


# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

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I E C
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As Iranian American women, we each have a unique set of gifts that empower us to move forward, unite our community, and nurture and transform the lives of those we touch. Since the Iranian American Women Foundation's inception, we have further learned how to assertively and effectively move our efforts forward and transform our own lives as well as the lives of our peers and future generations.

By marrying our passion for transforming our own lives as well as the lives of others, we are able to uplift ourselves and inspire our next generation. We started the Iranian American Women Foundation (IAWF) to ignite this passion and better enrich our community.

Along with your unprecedented support and commitment, we look forward to a continued celebration of our successes, empowerment of our young adults, and enhanced connections throughout our community.

Sincerely,

Mariam Khosravani
Founder

## OUR MISSION

To provide a platform for empowerment and networking among Iranian American Women and to provide mentorships for younger generations of Iranians locally and globally.

## OUR VISION

A world where every woman realizes her full potential and joins forces to positively impact our global community.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 13, 2015

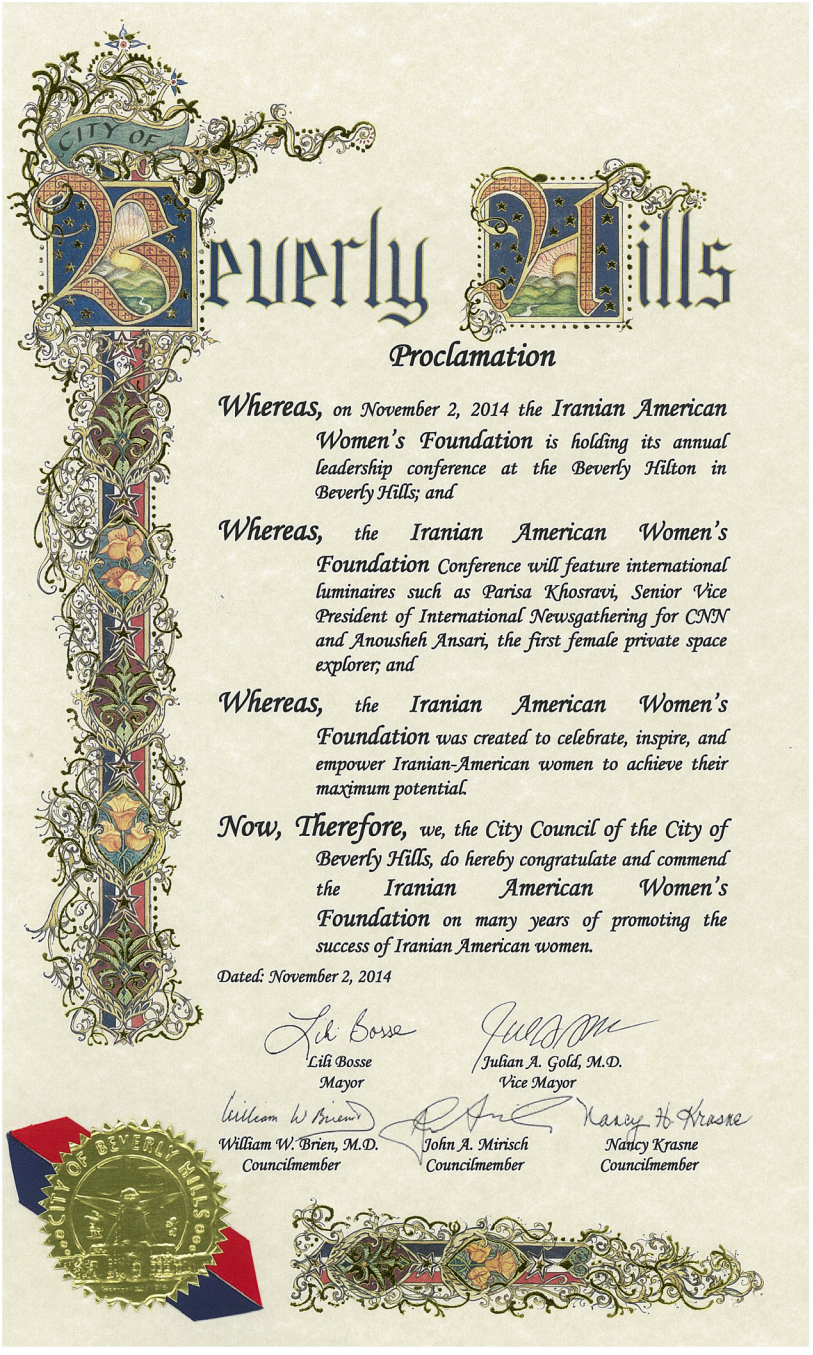
I am pleased to once again send greetings to all those attending the Iranian American Women Foundation's (IAWF's) Leadership Conference.

