**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**TIME:** Different timings for each group

**DATE:** May 12, 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, Kaemz Dotiwalla conduct this session.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, June 2, 2019** – Maedhiayarem Gahambar – 11:00 to 3:00

**Friday, June 7, 2019** – Library Event – details to be advised

**Sunday, July 14, 2019** – Sunday, Tigran Celebration – 1:00 to 4:00 pm

**Friday to Sunday, July 26th – 28th, 2019** – ZAH Z-Camp 2019

**Wednesday, August 7 to 16** – Muktad Days

**Saturday, August 17** – Hambandagi, Maachi and Navroze Function

**Sunday, Sept 29, 2019** – Fasli Mehrgan and Maedyozaarem Gahambar

**Friday, Oct 11 – 13** – Annual Library/ FIRES Event

**MESSAGE OF FELICITATION FROM VADA DASTURJI**

First Month Anniversary of Bhandara Atash Kadeh

Dear Phiroze and Shehnaz, Rohinton and Maharukh, and my dear Zoroastrians of Houston,

Greetings of Iranshah and blessings to you all on the First Month Anniversary of Bhandara Atash Kadeh.

Trust all is well with you as is with me. From my recent visit to Houston I have brought back a rich and everlasting memory.

I am especially very humbled and pleased to be associated with Our Community in Houston and members of the ZAH, who have worked with foresight and mettle, tirelessly to realize their dream project and see it through its completion.

Although you have come this far, you are still at the beginning of a long, responsible but rewarding journey. I would like to take the liberty to reinforce my views that this Atash Kadeh, is in its infancy. Just like a new born, it needs your sincere and devotional care. Apparently, unforeseen teething problems will emerge, which will have to be dealt with, with dignity and wisdom. Keeping the Fire ablaze physically and spiritually will be a daunting task which should not intimidate you.
I strongly reckon that the Mobed clan and the Laity, the young and the old, alike, should keep in tune with the basic laws prescribed in our scriptures and adhere to the few prerequisites whilst visiting the Atash Kadeh.

Observing decorum in the presence of the Fire, offering prayers with dedication and devotion will definitely help elevate the sacredness and sanctity of the Atash and account for its apotheosis.

I find myself reiterating, that during the recitation of the Atash-ni-Neyayash we deem the Atash Worthy of Praise for the umpteen Qualities It possess and bowing before It we seek its many Blessings. In the same prayer we acknowledge the glowing Fire as our Friend, Philosopher and Guide. Subsequently, the Atash will take on a characteristic trait that will provide serenity, guidance and blessings in abundance to its devotees, for generations to come.

Members from various Associations across the US visited Houston to witness the grand historic inaugural ceremony and the Enthronement of the Fire at the Bhandara Atash Kadeh where the Atash will be kept aglow in perpetuity, 24X7 on Western Soil. They have all gone back inspired, with a desire in their hearts to follow your lead. Being the first in line, brings on an added responsibility, my friends, because you are under the scanner at all times, setting precedents with every act. You will be expected to guide and advise your fellow brethren, who are enthralled by your accomplishment and would like to follow suit.

My heartiest congratulations are due for executing this admirable feat. I will be glad to be at your disposal to help you understand the nuances of religious matters regarding the functioning of the Atash Kadeh.

I cannot thank you enough for the making my stay in Houston very comfortable and enjoyable. I wish to be able to reciprocate your generosity during your visits to Mumbai.

With warm regards and a Prayer in my Heart.

I Remain In HIS Service,

Dasturji Khurshed K. Dastoor
High Priest "IRANSHAH"

RESPONSE BY FEROZE BHANDARA

Dear Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor,

It was with great pleasure that we read your beautiful note and also shared it with over 100 attendees at the Adar mah Adar roj Jashan.

Thank you so much for remembering the one month anniversary of our Atash Kadeh. We are truly grateful for the guidance and support that you provided us as we were planning the inauguration of the Atash Kadeh, and gracing us with your presence for all the opening festivities. It was a moment of great pride for the Zoroastrians of Houston, and having you in our midst made it that much more special.

