



Volume 28: Issue 4

April 2015

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: 11.30 a.m. - Middle Group/ 11 am - Children's group.

DATE: April 12, 2015

Children's Session: Sunday School starts at 11 am this month. Story of King Jamsheed. Gujarati songs, colors, animals.

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, April 11, 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, April 12, 9 am to 5 pm

An Invitation to participate in a research study to determine genetics of metabolic disease in parsi families.

Sunday, April 12, 2015, 12.45 pm – ZAH Annual Carnival. See details below

Wednesday, April 29, 6.30 pm - WZCC-Houston Chapter – Talk on "Advice to minorities on climbing the ladder to success in corporate America" by Mr. Krishna Shivram, CFO of Weatherford International Ltd.

Please RSVP before April 25, 2015 to Zarir Sethna (713) 963 4229 or zarirs@sbcglobal.net. **See flyer attached**

Sunday, May 31, 2015, 11 am - Maidhyarem Gahambar (Dae mahino)

Friday, June 5, 2015, 7 pm - Sports - Casual Sports evening at ZAH

Fri to Sun, June 26 – June 28 - ZAH Z-CAMP 2015

Our Annual ZAH Z-Camp is back after tremendous success for the past two years and we will be holding the ZAH Z-camp from June 26th thru 28th 2015. The Z-Camp will start after dinner on Friday night (June 26th) for outstation attendees, our ZAH Youth Group and older kids so please keep that in mind whilst planning for it.

Kiddies group (5 to 9 years) will begin their Z-Camp on Saturday, June 27th at 10 am like last year. Pertinent details regarding registration, etc. will follow 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

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

Dear Members,

This year is starting out to be a very exciting year for the ZAH. In February, y'all overwhelmingly voted to build the Atash Kadeh. The new Atash Kadeh will fulfill our spiritual needs and will hopefully become a central hub for the entire North American Zoroastrian population. Our design team is working with the architect to develop the design for the Atash Kadeh.

Another exciting project is our Phase 3A development, which will include the Purvez Rustomji room and the middle group classroom. The final design of Phase 3A is completed and is attached below. The Purvez Rustomji room will be a multi media + multipurpose room, with state of the art audio visual equipment and conference capabilities.

In addition, it's time now to update the bathrooms, kitchen and the parking lot.

Vision 2020 Update:

The ZAH's strategic 7 year plan, code named Vision 2020, to raise \$750,000 in 7 years, is underway. The plan includes raising money for the new construction of the Atash Kadeh, the Purvez Rustomji room and a new classroom (Phase III-A). The money raised will also be to upgrade/enhance the parking lot, bathrooms and kitchen. A part of the fundraising will be used to build a reserve for the Building maintenance fund. The breakdown of the funds are:

	Required	Available	Pledged	Shortfall
Phase III - A	\$375,000	\$25,000	\$200,000	\$150,000
Atash Kadeh Construction			Full Amount	\$0
Atash Kadeh - Reserves and Operations Exp	\$200,000			\$200,000
Building Maintenance Fund	\$325,000	\$100,000		\$225,000
Parking Lot + Bathroom + Kitchen upgrade	\$175,000			\$175,000
Total				\$750,000

A key component of our comprehensive fund-raising strategy is a new program Commit For 5. As part of the Commit for 5 program, you pledge to pay a certain amount each month for 5 years. There are 5 levels ranging from \$1,000 / month to \$50/month. See details for Vision 2020 and the Commit for 5 in the attached brochure.

To date: We have collected \$50,000 with Pledges at \$307,000.

WE NEED YOU to help reach our goals: Pledge or donate today!

Please review below links for more information:

[A2 ZHCC Plan](#)
[Commit4Five](#)
[Vision 2020](#)

Best Always,
Executive Committee



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can assist ZAH acquire donations at NO COST to you?

With Mother's Day just five weeks away and Father's Day a month more, now's a great time to plan and shop with AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com. Shoppers turn to Amazon for great Mother's and Father's Day gifts like

jewelry, flowers, clothes and electronics so please remember to shop through [our special ZAH link](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1945923) <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1945923> provided to us by AmazonSmile in support of Zoroastrian Association of Houston.

As you all know, **AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support ZAH every time you shop, at no cost to you.** When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com including the Prime Shipping feature, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to ZAH. **The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.**

So dear community members, whenever you think of shopping on Amazon please remember to shop on AmazonSmile at the above link and support ZAH. This is a really quick and easy way to take full advantage of what we are eligible for like other 501 © 3 organizations.

