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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: August 11, 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



MANASHNI WISHES ITS READERS HAPPY NAVROZE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 15, 2024 – Navroze Hambandagl - 6:30 PM
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: Aban Rustomji

Treasures of Faith: ZAH Artifacts Shine in MFAH's Upcoming Exhibit

We're thrilled to announce an exciting collaboration between the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) for the upcoming "Living with the Gods: Art, Beliefs, and Peoples" exhibit. Running from October 27, 2024, to January 20, 2025, this prestigious event will showcase a stunning array of religious artifacts from around the world, and we're proud to say that our Zoroastrian heritage will be part of this global celebration.

Several of our most treasured items will be featured, including ancient text, pictures from the Wall of Ancestors, and objects from the Dhalla Trust and K. D. Irani Trust. Among the highlights is the revered aferganyu from our prayer room, which will be prominently displayed for all to see. Rest assured, MFAH has taken great care in transporting these priceless artifacts, and they'll be safely returned to us in January 2025.

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

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ATASH PADSHAH



This partnership with MFAH marks a significant moment for our community, offering us a rare opportunity to share our rich cultural and spiritual traditions with a broader audience. By including Zoroastrian artifacts, MFAH is recognizing our faith's profound contributions to world history and celebrating the vibrant practices that continue to thrive within our community today.

As we approach the opening date, we invite everyone to visit the exhibit and experience this unique opportunity to connect with the spiritual and cultural roots of one of the world's oldest religions. This exhibit is a testament to our ZAH members' dedication and unwavering commitment, who have worked tirelessly to preserve these precious pieces of our history.

We can't wait to see you there!

Atash Kadeh News – for July 2024 Manashni

By: Persis Behramsha

July was definitely a month we will reminisce for a while. We were hoping Hurricane Beryl would fizzle out before it hit our areas, however, that was not the case, but we are thankful that everyone was okay.

Meheryar Rivetna, continued with Gatha Studies on July 7, 2024.

In this first Ha of the Ushtaviati Gatha, Zarathustra seeks strength, as must all humans, to promote Ahura Mazda's laws to humankind. The individual who directs fellow human beings to the path of Ahura Mazda's principles comes closer to perfection, i.e., be like Ahura Mazda. Zarathustra emphatically states that no one can escape justice. The righteous will receive their just rewards and the wrongdoers will not evade punishment for their ill deeds. Zarathustra recognizes that his message will encounter resistance, as it will for those who follow his path, but that should not deter him or anyone from striving to advance Ahura Mazda's tenets.

The day after Beryl stormed through the area incapacitating roads, accompanied by power failures, high waters, etc. Ervad Maneck Sidhwa attempted, with the ever-helpful Nozer Buchia's help, to drive to the Atash Kadeh to fulfil his duties to our Atash Padshah, however, after several attempts, they were forced to turn back.

With poor cell phone service, unaware of road conditions or power, it was difficult to contact anyone to figure out how to ensure the Holy Flame at our Atash Kadeh was alive. Enter Rohintan & Mahrukh Deputy!!! Concurrently a confirmation from Ervad Noshir Khumbatta!! Rohintan mounted a ladder in his car ready to jump the gate (nerve-wrecking when I heard that), Mahrukh in stride, and Ervad Noshir, Man of the Hour, reached almost at the same time. When they got to gate, it seemed, miraculously, the exit gate was somehow left open just enough for one person to comfortably walk in. No need for the ladder – Thank goodness!

Once inside the Atash Kadeh, Ervad Noshir confirmed that the Kebla Fire was still very much alive, and proceeded to perform the Boye ceremony. Rest assured, everyone slept very well that night.

BEHRAM ROJ SPONSORS



Thank you once again to Ervads Khushrav Nariman, Neville Kanga, Rayomand Katrak, Noshir Khumbatta, and Freyaan Vimadalal who stepped in again this month to fill in during the absence of Ervads Maneck and Pervez.