Your inspirational note has motivated us to continue working towards keeping the flame burning ever so brightly at the Atash Kadeh both physically and spiritually. We are happy to say that we have progressed well over the course of the last month, and are getting into a rhythm of keeping the Atash Padshah Saheb well cared for with great help and support by our community.
We have had the Behram Roj Jashan, and just recently had the Adar mah Adar roj Jashan too. Each was attended by well over 100 people!

As you mention, we will have challenges as we go along, and are prepared to face them with determination and faith, while respecting the views of all. Thank you once again for reminding us of our responsibility to do so, and for giving us your blessings as we continue to strive towards making an eternal burning flame a reality in the West.

Wishing you all the very best, and hoping to see you back again soon in Houston!

Warm regards,

Feroze & Shernaz Bhandara and the Atash Kadeh Committee

**REPORTS**

**Surviving an Active Shooter Training**
By Sweta Sethna – Member, ZAH Executive Committee

A representative of the Houston Police Department (HPD) trained community members at ZHCC on April 6, 2019 on how to survive an active shooter. It was very informative and provided useful insights into the mentality of an active shooter and how to survive a shooting. The main points to remember:

- **HAVE A SURVIVOR MENTALITY**
  - The active shooter has planned the event extensively and cannot be “talked out” of it so **DO NOT** reason or negotiate with him. You will probably end up being a very easy target. He is on a mission to kill as many bodies as possible (just like a video game)
    - If you hear something like a gun shot assume the worse and **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT** (in that order to the extent feasible under the circumstances)
  - Your ultimate responsibility is to get home alive to your family

Other insightful tips and videos were shared.

We have arranged for another session at the Z-Camp on July 27, 2019 at 11 am for kids and youth. If adults are interested in attending a session, they should call Sweta Sethna at (832) 316-5845 or email atswetasethna@hotmail.com.

Depending on interest, we will request the HPD to conduct another session for us.
MEMBERSHIP DUES

CATEGORY AND RATES

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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

REPORTS

**Library Committee**
*By Jangoo Mistry*

**The Celebration Continues**

The establishment of the Bhandara Atash Kadeh has put Houston in a coveted position on the North American Zoroastrian map. The inauguration ceremony, spread over four days, reinforced the reputation of ZAH as a premier organization always presenting well-planned and exciting events.

In addition to organizing the exhibit, “A Walk Down Memory Lane”, Aban Rustomji had also spearheaded the effort to record this historic event in written articles, pictures and videos. Judi Ann Carlsson has compiled and edited a video that captures all the highlights of the four days of celebration. A Library event is planned on June 7 to show this video, along with other testimonials and presentations on the inauguration. It will be an interesting and nostalgic way to relive those exciting days. Details of the event will be announced shortly. Please look for the e-blast from Arnavaz Sethna in your email.

**Youth Group**
*By Zara Italia, ZAH Youth Group Treasurer*

Last month, in April, the youth group hosted the Carnival. We sold popcorn, snow cones, cutlets, and water. We made approximately $256.

The youth group decided to donate 50% of the proceeds ($128) to ZAH, and the other 50% was deposited into the youth group account.

The popcorn and snow cone machines were generously donated by Mr. Sarosh Collector. The Italia’s donated $50, Yazad Sidhwa donated $67 towards water, and three ice bags were donated by Zubin Master. The youth group helped set up the machines beforehand, and helped run the stalls on the day of the carnival. Thank you to all the youth parents for their support and donation, as always.

This month, after Sunday school, we are planning to meet and clean up the youth room.

