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# THE VOICE OF



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## SHAI'S FIFTH GALA DINNER

By Pargol Khadavi

SHAI, Sepharadic Heritage Alliance, Inc., held its fifth gala dinner on Wednesday evening, March 26, 2008, at Fresh Meadow Country Club in Great Neck. SHAI's Dinner supported the very successful SHAI Educational Scholarship Fund, now in its tenth year. Since its 2006 fundraising dinner, SHAI has awarded nearly \$250,000 in need-based scholarships to over 240 local students and \$50,000 in scholarships for needy students in Israel. The evening's keynote guest speaker was the President of Yeshiva University, Mr. Richard M. Joel, with special guest honoree, Dr. Michael Bral of NYU School of Dentistry.

Throughout the years, SHAI has reached out and developed partnerships with local schools, synagogues, Jewish organizations, and local governments. Especially worthy of noting is SHAI's partnership with the Great Neck Senior Center. Since 2003, SHAI has supported the tireless efforts of our Board member, Parvaneh Khodadian, who in partnering with the Great Neck Senior Center, has brought in over 100 seniors from the Persian Jewish community as active daily participants. To that end, SHAI President, Jacqueline Harounian, announced a \$25,000 pledge to the Great Neck Senior Center at the gala. SHAI acknowledges the support of State Senator Craig Johnson, Legislator Judi Bosworth (in attendance that evening), North Hempstead Town Supervisor Jon Kaiman, and Director of the Senior Center, Anne Tarcher, with respect to recognizing the needs of the many Persian Jewish seniors in our Great Neck community. The SHAI Gala Dinner also promotes a number of merit-based academic incentive programs including Young Leadership Award for Pioneers in Medicine and Law awarded to Dr. Robert Kalimi, Dr. Shahriar Samadi, Dr. Steven Shayani, and Judith Shofet, Esq. The SHAI Award of Merit was awarded to third-place winner of the Intel Science competition Nicole Khezri, Siemens Semi-finalist Daniel Khezri, exceptional scholars Gabriel Farajollah and Deborah Taeid, and talented musician Jonathan Yousefzadeh. The Scholarship for Academic Excellence was awarded to exceptionally gifted high school graduate Sam Aminfarid, Intel Science finalist Evan Joseph Babazadeh, Brian Bassiri, national AP scholars David Khalily and Jason Shimiaie.

It is SHAI's mission to meet the evolving needs of the Persian Jewish community, across generational lines, while promoting conservative values, traditions, and Sepharadic heritage. In support of those goals, SHAI will be participating in significant numbers, as it does every year, in the Salute to Israel Day Parade on June 1, 2008. SHAI will also be sponsoring a community Blood Drive on May 4, 2008 and an Environmental Forum on May 7, 2008. SHAI's Young SHAI division, which boasts a sold-out attendance of over 400 young singles at each event, will be hosting a June summer event at a club in Manhattan.

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*VISIT US @*

*SHAI-ONLINE.org*

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to find out about upcoming events, give us your feedback, join our mailing list, view job listings, or download a scholarship application

DETAILS INSIDE:

BLOOD DRIVE (5/4/08)

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM (5/7/08)

SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE (6/1/08)

YOUNG SHAI GALA PARTY (6/17/08)

# SHAI's Annual Blood Drive



**FREE CHOLESTEROL TESTING FOR ALL DONORS!**

*Date: Sunday, May 4, 2008*

**Time: 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Address: Beth Hadassah Synagogue,  
160 Steamboat Road, Great Neck**

**Please donate a pint of blood to save up to four lives! Remember, money cannot buy blood -- therefore, blood donation is vitally needed.**

**For information or to schedule an appointment,  
please call David Ohebshalom at 212-947-5656, ext.23 or email  
[SHAIBloodDrive@aol.com](mailto:SHAIBloodDrive@aol.com)**

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Please Bring valid ID and know social security number
  - Minimum weight 110 lbs.
- Ages 16 – 76 (16 year olds need parental written consent, 76+ year olds need doctor's written consent)
- Eat well (low fat) & drink fluids before donating blood

**△ Long Island Blood Services**

*Sepharadic Heritage Alliance Inc. (SHAI)*  
*invites the entire Great Neck community to:*

## **A FORUM ON OUR ENVIRONMENT, “HOW TO BREAK THE OIL BONDAGE”**

*There will be a panel of four distinguished speakers:*

Mr. Peter Maniscalco, Renewable Energy, Long Island  
Mr. Frank Morris, The Sierra Club  
Ms. Sarah Meyland, New York Technological Institute  
Dr. E. Christa Farmer, Paleoclimatologist, Hofstra University

*Moderated by Ms. Carol Frank*  
*Environmental Reporter, Great Neck Record*

**On Wednesday, May 7th, 2008**  
**At the Lecture Hall of Great Neck North High School**  
**On Polo Road, Great Neck, New York**

**Conversation and Coffee at 7:30 P.M.**  
**Meeting starts at 8:00 P.M. (sharp)**

*Among the topics that will be discussed:*

*Global Warming, Energy Independence, Carbon Emissions,  
Carbon Footprints, Renewable Energy, Greenhouse Effect,  
Alternative Energy, Ecologically Friendly Fuels,  
Recycling and Saving Energy.*

ADMISSION IS FREE TO ALL.  
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.  
NO SOLICITATION OR FUNDRAISING.

*For further information, please visit*  
*[www.shaionline.com](http://www.shaionline.com)*



**Our next YOUNG SHAI GALA PARTY**

**is being planned for June 17, 2008!**

*(date subject to change!)*

**The venue will be a club or lounge in Manhattan.**

**Ticket price will include entertainment, kosher catering, sushi and open bar. Invitation will be sent via email and on Facebook.**

*For more information, please contact*

*Doreen Elyassian , 212-636-5081, or via email:*

*[youngshai@gmail.com](mailto:youngshai@gmail.com)*

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NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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GREAT NECK, NY

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR OUR NEXT  
EVENT OR THE NEXT ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER?  
PLEASE CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER FOR DETAILS!**



# SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE

SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2008 FIFTH AVE. 54<sup>TH</sup>–79<sup>TH</sup> ST.



## PARADE WITH SHAI

*Celebrating Israel's 60<sup>TH</sup> Birthday*

- ❖ Free air-conditioned buses provided.
- ❖ Advance registration required!
- ❖ Buses will leave promptly at 11 AM  
From: Ahavat Shalom Synagogue  
130 Cuttermill Road, Great Neck
- ❖ Rain or Shine!
- ❖ In Manhattan? Meet us at 12:30 pm  
@53<sup>rd</sup> St. Bet. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
(Call in advance to get t-shirts.)
- ❖ Need to wear parade t-shirt to participate.

For information & registration call:

Claudine Amirian: 516-482-0116  
Joseph Amirian: 516-466-2328  
Mike Delafraz: 516-384-1333  
Raymond Eshaghoff: 917-806-8000  
Vida Khorshad: 516-482-0003  
Doreen Elyassian 212-636-5081  
E-mail registrations:  
[youngshai@gmail.com](mailto:youngshai@gmail.com)

Wave your flags! Enjoy the pageantry! Celebrate the day! Applaud the participants!

**COME & BE COUNTED!**