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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: July 7, 2024

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

- Saturday, July 20, 2024 – Youth Fundraiser
- Thursday, August 15, 2024 – Navroze Hambandagi
- Saturday, August 17, 2024 – Navroze Function
- Sunday, September 29, 2024 – Maedhyozarem & Fasli Mehrgan Gahambar
- NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS – Dec 29, 2024 – Jan 1, 2025**

REPORTS

LIBRARY REPORT

By: Jangoo Mistry

A Tale of Two Events

We had been advertising for months about the Sarah Stewart event on July 12. But as luck would have it, we were all barreled over by Hurricane Beryl, which left us for days with no power and internet.

Nevertheless, our intrepid Library Committee went the extra mile and made the necessary arrangements, only to find out that Sarah could not travel due to a bad cold and laryngitis. With heavy hearts, we had to email and call all attendees, informing them of the unfortunate cancellation. While we apologize for the inconvenience to those who had planned to attend, we truly appreciate everyone's understanding and patience.

However, the second part of the FIRES event, the Gen Z Report, carried on despite all odds. Fortuitously, Edul Davar and ArZan Wadia made the trip down from New York. Their presentation was nothing short of revealing, shedding light on the perspectives and aspirations of our younger generation.

ZAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Aderbad Tamboli – Chairman
Percy Master – Secretary
Lyla Daroga – Treasurer
Zia Anklesaria – Member
Nikita Gagrat – Member
Zubin Mistry – Member
Fiona Setna – Member
Nazanin Sarkari – FEZANA Rep

OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar
Buchia, Kyrus
Dastur, Barjor M
Dastur, Darius B
Desai, Farrokh
Firozgary, 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

BEHRAM ROJ SPONSORS COLLECTOR FAMILY



Following the presentation, the question-and-answer session was vibrant and engaging, with members of all ages participating actively. It was heartening to see such enthusiastic involvement, and the discussions were both to the point and thought-provoking.

A full report on this insightful session will be presented in the next issue of Manashni.

Meanwhile, to all our loyal supporters, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your patience and unwavering attendance. Your commitment keeps our community strong, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support. Stay tuned for more exciting events and updates!

Atash Kadeh News – June 2024

By Persis Behramsha

Hurricane season has started and we have already witnessed Beryl's fierce storm. We hope that everyone is doing well and back to normal now after all the power outages and downed trees/poles.

We have two invaluable Ervads serving our Atash Kadeh, and the month of June demonstrated just how much we need them, when neither of them was available for a few days. In spite of that, we were extremely happy and thankful that the Atash Kadeh remained operational, thanks to several young and younger Mobeds who jumped in to help with the continuation of Boye ceremonies. The best word to describe the initiative of all these Mobeds who tended to our Holy Fire is AMAZING!

Under the very capable guidance of Ervad Khushrav Nariman, young Ervads Neville Kanga, Rayomand Katrak, Noshir Khumbatta, and Freyaan Vimadalal quickly took on the responsibility of the Boye Ceremonies along with Ervad Nariman. It is indeed a true blessing to have such a dedicated group of Ervads serving our community.

This month, the Behram Roj Jashan was sponsored by the Collector Family – Pearline, Raymond, Sarah, Sarosh, AshaLynnea, Armaity, Ameretat, Kian and Dina, Ian, Natalia and Micah Kuecker. Utmost thanks to all of you for so generously sponsoring the Jashan. We think of our Sarosh Collector fondly.

For this month's Gatha studies, Meheryar touched upon Yasna 34 where Zarathushtra formulates his doctrines.

Zarathustra, realizes that the worship of Ahura Mazda lies in living by the laws of Nature through thought, word and deed. Ahura Mazda is best served by protecting the virtuous and uplifting the poor; by fighting iniquities, injustices and all forms of actions humans engage in that are detrimental to fellow human beings. Using his Good Mind (*Vohu Manah*), he realizes that true religion lies in the pursuit of righteousness and living accordingly. It is not enough to have a Good Mind; its rightful application is of prime importance.

MUKTAD FROM PREVIOUS YEAR



Please remember to sign up online for the Muktad Prayers that will be held from August 5, 2024 to August 14, 2024 with special Pachhli Raat Prayers on early morning of August 15, 2024 and Humbandagi in the evening.

