



Celebrating Our
20th Anniversary!



VOICE OF SHAI

DECEMBER 2011

OFFICE ADDRESS

770 Middle Neck Road
Great Neck, NY 11024

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O.Box 1025
Great Neck, NY 11023

WEBSITE

www.shaiusa.org



PRESIDENT

Pargol Khadavi

VICE PRESIDENTS

Raymond Eshaghoff
Parvaneh Khodadadian
Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni

TREASURER

Joseph Amirian

SECRETARY

David Pour

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regina Ajodan
Claudine Amirian
Saeed Amirian
Eleanor Askari
Parisa Bokhour
Ben Cohenmehr
Kambiz Damaghi
Shahram Delafraz
Joanna Eshaghoff
Raphy Farzan-Kashani
Tania Eshaghoff-Friedberg
Robert Gilardian
Erika Goldstein
Dalia Harooni
Hercel Harounian
Jacqueline Harounian
Michael Harounian
Raymond Iryami
Fred Lalezarzadeh
Morris Mehraban
Lilly Nejat
David Ohebshalom
Fred Ohebshalom
Khosrow Sassouni
Rafael Sassouni

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SHAI Family,

The miracle of the Hanukkah lights brings to mind centuries of traditions passed down from generation to generation. There is the tradition of spinning the *dreidl* with our children and giving eight days of Hanukkah presents. There is the tradition of eating certain Hanukkah foods like *latkes* and *sufganiyot*. There is the tradition of recounting the story of mighty Judah Macabee. Every Jewish holiday brings with it certain traditions that keep our religion, culture, and heritage alive. In the case of Persian Jewry, our Sephardic traditions and story highlight the value of family and togetherness. We are blessed to be part of a large community that is capable and accomplished; a community bustling with activity and one that is nourished by an awesome sense of belonging.

As you leaf through this issue of our newsletter, feel pride in our sense of community. SHAI's commitment to our children has resulted in a tremendously successful Youth Activities Program, spearheaded by Vice President Raymond Eshaghoff. Our commitment to our seniors has resulted in our continuing to be the single largest non-profit donor to the Great Neck Senior Center under the direction of Vice President Parvaneh Khodadadian. Our commitment to our students and young professionals has resulted in packed events that promote togetherness through our Young SHAI division. Our commitment to the community-at-large has resulted in increased programming for health and wellness, environmental concerns, educational forums, and local *tzedakah*. And, our commitment to education has resulted in the distribution of over \$1.3 million dollars in scholarships to students who demonstrate a financial need through our SHAI Scholarship Fund.

It is with our sense of community in mind that SHAI is pleased to announce new programming that nurtures the bond between our families raising young children. Our first event will take these families to the American Museum of Natural History in January. We look forward to cultivating the next generation of Persian Jewish leaders.

SHAI's mission for the past twenty years has been to support and give life to this sense of belonging. Which traditions will we pass down to our children? What will be our story? Will our children benefit from the same sense of community that we grew up with? Where do we see our community twenty years from now?

Thank you very much for your continued support as we give back to a community that has given us so very much.

On behalf of the SHAI Board of Trustees, I wish you and those you love a Happy Hanukkah and a most wonderful 2012. We look forward to seeing you at our 20th Anniversary Gala in March 2012!

Sincerely,

Pargol Khadavi
President
SEPHARDIC HERITAGE ALLIANCE INC.



YOUNG SHAI AT GOLDBAR NYC

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 2011

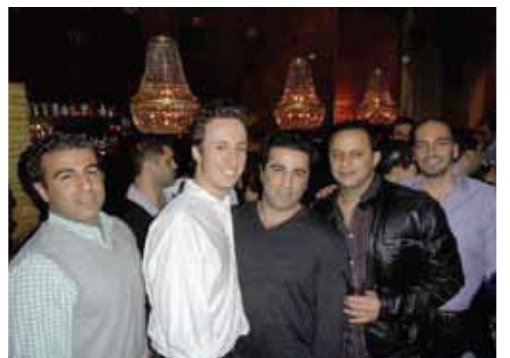


On November 10th, Young SHAI celebrated another successful "SHAI: After Hours" Fall Social Event. Over two hundred students and young professionals joined SHAI in downtown New York City for a drink at GOLDBAR. DJ Pheel Good spun from 7PM to 11PM as GOLDBAR filled to capacity. As always, the response was energetically positive. Only one thing to happily work on: finding a larger space to accommodate the growing guest list!

SHAI is proud to continue supporting young professional networking events and to forge connections with the growing youth leadership, and between the attendees of the Sephardic community.

We look forward to seeing a large representation of Young SHAI at the Annual SHAI Gala and at future After Hours events. Interested in getting more involved in Young SHAI? Please email ashley@shaiusa.org.

Event Co-Chairs: Ashley Emrani & Daniella Lavian
Co-Sponsored by the Iranian Jewish Club of NYU



SHAI IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK!

