



Volume 28: Issue 2

February 2015

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11.30 a.m. - Middle Group/ 10.30 am - Children's group.

DATE: February 8, 2015

Children's Session: Sunday School starts at 10.30 am. Story of Zarathushtra, Gujarati objects, songs, alphabet

Middle Group: This group starts at 11:30 a.m. and is for the children in the middle school. If your child falls in this age group, do please bring him/her to the Sunday School. They now have their own "governance" and have officers who are elected by the kids. It is a very interactive group and children have fun while they learn.

Youth Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this session.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 21, 2015, 9.30 pm onwards – 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup match

- South Africa v/s India Viewing is at the Center Library under special agreement with ESPN. Rate \$3. Tea will be provided. Please RSVP to Sheroy Haveliwala at hwala@hotmail.com. Limited seats.

Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:00 am – ZAH Dar-ni-Pori Bake-A-Thon. See details below.

Saturday, March 21, 2015 – 6:30 pm – Norouz Humbandagi

- This year Norouz is on 20th March at 5.45 pm CST. The Norouz color is brown and the animal is sheep

Saturday, March 21, 2015 – 7:30 pm – Jamshed-i-Norouz Celebration

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 – 6:00 pm – Avan Yazad Parabh Jashan

Friday, April 3, 2015 – Library Event

Sunday, April 12, 2015 – ZAH Annual Carnival

MEETINGS

GOLDEN GROUP	Fourth Sunday of each month. Interested? Please call Zarine Balsara at 281-304-6611
LIBRARY COMMITTEE	First Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM. Interested in helping? Or would like more information, please call Aban Rustomji at 281-493-1275 or e-mail her at aban@coatingindustries.com

REPORTS

EC REPORT

By Percy Master - Secretary

SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE ZAH

This is a reminder that a Special General Body Meeting of the ZAH is to be held on Sunday, February 22, 2015, at 2PM at the ZHCC, to complete the items that were deferred from the Annual General Body meeting in November 2014. Please register at <http://zah.org/events/special-general-body-meeting> so that we may have a proper headcount for lunch; lunch will be served at 1:00PM; lunch is free, but donations are always welcome.

ZAH membership dues for 2015 will be accepted up to the official start of the Special General Body Meeting.

The EC requests the general body to vote on the following items at the meeting:

1. Approval of new membership categories as presented in the November annual general body meeting.
2. Approval to proceed with construction of the Atash Kadeh (and concurrently approval of the revised ZAH bylaws to reflect the changes for the Atash Kadeh).
3. Jehangir Shroff's proposal to collect and bank 115% (reduced from 125% as previously requested) of any expected capital expenditures prior to start of any new construction.

The final copy of the changes to the bylaws required for the Atash Kadeh is now on the ZAH website, at <http://zah.org/events/special-general-body-meeting>.

Please note: No requests for modifications and/or changes to the proposed bylaws will be entertained from the floor at the Special General Body Meeting.

Since the current ZAH bylaws specify that only paid-up members of ZAH may vote in meetings, we urge you to pay your 2015 ZAH membership dues prior to this Special General Body Meeting so that your voice is heard and you are able to vote on these very important community matters. You may easily pay your 2015 ZAH membership online at <http://zah.org/events/zah-annual-membership-2015>.

LIBRARY REPORT

By Jangoo Mistry

New FIRES Web Site

The FIRES web site has been totally redesigned and updated for a fresh new look that is user-friendly and appealing. In addition to having information on FIRES, its mission and background, the web site has details on upcoming and past ZAH Library events, featured selection and latest book reviews. And the pages have a lot more pictures than before. Most importantly, the site provides access to an online library catalog containing over 900 titles of books and visual media available in the ZAH library, as well as resources of the Zoroastrian libraries of Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles.

Please check out the web site: www.fires-fezana.org and give us any comments you have through the "Contact Us" feature on the web site itself.

Fascinating Latest Additions

For many years now, the ZAH Library has been active in acquiring its rather impressive and unique collection of books, DVDs and artifacts, and presenting programs that support its mission. *Perhaps the best validation of our efforts is the continuous donations of books from so many different supporters in the U.S. and abroad.* This month we are giving you a glimpse of four new additions donated to our collection.

