**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**TIME:** Different timings for each group

**DATE:** May 9, 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:**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Sunday, June 6, 2021** – Maidhiyarem Gahambar – See Flyer
- **Saturday, July 17, 2021** – Youth Fundraising event – See Flyer
- **Saturday, August 21, 2021** – Navroze function
- **Sunday, September 12, 2021** – Carnival – after Sunday School

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**LIBRARY REPORT**

by Jangoo Mistry

**Successful Debut of Meheryar Rivetna’s Book**

The Library report in the March Manashni featured Meheryar Rivetna’s recently published book *Zarathustra: The Man And The Message*. You will recall that this book authored by a member of our ZAH Library Committee debunks all the myths and fantasies that have crept into our religion over centuries. It covers a wide swath of topics: from Zarathustra’s early days to the concept of God, Heaven and Hell, and conversion. We are happy and proud to report that the book’s debut has been very successful and we have received requests from India, Australia, Canada and all over the USA. Mailing costs to countries outside of the US are prohibitive and we are looking at alternative ways to meet that demand. Meanwhile, we have only a handful of copies left as we excitedly get ready for the 2nd printing.

Meheryar’s generous offer to donate all profits from his book to the ZAH Library has gifted the Library with over $1,000 so far. Several FEZANA Associations are also helping us by carrying the book and its message in their newsletters. Sales in our community have been brisk. We plan to start a religious discussion group for interested readers in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of Zoroastrian principles and teachings. Please visit Meheryar’s website: [messageofzaranthesutra.weebly.com](http://messageofzaranthesutra.weebly.com) which is chock full of good information and extracts from the book.
“Look at Zoroastrian Motifs in the Sassanian Collection”. A Virtual Event not to be Missed

On Monday May 30, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Houston time, the Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism and FIRES are presenting a unique and rare virtual event. (See attached flyer) Images of royal hunts and secular compositions are often the main subjects portrayed in Sasanian art. A more detailed inspection of these representations will reveal that Zoroastrian motifs are embedded in Sasanian iconography. This presentation will offer a closer look at the Sasanian collection at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the National Museum of Asian Art, which includes metalwork vessels, seals, and Ernst Herzfeld’s archival material, with the aim to examine Zoroastrian motifs. The revelation of Zoroastrian motifs embedded in the Sassanian collection will be presented by Dr. Antonietta Catanzariti, an international scholar who is also an active archaeologist with excavations in Italy, Syria and Kurdistan to her credit. Zoom link: [http://bit.ly/SSZ-Catanzariti](http://bit.ly/SSZ-Catanzariti)

Save yourself a trip to the museum in Washington, D.C. and enjoy this rare and unique opportunity in the company of an acclaimed archaeologist from the comfort of your own home.

ZLitFest
Mark your Calendar - October 1 & 2, 2021

The ZAH Library is making plans to organize a Zoroastrian Literary Festival to showcase the wide range of talented authors in the Zoroastrian community in North America, India and beyond. 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. The attempt to celebrate this achievement is a daunting task and we are working hard to orchestrate an event that will be the first of its kind and interesting to a wide range of viewers. Watch for details as they emerge in future editions of Manashni.

ATASH KADEX
By Persis Behramsha

Nature has a remarkable way of bringing color in our lives, come rain, freeze or shine. The month of April produced some pretty wildflowers and Texas bluebonnets. Hope you all enjoyed some scenic drives during the month. As always, thanks to our ardent supporters, the monthly sponsored Behram Roj Jashan continues to be celebrated. April 2021 marked two full years of non-stop sponsorships, and we pray for its continuity for many more years to come.

April Behram Roj was sponsored by Machi - Chakraborty family. Thank you so much for your eagerness to participate and help us continue this tradition.

