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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: April 11, 2021

Children’s Session: The Sunday School session starts at 11.00 a.m. Join in by Zoom

Middle Group: The Sunday School session at 10.30 a.m. by Zoom

Youth Group: [Image]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 6, 2021 – Maidhiyarem Gahambar – 11:00 to 3:00
Saturday, July 17, 2021 – Youth Fundraising event
Sunday, September 12, 2021 – Carnival – after Sunday School

REPORT

LIBRARY REPORT
Check out this fascinating new book!
Third Eye Rising: Stories by Murzban Shroff.

*Third Eye Rising,* as its title promises, fixes its vision on an India beyond the scope of ordinary urban tales and travel. The book explores India through two of the country’s most compelling aspects: family ties and spiritual faith. In a land where divisions of caste and class threaten survival, where the religious are corrupt and the corrupt religious, and where dogmas and superstitions impede economic and individual progress, Shroff shows how spiritual realizations impact daily lives and how they help withstand circumstances of corruption, greed, betrayal, prejudice, and personal loss.

In the title story, “Third Eye Rising,” a young wife must prove her innocence to her sadistic in-laws; in “The Kite-maker's Dilemma” a nomadic kite maker takes it on himself to save a melancholic boy from exile; in “Bhikoo Badshah's Poison” a migrant youth, employed in the city, attempts to shed the burden of his caste; in “Diwali Star” a retired police inspector draws on the events of the epic Ramayana to redefine his relationship with his sons; in “A Matter of Misfortune” two childhood friends have a face-off over the two faces of India: urban and rural; in “Oh Dad!” a dutiful son takes it on himself to protect his father from an unscrupulous taxman; in “An Invisible Truth” an employer delves into his manservant’s life only to get a life-changing insight into his own. Through these stories, we learn how in India it is spiritual faith that unifies, inspires, and frees its recipients from the bondage of struggle. Shroff has tackled his subject—the darker side of India—with the full democracy of his imagination and an empathy that believes in the eternal unity of man.”
ZAH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
Dungor, Nozer – Chairman
Gandhi, Kamalrukh
Hormuzdi, Khursheed
Katrick, Percy
Khumbatta, Kershaw
Dastur, Khursheed – Secretary
Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer
ZAH Rep to FEZANA – Nazanin Sarkari

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)
Boomla, Noozar
Buchia, Kyrus
Dastur, Barjor
Dastur, Darius
Desai, Adi
Desai, Farrokh
Firozgary, Bahrom
Gonda, Pervez
Kanga, Neville
Katrick, Rayomand
Katrick, Vispi
Khumbatta, Noshir
Kotwal, Zubin
Masani, Dara
Nariman, Khushrav
Pavri, Shapur
Sanjana, Bahmanshah
Sanjana, Kurush
Sidhwa, Kayomarz
Sidhwa, Maneck
Sidhwa, Yazad
Unwalla, Peshotan
Vimadalal, Freyaan
Vimadalal, Khursroo

ZAH AGM – MARCH 28, 2021

ZAH Annual General Meeting – 2021
By: Executive Committee

The ZAH Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 28th March 2021. This was a first of its kind meeting - a combination of Virtual presence on Zoom and Physical presence at ZHCC. The ZAH EC sincerely thanks the team of Khushrav Nariman, Rayhan Nariman, Kayo Sidhwa, Percy Behramsha and Sheroy Haveliwala for pulling this off seamlessly from establishing Quorum, to the elections, making sure that all voices were heard, and presentations shared. The ZAH EC also thanks all the volunteers that made the ZAH AGM successful - Percy Behramsha for setting up and updating the AGM webpage; Arzin Italia and Zia Anklesaria for helping with the snack distribution and cleanup; Manek Nariman, who was at the Front Desk for validating the Quorum and our moderator for the meeting; Election Officers – Raymie Daroga, Jamshed Elavii, Khushrav Nariman did a great job with managing the election for EC FEZANA Representative; and our youngest attendees Mahtab and Darius B Dastur for helping with various tasks.