- *Nadir Godrej, The Poet*
(two copies donated by Nadir Godrej)

Is there a better way to share your feelings or get your message across than through a poem? Nadir Godrej is an [Indian](#) industrialist and member of the [Godrej family](#), currently serving as Managing Director of Godrej Industries and Chairman of Godrej Agrovet. He is also a Director of numerous other firms. He speaks six languages, including [Russian](#) and [French](#), and is known for his fondness of poetry and mathematics. An alumnus of M.I.T., Stanford, and Harvard, he is a published poet who has a penchant for delivering his message through his poems, like he did recently at the North American Zoroastrian Congress last December.

Nadir Godrej's new oversized and glossy book is a compendium of his best poems over the years on subjects like the Zoroastrians, leadership, American education, entrepreneurship, government policy, and even an inflight movie. The poems are, at the same time, thought-provoking and delightful. Mr. Godrej also has a website www.nadirgodrej.com where more of his speeches in verse and poems are available.

- *Fathers and Sons, Mothers and Daughters* by Meher Bhesania
(donated by Meher Rustomji)

Meher Bhesania is the author of various coffee-table books that include "Footprints in the Sands of Time" and "Creating Milestones". Her latest glossy publication is a celebration of the extraordinary love between fathers and sons and mothers and daughters. It recounts stories and incidents into their lives that brought them closer together and served to inspire each other. The book showcases achievers from around the world in such diverse fields as business, science, engineering, law, art, films, and community service. The 2-page spreads for each father-son and mother-daughter has memorable photographs and write-ups that feature distinguished achievers like Ratan Tata, Byram Jeejeebhoy, Lord Karan Bilimoria, Pirojsha Godrej and others. Our own Nozer and Kyrus Buchia are also featured in the father-son section.

- *The Reasoning Vision – Jehangir Sabavala's Painterly Universe*
(donated by Nazneen and Ehler Spleidt)

This glossy, oversized book of paintings features the paintings of Jehangir Sabavala, one of India's most original and distinguished artist. A brief description of each painting is given at the end of the book, with an Introduction and a Biographical Note on Sabavala as the only other text. Jehangir Sabavala is recognized as the most serious painter to connect European oil painting with India's. He is the only major contemporary painter in India with a classical bent whose technique recalls the old masters such as Cezanne.

- *Zoroastrian Evolution* by Dadi Surti
(donated by Dadi Surti)

Written with the help of the late Rafique Jairazbhoy, a cultural historian and an expert on the roots of major civilizations, the book investigates the very beginnings and the evolution of important disciplines of the Zoroastrian religion. Though this sounds like a difficult read, the book is actually a basic 100-page composition of our earlier fire temples, the origins of Dakhmas, Sudreh, Kusti and Navjote, and the evolution of our prayers and holy scriptures.

We are immensely grateful to these donors (from Mumbai, Dubai, Karachi and Los Angeles) for supporting us. These books with a wide range of topics are only a microcosm of the

huge collection we have available in our library for your reading pleasure. Come and browse, or check out whatever strikes your fancy. You will be surprised and delighted.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By ZAH Entertainment Committee

JASHNE SADEH FUNCTION & CELEBRATION - JANUARY 31, 2015

We celebrated the Jashne Sadeh tradition at our Center on Saturday January 31, 2015. The Center was beautifully decorated and prepared for the event by our Irani Zarthushti friends. They worked hard for several days organizing the details and it is important to mention that our Irani Zarthushti friends donated all the items for the event, with the majority amount including food donated by Bob Yazdani and family complete with an Iranian DJ.

The event was well attended by over 350 individuals and raised an impressive sum of \$5,400 for the Center. The celebration commenced with prayers recited by our Ervads Bomanshaw Sanjana, Noshir Khumbatta and Yazad Sidhwa. Veda, an Iranian Zarthushti recited a few prayer verses and translated a passage in English. One medium sized fire was lit in the land behind the main hall, and traditional melodic songs and dancing continued around the bonfire.

Later guests enjoyed abundant quantities of mixed nuts and dried fruits followed by sumptuous "Sirog" and "Osh" which had been prepared by our Irani Zarthushti friends earlier that morning, and there was plenty for everyone! Dinner was catered through Kasra Restaurant and was served by our Irani Zarthushti friends who provided very good quantities of food and friendly service. The DJ had the dance floor full playing popular Iranian and a mix of good music for the night.

The Entertainment Committee would like to profusely thank our Irani Zarthushti friends, our Ervads, and all donors and volunteers for making this a successful function!!

MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH DAR-NI-PORI BAKE-A-THON

It's time for our annual event next month, folks: please mark your calendars to attend & participate in our Dar-ni-Pori Bake-a-Thon on Sunday, March 15, starting at 10:00 a.m.

We need our volunteers to help make and bake our poris and keep up our tradition in observance of our Avan Roj nu Parabh and in time for the Navroze function on Sat., March 21.

Calling all our helpers to pitch in with ingredients, materials, lunch and tea items, our 'dar' donors and our rollers and bakers...our band of folks working together to make this a fun community activity to raise some good 'dough' for our Maintenance Fund.

Please call Nargis Cooper @ 713-937-4441 or Roshan Engineer @ 281-545-3467 to let us know how you'd like to participate.

Come join us!

THE Z BAND ROCKS AT THE RECENT LA CONGRESS!!

The Z Band our all Zoro local band comprising of Ziba Colah, Ashdin Medhora, Navaz Kayani Irani and Farrokh Firozgary performed gratis at the recent North American Congress held in Los Angeles. Around 700+ attendees were at the event and the dance floor was full for the 2+ hours the band performed on the night of December 30th. We had a wonderful time and would like to profusely thank all our ZAH friends for their overwhelming support during our very successful performance and visit there. Enjoy pics and video below (or search garyfiroz in YouTube):

[The Z Band Pics - NAZC2014 - Dec. 30, 2014](#)

[The Z Band Video - NAZC2014 - Dec. 30, 2014](#)

SUNDAY SCHOOL MIDDLE GROUP COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

As y'all are aware, we have been working on a Cookbook as a Middle Group Sunday School Fundraiser and have collected almost 200 recipes from our kids and other community members. All proceeds from the sales will be utilized towards the contents needed for the new Middle Group room which is part of our expansion plans. Our Cookbook is very aptly titled "Our Favorite Dishes From ZAH's Kitchen". We assure you that this Cookbook will be a great addition to your library as these recipes are individually picked favorites of our children and our well known community Iron Chefs.

As we intend to print only 200 copies in the first phase, **please place your orders in advance** by letting us know at sorabitalia@yahoo.com or kaysid67@yahoo.com although **no orders will be confirmed without receiving the cash/checks. Checks should be made payable to "ZAH" with "Middle Group Fundraiser" in the memo field of the check. We will be selling the Cookbook for \$15. Donations are most welcome.**

As mentioned earlier, the cookbook has almost 200 recipes besides tips & tricks and above all the funds are for a very worthy cause which will help our present and future generations. So please support this creative endeavor by the Middle Group Sunday School kids, parents and teachers & buy as many books for your family and friends! A big thank you to all our generous donors for your great support so far and we hope to make this fundraiser a big success.

Your Cookbook Fundraising Committee Members

Arzin Italia, Sharaine Vakil, Khursheed Hormuzdi, Sharmeen Irani & Farzana Sidhwa

ZAH CAR RALLY 2015 (By ZAH Rally Team – Arnavaz Sethna, Cyra Kanga, Khursheed B. Dastur)

The ZAH Car Rally was revived last Sunday (8th Feb) after 5 years.. and what a comeback it was !!

We had 12 teams with a total of 70+ participants. The teams had come up with very innovative names for themselves from - The Doodh-Puff Wagon (which was a huge bus/wagon with numerous adults and kids !! What a novel idea!!), Ghada-Gari, The Jetsetters, Slow-pokes, First Place, The Winners, Lega Masters, Road-Runner, Z-Kids, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Tequilla Shooters, Dhamaal. With names such as these, we knew we had a very smart bunch of 'Rally'ers in our midst on Sunday.

The Rally frenzy started with the super-smooth registrations desk. After quite a bit of running around with paper, pen and some choice words, we finally had all the waivers signed, the walk-in teams accommodated and the monies collected. Whew!! There was just too much excitement in the air at ZHCC that Sunday afternoon !!

The teams 'fuelled' themselves with sandwiches from our 'pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake bakers man' (you guessed it !!) aapro Naushad.

Then after a few words of orientation, the teams rushed out the door into the center parking lot, to get their engines revved up and ready for the flag-off. Each car was handed their first clue, had their picture clicked and then were flagged-off at around 2 pm. Vrrroom, Vrrroom they went to their next destination (or so they thought as some found out soon enough !!).

All of a sudden, after the last car left, peace prevailed at the Center, but not for long it seemed !!