As Avan Mahino ended, we began another special month of Adar. Adar is the Divinity that presides over Fire. The energy that brought to life the six good creations of Ahura Mazda was Adar or Fire. Several Agiars and Atash Behrams were consecrated and enthroned, including Iransha, on Adar Mahino Adar Roj.
Behram Roj Jashan

Along with the monthly sponsored Behram Roj, we also celebrated the Adar Roj, Adar Mahino Parab to celebrate the creation of Fire which is Ahura Mazda's greatest gift.

Adar Mahino Adar Roj Parab was generously sponsored by the Khumbatta family - Kawas, Kershaw, Nazneen, Mitra & Zubin, Noshir and Farahnaz.

As most of you may already know, we Live Stream the weekend Boye/Hum Bandagi every Saturday at 5 p.m. and every Sunday at 11 a.m. Houston, TX time. If there are other events such as Jashans, Navroze, etc., the Boye timings are adjusted, with prior announcement, to accommodate the prayers.

We often get questions about Machis and how to request one.

Machis are performed during the Boye Ceremony times of 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. (on weekends) or 6:00 p.m. (on weekdays). Tandarosti - to promote the wellness of the requesting family - is prayed at the end of each requested Machi. Some families request Machis once a month for the entire year, on a particular day or special days throughout the year.

Please consider supporting the maintenance of our Atash Kadeh with one of the options below, or consider adopting a month of utilities, as a one-time option.

<table>
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<th>$5,000/year - 5 year commitment</th>
<th>Includes 5 Machis - with your choice of dates</th>
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<td>$3,000/year - 5 year commitment</td>
<td>Includes up to 3 Machis</td>
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<td>$1,000/year - 5 year commitment</td>
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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**

Note that these Zoom sessions are open to everyone, on Saturdays and Sundays at 5.30 pm Central time –

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72166471218?pwd=dWhFamZZVmlQnVnZUZrY2ILOG1Xdz09

Meeting ID: 721 6647 1218
Password: NIRANG
YOUTH GROUP – FUND RAISER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DANDIYA NIGHT
FOOD, PRIZES, ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC, BINGO & MORE.

JULY 17, 2021

ADMISSION - $30
CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE

SEE ATTACHED FLYER

MISCELLANEOUS

FEZANA SCHOLARSHIP
Application Portal Open – Deadline July 1, 2021

Did you know that FEZANA awards more than $70,000 in scholarships every year? The application portal is now open and will close on July 1, 2021 at 23.59. EST. For more information and for the application, please visit: https://fezana.org/scholarships/

Scholarships are available for students who are pursuing graduate studies, undergraduate studies, performing and creative arts, culinary arts, and sports. Scholarships range from $1,000 to $10,000 and are based on academic standing, community service, and financial need.

Candidates can apply in multiple categories by filling out the same common application form.

Since its inception in 1999, the FEZANA Scholarship Program has grown from awarding 2 scholarships to providing 23 endowed scholarships and 8 FEZANA-supported scholarships. This Program is only possible because the amazing support that we receive. If you would like to support the next generation of young Zarathushtis, please consider donating: http://fezana.org/scholarships/donate/

FEZANA Scholarship Committee
academicscholarships@fezana.org

ZYNA REP FROM ZAH

FEZANA sent a request to nominate 2 reps for the ZYNA (Zoroastrian Youth of North America) committee from each member association, preferably one male and one female.

The following will be on FEZANA ZYNA Committee representing ZAH:

Zenia Sunavala
Rayomand Katrak
APPEAL FROM FEZANA
TO THE ZARATHUSHTIS OF AMERICA

Based on the severe impact of COVID-19 across India over the past two weeks, from high rates of spread to a new Indian variant strain, the situation is dire. We are seeing a groundswell of genuine interest from folks looking to donate, particularly for our Zoroastrian Parsi-Irani populations across Mumbai, rural Maharashtra and Gujarat, as well as other locations in need.

FEZANA will work in collaboration with WZO Trust Funds to directly help individuals in need. We will also work with Zoroastrian organizations in need and provide them help and aid as permissible by local laws and regulations.

Please donate by clicking on the link below to make a donation. Your donation shall be earmarked specifically for this cause.

