SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different times for each group

DATE: October 14, 2018

Children’s Session
The Sunday School session starts at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
This month the session was focused on Parts of Sudreh and Kusti

Middle Group: The Sunday School session at 11.00 a.m.

Youth Group: Sarosh Collector, Kaemzr Dotiwalla conduct this session.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 26, 2018 – Library Event – ZAH Library presents Award winning Author Sohrab Homi Fracis who has just published his latest work of fiction that has been widely acclaimed by critics and readers alike. The evening will begin at 6:30 with a meet-and-greet until 7 pm, when Sohrab’s book reading and discussion will start. A potluck dinner will be served around 8 pm. Even though the event is free, please RSVP to Arnavaz Sethna at ahsethna@yahoo.com (see flyer for details).

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

Saturday, December 1, 2018 – ZAH Fundraiser Play – “Jerk-Xes the NOT so great!!” - A Parody based on the life of Xerxes. See attached flyer

Friday, December 7, 2018 – Library Event – To be announced

Sunday, December 9, 2018 – Sunday School & Christmas Party

REPORTS

Library Committee Report – by Jangoo Mistry

A Highly Anticipated Library Event

The ZAH Library is proud to present an award-winning Zoroastrian author who will be in our midst on Friday, October 26. Sohrab Fracis, a native of Mumbai, is an accomplished writer with a fascinating background. He had visited us a few years back, to read from his book: Ticket to Minto: Stories of India and America, and the evening was a memorable experience for all of us. Sohrab Fracis has just published his latest work of fiction: “Go Home”, that has garnered rave reviews from critics. Fracis' themes deal with situations that are of great interest to us: displacement, alienation, injustice, culture clash, and cross-cultural bridges.

The evening will begin at 6:30 with a meet-and-greet until 7pm, when Sohrab’s book reading and discussion will start. A potluck dinner will be served around 8pm.

Many of you had purchased a copy of his previous book, Ticket to Minto, at the last event, and enjoyed reading it. This time also we will have copies of his
latest book for purchase at $15. We will have only 20 copies of this book available at the event, so if you wish to purchase a copy, please reserve your copy now with Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com) so that you are not disappointed. Sohrab will be glad to sign your copy of the book. Even though the event is free, please RSVP to Arnavaz to help everyone in planning for the potluck. See you for an enjoyable and interesting evening on the 26th.

ZAH Youth Group Report - By Natalya Mehta (ZAH Youth Group Secretary)

In the month of September, the ZAH Youth Group had a successful blood drive during the Gahambar on September 30. Also, On September 9, ZAH had a fall carnival in which the Youth Group provided kabobs, chocolate mousse, and water; and the Youth Group made $460 in total. There were 12 donors who donated a total of 16 units of blood, which is enough blood to save 48 people’s lives. On October 6, the Youth Group and Middle Group attended a Farrokh Mistree session about college. The session was very informative and allowed the youth to discuss their futures. On October 27, the Youth Group is planning to team up with the Middle Group, and have a volunteer event at the Houston Zoo. In November, the Youth Group is having their annual lock-in at Dallas.

MISCELLANEOUS

APPEAL TO RESURFACE THE ZAH PARKING LOT

First and foremost, our sincere gratitude to all our community members who so very generously opened their hearts and wallets and contributed towards this much needed and worthy cause. We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and are truly blessed to see such selfless benevolence of our community members.

As an update, we are excited to report that we have collected pledges of around $105,000 out of the required funds ($200,000). As you can infer we are just about half way to the target we need to attain. As we indicated on Sunday, September 30, 2018 and as the pictures show, the current situation presents huge risks, particularly to our Seniors, physically challenged members and kids. This makes it incumbent upon us to fix the Parking Lot as soon as possible. So, all those who are still unsure or undecided, this is a great opportunity to leave your legacy at our Center by being part of this great program. We humbly request our Zarathushthi families and friends, member or non-member to please step up and support this important community initiative to get it completed on time.

