



Volume 28: Issue 10

October 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: September 13, 2015

Children's Session: Sunday School will be held at 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities and Gujarati will be covered

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

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

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

Sunday, November 1, 2015, noon onwards – ZAH Picnic. Galveston Island State Park. See flyer for details.

Sunday, November 8, 2015 – Annual General Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2015 – Library event

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

Have you responded yet for the ZAH Library Annual Gala on Oct 9,10, 11? Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to listen to renowned speakers on this important topic – **Survivals of Zoroastrians in North America – Potential for a positive outlook**

Dr. Rashna Writer will present the strategic planning required to ensure a thriving Zoroastrian community in the North American diaspora and Roshan Rivetna will present data on population trends, etc. that will highlight the problem before us. She will present action items that will inspire us to action, especially the younger generation. These presentations will be followed by a panel discussion featuring four younger members of our ZAH community in the afternoon. Come and listen to their perspective of the future of

Zoroastrianism in North America – please see below flyer and RSVP to Arnavaz Sethna at ahsethna@yahoo.com as soon as you can. Mailing your checks for the lunch on October 10 in advance will be greatly appreciated **Last Call for Our Annual Gala**

The ZAH Library is in the final stages of organizing its annual gala function on October 9, 10 and 11. The theme: **“Survival of Zoroastrians in North America: Potential for a Positive Outlook”** is hotly debated these days in India as well. The dwindling population of Parsis in India has raised serious concerns, leading to “*Jiyo Parsi*”, a scheme supported by the Government of India to arrest the decline in population of the Parsi Zoroastrian community there. Our focus, however, will be primarily on how the diaspora in North America can thrive and remain a vibrant force for decades to come

We are fortunate to have two outstanding experts who have studied the issues and can present viable alternatives to address this important topic. Dr. Rashna Writer, author of several books and recognized speaker, will present the strategic planning required to ensure a thriving Zoroastrian community in the North American diaspora. Our second speaker, Roshan Rivetna has studied and researched this issue for several years and will present data on population trends, etc. that will highlight the problem before us. She will present action items that will inspire us to action, especially the younger generation.

We are planning to have a “Meet and Greet” for the speakers on Friday, October 9 in the evening. For the potluck dinner, please bring with you a homemade dish to share and enjoy with others. The main program follows on Saturday, October 10. The two talks in the morning session will be followed by a panel discussion featuring four younger members of our community in the afternoon. The panelists: are Zia Anklesaria, Nozer Dungor and Tannaz Macchi who will share with us their perspective of the future of Zoroastrianism in North America. The next day, Sunday, will be a 2-hour informal question-and-answer session.

This event is expected to generate an unusual amount of interest and avid discussion. So please send your RSVPs to Arnavaz Sethna (ahsethna@yahoo.com, or 281-499-1832) as soon as possible. Your early confirmation will also help us in planning for meals and seating accommodation.

Please refer to the flyer for more information on the event, and put these dates on your calendar for an informative and exciting event that is not to be missed.

Generous Donation

We gratefully acknowledge the donation by Shapur K. Irani of Indianapolis, of his entire collection of books to FIRES. He has donated over 200 books in memory of his parents Mr & Mrs Khudamurad Jamshed Irani of Poona, India.

More than 70 books have been packaged and mailed to us already, and the rest will be sent to us as soon as we have rearranged our shelves to make space for them. While some of these books will be duplicates for us, others are rare titles that will be welcome additions to our library. We are delighted and honored that Shapur Irani has chosen us as the repository for his valuable collection.

SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Table Tennis Tournament and Indoor Games Day on Sept 27th, 2015

We would like to acknowledge and thank all those community members who participated in this annual event. We began the day with our juniors going head to head in TT in the 13-18 year group, and the “over-the-hill-gang” (50+ years). A very cute and encouraging sight was the battle between Mahtab Dastur, Natasha Dungor and Darius Dastur in the 5-12 year group. We had carrom boards set up and these were kept busy by the players awaiting their turn at the TT tables.

In the 19-49 category finals, Yazdi Mistry got the better off Kayo Sidhwa, in two very well-fought games. Yazdi will face competition next year in the 50+ category ☺

Percy Behramsha retained the Men’s Single title, beating Faroakh Rakjkot in a well thrilling final. Percy has been the ZAH winner for over 15 years and likes to see others take the spot.