Very shortly (about 2 hrs later) the first car returned and then the next and the next. Soon there was pandemonium again. The excitement of starting the Rally was replaced by a frenzy to tally the results.

As the judges tallied the results, the participants relaxed (.. or so we thought !!). with tea and batasas.

There were numerous attempts to 'bribe' the judges and their families, several offers to 'help' with the counting, debates to prove that 'their' answer was the right one. Amidst all of this craziness, our very own professional judges locked themselves in the library and kept their cool, though not without contemplating escape routes out the library windows ofcourse!!

It is worth a mention that, this is the first time in ZAH Rally history that the participants were asked to put a puzzle together, which everyone did splendidly.

The judges tallied the answers and the totals and re-checked and re-checked and re-checked again. And finally we had the results !! Yeah !!

How the judges were mobbed (Bollywood style!!) as they walked out the Library door towards the center stage !!

1st place – “**The Tequilla Shooters**” – Sanobar and Aderbad Tamboli, Kamalrukh Gandhi, Manek and Khushrav Nariman, Delna Minwalla

2nd Place – “**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**” – Nilufar Kasnavia, Parinaz Irani, Zarir Sethna, Meher and Arish Rustomji

3rd Place – “**The Jetsetters**” – Ken Bhappu, Villi Bhappu, Kersi Engineer, Thrity Engineer, Darius Wania.

Special prize – A license plate holder car was awarded to Youth car - Vispi Katrak, Rayhan Nariman, Kyrus Buchia, Alyssa Tamboli, Tanaya Behramsha

The 2nd and 3rd place tied and the tally was decided based on timing . All the teams did great !!

Everyone cheered for the winners and there were chants of recounts (very Florida-isk !!), stories of teams going to great lengths to win – what with buying all the cookies from the stores so the other teams couldn't get them, and teams calling the 'clue hotline', disguised as other teams, to avoid penalty for their teams and the list goes on and on.

Sunday Rally afternoon at ZAH was not without drama as you can imagine!! More than enough drama to put the Beck-Beyonce incident, that very same day, at the Grammys, to shame ten times over!!

All in all, everyone had a great time and lots of fun with competition at its best among the teams.

THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT

The ZAH Rally team would like to thank the **Bhandara** family for donating the cash prizes for the winners, and to **Aban Rustomji** for donating the license plate holder as the 'special prize', and to the **Italia** family for donating the tea-time batatas (which helped keep the frenzied mob at bay.. well for a little while at least !!), and to the **Daroga** family for the cash donation.

There were many more community members who donated towards the event, for which we are very grateful. Tequilla Shooters donated their cash prize of \$75 back to the Center – thank you!!

The ZAH Rally team would also like to thank all the volunteers without whom this rally would not have been possible – **Roshan Sethna, Zeeba Kayani, Naushad Mehta, Diana Balsara, Yazdi Mistry, Nazneen Khumbatta, Kurush Aga, Hoshang Sethna, Aban Rustomji, Serena Setna, Sweta Sethna, Mahtab B. Dastur** for all their help at the stations, counting the results tally and many other activities that day. Thank you to **Arzin Italia, Zia Anklesaria** and the **Entertainment Committee** team for help with coordinating the food, tea, registration etc.

Lastly but not least, ZAH Rally team would like to thank all the **participants** for reviving the ZAH Car Rally with a bang (not the gunshot kind.. thank goodness !!). Your sporting spirit, fun attitude and fierce competition, made this a Car Rally to remember !!

WHIAAPI ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

WHIAAPI is currently accepting applications for full-time internships during the summer. Part-time applicants who can commit to at least 20 hours a week will be considered, although the Initiative prioritizes full-time applicants (32-40 hours a week). Interns at the Initiative are responsible for assisting the staff on a wide range of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) issues and priorities, including capacity-building, civil rights, data disaggregation, economic development, education, health, immigration, language access, and workforce diversity. In addition, interns will help write policy memos and proposals, draft blogs, assist with communications and social media, coordinate and staff events, and conduct outreach to national and local AAPI organizations and leaders. The application deadline is [Sunday, March 8, 2015](#). [Read more.](#)

WZCC HOUSTON CHAPTER - MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The WZCC – Houston Chapter had a successful 2014 in which we conducted seminars, launched a Facebook page, and increased our membership over the previous year. The seminars that were conducted last year included:

- Real Estate Investment Analysis
- Healthy Living
- Social Networking and Internet & Information Security
- Women in Business

In accordance with the mission of the WZCC, we intend to continue to offer programs in 2015 that are of practical use to our members. A seminar on "Wealth-Building Strategies: Challenging Conventional Wisdom" is being offered on February 25, and additional seminars and field visits are being planned.

