



EDGE

EMPOWERMENT • DIVERSITY • GROWTH • EQUALITY

House Of Iran
Quarterly Publication

Editorial
Sussan Johnsen
Ebrahim Davodi Far

March
2016

OUR MISSION

To introduce and promote the rich and diverse heritage of Iranian culture amongst people of all nationalities and ethnic background

Message from the President

As we are approaching spring time, we open the windows to our gardens, we smell the sweetness and softness of cherry blossoms around us and admire the beauty and colors of flowers, we observe the morning dews on the daffodils and hyacinths in our flower beds, and we hear the love songs of colorful birds while feeding their new born babies in their nests, Persians all over the world celebrate the coming of Nowruz. Nowruz tradition goes back to thousands of years ago, meaning "newday/daylight". This Persian Festival of spring starts at the exact moment of the vernal equinox, commencing the start of the spring.

As President of the House of Iran, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of House of Iran, I wish every one of you a happy Nowruz and I invite you to join us for a day of celebration in the House of Iran cottage and on the stage for a joyful celebration of this pride of our heritage on March 27th in Balboa Park. We have worked hard in bringing you the best program possible, so, join us in the park and let us celebrate Nowruz together.



It has been a long wish of our Board and the pioneers of House of Iran to get the young, smart and brilliant generation of Iranian-Americans involved in running the House of Iran, and I am proud to say that most of our Board members are of this caliber. We welcome our new Board member, House of Iran Parliamentarian Miss Shiva Akha-Vanzadeh who has been appointed to fill our recently vacated position. I want to especially thank Mr. Ebrahim Davodi Far, who served as House of Iran President for the past four years. His contributions to the improvement of House of Iran has been outstanding and House of Iran is now one of the best run cottages in Balboa Park. It takes long hours of volunteer work to be so successful at what we do, so my thanks are extended to all Board members and volunteers who continually support House of Iran.

Please join us as new members or renew your membership as membership fees are based on the calendar year of January through December of each year, and put the following upcoming events on your calendars: May 29th for Ethnic Food Fair, June 25th International Day at Del Mar Fair, Persian Harvest Festival in November, the date will be determined, and last but not least December Nights which will take place on December 2nd and December 3rd. Hope to see you all at all these functions.



Warm Regards,

Golrokh Golshan Kashirad

We Are Hoping For The Peace And Freedom Throughout The World



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House of Iran

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March 2016

Nowruz Piruz

It is March, we approach the rebirth of nature, people of Persian descents all over the world are preparing for Nowruz. This tradition goes back to thousands of years ago. Some believe Nowruz was established during Avestan time, but Legendary Poet, Ferdowsi, in his Shahnameh book marks the start of this tradition to mythological time of Jamshid Shah, which is prior to Avestan time. Nowadays, Nowruz is not just celebrated in Iran, but in thirteen other countries, regardless of their religious background. People have already celebrated Yalda, the longest night of the year, 40 days prior to Nowruz, they are going to clean their houses, also known as spring cleaning, they will purchase new clothing and will wait for arrival of Nowruz, vernal equinox, when the day and night are the same length, 12 hours each. A few days prior to Nowruz, street musicians (Haji Firuz) go around singing and chanting happy songs for kids and the ancestors of Santa Clause, Amoo Nowruz, gets ready to bring candies and sweets and toys for the children as Nowruz arrives. On the evening of Tuesday before the last Wednesday of the old year, people celebrate Chahar Shanbeh Soori by flocking over small bon fires, they cover their faces and bodies, knock spoon against the pots at the door of their relatives and neighbors and receive sweets and goodies from them. The families gather and read poetry of our great Poet Hafiz and they read their fortunes by reading his poetry. A traditional dinner for Nowruz is Sabzi Polo Mahi, a rice dish with whitefish and green herbs. At the beginning of spring, family gathers in their new clothes and cheerful mood around a haft-sinn table, which is set with a poetry or holy book, colorful spring flowers, a bowl of goldfish, a mirror, candles, coins and painted eggs and seven traditional edible foods each starting with letter "s" in Farsi language. Some believe that when the spring occurs, the gold fish in the bowl will turn. The seven articles are symbolic and they are listed below:



Sabzeh: lentil, barley or wheat sprouts growing in a dish, symbolizing renewal.
Samanou: a thick, sweet pudding made from wheat germ, symbolizing affluence.
Senjed: dried fruit of the lotus tree, symbolizing love.
Sir: garlic, symbolizing medicine.
Sib: apples, symbolizing health and beauty.
Somaq: sumac berries, symbolizing sunrise.
Serkeh: vinegar, symbolizing age and patience.

The office workers in Iran are off for five days and schools are closed for 13 days. The celebration which includes visiting elderly and paying respects to the family members lasts for 12 days. On the thirteenth day, Sizdeh Bedar, which literally means "getting rid of the thirteenth" families go outdoors on a picnic and they throw green sprouts into rivers or lakes to symbolize the plant's return to nature and conclude the festivities until the next year.

We admire our ancestors who left this beautiful symbolic tradition for us and we will keep it alive for our next generations to come.

House of Iran wishes each and every one of you a Happy Nowruz followed by a healthy and joyful year. We invite you to join us on March 27th for our huge celebration of Nowruz and we look forward to tell you "Nowruz Piruz" in person.

Sussan Johnsen





Upcoming Events

Chahar Shanbeh Soori

Sunday March 15th 2016 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Location: NTC Park, 2455 Cushing Road
San Diego, CA 92106

Sponsored by: AIAP, PCC, House of Iran



Rouz-e-Iran

Sunday March 27th 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Location: House of Iran
Balboa Park, San Diego



Sizdeh Bedar

Sunday, April 3rd, 2016 at 1pm - 6pm

Location: NTC Park, 2455 Cushing Road
San Diego, CA 92106

Sponsored by: AIAP, PCC, House of Iran





House of Iran
PO Box 86006
San Diego, CA 92138

Channel Fox Local News will be celebrating Nowruz in the House of Iran cottage. The program will be aired live at 3:30 a.m. on Friday, March 18th, and it will be repeated in between their normal programs throughout that day. Please watch this program as our one and only Shally Zomorodi will be with us for our celebration.

House of Iran thanks Channel Fox San Diego Local News for celebrating Nowruz with House of Iran.

House of Iran - Nowruz Celebration

Music + Food + Dancing

Music by: **MARIAM NADJMI**

Dancing by: **DJANBAZIAN DANCE ACADEMY**

After Stage Program: **DJ MOHSEN**

Date: **Sunday, March 27th, 2016** Time: **11:00am- 6:00pm**

Balboa Park

Address: **2176 Pan American Rd W, San Diego, CA 92101**

FREE ADMISSION!!!

