use. Our 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. Since the building was designed to incorporate certain salient features one expects from a Zoroastrian place of worship, Cyrus hoped that the Houston Atash kadeh would be a prototype for other such structures in North America.

Cyrus fielded questions about pros and cons of gas-burning vs natural fire, the need for more active Mobed support, stones to be imported for part of the outside facade from Rajasthan, built-in seating all around the prayer room, decorative touches with stained glass and custom-made window screens, skylights, surrounding gardens and a water reservoir (in place of a natural well).

As a surprise bonus that delighted the attendees, we had a walking tour of the building. Though the building is in its very early construction phase, the grandeur of the completed structure was not hard to visualize for those who walked around. The completion date is projected for the end of this year, but it was clear from all the excitement that it would be a hard waiting period.

Aban Rustomji wrapped up the session by handing out tokens of appreciation to the two speakers, and urged our staunch supporters and regular attendees to bring at least one “new” person to the next Library event.

MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH Note Cards
The first batch of cards is sold out! A very big THANK YOU to all who supported the fundraiser! Please contact Sweta Sethna at (832) 316-5845 or swetasethna@hotmail.com if you would like to pre-order cards. Each pack has 5 cards with assortment of designs, blank inside, envelopes included, for $10 per pack

MANASHNI BANNER CONTEST
Publication Committee is running a MANASHNI Banner Contest. Please send in your entry to Khursheed Dastur at kbdastur@yahoo.com – deadline to submit is July 31, 2018. See flyer below for rules of this contest. Get your creative ideas flowing and win $101 for the best entry.

WELCOME TO HOUSTON
We have a new family among us - Neville & Perzen Akolawala. Their address is:

730 Cypresswood Cove
Spring, TX 77373
Tel: 346-351-1039 (Home)
Tel: 713-777-0747 (Cell)

MANASHNI and its readers extend a warm welcome to Akolawala family.
VISIT BY MEDICAL STUDENTS OF BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.
About 20 doctors/dentists and ZAH docs/others, making a total of 35 people attended the event on Sunday, April 15 at the Center. These students visited our Center to learn about our Zarathushti Religion and was coordinated by Kaemerz as Chair of Outreach Committee with Baylor College of Medicine. From the feedback received, the visitors learned a lot about Zoroastrianism from Kaemerz’ presentation.

Kaemerz started the presentation by posing these questions: who first introduced the concepts of One God, Millennium, Satan, Heaven (Paradise) and Hell, Armageddon, Day of final judgment and Savior and the answer, of course, was Asho Zarathushtra. He expounded on all these with his slide presentation emphasizing on the laws of Asha. He ended his presentation by singing Ashem Vohu in his melodious voice.

After the session, the students were treated to a light refreshment of culinary creations donated by Yasmin Medhora and Naushad Mehta as well as Parsi confectionery procured from Cillie’s.

Kaemerz would like to thank all the Zarathushti Doctors: Katie Irani, Nali Desai, Diana Desai, Bomi Hormazdi, Yazdi Sidhwa, Sarosh Dastoor; all the students interested in the medical profession: Zenia Sunavala, Rhea Engineer and our youngest attendee Roshni Chikhliwala for talking to the visitors after the session; photographer and technical assistance person, Yezdi Engineer; Edul Chikhliwala for stepping up and taking control of the computer for slide presentation; and Sweta for welcoming our guests as a Member of the Executive Committee. He would like to extend his thanks to Yasmin Medhora and Naushad for donating some of the refreshments.

And last not but not the least, Kaemrerz says “a very special debt of gratitude to Aban Rustomji and Yasmin Medhora for doing a fantastic job coordinating the whole event.”

NAZC2020 Logo Unveiled

We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to send in your entries for the NAZC2020 Logo Competition. Everyone did a fantastic job with some very artistic and innovative logos which represented the NAZC2020 theme in one way or another. Once we received all entries, we accumulated a lot of feedback (100+) from the community and after taking into consideration all the viewpoints / suggestions, the selection committee chose the logo that was innovative, unique, forward looking and above all represented the NAZC2020 Theme the best.

We are extremely delighted to announce that the winner of the Logo competition is Homi Davier. We congratulate Homi for winning the competition and thank him and all the participants for their time and support. Homi will receive a prize of $150 for his winning entry.

