

Volume 28: Issue 12

December 2015

The **MANASHNI** team wishes its reader Happy Holiday season and Best Wishes for the New Year

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: December 13, 2015

Children's Session: Sunday School will be held at 10:30 a.m. Topic will be Ahura Mazda's 101 names. Gujarati will also 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

Saturday, January 30, 2016 *Jashn'e'Sadeh – Details will be announced later*

Saturday, February 27, 2016 *International Night*

Saturday, March 19, 2016 *Dal Pori Bake*

Monday, March 21, 2016 *Jamshed-i-Navroze Humbandagi and Maachi*

Thursday, March 24, 2016 *Ava Yazad Parab Jashan*

Saturday, March 26, 2016 *Jamshed-i-Navroze Celebration*

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Percy Master – Secretary

Your Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend the ZAH Annual General Body Meeting on November 8, 2015. We welcome our new Treasurer, Ms. Mitra Khumbatta,

on-board and thank Kayomarz Sidhwa for his hard work over the past four years. We also welcome back Aderbad Tamboli and Zeeba Kayani for their second term.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind members that ZAH memberships expire at the end of this calendar year, and urge all members to renew your membership for the 2016 calendar year. As always, memberships renewed via the ZAH website by January 31, 2016, will avoid a credit card surcharge.

We look forward to another entertaining and interesting year ahead for ZAH, and would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our members a very happy holiday season.

Your Executive Committee,
Diana Balsara, Rohintan Deputy, Sheroy Haveliwala, Zeeba Kayani, Mitra Khumbatta, Aderbad Tamboli, and Percy M. Master

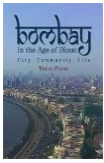
LIBRARY REPORT

By Aban Rustomji

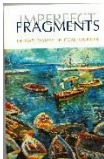
Wishing all of our members a happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year! We look forward to bringing you exciting programs in 2016.

Each month we add to our book collection and we hope you will get time to read a new book or be inspired to try a new recipe from our cookbook section, or browse through copies of FEZANA Journal, Parsiana or Hamazor.

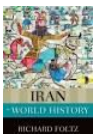
Here are three new books added to our collection:



Bombay in the Age of Disco by Tinaz Pavri is a personal and historically powerful memoir that weaves together the experiences and aspirations of a young girl and a city on the cusp of this transformation. Tina Pavri is a professor of Political Science at Spelman College in Atlanta.



Imperfect Fragments by Deenaz P. Coachbuilder is a collection of reflective, intimate poems that draw upon the wisdom of the authors Zoroastrian faith, the sensual literary traditions of her native India, and the invigorating contradictions of living in modern California. It is a book that can easily be picked up and turned open at any page: closing it is much more difficult. Deenaz is a resident of Riverside, California, since 1981.



Iran in World History by Richard Foltz offers a comprehensive history of one of the world's most influential civilizations and offers nuanced examples of its continuing role in the world today. In this book, Richard Foltz traces the spread of Iranian culture among diverse populations ranging from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, and along the Silk Roads as far as China, from prehistoric times up to the present day, encompassing religion, literature, the arts, and politics.

YOUTH REPORT

By Katie Master

Secretary, ZAH Youth Group

The Zoroastrian Association of Houston Youth Group strives to assist our community and provide a growing precedent to all the younger ages. This past month of November has been no different in terms of our working towards a better community and maintaining strong ties to our fellow Zarathushtis. On November 7th-8th, we had hosted a joint lock-in with our Middle Group class in order to blur the divide that we often see between distinctive age groups.

We had a plethora of informational sessions given by our very own Sarosh Collector, our member Rayhan Nariman, and Dr. Farrokh Mistree who attended to inform us on college readiness. While Sarosh Uncle's session pertained to the history of our religion and our origin as a culture, Rayhan's consisted of modern

Parsis and their influence on the world. The two polar opposite topics widened the spectrum and brought light to how old, rich, and influential our culture and religion have been, not only on us but others as well.

The day was followed by dinner and free time in which the kids were able to bond with everyone. Branching out to a larger Zoroastrian community, specifically Dallas, we are attending a lock-in there November 27th-28th. This is a great opportunity to maintain and rekindle friendships across the state and eventually the country. The days will be full of educational study sessions along with break dancing and scavenger hunts. We hope that this turns out to be a success just like the lock-ins in the past.

