



Volume 28: Issue 8

August 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 a.m. - Children's group.

DATE: August 9, 2015

Children's Session: Sunday School will be held in the Main Hall at 11:00 a.m.

Middle Group: This group starts at 11:30 a.m. and is for the children in the middle school.

Youth Group: Sarosh Collector conducts this session. Age group – Senior school

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 18, 2015 – Navroze Hambandagi – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 22, 2015 – Navroze Celebration – See attached flyer

Sunday, September 27, 2015 – Indoor Sports at ZAH

Sunday, October 4, 2015 – Mehrgan and Maedizarem Gahambar

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 9, 10, 11 – Annual Library Gala event (See library report)

Saturday, October 24, 2015 – Natak: Love is in the Air – ZAH Fund Raiser

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

LIBRARY REPORT

By Jangoo Mistry

Another Successful Event

A record crowd participated in the Library event honoring India's Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. Organized around the much-acclaimed book, "**Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw: The Man and His Times**", the evening featured the two authors of the book, Brigadier Behram Panthaki and his wife Zenobia Panthaki.

After the meet-and-greet and an introduction by Aban Rustomji, Behram Panthaki captivated the audience with his first-hand experiences during the years when he was Sam Manekshaw's ADC (Aide-de-Camp). This appointment gave Brigadier Panthaki an insight into Sam's unique personality and into high-level planning and decision making. We learnt how Manekshaw declined to attack East Pakistan in 1971, stood up fearlessly to bureaucrats and politicians, and how he held every soldier in the highest regard and protected their interests. Through numerous anecdotes, Behram and Zenobia brought out Sam Manekshaw's sense of humor and his upright, loyal and honest nature, quoting Sam ad verbatim several times.

A slide presentation accompanied by a March played by the Indian Army Military Band and written especially for Sam Mnekshaw was followed by a question-and-answer period. The event concluded with a book sale and book signing of this excellent book. The accolades and positive reviews that the book received were mentioned in the June issue of Manashni.

A radio program on Houston's AM1480 two weeks before the event went so well that the presenters extended the Panthaki interviews over a much longer time period.

Save these Dates for our Annual Gala

The ZAH Library has finalized the dates for its annual gala function for October 9, 10 and 11. The theme: ***"Survival of Zoroastrians in North America: Potential for a Positive Outlook"*** is expected to generate an unusual amount of interest and avid discussion. We have already received commitments from Rashna Writer and Roshan Rivetna to discuss issues vital to the future of Zoroastrianism in North America. These two presenters are in a strong position to address this vital issue through their study and research.

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, Sunday, will be a 2-hour informal question-and-answer session.

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

YOUTH REPORT

By Vispi Katrak

As you all know last week on July 25 our youth group held Dandiya Night at our center. It turned out to be a great success with over 200 people in attendance. The youth put together a short skit filled with dances that the audience loved. This was followed by dinner and door prizes given away. After dinner the youth taught a simple dandiya routine to get the dancing going. Both kids and adults were having a great time on the dance floor, we even had adults up on the stage dancing! In all we raised over \$6000 for ZAH parking lot, so thank you to everyone who attended! Also a very big thank you to all our sponsors and donors for helping us make this event successful!

We would also like to give a warm welcome to our new officers for the 2015-2016 Youth Group:

President: Freya Daroga
Vice-President: Serena Setna
Secretary: Katie Master
Treasurer: Tanaya Behramsha
Historian: Alyssa Tamboli
Web Master: Rayhan Nariman

We wish you guys the very best this upcoming year!
Thank you to this years officers, youth group members, youth moms, and Sunday School teachers for making the past year memorable!

Sincerely,
ZAH Youth Group 2014-2015

MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH Z-Camp 2015 – WHAT A BLAST !!!