Your EC has received several requests to hold another session as well as to extend the “Buy 2 get 1 Free” offer from a lot of members who were not present at the Gahambar as well as some who would like to understand the initiatives better. Hence, we have decided to conduct a special session and do a walkthrough of the presentation we did earlier, on Sunday October 14, 2018 at 11:30 am at the ZHCC. Please spare some time and attend the session as it’s always good to hear and clarify first hand. If you are unable to attend, please contact Jasmin Katrak at 713-320-5075 or email her at jasminkatrak@gmail.com

Here are the Donors who contributed (until Oct 7th, 2018):

LET'S MAKE OUR PARKING LOT GREAT AGAIN!

For your added convenience, we have also set up a page on our ZAH website for registration and online payments at ZAH Parking Lot Fundraiser.

We are mobilized, energized, and working hard to keep up the face of our Houston Zarathushti community. Let us preserve what is a recognized showpiece that makes us all proud.

Thank you once again to all our donors !!!

The ZAH Executive Committee

Please Note: You will receive an emailed receipt from the ZAH webmaster mentioning 'space/s' reserved as opposed to pavers or parking spots. This is an automated response and due to our website limitations, we are unable to customize it so please ignore it. Your allotment will be based on amount paid by you. Please include your registration for Pavers or Parking Spot in the comments box. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jasmin Katrak at 713-320-5075 or email her at jasminkatrak@gmail.com.

FASLI MEHRGAN AND MAEDIJOZAREM GAHAMBAR
The Fasli Mehrgan and Maediozarem Gahambar was celebrated at the ZAH Center on Sunday, September 30, 2018 and was attended by estimated 260 persons (includes kids). ZAH received an estimated $1,900+ from this event. Thanks very much to our sponsoring families who provided most of the food costs.

Tanaaz & Edul Chikhliwala
Khursheed & Barjor M. Dastur
Minaz & Nozer N. Dungor
Vehishta & Sarosh Kaikobad
Kermeen & Shahrukh Kanga  
Nazneen and Mehelie Warden

ZAH appreciates their kind gesture and their generosity.

The hall was beautifully decorated with red table cloths and pretty flowers.

The stage was set up with all required items for the jashan. The Prayers were led by Ervad Bomanshah Sanjana along with Ervads Barjor Dastur, Pervez Gonda, Neville Kanga, Rayomond Katrak, Noshir Khumbatta, Khushrvar Nariman, Shapur Pavri, Maneck Sidhwa and Yazad Sidhwa. After the prayers and humbandagi, our ZAH EC Chair, Sheroy Haveliwala thanked the Ervads, the Sponsors, donors, volunteers and the Entertainment Committee for their help at this event.

Awards were presented on behalf of FEZANA to the following academic scholarship winners – Shayan Bhathena, Ashish Chakraborty, Rayomand Katrak, and Farzad Sarkari.

Ziba Colah was also commended for being awarded the Outstanding Young Zarathushti at the World Zarathushti Congress in Perth, Australia.

After the awards the ZAH Executive Committee made a presentation on the Parking Lot fundraiser. They articulated the need to raise funds so that a concrete Parking Lot can be constructed and ready by March, 2019 in time for the Atash Kadeh opening.

The EC informed of the fundraiser to collect funds by building a paver wall and by adopting parking spaces. The community reacted favorably to support these fundraising opportunities.

Chasni of fruit, mevo, and malido was served. The malido was prepared and donated by Avan Bhathena, Mahrukh Deputy and Sillie Mehta.

The attendees thoroughly enjoyed the delicious goat meat dhansak, turkey kabobs, vegetable stew and kachubar/limboo for lunch prepared by our very own Naushad Mehta of Cillie’s. Delicious Tres Leches cake was served for dessert.