Kayo Sidhwa
On behalf of ZAH EC

LIBRARY REPORT

By Jangoo Mistry

Upcoming Library Event

Save these Dates

The ZAH Library is planning its annual gala function for **October 9, 10 and 11**. We have already received commitments from Rashna Writer and Roshan Rivetna to present issues vital to the future of Zoroastrianism in North America. We are planning to have a "Meet and Greet" for the speakers on Friday, October 9 in the evening, followed by the main program on Saturday, October 10. The next day will be a 2-hour informal question-and-answer session with discussion.

More details will be forthcoming as the time draws near, but for now, please put these dates on your calendar for an informative and entertaining event that is not to be missed.

FEZANA AGM

FIRES is now recognized as a Standing Committee of FEZANA. Aban Rustomji, as the Chair of FIRES, is planning to attend FEZANA's Annual General Meeting on May 1-3, and give the Committee Report. FIRES is funded entirely by FEZANA and our budget is presented and approved by FEZANA members at the AGM. Aban will also present what we have accomplished in the last year and our plans for the coming year.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Entertainment Committee

NoRuz Celebrations

The Zarathushti community in Houston celebrated the advent of spring on March 21, 2015 at the Zoroastrian Cultural and Heritage Center. The NoRuz function was a grand success and was attended by 390 people. The beautiful Haft-Sheen table set up by Gitty and Dariush Darayan greeted the guests as they entered the Atrium. The hall was tastefully decorated with the help of the parents who came for the play practice including young Ariana and completed by Arzin, Zara & Zal Italia.

Hambandagi was performed that evening. Selected Avesta fakras were sung by Arnavaz Sethna and the meanings were explained by Ervad Shapur Pavri. This was followed by Din-no-Kalmo and Tandarosti led by Ervad Peshotan Unwalla ending with Munazat. Students of Ervad Unwalla were a part of the above team. Ervad Bomanshah Sanjana performed the machi in the prayer room after the hambandagi was done.

During the intermission the guests enjoyed hummus and crackers, the delicious pakoras from Babu of Ganesh Anand restaurant and 5 boxes of mixed nuts donated by Aban Rustomji.

Two of our senior year youth, Vispi Katrak and Friyana Sidhwa were the co-MC for the evening and also made announcements for the upcoming events. The program started with benediction by Ervad Yazad Sidhwa. This was followed by the lively show organized by Ms. Vehishta Kaikobad. First the "Khan Ashem Vohu" was sung in Farsi followed by the Young Zoroastrian Symphony which played "Chaiyye Hame Zarhosti" and "America the Beautiful" among other tunes. The musicians were Roxanna & Isabelle Irani, Nerius & Natalya Mehta, Cyrus Mistry and Dina & Rohan Hormuzdi. The vocalists were Roshni Chikhlwala, Mahtab B. Dastur, Natasha Dungor, Shanaya Vakil and Sabrina Warden. The audience was enthralled by the Sunday school presentation of "Prince Jamsheed & the Wolf" play adapted from the Russian classic "Peter and the Wolf". The program ended with a dance by young Jesil Bharucha. Ms. Vehishta Kaikobad thanks all parents for taking time from their busy schedule to bring their kids for practice.

All Sunday school teachers were felicitated by their students for their dedication, perseverance and hard work all year round. The time spent in preparing the Sunday school information, the lock-ins and the fun/ volunteer work trips is incredible. The students profusely thank their teachers for devoting this time for them. Youth group - Sarosh Collector and Jenisteen Davier; Middle group – Pearline Collector, Arna Sethna and Zeba Kayani; Children's group – Vehishta Kaikobad.

Mr. Aderbad Tamboli updated the community on the status of upcoming projects at the ZAH.

Dinner was announced after the entertainment concluded. Everyone enjoyed the chicken and beef koubideh, rice, eggplant lentil stew, subzi/cheese and naan from Bijan restaurant; Chilli Chicken from Savoy restaurant; a variety of Breyers ice creams and jalebi from Rajas.

We very much appreciate the free DJ service by our very own Farrokh Firozgary who kept the music rolling and the dance floor packed with the young and the young at heart.

We would like to thank all our Youth and our dear volunteers who served food or helped in various ways during the evening. Of course thanks to the Entertainment Committee for organizing this function – Zia Anklesaria, Nozer Dungor, Farrokh Firozgary, Arzin Italia, Yasmin Medhora, Fiona Setna and Tenaz Sunavala.

PEACE & PROSPERITY TO ALL AT ZAH.

Fourth Annual Ava Yazad Parab:

ZAH celebrated the **Ava Yazad Parab** on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. Thanks very much to Yazdi and Shahnaz Sidhwa to open their home in Missouri City to our community for the jashan. The jashan was performed in their beautiful home facing the waters of their sub-division.

