**Sunday School**

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

**Time:** Different timings for each group

**Date:** February 10, 2019

**Children’s Session**
The Sunday School session starts at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

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

**Youth Group:** Sarosh Collector, Kaemerz Dotiwalla conduct this session.

**Upcoming Events**

- Sunday, February 17, 2019 – Interfaith Event at ZHCC
- Sunday, March 10, 2019 – ZAH Annual General Meeting
- Wednesday, March 20 - Atash Kadeh Opening & Norouz Event
- Saturday, April 6, 2019 – Surviving an Active Shooter Training
- Sunday, April 14, 2019 – ZAH Annual Carnival after Sunday School

**Special Event**

**Inaugurating the First Ever Stand Alone Structure - Atash Kadeh in North America**

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) proudly announces the grand opening of its new Atash Kadeh. A gala celebration for the opening is scheduled during the Navroze days from March 20 through March 24, 2019.

The interesting and exciting program planned for the celebration includes prayer ceremonies, social events and lectures. A High Priest has been invited from India, along with many local and foreign dignitaries.
This Atash Kadeh, the first of its kind, is a standalone structure costing over one and a half million dollars that will be inclusive and open to all Zoroastrians, their family members, and friends.

Be a part of this landmark event that marks the growth and success of the Zoroastrian North American diaspora.

For detailed day by day program, and registration for the events, please use this link and register


Please note that for registration and payment, you can take advantage of the all-inclusive package for the 5 days; or choose and pay for only the events that you want to attend. Last date for registration is March 5th or earlier if we reach capacity. Please book early to avoid disappointment for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Considering the huge interest in this event and greater than normal attendance expected, we would prefer NO WALK-INS for the Saturday March 23rd Gala Evening event.

If you are registering on-line and paying by check please mail in your checks by March 5th or bring it to the AGM on Sunday March 10th to confirm your booking.

You can now also pay with your Credit Card without having a PayPal account. Just do the following:

1. After you finish filling all the info on the website, click “Paypal checkout”.
2. This will redirect you to the PayPal log in screen
3. On this screen at the bottom there’s a grey button that says “Pay with Debit or Credit Card”
4. Click that button, fill in your credit card info (which we don’t save), click “Pay now” and you are done!

If you have any questions or do not have access to online registration, you may register by contacting Arzin Italia at 713-679-4998 or by email sorabitalia@yahoo.com

Prior to formal inauguration, the Atash Kadeh Committee invites:

- **Invitation**
  Welcome to “Your Atash KAdeh”
  Prior to the opening we invite our community members to view
  “Your Atash Kadeh & Feedback”

- **Open House Days - Attend any of the following days**
  February 10, Sunday – 12:30PM
  February 16, Saturday – noon
  February 24, Sunday – Noon
  March 3, Sunday – Noon
  March 10, Sunday – noon
  (Prior to General Body meeting)

  **Program:**
  Noon to 12:45 PM - Open house at the Atash Kadeh
  2:50 PM - Atash Kadeh Presentation
Upcoming Library Event – March 22, 2019

In conjunction with the multi-day ceremonies to inaugurate the Atash Kadeh, the library committee will host the events on the evening of March 22. The program kicks off at 6:30 with a wine and cheese soirée. As you enjoy the refreshments, take a walk “Down Memory Lane”, an exhibit curated by our very talented exhibit committee. The program includes a talk by Vada Dastur Khurshed Dastur on “Zarathushti Way of Life in Today’s World” and will end with a Persian Dinner. Please go to http://zah.org/events/atash-kadeh-inauguration-and-navroze-funtion/ to register for this and other events.

Visions of Paradise – MFAH Tour Review

Vehishta Kaikobad has led our ZAH members on a number of delightful tours to the Museum of Fine Arts (MFAH) and once again we were treated to a high-energy visit, filled with lots of information and hidden insights. Thirty of us attended a lecture and PPT presentation that preceded the actual visit to the exhibit Garden Paradise: The Magnificent Safavid Carpet from the Burrell Collection, Glasgow. To set the mood, all of us were treated to Turkish delight, pistachios and grapes. The youngest members were Rayomand Collector’s children.

