SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: December 12, 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 10:00 a.m. - physically & Zoom

We are now on Central Standard Time on November 7, 2021

Disclaimer and Authorizations – When attending any events at ZHCC premises, please abide by all the State of Texas and Harris County regulations prevalent on the day. The attendee(s) will NOT hold ZAH or any board member or the organizer(s), responsible for any COVID-19 related or any other sickness, accidents and/or mishaps either to themselves, to their vehicles or any other vehicle(s), person(s) and/or property. All the rules, regulations and disclaimers are effective upon members entering ZHCC premises on the "day of the event" and shall remain effective until they leave the ZHCC premises that day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 12, 2021 – Christmas Party after Sunday School – See Flyer below

Friday, December 31, 2021 – New Year's Eve Celebrations

Friday, January 14 & 15, 2022 – Library Event - Celebrating Zoroastrian Authors

Saturday, January 29, 2022 – Jashn-e-Sadeh

Monday, March 21, 2022 – Hambandagi

Saturday, March 26, 2022 – Norouz Function

REPORT

LIBRARY Report
By: by Jangoo Mistry

Library Celebrating Zoroastrian Authors

The ZAH Library is finalizing plans to organize a gala 2-day event on January 14 and 15, 2022. The event, previously planned for October, had to be postponed due to COVID restrictions till the time when it would be safer.
This event is organized to showcase the wide range of talented authors in the Zoroastrian community in North America and to announce the biennial “Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize”.

**Friday, January 14**

The Friday evening program will be devoted to honoring our own Bapsi Sidhwa who has been recognized worldwide for her contributions to fictional literature. We plan to announce the establishment of the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize for excellence in literature by a Zoroastrian author. Starting with the half-hour *Meet and Greet* at 6:30 pm, the evening will feature a brief recap of Bapsi’s life and career by Rich Levy, a talk by Amanda Focke and a short video prepared expressly for the evening by Sadia Uqaili, based on her production, “Bapsi: The Silences of My Life”. Teresa Russo, who is using her academic and publishing credentials to compile Bapsi Sidhwa’s letters and essays into a book, will share with us a short video clip on Bapsi. The evening will culminate with the formal unveiling of the Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize.

The *Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize*:  
In recent years, a wide swath of Zoroastrian talent all over the world has emerged in fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, children's books, and even poetry. And though there are numerous awards for writers covering North America and overseas, there is no award to solely recognize the Zoroastrian authors of fiction who have made their mark with readers. A trophy and cash award of $2,000 will be awarded every two years. The process to review and judge winners has been finalized and will be published worldwide. Details of the award and guidelines for application are given on [www.fires-fezana.org](http://www.fires-fezana.org).

A buffet supper, free of charge, will be served at the end of the program. Though the dinner is free, we are urging each member to RSVP if you plan to attend so that we can plan accordingly.

**Saturday, January 15**

On Saturday, the morning session will feature the prolific author Boman Desai who has just published his new book, “A Googly in the Compound: a novel of the Raj”. Many of you will recall that Boman Desai was featured in our ZAH Library event as the author of his book “Trio” back in 2015. This time, he will do a book reading of his new book and unveil to us a symphony he has written. Listening to this talented artist will be a unique treat for us.

After lunch, four Houston authors – Meheryar Rivetna, Tenaz Sunavala, Kamalrukh Gandhi, and Shahin Nejad – will talk about their publications and the struggles of writing and publishing. Sweta Sethna, as moderator, will lead them through this interesting discussion.

**History of ZAH**

The last session will be a very interesting presentation and discussion of the history of our Association -- from the early days of its inception to the building of the Center, its subsequent additions, and the establishment of the Atash Kadeh. A small group of three (Arnavaz Sethna, Jehangir Shroff, and Rustom Engineer) has started working on this project which the Library Committee is spearheading. It is interesting to note that Adi Desai was the first recorded Zoroastrian to arrive in Houston as a student at Rice University way back in 1959!
An effort like this has been long overdue. We need to record for later generations the history of Zoroastrian stalwarts who had the vision and the foresight to organize our fledgling community when it was just a handful of committed individuals. Our history will also serve as an inspiration and demonstration to other cities of how an Association can be formed and how it can be expected to grow and prosper.