Ervad Bomanshah Sanjana performed the beautiful jashan. This was followed by a Humbandagi and an informative speech explaining the history, tradition and the significance of water in Zoroastrianism. All the guests then stepped out on the deck and immersed a dal pori and other offerings in the water for Ava Parab. We would like to thank Freny Sanjana for preparing the delicious malido and dal poris.

Later, the guests enjoyed the fruits, mevo, malido, shared potluck snacks, tomato per eedoo prepared by Shahnaz, tea and a variety of desserts. It was a gorgeous evening to spend by the water.

We profusely thank Shahnaz and Yazdi for their warm welcome and hospitality to the ZAH guests during the function. We also thank all the guests for taking time off on a working day and participate in this tradition when Divinity descends to earth by the power of our sacred religion.

YOUTH GROUP RERPORT

By Katie Master - Historian

This term the ZAH Youth Group's prime focus has been to support and benefit the community overall. This past March has showcased several good deeds that have contributed to the community's wellbeing and overall success and the upcoming month of April will be no different.

During the last month of March, we hosted our monthly session of Sunday School on Sunday the 8th. There we discussed future projects to carry out and reviewed the basics of our religion. Soon after, we hosted a Center clean-up where we scrubbed the floors, tidied our classroom and even took on the challenge of organizing our kitchen. Being that our Center is the place for many community gatherings and is the foundation for our cultural society, it is not hard to imagine the amount of maintenance and care required. With that said, the expanse of daunting work that needed to get done was not an issue for our persevering Youth Group. To celebrate our hard work, the Center hosted the semi-annual Navroze Function. With a head count of nearly 400 attendees, it is no doubt that the Navroze Function gained profit to better our community. All the funds went into building maintenance and community extension projects. With such a successful month, we have no doubt April will be the same.

To kick-off April, the Youth Group had planned to host a one night lock-in with four sessions to enlighten us more about Zoroastrianism. Unfortunately due to the busy schedule of others, we could not make it happen. However, there is no need for alarm or disappointment because the Youth Group is participating in the annual ZAH

Carnival. The carnival is famous for plenty of games, delicious food stalls, and a fun-filled time for everyone. In addition to hosting a food stall, the Youth Group has taken on a car wash. The proceeds from both Youth Group activities will go directly to the Center, with no added benefit to the Youth Group except the satisfaction of helping our community. Although the Carnival is on Sunday the 12th, the Youth Group has not placed priority over our Sunday School. We believe that although having fun is essential, so is our knowledge. Therefore we will continue with our cycle of monthly sessions and then work the Carnival. In addition to learning about religion, the Youth Group has taken steps to inform our students on college preparation with the help of Dr. Farrokh Mistree. Due to the successful turnout the first time, we plan to host another session so that a plethora of our high school students can enter college with a plan.

As the ZAH Youth Group, we strive to achieve the most challenging and rigorous projects in order to benefit our community. With many new projects being introduced monthly, the Youth Group is with no doubt ready to help and be a part of our society.

MISCELLANEOUS

RESEARCH STUDY TO DETERMINE GENETICS OF METABOLIC DISEASE IN PARSI FAMILIES

Dr. Saroja Voruganti is continuing her study on genetics of metabolic disease in Parsi families. She and her team will visit Houston April 10-12, 2015, for a follow-up study and everyone is invited to participate. This is a follow-up of the initial demographic study. Those who participated in the initial study are also encouraged to participate in this study.

Dr. Voruganti and her colleagues will set up an in-person meeting at the event with each participant for blood spots and saliva collection – it will take only 15 minutes of your time. You may fill out the attached questionnaire at home, or in-person at the ZHCC. The study is open to anyone aged 7 or higher (parental consent required for those under 18 years of age). Dr. Voruganti and her colleagues will be in the Elementary School classroom at the ZHCC at the following times:

- **Saturday, 4/11/15: 10AM - 4PM**
- **Sunday, 4/12/15: 9AM – 5PM**

You are welcome to walk-in during the above times; however you may also set up an appointment for any 15-minute timeslot during the above times. To set up an appointment, please email your preferred 15-minute timeslot and date to Dr. Voruganti at saroja@unc.edu, or call her cell phone on 512-796-6432 (those with appointments will take precedence over walk-ins). You are also welcome to call her with any questions.

Please see the attached flyer for details.

