



VOICE of SHAI

Fall 2001

President Bush Honors Two Iranian Students

Two Iranian American Jewish students from Great Neck High Schools are winners in the country's oldest and most prestigious academic competition. David Khalili and Nelson Moussazadeh are among this year's 40 national winners in the Intel Science Talent Search. Intel Science Talent Search is formerly known as the Westinghouse competition. The winners traveled to Washington D.C. in March to present their research. On March 8, 2001, the group was greeted by President Bush in the Oval office. A group picture of all winners accompanied by President Bush was later taken in the Rose Garden at the White House. Sharon Mashihi, also from Great Neck North, was a semifinalist in the competition.



SHAI joins the community in commending these students for their hard work and exceptional academic achievements. We recognize their achievements by presenting them the first annual "SHAI Award of Merit." Each award winner will receive a \$1000.00 Israel Bond, to be applied toward undergraduate tuition. These students are role models for all of us, and a source of pride for Iranian Jews everywhere.

ATTENTION: Do you know a high school student who is deserving of special recognition due to outstanding academic, artistic or athletic achievement? Please send a note to SHAI describing the special achievements of the student. Award recipients will be selected each year by the SHAI Board of Trustees, based upon demonstrated merit in the areas of academics, artistic ability or athletics. SHAI can be reached at:

P.O. Box 1025
Great Neck, NY 11021
or via fax at (212) 967-8912

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A Message from SHAI's New Board

As SHAI's newly elected board, it is our honor to continue in the tradition of this organization's commitment to serving our community.

SHAI organizes many informative and fun-filled activities for the benefit of our community. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight one of our more important programs, The SHAI Scholarship Fund.

The SHAI Scholarship Fund promotes higher education assistance in the form of either "Grants" or "Supplementary Loans." This endowment fund was established in 1998 with the support of individuals and corporations within our community.

The Fund has successfully provided financial assistance to those who demonstrate a financial need. Over 80 students in colleges and yeshivas have been assisted with scholarships, totaling approximately \$75,000 over the calendar years 1999 and 2000. This experience has inspired SHAI to expand the educational scholarship program in order to provide support for all aspiring students in our community, who are in financial need. Funding such programs will require an endowment fund with long term planning in order to secure the program's longevity.

We hope to appeal to your enlightened self-interest, as well as your generosity, to the ultimate extent of your resources and capabilities to support The SHAI Scholarship Fund. We hope to more than just acquaint you with our existence; we hope to involve and interest you in joining forces with the dedicated people of our community.

SHAI is pleased to announce the establishment of a special scholarship award:

The Dr. Moussa Brookhim Scholarship for Excellence

Dr. Brookhim, a highly respected member of the Iranian Jewish community, graduated from high school at the age of 16, with Highest Honors and achieved the highest score in Iran on the University Entrance Examination. His academic excellence led to a full scholarship for advance studies in France. As such, by age 22, he received his Ph.D. in Philosophy and French Literature. His dissertation on the evolutionary thought process in Iran, earned him significant praise from Reza Shah Pahlavi.

Dr. Brookhim had a distinguished career as a professor of French Literature in Tehran University and as a department head of languages in three different universities. He was also the Chief editor of the French language daily newspaper *Le Journal de Tehran*. In addition, he served as a translator for the Shah, and was the Licensee of Israelite High School. In his spare time, he published several books in Persian and French, and had translated numerous classic works. In 1958, the French government awarded Dr. Brookhim the *Legion d'Honneur* medal. After settling in the U.S. in 1977, he became a regular contributor to Iranian publications, writing about Zionism, Judaism and international politics.

A Scholarship award in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded annually to a high school or college student who writes an essay about Iranian Jewish history and tradition. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage young adults to research and learn about their Iranian Jewish heritage and history. All essays must be typed at least 5 pages, double spaced. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2002. The winning essay will be selected by the SHAI's Scholarship Committee, and be published in the Voice of SHAI. Please submit essay to SHAI, P.O. Box 1025, Great Neck, NY 11021

This Scholarship was made possible due to a generous donation made by Robert and Simon Kahen, in memory of Dr. Moussa Brookhim.

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Journey of a Torah from Kashan to New York

In memory of Davood Eshaghoff

MY uncle, Davood Eshaghoff's short life came to a screeching halt in Thanksgiving of 1959, when he was involved in a fatal and tragic car accident, while traveling from Penn State University to Mont Clair, New Jersey. His death, at the age of 22 years, was a heartbreaking shock not only for the family members he left behind in Iran, but also for the whole community who mourned him. It was thus in his loving memory, that members of the Eshaghoff family, subsequently embarked upon a journey to Kashan to acquire a Torah from the old Kashan Synagogue.

It was on or about 1960, and I was only seven or eight years old. To this day, the memories of this voyage live vividly in my mind, as I accompanied my grandfather Shaban, my father, Yaghoub, my uncle Ezra and my grand uncle, Amou Shalom to Kashan. Upon our arrival, we spent two nights sleeping on "takteh choobee" in Baghe Shah, visited the former homes and workplaces of my family members who had once lived there, and swam in the waters of Feen.