Not forgetting about our mission to assist the community, we hosted a canned food drive during the night of the lock-in and the following day which held an AGM. We decided on hosting a canned food drive because it is something the most people have the access to participate in, not to mention the severe need of food in our local community. In total we collected 180-210 cans and nonperishable items to donate to our local Houston Food Bank. Drives are simple and easy ways to promote community involvement and assist our local community who can be less fortunate than us. We plan to do more drives in the future.

In the upcoming month of December we will be hosting our annual Christmas Party. This is always a hit with all age groups because everyone is involved and surrounded by Christmas joy. We hope to make it another success with our games, Christmas card making, eating, and spread of tons of Christmas joy. Come join us December 13.

MISCELLANEOUS

ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE TO ZAH

Dear Community members,
Hope you all are doing well. As you all know, we always try to look for different avenues to raise funds and acquire donations for our Center & one of the initiatives was introducing **AmazonSmile**.

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, 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 go to our home page on our website <http://zah.org/> and click on the link on the left hand side or shop on AmazonSmile at [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1945923](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1945923). This is a really quick and easy way for some good change that we are eligible to and need to take full advantage of.

Here are some FAQs:

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to our home page on our website <http://zah.org/> and click on the link on the left hand side or go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to sign in and select **Zoroastrian Association of Houston** as your charity to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you. Your purchases would enable AmazonSmile Foundation to give 0.5% back to ZAH.

Kayo Sidhwa

On behalf of Vision2020 Committee

COOK BOOK FUNDRAISER

By Farzana Sidhwa

WE DID IT! We set a goal at the beginning of this year and we not only achieved it but exceeded our own expectations. We collected more than \$5,800 (Net) from our Middle Group Cookbook fundraising efforts and handed over all the proceeds to ZAH for the new middle group room. The books were not only sold within the ZAH members but also to various other communities in Houston and outside Houston as well as overseas.

All this was possible only with your unstinted support and help and we sincerely thank you for that. We are sure all of you have already started using those recipes and are preparing some yummy dishes to soothe your palette and satisfy your tummies because we sure have. Our recipes have reached as far as India and Pakistan and please don't be surprised if you see some of them during the Master Chef and Iron Chef shows, haha!

We would like to convey our heartfelt thanks to all the donors for their magnanimous contributions as well as the entire community for buying those books as, without which this fundraising drive would not have been successful at all. Our kids are simply ecstatic because they feel so proud of what they have achieved and how they have contributed to the well-being of ZAH. Our special thanks to Tanaz Chaudhary for assisting us with the sale of books to communities outside ZAH.

Finally, a big thank you to all the EC members, our respected Middle Group Sunday School teachers and our sub-committees for supporting this great initiative undertaken by our Middle Group students of 2014-2015.

Middle Group Cookbook Fundraising Committee

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

CRICKET ANYONE?

It's time for our annual cricket event. Come and play (no previous experience necessary!!). Don't want to or can't play? No problem!! You don't have to play to attend. Just come to watch and enjoy the on field drama or just heckle the players in true Parsi Gymkhana tradition!!

DO NOT MISS this last Sports Event of 2015 if you want to take off the extra pounds put on during the Holiday Season.

Sign up right now on the ZAH website (www.ZAH.org) to register and do not forget to mention in the Comments box whether you will play or not. This will help the selectors in forming the teams.

When: Sunday Dec 13, 2015 from 10:30 am

Only \$15 per person (10 years and up) if registering by Dec 7th. \$20 from Dec 8th. Children 5-9 years \$7 per child.

Registration includes Dhansak/kebab lunch and afternoon tea with patties.

WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual Report - 2015

The WZCC – Houston Chapter had a successful 2015 in which we conducted five seminars, including an event that focused on the Zoroastrian youth. In order to offer value to our members, we continued to provide them with a discount at all WZCC events. Each event was well attended and we received positive feedback from our members about the value provided by the seminars. The seminars were as follows:

