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OFFICE 713-963-4229

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TIME: Different timings for each group

DATE: November 12, 2023

Children's Session: The Sunday School session starts at 11:00 a.m. in-person and by Zoom

Middle Group: The Sunday School session at 11:00 a.m. – in-person & by Zoom



Youth Group: The Sunday School session at 10:00 a.m. In person



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Party by Youth Group – Sunday 10, 2023 after SS
New Year's Eve Gala – Sunday December 31, 2023 (See Flyer)
Jashn-e-Sadeh – Saturday, January 27, 2024
Report on Gen Z project – February 24, 2024
Navroze Hambandagi – Thursday, March 21, 2024
Navroze function – Saturday, March, 23, 2024
North American Zarathushti Congress – December 29, 2024 to January 1, 2025

REPORTS

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

An Abridged report Excerpted from the Full Report of the 24th Annual Lecture Series of ZAH Library/FIRES by Jangoo Mistry

The much-awaited 24th Lecture Series of the ZAH Library/FIRES was held on Friday, November 10, and Saturday, November 11.

Friday, November 10

Friday evening was a Meet-and-Greet session for our featured speaker Jenny Rose. After light refreshment, the evening began with Aban Rustomji, Chair of the ZAH Library Committee, welcoming all the attendees. Aban introduced all the members of the Library Committee with a special recognition of the two new members Nazanin Sarkari and Sharmeen Mehri. We appreciated the presence of FEZANA President ArZan Wadia from New York and Aderbad Tamboli, Chairperson, ZAH.

Introduced by Aban, Jenny Rose, gave an informal talk on her background. Her grandmother was a Parsi from Rawalpindi. Jenny grew up in London and attended a university course taught by the famous Mary Boyce. This sparked an interest that led to her eventual doctorate in Ancient Iranian Studies from Columbia University. The evening ended with a scrumptious potluck dinner. A word of appreciation for that. Every

ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairman
Percy Master – Secretary
Farokh Billimoria – Treasurer

Zia Anklesaria – Member
Nikita Gagrati – Members
Kershaw Khumbatta – Member
Fiona Setna – Member

Nazanin Sarkari – FEZANA Rep

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar
Buchia, Kyrus
Dastur, Barjor M
Dastur, Darius B
Desai, Farrokh
Firozgari, Bahrom
Gonda, Pervez
Kanga, Neville
Katrak, Rayomand
Katrak, Vispi
Khumbatta, Noshir
Kotwal, Zubin
Masani, Dara
Nariman, Khushrav
Pavri, Shapur
Sanjana, Bahmanshah
Sanjana, Kurush
Sidhwa, Kayomarz
Sidhwa, Maneck
Sidhwa, Yazad
Unwalla, Peshotan
Vimadalal, Freyaan
Vimadalal, Khushroo

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**LIBRARY EVENT
NOVEMBER 10, 2023**



potluck dinner the ZAH Library has sponsored has always been amply supported. We are truly grateful to our community for their generous support and efforts.

Saturday, November 11

Introduced by Sharmeen Mehri, Jenny gave her featured talk: *"Sheer-e-Shireen: Zoroastrians adding Sugar in the Milk"*, which was the basis of "good thoughts, good words, good deeds". Jenny remarked that this came to life with the tangible actions she witnessed in several areas across the globe – from sharing food at the Maidyozarem Gahambar in Taft, Iran to cooking Sirogh during Humbandagi at the California Zoroastrian Center. Her talk was followed by brief remarks on the Ava project by Mahtab Dastur and Natasha Dungor, two Houston teenagers who are active participants in this FEZANA project. A Breakout Session conducted by Jangoo Mistry followed Jenny's talk.

At the Breakout Session, groups of people seated at their tables were asked to focus on three questions and come up with simple, sustainable actions that could be implemented by the attendees. Numerous practical examples and suggestions were reported at the end of the breakout session. These have been gathered by the Library Committee and will be shared in the Special Edition of Manashni to be published shortly.

After the lunch break, introduced by Nazanin Sarkari, Meheryar Rivetna spoke on: *"Politics and Power- the Birth of the Younger Avesta"*. Meheryar started by defining the difference between what the Older and Younger Avesta contained. Zarathustra, not wanting to accept traditions with blind faith, set out to acquire wisdom and determine for himself what the truth was. With the knowledge he received, Zarathustra preached a monotheistic religion and proclaimed Ahura Mazda to be the one and only God and Creator.

