

One of the major consequences of the 1979 revolutions in Iran was the unwanted mass immigration of both the elite and the minorities of Iran. Immediately after their arrival to California – namely Los Angeles – the Iranian-Jewish community began forming various organizations to cater to different community needs. In 1980, the Iranian American Jewish Federation (the “IAJF”) was formed as an umbrella organization with the main objective of defending and protecting the interests and welfare of Jews throughout the world—with special emphasis on Iranian Jews—as well as streamlining the philanthropic activities of its member organizations.

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of IAJF, our Board of Directors is elected by voting community members and serves four-year terms alongside the representatives of IAJF’s member organizations and the elected community trustees.

Proud of its services since its inception, the IAJF has contributed to the welfare of our community, some of which is detailed below:

1. Working in close cooperation with organizations such as the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the American Joint Distribution Committee in connection with the issues facing members of our community from Iran who apply to the United States for refugee status, including assistance with the preparation of such applications and the many issues that exist for these members of our community in Vienna (which is where their applications are processed).
2. Providing necessary assistance to new community members who have relocated to the United States.
3. Purchasing Temple Beth El in West Hollywood and shifting the IAJF headquarters to this new location. After establishing The Iranian American Jewish Center (IAJC), major renovations have taken place, including the building of Neman Hall; an elegant banquet chamber. This beautiful building comprises of a landmark synagogue, offices, a nursery school and banqueting facilities. We conduct Shabbat and high holiday services both in Farsi and in English.
4. The Emergency Fund of IAJF has had an outstanding record of providing financial and medical assistance to community members who are in critical need.

Overtime, thanks to the services of its dedicated members, the IAJF has been recognized—both at national and international levels—as the unified voice of Iranian Jews throughout the world. We have been regarded as a leading system amongst larger American Jewish organizations such as the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, the Council of Affiliated Organizations of the JFC and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. The members of the IAJF who sit on the Board of Directors of these organizations make sure that issues facing our community are addressed by collaborating and supporting one another. We have also established close contact with many public officials, who have been made aware of the challenges our community faces. We invite all our community members to join IAJF in serving their people and welcome every helping hand that can assist us in achieving our goals.