



A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As the year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity and offer my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all of you for your continued support and dedication to making “Your Federation” stronger.

We have had an active and effective year, proudly attaining many of our goals and will continue aiming higher in 2016.

This year, you have demonstrated your faith in IAJF, enabling us to make significant progress, serving and empowering more individuals and families throughout our community and guiding them to independence. Together, with your help, the Emergency Fund of IAJF has provided rental subsidy, medical and dental care assistance, counseling, job placement, legal and educational aid to the disadvantaged in our community.

We as a community celebrated our Jewish heritage and taught the true Jewish values to our youngsters. Together, we have supported and practiced the rituals and customs of our rich Persian culture.

We proudly witnessed successful events initiated and coordinated by our affiliated organizations whom we gladly support and collaborate with.

As we go forward to the New Year, we know that every step we have taken in the past has brought us transformation, elevation and growth while striving for a stronger and united community.

Dear friends, IAJF runs strictly by community leader volunteers. To be part of this great family, please join us and participate in helping the community with your experience, knowledge, support and ideas. We welcome volunteers to help out in our main office and in the numerous committees that are vital parts of the Iranian American Jewish Federation.

My best wishes for a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2016.

Susan Azizzadeh,
President

P.S. The following newsletter has captured the highlights of some of our activities of 2015.

IAJF Co-hosted 29th Israel Film Festival Opening Night

Iranian American Jewish Federation proudly co-hosted the opening night Gala and award presentation of 29th edition of the Israel Film Festival in Los Angeles on October 28th at Saban Theater. Baba Joon, the first Israeli film in Persian language had its U.S. premiere as the opening night screening at Israel Film Festival.



Mrs. Susan Azizzadeh, President of IAJF addressed the audience and delivered a very meaningful opening speech as follows:

“This year, the Iranian American Jewish Federation proudly celebrates 35 years of service to the community:

protecting, defending, assisting and empowering our people. We at IAJF represent the unity and continuity of an ancient community, the roots of which has been planted in the land of Esther and has been nurtured by the poems of Rumi. Undoubtedly our Jewish identity has been woven by Persian traditions over millenniums, thus giving us a unique flavor in the mosaic of the Jewish world. On behalf of our volunteers and colleagues, all the affiliated organizations and our chairman of the board, Mr. Mike Nazarian I thank you, our friends, for your support and I congratulate Mr. Yuval Delshad for his story and remarkable achievements. To all the wonderful cast of "Babajoon", Viessah Safavi, Navid Negahban and Fariborz David Diaan, Asher Avrahami, Rafael Elliassi, we congratulate all of you on your magnificent performances. Our sincere congratulations to the honorees: Dame Helen Mirren, who is one of the few performers to have achieved the

Triple Crown of acting, having won an Oscar, a Tony, and an Emmy award. Mr. Aaron Sorkin, a prolific screenwriter, producer, and playwright and Dr. Sharon Nazarian, President of Younes and Soraya Nazarian Family Foundation, a philanthropist and an effective leader whom we thank for her support and her remarkable vision , This time for recognizing a story that had to be told had to be told and now the world can hear.”

To watch Mrs. Azizzadeh’s address please visit: <https://www.youtube.com>



Dr. Sharon Nazarian president of Y&S Nazarian Family Foundation, Aaron Sorkin, a prolific screenwriter,

producer, and playwright, and Actress Dame Helen Mirren received the 2015 IFF Humanitarian Award, Achievement in the Film and Television Award and Career Achievement Award respectively. This event was covered by the media and journalists from the Times of Israel as well as the Jerusalem Post. To read more please visit:

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com>

<http://www.jpost.com>

Memorial Tribute: Honoring Dr. Meir Ezri, Former Israeli Representative to Iran

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." --Benjamin Disraeli

The Iranian American Jewish Federation, on behalf of the community and the affiliated organizations, hosted a ceremony on August 27th, 2015 to

pay tribute to Dr. Meir Ezri for his dedicated services.

IAJF President, Mrs. Azizzadeh opened the memorial welcoming attendees followed by the tribute delivered by the prominent guest speakers.



Rabbi David Shofet and addresses by Mr. Sam Kermanian, Senior Advisor to IAJF, delivered condolence messages from prominent international leaders and briefly spoke about his personal memories and the unique and special relationship between their families, especially of the late Moussa Kermanian and Meir Ezri.

