ZANT NEWS
A Publication of Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

www.zant.org

January 2013

ZANT EVENTS & CALENDAR
- 01/13: Children’s Religious Class and Vohu Manah Group meeting
- 01/13: Children’s Arts & Craft Class
- 01/19: ZANT AGM
- 01/26: Jashan-e-Sadeh
- 01/27: ZLC Event
- 02/10: Children’s Religious Class and Vohu Manah Group meeting
- 02/10: Children’s Arts & Craft Class
- 02/24: ZLC Event
- 03/10: Children’s Religious Class and Vohu Manah Group meeting
- 03/10: Children’s Arts & Craft Class
- 03/16 & 03/17: Gahanbar Panjeh
- 03/23: NouRuz celebration and dinner

MESSAGE FROM THE ZANT BOARD

The ZANT BOARD would like to wish all our members a very Happy and Prosperous 2013! May the New Year bring peace, prosperity and goodwill to all.

For our NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION, let us strive to complete the ZANT CENTER LIBRARY this year.

Ushta Té!

President
Jamshed Rivetna
Vice President
Neenaaz Dilucci
Treasurer
Ardeshir Mistry
Secretary
Dilnawaz Rustomji
Social Director

We welcome and encourage feedback from our community. For comments or suggestions please call the Board members, fill in the “Contact Us” section on our website (www.zant.org) or mail them to ZANT, 1605 Lopo Road, Flower Mound, TX. 75028.
UPCOMING EVENTS

ZANT ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Date: Saturday January 19, 2013
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: ZANT Center

The ZANT Annual General Body Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the ZANT Center. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the May 19, 2012 General Body Meeting.
2. Approve the Audit Report for the Year ending October 31, 2012
3. Review and approve the 2012-2013 ZANT Budgets
4. ZANT Alcohol Policy discussion
5. Any other matters

Please note that the Minutes to be approved and Budget drafts will be made available to 2012-2013 members as of the date of the General Body Meeting, i.e., January 19, 2013. Hence, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so before the meeting. The ZANT Board would be honored with your presence at this important event for our association. Light snacks will be served following the meeting.

VOHU MANAH GROUP

Date: Sunday January 13, 2013
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: ZANT Center

Topic: Travelling through the Millennia - Contributions of the Parsis in India

Last month we discussed the contributions of significant Zarthushtis during the past hundred years. Saghar Behroozi spoke about Arbab Keykhosrow Shahrkoh and his far-reaching endeavors in Iran which improved the quality of life for all Iranians. Anahita Sidhwa gave an overview of the Parsis of Karachi and shared pictures of various structures important to the city that have been built by the Parsis. Since we ran out of time due to our animated discussions, we will tackle the contributions of the Parsis in India in January. Ervad Poras Balsara will lead the forum, speaking of significant personalities and places of worship. Please join us. For more information please contact Anahita Sidhwa.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

SEWING & ART/CRAFT CLASS

Date: Sunday January 13, 2013
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: ZANT Center

This month we will put handles on the totes we made from recycled jeans so that they can make a trendy fashion statement. For details please contact Dilnawaz Rustomji.

CAMPING AT CANEY COVE

MARCH 29-31, 2013

Unfortunately this event has been canceled due to a less than enthusiastic response. A future camping trip may be planned later in 2013.

CHILDREN RELIGIOUS CLASS

Date: Sunday January 13, 2013
Time: 11:30 p.m.
Place: ZANT Center

Our next religious class will be held at the above date and time.

CHILDREN RELIGIOUS CLASS

Date: Sunday January 13, 2013
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: ZANT Center

Please be at the ZANT Center by 11 a.m. so we can have prayers and Tandarosti for the kids at 11:15 a.m. before the Religious Class.

For further details about the Religious Classes, please contact Pearl P. Balsara.
**UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)**

**Z L C - “The ZANT Ladies Club”**  
* Caring, Sharing, Daring – Living Life to the fullest!

On January 27 at 2:00 p.m. we will have a women’s self defense class. This will be taught by Clint Wilkinson. He has taught women how to defend themselves during a surprise attack and how to defend against a straight-on attack. Do you walk a trail in your neighborhood or leave the office late? Come and learn how to stop an attack before it happens. Bring a friend and learn together.  
*ZLC Coordinators: Mary Tengra & Rakshi Dhalla*

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### **JASHAN-E –SADEH**  
**Date:** Saturday January 26, 2013  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** ZANT Center

Jashan-e– Sadeh is a mid-winter festival celebrated since ancient times in Iran. “Sadeh” meaning one hundred in Farsi refers to the one hundred days and nights past the end of summer. It is a festival to honor fire, and is a symbolic fight to defeat the forces of darkness and evil, frost and cold. It is also seen as the harbinger of the upcoming spring season. Firewood is burnt in an open space, while people gather around it to pray. After that they hold hands forming a circle and dance around the fire.