Vehishta gave a historical perspective of the Achaemenians who were builders of large palaces with engineering skills and love of flora and fauna and continued her pictorial journey to the Parthians, Sasanians and the Islamic caliphate highlighting the profound influence on the rest of the world. Next came the historical overview of the Persian carpet, which dated back 2500 years ago. The Iranians were the pioneer carpet weavers and the art of weaving was passed along from father to son, an art that was a closely guarded secret.

The group then went to see the Magnificent Safavid Carpet, which was filled with the flora and fauna beloved by the Persians. Fish and ducks swimming in H-shaped channels of water, were surrounded by plants, butterflies and many different animals. As Susie Tommaney wrote in the Houston Press: “To create an intricate carpet with straight lines is task enough, but this elaborate carpet is full of all sorts of curves and rounded shapes, making the design all that more difficult to execute. Each color change called for the knotting of a different colored thread, an infinitely slow and laborious technique that yielded slightly imperfect edges but an exquisite finished product. There are 224 asymmetrical knots per square inch and the carpet measures a little more than 170 inches by 209 inches, making a project like this the non-digital precursor to modern-day programming.”

The room also had some other very beautiful items from the collection of Kuwait-based collector Hossein Afshar. They included ceramics, metalwork, painting and book folios that illustrate the abundance of nature-based imagery in Islamic art.

The most interesting information isn’t on the museum plaques but in the hidden insights, masterfully related by Vehishta. We thank Vehishta for generously sharing her expertise and time with us.
MEMBERSHIP DUES
CATEGORY AND RATES
Patron Family Membership $500
Patron Single Membership $250
Patron Senior Family M’brshp $250
Patron Senior Single M’brshp $125
Family Membership $275
Family Senior Membership $ 65
Associate Membership $275
Single Membership $135
Single M’ber Head of Hshold $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 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

YOUTH GROUP REPORT
By Dina Hormuzdi

In January, we went on a camping trip at Martin Dies Jr. The camping grounds we chose contained many exciting activities such as Fishing, hiking, biking, and, canoeing/kayaking. Five members of our youth group went and slept in the cabins. We hope to do it again because it was a successful trip.

In February, this month, we have a college planning session with Mr. Shiroy Aspandiar. He will go over some more questions we have about college and how to strive to get into some of our amazing state schools.

Next month, in March, we will be going to the food bank and volunteering in the kitchen or the pantry. We will send out an rsvp soon so please make sure to come!

Z CAMP - SAVE THE DATE

The annual Z-Camp is scheduled for - July 26th to 28th 2019. Pertinent details regarding registration, etc. will follow so please plan your vacations / trips accordingly so the kids don't miss out on the fun. This year some new activities are being planned so stay tuned and watch this space.....

MISCELLANEOUS

MEMBERSHIP 2019

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY - Take advantage of reduced rates for events and support ZAH!

To renew your membership for 2019 online, click HERE [PressControl and Click at the same time]

Please make sure that you select the correct category. For e.g. All married couples, even without children need to opt for Family membership and not Single membership.

To become a new member please contact Percy M. Master (ZAH Secretary) at percyMMaster@gmail.com You can also pay your 2019 membership dues via check made payable to “ZAH”, and mailed to:

The Treasurer
ZAH 8787 W Airport Blvd
Houston, TX 77071

Please do not forget to include type of membership (Family/Student/Senior, etc) and "Membership 2019" in the memo line of your check.

If you are a member for 2019 already, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION!

If you have any questions, or need to confirm your membership for 2019, please email Sweta Sethna at swetasethna@hotmail.com or Mitra Khumbatta at Treasurer.ZAH.EC@gmail.com with proof of payment.

SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

We have arranged for training on how to survive an active shooter to our community and friends.