The EC Chair Nozer N Dungor kicked off the AGM with acknowledging that 2020 has been a year of change and how our community has adapted so well to the changes without skipping a beat. He thanked all the community and sub-committee members who have helped keep the community together during these trying times:

- Diana Balsara, Anita Kavina, Jehanbux Mehta for keeping the Golden group connected.
- Sweta Sethna and Sharzad Nariman for helping the Senior community members get vaccinated for COVID.
- The Entertainment Committee under the leadership of Arzin Italia for making events possible last year.
- Homi Davier and his CARES team for helping our members in need.
- The IMT team – Jamshed Elavia and Vispi Sagar for doing a great job with the ZAH Investments.
- Our Sunday school teachers - Vehishta Kaikobad, Arnavaz Sethna, Nazneen Khumbatta, Kaemrez Dotiwala, Nozer N Dungor and Khursheed B. Dastur – their dedication was commended for continuing with Virtual Sunday school without missing any days.
- BMC Committee of Yezdi Engineer, Aderbad Tamboli, Sheroy Haveliwa for keeping our building premises maintained.

The Atash Kadeh Mobeds – Ervad Maneck Sidhwa and Ervad Pervez Gonda were given a special mention for their dedication and keeping the Atash Kadeh fire burning through the Winter Storm, even when they had to stay at the Atash Kadeh overnight without power during the Winter Storm.

In addition to the Committee reports being shared at the AGM the FEZANA President, Arzan Wadia, joined the AGM and provided insights into the FEZANA ZAH collaboration projects which are numerous. He especially mentioned the FIRES project contribution by ZAH Library committee with Aban Rustomji spearheading it. It was great to hear Arzan’s thoughts and vision for the community.
As the Community is aware, our Center suffered a lot of damage during the winter storm in February and we are still recovering from it. Immense appreciation and thanks went out to Yezdi Engineer of the BMC Committee and to Arnavaz Sethna and Ken Bhappu of the BMSC Committee for their quick action and help with getting the water damage remediated and the dance floor renovated quickly.

Special mention also goes out to Yezdi Engineer yet again, for tirelessly helping numerous community members recover from damages due to frozen pipes in their homes.

Do stop by the Center and check out the brand-new dance floor and while you are there, admire the pavers that have been put up on the side walls outside the kitchen-side entrance of the Center. This is thanks to the Pavers Committee of Lyla Daroga, Sheroy Haveliwala, Jasmin Katrak and Kayo Sidhwa.

Your new ZAH Executive Committee (EC) consists of: Nozer N Dungor (Chair), Farokh Billimoria (Treasurer), Khursheed B Dastur (Secretary), Percy Katrak, Khursheed Hormuzdi, Kamalrukh Gandhi, Kershaw Khumbatta (Members) and Nazanin Sarkari (ZAH Representative to FEZANA).

Your new Atash Kadeh Committee consists of: Feroze Bhandara, Shernaz Bhandara, Khushrav Nariman, Persis Behramsha and the newest member Rustom Engineer. The ZAH EC thanks the outgoing AK Committee member Nazneen Khumbatta for her contribution for the last few years.

Browse through all the great work that our committees have done in the past year here.

As you can see from the above, our community thrives because of the energy and passion of volunteers like you. We invite and encourage our community members' participation by contributing your time and experience to our community and Center. Please consider joining/helping with one of the committees of interest. We have the most immediate need on Building Maintenance Committee (BMC). Please contact the BMC Chair – Yezdi Engineer yezdiengineer@gmail.com or Aderbad Tamboli axtamboli@windstream.net if you are interested.

ATASH KADEV
By Persis Behramsha

March began with much welcome pleasant weather after the February freeze. Nature so wondrously created by our Creator showed us the magical beauty of spring season when new leaves start peeking out from the frozen bushes.

March Behram Roj was sponsored by Huty & Farokh Billimoria, Nargis & Homi Cooper, Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, Roshan & Yezdi Engineer and Yasmin & Rustom Engineer. We are very thankful for the unwavering support of our Behram Roj Sponsors.