Tracing history from Cyrus the Great establishing the Achaemenid Empire, Meheryar related the decline and fall of the Zoroastrian religion. Separation of the church and state, as proclaimed by Cyrus the Great, was abandoned and the scheming Magi, through infiltration into the political structure of the times, became self-appointed true custodians of the Zoroastrian religion. Creating the Young Avesta, they gave us their version of the Niyashes and Yashts that have come down to us today. Citing numerous scholars and priests of our religion, Meheryar reiterated that the Gathas were the only genuine compositions of Zarathustra.

During the question-and-answer period, Barjor Dastur had a different view of history and presented to the community the views of other scholars regarding the origins of religious scriptures besides the holy Gathas.

The 80+ people who attended had a rewarding experience and felt that their time spent during the day was well worth it.

Please note that these are just the highlights of the event. A Special Manashni Edition, exclusively for this event, will be published shortly to give the Members the feel for the quality events that are produced by ZAH Library/FIRES

ATASH KADEH



BOYE



BEHRAM ROJ JASHAN



BEHRAM ROJ SPONSORS



ATASH KADEH NEWS – For October 2023

By: Persis Behramsha

October teased us with a few days of pleasant weather giving us hope to experience more outdoor activities.

An anonymous donor sponsored the October 1, 2023 Gambhar for which we are very grateful and thank them from our community, for their generosity. Our donors, sponsors, volunteers and supporters are the backbone of the Atash Kadeh and our entire community, without whom we would not be where we are today. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you !!!

The monthly Behram Roj Jashan for October was graciously sponsored by Naaz Irani and Farhad Pundole. The scrumptious food after the Jashan was an added bonus as always. It is very heartening to see the chitter chatter and the camaraderie between all. May we always be able to enjoy this for a very long time.

As most of you know the Atash Kadeh has initiated a Gatha Study Group. We had the second one this month and it was a very interesting and interactive session. Meheryar Rivetna leads this 1-hour lectures, with presentations. He brings a lot of information through his extensive study of Zarathushtra's teachings, and we are happy he has offered to share his knowledge with our community. Please come and attend at least one session to see what information you can gain and let us know what you would like to see. We request our Youth to attend these sessions and give us your input and let us know what you would like to learn. Each of us gains from the interaction and the fun, sometimes dramatic, exchange during and at the end of these sessions.

We are already getting requests for Behram Roj Jashans for 2024. If you and your family and friends would like to sponsor please let us know if you have a preferred month that you would like to host. Besides the Behram Roj, we also encourage folks to pick Parab days of your liking to sponsor Jashans.

As always, we can perform Machis, Jashans, and any other prayers remotely and Zoom them so anyone can participate from anywhere. We are blessed with wonderful Mobeds, Ervad Pervez Gonda and Ervad Maneck Sidhwa, who work hard to serve our Atash Kadeh with utmost dedication. Thank you.

Special thanks to all those who quietly do what they have been doing constantly, without need for recognition and without expecting anything in return. ***You are our treasured volunteers.***

Ushta Te
The Atash Kadeh Committee

DALLAS LOCK-IN 2022



YOUTH GROUP REPORT

By: Mahtab B Dastur

The Youth Group has many exciting things coming up! In the month of November, on the weekend of the 18th and 19th, the ZAH middle and youth group are attending the annual ZANT lock-in in Dallas. In December on Sunday School Day, December 10th, the Youth Group will host it's annual Christmas Party – all Sunday School Groups are welcome!

This year during the Christmas Party, the Youth is also participating in ZYNA's annual "Attitude for Gratitude" drive, so please bring any new or gently used warm clothes, toys, and shoes you may have to donate on December 10th!

GOLDEN GROUP LUNCH AT BISMILLAH



MISCELLANEOUS

GOLDEN GROUP OUTING

OH, FOR A PORA AT BISMILLAH!

By Jehanbux R Mehta

Who in his right mind would order an omelet for lunch and that too at a restaurant better known for its chaats, dahi baras and curries? Well, let me surprise, or perhaps shock, you. Several did, recalling the lunch at Bismillah's in November 2019. This time around, the egg concoction, a noteworthy imitation of a Parsi *pora*, though smaller in size was nevertheless bursting with onions, diced tomatoes, green chillies and coriander. Would have made Jerbai and Pilamai proud. Mamma too.

There was otherwise a wide variety of mouth watering items to choose from the vast menu. Many among our Group succumbed to the crispy gol gappas generously filled with kabuli chana & diced potatoes dripping with *khatti-mitthi* chutney. Dahi baras also looked, and were, appetizing. For the brave among us, the spicy biryani and even spicier karahi chicken. For them, help, in the form of cold mango lassi, was at hand.



