



Annual Report of the Iranian American Society of Daytona Beach (2006—2007)

President's Report

Hard to believe it has been ten years since the inception of Iranian American Society. We celebrated IAS's Tenth Anniversary with a brunch on Sunday, September 23, 2007. The event included a large cake and lots of kids to blow out the candles! It has been an impressive and a very busy ten years.

IAS has been very lucky to have been able to partner with the best art, cultural and educational institutions in Volusia County to bring unique exhibits and hold notable events. We have celebrated Iranian holidays including Noruz and Mehregan with our members and the community, held language classes (Farsi), helped celebrate International Day at our universities, and hosted many concerts, plays, workshops and lectures.

One of our most noteworthy exhibits was "A Breeze from the Gardens of Persia" where works of 54 prominent Iranian Artists were brought to United States by Meridian International and was put on a U.S. tour. Both Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) and Ormond Memorial Art Museum (OMAM) were the venues for this exhibit. IAS was very lucky to be a host to six of these artists from Iran, sponsored by Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, during the week long opening festivities. The celebrations involved programs at MOAS, OMAM, DBCC, Stetson University, Seabreeze High School and Spruce Creek High School. The

artists gave lectures and hosted workshops at these venues. We included an Iranian dance troupe from Los Angeles, Namah Dance Group, and a percussion music group, Zarbang Ensemble, to hold dance and music performances throughout the weeklong celebration.

In partnership with Southeast Museum of Photography, IAS hosted "The Persian Image" on loan from the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Galley and Freer Gallery of Art. This was an exhibit of Antoin Servuguin's striking photographic images of life in Iran from the 1870s to the 1930s that reveal a land caught between the norms of traditional Islamic society and the complexities of the rapidly encroaching modern world. This exhibit opened with a gala "Persian Rhapsody" at which Lt. Governor Toni Jennings was the guest of honor and Shardad Rohani, the internationally-renowned composer and musician, "one of the most talented of the new composers" according to the Great late Henry Mancini, performed his magical music.

We have hosted many other art exhibits including works of Mr. Hessam Abrishami, Ms. Roohee Mirbaha, Mr. Behrooz Nournia, Mr. Feraydon Rassouli, and others. We have hosted many concerts with performers from Iran and Iranian musicians living outside of Iran. In 2005, we hosted the Safa Group from Isfahan. We have hosted 3 performances by world renowned musician Bijan Mortazavi during our

tenure, and also performances by Ziba Shirazi, Michael Artuni, and others. We have hosted many dance troupes, including Pars National Ballet, Namah Ensemble, and Saba Dance Company. We have hosted lectures and workshops including "Demystifying Democracy Workshop" held by National Iranian American Council, lectures and book signing by Dr. Naini and Afshin Molavi. We have hosted comedy shows and plays. The academy award nominee actress Shohreh Agdashloo has performed twice in plays for Iranian American Society. She is also the narrator in an IAS commissioned documentary made by WCEU about Persian art aired on many different TV stations.

These are only some of the events hosted by IAS during our tenure. We have scheduled many exciting, educational and entertaining programs for the coming year. Please visit our newly designed website often to keep abreast of all future programs.

A sincere thank you goes to our members for their continued support and guidance. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors throughout the ten years, they are many. We have been a recipient of International Cultural Exchange grant for many of our programs as well as Cultural Council of Volusia County program support grant for four years now. We could've never accomplished so much without the financial help of these grants. I also want to thank our partners throughout the years including Daytona Beach College, Behtune Cookman University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Stetson University, Museum of Arts and Sciences, Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens, Southeast Museum of Photography, Volusia County Schools, and WCEU. We hope to continue and expand our cooperation and collaboration with these fine institutions. This is a great year to become a member of one of this area's finest cultural organizations. Won't you join us please!

Sincerely,
Forough B. Hosseini

2007 Annual Meeting and Election

The Iranian American Society held its annual meeting and the election of its Board of Directors on February 25, 2007.

The following Officers of the Board were elected:

President:	Forough Hosseini
Vice President:	Mohammad Bahrami
Treasurer:	Parviz Keshvari
Secretary:	Steven Garthe

The following people were elected for Members at Large:

	Bahram Ahmadi
Farrokh Assad	Ben Babazadeh
Laleh Babazadeh	Neema Bahrami
Roya Bayati	Dr. Habib Eslami
Beverly Firouzabadi	Paul Ghyabi
Dr. Taghi Kermani	Firouzeh Sarshory



2007 Chahar-Shanbeh-Soori

On Tuesday, March 13, IAS members and friends celebrated the ancient Zoroastrian tradition of lighting a fire (*Chahar-Shanbeh-Soori*). This took place at Tom Rennick Beach Park in Ormond-by-the-Sea, with a bonfire on the beach. Mrs. Firouzeh Sarshory brought refreshments and Mr. Farrokh Assad provided firewood and sparklers for the children.