Should you have any questions please contact Arzan Sam Wadia, President FEZANA; at president@fezana.org

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL – ZAH PARTICIPATION
Copied from India-Herald of April 14, 2021

The Fort Bend Interfaith Council sponsored a Love Your Neighbor Prayer Vigil Sunday (April 11, 2021) evening in the Sugar Land Town Square to promote love over hate.

Leaders from 12 different faith communities spoke about their faith’s call for love and kindness towards all people of the world. Speakers were (left to right): KaemerzDotiwalla of the Zoroastrian Community, Sue Levin of HGI Counseling, Imam Ahmed of the Maryam Islamic Center, Ghasem Bayat of the Baha’is of Sugar Land, HC Change of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Bo Singh with the Sikh Community, Rev. Michelle Holl of Christ Church Sugar Land, Valerie Tolman from the Interfaith Council board, Johanna de Young of Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Campus, Thara Narasimhan with the Hindus of Greater Houston, Pastor David Sincere with Fort Bend Transformation Church, Deacon Tom Ruck with St. Laurence Catholic Church, Irfan Ali of the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center, and Pastor Will Starkweather of St. Martin’s Lutheran Church.

NORTH AMERICAN MOBED COUNCIL

NAMC is presenting an on-line summer credit course - AN INTRODUCTION TO ZOROASTRIANISM

Faith, History, Modernity and Connections with Major Religions Course No. G1060S-1 Start Date: June 7, 2021

Course Fees: Audit course: $ 300.00 Full Credit: $ 1,410.00 Scholarships: NAMC will match up to 3 scholarships by local associations to young Zarathostis.

To Register, please visit: https://ctu.edu/summeratctu/registration
For NAMC Scholarships and other information, please visit https://namcmobeds.org/
[FEZANA Rel Edu] Drawing Contest-2

FEZANA Religious Education ran a drawing contest for children ages 8 – 20. The contestants had to read a story and submit a drawing related to the story. Two kids from ZAH were winners. Following are the results.

**9-10 age group:**
First place: **Ms. Delna Surveyor** from Tomball, TX
Prize: $100

**15 – 17 age group:**
First place: **Ms. Sonia Fereidooni** from Irvine, CA
Prize: $100

Honorable mention: **Ms. Arnaz Irani** from Sugarland, TX
Prize: $50

**Birth**

**Armaiti Rayomond Collector** – born April 12, 2021 – Roj Aneran
Mah Avan - 7lbs 3 oz – 19” long to Sarah & Rayomond Collector.
Grandparents Sarosh & Pearline Collector are over the moon to see their third “princess”. Sarosh Jr and AshaLynnea happily welcomed their baby sister

**OBITUARY**

**Mehraboon Irani**, husband of Parveen Irani, father of Khodabakhsh and Katayun Irani, grandfather of Zane & brother of Kaiser Golwalla of Toronto passed away on April 26, 2021.

With Deep Gratitude from Parveen Irani

My children and I would like to extend our gratitude to the Houston Zoroastrian Community for their condolences, love and support during Mehraboon’s hospital stay and after his passing.

**HOW I CAME TO THE USA**

By Sarosh Collector

Imagine a 22 year old, from Karachi who had never been outside the country before coming to the USA.

Rustom and I travelled from Karachi on PIA to Tehran, where we met a cousin of Rustom on the tarmac. We talk for about 15 minutes, when the two of us are herded back into our plane. Onward to London, where we stayed at a small hotel owned by a Parsi in Bayswater. Met an old friend of my father, who exchanged all our Pakistani Rupees to Pounds. Later that evening we went to see my cousin Sarosh, who had taken time off from his job managing a casino, to meet with us at a pub. Some of our other friends from Karachi were there. Rustom and I found out we were lightweight drinkers after 3 dark ales.
We decided to retire for the night. We wanted to go to Victoria station to catch our train to Bayswater. We were drunk enough that we could not determine where we were. Saw a Bobby and asked him for help. He gently turned us around and pointed out the station right behind us. We sheepishly thank him and walk to the station. We board our train, and we had a surprise. A bunch of Iranian ladies were also travelling to Kensington and staying at a hotel there. Only one of them spoke some English, and looking at two people who looked somewhat Persian, they started to speak to us in Farsi. We replied in English, so the one lady asked if we could let them know when we reached Bayswater. All the way to Bayswater, all we heard from the ladies was Bayswater. We finally reach there, and show them the road to their hotel.