Next month, in June, there is a golden group event. Details, as of now, are to be determined. We will organize this, and information will be sent out.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**20TH ANNUAL ZAH CARNIVAL**

The 20th Annual Carnival celebrating the anniversary of the ZAH Center was held on April 14, 2019 after Sunday school. With the combined effort of all of you, a total of $6,600/- was donated To the ZAH. Thanks to each and every one of you who attended the Carnival, cooked food, purchased food, played games, volunteered your time and donated items. The team work at every stall was super!
Food made by various families: Bhel, Dahi Poori & Sev Poori stall by Maharukh & Rohinton Deputy and Jasmin & Percy Katrak; 100 Turkey Pattice, 75 Paattra Macchi and 30 Fish Cutlets by Edul & Tanaaz Chikhliwala; Sweet Dahi Farida Divecha; Chicken Dhansak Dal and Rice Minaz & Nozer Dungor; Marinated Chicken Tikka Yasmin Engineer - grilled by Arzin Italia and Nosh Medhora; Beef Rolls Nargis Cooper; Chicken Curry Diana Balsara; Rice for Curry Yasmin Haveliwala; Paapi Rashna & Barzin Chiniwala; Chicken Liver Roshan & Bomi Gazdar; Cashew Chicken Yasmin Medhora; Fish Patio Nina Eduljee; Potato Poori Kamal Unwalla; Goat Meat Kabobs Khursheed Dastur; Karai Chicken Rustom Challa; Turkey Kheemo Kamalrukh Gandhi; French Beans/Fish Peris Behramasha; Red Curry Masala Delna Minwalla; Cheese Pora sandwiches & French beans ma Gos Arni Ilavia.

Falooda, ice cream and trimmings by Roshan & Percy Behramasha; Sev Maharukh Deputy; Parsi Custar Tehmi Dastoor and Arnaz Mistry; Kulfi, Mithai boxes and Tea Yasmin Medhora.

A large tray of sliced onions for curry, dhanksak and chicken tikka by Shernaz Boomla; trimmings for all kachoobar Yasmin M; Boiled Potatoes for bhel 5 lbs. each Nergish Davier, Pervin Sidhwa and Meher Anklesaria; Kothmir and mangoes for bhel Farida Merchant. Thanks to Becky & Kershaw Byramji for paying for table cloths, to-go boxes, wall & table décor and more. The lively balloon décor was donated by Banafsheh Mondegarian.

The parents of Vehishta Kaikobad’s group donated gifts and managed the Fish Pond stall headed by Khursheed Dastur. Zia Anklesaria with the help of her group parents took care of the Gift Certificate Walk and the Limbo Rock. Prizes for these two games were donated by Nali Desai. All kids had a blast busting the huge Pinata filled with 10 lbs of chocolates donated by Meher Patel and Aaryan Rustomji. The Egg Hunt was a lot of fun and the eggs were donated by Rustom Anklesaria. Thanks parents for your teamwork and donations. $149 donated to ZAH by this group.

A big thanks to the Middle Group – Arna Sethna, kids and parents who did extremely well on their stall ($507). The Beef Samosas and Chicken Puff Pattice were donated by Elvia and Ronnie Patel; the Plants donated by Tannaz Maachi; the cake for the game “Guess the Weight of the Cake” was donated by Naushad Mehta.

The Youth Group wanted to add a little fun to their stall – they sold Pop Corn and Sno Cones. The equipment was donated by Sarosh & Pearline Collector. They also sold Chicken Cutlets, water and sodas at their stall. They gave 50% of their profits to ZAH ($128). Thanks to all the Youth and their parents for helping out.

We are proud of Cyrus and Delna Surveyor who donated $576/- to ZAH from their handmade wooden projects, bead magnets/jewelry and pretty key rings with ZAH written on them. Thanks to their parents for the encouragement and to the Carnival attendees who bought these nice items.

The Bingo ticket sale was done by Ashdin & Nosh Medhora. The numbers were called out for all the games by Nozer Buchia. The $25/each gift certificate for the first prize for 2 Bingo games was donated by Naushad Mehta and 1 game Nosh M. The second prize for 2 Bingo games was donated by Thrity & Kersi Engineer and 1 game Nosh M. 3rd prizes by the Medhoras and Nali Desai.
Thanks to Aderbad Tamboli, Khushrav Nariman and Sheroy Haveliwala for coordinating the music and making announcements. All pictures were taken by Percy Katrak and Percy Behramsha.