FEROZE AND SHERNAZ BHANDARA CHARITABLE TRUST

A Trust by the name of “Feroze & Shernaz Bhandara Charitable Trust” was launched by Feroze and Shernaz Bhandara on 14 March 2015 in Karachi, Pakistan. The Trust is registered in Pakistan and will operate from Karachi. The Trust aims at providing, after due scrutiny, monetary assistance to deserving Zoroastrians in the fields of education, medical and general welfare, subject to the availability of funds and at the sole discretion of the Trustees. On their various visits to Pakistan they saw great unmet needs and this Trust is established to fulfill some of these needs.

The trust will address the needs of the elderly, will assist in education and other general needs of the community.

WEDDING

Natasha, daughter of Eddie & Sherry Berana, married Michael Kumar son of Manohar and Nalini Kumar, on March 28, 2015.

Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes to Natasha and Michael.

OBITUARY

Aloo Shavak Italia, Mother of Jasmine Yazdi Mistry passed away in Mumbai, India, at the age of 82. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Aloo visited Houston several times and had very fond memories of our community and friends she met over the years.

Jasmine, Yazdi, and Cyrus Mistry would like to thank their ZAH family for all their kind words via phone calls, texts, emails, sympathy cards, and pass their heartfelt gratitude to all for being there for them during this very difficult time.

Heartfelt Condolences to Jasmine and family

17TH ANNUAL ZAH CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2015 AT 12:45 P.M.

(After Sunday school) at ZHCC

Bring your FAMILY and FRIENDS

Enjoy the fun and festivity, variety of food to-go and eat at the event -
Bhel/Paani Poori stall, Chicken Tikka, Beef Pattice, Paatra Macchi, Chicken Liver,
Chicken Farcha, Dhansak, Curry Rice, Sali Chicken, Cutlets, Potato Poori, Beef
Rolls, Masoor, Kheemo, surprise dishes, Falooda, Custard, Mango Pie, Pista
Kulfi, Shrikhand, Sweet dahi, Maya Samosa, Tea, Mukhyas, Green Chutney,
Plant sale, etc.

Egg Hunt, Piñata and Fish Pond by Vehishta's Sunday School;

Fun Games in the Atrium by the Middle Group;

Sodas, Water, Pizza, Hot Dogs, cookies, etc. by the Youth group;

Games for adults & kids on the stage, Tarot Card reading, Gift Certificate Walk,
BINGO, Plant Sale, and a lot more.

ALL ABOVE PROCEEDS GO TO ZAH

Visit the Rented Tables for more parisi food, snacks like batasa, bhaakhra, daar
pori, murrabo, ice cream, hand made jewellery, crafts, wood work, etc.

If you wish to rent a table for display or sell arts & crafts, the rates per table are:

ZAH \$35; Others \$100/-

Contact: Yasmin Medhora at 713-466-3908 to rent tables and donate food items

Donations are always welcome

Go home with a clean car by supporting our Youth for their

CAR WASH (proceeds for Youth group trips)

GENETICS OF METABOLIC DISEASE IN PARSI FAMILIES: A RESEARCH STUDY

OBJECTIVES:

- To identify the genetic basis of medical problems in the Parsi community in the US
- To understand the familial inheritance of these problems
- To identify the lifestyle factors that may increase the risk for the prevalent medical problems



RESEARCH ORGANIZATION: Department of Nutrition and UNC Nutrition Research Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



DESCRIPTION OF THE RECRUITMENT:

- For this study information related to family structure, basic demographics, dietary patterns, health habits, medical histories, anthropometrics and blood pressure measures will be collected from members of Parsi families
- We will collect blood spots and saliva samples for the genetic study.
- All individuals 7 years or older can participate; there is no upper age limit for participation.
- We will email questionnaires and consent forms before the event. The questionnaires will be found on a secured website that can be accessed using a username and password. Those participants who request a hard copy will be mailed. Participants can fill the questionnaires in advance or on the day of the recruitment at the site.

Before filling out the questionnaires, all participants need to fill a consent form agreeing to participate in the study.

Note: ALL DATA WILL BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE STORED WITH THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (Dr. SAROJA VORUGANTI). ALL INFORMATION WILL BE CODED AND ONLY THE CODED AND ANONYMIZED DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CO-INVESTIGATORS FOR ANALYSIS.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the study, please contact

*Dr. Saroja Voruganti
Department of Nutrition and UNC Research Institute
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Assistant Professor
500 Laureate Way, Suite 3150
Kannapolis, NC, 28081
Ph: 704-250-5009; Fax: 704-250-5001
Email: saroja@unc.edu*



WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HOUSTON CHAPTER

Presents

An Interesting Talk

By

Mr. KRISHNA SHIVRAM
(CFO at The Weatherford International)