On another positive note, we ended the month, with the monthly Behram Roj Jashan which was sponsored by the families of *Zia & Rustom Anklesaria, Nali & Danesh Desai, Anahita & Shahrzad Nariman, Elvia & Ronnie Patel and Meher & Zubin Vakil*. Thank you for everyone's generosity and involvement in hosting the Jashan.

In appreciation and in awe of what we can collectively achieve.....

The Atash Kadeh Committee

EMCEE SHIREEN ANKLESARIA



YOUTH FUNDRAISER 2024

By: Mahtab B. Dastur

ZAH's Middle and Youth Groups would like to thank all of our nearly 200 guests who attended this event and made it a grand success! We'd also like to thank each and every one of our donors and silent auction winners for their support, encouragement, participation, and generous donations.

A special thank you to our sponsors, Coating Industries; Mazda Insurance; Books2Smiles; Natasha, Nerius, and Natalya Mehta; Pervin and Vispi Sagar; and Yasmin Medhora. Nazneen Warden was the proud winner of our beautiful embroidered sari.

For entertainment, our middle and youth group members choreographed a Broadway show filled with the popular Broadway songs. Our guests also enjoyed a wine social with hot appetizers, dinner and desserts from Elite, and two rounds of Bingo.

This function would have been impossible without the help of our ZAH youth and middle group kids, parents, and volunteers who selflessly helped us for the past couple of months. We had 25+ volunteers who helped make this event extraordinary!

Thank you to Aderbad Tamboli for helping with visuals and lighting. Thank you to Rashna Oak for the stunning centerpiece masks. Thank you to Farzana Sidhwa and Farida Vania for helping with costume adjustments. Thank you to Edul and Tanaaz Chikhliwala for helping with wings set-up and Silent Auction. Thank you to Vehishta Kaikobad for helping the dances look the best they could be. Thank you to Yezdi Engineer for capturing our performances. Thank you to Lyla Daroga for managing decor, costumes, and dances. Thank you to Jasmine Mistry for managing the event, coordinating food, and for her ever-lasting support and dedication to us, the youth. Thank you to the 20+ parent volunteers who brought their kids to practice, helped with decoration, set-up, food, silent auction items and more!

PERFORMERS - GROUP



**SO LONG, FAREWELL AUF
WIEDERSEHEN, GOOD BYE**



**RED, WHITE AND BLUE
EVENT**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Finally, thank you to **YOU**. We have raised over \$8,500 and are working to reach our \$10,000 goal! Thank you very much for helping us make history, as the first-ever middle and youth groups to hold a sponsorship at the 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress!

Warmest Regards and Always Grateful,
Your Middle and Youth Groups

MISCELLANEOUS

AN AMERICAN WAY

By Jehanbux Mehta

July is the month to celebrate as it was earlier in this month that the US shed their shackles and declared independence. The Golden Group does not need prodding to make merry but this was a darn good occasion to celebrate and what better than doing it the Texas way, which is a very American way. Eeeh haw, we dun just that with a mighty gud roundup at our ZAH Center. Y'all just wud not have recognized the place. The tables in the main hall wuz draped with red, white and blue table cloths, many with stars and stripes. The meal wuz served in colorful stars and stripes tableware. Strains of patriotic music filled the air: that is if one could hear it above the incessant chatter.

In the afternoon of July 27, motorized chuckwagons filled the open space at our ZAH Centre. 62 critters alighted, most dressed up in the national colors. Adding to all three colors that ah had on were matching, or rather mismatched, socks: stars on blue on one foot and red stripes on white on the other. A couple of ladies dared me to show more but that would have been rather embarrassing. There was a purty cowgirl with a holster belt around her denim skirt and boots to kick anyone, y'all know where, who dared fool around with her. Hotdiggity, ah wud have loved to see that. Even that young cowhand with a Stetson and red bandana stayed his distance. We gettin chickun, that's whut. Had there been a competition for the most appropriately dressed person, Pervin Sagar would have topped the list with Kayzad Vajifdar close behind.

