

House Of Iran
Quarterly Publication

Editorial
Sussan Johnsen
Ebrahim Davodi Far

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2016

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

We really thank Mr. Farhad Farsoudi from Pine Accounting for filing House of Iran taxes free of charge every year.



Message from the President

Dear Members and supporters of House of Iran: I have been fortunate enough to be appointed as president of House of Iran, effective April 1, 2016. Mrs. Golrokh Kashirad, who worked tirelessly as newly elected President, has moved to the Bay Area. I thank her for all her hard work and contributions throughout the years for making House of Iran a successful place. I have been volunteering with the House of Iran for the past twenty years, and have previously served as President of House of Iran in 2006 through 2007. This project is important to me personally because I was involved during the fund raising, construction, and running of the cottage when the cottage was built. As a former City of San Diego Park and Recreation employee, who worked in Balboa Park for many years, and as a supporter of promoting and sharing our culture with thousands of visitors to Balboa Park, it has always been my heartfelt desire to enter a place called "House of Iran" with a sense of pride, and I am so grateful to have reached this goal. Thousands of hours of volunteer work have made this project possible, with a sense of pride and trust and teamwork. I am proud to announce that House of Iran is one of the best run and the most active Houses in Balboa Park.

On March 18, 2016, Channel Fox Local News aired three segments of Nowruz in House of Iran. The long term project of decorating our ceiling came to the finish line the night before this event and audiences of Channel 5 saw the new House of Iran ceiling, for the first time, on TV. I personally thank Channel Fox for celebrating Nowruz with us. House of Iran celebrated its 24th annual Ruz-e-Iran Festival on March 27, 2016. Over 3,500 people attended the function, and many non-Iranians as well since we celebrated Nowruz and Easter on that same day. It takes a village to bring you such an incredibly successful event, free of charge. House of Iran was praised at the House of Pacific Relations Delegates meeting for presenting such a huge celebration, while afterwards the Park was clean and without any piece of trash, again, it took many volunteer hours and respect to gain such a praise from HPR.

House of Iran website has gone through major renovation, we invite you to visit our site and share your opinion with us at thehouseofiran.com, houseofiransandiego.org, or houseofiran.info.

House of Iran hosted a "Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon" on April 13th, Persian cuisine was served and was catered by Sufi Restaurant and House of Iran received many compliments for hosting this event.

Students from University of California in Monterey visited us, these are non-Iranian students who major in Farsi language and in conjunction with UCSD visited House of Iran to learn about our culture. The lecture was given by Mr. Arya Zeighamnia, in Farsi only, upon the students' request. Five more events are scheduled to bring more university students to House of Iran. House of Iran opens its doors to any group visiting San Diego, with prior notice.

House of Iran have many surprise projects to be worked on this year, as we are getting ready for our huge celebration of 25th anniversary of House of Iran in 2017. In the meantime, we need more members and donations, so many of you have asked how to help House of Iran, and my response is "Join us as members, and invite your family and friends to join us as well."



Best wishes for all,
Sussan Johnsen

We Are Hoping For The Peace And Freedom Throughout The World



House of Iran shook Balboa Park in joy, music, dance and celebration

House of Iran celebrated its 24th annual Ruz-e-Iran Festival for Nowruz and Easter Sunday on March 27, 2016. Mother Nature worked with us as we had perfect weather. Our Haft Sinn spread was done beautifully by Mrs. Giti Salehi, we received many compliments for that. About 3,500 people attended this function, with cheerful disposition. Our Master of Ceremony, Mrs. Shally Zomorodi of Channel Fox Local News shined throughout the programs as she got Iranians and non-Iranians on the stage, dancing, and she gave them all a \$2 bill as Eidee (Nowruz present). Her energy and vibrant personality and true professional journalistic disposition added a lot to the success of our program. DJ Mohen, as always, was there to get people to dance and shout with joy after the stage program. We celebrated DJ Mohsen's birthday on the stage, as he has volunteered his time for House of Iran, year after year, free of charge. Our President, Mrs. Golrokh Kashirad, introduced the Board members who worked tirelessly in presenting the best event ever to the

audience. The dances were performed by Djanbazian Dance Academy who travelled all the way from Los Angeles. The most beautiful dancers, beautiful choreography, beautiful music and beautiful costumes were presented that day. We thank Mrs. Djanbazian for performing for us, they are already invited to join us next year as well. The music was presented by Mrs. Mariam Nadjmy, Mr. Fairborz Osaifi and Mr. Massih Roaz Afzoon. I was standing on the stage, when we heard Mariam Nadjmy starting her song as she sang "Nowruz Amad" behind the stage and as she walked to the stage. I remember people around me asked, "Who is she?" It brought goose bumps to my body, her heavenly voice and the Nowruzi and joyful music brought much happiness to the crowd. House of Iran thanks all performers for such an incredible performance. Our food tent was busy, more than 1,000 plates were served, although we regret to say that many people stood in line and did not even get what they ordered because we ran out of food. My apologies to them. We thank Sufi Restaruant and all the food tent volunteers for serving great Persian cuisine to the crowd. Audiences, for the first time, saw the newly decorated House of Iran ceiling. Our special thanks to the Ceiling Committee, Mrs. Golrokh Kashirad, Mrs. Ellie Fayaz Far, Mr. Reza Rouzitalab, and our one and only Mr. Ebrahim Davodi Far for bringing this long term mission of House of Iran to fruition.



