

## **ZAH Youth Group Report – AGM 2019**

By Yazad Sidhwa, ZAH Youth Group President

This year all the officers have worked very hard for a lot of activities although it has been a FUN year. We started our year 2018-2019 with the usual election of Youth Group officers on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and I was very happy to be given the opportunity to lead such talented individuals. Your ZAH Youth Group officers for this year are Cyrus Mistry - Vice-President, Zara Italia – Treasurer, Natalya Mehta – Secretary, Dina Hormuzdi – Historian, Zubin Master – Webmaster and me (Yazad Sidhwa) – President. This school year we welcomed Shanaya Vakil and Isabelle Irani as the new members of our Youth Group

We started our year with the Carnival on Sept 9<sup>th</sup> where the Youth Group had a booth and we sold some delicious kabobs and cutlets along with chocolate mousse and water, and the Youth Group collected \$460. On Sept 30<sup>th</sup> we had our annual Blood Drive where there were 12 donors who donated a total of 16 units of blood, which translates to ZAH Youth Group contributing to saving 48 lives.

Last year, on October 6<sup>th</sup> the ZAH Youth Group got the opportunity to plan and organize the congress2000Legacy Scholarship Committee's "Preparing for College" seminar conducted by Dr. Farrokh Mistree and Dr. Janet K. Allen. We had a great turnout of 21 kids and 22 adults including kids and parents from the middle group and the session was very well received.

As always, during the month of November we drove to Zoroastrian Association of North Texas Center in Dallas for our annual lock-in during the Thanksgiving break. We had an amazing turn out and all the ZAH youth group members had a fun time with all their fellow friends in Dallas.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 I represented the ZAH Youth Group and the ZAH community along with Vehishta Kaikobad and Kaemerz Dotiwala at the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service with 9 other religions. As per the theme, I recited the "Chaar Disa No Namaskar" prayers and Vehishta Aunty delivered the rendition highlighting our Amesha Spentas and its relevance to the Theme of the evening, "Care for Creation".

Last year in November, the current 2018-2019 ZAH Youth Group Members, Teachers and Mentors came up with an idea to do something very special for our dear Sarosh Uncle. We decided to write to his former ZAH Sunday school students and requested for quotes, notes and photographs to create a book to express to him how he has impacted all our lives and how he has shaped us who we are today. We prepared a nice book full

of heartfelt messages and some great memories with those photos and presented the Notebook to him and Pearline Aunty at the ZAH Fundraiser on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

During the month of December, we hosted our Christmas Party where we invited our middle and kids' groups. We put decorations on our Christmas tree and played some games. We had pizzas, cookies, ice creams and drinks besides other treats for lunch and then played our favorite game during the Christmas party, the White Elephant.

We started our New Year 2019 with Farzad Sunavala joining us as our Youth Group Mentor. In January this year, we went on a camping trip at Martin Dies Jr. The camping grounds we chose contained many exciting activities such as Fishing, hiking, biking, and, canoeing/kayaking. We hope to do it again as we really enjoyed the trip.

We had a college planning session with Mr. Shiroy Aspandiar on February 10<sup>th</sup>. He went over some more questions we had about colleges and how to strive to get into some of our amazing Texas state schools.

The activities that we have planned for the remainder of the year are:

1. Cleaning our Youth Group Room for the Atash Kadeh Inauguration ceremonies
2. Reporting our activities at the AGM 2019
3. Volunteering at the Houston Food Bank
4. Have a booth at our annual Carnival
5. Conduct a session with our Golden Group
6. Finish our year with the election of the new officers of 2019-2020

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Sunday School Teachers, Mentors, Youth Moms and Dads, all other Youth Group kids and parents, all our donors, volunteers, our ZAH Executive Committee and all other ZAH committees for all your support and cooperation during the entire year. We have worked very hard but had a lot of Fun and hope to have some more before we finish the year.