Though still in Social Distancing Mode, our preparations for Navroze continued with gusto. We were twice as excited since we were also celebrating the second anniversary of the Atash Kadeh.
A special Navroze Humbandagi was held on evening of March 20, 2021, with Arnavaz Sethna, Diana Balsara and Natasha Dungor.

A beautiful Haft-seen table adorned the Entrance, thanks to Parvaneh Kehani and her team. While Aban Chhor and son Farzan decked the Atash Kadeh with beautiful garlands, others continued with the hustle bustle of arranging fruits, mewa, malida, flowers, for the Jashan. Nargis Cooper, Zarina Elavia, Manek Nariman and Pervin Sidhwa made delicious malido for everyone to enjoy. Thanks Nargis and Manek for your help with preparations on the previous day as well. Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, many thanks for your time, support and donating much needed items. We are blessed to have such amazing supporters.

Navroze morning Boye was followed by a special inspiring invocation and benediction recorded by Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor of Udvada, India. The Jashan was attended by 35 - 40 individuals at the Atash Kadeh, and an additional 60 on Zoom.

News of our celebration reached many through the FEZANA newsletter. How proud we feel to announce that we have a 24 hour continuous wood-burning fire tended with devotion, by our Mobeds Pervez Gonda and Maneck Sidhwa.

Requests for Sukhar/ Diva/Machis poured in, along with inspiring messages of appreciation and awe at how fortunate we are to have the Atash Kadeh in our midst.

We need everyone's generous support to keep the Atash glowing perpetually. Please consider supporting with one of the options below. Though we would appreciate a 5 year commitment, any contribution goes a long way. Consider adopting a month of utilities, as a one-time option, if your prefer.

$5,000/year - 5 year commitment – includes 5 maachis with your choice of dates and Daily Divo.

$3,000/year – 5 year commitment – includes up to 3 maachis

$1,000/year – 5 year commitment – includes 1 maachi.

Atash Kadeh Committee: Nazneen Khumbatta retired after serving her term on the Committee. Rustom Engineer was elected in this position.

Youth Group Report – Shared Dreams Donation Drive
By: Neville Kanga

In March, the ZAH Youth Group, under the leadership of Natasha Kanga and myself, conducted a donation drive to collect toiletries such as shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpastes, mouthwash, soap and other personal hygiene products for the Fort Bend ISD’s Shared Dreams Program which helps students in need.
A total of $6,200 worth of toiletries were collected in the form of donation checks, direct online purchase through Amazon, and items that were dropped off at the ZAH Rustomji Room. After sorting all the items, Natasha and I dropped the items at the Shared Dreams facility, and the staff there were delighted to see all the ZAH donations.

Many thanks to Homi Uncle who guided the Youth Group; all the community members who donated; the Youth Group officers and mentors, Arzin Aunty and my mom for helping us make this a success!

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Navroze Celebrated**

*By: Arzin Italia*

Our Navroze function was celebrated on Sunday, March 21, 2021 with slightly less than the usual fan fair. Due to the current pandemic situation we were not able to hold a regular evening Navroze Function. But in order to keep up with the tradition and to be able to meet up with a few friends and family, the Entertainment Committee decided to host a Navroze luncheon.

We had decided to give a box lunch of either Shrimp palav or Chicken biryani with samosas and mawa cupcakes for dessert. The shrimp palav was made by our very own ZAH chef Ms Serena Setna. The Mawa cupcakes were made by our very own Entertainment Committee member Banafsheh Mondegarian. The Chicken Biryani was catered by Faridaben. The vegetarian food was ordered from Maharaja Bhog.

We sold approximately 124 boxes of food and ZAH received a total of $2665.

Thanks to DJ Gary, we had a wonderful afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the music while having lunch and trying to catch up with friends and family.

We also had a lucky draw game. Thank you to Yasmin Medora for planning it and also a heartfelt thank you to Aban Rustomji for donating the 5 prizes for the lucky draw.

