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OFFICE 713-963-4229

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: June 13, 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:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 17, 2021 – Youth Fundraising event – See Flyer
Link to buy tickets: http://zah.org/events/youth-fundraising-event/

Friday, July 31 to August 1, 2021 – ZAH Z-Camp Save the Date

Friday, August 6 to 15 – Muktad Prayers

Monday, August 16 – Navrozé Hambandagi at Atash Kadeh

Saturday, August 21, 2021 – Navrozé function

Sunday, September 12, 2021 – Carnival – after Sunday School

Friday & Saturday, October 1 & 2 – Library Event

REPORT

LIBRARY REPORT
by Jangoo Mistry

Celebrating Zoroastrian Authors
The ZAH Library is making plans to organize a gala 2-day event on the weekend of October 1 and 2. It will showcase the wide range of talented authors in the Zoroastrian community in North America.

The framework of the program for the two days has been decided, and details will be finalized after we get confirmation from the authors. Friday evening will be devoted to honoring our very own Bapsi Sidhwa who has been recognized worldwide for her contributions to fictional literature. In her presence, we plan to announce and establish the Bapsi Sidhwa Award for excellence in literature by a Zoroastrian author. 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 that cover North America and outside, there is no award to recognize solely the Zoroastrian authors who have made their mark with readers. A trophy and cash award is planned at this time. Details on the process to review and judge winners will be announced on that evening.

On Saturday, we will have a morning session followed by lunch and an evening session.
Authors in different genres will be interviewed by moderators who will facilitate discussions of their work. The day promises to be most unique and interesting. Watch for details in future issues of Manashni, but for now, please set aside these dates of October 1 and 2 on your busy calendars.

Artifacts from Central Iran
Doug Lange of Tennessee, who has been a long-time friend and supporter of FEZANA and FIRES, has donated artifacts from his travels to Iran. (1) A Persian Oboe, the design that dates back to about 500 B.C., and variations of this instrument is still played at weddings and other ceremonies, (2) A mace with a devil’s head which was a weapon of choice in battle and also a symbol of power throughout the history of Iran, (3) A large double-edged Persian sword named the Kindjhal or the Qaddara, a name that has its roots in Sanskrit, (4) An engraved Perisan Battle Axe used from the Sasanian period until 10 A.D. Although they are replicas of ancient objects, they are nevertheless valuable items to add to our collection.

All these artifacts have been displayed attractively in the display cabinet of our ZAH Library with more detailed descriptions next to the items. Come and view these fascinating weapons that bring ancient history to life and check out the books that are available on arms and weaponry.

ATASH KADEH REPORT
By Persis Behramsha

We began the month of May with prayers to Behram Yazad to keep everyone safe and healthy. We heard news about the surge in cases in India. Concern for our families grew; we prayed for their well-being.

The spirit to continue with the monthly sponsored Behram Roj Jashan in May was exemplified when our generous sponsors jumped right in when they found out that we were looking for a sponsor. Heartfelt thanks to Sharmeen, Jehangir, Rayaan and Behraam Irani family for your eagerness to sponsor the May Behram Roj Jashan. We are very grateful for all our sponsors always.

We celebrated Mother’s Day appreciating what all our loving Mothers do for their families, as also those that are amazing Mother figures to so many.

Our weekend Boye and Hum Bandagi continue on Zoom. We appreciate all our youth who participate and give their time willingly.

To all the Atash Kadeh supporters who take every chance to donate sukhar, candles, supplies and services, we cannot thank you enough!

To our dear Chikhliwala family - Tanaaz, Edul and Roshni, we cannot express enough thanks for selflessly volunteering to come and clean our Atash Kadeh so thoroughly every month. Your dedication and quiet resolve to continue this has not gone unnoticed. We thank you many times over.

We received sad news about the passing away of our dear friend and supporter Ervad Soli Dastur, of Florida. Our deepest condolences to Soli Uncle’s family - we pray dear Soli Uncle’s soul rests in eternal peace; we pray that his family gets solace from all the wonderful
memories he has created for them and for the many that crossed his path. Sarosh Prayers were held at the Atash Kadeh for Soli Uncle on Sunday May, 30, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. We thank North American Mobed Council (NAMC) and FEZANA for coordinating the prayers, so we could all participate and pay our respects.