This promises to be a unique and fascinating two days, a time well spent, and an experience that will stay with you for a long time. So please put the dates on your calendar and make every effort to attend. The Friday dinner is free and the Saturday lunch is only $10. Please be sure to RSVP Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com or call 281-468-4988) to give us your headcount for both days. Please note that we will require that masks be worn at all times except when eating.

**ATASH KADEH NEWS – OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2021**

*By Rustom Engineer*

The weather is beginning to get cooler but often with sunny skies. Not bad for getting out and enjoying nature.

We thank the Collector family for sponsoring the Tir Mahino Tir Roj Parabh Jashan during the Thanksgiving weekend. It was performed by Mobed Manek Sidhwa. A private Jashan was also performed by Mobed Sidhwa and assisted by Ervad Bahrom Firozgary.

We pray that our dear Mobed Pervez Gonda quickly recovers and gets back to good health. In the meantime, we thank Mobed Manek Sidhwa for single handedly managing the daily Atash Kadeh duties during Mobed Gonda’s absence. We also thank Ervads Khushrav Nariman, Bahrom Firozgary and Neville Kanga for helping with the Boye ceremonies in spite of their busy schedules.

Our community is truly blessed by many selfless volunteers, and we would like to specially thank Edul and Tanaaz Chikhliwala for consistently cleaning the carpet and tiles in our prayer areas and washing the religious utensils.

How can we forget our young volunteers who are ever ready to lead the Humbandagi in their beautiful voices at the weekend Boyes? Thank you, Neville and Natasha Kanga, Roshni Chikhliwala,ARYANA Anklesaria, Jidina Mory and Natasha Dungor. You are our hope for the future.

Happy to report that the smoke problem in the Jashan room has improved after an extensive cleanup of the Gumbaj and the ventilation system. A contract for a periodic maintenance is signed.

With the end of the daylight savings time, please note that the Morning Haven Geh Boye will continue to be at 11:00 am but the evening Ujiren Geh Boye will start a little early at 4:30 pm. If you plan to request a Machi during Rapithwan Geh, please schedule it in advance. If you are interested in attending the Rapithwan Geh Boye, please check the Boye time for that day by calling the Atash Kadeh. Thank you for your understanding.

Please remember that the Boye ceremonies on Saturdays (4:30 pm) and Sundays (11:00 am) are Streamed Live. However, everybody is encouraged to attend in person.
ZOOM LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4192191997?pwd=JASHAN
Zoom meeting ID: 4192191997
Password: JASHAN

Our committee members are always happy to be of service to all of you any time. Please reach out to us if you have any questions. Also, you may email us at atashkadeh.zah@gmail.com or call Persis Behramsha at 713-294-7747.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cricket T20 World Cup Final Viewing and Indoor Sports Day – Nov 14
By: Sheroy Haveliwalla

The Cricket World Cup fever had caught on and after watching a fascinating duel between Pakistan and India at Nirvana Restaurant (which Pakistan won) the ZAH Sports Committee decided to telecast the FINALS of the Cricket T20 World Cup Live at ZHCC.

As always, the food was more important than the match or the teams, and once the menu for the day was decided, huge crowds would be turning up. The much-awaited day (November 14) arrived and for some it started at 7 am either setting up the telecast or frantically searching for bread and ice at Walmart. The Finals started at 8 am and slowly but surely people started to trickle in. Australia won the toss and put New Zealand into bat. No sooner the clock struck 8:30 am there were some small inquiries for breakfast so we had to summon Gulmohar to get the steaming hot and spicy Pora Pav to the Center as soon as she could. By 9 am the parking lot was full and people were parking on the streets (yeah right!). The lavish breakfast spread of Parsi Poro, bread (white, brown and brioche), butter, jam, cheese, and peanut butter was being attacked from all sides with the match becoming an afterthought.