The excitement started to build-up as players got eliminated and we got into the semi-final rounds. Here we took a break for lunch. Lunch was catered by Naushad with a delicious box lunch. Then came the finals. The lone ladies final was won by the unseeded first time entrant Ava Bhatena over another unseeded first time entrant Roshan Engineer. The list of winners in the other categories is given below.

We started the other much anticipated event, "Whist Drive", where 32 participants matched their wits and skills under the able guidance of our favorite MC, Jangoo Mistry and everyone had a lot of fun along with laughter. The winners were Avan Bhatena and Ronnie Sarkari. Our thanks to Jangoo for readily accepting our request to run this event.

Once the Whist Drive was over, it the time for tea and batasas and prize distributions.

Last but not the least, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all our donors for their unstinting support and generosity, as well as the volunteers who helped out.

We would love to see more participation from our community, especially from the youth group, at future Sporting events Positions are open in the Sports Committee for enthusiastic, willing and energetic people to bring our committee in the forefront, which is striving hard to pull the Community together, through Sporting events. This committee will to guide the youth of today in cultivating "responsibility", "organizational skills" and more importantly give them a chance to interact with other committee members. It's a great opportunity – please do join.

[CLICK HERE](#) for some pics of the event

Prize winners (Table Tennis):

| 5-12 yrs | 13-18 yrs | 19-49 yrs | 50+ yrs |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Natasha Dungor (1st)</u> | <u>Yazad Sidhwa (1st)</u> | <u>Yazdi Mistry (1st)</u> | <u>Percy Behramsha (1st)</u> |
| <u>Mahtab Dastur (2nd)</u> | <u>Natalya Mehta (2nd)</u> | <u>Kayo Sidhwa (2nd)</u> | <u>Faroakh Rajkot (2nd)</u> |
| <u>Darius Dastur (3rd)</u> | | | |
| <u>Ethan Gagrat (Special Prize)</u> | | | |

YOUTH REPORT

*By Freya Daroga
President, ZAH Youth Group*

Our regular Sunday school session was the only activity for the youth group during the month of September. The session was conducted by Kaemerz Dotiwalla. At the end of the session, a representative from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center came to give a presentation on the upcoming blood drive that the youth is hosting. The blood drive that we will be organizing, is being held on October 4th from 11 AM to 3 PM. We hope that we will get maximum participation from our ZAH community. Every blood donation can save up to 3 lives!

Also on September 13th after our Sunday school session, we reapplied another coat of paint on our youth room "dry-erase" wall. Although September was relatively uneventful, the rest of the months for the youth calendar are packed with many activities and events.

This year is still only getting started for the youth group. Next month we have a lock-in planned together with the middle group. We hope that this will also strengthen the bond between the two Sunday School age groups.

We have many volunteering activities planned throughout the year as we continue to focus on community service.

We want to thank the entire ZAH community for your ongoing support of our Youth Group, we greatly appreciate it!

MISCELLANEOUS

ZAH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The time has come again when we look for funds to maintain our beautiful Zarathushti and Heritage Cultural Center with dedication and hard work. We are thankful to all our volunteer families who donate their time and money to keep our center looking beautiful.

This year as part of the ZAH Annual Fundraiser:

1. The ZAH Natak troupe will be presenting a rip-roaring, laugh-a-minute English play "Love is in the Air" followed by a delicious dinner. This is one show you don't want to miss. Please book your tickets quickly to get the best seats for the category. See flyer for details and prices.
2. The ZAH Raffle is on, with fabulous prizes to be won !! Drawing will be on 24th Oct at the Annual Fundraiser Natak Show. See below for prizes and attached flyer for more details. Don't miss out on this opportunity to win !!
 - o 1st Prize: Saumsung 46" 1080p LED Smart TV
 - o 2nd Prize: Burgundy Gara Style Sari - machine embroidered
 - o 3rd Prize: Cillie's Delicious Basket
 - o 4th Prize: Amazon Fire 7" TabletRaffle tickets are 1 - \$20 and 3 - \$50. Tickets go on sale at the Ghambar on 10/4/15. For Tickets contact Cyra Kanga (281)969-8057 or Nargis Cooper (713)937-4441. Need not be present to win!
3. As usual, the Mission 2020 Committee is bringing out our souvenir book for the Natak show. Please see attached flyer to find out how you can be part of the souvenir book !!