The winners were: Nargis Cooper, Dilshad Hormazdi, Nasreen Khosravian, Afsaneh Mortera and Jasmine Behramsha-Trainor.

We also had a surprise guest, Mr. K P George, who we all had the pleasure to meet and he was requested to hand out awards and plaques to the graduating seniors.

The entertainment Committee thanks all the attendees and all the volunteers who helped to make this event a grand success. We would also like to thank the web team and the maintenance team. A special thanks to The Chikhliwala family, the Dastur family and the Dungor family who came early to help setup the hall and volunteer throughout the day. Thank you to the EC for their unconditional support.

Thank you to the Entertainment Committee: Yasmin Medora, Nozer Dungor, Zia Anklesaria, Banafsheh Mondegarian, Fiona Setna, Farrokh Firozgary, Jasmin Katrak and Arzin Italia.

**More Pictures on Page 9**
Results of 2021 FEZANA Essay and Short Story Contests

We are pleased to announce the top entries of the 2021 Essay and Short Story Contests:

2021 ESSAY CONTEST:

First Place: Ms. Natasha Dungor from Spring, Texas
Second Place: Mr. Zeyus Spenta from Vancouver, Canada
Third Place: Mr. Arshaun Oshideri from Aliso Viejo, California

The first place essay will receive $300, second place $200, third place $100 and all three essays will be printed in the 2021 summer edition of Chehreh Nama magazine of California Zoroastrian Center.

2021 SHORT STORY CONTEST:

First Place: Yekta Hormozdiari from Tarzana, California
Second Place: Zeyus Spenta from Vancouver, Canada
Third Place: Azadeh Hormozdiari from Tarzana, California
Honorable mention: Anosh Irani from Sugar land, Texas

Artemis Javanshir, the contest organizer wrote, The contest this year for the third place category was close. We had to call in two different judges than the original 5 to determine the third place winner. Both judges express their gesture of “bravo” Anosh. This year, it is with great pleasure that we announce an honorable mention category.

Congratulations Natasha and Anosh.

ASIA SOCIETY - ASIAFEST – SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

The Asiafest organizers requested Vehishta to have NoRouz related dance on one of the days during the weeklong Asiafest Spring Break activities. With very little time to rehearse, Mahtab B. Dastur and Natasha Dungor explained the significance of Haft Seen table in a dance performance choreographed by Vehishta Kaikobad. This was performed on March 17, 2021.

Due to pandemic, all the activities were held outside on a specially made stage for the performers. It was a pleasure to see how well our two young ladies performed.

More pictures on page 10

ZAH Kids and Youth Prayer Team - One Year Anniversary (by well-wishers of our community)

2020 has been a very unusual and difficult year for the whole world, being gripped by Covid-19, the invisible enemy that is creating havoc globally. At a time when all else does not work, prayers and hope, is what we lean on.
It was at this time a year ago in April 2020, that Ervad Peshotan Unwalla expressed a desire to organize Nirang prayers for the well-being of our community. This desire was quickly set in motion with Ervad Peshotan sending out an email to the ZAH community and priests requesting them to join him to recite Nirangs. The first of the daily Nirang Humbandagi Zoom sessions for the community commenced on 13th April ’20. The priests who conducted the first session were Ervad Peshotan Unwalla, Ervad Darius B. Dastur (11 yrs.) and soon after joined by Ervad Neville Kanga (14 yrs.), reciting the Nirangs and even doing the translations. The audience was thrilled and requested daily sessions to continue to be held for the Nirangs – the priests obliged!

Both Darius and Neville were being coached by Ervad Peshotan Unwalla to prepare for the daily sessions. Hearing Darius and Neville praying daily, it was not long before which their sisters' Mahtab B. Dastur and Natasha Kanga, joined to help with the translations in English and reciting Nirangs. Over the course of the first few weeks of the daily sessions, more and more kids and youth voluntarily joined, to recite the Nirangs and translations. Very soon on any given day there were a team of 10 youngsters (ages 6-16 yrs.) praying & translating, under the tutelage of Ervad Peshotan Unwalla, to provide the community with much needed spiritual and religious support.

