



SHAI
SEPHARADIC
HERITAGE ALLIANCE

לשנה טובה



VOICE OF SHAI

SEPTEMBER 2010

OFFICE ADDRESS

770 Middle neck Road
Great Neck, NY 11024

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O.Boz 1025
Great Neck, NY 11021

WEBSITE

www.shai-online.org

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Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of SHAI, it is truly my pleasure to wish all our friends and supporters a hearty "LE'SHANNAH TOVA" and "KHATIMA TOVA." May the new year bring us all health, happiness and peace.

Earlier this year we celebrated SHAI's 18th year of service to the Persian community at our Dinner Dance Gala Event. More than 400 of our community members and influential dignitaries came together to express their support and dedication to our cause, as we recognized leaders and talented youth. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to deliver the magnificent affair in good taste and with passion. SHAI made its mark one more time.

Since then, our Board has been busy reviewing staggering requests for financial assistance to our deserving needy students. At this time, 149 applications are in the review stages for approval (to date, over \$1,200,000 was granted to more than 1,000 applicants). SHAI's Educational Scholarship Fund has grown with each passing year. Due to the struggling economy, the number of applications increased significantly this year. In addition to our Education Scholarship Fund, allow me to take this opportunity to reflect on many accomplishments and achievements of SHAI. We have reached out and developed partnerships with local schools and synagogues. We have extended and built alliances with Persian and American Jewish organizations and local governments.

Our partnership with Great Neck Senior Center has grown stronger over the years. We are the largest non-for-profit organization donor. Over 150 elderly Persians participate weekly in a full range of stimulating activities including movies, exercises, day trips, dance, bingo, and many other events while enjoying Glatt Kosher food and free transportation.

In 2003, SHAI began marching as an independent organization in the SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE. What started with 40 participants has now grown to an annual tradition for over 300 proud marchers, chanting their support of our beloved Israel while wearing SHAI tee shirts and waving Israeli and American flags. This year we carried the largest Israeli flag on Fifth Avenue.

SHAI is also involved in the sponsorship of events held by Persian Culture Committee and the MA VA SHOMAH TV, bringing musical and NOROOZ concerts as well as live theater to entertain our community. Our sponsorship of the New York Chapter of 30 Years After provides education and unites the younger members of our community on important political issues and our heritage as well as the importance of participation and involvement in American civic life.

Our recent forum with the new superintendent of the Great Neck Schools provided a forum for questions and concerns our community has about the school systems and how it affects our children.

Our annual drives—The Coat and Toy Drive and The Blood Drive—each offers volunteers an opportunity to donate to important causes.

As we celebrate the Jewish New Year and CHAI for SHAI, we recognize that without your support, encouragement and involvement, SHAI would not have been able to provide platforms to our community's ever changing needs in all facets of life.

Gratefully

Shahram Delafraz

President

SEPHARDIC HERITAGE ALLIANCE INC.



2010 Gala Dinner Dance



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• 1,2 - Keynote guest speakers, the honorable Malcolm Hoenlein & Dr. Nouriel Roubini • 3,4,5,6 - Shahram Yaghoobzadeh, Shahin Rafii MD., Dustin Emrani, & Houman Hemmati, M.D., PHD receiving the Parviz Ohebshalom leadership award from Fred Ohebshalom (3, event MC Pargol Khadavi also present) • 7,8,9 - Ashley Emrani, Chelsea Sassouni, and Mathew Homapour receiving the Albert Massachi award of merit from Bitza Sassouni • 10, 11, 12 - Aaron Harounian, Daniel Piroozian, and Johny Aryeh receiving the Eli Sassouni memorial scholarship award from Mahin Oheb & Khosrow Sassouni • 13,14 - Jordan Khorshad & Darya Sasson the essay contest winners of Dr. Moussa Brookhim Scholarship along with Simone kahen • 15 - Israel Bond Rep. Ann Bernstein along with some SHAI Board members • 16 - Shai Board of Trustees

How would one define a miracle?



According to Webster dictionary, miracle is defined as “a marvelous event manifesting a Supernatural act”. Therefore, miracle and extraordinary go together.

A miracle, however, to a Jewish mystic is much more than that.

Miracle in Hebrew is Ness, which has different meanings. Ness is a flag, it's the ability to rise up, just like a flag. Ness comes from the word elevated.



A miracle then is a higher than experience. It's a state of elevated awareness. It's the ability to see extraordinary in ordinary and supernatural in natural.

What I witnessed on Israeli parade day was and is nothing short of a miracle.

To walk in streets of a country other than Israel, hundreds and thousands of us together, chanting “David Melech Israel” with Israeli flags in our hands is by all measures an extraordinary event.



This is an event that would have been a far fetched dream just 70 years ago. We are a very blessed generation to be a witness to this miracle. However, in this miracle we are the participants rather than recipients. We are the generation that by our participation, by just showing up, by chanting and singing in unity with another Jew, by voicing our love for state of Israel, we make the miracle happen.



The miracle is not only to be able to walk the streets with a Jewish pride, but its also the message that we send the whole world. That we stand united together and that the Jewish nation and State of Israel are inseparable. We are bound together from beginning of time till the end of time and that this is an eternal truth that no nation, no force, can take away from us. Thank you SHAI for giving us the opportunity to be participants to this miracle. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to sing and dance, united with one voice and with one heart.



DAVID MELECH ISRAEL

Farangiss Sedaghatpour
First time Marcher



VOICE OF SHAI

Make an impact with a gift of education!

SHAI counts on your continued support to further the service to the needs of the Persian Jewish Community.
Please accept the following contribution to SHAI.

Recommended amounts _____\$36 _____\$52 _____\$180 _____ Other

_____ Please mail me additional information about SHAI

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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SHAI (Sephardic Heritage Alliance Inc.)

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