We very much appreciate the generosity of Cillie & Jehanbux Mehta for renting the table plus giving a generous donation of $1,158 to ZAH at this event from their Parsi snack stall. Out of this amount $500/- was given to Atash Kadeh per their request. Also thanks to Yezdi & Roshan Engineer for renting a stall for chutney, paatlo, etc. plus donating $131/- to ZAH. Thanks to Gulmohar Bharucha for cooking yummy food items for their rental stall (sponsored). The rental table by Rashna Oaks displayed pretty handmade cards, customized envelopes, etc.

Thanks to Pervin & Vispi Sagar for donating $100/- for this event. Pervin also manned Cillie’s stall this year. All proceeds collected by each stall were directly given to the assigned Accountants for the day Rohinton Deputy and Bomi Gazdar. Also thanks to their volunteers who double checked the thousands of $1/- bills.

More precious volunteers who helped at the event – Arzin Italia/Yasmin Medhora/Persis Behramsha for setting up the hall the previous day and so many other chores; Aban Chhor, Edul Chikhliwala & Tannaz Maachi for lots of chores before the Carnival started; Shernaz Boomla, Persis Colah, Yasmin Haveliwala and Manek Nariman on Bhel stall; Neville & Farida Divecha managed the fish/pattice stall; Aban Chhor managed the dhansak stall; Cyra Byramji managed the Chicken Tikka stall and other items; Nergish Davier; Pervin Sidhwa; Farzania Sidhwa; Khursheed Hormuzdi; Tenaz Sunavala for bringing all items from Cillie and labelling of packages.

THANK YOU      MERCI      GRACIAS      DHANYAWAD      GRAZIE

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Parking Lot - Update

The Parking Lot Team wishes to thank all the donors who generously contributed to the parking lot repair initiative. We are now pleased to inform the community that we have started the implementation phase of the pavers wall and Adopt a Parking Spot signs. We will be reaching out shortly to all the adopt a parking spot donors to confirm the name/message on the signs before going ahead with the purchase and fixing them on the designated spots.

Simultaneously we have started brainstorming ideas about the Paver wall as it requires careful planning about the final location, aesthetics, visual appeal, constructability, etc. Once we start firming this up we shall reach out to the donors to get the text of what the donors want put on their pavers. Slow progress but we want to be sure that the end result is worth it.

Please feel free to reach out to either of us for any questions or clarification.

Your Parking Lot Team;
Lyla Daroga,
Jasmin Katrak
Kayomarz Sidhwa
Sheroy Haveliwala
OUR GRADUATES

Undergrads

Rohan Chakraborty is graduating this May 2019, with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from UC Berkeley. During his time as an undergraduate, he participated heavily in science outreach efforts, and performed research on sustainable technologies such as biofuels and batteries both on campus and in industry, via internships at IIT Kharagpur, Bosch and Tesla. Starting in the Fall, he will be pursuing a PhD at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, in the department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. His future work will likely focus on electronic materials for solar cell applications.

Friyana Kayomarz Sidhwa is graduating from Texas A&M University, College of Education and Human Development with a major in Human Resources Development and a minor in Business. She has also been conferred with the Transformational Learning Fellows distinction within the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University. This Fall, Friyana will be commencing her Masters' Degree in Human Resources Management (MS-HRM) at the Mays Business School at Texas A&M University in College Station.

High School Grads

Zarius Engineer is graduating from The Village School. He will be attending the Honors College at the University of Houston, Bauer School of Business. He received the Excellence in Academics Scholarship from the University of Houston.

Zubin Master is graduating from Ridge Point High School with Magna Cum Laude. He will be going to the University of Houston and has decided to do exploratory studies.