For generations, America's story has been written by strong, courageous women who recognize that the unique perspectives and diverse backgrounds of our people form the foundation of our Nation's progress. When Americans—no matter who they are, what they look like, or where they come from—join in efforts to enrich their communities and address shared challenges, they move us toward becoming a more perfect Union.

Iranian American women have played a vital role in this endeavor, contributing to America's growth and lighting the path to progress. When organizations like IAWF bring women together and provide resources and mentorship to empower women to achieve their greatest potential, they help ensure all our people have the chance to write their chapter in our country's narrative and steer the course of our future.

As you gather in common purpose to exchange ideas and learn from one another, I wish you all the best for a memorable conference.




CITY OF
Beverly Hills
Proclamation
Whereas, on November 2, 2014 the Iranian American Women's Foundation is holding its annual leadership conference at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills; and
Whereas, the Iranian American Women's Foundation Conference will feature international luminaires such as Parisa Khosravi, Senior Vice President of International Newsgathering for CNN and Anousheh Ansari, the first female private space explorer; and
Whereas, the Iranian American Women's Foundation was created to celebrate, inspire, and empower Iranian-American women to achieve their maximum potential.
Now, Therefore, we, the City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, do hereby congratulate and commend the Iranian American Women's Foundation on many years of promoting the success of Iranian American women.
Dated: November 2, 2014
Lili Bosse
Mayor
Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Vice Mayor
William W. Brien, M.D.
Councilmember
John A. Mirisch
Councilmember
Nancy Krasne
Councilmember
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS




# IAWF

## Iranian American Women Foundation

Since its inception in Orange County, California, IAWF has empowered, inspired, and connected thousands of women both nationally and globally. It has served as a home away from home; a community that celebrates creative, innovative, tenacious, and competitive women who are problem solvers and a force for the greater good.

The organization has hosted sold-out conferences in Orange County, San Francisco, San Diego, and Beverly Hills, California; New York, New York; Washington, D.C.; Toronto, Canada; and London, UK over the past six years. By offering a platform for open dialogue, IAWF creates lasting connections, inspires women to follow their dreams, empowers Iranian women to achieve their highest potential, and contributes to the society.

With more than 4,000 members nationwide, the organization showcases the diversity of the United States, celebrates the confluence of American fabric and Iranian heritage, and propels women forward by helping them develop dynamic professional and leadership skills.



# CONFERENCES

IAWF conferences inform, inspire, educate and invigorate Iranian American women. Born from a desire to empower and connect, IAWF's conferences, held internationally, offer a place where Iranian American women from all walks of life can celebrate their heritage, network, promote personal and professional growth, and showcase their community's contribution to the American fabric. Speakers are selected based on their impact on society, success in business, and/or ability to share their stories and motivate others. Most participants walk away from an IAWF conference feeling rejuvenated and energized. IAWF events are more than just conferences, they are an experience. At these conferences, women create lifelong friendships, expand their career opportunities, commit to personal and professional achievements, and celebrate their culture.

# SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

## FEBRUARY 2016 - THE WESTIN GASLAMP QUARTER

Over 650 participants from around the globe joined in San Diego for the 10th Annual Women's Leadership Conference. This sold out conference showcased incredible movers and shakers of the community. The Master of Ceremonies, Fox 5 Morning News Anchor, Shally Zomorodi, electrified the program with energy and inspiration. The keynote speaker, Senior Vice President & Managing Editor of International Newsgathering, Parisa Khosravi, moved attendees with her empowering and engaging speech. From the rising stars, to women in media and philanthropy, to pioneers breaking taboos, the participants were met with diverse stories of struggle and success. IAWF acknowledged and awarded the contributions of humanitarian, Zohre Elahian, as Philanthropist of the Year; and the influential, inspiring role model, Shahri Estakhry, as Community Leader of the Year. Not only did the incredible Master of Ceremonies, speakers, and moderators empower everyone, they all made an impact in the lives of scholars of the next generation. With the help of the generous contributions of conference attendees, IAWF raised over $6,000 in scholarship funds for rising stars of the next generation pursuing higher education.





**ZOHRE ELAHIAN**
Philanthropist of the Year






**SHAHRI ESTAKHRY**
Community Leader of the Year





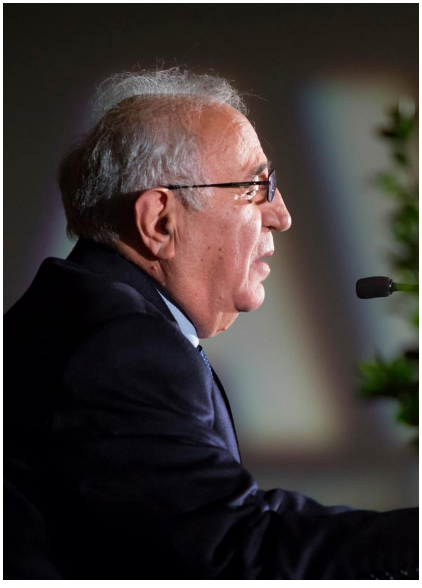
# ORANGE COUNTY CONFERENCE

## OCTOBER 2016 - HOTEL IRVINE



On October 30, 2016, IAWF held its 11th Annual Women's Leadership Conference in beautiful Irvine, California. The conference's theme of "Building Bridges" aimed to emphasize diversity and urged all who attended to transcend age, gender, and religious beliefs in order to come together to celebrate the strength, grace, and resilience of Iranian American women all over the globe. IAWF acknowledged the unparalleled contributions of The Honorable Judge Shahla S. Sabet, recipient of the Trailblazer Award, for her lifelong dedication to justice. Mrs. Mahvash Yazdi was recognized for her achievements in the Information Technology sector. She was also honored for her hard work and dedication and received the Career Achievement Award. IAWF also offered their sincere appreciation to Dr. Ahmad Mesbah, recipient of the Community Leadership Award, for his continued commitment to the success and growth of the Iranian American community. Panels and workshops featured speakers including Parisa Khosravi (keynote speaker), former CNN Senior Executive, Founder and President of Payam Global Strategies LLC, and many other accomplished women. Attendees were uplifted and inspired by successful women from all walks of life to work hard, pursue their dreams, and show the world their strength. The Iranian American Women Foundation would like to thank all the speakers, exhibitors, participants and especially the OC Planning Committee and volunteers for joining IAWF and making the event possible with their support.



**DR.AHMAD MESBAH**
Community Leadership Award



**MAHVASH YAZDI**
Career Achievement Award



**HON. SHAHLA S. SABET**
Lifelong Dedication to Justice Award

# WASHINGTON D.C. CONFERENCE

## NOVEMBER 2016 - BETHESDA NORTH MARRIOTT HOTEL




On November 13, 2016 over 500 participants from Washington D.C., New York, and Tehran joined IAWF for the 12th Annual Women's Leadership Conference. The Master of Ceremonies, Asieh Namdar, began the conference by introducing the keynote speaker, Parisa Khosravi. Khosravi's eloquent and inspiring speech reflected on the importance of being true to who you are and carrying your strength forward in the face of adversity. Mariam Khosravani's speech was followed by the brilliant ladies on the "Rising Stars" panel. This crowd-favorite panel opened eyes to the wisdom and achievements of the next generation of Iranian American women. The passion of each panelist was contagious, as they inspired the crowd to reach for their dreams.



