



VOICE OF SHAI

5780



SPRING 2020

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WWW.SHAIUSA.ORG



(* indicates past president)

Dear SHAI Community:

On behalf of the SHAI Board of Trustees, it is my honor to bring you good tidings, albeit during challenging times marred by rising anti-Semitism for American Jewry and fraught times of upheaval for Iranians.

SHAI continues to endeavor to meet the needs of our community. In the pages which follow you will see SHAI engaging our youngest children in the *mitzvah* of *bikkur cholim* as they prepared Hanukkah gifts for hospitalized youngsters; you will see heaps of coats and clothing collected in SHAI's winter clothing drive in support of a public school clothing pantry and various *gemachs*; you will read about our community's teenagers personally delivering clothing to homeless shelters in Hempstead; and learn about teenagers volunteering to learn about anti-Semitism and bias while also preparing meals for food-insecure children during our second Martin Luther King Day day of service. You will also see a proud SHAI contingent together with over 25,000 others who rallied in New York City recently in support of Jewry and against anti-semites.

As ever, SHAI proudly remains the largest not-for-profit donor to the Town of North Hempstead Senior Social Center, where over one hundred of our matriarchs and patriarchs cheerfully and safely gather to socialize several times a week as they age-in-place. In addition, our programming for young professionals and young families continues to draw crowds and provide wholesome Persian Jewish communal outings for the next generation. Take a look at the families enjoying a day at a Long Island farm, and the young professionals networking and socializing at trendy Manhattan locales. This Spring, SHAI is also sending a contingent to the annual AIPAC Policy conference. Sign up information is on page 6. Year in and year out, SHAI's confidentially selected need-based scholarship applicants enroll in college and graduate studies to meet their fullest aspirations and potential. Since inception in 1992, SHAI has awarded over 1.5 million dollars of these need-based scholarships.

SHAI is a Persian Jewish Community Center without walls. SHAI's volunteer Board is dynamic, diverse, thoughtful and deeply committed to furthering SHAI's work of serving our Persian Jewish Community to transmit our three millennial legacy to the next generation. On March 31, 2020 SHAI will hold our Biennial Gala, in celebration of our community and SHAI's three decades of service. Please join us to celebrate the outstanding honorees from across the generations and to support SHAI's noble efforts. In order to continue these labors of love, SHAI asks for your presence, moral, and fiscal support.

With affection, and in service to our community,

Rebecca Sassouni
President



SAVE THE DATE



לְדוֹר וָדוֹר
From Generation to Generation



Biennial Gala

Celebrating Three Decades
of Service to the Community

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

SHAI WINTER COAT AND CLOTHING DRIVE

On Sunday December 1, SHAI held a successful coat and clothing drive at the SHAI office. Bags full of gently used coats, warm winter clothing, hats, gloves, scarves, school recital clothes, and shoes were donated. Clothes were sorted and distributed to public schools, clothing pantries, and several gemachs. Additionally, SHAI Youth, along with Rabbi Yamin Levy, delivered the donated clothes to homeless shelters in Hempstead.



SHAI
WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE
SHAI Coat and Clothing Drive to benefit local families
via Great Neck Public Schools Clothing Pantry
Sunday December 1, 2019
10AM to 2PM
Drop off the following items to the SHAI office
located at 770 Middle Neck Road:

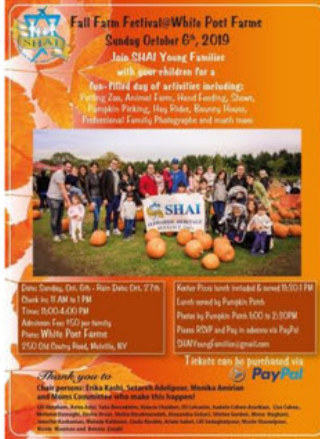
- New and gently used warm winter clothing
- Winter coats sizes S-XL
- Pants, jeans, sweaters, long sleeve shirts sizes XS-XL
- Hats, gloves, and scarves
- Black pants/skirts and white shirts for school recitals
- Sneakers and boots in kids and teen young adult

Questions? Contact:
Jackie Harounian
jacquelineharounian@gmail.com
Claudine Sarraf Amirian
naturalhealingny@gmail.com
Tania Eshaghoff-Friedberg
taniaproductions@aol.com
www.shaiusa.org



SHAI YOUNG FAMILIES

SHAI Young Families held its third annual Fall Farm Festival this past October at White Post Farms. Once again, the wildly successful full-day event attracted over 100 young parents and children from all over Long Island and New York City. The children participated in activities like the petting zoo, animal farm, hand feeding, pumpkin picking, hay riding, bouncy house, and many more fun filled activities. Kosher pizza and cupcakes were served for lunch. The event also included a professional photographer. Pictures are available on the SHAI Facebook page and www.shaiusa.org.