Date: April 6, 2019 (Saturday)
Time: 11 am to 12.30 pm
Venue: ZHCC
8787 W Airport Blvd., Houston, Texas 77071
JASHN-E-SADEH

By Arain Italia

The Jashan Sadeh event was celebrated at the ZAH Center on 2nd of February and was attended by estimated 300 people including children. The ZAH received an estimated amount of approx $2000. (including the 22% maintenance and utilities expenses).

The celebration commenced with the beautiful narration of the atash ni nymaesh recited by Ervad Bohmanshah Sanjana, Ervad Bahrom Firozgary, Ervad Yazad Sidhwa and Ervad Farhood Rashidi. The guests then proceeded outside for the festivities around the bonfire. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us out with setting up the bonfire. A big thank you to Toshar and Benafsheh Mondegarian who donated the logs for the bonfire.

After the bonfire our guests and attendees visited the beautiful Atash Kadeh. The Atash Kadeh will be inaugurated in March. After the Atash Kadeh visit there was a small presentation for the guests at ZAH.

Later all the guests enjoyed the scrumptious dinner of kabobs, Persian rice and gheymeh catered by Avesta Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed and we received a good feedback from all our guests.

Thanks to DJ Gary for providing us with lively Persian and popular hits which brought everyone to the dance floor.

The newly renovated ZAH Kitchen was used for the Atash Kadeh Function. We would like to thank all ZAH Volunteers who helped set up the new Kitchen.

ZAH and Entertainment committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us heat and serve the food. A Big Thank You to all our Ervads and our attendees. We could not make this function successful without the help of our Volunteers and Friends.

ANOTHER ZAH NAVAR

By Khushru & Parynaz Vimadalal

Freyaan, son of Khushru & Parynaz Vimadalal was ordained as Priest.

Ervad Freyaan K. Vimadalal was born in New Jersey USA and lived there till very recently when he and his family relocated to Houston a year and a half ago. Ervad Freyaan was ordained as a priest on Sunday, 13th January 2019 (roj Aneran, mah Amardad, 1388 Y. Z.). The Navar ceremony was performed by Ervad Aspandiar R. Dadachanji and Ervad Adil Bhesania at Vatcha Gandhi Agiary, Mumbai.

Freyaan was taught his Navar prayers by Ervad Peshotan Unwalla.

Freyaan continues in the priestly lineage going back three generations on both his Bapawaji and Bapaiji’s side. His father Khushroo is a priest too and was an active board member of ZAGNY in New York and his uncle Nauzar is an active priest at ZAGBA in Boston. With Freyaan as an inspiration, we look forward to his younger brother Darian following in his footsteps in the years to come.

MANASHNI wishes Ervad Freyaan hearty congratulations and best wishes for abundant good health, joy, success, happiness and many long years in the service of our glorious Zoroastrian religion.
Neville with Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji

Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji tying paghri on Neville

Some pictures of 6th WZYC

Aspandiar tying paghri on Neville

Some attendees

ZAH has a New Martab
By – Shahrukh & Kermeen Kanga

By the Grace of Ahura Mazda, Ervad Neville Kanga, son of Shahrukh and Kermeen Kanga and twin brother of Natasha, was ordained as a MARTAB on Thursday, January 3, 2019 (Roj Behram, Mah Amardad, 1388 Y.Z.) at the Vaccha Gandhi Agiary in Mumbai. It was a proud moment for the family, especially his grandparents, Perviz and Adi Kanga, and Aloo and Dadi Bharthania.

Neville learned his Martab prayers from Ervad Peshotan Unwalla in Houston, Texas. The Martab ceremony was performed under the guidance of Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji and Ervad Adil Bhesania. Neville is currently in the 7th grade. He is a percussionist and loves to play soccer.

Heartiest Congratulations to Ervad Neville and may he keep the Fire of our Faith burning bright and be worthy of Ahura Mazda’s teachings. Wishing him abundant Joy, Health and Success in life.

Per website of Ramiyar Karanjia, after the candidate completes the “Martab” ceremony and the candidate is ceremony, he is now entitled to perform all Zoroastrian rituals.