All donations received from the donor families and all the money collected as ticket charge was given to the ZAH. Last but not the least, thanks to the web and the Manashni team for their help, the Entertainment Committee for setting up and working the event and the volunteers who helped cut fruit, serve lunch and helped in various errands at the event.

May God bless our wonderful community.

ZAH Bowling Sports Day

On a lovely October afternoon, a group of 45 from the ZAH, attended the Bowling Sports Day in Stafford.

From the young to our Seniors, all participated in the bowling event. Drinks and an excellent pizza added to an ambience of good cheer and laughter.

And of course the traditional foot-stamping and cussing when hairline misses were experienced added a touch of comical stress relief.
The ZAH Sports Committee thanks all those who participated and made this a fun event and hope to see more of you next year!

Preparing for College Seminar conducted by Dr. Farrokh Mistree and Dr. Janet K. Allen - By Yazad Sidhwa, ZAH Youth Group President

This year the ZAH Youth Group got the opportunity to plan and organize the congress2000legacy Scholarship Committee’s “Preparing for College” seminar conducted every year by Dr. Farrokh Mistree and Dr. Janet K. Allen. This time we had a great turnout of 21 kids and 22 adults and we hope to continue with this kind of participation. The seminar started around 1 pm on Saturday, October 6th, 2018 with introductions and setting expectations.

Everyone introduced themselves with the grades they were in along with questions they had in their mind. The first half of the session was introduction to the process of applying to a college, resources available, financial preparation and expectations of first year in college. It was a very interactive session and the students and parents gained a lot out of the session.

We had a short tea break at around 2.30 pm and as usual we had a big spread which included pakoras, chicken pattice, chips, nuts, cookies, medallions, muffins and of course some delicious Parsi custard. We resumed in 20 minutes and the second session covered the remaining aspects like the role of the parents, advice to students, what do admission officers look at, paying for college, etc.

Once the presentation concluded we were asked what the key takeaways from the seminar were and it was great to see that all the students and parents learnt new things and had some nice things to say about the seminar. Homi Davier thanked everyone who attended, we took some group pictures and presented Dr. Farrokh Mistree and Dr. Janet K. Allen with a small token of appreciation for driving all the way from Oklahoma and back and spending their personal time to counsel us and give us guidance before we start our College education.

In ending, all the students & the parents who attended were amazed at the level of support that the ZAH congress2000legacy team brought in. Over 50% were first time attendees and said they would come back again!

We would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation and thank:

Dr. Farrokh Mistree & Dr. Janet K. Allen for coming all the way from Oklahoma to deliver a great seminar.
Homi Davier and Vispi Sagar of the congress2000Legacy Committee for giving us the guidance and assisting us during the entire planning/organizing process & for contributing towards the snacks for the afternoon
The ZAH EC - Sheroy Haveliwala for his welcome speech, Percy Master & Nozer Dungor for their support
Kaemerz Dotiwalla & Jenisteen Davie for supporting and assisting us during the sessions
Arzin Italia & Farzana Sidhwa for helping us organize the catering with some great food and lemon grass tea
Farzana Sidhwa, Arzin Italia and Khursheed Dastur for donating custard, snacks, water, etc.
All the members of the Youth & Middle Groups & their parents who attended the seminar
Arnavaz Aunty for helping us coordinate with the Middle Group students and parents

PLEA FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

NEW ZOROASTRIAN BUSINESS

Need an ophthalmologist for your routine eye exams? Please welcome the newest members to our Zoroastrian community! Dr. Rayomond Mody, son of Dr Dina and Mr Rustom Mody, and his wife Dr. Nisha Shah. Nisha Shah, MD is a fellowship trained ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) specializing in cataract surgery, refractive surgery including LASIK and PRK, and cornea transplant surgery. She performs general eye health exams as well. You can visit Dr. Shah in any of her 3 beautiful office locations: Pearland Office: 281-582-9100. Bellaire Office: 713-668-9118, and Gramercy Street location: 713-668-6828. She accepts most insurance plans and walk-ins are welcome. Call today for an appointment!
Kersi Sethna, a fellow Zarathushti in Mumbai India, seeks financial assistance for his medical treatment as he battles cancer. Kersi is in critical condition and is currently hospitalized for cancer treatment. Kersi is undergoing replacement of stents and chemo therapy.

