

Special thanks to Mrs. Johnsen for photos and articles!



**Message from the President**

House of Iran has the great privilege of community support. As it is House of Iran's goal, it provides us an excellent opportunity to collaborate with local institutions through community outreach. We truly appreciate and welcome all who are interested in helping House of Iran with its activities such as hosting, special events and engaging in cultural events. We cannot, ever, give enough thanks to our members and supporters for bringing such success to House of Iran.

Over the past couple of months I continuously feel the joy and satisfaction of our superb 23rd annual Nowruz Festival in beautiful Balboa Park which occurred last March. First and foremost, I like to wholeheartedly convey my GREAT THANKS to the House of Iran Board of Directors and all the volunteers who graciously stepped up to ensure that our Nowruz Festival was a great success. I have heard nothing but praise from all who attended the Festival. The Haft Sien spread was spectacular and set by Mrs. Ati Amini, and our Master of Ceremony, our one and only Shally Zomorodi, was amazing, getting everyone engaged by bringing the non-Iranians and Iranians and even her own family on the stage, for dancing! The dance group of Azam Farsoudi, with their colorful costumes and dances from different parts of Iran shined on the stage. House of Iran introduced a pair of talented twins, musician brothers Sasoon and Sorba, who played many musical instruments and joyful music. They were followed by the dance music of DJ Mohsen. The Balboa Park was shaking by the dancing and joy of all attendees. Finally, many remarked that the food was amazingly tasty, thanks to Dr. Javidani and Sufi Restaurant for their continuous support and their excellent food and service.

Best Wishes for All,  
 Ebrahim Davodi Far,  
 President







## It is all about Collaboration!

According to the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census data and subsequent reports there are 1.5 million Iranian Americans living in the U.S. San Diego has about 40,000 of this population. There are several nonprofit organizations who work tirelessly in sharing and educating the Iranian and non-Iranian population of the heritage and culture of Iran. My hat goes off to all the organizations and their Board members for their hard work in promoting our rich culture, all on voluntary basis. An effort was initiated, mainly by the Iranian American Bar Association and Persian Cultural Center, and welcomed by all organizations, for a Cross-Organizational Mixer meeting which took place on June 11th at the Iranian Center. Board members from all Iranian American organizations of San Diego attended the meeting. It was a fruitful and productive meeting. The goal was to learn about the purpose of each organization, cross organization support and to learn about the strength and weaknesses of each organization. This is a positive move for our community. House of Iran pledges its support to this wonderful cause and thanks the organizers for initiating this much-needed movement.



### House of Iran past and upcoming events of 2015

House of Iran Nowruz Festival was a blast. It takes hundreds of volunteer hours to present you such a wonderful program. It is hard work, however gratifying to see everyone happy and smiling and that makes every effort worthwhile. House of Iran is the only organization in Balboa Park that brings more than 3,000 people to the main stage program every year, free of charge. House of Iran was built by the donation of the Iranian American community and its operation is financed solely on membership fees and the sale of food on four major events throughout the year. All Board members work voluntarily with the goal of success in showcasing the Persian culture to over 15 million visitors who visit Balboa Park on annual basis.

House of Iran engaged on ethnic food fair which occurred on May 23rd and 24th, also participated in International Day at San Diego County Fair, also known as Del Mar Fair, from 10:00 to 5:00, on June 20, 2015.

We are hosting a Member Appreciation Night on Friday, September 18th. Our Nomination night will take place on Tuesday, October 13th, and our Election night is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10th. House of Iran is proudly presenting its fourth annual Persian Harvest Festival on Sunday, November 15th. Our annual December Nights Festival will fall on December 4th and December 5th, 2015. Please write these functions on your calendar and attend them. Also, join us as MEMBER by filling out a simple form and paying a minimal amount for your membership, encourage your family and friends to join and support our wonderful organization. Our goal is to share Persian culture with all visitors to Balboa Park. House of Iran is unique and is there to represent the pride of our heritage and culture with millions of visitors from all over the world who visit the world famous Balboa Park.



### San Diego County Fair Celebrates Balboa Park Centennial

San Diego County Fair, aka Del Mar Fair, celebrated the jewel of San Diego, Balboa Park's 100 years birthday. The entire Fair is decorated with replica and chalk art work of the main attractions of Balboa Park. This year, for the first time, House of Hospitality, which includes House of Pacific Relations (HPR), was invited to the Fair. House of Iran, among other houses, set up a booth on Saturday, June 20th which was the International Cottages Day. It was a great success for HPR and House of Iran. Our tent was shared with House of Ireland, and it was decorated with handicrafts of Iran. Board members were present, some played backgammon, some played the santur, a speech was given about House of Iran and about Iran, and visitors were greeted in our booth. The comments were extremely positive. The program was so successful that HPR was invited to participate in the Fair next year as well. We thank San Diego County Fair and HPR for celebrating Balboa Park Centennial at the Fair. The Fair will end on July 5th, if you get a chance, visit the Fair, it is well worth your precious time! House of Iran wishes Balboa Park a Happy 100 Birthday and we feel grateful to be located in this beautiful Park.



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