Muktad Sign Up Link: [ATASH KADEH MUKTAD 2024 | ZAH](#)

We thank the many folks that have always offered to assist, so this time we are taking the opportunity to request those who would like to help during the Muktad days to please let us know – we will be happy to assign you with a task. A Sign-Up Sheet will also be available on the Muktad Vase Drop-off table, so please feel free to sign up.

We are all a TEAM, and together we strengthen each other. Amen.

MISCELLANEOUS

WATCHING WORLD CUP CRICKET MATCH



ZAH Sports Committee
Sheroy Haveliwala & Percy Behramsha

ICC T20 World Cup 2024 match between Pakistan & India - Viewing and Indoor Sports Day –June 9th

There was great anticipation about this match especially after the last duel between Pakistan and India at the T20 World Cup match in October of 2021, which Pakistan had won. India was looking to avenge that in this match; and Pakistan was looking to repeat the feat.

The start was delayed because of rain and there were apprehensions that the match could be called off. But the skies cleared and the match was on! Pakistan won the toss and put India in to bat. The fireworks started almost immediately with Indian wickets falling at regular intervals and India being uncharacteristically bowled out for only 119 runs in the 19th over. It looked like Pakistan had this match in the bag, and the Pakistan contingent went loud. With wickets falling and every boundary being cheered, fortunes see-sawed throughout the match. With over 75 persons in the PR Room cheering or groaning the noise was at stadium levels, with barbs and insults being traded from both sides. To top it off, there were expert comments from all the expert know-it-alls (who don't know it at all) which added to the atmosphere. India managed to hold their nerve and restrict Pakistan to only 113 to win the match by 6 runs, much to the relief of the Indian contingent who let out a collective sigh of relief when the final ball was bowled. Congratulations to India, and well played both sides for a very exciting and thrilling match. (At the time of writing this, India went on to win the world cup, beating South Africa).

SPORTS DAY GROUP PICTURE



LUNCH TIME



As always, food was the most important component which drew in the crowd. A *light* breakfast of toast, butter (Kerrygold, by special request), jam, cheese, khari biscuit and batasas was on offer. And of course, lots and lots of tea. This was followed a short time later by chilled beer, to go with the lunch of dhansak, kebabs and kachumber (catered by Gulmohar). Food had arrived in time and everybody dug in with gusto (is there any other way with us Parsees??), and was enjoyed by all.

**SPORTS DAY
Table Tennis**



Following lunch, the attention shifted to the Table Tennis tables where a series of “Rounders” games were played with regular back and forth of “... Siddhu Rum” with a lot of MCs & BCs thrown in for good measure. Although after a few minutes into each game, some of the very “young” players were seen wobbling and catching their breath.

By 3:30 pm, tea was ready and was enjoyed by all along with Batasas, khari biscuit and kachori. The event wound down at about 4:30pm.

All in all, everybody enjoyed the day. A big thank you to the ladies (Yasmin Haveliwala, Jasmin Katrak, Roshan Behramsha, Farzana Sidhwa, Tanaz Machi & Nergis Cooper) and all those who helped out in setting / serving the food, keeping the tea flowing and the clean-up at the end.

**MAIDHYAREM GAHAMBAR
At the Registration Desk**



MAIDHYAREM GAHAMBAR

By: Entertainment Committee

The Maidhyarem Gahambar was celebrated at the ZAH Center on Sunday, 2nd June, 2024.

We would like to thank one anonymous donor for her/his generosity which helped us keep the Gahambar Event Rates low. Otherwise, we would have had to charge \$25 + for the event. Thank you for the generosity of all our donors who came forward to help defray the expenses for the event.

Group of Volunteers



The Jashan was well attended at the Atash Kadeh. Malido, Chasni and Fruits were served in the foyer. After the jashan was over people came over to ZAH to enjoy the delicious Goat Dhansakh and kachubar catered by Chef Kairasp Lashkari. Everyone enjoyed the jalebis from Raja’s. A big thank you to Naadir and Aileen Patel for donating yummy homemade Mango Ice cream.

Two hundred of our community members were in attendance at the event. All of the donations received, and funds collected were given to ZAH. A total of approximately \$1000 was donated to ZAH. This was due to the generosity of our many donors. Thank You Very Much!