Next day Rustom and I decide to enjoy London. While walking round we found a travel Agency and we decided to make sure our booking was still active. The Agent asked us if we had ever been to Switzerland. So he somehow rerouted us through Geneva on Swissair to US, with a one night stay at a hotel + dinner and breakfast at no charge.

We had a great time in Geneva, and onwards to US. On the plane, we met an American tourist group returning to US. I started answering an older lady about where we were from, and where we were going. She introduced us to a large and tall cowboy, who was from ADA OK. He asked me a question, but he had such a hard east Texas drawl, I could not understand a word. I just answered yes sir. Next question again, and I answered No sir. We say goodbye and Rustom says did you understand what he said? I replied no, but I figured I had a 50/50 chance I was right, so I took it. But now I was really worried, as to what happens if all the Okies spoke like that and I could not understand them in class. Luckily that was not so, except for one class where we had a student, a brilliant guy, who had a deep drawl. The teacher would translate for us, because over 60% of the pupils in the class were South Asian.
SSZ & FEZANA Information Research Education System invite you to join our upcoming SSZ Colloquium featuring a virtual presentation by Dr. Antonietta Catanzariti on:

**A Look at Zoroastrian Motifs in the Sasanian Collection**

at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C.

Images of royal hunts and secular compositions are often the main subjects portrayed in Sasanian art. A more detailed inspection of these representations will reveal that Zoroastrian motifs are embedded in Sasanian iconography.

This presentation will offer a closer look at the Sasanian collection at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the National Museum of Asian Art, which includes metalwork vessels, seals, and Ernst Herzfeld’s archival material, with the aim to examine Zoroastrian motifs.

**About Dr. Catanzariti**

Antonietta Catanzariti was appointed the Robert and Arlene Kogod Secretarial Scholar, assistant curator for the ancient Near East, at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art, in 2018. She received her BA and MA from Ca’ Foscari University, in Venice, Italy, and a PhD in the art and archaeology of the ancient Near East from the University of California, Berkeley. She is an active archaeologist and has excavated in Italy, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraqi Kurdistan. Since 2015, she has been the director of the Qara Daght Regional Archaeological Project (QDRAP), which conducts surveys and excavations in the Qara Daght Valley, Iraqi Kurdistan.
Maidhiayarem Gahambar (Dae Mahino)

SUNDAY JUNE 6, 2021  JASHAN STARTS AT 11:00 A.M.

JASHAN PRAYERS WILL BE HELD AT THE ATASH KADEH

LIMITED CAPACITY  NO WALK-INS

MASKS MANDATORY INSIDE THE CENTER EXCEPT WHILE EATING

CLICK here to SIGN UP and pay Online

If registered by Sunday May 30, 2021
Ages 11 & Up: $11; Ages 4-10: $7; Ages 3 & Under Gratis
Starting Monday May 31, 2021 Rates $16 & $10

GAHAMBAR IN MEMORY OF
PURVEZ S. RUSTOMJI
SPONSORED BY THE RUSTOMJI FAMILY

ZAH COMMUNITY GRATEFULLY THANKS OUR ERVADS FOR
PERFORMING THE GAHAMBAR JASHAN

** Membership rate applies if 2021 membership have been paid. Kids over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents.
- Member rates apply to out-of-town house guests of members
- Our goal remains to keep these functions as affordable as possible as 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.

For questions please contact:
Zia Anklesaria
832-646-0510
zsankles@gmail.com

Organized by: ZAH Entertainment Committee
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/