Winning Logo explanation:

NAZC2020 HOUSTON is the launch pad for Generation(s) Z with the multi-colored swirls demonstrating an upward acceleration. Signifies all Zarathushti Generations across the globe, collectively Propelling a Zarathushti Resurgence guided by Asho Farohar or Faravahar’s divine power

NAZC2020 Core Committee, Co-Chairs and Volunteers
BOOK AWARENESS
(Appeared in FEZANA April Bulletin)

Persian Legends: a book of one hundred and one stories
by Mary M Reid,
iUniverse Inc., 2011

Mehry M Reid shares a memorable collection of legends and tales that provides a glimpse into Persian history, helps others appreciate ancient tales, and most importantly, preserves the legacy of folk literature for future generations.

Visit our website at http://www.fires-fezana.org

SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCEMENT

ZAH congress2000 legacy scholarship – Appeal for Funds
– see flyer attached

FEZANA

2018-19 FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
The FEZANA Academic Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2018 Scholarship Cycle. The FEZANA Scholarship Program was started in 1998 to recognize academic excellence and provide Zarathushti students in university programs financial assistance to study at institutions in the U.S & Canada.

Deadline for application is August 01, 2018
Read the entire requirements section on the FEZANA Website -- https://fezana.org/scholarships/academic/

Z-CAMP

ZCamp 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.

MILESTONE SECTION

WEDDING

Marc Irani, son of Parinaz & Khodi Irani, was married to Simi, daughter of Joseph & Marykutty Mullappallil, on April 7, 2018 in Houston, TX
MANASHNI and its readers extend their best wishes to the newlyweds.

BIRTH

Zubin Cyrus Sarosh Manekshaw, born on May 2, 2018, in Dallas TX, to Lauren and Cyrus Manekshaw. Grandson to Gulu and Sarosh Manekshaw of Houston.
MANASHNI and its readers congratulate parents Cyrus and Lauren and grandparents Sarosh & Gulu Manekshaw.

OBITUARY

Adil Rustom Tarapore, husband of Natasha (Bamjee) Tarapore, Brother-in-law of Lyla & Raymie Daroga, father of Aarman, Maya and Zoya Tarapore, son of Ruby and (late) Rustom Taraporewala, passed away on Wednesday morning May 2, 2018.
MANASHNI and its readers extend their heartfelt condolences to
Dear Friends of ZAH:

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) is so grateful for the support you have always sent our way! It is much appreciated.

The 2000 World Zarathusthi Congress surplus revenues were split between FEZANA & ZAH. At that time, we at ZAH determined that such a splendid World Congress aptly required to leave behind a legacy and hence ZAH gave birth to its very own Scholarship & for our young kids who go off to college!

The Scholarship funds were invested prudently and as of the last count, after giving awards over past 10 years we still have a balance of $116,000 invested by the ZAH - Investment Management Team (IMT). The awards are ONLY distributed from the earnings of this fund. This, along with a sum of $3000 donated by the Desai family in the memory of their late son Cyrus Desai allows us to distribute 2-3 awards a year.

Each year, the congress 2000 legacy Award will recognize young Zoroastrian students who are studying at or about to enter the University at all levels and who have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra-curricular activities and who have made substantial contribution to Zarathusthi community affairs. All eligible students are encouraged to apply for this award each year.

In November 2007 ZAH lost one of their talented youth members Cyrus Rohinton Desai to cancer. This brilliant student was all prepped up for an exciting life in college when tragedy struck him. The Desai family generously contribute to one award every year and that Legacy Award is named the CYRUS ROHINTON DESAI scholarship and is given to a youth going to college for the FIRST YEAR, because all that Cyrus wanted was to attend a college, even if it was for a day.

I have dedicated myself to this project and find that as the community grows so do the needs of our young who go off to college and so I am approaching you and many other generous donors Worldwide to contribute additional funds so that we can move on to our next vision by giving loans & even creating a need based award for our citizens of tomorrow.

Could I then ask that you to please think & consider, see the cause and then contribute generously to this Scholarship program which can last forever with Global benefactors such as yourselves!

Best wishes,
Homi Davier
Chair
832-428-4285-cell
OUR APPEAL

Please review the intro attached with this letter and understand, where we began, what we have achieved and where we aim to go! Insofar as new contributions are concerned, we look for them in any amount, may it be $50 to $100,000. Insofar as ZAH is a 501© (3) not for profit organization however we strongly recommend that a donor consult an accountant for tax deduction limitations of this generous contribution.