The 12th IAWF conference concluded with the intriguing "Iranian American Women in the White House and the State Department" panel. The panelists spoke about their diverse experiences in government positions and working amongst America's highest level decision makers. The ladies shared their stories and encouraged the crowd to get active and engaged within their communities. The Iranian American Women Foundation would like to extend its appreciation to all of our conference speakers, exhibitors, volunteers, and participants for making this event a truly memorable experience. This event would not have been possible without the dedication of our wonderful D.C. Planning Committee. IAWF is grateful for their hard work and commitment that made the event a success.



# SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

## APRIL 2017 - THE WESTIN SFO




The Iranian American Women Foundation hosted its 2nd Women's Leadership Conference in San Francisco, Bay Area, on April 16, 2017. Hosted at the Westin SFO, over 400 men and women were in attendance to celebrate the diverse achievements of Iranian women in the community. The conference opened with a message from IAWF Board of Trustee member and conference Co-Chair, Violet Parvarandeh. Poignant panel sessions were hosted by thought leaders who discussed issues relevant in the diaspora community such as taboos, technology, family, career aspirations, legal counsel, and more. IAWF Board of Trustee member and Chair of NorCal Chapter, Neda Nobari, shared a message during the luncheon. The Community Services Award was presented to Mariam Safinia. Conference attendees were encouraged to reflect on the theme of the day, "It's Time" by gaining the confidence needed to embrace their Iranian American heritage, and continuing to inspire those around them. Due to a very positive turnout and the feedback received, IAWF looks forward to many more conferences and events in San Francisco! IAWF is thankful for the SF committee members for organizing and supporting yet another successful event.






**MARIAM SAFINIA**

Community Services Award




**VIOLET PARVARANDEH**

IAWF Board of Trustee member

# TORONTO CONFERENCE

## SEPTEMBER 2017 - AGA KHAN MUSEUM



On July 29, 2017, IAWF, in partnership with Tirgan, held its first international Iranian Women's Leadership Conference in the prestigious Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada. The conference was sold out one month in advance, with more than 80 people on the waiting list. Iranian American Women Foundation received strong support from the Canadian government at both federal and provincial levels. A special video message from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was a pleasant surprise for the audience. In addition, they were honored to have Minister Kirsty Duncan, Premier Kathleen Wynne, and Minister Reza Moridi speak in person at the opening session. Panels and workshops featured speakers from Canada and the United States, including Parisa Khosravi (keynote speaker), Senior Vice President & Managing Editor of International Newsgathering, and many other accomplished women. Attendees were uplifted and inspired by successful women from all walks of life to work hard, pursue their dreams, and show the world the strength of Iranian women. The strong positive feedback that was received from the audience in Toronto reminded IAWF that the contribution knows no boundaries and encourages them to expand their operations to other countries. The Iranian American Women Foundation would like to thank all of the speakers, exhibitors, participants, Toronto planning committee, and volunteers for joining IAWF and making the event possible with their great support. They are particularly grateful for Tirgan's dedication to this project and commitment to perfecting every single aspect of this event.


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# LONDON CONFERENCE

## SEPTEMBER 2017 - ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL



On September 23, 2017, IAWF held its 2nd International Iranian Women's Leadership Conference (1st in London) in association with Persia Educational Foundation, at the Royal Garden Hotel.

The conference was a huge success, featuring a diverse array of engaging speakers and empowering stories. There were nine panels, which featured speakers from the United States and Europe, including Keynote Speaker Azita Raji, who was the former U.S. ambassador to Sweden.

This event held 350 participants who were inspired and enlightened by these thriving women sharing their inspirational stories and the steps to their successful careers.