The treatment cost of the stent replacement plus the 4 rounds of chemotherapy is estimated at around INR 8 lakhs. Kersi does not have any more funds to support his treatment and hence desperately needs help to help save his life.

The donation checks can be made payable to ZAH with a memo note to read ‘Critical Assistance Fund for Kersi Sethna.’ Please send the checks to the ZAH Treasurer Mitra Khumbatta, at 8787 W Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071.

Any support that the community can provide will go a long way in improving the chances of survival of a fellow Zarathushti in need.

DONATIONS SENT IN RESPONSE TO THIS PLEA ARE CONSIDERED PASS THROUGH DONATIONS AND AS SUCH WILL NOT QUALIFY AS TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO THE ZAH. PLEASE CONSULT YOUR RESPECTIVE TAX ADVISORS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS IN THIS REGARD.

- ZAH Executive Committee

ZAH AWARDEES SWEEP 2018
FEZANA SCHOLARSHIP

The honorees are:

Ashish Chakraborty and Rayomand Katrak – Each of them was awarded the Dr Minocher Rustom Vesuna and Dowlat Minocher Vesuna - WZO Canada Endowed Scholarship.

Shayan Bhathena – was awarded the 2018 Kheradi FEZANA Scholar award

Farzad Sarkari – who received two scholarships awards
- Excellence in Sports and Performance in Creative Arts. We all knew Farzad is a swimmer but did we know he is an accomplished violinist too? Farzad’s award was received by his sister Rukshana.

Ziba Colah was also recognized as the winner of the Outstanding Young Zarathushhti Award. The award was announced at the 11th World Zoroastrian Congress in Perth, Australia. This Award recognizes a young Zarathushhti between ages of 18-26 years who after achieving high grades as a student in scholastic studies and participating in other extracurricular activities, is deemed to be an outstanding rising star by his or her peers, and who has made substantial contributions to Zarathushhti community affairs in the local community region where she/he has lived.

Celebrating the creative potential of our young ZAH members is inspirational and we have every reason to be ZAH Proud!

ZAH Library Presents
Award Winning Author
Sohrab Homi Fracis

Sohrab Fracis will discuss "Go Home" his recent book about Viraf, a Parsi student in Delaware, caught in the backlash to the Iranian hostage crisis. Sohrab was born in Mumbai, India. He obtained a B.Tech from IIT, Kharagpur and went on to obtain his M.C.E. at the University of Delaware, Newark.

Friday, October 26, 2018
Zarathushhti Heritage and Cultural Center
6:30 p.m.: Meet and Greet
7:00 p.m. Book Reading followed by book signing
8:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner
RSVP: Anavaz Sethna: ahsethna@yahoo.com
ZAH Annual Fundraiser is on 12/1/18 and The ZAH Natak Group Presents.....

Jerk-Xes the NOT so great!!!
A Parody based on the life of Xerxes

Date: Saturday 1st Dec 2018
Time: 7:30pm
Venue: ZAH Auditorium
8787 W. Airport Blvd
Houston TX

Tickets go on Sale 10/20/18
Ticket prices $10.00 and $100.00
All proceeds goes to the ZAH
Box office contact – Manek Nariman
Phone#: 281 313 2654
Email – thenarinmans@gmail.com

Includes a traditional Parsi style
Lagan nu Bhou after the show
with "bawarchi’s" all the way
from Bombay ready to serve
you!!

BYOD…..Bring Your Own Darul

We promise to have you
rolling in the aisles laughing
your guts out....but don’t
worry we will have doctors
standing by to put them all
back in!!!!!

***Free Valet Parking at the event***