Our new page includes all kinds of valuable information including upcoming events, as well as pictures from past events. We invite you to "Like" our page, so you can automatically receive our status updates, and be notified of our upcoming events as they are added to our page. We post a different fact about SHAI every week, so you can

now get to know even more about us on your own news feed. Our page will also serve as a way for you to connect with others in the SHAI community. This will also give you another opportunity to share your feedback about what you like about us, and what suggestions you may have for us. We are looking forward to seeing your "face" soon!

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for SHAI - Sephardic Heritage Alliance Inc. The page header includes the Facebook logo, a search bar, and navigation links for Home, Profile, and Account. The page name is "SHAI - Sephardic Heritage Alliance Inc." with a sub-header "Non-Profit Organization · Great Neck, New York". The page has 145 likes. The main content area shows a post from SHAI about their "Seventh Annual Toy, Clothing and Coat Drive" on Sunday, December 11 at 12:00pm. The post has 175 impressions and 0% feedback. The sidebar on the left includes a navigation menu with options like Wall, Info, Photos, and Events. The sidebar on the right shows "Admins (3)", "Use Facebook as Joanna", "Notifications (2)", "Promote with an Ad", "View Insights", and "Recommended Pages" including One Life Fund, Friends of the IDF (FIDF), See You On Shabbos, and Masa Israel Journey.

SHAI'S SEVENTH ANNUAL TOY, CLOTHING AND COAT DRIVE

In preparation for Hanukkah and the cold winter months, SHAI coordinated another terrific *chesed* event on Sunday, December 11th. Thanks to the generosity of our community, thousands of articles

were collected. SHAI thanks everyone who dropped off their clothes and toys to help brighten the lives and warm the hearts of strangers.



Great Neck Record

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Founded 1917
Published by Anton Newspapers

Serving Great Neck, Great Neck Estates, Great Neck Plaza, Kensington, Kings Point, Lake Success, Russell Gardens, Saddle Rock, Thomaston and the Unincorporated Areas

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011



Legislator Bosworth Discusses Senior Center's Project Independence

Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth (D-Great Neck), along with fellow advisory board members Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman and SHAI Vice President Parvaneh Khodadadian, met with Great Neck Senior Center Chair of the Policy and Personnel Committee Helen Weinberg, President Phoebe Lazarus, Treasurer Janet DeWinter, Executive Director Ann Tarcher, and Legal Counsel Rudy DeWinter to discuss Project Independence and ways for the Center to continue broadening its outreach to the entire community.

SHAI is cooperating with the Town of North Hempstead to inform residents that they may call 311 to receive advice regarding Medicaid, Medicare, and other available social service benefits.

Callers may request Farsi-speaking liaisons to Project Independence including Shahzad Moadel, LCSW.

SHAI IS PROUD TO BE THE LARGEST NON-GOVERNMENT SPONSOR OF THE GREAT NECK SENIOR CENTER.



SHAI YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

When Rabbi Yamin Levy approached SHAI last year to establish a sports program for children and teenagers in our community, SHAI's Board of Trustees embraced the idea and offered to fully fund and coordinate the program in what became the SHAI Youth Activities Program.

SHAI purchased sports equipment including basketball hoops and soccer goals and rented space at the Kings Point Tennis Center located on Steamboat Road in Great Neck.

The program's first season was an instant success when it opened up during spring 2011. More than one hundred children from our community, ranging in age from seven to fourteen, attended and enjoyed playing

sports and having fun with their peers on Saturday nights after Shabbat.

Activities include soccer, basketball, and nerf football. Even some of the parents decided to take the opportunity to stay, relax, and enjoy each other's company while their kids play. After a summer recess, the SHAI Board committed to another season beginning November 2011 through January 2012.

Event nights are supervised by a dozen or so older teenagers from our community under the guidance of Rabbi Levy. Kids play sports, laugh, mingle, run around, and most of all have fun, while making new friends. The activity is capped off with some refreshments. Join the fun!



SHAI & TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK PRESENT "OUR SOLDIERS SPEAK"

The following excerpt was written by Sergeant Benjamin Anthony, a reservist in the Israel Defense Forces and founder of Our Soldiers Speak, a non-profit NGO dedicated to educating the Jews of the Diaspora about the mission of the IDF with fact-based insight into Israel's military campaign. SHAI hosted Sgt. Anthony at Temple Israel of Great Neck on Thursday, December 1st.

It is an odd feeling indeed to hand in your rifle at the conclusion of your reserve duty.

You empty all the magazines of their bullets, open up the body of the rifle, take it apart, oil it and clean it before handing it to the attendant on hand.

He registers it, checks it, lists it, and, though I do not see it, I am certain of the fact that he passes it to the next reservist, to the next Israeli father or son who will take my place on the

border, having been called up to relieve the regulars.

One never knows the story of the man who replaces you. You know nothing of his past or of his future, of what his fate will be or who awaits his safe return once his duty is done. And, so, you try not to concentrate on that too much but one cannot help but ponder the simplest of questions.

Questions such as;

Who will be next to grasp that weapon?

What will he look like?

What home life has he left behind him for the period he stands on the fence?