Ervad Yazad Kayomarz Sidhwa is graduating from Stephen F. Austin High School, FBISD as a Magna Cum Laude graduate. He will be attending Texas A&M University, School of Engineering at College Station and plans to take up Computer Science / Artificial Intelligence as his major. He will also continue his passion for Soccer while at Texas A&M University

Tribute to Mothers – Sunday School, Middle Group

1. My mom is important because of all she does for our family. She has always been loving and generous to everyone. She always helps me when I have difficult decisions to make, and has always supported me in hard times. I will always be grateful to her for all that she does.

2. My mom is the most loving and caring person in the world. She supports me with no limit and loves me with no boundaries. She won't always tell me what I want to hear, but I know that is what I need to hear. My mother is sometimes firm and strict, but always for a very good reason. She is constantly reminding me what I need to do. She is always pushing me to go further and beyond, to be better than my best. My mom will always be my rock. It’s a very nice feeling knowing that I can tell someone everything and anything, not be judged, and be led on what to do next. My mom advises, but also lets me make my own decisions. Mahra mummy is my best critic but greatest supporter and I LOVE HER.
3. She is OK, I am OK, we are both OK

4. Mothers don’t just bring you into this beautiful world, they teach you everything about it as well. They help build your confidence and reinforce the belief that you can do anything you dream to do. My mom supports me a lot, whether it is in school work and studies, or my hobbies. She is always there ready to take me anywhere I need to go. She sacrifices her weekends for all my commitments. I hope that in the future I will be able to give her the same amount of attention and confidence that she has given me. My mom is a very special part of my life and will always be.

5. My mom is always there for me, she helps me with projects, cooks my favorite food, and I love her.

6. I love my mom. She is the strongest person I know. She is the reason why I am here and the person that I am. She is always there for me and I am forever thankful for that. Your arms are always there for me when I need a hug. Your heart understands when I need a friend. Your eyes calm me down when I am angry. Your strength and love has helped me so much. Thank you, mom.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The Vakhshoori scholarship board would like to remind all potential applicants that Vakhshoori scholarship application deadline is July 15th. For a copy of the application, please go to [http://www.vakhshoori.org](http://www.vakhshoori.org). For specific questions, please contact Koorosh Vakhshoori at scholarship@vakhshoori.org.

**MILESTONE**

**NAVJOTE**

Azad and Tahmir, sons of Nerina Rustomji and Shehriyar Antia and grandsons of Hilla Antia and Aban Rustomji, had an intimate house navjote performed on April 20, 2019, in Houston, Texas. Priests presiding included Ervad Bomanshaw Sanjana, Ervad Pervez Gonda, and Ervad Shapur Pavri.

**WEDDING**

Zaran Engineer, son of Kersi & Thrity Engineer, was married to Grecia Yanez, daughter of Miguel & America Yanez on April 20, 2019.

**OBITUARY**

Zarine Balsara, wife of Fali Balsara, mother of Adil Balsara and Anita Thakore, mother-in-law of Diana Balsara and Suhrid Thakore, grandmother of Nicholas, Josh, Michelle, Joel, Lauren and Alex, great grandmother of Delilah and Lincoln, passed away on Thursday evening, May 9, 2019.
Maidhiayarem Gahambar (Dae Mahino)
SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2019    JASHAN STARTS AT 11:00 A.M.

JASHAN PRAYERS WILL BE HELD AT THE ATASH KA DEH

If registered by May 26, 2019
Ages 11 & Up: $12
Ages 4-10: $7; Ages 3 & Under Gratis
Starting May 27, 2018 Rates $17 & $12

CLICK HERE TO RSVP AND PAY ONLINE

For questions please contact:
Benafsheh Mondegarian
(832) 420-2586
bmondegarian@yahoo.com

SPONSORED BY:
ZARATHUSHTIS OF AUSTIN
DIANA BALSARA (in memory of
Mahrukh Medhora Charna)
NOSHIR & AVAN BHATHENA
SAROSH & PEARLINE COLLECTOR
RAYMIE & LYLADAROGA

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