When is the Z-Camp? When is the Z-Camp? We kept hearing this from kids and parents; yes parents as some of them can party without their kids and have a weekend to themselves☺. After quite a bit of planning and preparation, the weekend finally arrived. This Z-Camp hosted by ZAH was held over the weekend from June 26th-28th 2015 and was attended by 82 kids from Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Cincinnati and Oklahoma City. There were a lot of activities and sessions conducted by experts in their respective professions.

At around 6.30 p.m. on a hot and humid Friday, the first contingent from Dallas trickled in and no sooner did they put their bags away than they were on the Basketball courts with the ZAHites. Slow and steady, the other campers followed from various parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Ohio, and by 9.00 pm all the entourages were at the ZAH center. Dinner was served and everyone just dove into the great food that Chef Lashkari had sent, as usual more than ample of it. Within no time there were just the skeletal remains of the poor “Charga Chicken” besides the empty foil trays which would also have been licked dry if allowed.

After dinner the kids were seen having fun at the basketball courts with some of them, catching up with their friends and the adults as usual, gorging on the lagan-nu-custard, bataasas, etc. After some boisterous laughs and inconsistent noise levels all went to bed around 11 pm (sure!) waiting for the official Z-Camp to kick-off the next day.

Come Saturday morning, our ZAH Center started buzzing around with kids and once the registrations concluded, the Z-Camp started with our customary prayers and housekeeping announcements with the campers divided into 4 teams. The Ghela Ghaderas, Bawa Bewokoof, The Chatni ..., and the Perky Peppy Popats (every year these names just baffle us) started their rivalry in right earnest. The Z-Camp kicked off with some sporting activities like “Nargolio” or seven tiles as well as archery and the obstacle races. After a sumptuous BBQ lunch the session on Kool Careers hosted by our Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce, Houston Chapter began. The kids enjoyed hearing from various speakers about the careers and professions they had chosen. Kids were tasked to present careers that they thought were “Kool” and they introduced some really creative and innovative ones.

Once that session got over the kids got an opportunity to start swinging and dancing, and the way our Bollywood teacher was swinging with them, it looked like we would have a new born ZAH member very soon (wink, wink). The kids got a respite after the dancing session and cooled off with some Kool-Aid and snacks.

The ZAH Iron Chef session started right after the break and the campers were ready to show off their culinary skills. Before the teams broke off for their workstations they were given a presentation on Food trucks by our own Aspi Colah. The kids were really enamored by what they saw and some have suggested that we get a real food truck next time. The teams were divided into age appropriate groups and all the Iron Chefs got to work. Oh Boy, the talent they disclosed was just amazing and in a matter of minutes some Kheemo was ready for Tacos along with some great chicken dishes, really innovative Omelets as well as sandwiches and decorated apples. The highlight of the session was “adults” diving into the food and finishing most of it once all the judging was over. Hmmm.... we wonder who the real kids were.

After the Iron Chef session was over the campers were given some blank T-shirts to decorate and they came up with their own innovations as usual. Dinner was served around 8.30 pm and we were treated to some delicious “Dhan Daar & Paatio” by our own Naushad Mehta followed by tea and some desserts. It was time for the last session where the campers were to perform some impromptu skits but to the dismay of many kids and adults, it was cancelled as some “Hotshot kids” were tired and wanted to relax although right after the session was cancelled those kids were seen on the basketball courts. We promise ALL sessions will be held as scheduled in future. Finally the lights went out at 12 midnight (yeah right!).

The next day, Sunday June 28th started with an energetic Zumba session and it was fun to watch how some of the campers did Zumba and slept at the same time. As soon as that finished we started with the Home Depot Architects session and the campers got stuck into those wood logs and tools and came up with some great creations. While this was going on the kids under 10 were having the time of their lives

playing with waterslides and other water games. Soon after lunch was served and around 1 pm our final session began where campers had to create their Photo Story of what they did during the Z-Camp to present to their parents and others during the final session. The Bawa Bewokoof team stole the honors and was awarded the first place but for us everyone who participated was a winner. Most importantly, we all made new friends and long lasting relationships. Finally, thank you to all the parents, volunteers, donors, presenters and our campers without whom this camp would not have been possible.