The story behind the celebration is as follows: Ancient Iranians believed the guardian angels (Forouhars) and spirits of the dead would come down to earth within these ten days to visit their human counterparts. A major Spring-cleaning was carried out to welcome them with feasts and celebrations. Bonfires would be set on rooftops at night to indicate to the spirits and the angels that humans were ready to receive them. This was called the **Suri Festival**. Modern Iranians still carry out the Spring-cleaning and celebrate 'Chahar Shanbeh Suri' (Wednesday Suri). Bonfires are made and all people will jump over the fire on the last Tuesday of the year. This is a purification rite and Iranians believe by going over the fire they will get rid of all their illnesses and misfortunes.



2007 Family Noruz Event

The Family Noruz celebration took place on Saturday, March 24, at the Breakaway Trails clubhouse in Ormond Beach to celebrate the arrival of Spring and the New Persian Year.



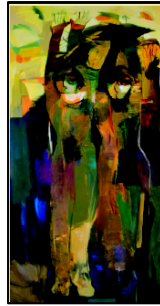
The Persian food was catered by Mr. Neema Bahrami's Restaurant. As usual, Mrs. Manous Vafaie played "Khaleh Noruz (a Persian equivalent of Santa Claus) and provided gifts for all children.



About 100 members and guests were in attendance to enjoy our New Year's event.

2006 Persian Vernissage

The Root Gallery of the Museum of Arts and Sciences was the venue for the Persian Vernissage gala. This gala was to celebrate the Persian New Year, Noruz, as well as the opening of Hessam Abrishami 's exhibit. Hessam's dynamic compositions, powerful expressions, and vibrant colors have captured viewers around the world with their amazing depth and unique intrigue. He has exhibited the ability to fascinate and disarm an audience with his artistic works. Hessam's amazing imageries have been lifted off the canvas and portrayed in a three dimensional form through his stunning sculptures. Hessam has exhibited his art in Europe, Asia, and North America. His talented works have been colorfully illustrated in various Ivy League textbooks nationwide.



MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND
 IRANIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY PRESENT

HESSAM ABRISHAMI

March 25 - April 16, 2006

SPONSORED BY

Charles Wayne Properties, Inc.	Jon Hall Automotive Group
Consolidated Tomoka Land Company	ICI Homes
Prudential Transact Realty, Inc.	The DBCC Foundation

Hessam was in attendance at the gala to join IAS members and their guests for the opening festivities, which included a black tie event on March 24th and an afternoon cocktail reception on March 25th. Monika Jalili together with her music ensemble, NoorSaaz, were the performers for the evening. She sings old, folkloric songs in both Farsi and English. Hessam's son and manager, Kaveh, presented a painting to the museum as a gift from Hessam (pictured below).



IAS Life Member and previous president, Mrs. Manous Richey, is serving tea in traditional clothes at the Persian Vernissage gala at the Museum of Arts and Sciences.



Pictured below are from left: IAS President Forough Hosseini, Artist Hessam Abrishami, Museum Executive Director Wayne Atherholt and Museum Board Chair CiCi Brown.



Our members, Susan Afshari, Fay Sarshory, and Bev Firouzabadi, are enjoying the black tie gala!



2007 Sizdeh Bedar Picnic

The celebration of Spring was capped off and enjoyed by an enthusiastic group at the Sizdeh Bedar Picnic at City Island River Park on April 1, 2007. Sizdeh Bedar marks the 13th day of Spring. Food was a buffet luncheon of traditional dishes and fun activities were planned for all ages including a backgammon tournament.



IAS Members are enjoying a friendly game of backgammon.



Back to School Picnic

The Iranian American Society celebrated the end of a long, hot Summer with an oceanfront picnic for IAS families and their school aged children on Sunday, Sept 9, at Frank Redmond Park in Daytona Beach Shores. It was a beautiful, sunny day and the surf was up! So a number of the kids waxed down their boards and hit the waves to show off some new skills they learned during the summer, taking some of the sting out of having to go back to school on Monday. The parents took care of the food and drink part of the picnic, serving lots of summer salad dishes and burning more than a few hot dogs on the park grills.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration and General Membership Meeting

The Iranian American Society hosted a Sunday Brunch for its General Membership on September 23 at the Oceans Grande Resort Club Room, in Daytona Beach Shores to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary. A generous turnout of membership was treated to a delicious Sunday Brunch, courtesy of Mrs. Laleh Babazadeh, at which members and their families had the opportunity to meet old friends and get acquainted with new members. The program included a comprehensive update of the past year's activities, and a preview and discussion of the IAS social calendar for the coming year. We enjoyed receiving input from our members, since their participation, and guidance helps IAS's Board plan the future events based on the membership's wishes. The festivities were capped off by a cutting of special birthday cakes, prepared specifically for the 10th Anniversary date of the founding of IAS in September of 1997.



Idean and Deana Sarshory Together with Kimia Joulani are helping blow out IAS's birthday candles!