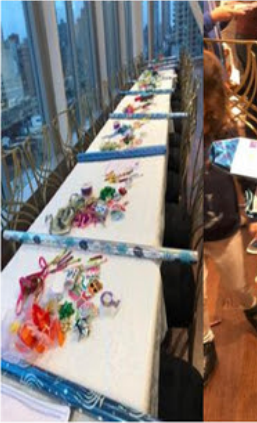


Visit our newly redesigned website!
WWW.SHAIUSA.ORG

HINENI NEXT
SEND SMILES THIS CHANUKAH!
An evening of gift wrapping for pediatric patients at Sloan Kettering Hospital.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th
MOISE SAFRA CENTER 10th Floor
130 East 82nd Street
4:30-5:30PM
PRESENT WRAPPING, PIZZA, COOKIES, DRINKS!
EACH CHILD SHOULD BRING A NEW & UNWRAPPED GIFT
EVERYONE WELCOME, HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL!
Your Hosts:
Dorothy Marsh, Karina Pomeroy,
Miranda Shapiro, Erika Kashi,
Franz Whitten, Sarah Adelman,
Barbara Feinberg, Yelena Chalkin
HOST BY: WWW.MOISESAFRACENTER.COM/EVENTS
MOISE SAFRA CENTER
SLOAN KETTERING



Even our youngest children are learning about mitzvot and community. In anticipation of Chanukah this year, on Tuesday Dec 17, SHAI Young Families, along with Moise Safra Center and Hineni Next, wrapped gifts for pediatric patients at Sloan Kettering Hospital. This special event took place at the new Moise Safra Center. With a selection of wrapping paper, decorative bows, ribbons, stickers, markers, and crayons the children had a wonderful time exploring their creativity while wrapping their gifts. The children also enjoyed cookie decorating. Pizza was served for dinner.



SHAI AND TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD SENIOR SOCIAL CENTER CELEBRATIONS & WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Mrs. Khodadadian and her team oversee a yearlong thrice-a-week complement of activities at the Town of North Hempstead Social Center. With over 150 seniors from the Persian community who partake in expanded weekly programming, door-to-door transportation, kosher meals, and companionship, SHAI Senior Social Center attendance continues to impress. Seniors enjoy a full range of stimulating activities, including movies, exercises, day trips, dances, tea and conversations, English classes, card games, speakers, art classes, and Bingo. The Senior Social Center celebrated the end of summer this past year with an End of Summer party with invited Dignitaries. On Monday September 23, our matriarchs and patriarchs celebrated the start of Autumn and Rosh Hashana together. Singer Badri Hematyar had the room clapping and dancing along to her Persian songs. Each attendee received special Rosh Hashana gift baskets sponsored by Long Island Hebrew Academy PTA. On February 18, the Senior Social Center had a Celebration of Life party and featured singer Eddie from L.A. The next festivity the Senior Social Center will celebrate is Purim. Dressed up students and teachers from North Shore Hebrew Academy will join in on the singing and dancing at the Senior Social Center.



**SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE
AT
WWW.SHAUSA.ORG**

SHAI & UJA 2nd MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY DAY OF SERVICE

SHAI along with a few houses of worship and UJA, joined the second annual Martin Luther King Day Day of Service for high school students. The program included interactive learning and discussion of identity facilitated by Anti-Racism and Anti-Bias Trainer Yehudah Webster, who is a Jew of Color and founder of the Jew of Color Torah Academy. The teens also packed three bags each of toiletries, food staples, and art supplies for every family with a child enrolled at the Great Neck Manhasset EOC Head Start. Kosher lunch and dessert were served.



2ND ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY DAY OF SERVICE
MONDAY JANUARY 20, 2020
 Calling all teens!
 Make it a day ON not just a day off!

12:15 Sign in and welcome
 12:30 Ice breakers, Kosher lunch served
 1:15 Interactive learning and discussion of Identity facilitated by Yehudah Webster, Anti-Racism and Anti-Bias Trainer, Community Organizer
 2:45 Prepare lunches for the children of Head Start at the Great Neck Manhasset EOC
 3:45 Dessert and wrap up
 4:00 End of program and pick up

please bring canned items and nonperishable food items

<https://bit.ly/2Gp0k0m>
 REGISTER NOW
 Kosher meal included
 No registration fee
 Only first 75 teens registered may participate

Event to be held at Hagedorn Community Center
 65 High Street Manhasset, NY 11030
 Manhasset - Great Neck EOC



On December 12, SHAI along with Mental Health Association of Nassau County Inc, United Parent Teacher Council, and Great Neck Chinese Association hosted a mental health and wellness event at Great Neck North High School. Presented by Rachel Priest, Community Health Educator from the Mental Health Association of Nassau County, she discussed the meaning of mental health and wellness, the prevalence of youth mental health problems, the effects of mental illness on students, the signs, symptoms, risk and protective factors, and the coping strategies and recovery.

B'H

THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP OF THE
IAJF NY
 INVITES YOU TO THE:

6TH ANNUAL AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE TRIP

WASHINGTON, D.C.
 FEBRUARY 29TH - MARCH 3, 2020

EARLY BIRD PRICING,
 \$499/TICKET, STARTING ON
 JANUARY 2ND FOR THE FIRST 50
 TICKETS

@iajfy1
 IAJF Young Leadership

SAVE THE DATE:
 SHAI's Annual Education Forum will take place on Monday, May 4.