Congratulations Neville, ZAH is proud to have you in the ranks of Mobeds.

7TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

FEZANA is happy to announce a Subsidy program specially for the youth of North America to attend the Congress. You need to contact your local association to apply for the same.

FEZANA will contribute $100 towards every applicant eligible under the scheme. Each member association shall match at least that amount if not more.

If you are a member of your local Zoroastrian Association reach out to them for further details and the method to apply.

If you live more than 200 miles from any FEZANA member association or corresponding group, reach out to Xerxes Commissariat, FEZANA Assistant Secretary at asst-sec@fezana.org

The details of the Subsidy program can be found on FEZANA’s website. Member associations may also have their own requirements that all applicants need to fulfill.

NoRouz

NoRouz this year falls on March 20 4:58 p.m. Houston time. It is the year of the white pig.
Zoroastrian Studies Graduate Fellowship established at UCLA

Thanks to a gift in 2018 from the Trust of Morvarid Guiv, the Morvarid Guiv Graduate Fellowship in Zoroastrian Studies has been established in UCLA’s Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World. Named after the late Iranian philanthropist Morvarid Guiv, the fellowship will support graduate students studying the Zoroastrian religion, its ancient history, languages, and scriptures. The gift secured additional matching support from the UCLA Chancellor’s Centennial Scholars Match program.

The Zoroastrian religion is one of the oldest monotheistic religions in the world and was the dominant faith of the Iranian World (including Asia Minor and Central Asia) prior to the rise of Islam. The fellowship enables UCLA’s long-established doctoral Program of Iranian Studies to attract and train new generations of experts exploring the many facets of this influential, ancient Iranian religion that continues to thrive today—further reinforcing UCLA as the premier destination for scholars working on ancient Iran.

“It is a great privilege to host this timely fellowship that so wholly complements the mission and aspirations of the Pourdavoud Center and its eminent eponym,” said M. Rahim Shayegan, Director of the Pourdavoud Center. “The Morvarid Guiv Graduate Fellowship will not only strengthen the study of ancient Iran at UCLA, but also ensure that future generations of scholars pursue research in the languages and history of this remarkable religion.”

Born in Iran, Morvarid Guiv and her husband Rustam Guiv were successful businesspeople who helped Zoroastrian communities by building schools, low-income residential projects, and Zoroastrian community centers. When they immigrated to the U.S., they founded Zoroastrian community centers in the U.S., Canada and Australia.

SUDREH PUSHI TRAINING

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Noushin Isadvastar. I am a fellow Zoroastrian from Iran currently a member of the Persian Zoroastrian Organization in Northern California (PZO). I am also a member of the PZO’s Board of Trustee. I was born in Tehran and moved to the United States in 2001 along with my husband, Kourosh Pourdehmobed.

Since then, I have been involved in the religious activities and the teaching of the Avesta to our Zoroastrian children in Northern California. PZO encourages the parents to enroll their children in our group Sedreh-pooshi (Navjot) ceremony. We have been holding this ceremony continuously in the past seven years and have Sedreh-pooshed about 30 Iranian Zoroastrian kids. I am writing this to invite you to join us in our religious/Avesta training through online classes to prepare our kids for tying the Koshti.

If you are interested, we would be delighted to include your children in our completely free of charge training, which normally starts in March and will take about 3 months.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at n_isad@yahoo.com or my cellphone at 408-646-2146.
Bakhtavar Desai – ZAKOI

Dear Friends,

I have been doing this fundraiser for years at this time of the year to raise funds for our community's dream project - our future ZAKOI Worship Center. The delicious Badam ni Bois are made for this fundraiser by our very own Roshan Rivetna (one of our most prominent Zoroastrians in NA, and an amazingly giving, wonderful person) who has continuously inspired us to pursue this dream. This fundraiser would not be possible without Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna's help, for which my community and myself are deeply grateful.