Unfortunately, there are no answers, nor will they ever be presented and a reservist has to concede that truth as he makes his way to the bus that will return him now to his home and to his civilian life.

That was the process I undertook just a few days ago at the end of another tour of duty within the Israel Defense Forces, IDF. I wondered, too, to whom I would tell my story, and whose ears I would have the opportunity to bend toward hearing the virtue of our soldiers.

Once more, it was SHAI that granted me audience before a community-wide event, asking nothing more of me than that I speak from the heart, and talk of whatever and whichever issues I felt were most pressing for today.

And so I did. I spoke of the downturn in Pro-Israel representation on campuses across the United States and mentioned the vital role that each person has to play when it comes to the defense of the Jewish Homeland.

The eclectic audience listened generously and fired question after question which I did my level best to fully answer and express.

Yet the evening left me with a series of my own questions such as, "where would my message be taken from here?"

How can we motivate our youth?

How can we educate our students?

How can we instill pride within our people?

Where will my words travel from here?

But, unlike at the end of my reserve duty, I know the answers to those.

I know, as my association with SHAI deepens and expands, that there are people within this group who work tirelessly to carry forward the truth.

I know that those members of SHAI give of their very

best to lend their uncompromising support to the State of Israel. And I know that my words will not stop with the people present, but will be carried forward, relayed, and will reach the widest of audiences, for this group is one dedicated to truth, and to Israel, and is rightly proud of itself, as such.



Caption: SHAI Board members flank Rabbi Howard Stecker of Temple Israel of Great Neck and Sgt. Anthony. (L to R Jacqueline Harounian, Vice President Rebecca Sassoumi, Hercel Harounian, President Pargol Khadavi, Shahram Delafraz, Ben Cohenmehr.)

There are many organizations with whom I have had the pleasure of collaborating, but none are more forthright than SHAI in their views on the virtue and positive beacon of light that the State of Israel of today represents to the world.

It is wonderful to see and an honor to collaborate with a group such as this, for it is my earnest belief that whilst I may know little indeed about the man who replaced me on that line this time, whomever that person may be, he is somewhat safer by virtue of friendships such as the one I have now seen on several occasions from your group and its counsel.

I thank you for that, and wish that you go from strength to strength in all your endeavors on our behalf. We are better for what you do.

SHAI PARTNERS WITH NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR JUDI BOSWORTH TO PRESENT A HURRICANE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR



Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth meets with SHAI President Pargol Khadavi to prepare for their jointly sponsored Emergency Preparedness seminar on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Disaster Checklist:

Prepare at home.

Have a communication system, a disaster supply kit, and a meeting place.

Kits should contain information for you to take with you to a shelter.

Supplies should include: photo ID, proof of address, insurance policies, contracts, wills, passports, deeds, stocks and bonds, social security cards, immunization cards, Medicare/Medicaid cards, banking and credit card information, emergency contact information, a one week supply of non-perishable food, bottled water, a can opener, flashlight with extra batteries, plastic trash bags, battery operated radio, first aid kit, toiletries, change of clothes, childcare items, cell phone/batteries, cash, auxiliary medical equipment, medicine, dosage instructions, medic alert bracelets.

Emergency Preparedness Presentation

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, Legislator Judi Bosworth (D-Great Neck) and the Sephardic Heritage Alliance, Inc. (SHAI) will co-sponsor a seminar on Emergency Preparedness, presented by a representative from the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) at Great Neck House, 14 Arrandale Avenue. The presentation, open to the community, will begin at 7 p.m. and is expected to last approximately an hour. Topics to be covered include: Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness for Long Island, a Brief History of Hurricanes and Weather Emergencies in Nassau, including Hurricane Irene, Steps Nassau Takes to Prepare for Such Emergencies and What Every Individual and Family Needs to do to Prepare Themselves (Be Educated, Have A Plan, Go Kit and Shelter In-Place Kit). The presentation will conclude with a question and answer session.

SHAI'S WELLNESS SEMINARS

On November 15th, SHAI held the first of this season's series of Wellness Seminars. The series began last year continues due to popular demand. This month's topic was, "How to Boost Your Energy and Immune System." Held at the Great Neck House during the day, the crowded event drew people who were eager to better their lifestyles, and ward off colds the natural way. SHAI is proud that our own Board member, Claudine Sarraf-Amirian, a licensed Practitioner of Acupuncture, Herbology, Reiki Healing and a Life Coach of

Integrative Nutrition, gave the talk. Claudine spoke on the importance of prevention for boosting the immune system thru diet, herbs, acupuncture, and positive attitude. After the session, many ran to local grocers, to stock up on more vegetables.

Our next Wellness Seminar will be held on January 10, 2012, at 10:30 AM at the Great Neck House. The topic will be "Natural Steps to a Stress Free Year."



PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit 1624
Flushing, NY



נס גדל היה שם

The excitement is building ...

SHAI'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Details to be announced.

SHAI's Board of Trustees welcomes your nominations for our esteemed SHAI Award of Merit for exceptional student achievement and Young Leadership Award for professionals with exceptional achievement.

Send your submissions to info@shaiusa.org