Sephardic Heritage Alliance Inc. T'02
Gedale Fenster
Money • Relationships • Anxiety
Managing It All in New York City
 February 19, 2020
Park East Synagogue 164 E. 68th St



Light Dinner 7:00 PM, Lecture 8:00PM

Tickets available on Eventbrite

\$26

For Questions & Inquiries Please Email
 Gedalenyc@gmail.com

ShaiUSA.org



For the first time, along with IAJF, SHAI is sending a contingent of young professionals to the AIPAC Policy conference this March.

SHAI RALLIES AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

On Sunday January 5, buses left from Great Neck heading to the Solidarity March. SHAI along with many other organizations and people, marched proudly and strongly together across the Brooklyn Bridge in a Solidarity March in response to the rise of anti-Semitism in our communities. With an estimated 25,000 people marching it took over 2 ½ hours for all the marchers to cross over the bridge from Foley Square. Also marching in solidarity were Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill DeBlasio, various state and local leaders, Michael Miller, Executive VP & CEO of Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Eric Goldstein, CEO of UJA Federation of NY, the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Congress, NY Board of Rabbis, and faith leaders.



MONSEY. BROOKLYN. JERSEY CITY.

When anti-Semitism strikes our community, we stand up and stand together.

This Sunday, we will march through our streets – proud, united, and strong.

The 1.5 million Jews of our great city and region will not stand down. We will not be intimidated.

We invite New Yorkers of every background to stand with us and say no to hate and no to fear.

JOIN US.

Meet at Foley Square at 11:00 am.
We will march across the Brooklyn Bridge to Columbus Park (near Cadman Plaza)
Visit ujafedny.org/MarchNYC for up-to-the-minute details.

#JewishAndProud #StandTogether





**SEND YOUR
EMAIL
TO
INFO@
SHAIUSA.ORG
TO JOIN
OUR
MAILING LIST**

Visit the newly redesigned SHAIUSA.ORG for more coming attractions, videos, pictures, and news.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ❖ Gedale Fenster at Park East Synagogue - February 19, 2020 at 7 PM.
- ❖ AIPAC Policy Conference - February 29 – March 3, 2020.
- ❖ Purim Young Families, at Park East Synagogue - March 9, 2020.
- ❖ Nassau County No Ruz Celebration – March 24, 2020.
- ❖ **SHAI Biennial Gala - Tuesday March 31, 2020.**
- ❖ Professor Saba Soomekh at Temple Israel of Great Neck - April 26, 2020.
- ❖ SHAI Annual Education Forum at Main Library - May 4, 2020.
- ❖ SHAI Medical Spotlight Series continues at Great Neck House - May 20, 2020.
- ❖ Celebrate Israel Parade - Sunday June 7, 2020.
- ❖ SHAI has joined [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/Smile), where a percentage of all your Amazon shopping will be donated to SHAI. Select Sephardic Heritage Alliance Inc or click [here](#).
- ❖ Look for more information regarding SHAI's Oral History Project with American Sephardi Foundation funded by New York City Council. Details to follow.

**DONATE TO
SHAI
SUPPORT
SENIORS,
CAMPER'S,
STUDENTS &
SINGLES AT
SHAIUSA.ORG**

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@iajfy1
IAJF Young Leadership

Come One, Come All
STEP RIGHT UP & JOIN THE FUN WITH PARK EAST SYNAGOGUE,
THE PERSIAN JEWISH CENTER OF MANHATTAN, & SHAI
The Big Top Purim Circus!
MONDAY MARCH 9, 2020 - 6:00- 8:30PM
6:00 PM PUPPET SHOW MEGILLAH READING IN THE WOOL LECTURE HALL,
FOLLOWED BY A MEAT DINNER (SPONSORED BY THE JAKUBOVITZ FAMILY IN
MEMORY OF JOAN & JERRY JAKUBOVITZ A'H) & A CHILDREN'S CIRCUS PARTY IN
THE CHARLES BROOKS BALLROOM.
THERE WILL BE FACE PAINTING, BALLOON BLOWING, ARTS & CRAFTS, DANCING, A
MAGIC SHOW, CIRCUS TREATS & MUCH MORE...
5 BEST COSTUMES WIN A PRIZE
THANK YOU TO OUR RINGMASTERS:
SETAREH ADELPOUR, MONIKA AMIRIAN, TALLAH BERDOGHIM, VALERIE CHARBY, VIRGINIE COHEN,
DESIREE DROR, SHELLA EBRAHIMZADEH, ALEXIA CHADAMIAN, ALEXANDRA COHARI, SHIRLEE CORDON,
ERIKA KASHI, NICOLE SHAOULPOUR, ARIELLE SOFER, ELIZABETH SUTTON, & ZAHAVA BITTER
PARK EAST SYNAGOGUE MEGILLAH READING 7:30PM
PERSIAN JEWISH CENTER MEGILLAH READING AT 6:30PM
164 EAST 68TH STREET, NYC
RSVP TOBY@PARK EASTSYNAGOGUE.ORG OR SHAIYOUNGFAMILIES@GMAIL.COM
WWW.SHAIUSA.ORG

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