Channel 5 Fox News Celebrated Nowruz with House of Iran on the morning of March 18th, Jason did superb job reporting the function. Our great musician, Mr. Behrooz Sadeghian played santur, together with Mr. Abdi Salimi, Mr. Massih Sal Afzoon, Mrs. Monir Naderi played Daff with him, to compliment the beautiful dance presented by Miss Parva Shayasi.

Mrs. Giti Salehi set another Haft Sinn table for this function, which was outstanding and most beautiful. We thank Dr. Reza Fadaei for arranging this shooting, in celebration with Mrs. Shally Zomorodi, the co-anchor of Channel 5 News. We thank all performers and Sufi Restaurant for bringing many Persian dishes.

Our Ruz-e-Iran flyer was designed by Mrs. Pooneh Paydar, and Mrs. Minoo Sohaey and her friends baked and donated Nowruz cookies for our Haft Sinn table. As you see, it takes a village to bring about such a great program, free of charge. We are fortunate to be located in Balboa Park, we are the most active house and no other culture brings such a crowd to Balboa Park during their lawn program. Our special appreciation is extended to all volunteers who took part in this incredible event.

House of Iran Board of Directors

It is with great pleasure that I announce that House of Iran is enjoying a wonderful team of Board of Directors, they are mostly young generation, they are computer savvy, all with college degrees, and most importantly great team players. Our President is Sussan Johnsen, she holds two Masters' Degrees in Business Administration and Public Administration and has volunteered for House of Iran for the past 20 years. Our Administrative Vice President is Mr. Mehdi Khalili, an engineer who works for City of San Diego. Our Cultural Vice President is Mr. Siyavash Askari, with a degree in finance, and an MBA candidate. Our Secretary is Mrs. Gheety Allahi, who is a dental hygienist. Our Treasurer is Doctor Reza Rouzitalab, our Parliamentarian is Miss Shiva Akhavizadegan, who is working on her Master's degree in Health Administration. Our Delegates are: Ms. Kojie Turner, who is an RN, Mr. Behrang Madani, who holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry and teaches in universities, and last but not least, Mr. Arya Zeighamnia, who olds an Aircraft Engineering degree, and has been a Board member of House of Iran and other Houses at HPR for many years. Our Board is enjoying Mr. Ebrahim Davodi Far, a former President and a volunteer and Board member for many years, who holds a Master's degree in Computer Science and is a business man, as the Board Advisory. Several committees have been formed, Membership, IT, Volunteer, Publicity and Outreach and Sunday Hosting. If you are willing to help us in any of these committees, please give Sussan Johnsen a call at (858) 414-5431 and she will arrange it for you.

Our website is up and running, we thank Mr. Davodi Far for working tirelessly on this project. Our Facebook is maintained and updated by our great supporter, Mrs. Raana Jamshide.



Upcoming Events for the next Quarter

Please join us for the Ethnic Food Fair, in Balboa Park on Sunday, May 29, 2016, from 9:00 to 5:00. House of Iran is setting a booth up in International Displays at the San Diego County Fair/Del Mar Fair, on Saturday, June 25th, from 10:00 to 6:00. Please visit us for these events. A complete list of our upcoming events is available on our website. Please mark your calendar to join us for Member Appreciation Night, at 6:00pm, on Friday August 12th, in the Hall of Nations (behind House of Iran cottage) in Balboa Park. Light dinner will be served and entertainment will be provided. Board members will give their reports as this is our annual general meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This event is scheduled for members only. If you have not renewed your membership for the calendar year 2016, visit us on our website and renew your membership. If you are interested in becoming a Board member, or engage in the voting process for the upcoming election, you need to be a paid member by August 30th of this year.

Your membership is important to us. Any organization is as strong as its members. House of Iran's main goal is showcasing Persian culture to the visitors of Balboa Park, however our main functions, i.e., Nowruz and Persian Harvest Festivals, are geared towards Iranian-American population of not only San Diego, but Southern California. Many people joined us for Nowruz Festival from Los Angeles, Orange County, and even Las Vegas. We appreciate their support of House of Iran, as there is no place like it!

Board of Directors

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Sussan Johnsen

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Mehdi Khalili

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Siyavash Askari

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Arya Zeighamnia

Behrang Madani

Kojie Turner

House of Iran

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Visit Our Website

Www.TheHouseOfIran.com

Check us on Facebook!

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