Second Annual IAS Camping Trip, Disney Fort Wilderness

IAS members and their families were once again treated to a camping trip October 12-14 to the "Happiest Place on Earth", Disney World. The venue at Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort and Campground was the perfect opportunity for IAS kids to "rough it" in a 700 acre expanse of cypress and pine trees situated next to Seven Seas Lagoon, while still offering all the amenities that made it an easy adventure for us adults. Well-appointed cabins that sleep six offered a rustic escape, and the families availed themselves of a plethora of activities from swimming and tennis to fishing, boating and campfire sing-alongs.

The main family entertainment after dark for the happy campers included the Hoop-Dee-Do Musical Revue and a nightly campfire program held near the Meadow Trading Post. Naturally, the kids loved having access to watercraft shuttle service directly from the Campground to their favorite Disney attractions at the Magic Kingdom and EPCOT with their terrific evening fireworks display to end the weekend. As they say in show biz...'a great time was had by all!'



2007 IAS Bulletin Board

- * Partnered with Daytona Beach College, Bethune Cookman University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and WCEU to begin a college-based Lecture Series in 2008, with a focus on Iranian culture and heritage.
- * Added "Honorary Membership" category to IAS general membership.
- * Established new website www.iasdb.org thanks to the efforts of Honorary Member Marissa Buckley and Z-Graph, Inc.
- * Appointed William W. Ward as new Executive Director in February.
- * Obtained membership in the Volusia County Cultural Alliance, a community-based organization that is dedicated to supporting programs in the arts, such as the Florida International Festival and other cultural events.
- * IAS recognized by an editorial in the *Daytona Beach News Journal* as one of the most "prominent arts and culture organizations in our community".



IAS Ladies enjoying an elaborate lunch at Disney Camp Fort Wilderness.

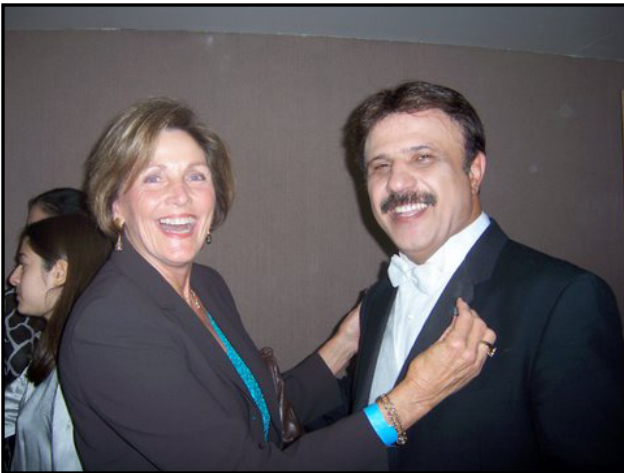
IAS kids enjoy being driven in a golf cart by Ilean Sarshory.



2006 Bijan Mortazavi Concert

Daytona Beach College's Theatre Center was the venue for a very lively and moving performance by an award-winning, international performer, Bijan Mortazavi, on October 21st. Hundreds of people joined IAS members to enjoy this performance. Mr. Mortazavi is a world-renowned concert violinist, who was trained as a child in Tehran by five of the most respected and well-known violinists in Iran.

Bijan won first prize among violin students of all ages at a national contest when he was eleven years old. He was fourteen when he assembled a thirty-two man orchestra, performing his own compositions and arrangements at the famous "Ramsar Summer Camp" in Iran. He since continued his musical education in the United States and he released his first album in 1995 which became a best seller. His national and international tours have brought Bijan to sold out audiences all over the world.



Mr. Mortazavi is pictured above being 'pinned' by Volusia County Council's Co-Chair, Joie Alexander.



Left, Marjan and Steve Garthe share a laugh with Bijan Mortazavi.



A Celebration of Universal Values

A purpose of the Iranian American Society Continues to be the promotion and support of cultural exchange activities and opportunities, that build a high level of multi-cultural awareness and understanding within our community.

It is provident this year that we recognize the 800th birthday of Jalleledin Rumi, who offered this timeless observation of his place in the world:

*"Not Christian or Jew or Muslim,
not Hindu, Buddhist, sufi, or zen.
Not any religion or cultural system.*

*I am not from the East or the West,
not composed of elements at all.*

*I do not exist,
am not an entity in this world or the
next.
My place is placeless, a trace of the
traceless.
Neither body or soul.*

*I belong to the beloved, have seen the
two worlds as one and that one call to
and know,
first, last, outer, inner, only that
Breath breathing human being. "*

Rumi



Sponsored in part by:



BECOME A MEMBER

IAS Membership Application

Name

Home Address

City

State and Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

www.IASDB.org

Life Membership	\$1,000
Corporate Membership	\$250
Family Membership	\$50
Individual Membership	\$20
Students and Senior Citizens	\$15

(Membership dues are annual, except for the one time Life Membership.)



I would like to help with the following committees:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Election | <input type="checkbox"/> Education / Children Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Government and Legal Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Noruz / Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publication | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture Series | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Webpage Development | |



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