Our journey, at some point, took us to the old Kashan Synagogue, where my grandfather carefully selected a Torah thought to be over 200 years old from Syria. It was a Torah with a special significance for my grandfather, as it was not only one from his childhood, but also one that was previously bought in loving memory of Bibi Jan, one of my grandfather Shaban's sisters who had passed on in the early 1900's as a young bride.

Our return journey back home, was on a blistering hot sunny day, when somewhere between Kashan and the city of Ghom, an axle on my uncle's jeep station wagon broke on the gravel road. The Torah remained safe with us in the car, but we were isolated in the middle of the arid desert, with no food or water in sight. There was absolutely no shelter or any alternate means of transportation near us. However, at some point, we found some local villagers who kindly provided us bread and

cheese while they helped arrange a truck to tow the broken car. Meanwhile, we were fortunate to have a National Iranian Oil Company tanker give my grandfather and me a ride to the city of Ghom where we caught a bus to Tehran. Our ride took us to my grandparents' home in Hassan-Abad, where the entire family was anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Torah, that would in essence, help keep the memory of my uncle alive. It was approximately seven or eight hours later that my father and the others finally arrived with the Torah in hand. It was, at the very least, an emotional arrival.

In the forty somewhat years since, this Torah, dedicated in the loving memory of my uncle, has had several homes. In the early 1960's, it was housed at the Hassan-Abad Synagogue, later at the Darvazah Dolat Synagogue and finally at the "Khaneh Piran". In the early nineties my uncle Ezra arranged for the return of the torah back to our family. With hard work on his part and his friends, he managed to get the Torah out of Iran into Dubai and France and ultimately to Los Angeles. Finally, another one of Shaban's grandchildren, Khoroush Daneshgar, carried the Torah on a red eye flight from Los Angeles to New York. I remember our entire family going to the airport to see the coming of the Torah.

The journey of this Torah, which began in Kashan over 40 years ago, to memorialize my uncle, Davood Eshaghoff, has for now ended with its new home in the lobby of Beth Hadassah, Iranian Jewish Center in Great Neck. I hope that having read this story you will take a few moments and visit this torah, which has traveled so many years and miles to keep alive the spirit of my uncle Davood.

Hilbert Eshaghpour
June 2001

Sexuality Between Spouses

On June 21, 2001, SHAI held a lecture delivered by the renowned spiritual leader, Rabbi David Shofet of Los Angeles and Doctor James Elist, urologist to the stars. The topic that was covered was a very delicate one concerning the marital relationship between spouses both from a spiritual and medical point of view. The speakers sought to enlighten the audience as to how to better respect one another and treat one another with great satisfaction.

The event, held at JFK school auditorium was attended by over 150 people. The majority of the audience were young couples. The evening was started with an introduction by Mrs. Nazanine Amirian, who introduced both Rabbi Shofet and Dr. Elist, who happens to be her brother.

Rabbi Shofet addressed the sensitive subject of sexuality between spouses with a humorous twist. He compared the need for sex to the need for food. Marriage is a natural step in a person's life. As one pursues a spouse, sexuality is an aspect in the cycle of marriage that must be achieved with true love and respect for ones partner. Love, respect and a healthy sexual relationship go hand and hand in a successful marriage. One must find the time to work on his relationship. The right

atmosphere and true love leads to a satisfying sexual relationship between both partners.

Dr. Elist covered the topic of sexuality from the medical aspect. He emphasized the fact that surroundings, atmosphere, and ones senses send messages to the brain triggering the desire for sex. He spoke about some medical conditions that can affect a person's sexual ability and desire. Ones sexuality has no age limit, as long as both partners have the desire.