# BOOK SIGNINGS

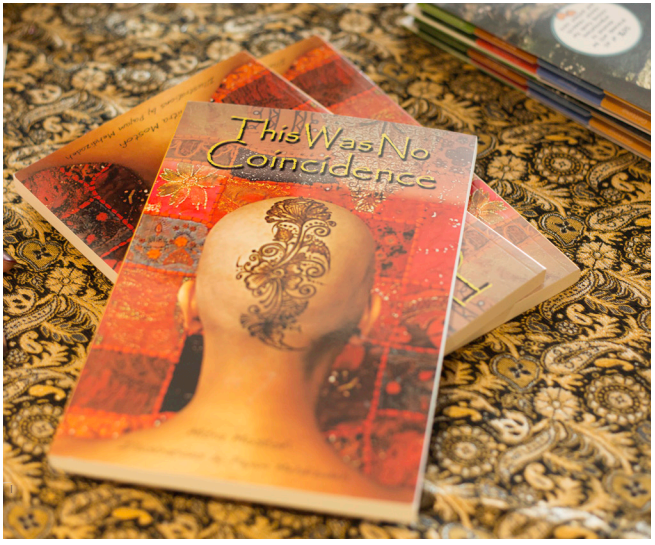
IAWF invites prominent Iranian American women authors to make their books available for signature as well as connect with fellow members.




Mehrnoosh Mazarei "Mina's Revolution" | SD 2016



Foojan Zeine "Maa" | OC 2016




Mitra Mostofi "This Was No Coincidence" | SD 2016




Sara Safari "Follow My Footsteps" | OC 2016




Zohreh Ghahremani “Sky of Red Poppies” & “The Moon Daughter” | SD 2016




Foojan Zeine “Life Reset” | Toronto 2017



Nina Ansary “Jewels of Allah” | SD 2016

# ART GALLERIES FEATURING IRANIAN AMERICAN WOMEN

IAWF provides opportunities for Iranian American women to display their work.



San Francisco Conference



San Diego Conference



San Diego Conference 2016



San Diego Conference

# WIND DOWN WITH LOCAL ARTISTS

On April 16, 2017, Farnaz Zabetian, Elham Ashrafi, and Reza Alhosseini, three local artists in San Francisco, showcased their beautiful artwork over a wine and cheese reception at the Westin SFO hotel following the conference.







# SoCal Chapter

*Events*

# FIRST IAWF SOUTHERN CA CHAPTER MEET & GREET

The Iranian American Women Foundation was excited to revitalize its talented leadership for the return of the Southern California Chapter, the organization's inaugural team. The chapter held its welcome reception on January 28, 2016. Similar to its previous work, the focus will be on conference and event planning, as well as serving as a hub for IAWF's many resources. With a plethora of successful professionals and dedicated IAWF members in the region, it is no doubt that their work will be greatly impactful to the overall mission and vision of the organization.








# IAWF SOCAL MOTHER'S DAY

On May 7, 2016, over 150 Iranian American guests gathered at the enchanting Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona Del Mar to celebrate motherhood. Guests were treated to an elegant evening filled with gourmet food, wine, and jazz music. Throughout the night, guests were invited to bid on many unique silent auction items. The silent auction received over 30 in-kind donations of gifts and services for guests to bid on and enjoy. The live jazz music was soothing and pleasant while guests connected with new and old friends. IAWF Founder, Mariam Khosravani, introduced the committee members responsible for organizing the elegant event and thanked guests. The rest of the night was spent blissfully under the stars in the magical gardens. A very special thanks to all the hardworking committee members that made this event possible.










# SETTING INTENTIONS







Several IAWF members gathered at Hotel Irvine on January 17 for the first event of IAWF Connect Series, "Setting Intentions for 2017." The event started with a social mixer and networking followed by an educational presentation. Dr. Foojan Zeine and Donna Ghalambor identified road blocks in the way of reaching goals and explored their impact on the daily navigations in life. Speakers further discussed techniques to stay mindful and conscious about these obstacles. They shared seven steps of goal creation and sticking to resolutions for the New Year.

# EMPOWERING THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION

IAWF would like to express gratitude to their valued Board of Trustee member, Fariba Ameri, for hosting a reception at her residence on February 12, 2017. Over 75 guests attended the event and heard speeches from IAWF Founder Mariam Khosravani, as well as from other Board of Directors and Trustees. IAWF would like to thank the host committee for their support!



# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 2, 2017, IAWF celebrated International Women's Day by welcoming Firoozeh Dumas and Yassamin Maleknasr for a networking mixer. One of the vital goals of IAWF is to connect and empower women in the community by providing networking opportunities in between conferences. This event was a wonderful night filled with inspiration and positivity. IAWF would like to thank all those who made this event happen!









# NATURE & NURTURE

On May 10, 2017, IAWF Connect hosted its Nature & Nurture Event at Hotel Irvine. The Iranian American Women Foundation offered sincere appreciation to all the mothers in the community with pearls of wisdom by Dr. Nasrin Beyraghdar and tunes of joy by Reza Mahini!














# POWERFUL COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE



On July 12, 2017, IAWF CONNECT SERIES presented Powerful Communication in the Workplace: Her Style, His Style, Our Style event. The event took place at Hotel Irvine from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm.

Dr. Sherry Nooravi, organizational psychologist and executive coach, was the guest speaker and facilitator. She is the Principal of Strategy Meets Performance and helps companies shape engaging, innovative and powerful workplace cultures by coaching their leaders, aligning senior teams and developing employees.

Participants who attended the event left with a better understanding of the communication styles of men, women and people of different cultures. They also received tips on how to communicate their thoughts in a powerful and positive way that ensures they are self-expressed.

# NorCal Chapter

*Events*

# NORCAL CHAPTER LEADER



Dear IAWF Community,

On behalf of the many inspiring women that have come together in recent months to further the mission and vision of this organization, it is with a most heartfelt pride that I introduce you to the new Northern California "NorCal" Chapter. Together we represent a collective community of intergenerational, dynamic, caring women from across all disciplines and professional sectors. This new chapter emerged out of the success of the inaugural Bay Area Women's Leadership Conference in May 2015, which, in the spirit of Mariam Khosravani's founding vision, inspired, empowered, and connected over 600 Iranian American women from across the Bay Area. The NorCal Chapter is committed to the continued success of this new legacy of the Bay Area conference, and looks ahead to the future conference in spring of 2017 to solidify its mark on the Northern California Bay Area landscape, evoking cultural pride, power, resilience and poise.

Now in its first year, the NorCal Chapter is committed to deepening IAWF's mission by galvanizing a new Mentorship Program, maintaining continuity and community cohesion between major conferences. The chapter strives to achieve this by connecting aspiring young professionals with emulatory leaders committed to the continuity and role modeling of the next generation, providing a year long opportunity that cultivates a direct and intensely personal exchange between a mentor and mentee. The NorCal Chapter is comprised of educators, artists, legal, medical, science, and business professionals, nonprofit leaders, activists and philanthropists, and works to spearhead quarterly events to advance IAWF participation and engagement by spotlighting speakers and artists that represent the unparalleled achievement and beauty of Iranian American culture. In essence, each member of the NorCal Chapter is committed to the work of inclusive women's empowerment, visioning a future where every Iranian American woman holds an integral place in the grand tapestry of our community, with access to the personal and professional resources needed to holistically realize their human potential.

We extend an invitation to all Iranian American women interested in joining our chapter, contributing to our goal of making the mentorship program a vital success, and supporting IAWF's aspirational vision.

Sincerely,
Neda Nobari, Chair
IAWF NorCal Chapter

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OPENING



On February 22, 2016, over 100 women from across the Bay Area gathered together to officially open the new IAW Foundation NorCal Chapter. The chapter's intention is to foster an inclusive, participatory, and dynamic community of women leaders across all professional sectors and from diverse backgrounds and worldviews. It will follow in IAWF's founding vision to inspire, empower, and connect, while focusing on deepening the organization's Mentorship Program for the younger generation.