A restaurant is a public place, but that did not deter us from our usual merry making. The loud banter drove the other clientele to the far end of the hall, leaving us happily to ourselves in our cozy nook. After lunch, our new members, Anoo and Jangoo Mistry, were introduced. Although our team mate, Diana Balsara, had indicated that she would be out of town, she nevertheless had made sure that everybody would be seated together in one place, making it possible for Anita Kavina, to tease us with a game that required making objects from paper napkins. Arrows aplenty. boats too, including one with its broadside listing, reminding one of the ill-fated Titanic. Could have won a prize had it been so named. The ingenious among the group made commendable effort at crafting something out of the ordinary. Anoo Mistry topped them with a beautiful fan, Thrity Spencer with a trinkets container and Perry Surkari a boat with a keel. Prizes consisting useful paper products were awarded.

GOLDEN GROUP



This was followed by a short quiz relating to paper. Those who got five correct of the six questions, including who invented paper and when, were rewarded with prizes of paper products.

The food having been (nearly) digested, it was time to say goodbye to each other. What a pity that we seniors must leave to catch up on our afternoon nap. But, that's how it is.

GORDAFARID THE FEARLESS WARRIOR

A CAPTIVATING STORY ABOUT THE BETRAYAL OF LOVE...



GORDAFRID – THE FEARLESS WARRIOR

A Noteworthy Production

By: Jangoo Mistry

The Zarathushti Dinner Theater Group presented their latest play: **“Gordafarid - The Fearless Warrior”** at the ZHCC on November 4, 2023. A hundred and eighty-five ZAH community members and friends attended the event. The excitement had been mounting for months prior to the actual date, and the audience was notably impressed and appreciative.

The play, based on historical events, narrated the dramatic story of love, war, and betrayal from the Shahnameh featuring Gordafarid, Rustom and Sohrab. For an hour and a half, the audience sat riveted and impressed – watching the drama unfold, especially enjoying their friends and family members as they turned into thespians on stage. Featuring a cast of almost twenty, the play was supported by another group of twenty or so dedicated backstage crew who handled the gorgeous costumes, audio visuals, and stunning stage settings.

The play, followed by a scrumptious dinner, Bingo, and raffles, made for an evening that helped raise over **\$12,755.22** (in net proceeds) towards the NAZC in Houston next year. Kudos to all who put in so much effort for several months, especially to the untiring efforts of the talented Shahnaz Sidhwa who wrote and directed this amazing production.

The Zarathushti Dinner Theater Group would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our community who participated and/or contributed towards the resounding success of this event!

See Play pictures of the Play on Page 9

WEDDING

Viraf Nariman, son of Manek and Khushrav Nariman was married to **Catrina Falabella**, daughter of Ava and William Falabella on October 7, 2023, in Brooklyn, New York. The wedding was followed by a reception in Houston on October 28, 2023. We wish the newlyweds a lifetime of good health and happiness.

VIRAF & CATRINA



MOVING WATERS



MOBILE SHOWERS



ITEMS DONATED



MOBILE UNIT



GOOD DEED PROJECT FOR ZAH

Emanating from the talk by Jenny Rose on Philanthropy/Good Deed at the ZAH Library's 24th Lecture Series event, Roshan Engineer advised us of the non-profit organization named *Moving Waters*. This project immediately caught the attention of the members present, and Roshan was requested to give a write-up for the Manashni to publicize this project to the entire ZAH community via Manashni.

Project *Moving Waters*
By: Roshan Engineer

In the true spirit of our Zoroastrian community, doing its Good Deeds by way of serving our greater Houston area and making our Zoroastrian faith more visible as we play our part in DEI: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, I'd like to suggest that we support the non-profit Organization named *Moving Waters*. *Moving Waters* provides mobile showers to homeless folks restoring their dignity "one shower at a time".

I learnt about it last year from our Houston Methodist Sugar Land project and did our own collection of toiletries and cash donations thanks to our friends.... then Yezdi and I personally delivered a whole carload to add on to the HMSL effort. It was a truly touching, humbling & rewarding experience! I have vowed to introduce this cause to as many folks as I can.

This past October they had a collection drive they named 'Socktober' with the goal of collecting socks, bras, underwear to their 'guests' that they serve with friendly care & respect. Please visit www.movingwaters-houston.org to look up more details. Yezdi took some pictures of our visit which are attached.

Last year, they had 2 mobile units and were trying to raise funds to purchase a third one. On designated days, they are offered a spot in the parking lot of churches/businesses where they hook up the shower van to their water supply, they try to get to different areas to reach and serve our underprivileged brethren.