We have identified that the way to attract additional funds for awards and loans is to offer the donor an opportunity to name the award after a loved one and/or their institutions.

Just as the Desai Family, each large donor could have the privilege of naming the award to the memory of a loved one and we would work with you, the awards could be in the following categories

- **INDIVIDUAL DONOR** - An individual donor could be anyone, a member, a generous donor and such donations to be sent as a check to the treasurer and marked for congress2000legacy scholarship fund.
- **PAST WINNER DONOR** - A past Legacy scholarship awardee who wishes to give back and thus allow us to contribute for the next in line
- **AN IN MEMORIUM DONOR** - A single sum donation & Award named according to donor’s wishes and Awards to be given annually from interest derived via our IMT team
- **A FAMILY TRUST DONOR** - A single sum donation & Award named according to donor’s wishes and Awards to be given annually from interest derived via our IMT team
- **A CORPORATE DONOR** - A single sum donation & Award named with the Corporation’s name and Award to be given annually from interest derived via our IMT team

The above Donors will have the prerogative of designating their contribution to be designated for the current Legacy Award and/or even help us jump start the new NEED BASED AWARD! For any discussion on setting up a memorial or corporate award, please just Homi Davier and let us help you set it up as per your wishes but of course following our guidelines.

OUR VISION

The congress 2000 legacy funds are designated to be used to preserve the history of ZAH’s Congress 2000 and to recognize the academic achievers in our community. A start-up team was formed to organize, preserve/grow and disburse these funds via the awards program.

The congress 2000 legacy Awards are implemented and now our goal is to draw upon individuals, corporations, charitable institutions, trust funds, donors and past congress 2000 legacy awardees to contribute additional funds for our plans over the next ten years.

Our future plans call for LOANS to be formulated and introduced as a criterion. These loans will be based on the earnings of the original fund’s activities and new donor infusions. They will be given to the students free of interest, with a guarantor and a repayment period after their basic graduation. The Legacy committee is progressing this effort at a larger scale, to ensure this program sustains over years to come.

Finally, a solution is being worked on to introduce a NEED based criteria award and may be considered on an individual basis. This again will be based as the cash income increases or with new donor designated funds.

THE ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON
8787 West Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX 77071  www.zah.org
Maidhiayarem Gahambar (Dae Mahino) WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY JUNE 3, 2018
JASHAN STARTS PROMPTLY AT 11:00 A.M
If registered by May 27, 2018 charges: $10
Ages 4-10: $7; Children up to 3 years gratis

RSVP LINK WILL BE PROVIDED SHORTLY
Starting May 28, 2018 charges for all $15

SPONSORED BY:
BOB, CAROLYN & PARVANEH YAZDANI

For questions please contact:
Nozer Dungor at (832) 758-8331 or nozerd@hotmail.com

ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS OUR ERVADS FOR PERFORMING THE GAHAMBAR JASHAN

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
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 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 halftones, 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 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 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 winner prize notification and delivery, in the event the contest winner has provided incorrect, outdated, or otherwise invalid contact information.
ZAH PICNIC

Sugar Land Memorial Park
Saturday June 16, 2018
11 a.m. onwards

ENJOY A DAY OF FUN AND FOOD

POTLUCK: PLEASE BRING A FOOD ITEM TO SHARE:
Covered Entree or similar food item to share. Please do not bring: Cakes,
Cookies, Pies, Soda, etc. in lieu of your covered dish.

FUN ITEMS TO BRING ALONG:
Frisbees, soccer ball, football, bikes, and other fun outdoor activity items.
Since we have a pavilion suggest bring your favorite board games, cards, etc.

PLEASE BRING YOUR WATER BOTTLES, DRINKS & ICE-CHESTS

DOGS PERMITTED ON LEASH. DOG PARK NEARBY

No Charge - Free Event
ZAH is covering costs for Venue Rental, Paper Products, Dessert, Tea and Sodas

CLICK HERE FOR PARK DETAILS

Sugar Land Memorial Park
15300 University Blvd.,
Sugar Land, TX 77479
(281) 271-2885

Event Organized By: ZAH Entertainment Committee