



Annual Report
of the
Iranian American Society of Daytona Beach
(September 2002-August 2003)

Iranian American Society year's events began with the presentation of the film, *Maryam* produced and directed by an Iranian-American director. This movie was shown at the N&S Cinemas on Sunday, September 29. Eighty members and non-members participated in the local screening and it was IAS' first experience in this arena.

Our next major event was our meeting and annual election of board members which took place on February 9 at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The following Board Members were elected to serve from March 2003 to March 2004.

President: Forough Hosseini
Vice-President: Mahyar Okhovatian
Treasurer: Parviz Keshvari
Secretary: Susan Afshari

Board Members at Large:

Bahram Ahmadi
Farrokh Assad
Laleh Babazadeh
Farzad Firouzabadi

On February 22, IAS sponsored a lecture by Dr. Majid Naini on the "Mysteries of the Universe and Rumi's Discoveries on the Path of True Love". During this program which took place at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Gale Lemerand Auditorium, many enthusiasts of Rumi gathered to hear one of the

foremost experts on the poet give a bilingual audio/visual presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Mahyar Okhovatian hosted a dinner in honor of Dr. Naini and his wife, Firouzeh, at their beautiful home in Ponce Inlet.

On Saturday, March 1, IAS sponsored the Iran Booth during Embry-Riddle International Day. Negar Afshar chaired this event and many other IASA members assisted by loaning their Iranian handicrafts and preparing authentic dishes which as usual had the highest sales at this event! The proceeds benefited the fund for international students at the university.

On Tuesday March 18, IAS members and friends celebrated the ancient Zoroastrian tradition of lighting a fire (Chahar-shanbeh-soori). This took place at the beach in front of Casa Del Mar Hotel, Ormond Beach. About fifty participants attended the event, organized by Farrokh Assad and Parviz Keshvari.

On Saturday March 22, IAS members and friends celebrated the new Persian year (Noruz) at the Breakaway Trails Clubhouse in Ormond Beach with a sold out event. This program was chaired by Mrs. Laleh Babazadeh. Following dinner, children received gifts from Khaleh Noruz (Manous Richey) and some of our talented members treated us to an impromptu concert.

IAS and friends celebrated the ancient tradition of Sizdeh-Bedar with a picnic at Tomoka State Park. Parviz Keshvari organized this event attended by IAS families and their guests.

And a Gentle *Breeze from the Gardens of Persia* Came to Town and Swept Everyone off Their Feet...



After couple of years of planning by the IAS Board and members, this major event took place. Volusia County was the only Florida venue for the showing of 80 works of art from Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, sponsored and brought to the United States by Meridian International of Washington, D.C.

After the art was hung at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach and the Ormond Memorial Art Museum in Ormond Beach, the events began with a Lecture and sideshow was presented to the public by three of the visiting female artists from Iran at Rinker Auditorium of Stetson University in DeLand, on Tuesday, April 22.

On Wednesday April 23, lectures by the six visiting Iranian artists took place in various classrooms at Spruce Creek High School, and a major lecture on contemporary art in Iran was presented by Nancy Matthews of Meridian International, at the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

On the morning of Friday April 25, presentations of Iranian music and dance by the Namah Ensemble and Zarbang Percussionists took place in the Spruce Creek High School Auditorium. Over 1,800 students attended this event from different schools in Volusia County. Later in the afternoon, Zarbang and Namah presented a workshop at the Theater Center of Daytona Beach Community College, which was open and free to the public.

On Friday IAS presented a Grand Opening Gala at the Museum of Arts and Sciences for the Breeze exhibit. IAS sponsors and guests attended this sold out event which included authentic Persian cuisine and performances by Namah Ensemble and Zarbang Percussionists who truly mesmerized the audience with their artistry. In addition, Forough Hosseini presented plaques to the guest artists from Iran and to the performers from Los Angeles. Plaques were also presented to IAS member Mr. Farrokh Assad, our Past President and to Mr. Parviz Keshvari, our outstanding Board Member of the year. Congratulations! Friday night's event was truly a night to remember!





On Saturday April 26, we had a breakfast and a lecture presentation from the visiting Iranian Artists to the IAS members and the members of the Ormond Memorial Arts Museum.

Later that evening, the public opening of *A Breeze from the Gardens of Persia* was held at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Guests had a chance to view the paintings, enjoy Persian food and magnificent performances by Zarbang and Namah Ensembles.

Monday morning, April 28, Zarbang and Namah had further performances at Spruce Creek High School Auditorium for Volusia County school children and a similar performances at Daytona Beach Community College in the afternoon. All performances free to the public.

During these events, IAS was successful in reaching every group in Volusia County. Thousands of residents became familiar with Iranian art and artists. Through our radio programming (WMFE-FM) and the special program produced by WCEU-TV, we have reached and will reach many more across the United States who did not have the opportunity to experience this wonderful exhibit.

We are grateful to all of our members and those individuals who gave freely their time and money. Special thanks are also in order for organizations that

provided us with grants, without them, this program would not have been possible:

**ICI Homes
The Bahama House
The County of Volusia
Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art**

Thank you all, it was a wonderful experience!

Many organizations also became partners with IAS for the Breeze Program. Without their help and dedication, we would have not been able to present the Breeze with the same depth and breadth:

**Museum of Arts and Sciences
Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Daytona Beach community College
Bethune Cookman college
Volusia County Schools
Stetson University**

Major thank you goes to all the *Breeze* committee members:

**Forough Hosseini, Chair
Susan Afshari
Bev Firouzabadi
Mahyar Okhovatian
Laleh Babazadeh
Michael Brothers
CiCi Brown
Ann Burt
Ann Brady
Agnes Ebbs
Ann Taylor
Jim Gardner
Douglas Peterson
Rosemary DeLuca
Carl Persis
Kay Elliott Burk
Thelma Irvin
Hessam Abrishami
Missy Ascik
Nora Hall
Carol Cotman Hogan
Heather Ragsdale**