By 10 am the “hooligans” had arrived and the Rustomji room was filled with some friendly banter between the cricket aficionados, followed by boisterous laughs. New Zealand finished their innings around 10 am and posted a formidable total of 172/4 in their allotted 20 overs. Around 11 am some of those “Bettha Bekars” started inquiring about beer and lunch which prompted the organizers to get started with their preparations by calling in extra manpower in anticipation of a stampede due to huge crowds (wink, wink). The finals had become a one-sided affair by now and the Aussies were steamrolling over the NZ team towards the top prize. The expert comments by the “not so experts” discussing how Pakistan and India should have played was the highlight. Finally, the Aussies chased down the target and finished with 173/2 in the 19th over.

Once the match was over the attention shifted to the Hall where the Table Tennis tables were laid out along with a couple of Carom Boards. The attendees started with a series of “Rounders” games and had a lot of fun before the highlight of the day “Dhansak and Kababs” arrived prepared by our own “favorite of the crowd”, Naushad Mehta. No sooner were the trays placed, a well-coordinated attack was being planned but the organizers got the whiff of it and made some strategic placements. Jalebi followed as dessert and all ate to their hearts content.
After a hearty meal and once the lunch break was over the focus shifted back to the Table Tennis tables and Carom boards. Players ranging from 8 to 80 participated and there was fierce competition in the two categories (Over 55 and Under 55). The players got into each other’s skin with the regular banter of “#%&*@%^%#…. Siddhu Rum”, “acting Chhor ne Concentrate Kar”, etc. etc. Although after a full 10 minutes into each game, some of the very “Fit and Athletic” players were seen wobbling and wanted water as they feared passing out.

There was also a group of ladies who wanted to do their own thing and play Mahjong.

By the time it was 2:30 pm, the Chicken Pattice along with some Batasas, Jalebis, cookies, etc. were laid on the table with some tasty Chai. All the players, non-players, media, press, TV cameramen, etc. dug in and enjoyed the spread. Once the break was over the players got into playing the semi-finals and finals and after some exhilarating and very competitive performances by all, we had some very deserving winners as listed below.

**Over 55**

**Under 55**

All in all, everybody enjoyed the day and want more such days to be conducted at the ZHCC. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out in setting/serving the food, keeping the tea flowing and refereeing the games.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR – ZAH 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **January 14 & 15** – Friday & Saturday – Library Event Celebrating Zoroastrian Authors
- **January 29** – Saturday, Jashan-E-Sadeh
- **March 21** – Monday Norouz Hambandagi
- **March 26** – Saturday – Norouz function
- **March 27** – Sunday – ZAH Annual General Meeting
- **April 10** – Sunday – ZAH Carnival
- **June 5** – Sunday - Maidhayarem Gahambar
- **August 16** – Tuesday – Shehnshahi Navroze Hambandagi
- **August 20** – Saturday – Shehanshahi Navroze function
- **October 2** – Sunday – Maedyozem/Mehergan Gahambar
- **December 11** – Sunday – Youth Group Christmas Party

**BOOK STUDY GROUP**

Two Chapters from the book by Meheryar Rivetna – Zarathushtra: The Man and The Message was discussed by the group on November 21, 2021. Recording of this discussion is available on the following link.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZUvXIME2I7AxRbhhNUXAsmBSucDEerDcsbysYaknt1Od7JQLOxngntz-5vAPkSAU.wjdnA9rrmOWgTj-1

Passcode: #xCR9#Uq

Please join us for these very interesting discussions. Our next meeting is on December 19, 2021.
BOOK REVIEW & DONATION

Yezdyar Kaoosji did a review of the book *Zarathushtra: The Man and The Message* authored by Meheryar Rivetna for *Parsiana*. Yezdyar, in his review said:

*The fundamentals of the faith are that laws of nature supersede all laws. We gain the knowledge of nature through observation, experience and positive mind power that the Prophet termed Vohu Mana. Hence, a good life is one that follows nature's rules, while habits that violate these rules, termed Aka Mana, throw one's life into chaos and misery. Thus, the basic tenets of the faith emerge - good thoughts, words and deeds.*

To his surprise, Yezdyar received compensation for his review in *Parsiana*. In his words *Parsiana paid me for writing the book review and I plan to round up the amount and send it as a contribution to the ZAH Library Fund*. Library Committee thanks Yezdyar Kaoosji for this donation and also thanks, once again, Meheryar Rivetna for causing the ripple effect of his generous donation of the proceeds of his book to the ZAH Library.