Mr. Nasser Oliae enlightened everyone with his vast knowledge of the history, Persian Jews, commerce,

relationships, facts and remarkable memories of Mr. Ezri.

Dr. Nahid Pirnazar pointed out that Ezri's mission reminds one of Ezra's role in rebuilding Jerusalem during Achaemenid era, and the fact that they both shared loyalty and commitment to both their homeland and their new homeland and fulfilled their mission with rationality and love for the benefit of both lands.

In a moving tribute Mrs. Homa Sarshar, referred to Mr. Ezri as an "Exceptional Statesman" and addressed the question of why Iran's contemporary history lacks Jewish political leaders. Outlining the capabilities and characteristics of a political leader, she concluded that Ezri, having had the opportunity to experience politics in Israel, returned this achievement to his mother land, Iran.

Following Mrs. Sarshar, an informative documentary prepared by Mr.Hojatpanah about Meir Ezri's life was screened which traced his life from the beginning of his career.

Toward the end, yoram Ezri and Yael Shaulian, offered the final eulogies and thanked IAJF and the audience on behalf of the family.

An announcement & congratulations

Dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the Iranian American Jewish Federation Public Affairs committee, AMCHA Initiative and 40 other organizations that joined together, unified and determined to fight Anti-Semitism in Universities and colleges across the nation.

Following considerable efforts launched, the Regents of the University of California have held full public hearings regarding revision of the Statement against intolerance to address concerns of Anti-Semitic threats on UC campuses.

It is through UNITY and COLLABORATION that we can secure a safer future for our children.

Gratefully yours,

Susan Azizzadeh

IAJF President

IAJF High Holiday Services

As in previous years, our congregants joined together to celebrate High Holidays. We all prayed, heard the shofar and had beautiful ceremonies at Beth El Synagogue.

The moving, exciting, meaningful and very participatory services were led by Rabbi Dr. Issac Norman and the



Hazanim: Dr. Babak Eghbalieh, Dr. Sammy Eghbalieh, Mr. Isaac Yaghoubieh, Mr. Ezatolah Nazarian, and Mr. Ezri Pedouim, and the congregants received a copy of Yom Kippur booklet that was beautifully compiled by Drs. Babak and Sammy Eghbalieh.



Beth El Synagogue also hosted its annual Yom Kippur seminar facilitated

by Dr. Dorit Miller and Dr. Daniel Sadigh and presented by Rodney Rabbani and Marjan Moradzadeh. Following the interactive presentation and audience question and answer, many believed the exchange gave them a better understanding of the younger generation's challenges in finding their partners for life.

While being respectful of tradition, we also strive to develop new ways to make the services more meaningful and relevant for today's modern Jews.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all who participated and made the High Holidays special through warm and embracing services.

We look forward to a wonderful year of connection and celebration, and we hope that you will join us for many of our community events. All community members are welcome at any of our services and celebrations.



JEW PERS

Past Events Update

On August 11th, JEW PERS hosted an event entitled, “Personal Finance” presented by a guest speaker, a certified financial educator, and a financial practitioner with 12 years of experience in the insurance and investment industry. It was very well received by the participants and each attendee received a complimentary copy of the book Saving Your Future.

JEW PERS also held the 7th in the series of book club events, reading and discussing “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen R. Covey, on Tuesday, Oct 20th which focused on the first chapter “Be Proactive”. This book has sold more

than 25 million copies in 40 languages worldwide, and the audio version has sold 1.5 million copies. In August 2011 Time Magazine listed 7 Habits as one of “The 25 Most Influential Business Management Books”.

JEW PERS also hosted a costume party on Oct 29th and Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 24th.

In lieu of flowers for any occasion, IAJF Emergency Fund kindly requests that you consider a contribution and reach out to the needy.

Mishlei 14:21: He who is kind to the poor, happy is he.

Making a donation to IAJF Emergency Fund to provide financial assistance to the needy in our community is a profound way of honoring the memory

of a loved one, expressing gratitude or congratulation upon a wedding, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, graduation or Brit. Donations made to EF are considered tax-deductible.

The certificates will be sent to the honorees immediately upon your request.