**“ADVICE TO MINORITIES ON CLIMBING
THE LADDER TO SUCCESS IN CORPORATE AMERICA”**

on

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mixer & Appetizers	6:30 PM
Dinner	7:00 PM
Talk	7:30 PM
Q & A	8:15 PM

Cost

\$10 WZCC Members for Year 2015
\$15 Guests and Non-members

Mr. Krishna Shivram has been the Chief Financial Officer at Weatherford International, plc since November 06, 2013, and also serves as its President of Western Hemisphere. Mr. Shivram served as Vice President and Treasurer of Schlumberger, Limited since January 2011. He has over 25 years of financial and operational management experience that took him and his family across the Middle East, Europe and North America. He and his family have lived in Mumbai, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, London, Paris and Houston. Krishna has a Bachelors degree in Commerce from the University of Mumbai and is a Chartered Accountant from India. He was born and raised in India and is from Mumbai. He served as Controller of Drilling Group from May 2010 to January 2011 and as Manager of Mergers & Acquisitions from May 2009 to April 2010 and also as Controller Oilfield Services from August 2006 to April 2009. He served as Vice President of Finance at WesternGeco from March 2004 to July 2006. Mr. Shivram has experience in financial accounting, income taxes and treasury operations, along with a strong background in corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions.

RSVP Before April 25, 2015

Zarir Sethna (713) 963 4229 or zarirs@sbcglobal.net

Madras Pavilion Restaurant on the Lake
16260 Kensington Dr. (HWY 6 and I-69 near Super Target)
Sugar Land, TX 77479 (Tel: 281 491 3672)

VISION 2020

**Atash Kadeh
Operations &
Reserve
\$200,000**

**Phase III A
Purvez
Rustomji Rm,
Classroom
\$150,000**

**Kitchen,
Bathroom &
Parking Lot
Upgrade
\$175,000**

**Building
Maintenance
Reserve
\$225,000**

**We Need You
To help reach our goals**



- Diamond: \$1,000/Mo or \$12,000/Yr
- Platinum: \$500/Mo or \$6,000/Yr
- Gold: \$250/Mo or \$3,000/Yr
- Silver: \$100/Mo or \$1,200/Yr
- Bronze: \$50/Mo or \$600/Yr

Commit for 5 years to donate to the ZAH. Pick a level that suits your budget, and give us your pledge today. Donations may be made quarterly or annually. Or donate any amount as a lump sum. All donor requests for funds usage will be honored.

JOIN OUR CURRENT CONTRIBUTORS AND PLEDGE TODAY

Diamond	Nazneen & Kershaw Khumbatta, Manek & Khushrav Nariman, Sanober & Aderbad Tamboli
Platinum	
Gold	Mahrukh & Rohintan Deputy, Jimmy Kumana, Roshan & Zarir Sethna
Silver	Yasmin & Rustom Engineer, Thrity & Feroze Kharas, Rustom & Nasreen Khosravian, Shireen & Jehanbux Mehta, The Mehta Fund, Yasmin & Shapur Pavri, Shaheen Rustom, Shermeen & Jal Sethna
Bronze	Avan & Noshir Bhathena, Jennifer & Purvez Captain, Nargish & Homi Cooper, Nikita & Eric Gagrut, Kamalrukh & Minoos Gandhi, Roshan & Bomi Gazdar, Parveen & Mehraban Irani, Mahnaz & Bakshi Irani, Vehishta & Sarosh Kaikobad, Mitra Khumbatta, Farida & Kamal Merchant, Arnavaz & Hoshang Sethna, Anonymous

Target
\$750,000

\$307,000
Pledged

\$50,000
Collected

Commit 5

For



Name: _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____
Comment: _____

Choose your Level*

- ☐ Diamond: \$1,000/Mo or \$12,000/Yr
- ☐ Platinum: \$500/Mo or \$6,000/Yr
- ☐ Gold: \$250/Mo or \$3,000/Yr
- ☐ Silver: \$100/Mo or \$1,200/Yr
- ☐ Bronze: \$50/Mo or \$600/Yr
- ☐ Lump Sum \$ _____

Payment Option

- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☐ Lump Sum

Would you like your name published
☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank You for Supporting the Zoroastrian Association of Houston

*All Donor request for funds usage will be strictly honored. ZAH is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization
Tax ID # 74-1945923. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Did you know your donations are 100% tax deductible and after taxes cost you a lot less. For example, a donation of \$6,000 after taxes really only costs you \$4,500, and even less if your tax bracket is higher. Please contact Kayo Sidhwa (510) 504-5154 or Aderbad Tamboli (201) 389-8299 for more details.