Legend says that it started when King Hoshang discovered fire when he tried to kill a snake with a stone. The stone struck another one and sparks erupted since the stones were flint.

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### **GAHANBAR PANJEH**  
**Date:** Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17, 2013  
**Place:** ZANT Center

Gahanbar Panjeh, or Hamas-pat-mardem Gahanbar is the sixth Gahanbar of the year. According to the Fasli calendar, Gahanbar Panjeh starts 5 days before Nouruz and lasts till the first day of Spring.

Zoroastrians believe that during Gahanbar Panjeh, the Spirits or “Faravahars” of the departed ones come back to visit. Zoroastrians gather to read Avesta prayers, celebrate the Gahanbar and welcome the Faravahars of the departed. Families clean house, arrange fruit trays, prepare trays of lork (dried fruit), light sandalwood and keep a fire alight for five days. This is the time when personal differences and disputes are replaced with kindness, friendship and reconciliation.

The ZANT Board is looking for one or more Event Directors to volunteer to host this important event. We anticipate having a jashan ceremony followed by a pot luck meal. The time for this event needs to be set by the Event Director(s). Please contact *Naazneen Johnson* if you would like to volunteer to host this event.

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### **FEZANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

ZANT is hosting the 26th. FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) from Friday, May 3 to Sunday, May 5, 2013. Delegates will be staying at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Grapevine, where meetings will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday. ZANT members will have many opportunities to meet with the out-of-town guests. ZANT members are also welcome to attend the AGM as observers. If you would like to attend or volunteer to help please email or phone *Sherazade Mehta.*
Zoroastrian Association of North Texas

RESERVE THE DATE!

NouRuz 2013 Celebration!

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Double Tree by Hilton, Dallas - Campbell Center, 8250 North Central Expressway, Dallas TX 75201- Phone: 214-691-8700

Guess what!? NouRuz is round the corner!

The planning is in full swing, many busy minds are at work! This event is for YOU, dear ZANT Members! This is your day, your celebration. Put this date on your calendars now so you don’t miss this super-duper fun-filled annual event!

Program:

Enjoy a unique blend of magic and music with an entertaining combination of theater, art and audience participation in the all new “Night Magic” show by a DFW area Professional Magician.

If you would like to take part in the entertainment, please contact Ruth-Dinaz Sarkari and she will get you in touch with the appropriate Dance Director.

Please contact the event directors, Ruth-Dinaz Sarkari or Sherry Raghani if you wish to volunteer your time/efforts for the event in other ways, make a donation* to offset expenses or for any questions. Thank you!

*Donations are payable to ZANT with memo “NouRuz.”

Highlights

- Dances
- Professional Magic Show
- Amu NouRuz
- Raffle
- Post-dinner entertainment

Further details for reservations and payment will follow in a few weeks.

COME ONE, COME ALL, TO CELEBRATE AND ENJOY

Joyous dancing to celebrate the arrival of spring

Page design by Ruth-Dinaz Sarkari
PAST EVENTS

DIWALI MELA

On November 3rd, several ZANT members headed to the Cotton Bowl to participate in the Diwali Mela fundraiser. Thanks to cash donations from Hormuzd and Monaz Karkaria, Ardeshir Mistry, Hoshang and Arbez Patel, Meheraban and Bakhtawar Roshanravan and Feroze and Anahita Sidhwa, we were able to defray the cost of the stall and the supplies.

Also, this event would not be possible if we did not have members working at the booth. ZANT gratefully acknowledges our booth volunteers, Keshvar, Zaal and Cyrus Buhariwalla; Anoshak, Niloufer and Ferona Bustani; Pearl Balsara; Delnaz and Afshan Irani; Khurshid and Jamshed Jamadar; Rajesh, Mehroo and Taronish Madeka; Dihnavaz and Manijeh Rustomji and Anahita and Feroze Sidhwa. ZANT would also like to thank Sarosh and Karin Nayar for the new Falooda banner.

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS CLASS

At our December class, our little ones learned about the celebration of Yalda. Celebrated on the night of the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year, Yalda is a celebration of the victory of light over darkness or the victory of good over evil. The kids colored symbols of light and then made a pop up card with a candle in it. Some of the children will be reciting poems they have created on the night of ZANT’s Yalda celebration.

Continuing with our Religious Class Theme of “Zoroastrian celebrations”, our middle-age group had a Power-Point presentation about the Origin & History of Jashn-e Sadeh. They learnt …..

- What “Sadeh” means and represents -50 days and 50 nights before NouRuz
- It’s also known as Adar-Jashan
- It’s the Mid-Winter celebration
- Significance & connection to the Discovery of Fire
- Celebrations in Ancient Iran vs celebrations today
- Bon fires
- Related “King Hooshang’s story” from the Shahnameh

The class ended after watching a video of “Jashan-e Sadeh” celebrations in modern day Iran.