After about 100 sessions from April to July 2020, the group of youngsters and Ervad Peshotan Unwalla decided to stop the prayer sessions due to schools starting in September. However, the attendees requested to continue the sessions as COVID was still rampant, so the prayer team obliged again and decided to hold the sessions every weekend instead of daily from September 2020.

The desire and willingness of these kids and Youth to pray and recite translations week after week despite school & busy schedules is a testament to their sense of duty and commitment to their community. Special shout-out to the current young team: Ervad Darius B. Dastur (12 yrs.), Ervad Neville Kanga (15 yrs.), Mahtab B. Dastur (15 yrs.), Natasha Kanga (15 yrs.), Sabrina Warden (14 yrs.), Sanaea Warden (9 yrs.), Roshni Chikhliwala (16 yrs.), Natasha Dungor (14 years) and the youngest of the group Cyrus and Neville Masani (7 yrs.), who are fondly referred to as the 'The Masani Twins'. They joined this team when they were just 6 years!!

The fervor, rhythm and devotion with which these youngsters recite the prayers is amazing – no wonder some refer to them as - Voices from Heaven.

Over the course of this past year, the prayer team has not only recited multiple Nirangs but also completed most of the prayers from the Khordeh Avesta and their translations. The young priests with Er. Peshotan have also recited the entire Ahunavad Gatha with the other kids and youth doing the translations. Their tremendous, sustained efforts are worthy of recognition, applause & appreciation. The continuous support from Ervad Peshotan Unwalla, Kamal Unwalla, Khursheed and Mahtab B. Dastur in organizing, preparing material & setting up these zoom sessions need honorable mention.
On 13th April 2021, this group of youngsters with Ervad Peshotan Unwalla celebrate the 1-year anniversary of their spiritual commitment and support to the community and they plan to continue until the pandemic lets up.

Kudos and hats-off to this wonderful team! What an astounding and shining example of giving back to the community. You make our community proud!

Many thanks to the parents of these youngsters in supporting them with this endeavor.

**NAVJOTE**

Cyrus & Neville, sons of Karl and Simin Masani, had their Navjote Ceremony on March 19, 2021 at their residence in Houston, Texas.

Aanya Kharas, daughter of Noshir and Arnavaz Kharas, had her Navjote Ceremony on March 26, 2021, at her residence in Sugar Land, Texas.

Congratulations to Cyrus & Neville Masani and to Aanya Kharas.

**OBITUARY**

Jimmy Jal Vajifdar (Trustee of Bulsar Parsi Anjuman Trust Funds) passed away in India, on April 9th, 2021. He is survived by his wife Dhun, son Kayzad, daughter-in-law Rashna and grandson Ryan.

Farrokh Irani, father of Thrity Engineer, father in law of Kersi Engineer, Grandfather to Zubin, Zaran and Zarius Engineer, passed away peacefully in his sleep in Pune, India, on April 12, 2021.

**Zoom Session by Sam Billimoria, California.**

Zoroastrian legacy on Freedom Icons. Critical Zoroastrian support to Mahatma Gandhi on his initial apartheid movement in South Africa (human rights and equality), the Indian Independence, which then greatly inspired the American Civil rights movement.

**Day: Saturday, April 17, 2021**

**Time: 11:00am Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7522040799

Meeting ID: 752 204 0799
Passcode: April17!
MORE PICTURES FROM NOROUZ CELEBRATION

Some Entertainment Comm Members

Yasmin with young volunteers

Chikhliwala family

Kanga Family

Young helpers
MORE PICTURES FROM ASIAFEST NOROUZ CELEBRATION

Mahtab with rose water dispenser

Natasha with Seb (Apple)

Mahtab with gift

Mahtab and Natasha with Haft Seen Table in the background

Natasha with flowers an integral part of the Haft Seen table

The End