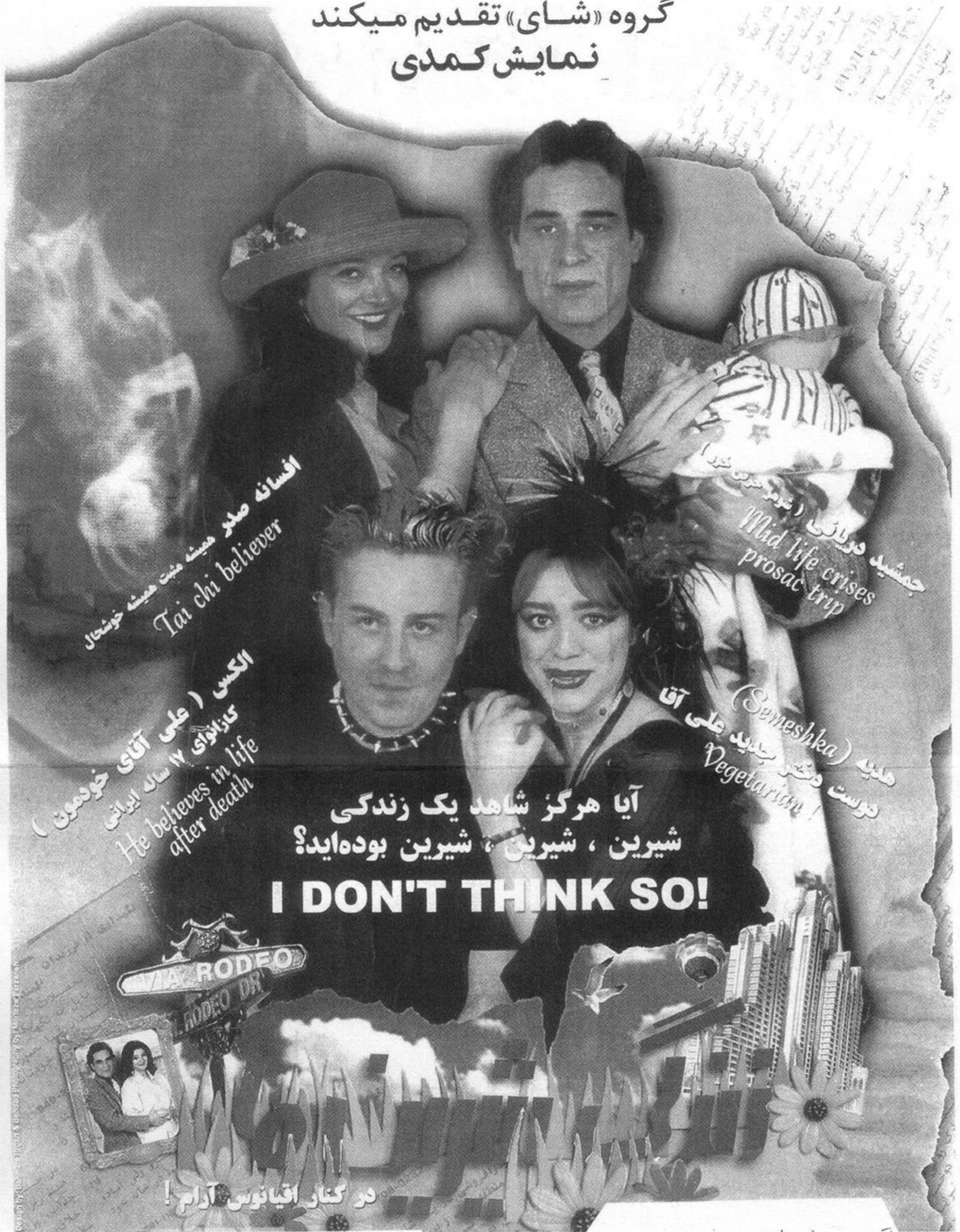
The second half of the program was conducted in a question and answer format. The audience was given cards to write their questions and place them in a box for the panel to address. Of the 50 questions submitted, the panel chose to address the ones they considered to be the most important.

When the lecture came to an end, there were people lined up to personally ask the speakers questions and to address their concerns. Asked by all for an encore performance, the Rabbi and the Doctor promised to return for a sequel. Overall the night was both educational and entertaining. Another successful event sponsored by SHAI.



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گروه «شای» تقدیم میکند
نمایش کمدی



افسانه صلور همیشه مثبت همیشه خوشحال
Tai chi believer

جمشید دولیاری (تورم کردن نند)
Mid life crises
prozac trip

الکسی (علی آقای خودمون)
کارتوای ۷ ساله ایرانی
He believes in life
after death

مدینه (Semeshka)
دوست دکتر بیدید علی آقا
Vegetarian!

آیا هرگز شاهد یک زندگی
شیرین، شیرین، شیرین بوده‌اید؟
I DON'T THINK SO!

در کنار اقیانوس آرام!

گروه «شای» تقدیم میکند
نمایش کمدی

زندگی خوش ما

یکشنبه شب ۷ اکتبر ساعت ۸

Sunday night October 7th at 8:00 pm

Great Neck, North H.S.
35 Polo Road Great Neck
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۳۵ پلورود، گرت نک

گروه «شای» تقدیم میکند
نمایش کمدی

زندگی خوش ما

شنبه شب ۶ اکتبر ساعت ۸:۳۰

Saturday night October 6th at 8:30 pm

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SHAI Calendar of Events

October 6&7 - Theatrical Performance
“A Sweet Life by the Sea”

February 1 - Deadline to submit essays for
The Dr. Moussa Brookhim Scholarship

Upcoming Events

SHAI is planning more exciting lectures, events and parties for the upcoming months. Look for our mailings.

SHAI ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

SHAI is proud to announce the creation of it's own website. Our goal is to provide an online forum for visitors to learn about our organization, its history and upcoming activities. In addition, the website will feature, among other things, our newsletter, information about the Scholarship Fund and its application and membership.

The website is currently under construction and is scheduled to be launched by October 1, 2001. The website will also contain space for advertisers and sponsors. Interested parties may contact David Pour or Shahram Yaghoubzadeh for additional information.

RABBI YEDIDIA SHOFET

Rabbi Yedidia Shofet has co-authored his autobiography with the assistance of Mohandes Manoucher Cohen.

Rabbi Yedidia Shofet was born in Kashan in 1908 to a lineage of great Rabbis. The autobiography consists of the Rabbi's life in the past 20 years.

In the near future SHAI will sponsor a book signing event. Rabbi David Shofet, Rabbi Yedidia Shofet's son, is planning to attend the event.

Young Adults of SHAI

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upcoming
events.*