Wine and chilled Texas beer wuz served, compliments of some Helping Hands. The meal was simple but very American: a choice of beef or turkey or veggie burger and potato salad prepared by Naushad with crispy fried chicken from Popeye's. To celebrate their Mum, Dhun's birthday, her kids, Rashna and Kayzad sponsored as a surprise to her the dessert of a delicious choklit cake and selection of ice-creams with toppings from the well stocked ice-cream bar. Very American! You should have seen Dhun blush when the chorus of "Happy Birthday" reverberated throughout the hall.

Before lunch, fond memories of our two departed members, Dr Katie Irani and Kali Khumbatta were recalled followed by a prayer and a few moments of silence. Following this, in an unnatural Texas drawl, I welcomed all the critters present at our jamboree and introduced the new members. The tally of our members is 106 which calls for another Eeeh haw. The torch was then passed on to Anita Kavina to announce the

RED, WHITE & BLUE EVENT



AVESTHAGEN LTD VILOO MORAWALA



ZOROASTRIAN EXCHANGE: CONNECTICUT TO TORONTO



entertainment after lunch. What fun we all had bouncing balls in baskets and throwing rings around bottles painted in red, white and blue. Bingo, of course with plenty of games and prizes. We were children once again. It was time for garam garam chai with Aban Challa surprising us with home made paneer. Time to unhitch our wagons and head home into the sunset.

Our many thanks to the six Helping Hands for planning and executing this event, to Kersi Daroga for helping with the collection of taxes and to our several members for helping with the service and clean-up of the premises before departing.

WZCC EVENT – held on June 19, 2024

By: Jal Sethna

Dr. Viloo Morawala Patell, the Founder & Chairperson of Avesthagen Ltd & AGENOME LLC, USA conducted an insightful session on genetic testing being conducted by her organization. Dr. Patell is an innovator and entrepreneur involved in international biotechnology development, academic and corporate leadership resulting in global networks and alliances with capital raised from private equity, strategic financing and grants from many prestigious global institutions. She is also the recipient of many national and international awards including the French National Order “L’officier du Merit” and the “Karmaveer Puraskar” Award.

Avesthagen Ltd. is a life science company, strategically positioned at the convergence of food, pharma, and population genetics. The company’s flagship initiative, The Avestagenome Project, delves into the molecular underpinnings of longevity and disease prevalence within communities, particularly focusing on the Zoroastrian population. The project aims to decipher the genetic basis of increased disease susceptibility such as Cancers, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s etc. and it possesses a unique biobank of 4,700 Zoroastrians with a goal to increase this to 10,000. The vast databank would enable predictive diagnostics, and preventive and precision therapies. AGENOME LLC is currently looking for pre-IPO funding to accelerate commercialization of its diagnostics and next generation immunotherapy products to support healthy longevity.

ZOROASTRIAN EXCHANGE: CONNECTICUT TO TORONTO

First appeared in FEZANA Bulletin – August 2024

Recently, ZSO’s very own Chothia family hosted the 15 year old Anya Irani from Connecticut, USA as a part of FEZANA’s first ever Zoroastrian Exchange Program from 25th June to 3rd July, 2024. During the exchange program, she was able to not only get to know the family and explore the community culture but also attend Toronto’s annual Zoroastrian summer camp and also experience Canada day celebrations in the city!

On asking about her experience, Anya shared that she really enjoyed being a part of the program and the community since she doesn’t have a Zoroastrian community where she stays or around her and it was indeed the biggest highlight of her summer break from school.

The host family, Khushru and Pearl Chothia also shared their positive response towards the program and mentioned about how impactful it is

ZOROASTRIAN EXCHANGE: CONNECTICUT TO TORONTO



towards the community. They also added that it's a great way to get the teenage Zoroastrians involved and get them to explore more within the culture and community.

We would like to congratulate Sharmin Mistry and Kimiya Shahzadi on organizing this initiative and making it a huge success.