See y'all back next year!
Your Z-Camp team

And, ZAH Iron Chef at the ZCamp on June 27, 2015

The following is a summary of the 2 ½ hour Food Session organized by Yasmin Medhora at the ZCamp for the 80 plus kids/young adults who participated in this session. ZCamp Core Team had selected three judges for this competition:

Mr. Aspi Colah, Ms. Nikita Gagrath and Ms. Nazneen Khumbatta.

The Food session was split into 2 parts.

The First session was a talk on "Food Trucks" by Mr. Aspi Colah. Aspi has been in this business for the last 25 years and owns 2 food trucks. The new food truck is snazzy and the slide show was enjoyed by all. Houston had food trucks in the commercial areas for years. Now the concept is catching on at various large events and parking lots. Houston has about 1,400 food trucks, each of which adds to the cultural ethnic diversity in the city.

The second session was the **ZAH Iron Chef competition for the four age groups of attendees with 4 teams in each age group**. A "Market Place" was set up in the Atrium which had 3 tables full of various veggies, spices, condiments, carb accompaniments, décor items and all cooking supplies to prepare all styles of food for the competition.

The Youth group prepared "**Chicken**". The flavors of various styles of chicken were an amazing gastronomic experience.

The Middle group prepared "**Omelet**". The gourmet omelets with unusual combinations of ingredients tasted superb.

The little kids made a "**Sandwich**" and **decorated an Apple**. The décor in each team's tray was very innovative. They also **made dainty necklaces** out of fruit loops cereal and **played food games**.

The Young College adults prepared "**Taco Meat**" for the camp's next day lunch. Yummy ... Best tacos ever!

All team competitions were judged on their creativity of choice of ingredients, taste, team work and presentation. Team points were given accordingly. All judges were very involved with the groups throughout the competition. The prepared dishes were gobbled up in a jiffy.

Thanks to Fiona Setna and Arzin Italia of the Entertainment Committee for minding the "Market Place"; Mehelie Warden for helping Yasmin with the loading and unloading of tons of items; Many parents for set up of tables; Vehishta Kaikobad and her team Khursheed Dastur, Laila Daroga and Sonia Rash for working with the little kids for their competition and a big thank you to all our energetic participants, esteemed judges and our wonderful dedicated parents present at the Camp for helping in this session.

SHEHANSHAH NAVROZE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2015 at ZAH CENTER

Main Hall Doors Open at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment Starts at 8:00 p.m.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP AND PAY](#)

RATES: (Under 3 yrs. Gratis) RSVP Deadline: 8/17/15

ZAH Member : 11 years and up - \$25

ZAH Non-Member : 11 years and up – \$40

Member Children (3-10 yrs) : \$14

Non- Member Children (3-10 yrs) : \$16

If paying by check, your check must be received by 8/17/2015 at :

ZAH

Attn: Shahenshahi Navroze 2015

8787 West Airport Blvd

Houston, Texas 77071

PLEASE WRITE (IN THE MEMO FIELD):

- Number of ZAH members/non-members (11 years and up)
- Number of ZAH member/non-member children (3-10years)
- Please write "Shehanshahi Navroze 2015" on the envelope

For questions please call Zia Anklesaria at (832) 646-0510 or email at zsankles@gmail.com

- Member rates apply to out-of-town house-guests of members (if RSVP and check received by 8/17/2015)

- Non-member rates apply for all RSVPs and payments received after 8/17/15. Kids over 18 years must have separate membership from their parents

- Our goal remains to keep these functions as affordable as possible so 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.

And, for Entertainment – Talent Show!!