- Wealth Strategies – Challenging Conventional Wisdom
Mr. Farokh Billimoria, President of WealthCare Advisors, discussed strategies to increase an individual's net worth, help people invest wisely, increase income in the current environment of low interest rates, keep more of what you make by reducing income taxes, and most of all, allow you to sleep well at night!
- Advice to Minorities - Climbing the Ladder of Success in Corporate America
This seminar offered a unique opportunity for WZCC members to learn from real-life experiences of a distinguished professional. Mr. Krishna Shivram, CFO of Weatherford International Ltd., shared his personal experiences as a minority immigrant succeeding in corporate America. His anecdotes were sprinkled with advice such as "be fearless, seek out challenges, be flexible, be a generalist with a broad perspective, be eager to keep learning, and be ready to function in a global environment".
- Kool Careers – Zoroastrian Youth Camp
Cyrus Irani, Sonia Behrana-Rash, Phiroze Divecha and Zeba Colah, spoke to the Zoroastrian youth about their careers and the path they took to become successful professionals. The youth were very engaged and got some good learnings from the four young professionals. After the discussions, the youth were asked to come up with a career option they thought will be a Kool Career of the future, and present it. Careers presented by the youth ranged from auto safety to intergalactic development.
- Commercial Real Estate Investing
Mr. Nadir Dhanani, who started as a cashier at a gas station and worked his way to become a very successful real estate investor, presented a topic on Commercial Real Estate Investing. He provided very detailed insights into different types of commercial real estate investments such as medical facilities, shopping strips, buildings, hotels, land, etc. and he discussed the return on investment that can be expected for the various investments. He also discussed how to obtain bank loans, the business entities that can be set up for partnerships, the typical items that should be included in tenant leases, and the types of expenses that can be incurred by the property owners. He also compared commercial real estate investing to residential property investments and Real Estate Investment Trusts.
- Investing in the Fast Food Restaurant Business
Mr. Ricki Oberoi, who has spent over 25 years as an owner and operator of restaurants, provided a very informative and entertaining seminar on investing in the fast food restaurant business. He currently owns nine Wendy's restaurants, and has plans to acquire four additional restaurants in 2016. He discussed his passion for the food business, the quality of employees that he hires, the training that he provides to his employees, and the superior customer service that his team provides. Mr. Oberoi also discussed how to select the appropriate franchise that meets your needs, the royalties/maintenance/upgrade costs that a franchisee can expect, whether to own the property on which the restaurant is located, and the typical margins on various food and drink items.

In accordance with the mission of the WZCC, we intend to continue to offer informational programs in 2016 that are of practical use to our members. In addition to seminars such as Mental Health and Well Being, we are also planning a field visit to an industrial facility in 2016.

We wish our WZCC family a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.

Best Regards,

WZCC – Houston Chapter
Executive Committee

BIRTH

Baby boy, Jehan, 7 lbs 1 oz, born to Zareen and Sajith Ranasinghe on October 26 (Roj Adar, Mah Khordad). Both mother and son are doing fine. Grandparents Anoo & Jangoo Mistry and Great Grandmother Jerbanoo Bhadha are extremely delighted.



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

TEL (h): _____ TEL (other): _____

E.Mail: _____

CATEGORY OF MEMBERS (PLEASE TICK ONLY ONE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY)

PATRON MEMBER. – FAMILY	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
PATRON MEMBER – SINGLE	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
PATRON MEMBER – FAMILY SENIOR	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
PATRON MEMBER – SINGLE SENIOR	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
FAMILY MEMBER	\$275.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
FAMILY ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$275.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.....	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SINGLE MEMBER.....	\$135.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER.....	\$ 65.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER	\$ 40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
STUDENT MEMBER	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Surcharges

MANASHNI SURCHARGE - FOR PRINTED/MAILED COPIES	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SURCHARGE (ONLY IF PAYING BY VISA/MASTERCARD)	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

NO SURCHARGE IF PAID BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2016

DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

FAMILY MEMBER: PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18

FAMILY SENIOR MEMBER: WHERE ONE SPOUSE IS OVER THE AGE OF 65

SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER: AN INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 65

SINGLE MEMBER: AN UNMARRIED INDIVIDUAL OVER THE AGE OF 18

SINGLE MEMBER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: SINGLE PARENT WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: CALENDAR YEAR – JANUARY TO DECEMBER

PLEASE SELECT THE CATEGORY APPLICABLE TO YOU AND MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

ZAH Treasurer,
8787 W. Airport Blvd.
Houston, TX 77071

We also accept VISA and MasterCard credit cards; however kindly note that a \$10 surcharge will be levied on all credit card charges (donations exempted) to cover our additional processing costs.



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

Credit Card Form

Only complete if paying by credit card

Name: _____
(as it appears on card)

Card:
(please circle only one)



Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____
(mm/yyyy)

Signature: _____