We pray for our families and friends in India that are having a rough time with the pandemic and hope that the world is safe and healthy very soon.

It is heartening to see more folks visiting the Atash Kadeh. Please visit whenever you would like. Our Atash Kadeh is open to all.

ZOOM LINK for weekend Boye ceremony:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4192191997?pwd=JASHAN
Zoom meeting ID: 4192191997
Password: JASHAN

For more information please contact us either by email at: AtashKadeh.ZAH@gmail.com or by Phone at: 713-294-7747

ZOOM LINK FOR PRAYER SESSIONS BY THE KIDS

Note that these Zoom sessions are open to everyone, on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. Central time –

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72166471218?pwd=dWhFamZZVmloQnVnZUZrY2lLOG1Xdz09
Meeting ID: 721 6647 1218
Password: NIRANG

MISCELLANEOUS

MAIDHIAYAREM GAHAMBAR
By: Arzin Italia on behalf of Entertainment Committee

The Maidhiayarem Gahambar (Dae Mahino) was celebrated at the ZAH Center on Sunday, 6th June 2021 and was attended by estimated 188 people (including kids).

We would like to thank Aban Rustomji and family for sponsoring the Gahambar in the memory of Purvez. S. Rustomji whose birthday was the following day.

The Gahambar Jashan was performed at the Atash Kadeh with very high attendance. Malido and Nuts were served in individual sized containers.

After the Jashan prayers everyone moved to the ZHCC to enjoy the scrumptious lunch provided by our Chef Naushad Mehta of Cillie’s. People enjoyed the Mutton Dhansakh with Turkey Kabobs and Kachumber.

The EC Chair Nozer N. Dungor welcomed everyone on behalf of the ZAH EC and Thanked the Rustomji family for sponsoring the Gahambar and for all they have done and continue to do for ZAH.
Aban Rustomji spoke a few words on behalf of the Rustomji family. She then presented a graduation gift on behalf of ZAH to our 2021 High School graduates Zara Italia and Rohan Hormuzdi.

The Hall was very beautifully decorated by our volunteers. We would like to thank Mrs. Yasmin Medora for donating the beautiful flowers for each centerpiece at the table.

All the donations received and all the money collected was given to ZAH.

We would like to thank the web Committee and the Manashni team for their help. I would also like to personally thank all the volunteers who helped to set up tables and the hall 2 days prior, and a big Thank You to all the volunteers who helped us serve food at the Gahambar.

We would like to thank Persis Behramshah, and the Atash Kadeh committee for organizing the Jashan. We would also like to thank the Dasturjis who performed the Gahambar Jasha prayers at the Atash Kadeh.

We would like to welcome Parveen Irani to our wonderful Committee. Thank you to everyone on the Entertainment Committee for their effort and team work.

**ZAH Z-CAMP 2021**

Our Annual ZAH Z-Camp is back in person after a very difficult 2020 for us all. This year we will be having the Z-camp from July 30th to August 1st, 2021 so please mark your calendars and save the dates. We will start around dinner time on Friday night (July 30th) for outstation attendees and Middle group and older so please keep that in mind whilst planning for it. Kiddies group (5 to 9 years) will begin their Z-Camp activities on Saturday, July 31st at 10 am as every year.

Pertinent details regarding registration, safety protocols, etc. will follow soon 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....

Look forward to seeing y’all in July

Your ZAH Z-Camp Team

**VEHISHTA KAIKOBAD’S ARTWORK SELECTED AT MFAH**

Museum of Fine Arts (MFAH) holds an annual MFAH Staff Show. Vehishta’s painting of image A GLIMMER FROM THE PAST was selected by the curatorial jury at MFAH for Staff Show 2021.