Please see the attached 2015 Membership Form and join the WZCC-Houston Chapter. In order to offer value to our members, we will continue to provide them with a discount at all WZCC events. We hope you become a part of our Chapter.

Best Wishes from Management Committee (WZCC-Houston Chapter)

ACCOLADES

ZOROASTRIAN STATE CHAMPION - ISABELLE IRANI WINS THREE GOLD MEDALS IN SWIM MEET

Isabelle has been swimming on one of the Woodlands swim teams since the age of 7. She is a great swimmer. This January she proved how great she has become by winning gold medals in all three of her individual events at The Texas State Amateur Winter Games (Texas Amateur Athletic Federation/ TAAF) which was held in Frisco, Texas. Her individual events were 50 meter freestyle, 25 meter butterfly and 100 meter individual medley. In addition to being undefeated in her age category for these events, Isabelle also made a new winter state games record for her 25 meter butterfly. Winning these events qualified her to compete in the 2015 State Games of America, which is a National swim meet being held this summer in Nebraska. There she will get to compete against other medal winners from across the country. We are proud of our state champion!

ROSHNI CHIKHLIWALA – WINS FIRST PRIZE AT SCIENCE FAIR AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

In January 2015, Roshni Chikhlwala won the Science Fair first prize award in the Mathematics category (Elementary level) for the Clear Creek Integrated School District (CCISD). Roshni's project was titled -- "Wonder of Pi" and

involved calculation of the mathematical constant Pi using three different first principle techniques. Roshni worked for three months on this project exploring different methods and arriving at increasingly more accurate values of Pi. Roshni has participated in Science Fair competitions since kindergarten.

Heartiest Congratulations to Isabelle and Roshni !! You make us proud !!

CHANGE IN E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Ken and Villi Bhappu's e-mail address has changed. The new address is villinken@gmail.com

MANASHNI MAIL-OUT

A Reminder to those receiving printed copy of the Manashni. Please include \$15 with your membership fees to receive the printed version of MANASHNI.

NAVJOTE

Nariman Bharucha, son of Jarafreen and Darius Bharucha, had his Navjote performed on December 28, 2014

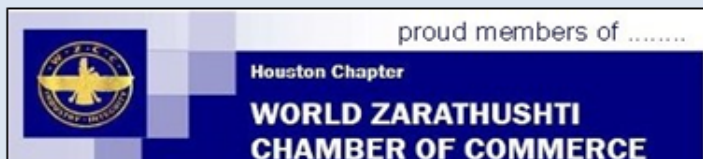
OBITUARY

Freny Naushir Daruwalla, mother of Behroze Daruwalla passed away January 9, 2015 in Mumbai. Freny was suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer and Behroze left Houston to be with her since the last 3 years. Behroze's parents had visited Houston and they both had fond memories of the place and people.

Banoo Fali Anklesaria wife of (Late) Fali Anklesaria, mother of Rohinton, Gayve (Houston), Hoshi Anklesaria and Vahishta Kavasji (Canada) passed away on Sunday February 1, 2015.

Ratan D. Surveyor, husband of Late Nergish R. Surveyor, father of Darius and Rashna, father-in law of Nilufer and grandfather to Cyrus and Delna, passed away on February 14, 2015 in Mumbai, India. He was 91 years old.

Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.



8787 West Airport Blvd.
Houston, Texas, 77071
www.wzcc.org

NAME(s): _____

E-MAIL: _____

Membership dues are for the period Jan-Dec of each year. The membership categories are shown below.

PATRON MEMBER	\$200	_____	(two members)
CORPORATE MEMBER	\$100	_____	(two members)
FAMILY MEMBER	\$50	_____	(also includes spouse)
YOUTH/STUDENT MEMBER	\$25	_____	(up to age 30)

As per IRS regulations, membership dues are deductible as an itemized deduction (dues) on Form 1040 Schedule A.

Please include this form with your CHECK made out to WZCC HOUSTON CHAPTER and mail to:

KERSHAW KHUMBATTA
1455 HIGHWAY 6 SOUTH, SUITE A
SUGAR LAND TX 77478