The Entertainment Committee is calling on our local talents to perform at our Navroze Function on August 22, 2015. This invitation is for all age group – from 2 year olds to 99 year olds - come and show your talent, be it playing an instrument, singing, dancing, or even being a stand-up comedian – each item to be no longer than 3 minutes. Who knows there might be a talent scout waiting for you, you may hit the stardom. Please email Arzin Italia - sorabitalia@yahoo.com - advising her the item you wish to perform.

MUKTAD

What are Muktab days:

Ten days before Navroze are the Muktab days when we remember and honor the souls of departed family members.

In preparation for the Muktab days, the place where prayers are going to be performed, is cleaned thoroughly – floor, windows, etc. and all silver utensils polished. At ZAH, the Middle Group Sunday School kids have been doing this annual cleaning of the Prayer Room for the past several years. We thank the parents for taking interest and for making their children aware of the community work.

The first day of Muktab this year is August 8. Our Prayer Room will have flower vases on the table as we believe that during the following ten days, also called 'Farvardegan' days, the souls of the departed family members will visit the Earth. We welcome and honor them by the observance of various ceremonies. The prayers recited are 'Afringan', 'Farrokshi', 'Stum' and 'Baj'. In Afringan prayers the names of the departed souls are remembered. Please contact Ervad Bahmanshah if you need to give any names of your departed family members.

At ZAH, Ervad Bahmanshah Sanjana will perform these prayers in the Prayer Room at following times:

Sat and Sunday – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday to Friday – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Weekday timings are to facilitate those who are at work during the day.

We remember the souls of our departed family members daily for the ten days, and finally, on the tenth night, the families gather for the last farewell prayers. These prayers are recited around the wee hours of the morning (pachhli raat nu bhanvanu), and at day break, the first havan geh of the New Year (Navroze) is recited.

The congregation disperses after wishing each other a happy Navroze.

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE SPECIAL APPEAL – LIVER TRANSPLANT

A sixty five year old Zarathushti is in need of liver transplant, he is putting it off due to financial costs. His doctor has advised not to put it off too much as he might reach a stage when it is too late. He is healthy in all other ways and has no history of drinking or other major health problems. We are fortunate to have our extended family, our community, who always steps up and helps out in situations like this.

Once again we are asking our community to step up and donate to help lessen this family's burden. Your prayers and your checks will go a long way to help out this person in time of need.

We thank you for the help and support that has been given in the past, we are proud to belong to a community that cares. May Ahura Mazda keep us all healthy. Checks should be made out to FEZANA , but please write the words "CRITICAL ASSISTANCE SPECIAL APPEAL – Liver Transplant" in the memo section of the check.

Mail your check to:

Nilufer K. Shroff
FEZANA Treasurer.
Post office Box 3873
1175 Marlcrest Road,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

Or donate online with credit card using the link
<https://fezana.org/funds/critical-assistance-special-appeal/>

Donations to FEZANA are tax deductible.

FEZANA Welfare Committee
Houtoxi Contractor , Freyaz Shroff, Hosi Mehta

BIRTH

Baby boy, Xerxes, born to Lyla & Danny Aga on Friday, May 15, 2015 in Round Rock, TX. Darius is the ecstatic big brother and the proud grandparents are Ruby & Rohinton (Ron) Aga and Adil (& Late Veera) Bharucha.

CORRECTION – TELEPHONE NUMBER

Nina Jimmy Sethna
Tel: 281-558-3746 (Home)
Tel: 713-858-7929 (Cell)

Shahenshahi Navroze Celebration

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2015 at ZAH CENTER

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Entertainment Starts at 8:00 p.m.



For questions please call Zia Anklesaria
at (832) 646-0510 or email at
zsankles@gmail.com

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP AND PAY](#)

We request you RSVP and pay online for this event

YUMMY FOOD



If paying by check, your check must be received by 8/17/2015, at:

ZAH

Attn: Shahenshahi Navroze 2015
8787 West Airport Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77071

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Organized By: ZAH Ent. Committee