Our teen group discussed the spiritual attributes of the last of the Amesha Spentas. The children had wonderful questions, insights and discussions. We look forward to more conversations in January.

Z L C - “The ZANT Ladies Club”
Caring, Sharing, Daring – Living Life to the Fullest

In early December we worked on our community service project and enjoyed delicious goodies... cookies made to look like turkeys, pumpkin fudge, pumpkin custard ice cream and brownies in pretty containers. Chicken salad sandwiches and tomato basil soup were also served.
PAST EVENTS (CONTINUED)

CHILDREN & YOUTH SEWING & ART /CRAFT CLASS

We worked on another "green" project at the last Arts and Craft class. This time we were recycling old jeans. We cut strips out of a several pairs and the kids created a basket weave out of them for turning into a tote. We will put on the handles next time and they'll be ready to carry around and make a chic style statement.

ZANT NEWS

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERING AS EVENT DIRECTORS

Ladies and gentlemen, we appreciate the spirit of volunteerism that so many of you have shown by becoming Event Directors during the year 2012-2013 and hosting our events. Our slate of current event directors ends in May and we would like you to help us again by signing up to host events during the upcoming year, 2013-2014. You can host an event by yourself or work with friends as event co-directors. Please look over the calendar of events (sent separately) and sign up to host one or more of them. You can let us know your choice of event(s) by emailing Naazneen Johnson. We appreciate your time and effort to host such events and anticipate many of you signing up like you did this year. Thank you once again.

TREASURER’S CORNER

We welcome our new annual members:

Aurash Behroozi
Kambiz Behroozi
Kamran Behroozi
Saghar Behroozi
Mahbanoo Sohrabi Behrouzi
Parviz Behrouzi
Arezoo Dinyari
Rostam Dinyari
Adi F. Gazder
Celia Gazder
Behzad Kekobad
Binaifer Kekobad

Darien Kavasmaneck
Gulshan Kavasmaneck
Firdosh Mehta
Rashna Mehta
Sherazade Mehta
Paricheher Salamati
Rostam Salamati

Current membership for 2012-2013:

Life Membership 42
Annual Membership 45
Honorary Members 7

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KIDS’ CORNER

God’s Cake

Sometimes we wonder, “What did I do to deserve this?” or “Why did God have to do this to me?” Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong: she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack. The daughter says, “Absolutely Mom, I love your cake.” “Here, have some cooking oil” her mother offers. “Yuck” says her daughter. “How about a couple raw eggs?” “Gross, Mom!” “Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?” “Mom, those are all yucky!” To which the mother replies, “Yes, all those things seem bad by themselves but when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!”

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and eventually they will all make something wonderful!

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He’ll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe and He chose your heart.

(Source: An E-mail from a friend)
APPEAL FOR DONATION

From The FEZANA Unity & Welfare Committee:

FEZANA has received an appeal for financial aid from one of our community members in the New York tri-state area. The member has been trying to make ends meet for many months but is now in dire need of financial help.

Due to the downturn in the economy during the past few years, his small business suffered a financial setback resulting in many months of unpaid office rent and forcing him to vacate the small office space he was doing business from. With no source of income, he now owes utilities and back rent for over five months on his office space, and is struggling to keep his apartment and manage his daily expenses. To add to his plight, he has been burdened with being the sole provider and caregiver for his 86-year old mother who has been completely bed-ridden for many years due to severe arthritis all over her body. Having gone through 12 surgeries during the last several years on her upper and lower limbs, she is in a nursing home for the past eight years. She was also recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and since the last few months has also been suffering from dementia and cannot even recognize her own son. In addition to a tremendous financial strain, all this has put mental, physical and emotional strains on him too. With nowhere else to turn to, he is reluctantly appealing to the community and hopes that kind-hearted Zarathushtis will assist him in his desperate hour of need and help him get back on his feet again.

Any amount would be greatly appreciated and will go directly to ease his burden at this time. If you would like to contribute and help our fellow Zarathushti, please make a check payable to FEZANA WELFARE and mail it to Mr. Ratan Mistry, FEZANA Treasurer or donate online at www.fezana.org.

Thank You for your continued support and generosity!
Houtoxi Contractor, Hosi Mehta & Freyaz Shroff

EXPIRATION OF KEY CARDS

The key cards that many of our members have will be valid ONLY UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2012. All key cards, unless otherwise renewed, will not work on JANUARY 1, 2013. To renew your key card please email our Treasurer, Neenaz DiLucci, for payment details. If you do not wish to renew your key card, please mail it to: The Treasurer, ZANT, 1605 Lopo Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028.

TENTH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS

The 10th World Zoroastrian Congress will be held in Mumbai, India from December 27, 2013 to December 31, 2013. The theme of the 10th World Zoroastrian Congress, Mumbai is “Zoroastrianism in the 21st Century: Nurturing Growth and Affirming our Identity”.

For more information please check the web page at www.wzcmumbai.com.