All proceeds go towards Vision 2020

FEZANA Academic Scholarships, 2015-16 Announced

The 2015-16 FEZANA Academic Scholarships have been awarded. The Academic Scholarship Committee was greatly impressed by the high caliber of applications received. This year, fourteen recipients were awarded scholarships:

BANOOBAI AND MANECKSHAW KAPADIA ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Rohan Chakraborty (**ZAH**)
(University of California - Berkeley)

PURVEZ AND ABAN RUSTOMJI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Friyana Sidhwa (**ZAH**)
(Texas A&M University)

FEZANA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Armene Modi
(Fletcher School, Tufts University)

FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Ratushtar Kapadia
(University of California – Los Angeles)

Tanaz Naterwala
(North Western University)

Kashmin Dalal
(Kent State University)

Jall Cowasji
(TISCH School of Arts, New York University)

Bahman Jamasbi
(University of Virginia)

Rustom Dalal
(Brandeis University)

MEHRABAN AND MORVORID KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP - THE FEZANA SCHOLAR

Parmis Khosravi
(Catholic University of America, Washington DC)

MORVARID GUIV ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Cyrus Patell
(University of Pittsburgh)

Ayesha Rabadi
(Teachers College, Columbia University)

DR. MINOCHER RUSTOM VESUNA WZO CANADA SCHOLARSHIP

Sepideh Noruziaan
(University of Western Ontario)

DOWLET MINOCHER VESUNA WZ O CANADA SCHOLARSHIP

Urvaksh Daver
(University of Ontario Institute of Technology)

XVIII NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS (NAZC)

Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC) has withdrawn from hosting the 2017 XVIII NAZC

ZSBC writes - "As we have explained, the NAZC2017 Executive Committee had made a decision (based on a couple of surveys) to have the 2017 Congress on a cruise ship. Much work went in to this, especially by our young adults. However, subsequently it has been felt that with the large number of seniors and children we have in our community, it would perhaps be better if we had a congress in Vancouver in a hotel. Since 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation, and July 1 is Canada Day, getting suitable hotel space in downtown Vancouver will not be possible at a reasonable price as celebrations will abound throughout the summer and beyond"

FEZANA is requesting all member associations to bid to host the XVIII NAZC.

FEROZE & SHERNAZ BHANDARA DONATE \$300,000 TO ZAGNY DAR-E-MEHR

ZAGNY held a special Fund Raising event on September 2015. Following is partially copied from their Newsletter:

"EduL Daver introduced special guests, **Feroze and Shernaz Bhandara**, who had specially flown in from Houston to grace our event. When invited to address the gathering, Feroze emphasized how impressed he was with the determination and collective effort of the tri state community, which had inspired them to participate in this legacy project. Amidst cheering, applause and a standing ovation, **Feroze and Shernaz announced a very generous contribution of \$300,000** to our new Dar-e-Mehr building! EduL Daver extended a heartfelt thanks to the Bhandara's on behalf of the tri state community, saying "it is people like you who make a difference in this world and we salute you for your very generous donation."

A & T Directory Update for Ex Pakistani Zarathushtis

A & T Directory Update for Ex Pakistani Zarathushtis in the US/Canada.

Calling all ex Pakistani Zarathushtis... Please send your updated information for the rear of the A & T directory printed in Karachi of our community who live in Pakistan, but you whom we consider 'ours' are also included. Please do not write your children's names. Only those who lived in Pakistan and now are in the US. All that is required:

Last Name _____
First Name _____
Name of spouse nee _____
town-city _____
State _____
Country _____
Email ids _____

Please e-mail the above information positively by October 10, 2015 to toxy39@gmail.com

OBITUARY

Jamshed Limki, husband of Freny Limki, passed away early morning of September 21, 2015. Sarosh prayers will be held at the ZHCC on September 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m.

MANASHNI and its readers convey their heartfelt condolences to the Limki family

ZAH Library Presents

Survival of Zoroastrians in North America: Potential for a Positive Outlook

October 9-11, 2015



Decades Hence: Whither North America's Zoroastrians ?

