

## Upcoming and Past Activities of the Iranian American Jewish Federation

---

### Upcoming Events:

#### *Persian Maimonides Foundation Seminar*



The Persian Maimonides Foundation in affiliation with the Iranian American Jewish Federation presents a seminar on Maimonides philosophy in Farsi on Sunday May 15, 2011 at Sapper Hall.

##### First panel

The coordinator will be Mrs. Parvaneh Saraf and the speakers: Rabbi David Shofet, Dr. Massoud Sedighpour, Dr. Farhad

Daghighian, Ms. Shirindokht Daghighian and Ms. Nazanin Derakhshan.

##### Second panel

The coordinator will be Dr. Behrooz Vafa Mansouri and the speakers: Rabbi Yedidia Ezrakhian and Rabbi Soleyman Hakkakian

For more information please [click w](#)

.....

#### *Second Group Adult Bat-Mitzvah* (by Women Committee)



On June 4, 2011 at Temple Beth El (IAJF)

Interested ladies (best opportunity for two or three generations to celebrate together) will attend classes of Hebrew reading by Ms. Neli Mizrahi and Jewish History by Dr. Isaac Norman.

For information please [click w](#)

*The Iranian American Jewish Federation is proudly planning an introduction and book signing event for Mr. Sion Ebrahimi's book: [Veiled Romance](#) A Persian Tale of Passion and Revolution.*



Veiled Romance, a novel that has been written by Simon Sion Ebrahimi and due to be published soon, unfolds as Leila Omid writes her memoirs from her cell in an Iranian fundamentalist prison. Leila is a young and brilliant Iranian educated in the States. Her family is highly connected to the Shah's government, despite the fact that they are secretly Jewish. In Tehran, post revolution, Leila sheds her western ways and plays a dangerous game, rising to the upper ranks of the fundamentalist



regime before being imprisoned by her enemies. She does this to free the man she loves, Cyrus – a charismatic, handsome Iranian business executive who is openly Jewish – after he is taken political hostage. Veiled Romance tells the thrilling story of these passionate and star-crossed lovers against a unique backdrop that provides an insider's view of the cultural and political history of contemporary Iran.

Simon Ebrahimi was born and raised in Jewbareh, the Jewish ghetto of Esfahan, Iran. He finished his studies in England in management and finance, and in Iran, he was a partner in an international accounting firm. In 1979, his employees took him hostage at the same time the Islamic Republic seized the American embassy compound. Therefore, his vast personal experiences enrich the authenticity of this novel. Leaving Iran with his wife and two daughters after the revolution, he settled in the United States, and while pursuing his professional life, thanks to the freedom that his new homeland offered, he followed his passion as a writer of Persian Jewish stories.

Testimonials:

Veiled Romance is a real page-turner that takes us into the dark and menacing world of the Iranian fundamentalist revolution of the late 1970s. Writing with deep inside knowledge, author Ebrahimi gives us action, danger, and romance against an authentic historical background. Who could ask for more?

*—Elizabeth Frank, Pulitzer Prize winner for Biography for Louise Bogan and author of Cheat and Charmer*

No one knows Iran better than Simon Ebrahimi. And no novel I know captures the fear, excitement, heartbreak, and romantic undercurrents of the last days of Imperial Iran more than Veiled Romance. An irresistible and touching view into a lost world.

*—Bruce Feiler, best-selling author of Walking the Bible and Where God Was Born*

## Past Activities:



### *Shofar Magazine*

On March 15, 2011, the 167<sup>th</sup> issue of **Shofar** was distributed. To read this issue (or any other ones) please [click w](#)



### *Nowrouz Greeting*

On March 20, 2011, Mrs. Shahla Javdan, president of the Iranian American Jewish Federation, sent a message for Nowrouz (the Persian New Year), which was broadcast by Radio Sedaye Iran. In her message, she wished freedom, peace, and unity to all, and expressed hope for further success for the Iranian American community.

To listen to her message please [click h](#)

### *Is Your Child on Track?*

On April 5, 2011, one more time the Health and wellness committee of Iranian American Jewish Federation had a great seminar to help parents of children of 2-12 years about their development.

The seminar was open to the public and led by a great panel of many distinguished experts.

Panel members:



Farrah Laaly  
Hekmat, MD

Debbie Dery, MFT

Mark L. Stein, PhD

Rozanna Rahbar  
PhD

Nima Akhavan, MD

Daniel Powell, MA,  
MFT, BCBA

Farhang Holakouee  
PhD

**Farah Laaly Hekmat, MD** - *The role of the pediatrician in diagnosis of early childhood developmental delays,* [The Speech w](#)

**Debbie Dery, MFT** - *Overview of normal development and the spectrum of early childhood developmental delays* [The Speech w](#)

**Mark L. Stein, PhD** - *Role of assessments in diagnosis of early childhood developmental delays,* [The Speech w](#)

**Roxanna Rahban, PhD**, - *Role of testing and assessments in diagnosis and treatment of childhood developmental delays*, [The Speech w](#)

**Nima Akhavan, MD**, - *The role of Medical therapy in treatment of early childhood developmental delays* [The Speech w](#)

**Daniel Powell, MA, MFT, BCBA**, - *Interventions and treatments available for children with developmental delays and their families* [The Speech w](#)

Farhang Holakouee, PhD, - *The impact of our culture in facing and managing early developmental delays cases in our Iranian-American community*  
[The Speech w](#)

To read more about the panelists [please clicks here w](#)

To listen to “Questions and Answers” [please click here w](#)

---

## ***HIAS Notification Meeting and Candle Lighting Ceremony***

On April 27, 2011, an important meeting was held at Neman Hall to inform the Iranian minorities of the June 1 deadline to apply for refugee status. Rabbi David Shofet and representatives from HIAS, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Jewish Family Services, 30 Years After, and the office of Congressman Henry Waxman were in attendance.



There was also a candle lighting ceremony to commemorate the young Jewish Iranians and victims of the Holocaust. The honor of lighting the candles was given to Rabbi David Shofet, Chief Rabbi of Iranian Jewish Community. However, Rabbi Shofet passed the honor to Mrs. Ghadisha, member of Hadassah Organization.

---

For more information about IAJF activities please call Miss. Farnoush Abrishami (the office manager) Telephone 323 654 4700 or visit [www.IAJF.org](http://www.IAJF.org)