We would like to thank the Committee for organizing the Jashan and many thanks to all our Mobeds who performed the Jashan.

We would like to thank the Web Committee and the Manashni team for their help. We also would like to thank all the Volunteers for Registration, Setup and Clean up.

BAHROM FIROZGARY

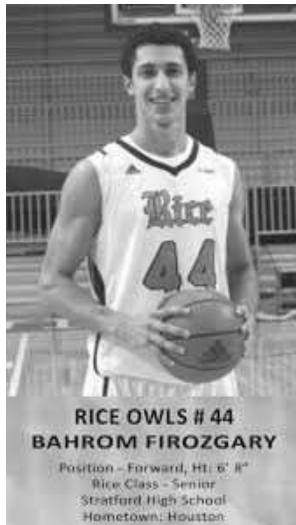


Culturally Confused

An Essay by Bahrom Firozgary
Manashni – 2010-01

I was going through some old records and spotted this write-up by Bahrom Firozgary. Since “identity” and “culture” were greatly discussed at the Gen Z report presentation, I thought this would be pertinent to repeat. At the time of writing, Bahrom was 19 years old. Please read on, Bahrom is now an MD practicing Sports Medicine, is married and lives in California

BAHROM FIROZGARY
Basket Ball Captain



Bahrom Firozgary
Becoming an Ervad



BAHROM FIROZGARY
Now Married and lives in California



Culturally Confused

An Essay by Bahrom Firozgary
Manashni – 2010-01

I am ethnically, culturally, racially, and physically different from everyone in the entire world. There is no other 6' 8" person on the face of this Earth that can say he or she is a Zoroastrian, valedictorian, varsity basketball captain, homecoming king, Eagle Scout, National Honor Society Vice President, and church youth group president all at the SAME time. However, I am no fluke either; thanks to my unique personality, I seek to improve my character every chance I get.

Coming from a very diverse Persian/Indian/British/American cultural background, I am always open to trying new foods, activities, and customs that require me to go beyond the normal cultural boundaries here in the United States. With a name like Bahrom, stating that I am American always seems to fail people's expectations when they ask me, "Where are you from?" So I go on and explain: I was born and raised in Houston, my parents are from Pune, India, and my grandparents are from Tehran, Iran.

Having foreign parents, I have learned how to perform various rituals that are rarely seen in typical American households. For example, every morning before I have a school dance or important event to attend, I light a tea lamp and place it next to my deceased sister's picture; in India, my parents were accustomed to lighting candles before festive occasions in order to pay homage to departed family members.

The candle symbolizes the boundless presence of my sister in our lives, whether it be good times or bad times. In addition to lighting a candle on certain days, I pray to God every day; the Zoroastrian prayers that my family and I recite on our way to school or work were written in an ancient Persian language called Avesta. Our prayers are simply "words of gratitude" that thank our God (called Ahura Mazda in Avesta) and ask for his protection throughout the day. Although I pray in a different language and to a different God, I am similar to most people in the sense that I also ask for forgiveness and thank a "superior being" for all that I have been blessed with. However, whenever I pray, I wear a cloth hat called a "topi" which serves as an imaginary "landing site" for angels. The topi is common in most South and Southwest Asian countries and similar to the Jews, Zoroastrians also wear a "sudreh" and "kusti." The sudreh is a very thin undershirt made out of cotton that symbolically stores all of our good thoughts and deeds that we commit during the day; the kusti is a thick, woolen "string" that is tied around the waste while prayers are recited. Both the sudreh and kusti are worn after Zoroastrian youths have their Navjotes, or confirmations. My sister and I had our confirmation ten years ago on February 13th, 1999; since then, I have worn my sudreh and kusti every day, only taking it off when I shower, swim, or indulge in physical activities. My commitment to my faith has allowed me to learn my friends' religious rituals without feeling embarrassed or insulted because I have matured and accepted that I AM unique.

When I'm changing clothes in the school locker room, I feel proud to show off my unique, Zoroastrian apparel. No matter how many times I am asked to go into details about my cultural habits, I am enthused to inform others about my religious and cultural habits. Thanks to my distinct, unbiased attitude towards different peoples' ethnicities and religions, I can comprehend the plethora of cultural traditions practiced all over the world and in my community.