Rashna Writer

Dr Rashna Writer is the author of *Contemporary Zoroastrians: An Unstructured Nation* (1994), co-author of *The Memoirs of Keikhhrow Shahrokh* (1994), and *The Reshaping of Iran from Zoroastrian to Muslim* (2013). She will discuss the strategic planning it requires to ensure a thriving Zoroastrian community in the North America diaspora. Considering the long-term future of the community in its new settings, she will provide analysis of the micro Houston community and the macro North American Zoroastrian



Demographics Determines Destiny: Charting our Course in North America

Roshan Rivetna

Roshan Rivetna is deeply committed to perpetuating the Zarathushti religion and traditions of the diaspora. Roshan will present FEZANA's recent demographic study of worldwide Zoroastrians with a focus on North America. The study has interesting observations on population trends, births, deaths, marriages, conversions and immigration patterns. She will present action items to address current concerns, to inspire our next generation and to strengthen our community on this continent.

Zarathushti Heritage &
Cultural Center
8787 W. Airport Blvd

Do not miss this unique and exciting opportunity to
participate in issues that will define our future—issues
that are vital to our survival.

Contact: Arnavaz Sethna
Phone: 281 499 1832 or
<ahsethna@yahoo.com>
Lunch—\$10.00
Lectures are FREE

PROGRAM

Friday Oct. 9

6:30 pm— Meet & Greet

7:00 pm—Welcome

Rashna Writer

Roshan Rivetna

Rohinton Rivetna

8:00 pm—Potluck dinner

Saturday Oct. 10

9:30 am Tea

10:00 am Roshan Rivetna

11:30 pm Rashna Writer

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Youth Panel &
Discussion

Zia Anklesaria

Nozer Dungor

Tannaz Machhi

Sunday, Oct. 11

1:00 pm Informal session

Rashna Writer



LIBRARY

With cooperation of Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

ZAH Raffle

Win awesome prizes while supporting the ZAH

Tickets: 1 for \$20 or 3 for \$50

1st Prize : Samsung 46" 1080p Smart LED TV



2nd Prize : Burgundy Sari
Parsi style machine embroidered with
fully embroidered Palloo (includes
matching blouse material and petticoat).



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

ZAH Presents it's Annual Fundraiser.....

"LOVE IS IN THE AIR" a rip roaring laugh-a-minute 2-Act play

All proceeds go towards

VISION 2020



Phase III A
Purvez Rustomji
Room, Classroom

Kitchen, Bathroom
and Parking Lot
Upgrade

Building
Maintenance
Reserve



Tickets now on Sale and can be purchased by calling or emailing Cyra Kanga
Home – (281) 969-8057, Cell – (713) 598-7579, Email – crkanga@yahoo.com

Ticket prices – VIP seating 150.00/100.00/50.00/35.00 (Limited viewing)

Ticket prices include dinner, dessert and tea at the end of the show

So don't wait..... Book your tickets now.....this is one show y'all don't want to miss

Date : October 24th, 2015

Time : 7:30 pm sharp

Place : ZHCC, 8787 W Airport Blvd, Houston TX



**Laugh the night away
While you help us reach our goals**



ZAH PICNIC

GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK
Sunday November 1, 2015
Noon onwards

ENJOY A DAY OF FUN, GAMES, AND FOOD IN SUN'n'SAND

FUN ITEMS TO BRING ALONG: Frisbees, sand games, soccer ball, football, beach umbrellas, canopy, fishing supplies and other activity items.

POTLUCK: PLEASE BRING A FOOD ITEM TO SHARE:
Covered Entree or similar food item to share. Please do not bring: Cakes, Cookies, Pies, Soda, etc. in lieu of your covered dish Dessert and soda will be provided. Please bring your water bottles, juices, and ice-chests.

DOGS PERMITTED ON LEASH

BRING YOUR BEACH UMBRELLAS, CANOPY, FISHING GEAR & CHAIRS

STATE PARK CHARGES (No ZAH Charges)

\$5 person 13 yrs. and over; 12 yrs. and under free; Over 65: \$3 with Texas I.D.

Address: 14901 Farm to Market 3005 Galveston, TX 77554
Phone: (409) 737-1222

DIRECTIONS FROM HOUSTON

I-45 South towards Galveston. Exit 61st Street. Make a right at the light. At the sea-wall make a right and drive 10 miles, and arrive to Galveston Island State Park entrance on the left. Pay fee at park entrance, and come to the picnic tables area to join in the fun!!!