Vehishta feels the image doesn’t justify the real piece since it is created on metal foil using the embossing/engraving technique with dry brush paint application. It is her continued quest to bring to light our culture and ancient civilization and its global impact, which seems to be overshadowed by modern religions of the world. Her ultimate hope is to see our future generation as well as our current one inculcate genuine pride in their ancient roots through research and knowledge that is waiting to be discovered through art, artifacts and other evidences of material culture which bear reference to our historical contributions. To Vehishta, this is merely an example of “art from the Heart”.
RAIDEN RAJKOT

WEDDING BELLS

BIRTH

Baby Boy, Raiden Rajkot born on May 24, 2021 at 8.13a.m., weight 6.3 lbs. Parents Sean & Michelle Rajkot are elated and Grand Parents Faroakh & Avan are thrilled.

Baby boy, Aydin Zubin Kotwal born to Zeenia & Zubin Kotwal on April 29, 2021. Grand parents Jehangir & Zarin Kotwal (India) and Jehangir & Tanaz Mehta (India) feel extremely blessed and are happy to welcome their second grandchild.

Baby girl, Avery Faye Sethna born to Jimmy & Whitney Sethna on May 3, 2021. Logan is proud to be the older brother and grandparents Sherry & Jal Sethna and Pam & Darrel Franklin are very happy to welcome their second grandchild.

WEDDING

Zubin Engineer, son of Kersi & Thrity Engineer, was married to Mona, daughter of Poly & Paulla Chap on May 22, 2021
OUR GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL

Niousha Bastani graduated from Clements High School. She will be attending the University of Texas at Austin for her Bachelors of Science in Psychology while on the pre-med track.

Chloe Choudhury graduated Magna cum Laude from John Foster Dulles High School. She will be attending the Honors College at Baylor University this fall and pursue a BioChem degree.

Zara Italia graduated this year from Memorial High School. Zara will be attending Houston Baptist University in the Honors Program this fall and will pursue Biology and Chemistry as her major.

COLLEGE

Tanaya Percy Behramsha from The University of Texas at Austin. Moody College of Communication with B.S in Communication Studies - Corporate Communication, and minor in Business Foundations. She graduated with Honors and held her spot on the Dean’s List for all 4 years of college. Tanaya received the Teagle Scholarship, and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Achievement scholarship for a consistently high GPA. She stayed engaged in extracurricular organizations such as Bollywood dance team - Nach Baliye and Camp Kesem - an organization which provides free summer camp experiences and year-round support to kids affected by a parents cancer. In August 2021, Tanaya will be working at Amazon Web Services in their Human Resources Development Program in Seattle, Washington. Thank you to everyone in my Zoroastrian community for consistently supporting and encouraging me.

Katie Dickerson, daughter of Jeff & Navaz Dickerson, Granddaughter of Nano & Roshen Daroowala graduated in Chemical Engineering (BS) from Texas A&M. She was very active all four years in a freshman mentoring program, serving in multiple leadership positions. Katie is excited to be joining Nalco Water, an Ecolab Company, as a Technical Sales Representative. She will be responsible for finding creative chemistry solutions for plants to save water and maintain systems in the North Texas Region. She was hired in September of 2020, before she graduated and will start her job in Dallas within the next few weeks.
Katie Master graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor's of Science and Arts in biochemistry, a minor in Business, and a certificate in Ethics and Leadership of Healthcare. Throughout her college experience, she served as the Vice President of Texas THON, the largest student-run philanthropy in Texas, and personally raised over $7,800 for the kids of Dell Children's Medical Center. Dell Children's Medical Center is a local children's hospital in Austin where Katie also volunteered for the Child Comprehensive Care unit. With a service mindset, she interned at the American Heart Association and Healthstart Foundation, both at which she conducted her own social research. She also pursued individual research in the development of nanotechnology at the University of Texas where she and her team worked on researching potential drug delivery through nanoparticles. She has also served as a mentor for several labs on campus where she was able to guide young college students in their personal research. After four years of working within the hard sciences and becoming exposed to social science, Katie hopes to pursue a JD within the coming year and work as a lawyer within the healthcare sector to better serve her community.

DOCTORS

Dr. Ziba Aspi Colah: Ziba graduated with Highest Honors from Baylor College of Medicine in the top 10 of her graduating class of 200 students. She was inducted in Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and received the Dean's Distinction in Service Learning and Medical Education. In addition, she received the Lambert Award for Excellence in Medicine and American Medical Women's Association Award for academic excellence. She matched at Baylor College of Medicine for Psychiatry residency and will continue to train in the Houston area.