If you would like to know more about the Zoroastrian exchange program and would like to take part in it as a participant or host, next year in the 2025 Zoroastrian Exchange Program, please contact, Sharmin Mistry - sharminmistry94@gmail.com

PARZOR'S TISS PROGRAM

Parzor

Culture and Heritage Studies

1. History & Archaeological Studies
2. Literature
3. Demographics
4. Arts, Crafts & Architecture
5. Cultural Studies
6. Avestan
7. Media & Journalism
8. Contemporary Studies
9. Parsi Theatre

<https://www.unescoparzor.com/academicprogramme>
<https://admissions.tiss.edu/view/10/admissions/stp-admissions/tiss-parzor-online-certificate-programme-in-culture/>

ANNOUNCING PARZOR'S TISS PROGRAM

From Shernaz Cama, PARZOR

PARZOR is delighted to announce the long-awaited TISS Parzor Online Academic Program on Culture and Heritage Studies. This unique program delves into the intriguing Parsi paradigm—a Bronze Age community that has achieved great successes while facing modern demographic challenges.

Gain academic credits and explore fascinating issues related to the environment, sociology, craft, art, literature, theater, cuisine, business, and philanthropy. Discover what drives this vibrant culture.

Join us in the first-of-its-kind certificate program, which offers career opportunities and enriching experiences. Apply now to embark on an exciting exploration of a small but significant heritage of humanity.

Admissions are now open and will close in August. This program is open to all ages and participants from around the world.

Click on the link below to learn more and apply today!

<https://www.unescoparzor.com/academicprogramme>

Or

<https://admissions.tiss.edu/view/10/admissions/stp-admissions/tiss-parzor-online-certificate-programme-in-culture/>

DR. DASTUR M. N. DHALLA



FAITH: (Excerpted from Homage Unto Ahura Mazda by *Dr. Dastur M. N. Dhallal*.) Faith is the belief in the unknown, as belief is the faith in the known. Faith soars to the highest heaven and dives to the deepest depth. Faith knows no bound and breaks through all barriers. Faith reads the secrets of the earth and deciphers the mysteries of heaven. Faith knows all and sees all. Faith asks not for facts, demands not proofs, and seeks no evidence. Faith thinks not, cogitates not, and reasons not. Faith believes and believes wholly and unreservedly. Faith knows no “NO”; it knows only “YES”. Faith makes the weak strong and the timid brave. Faith heals, faith creates, and faith moves mountains. Faith is power, a talisman that works wonders.

Omnipotent is faith, but not eternal. Faith is secure when reason is asleep. When doubt is active, it lets not faith take everything on trust, it questions it at every turn and lets it not rest in the passivity of belief. Doubt, in its struggle spells death of faith. One must have faith with reason so that it is based on conviction rather than blind faith.

18th NAZC 2024 - Ashdeen Saal Mubarak Presale



18th NAZC 2024 - Ashdeen Saal Mubarak Presale

Award-winning textile designer Ashdeen Lilaowala will join us at our NAZC 2024 Congress in Houston. He is known for his brilliant work in reviving and pushing the boundaries of Parsi Gara embroidery. His designs have been worn by celebrities and industrialists.

Here's your chance to own a beautiful, hand-embroidered piece by Ashdeen by preordering from his special edition of purses, stoles and framed Asho Farohars.

Click [HERE](#) to preorder for the Houston NAZC2024 Ashdeen hand embroidered collection.

A 'Saal Mubarak' discount of 15 % is applicable on pre-orders placed between 15th August to 15th September 2024. After that, you may still preorder till 15th October 2024 at the regular price.

All preordered items will be available for collection and handed to you in Houston at the North American Zoroastrian Congress, Dec 29 – 31, 2024.

If you are not planning to be at the Houston Congress, kindly mention in the "Add a note to your order" field at checkout, the full name, email address and cell number of the person who will pick up your item in your place. Unfortunately, **we will not be handling shipping to any location.**

Kindly email Minaz Dungor (mdungor@gmail.com) and Dilnaz Mory (dilnazmory@gmail.com) for any inquiries or questions.

Own a hand-embroidered ASHDEEN piece from our special edit of purses, stoles & Asho Farohar frames.

Preorder between 15th August to 15th September 2024 to avail a special Saal Mubarak discount of 15%



Preorder at regular prices until October 2024
Meet Ashdeen at the NAZC 2024 Houston Congress.