Please, let us do a collection drive in time to deliver cash donations, socks, bras, underwear – all sizes. However, the most and urgently needed items are large bottles of shower gel/body wash, shampoo and conditioner. The *Moving Waters* provide 600 showers a month and these items go very fast. Please contact me at roshanyengineer@gmail.com and Yezdi and I shall be happy to deliver the items and donate in the name of Zoroastrian Association. Cash donations may be made directly online.

In fact, this very afternoon, some friends promptly handed me some cash which I am sending on to MW online in the name of our ZAH.

I'm sure our generous folks will support this worthy cause. Maybe we can even make a trip to go visit one of their locations to see them in action!

**LADIES OF YORE
MOTHER & DAUGHTER**



**PARSI LADIES
CIRCA 1865**



A ROMANTIC STORY OF YORE

Story of the Wedding of Firozabanoo (Chapter 7 Kassa-e-Gulistanbanoo)

The Author of *Mumbai Bahar* and historian writes that Rustom Dorabji Patel was married three times. The first wife died and he remarried a second wife. And even though he had become middle-aged, he did not have any sons to carry on his name.

Rustomji's third marriage to *Firoza* was under strange circumstance. It is said that this Iranian lady had just come to Mumbai from Iran, and the reason for her coming to Mumbai was to get away from being persecuted. To escape from the religious persecution and oppression, her father Shiavakh (bin Dinyar) and her mother Ferangez, together with their three sons, converted to Islam, but kept their two daughters hidden from the oppressors who lived as Zarathushtis. The father wanted to send the daughters to Mumbai to get them married off to Zarathushtis. While Shiavakhsh was thinking about how to send his daughters to Mumbai, he came across a German traveler whose name could not be determined. This traveler happened to be a very respectable person and Shiavakh put his two daughters in his hands to take to Mumbai and leave them with someone reliable in a Parsi locality.

The German traveler himself showed a desire to marry one of them and take the other sister to Mumbai and leave her with some reliable Parsi family. Shiavakh and the girls agreed to this arrangement – rather than get caught and be under abject conditions of the Muslims, one girl accepted to marry the German whereas the other preferred to travel with this German traveler to Mumbai and get married to a Zarathushti. They came to Mumbai where the German left the girl in charge of a respectable Parsi trader, Bhikha Behram, with a request to get her married off to a person of her choice and went to Germany with the other sister as his bride with her consent.

The girl who stayed in Mumbai was Firoza. She was born on Roj 15, Mah 7, of YZ 1097 (Saturday 2nd May 1728 AD).

Where the present day Forbes Street in Fort area is, at that time, there was a pond by a Policemen's quarters. There, in the evening, many Parsis used to come in the evening to relax by the water. Here, Bhikha Behram brought Firoza to find a husband for her. Firoza looked at people sitting there but kept looking at Rustomji Dorabji Patel and went and held his hand. Rustomji got upset and got up and went away from this woman. But Firoza refused to look at anyone else who was sitting there. The next day Bhikha Behram again brought Firoza but Rustomji Patel had not come that evening, again, Firoza refused to look at anyone else and said that she will only marry the person whom she had seen the day before. Many people got together and persuaded and explained to him that he should really consider marrying her, particularly since he does not have any kids and that she may be able to give him the sons that he wanted. With this kind of pressure, Rustom Dorabji agreed and they were married. (History of the first Parsi Patels (Mumbai na pehela Parsi Patel-o ni tavarikh, Pages 14-15)

Firozabanu bore four sons. Kavasji, Dorabji, Kaikhushru & Tehmulji

Register [HERE](#) to avail of *Early Bird* Rate

NAZC2024HOUSTON

Presents

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE BALL

Sunday 12.31.2023 8pm – 1am at ZAH



- Door Prizes
- Best Mask/Dress prizes
- Games
- Balloon Drop
- Champagne Toast



Open Bar

Catering By



Early Bird Special
Over 11 - \$99
3-11 - \$49
Under 3 - Free
Ends 12/10/23



DJ GARY

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info@djgarylive.com

www.djgarylive.com

RSVP at <https://zah.org/events/zah-event-2>

Call Arzin @ (713) 679-4998 or Kayo (832) 802-3036 for more info

Regular Price: Over 11:\$125, 3-11:\$75, Under 3 – Free
Registration closes 12/20/23 or when capacity reached

Register early- Limited capacity
Walk Ins - \$5,000 pp cash only

GORDAFRID: THE FEARLESS WARRIOR
A PLAY FROM SHAHNAMEH BY SHAHNAZ SIDHWA



Tehmina & Rustom



King & Queen of Samangan



Mahtab Dastur Narrating Gordafarid story



Some Exhibits