Yezdyar Kaoosji resides in California and is a retired management professional in the field of national and international non-governmental organizations and non-profit organizations.

BIRTH

Baby boy, Micah Darius Kuecker, born on October 31, 2021 to Ian & Dina Collector-Kuecker. Big sister Natalia Shirin is happy and proud to have a brother to play with and grandparents, Sarosh & Pearline Collector; Parents, Dina & Ian Kuecker happily welcome the new baby.

OBITUARY

Fali Balsara, husband of Late Zarine Balsara, father of Adil Balsara and Anita (Balsara) Thakore, father-in-law of Diana Balsara and Suhrid Thakore, grandfather of Alex & Lauren Wolfe, Nicholas, Josh, Joel and Michelle Balsara and great grandfather of Delilah and Lincoln, passed away on Saturday evening, November 27, 2021.
Hello Everyone,

The ZAH youth group would like to invite you to come to the annual ZAH Christmas party after Sunday School. Hope you can make it!

Here is the timeline for the Christmas Party:

12:15 PM- starting with a short prayer with Neville and Freyaan
12:20 PM- Bingo with Yasmin Aunty, 2 games
12:45 PM- Musical Chairs
1:10 PM- Food and drinks
1:15 PM- Cookie decorating contest, prizes for youth, middle and small group
1:35 PM gingerbread house decoration contest
1:55 PM Santa and gifts for kids
2:10 PM Movie and popcorn for kids

Please do RSVP for headcount purposes:
Roshni Chikhliwala: 832-484-9451 OR
Shanaya Vakil: 346-275-7280
Dear Community Members,

As most of you know, we launched our Raffle drive for the beautiful Royal Purple Hand Embroidered Gara Saree with studded pearls designed by our world renowned Ashdeen Z. Lilaowala during the Gahambar this past Sunday, Oct 10th (Flyer attached). A lot of you were inquiring about purchasing the Raffle tickets, so we have created a page on our website to enable you to buy the Raffle tickets. To buy the tickets please click HERE.

This is a great opportunity for all to add this gorgeous Hand Embroidered Gara Saree (with a blouse piece included) to your collection. The Raffle Winner drawing will be during the Navroze function on March 26, 2022 and you do not need to be present at the event to win. The Gara Saree will be shipped to the winner free of cost within the United States so please send this link to all your family members, friends and acquaintances across the United States. Raffle tickets are currently being printed and will be given to all the buyers in due course.

PLEASE NOTE: All those who have already purchased the raffle tickets during the Gahambar need not input their tickets again on our website as we will register your tickets on our website.

Thank you all for your generosity and support in advance and hope to have a very successful Raffle drive.

Sincerely,
NAZC2024 Committee
NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATIONS
By: NAZC2020 Committee

As y’all know we have started registrations for our New Year’s Eve GALA on Dec 31st 2021 and we already have a great response. Due to difficulty with securing personnel (maids, security, bartenders, etc.) on New Year’s Eve day we have limited capacity and will have to close registration much sooner than expected so please do not wait until the last minute. Please register soon to avail of the EARLY BIRD prices and avoid disappointment. The details are mentioned in the NYE2021 FLYER and to register, please click here NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATIONS. NO WALK-INS will be allowed.

We promise you a night filled with great fun and surprises as we create a true "VEGAS EXPERIENCE" never seen before and bring in 2022 with a BIG BANG!!! It will include separate lounge areas with dance music and Gaming Vegas style, an OPEN BAR, a delicious mouthwatering delectable spread of Fusion Cuisine which includes food for every palate as well as an after-Midnight snack, Balloon drop, party favors, Champagne toast at midnight, Fabulous Door prizes, etc....

During registration please do not forget to buy your raffle tickets and to view the flyer click here NYE2021 RAFFLE TICKETS. Prizes include a convertible laptop, designer necklace and very own famous Cillie's yummy goodies. Also, we have only limited "RESERVED TABLES so book them soon to sit with your family and friends.