Dr. Natalya Haveliwala: Natalya graduated from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center with her Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). She is currently studying for her license exam and job hunting in the Houston area. She wishes to thank all her family, friends, and community who have supported and helped her along the way.

WZO is pleased to assist in the distribution of a reprinted version of “Homage Unto Ahura Mazda” by Dasturji M.N. Dhalia. Originally printed in 1943, the book is being reprinted and distributed free of charge by Pervin and Firdaus Dastoor to enable more readers to avail of it.

If you wish to receive a copy, please contact Kayomarsh Mehta by email at kayomehta@aol.com, phone 1-630-654-8828, mobile 1-630-430-5296.

As WZO will be bearing the cost of the postage and packing of the book, any donations towards this cost would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to support and join WZO, we encourage you to become a Life Member with just a one-time tax-deductible donation of US$200.00.
FOOD, PRIZES, ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC, BINGO AND MORE

at

DANDIYA NIGHT

WHAT?
ZAH Youth Group Fundraiser

WHEN?
Saturday, July 17, 2021 -- 7:00 PM onward

WHERE?
Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center

Admission fee: $30 (children under 5 FREE)

All proceeds go to repairs for damages caused due to the recent winter storm and to subsidize Youth activities.

Buy your tickets at
http://zah.org/events/youth-fundraising-event/
This year marks our 35th fundraiser for The B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we sent a record $102,000. Every cent went towards the treatment of COVID patients. Every bed in the hospital was occupied and still is, however, the hospital has carved out a section for COVID in order to manage all patients and perform other procedures. Due to the realities of the pandemic and its aftermath, the hospital has made plans to upgrade or buy new equipment. Further details provided on the attached page for your attention.

The hospital under the CEO Dr Ganguly, who managed 200 military hospitals when he retired, told me when he joined the hospital, “You don’t think I can manage a 200 bed hospital?” He brought changes to the staff’s attitude and glowing testimonials from relatives and patients. Examples are shared in the second attachment and on hospital’s website. Though there were a couple of complaints, the COVID-19 vaccination distribution is well organized. The staff’s gentle manner has earned praises. Even my Jain friend’s sister, living in Breach Candy, went to PGH to pay for her shot and was very happy with the arrangement, distancing, cleanliness, and even the tea/coffee at the end was hot!

This year, we are still in the COVID state of mind. The hospital has got donors for building an oxygen plant and for the first CT Scan machine to be installed, however, they need a good A/C system first. In the words of Mr. Hector Mehta, "the A/C plants are integral towards our COVID fight. They centrally supply the whole Jokhi wing and the A-1 (COVID) ward. Jokhi wing houses the ICCU, which during this pandemic 90% of the patients are being treated for post-Covid sequelae, especially pneumonia, stroke, myocardial infarctions, etc. It also houses the X-ray dept. where CT scan will be lodged and the Path Lab, where all the radiological and other diagnostic investigations for the COVID patients are carried out. None of these departments, including the CT Scan, can function without maintaining the desired cool temperature. Your donation for the A/C plants will actually go a long way towards the overall treatment of our COVID patients." Jamshed and I have donated $10,000 towards this project. Hopefully, this is our last year for COVID-related fundraising.

In honor of PGH, we will hold our annual jashan on SUNDAY, JULY 25th at 11:30am, at our beautiful Dar-e-Mehr. Lunch will follow the jashan in New York. Those who wish to attend please RSVP at 516-378-4516 or email - ghad@optonline.net. Kindly let us know so we can prepare accordingly.

What can you do? Please send your donations payable to ZAGNY - Critical Assistance Fund. You may send the checks to us at the address below, OR mail it to Cyrus Pavri, Treasurer OR make payments on ZAGNY website www.ZAGNY.org. Hope you will go deep in your pockets to assist PGH in this global crisis.

We thank our friends from USA and Canada for your tremendous support, encouragement, and generous donations for a very worthy cause - taking care of our sick and needy. Please visit PGH’s revamped website https://bdpetitparseegeneralhospital.org/, as some of the recent testimonials from patients and relatives will warm your hearts.

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