Our Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN (ZAKOI) consists of approximately a population of about 150 Zoroastrians in the tri-state region of KY-OH-IN. Our members live in various cities in the tri-state region, approximately 2-3 hours away from Cincinnati, OH, which is our meeting hub. Though small, we are a close knit and very active group that tries its best to meet the religious and cultural needs of all our people, youngest to the oldest, through celebrations, jasans, muktad prayers, religion classes & camps, and lots of social gatherings. We are also active in interfaith meetings and activities.

I choose to do this fundraiser at this time of the year - around the auspicious occasion of Norooz coming up in March, because the 'Fish' is a symbol of Happiness, Prosperity & Abundance in the Zoroastrian culture. The fish itself, or a sweet dessert shaped like a fish, is often used to give as a gift of goodwill and friendship among friends and family on various good occasions. Please see the attached note and details on the badam ni Boi for its symbolism, ingredients, storage instructions etc.

The Badam ni Boi (a sweet pastry made with crushed almonds and flavorings), is a great addition to your Norooz Table and a yummy treat for your family and friends. You can order it for yourself or for sending it to your friends around the country. We will pack and ship it to your friends/family with a personalized note from you. All the profits raised from the sale of these Bois will go to our ZAKOI Center Fund. This fund has been established and is continuously being raised to enable our community to have our own Worship Center someday. We have raised about $90,000 in the last ten years through our fundraising efforts, and this Badam ni Boi fundraiser contributes greatly to our Center Fund every year. We are deeply grateful to all our fellow Zoroastrians who support this cause year after year by buying our Bois. Thank you most sincerely!

You can place your order directly with me. You can get together with friends and place a collective order at any one family’s address. I can also mail the Bois to your family and friends around the US on your behalf as a Navroze gift or a birthday, navjote or wedding gift, or for any nice occasion.

Price:
$35 for a Pair, OR $18 for 1 Boi – Plus Shipping & Handling through USPS

Shipping through USPS
$8 for 1 Boi (Small Flat Rate Box)
$15 for 2 - 8 Bois (Medium Flat Rate Box),
$20 for 9 - 20 Bois (Large Flat Rate Box)

If you don't want to buy the Bois but still want to help us, we will gratefully accept your tax-deductible donation check made to the ZAKOI Center Fund, mailed to Bakhtavar Desai, 6383 Jamesfield Ct., Fairfield, OH 45014. A receipt with our Tax ID number will be mailed to you soon.
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed - Mar 20th</td>
<td>11:00 am to 5:00 Collect sandalwood/ash/coal from Humdins at Atash Kadeh</td>
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<td>11:00 am to finish Humdins to Prepare and clean</td>
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<td>1:00 pm Setup Haftseen Table</td>
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<td>Thur - Mar 21st</td>
<td>4:00 pm Atash Niyayesh &amp; Baj Ceremony</td>
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<td>6:30 pm Humbandagi</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Machi in the Prayer Room, Take Ash and Amber to the</td>
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<td>7:30 pm Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur’s short address</td>
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<td>8:00 pm Navroze Dinner</td>
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<td>Fri - Mar 22nd</td>
<td>12:30 to 6:30 Vendidad Ceremony in the Atash Kadeh</td>
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<td>6:30 am Breakfast/Tea</td>
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<td>8:00 pm Dinner</td>
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<td>Sat - Mar 23rd</td>
<td>9:00 am Baj Ceremony</td>
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<td>10:00 am Jashan Ceremony</td>
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<td>11:30 am FIRST BOI in the Atash Kadeh Kebla</td>
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<td>Sun - Mar 24th</td>
<td>11 am Avan Yazd Parabh</td>
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<td>12:30 pm Jashan – at Atash Kadeh led by Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur</td>
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<td>12:15 pm Vada Dasturji</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Setup Haftseen Table</td>
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<td>8:00 pm Navroze Dinner</td>
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<td>8:00 pm Dinner</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Doors Open</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur’s Keynote</td>
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<td>Grand Gala &amp; Celebration Dinner</td>
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