We are looking for Sponsors/Donors as well as $25 & $50 gift cards/restaurants vouchers so if you would like to become a Sponsor or donate, please call Yasmin Medhora at (713) 301-1521 or Kayo Sidhwa at (832) 802-3036.

Thank you and we look forward to making this event another huge success with your participation and support.
The NAZC 2024 Team presents

New Years’ Eve Gala

featuring

A VEGAS Experience

Friday, Dec 31st, 2021
8 pm to 1 am at ZHCC

Early Bird Special
Over 11 - $99
3-11 - $69
Under 3 - Free
Ends 11/30/21

- 2 Separate lounge areas with dance music
- Vegas style Gaming
- Bingo
- Amazing Indo-Pak Fusion Food
- Balloon Drop & Party Favors

Open Bar

Includes:
- Chips/Bingo
- Midnight Champagne
- Fabulous Door Prizes
- Incredible Raffle

DJ Gary
(920) 620-4269
info@garyafrite.com
www.mjparadise.com

RSVP at http://zah.org/events or call Yasmin @ (713) 301-1521 or Kayla (832) 802-3036

Regular Price: Over 11 - $125, 3-11- $75, Under 3 – Free
Registration closes 12/15/21 or when capacity reached
Register early- Limited capacity
Walk ins - $5,000 pp cash only
NAZC 2024
New Year Eve 2021 Raffle
Win awesome prizes
Drawing at New Year Eve Gala
12/31/2021

Tickets: 1 for $10 or 3 for $20 or 10 for $50

Diamond & Blue Topaz Necklace in 14 Karat white gold.
0.39 c Diamond & 7.42 c Topaz

Acer Convertible Laptop
Intel Celeron N4020,
11.6" HD Touch screen

Cillie’s Basket
Filled with delicious goodness.

For tickets contact Yasmin Medhora at (713) 301-1521
or Kayo Sidhwa at (832) 802-3036
Drawing on 12/31/2021 @ NYE Gala.
Do not have to be present to win.
Free Shipping for winners outside Greater Houston
Dear Students:
The application for the 2021 ZAH Legacy Awards is uploaded and here is a link. 

Do note that the last day to submit your applications is **January 15, 2022**.

Also these Awards are not just for New Grads going off to college. Some Awards also allow students in college or going post grad studies to apply (*providing they have NOT won a legacy award before*)

For the past two years there has been a dearth of applications and had you applied & met the criteria, then you could have been an awardee.

**Congress2000legacy – Showcasing our winners:**

**NATALYA HAVELIWALA**

"Since winning the Legacy Scholarship, I have graduated from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in 2018. I then started physical therapy school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX. I graduated this past May with my Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, and I passed my board exams this past August. I am currently working as an acute care physical therapist at Memorial Hermann Greater Heights. Winning the Legacy Award all those years ago allowed me to pursue my dreams and get to where I am today. I will forever be grateful for the ZAH community and the Legacy team for always offering emotional and financial support to anyone who thinks their future is out of reach."

We wish Natalya the very best in her field, new life and especially in her quest for a super future!

**YOUR TEAM LEGACY**

Homi Davier
Vispi Sagar
Farzad Sunavala
Time to renew your membership for 2022. Are you a member for years? Are you new in Houston? Have you seen our Houston chapter Facebook page? https://www.facebook.com/wzcc.houstonchapter/ Like our page, post a business article, introduce yourself…. become a member & support our Houston chapter!

THE HOUSTON CHAPTER HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE ONE EVER SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2001!! VISIT OUR FACEBOOK SITE FOR LATEST NEWS AND STORIES ON OUR ACTIVITIES....... THE 2020-2021 BOARD MEMBERS AND THEIR CONTACTS ARE.....

Sharmeen Irani      sharmeen_irani@yahoo.com – Co-Chair
Jal Sethna          jaljsethna@gmail.com       - Co-Chair
Kershaw Khumbatta   kkhumbattha@gmail.com      - Director
Yasmin Medhora      chiefyas1@sbcglobal.net    - Director
Aderbad Tamboli     axtamboli@windstream.net   – Director
Kaiemz Dotiwala     kai@qenvironmental.com    – Director
Rustom Engineer     rustom47@hotmail.com       – Regional Director