# IAWF NORCAL MOTHER'S DAY



On May 1, 2016, over 150 Iranian American mothers, daughters, and grandmothers gathered in the beautiful redwood tree lined courtyard at Faz Restaurant in Danville, California. They enjoyed a day of Persian delights, music, inspiring speakers and networking with the Northern California Chapter of the Iranian American Women Foundation. The afternoon began with an inspiring talk by Butimar Production's Marjaneh Moghimi urging guests to follow their career dreams, no matter how fantastical they may seem to others. Moghimi recently produced the award-wining film Radio Dreams, starring Mohsen Namjoo as well as Fifi Howls from Happiness. Next, they heard from Ms. Mariam Safinia, the acclaimed Bay Area speaker and Founder of the School of Practical Philosophy. Ms. Safinia's powerful speech delved into the spirit and like Ms. Moghimi, she inspired attendees to follow their hearts. Finally, guests laughed and cried to the beautiful tunes of Ziba Shirazi, who gifted them with a musical and spoken word history of her own life trajectory from pain and loss in Tehran, to love and strength and as an independent artist in Los Angeles. It was a truly memorable and inspiring afternoon for Iranian American women in Northern California.

# FROM PRESCHOOL TO PhDs



On Sunday, August 21, the Northern California Chapter of IAWF successfully hosted, "Preschool to PhDs: The Future of Education," a multidisciplinary panel event and book signing with some of the Bay Area's most celebrated educators. More than 120 people were in attendance, including local university and high school students, men and women with an interest in education. The panel focused on emerging trends in education, child and youth development, and mentorships. The panel also discussed the importance of educational systems that place primacy on developing compassionate students through empathy-based education. Held at Berkeley's beautiful David Brower Center, the event was a testament to the NorCal Chapter's community-building and thoughtful curation of leaders on diverse panels, across critical topics.The panel was moderated by Anita Amirrezvani, and featured panelists Persis Karim, Yalda Modabber, Ana Homayoun, and Mana Kharrazi, who each spoke about the current successes and challenges in the education sector, their experience as educators and mentors, and gave words of advice to the next generation. Attendees gathered for a book signing at the end of the Q&A portion of the panel discussion, where they had the opportunity to meet the speakers, ask questions, network, and sign up for IAWF's new Mentorship Program. Special thanks to IAWF NorCal chapter members, volunteers and community members for supporting IAWF's mission and vision to inspire, empower, and connect.







# IAWF NORCAL "AFTER PARTY"

On October 29, the IAWF NorCal Chapter hosted a contemporary art exhibition curated by Fouladi Projects. "After Party" featured paintings, photography, and video installations by Afshin Chizari, Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, Babak Kazemi, Elham Rokni and Aram Tahmasebi. Award-winning filmmaker Anahita Ghazvinizadeh attended the exhibition as the chapter's special guest, speaking to the evocative and interactive visualizations that the intersection of art, mixed media and cinema bring to contemporary Iranian arts and culture. "After Party" refers to the events that transpired after the Iranian Revolution. Although the revolution started with a significant amount of excitement, rapid changes in a relatively short period of time have shaped a complex post revolutionary experience. The pieces of art in the exhibition were created by artists born in Iran after 1979. Some of the artists grew up during the eight year long Iran Iraq war, while others have memories of immigration and dislocation. Now, there is the hopeful and rebellious new Internet generation, the Iranian millennials, that the world has yet to see.





# WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

On January 24, 2017, IAWF hosted over 70 guests for the first NorCal Chapter event of the year. Speakers Leili Baghaei, Neda Amidi, Sahar Tashakorinia, and Roya Soleimani shared their experiences as women working in the technology sector, about trends in their respective fields, and provided general career advice.



# MEET & GREET
## WITH SPEAKERS AND SPONSORS!



On April 15, 2017, Malekeh Amini generously hosted and welcomed the Iranian American Women's Leadership Conference speakers and sponsors at her residence.

The Meet and Greet reception was hosted for the purpose of networking for speakers and sponsors the day before the conference.



# New York Chapter

*Events*

# NY CHAPTER LEADER



Dear Friends of IAW Foundation,

It is with great pride and excitement that I share the developments and evolution of the New York Chapter of the Iranian American Women Foundation (IAWF), founded in 2013. It has been an exciting ride to identify and recognize the success that Iranian American women have found in all aspects of the US economy and even more thrilling to imagine how powerful of a voice we can build when unified.

Our objective has been twofold with the primary focus placed on building a network that supports one another and a secondary mission that allows us to give a real face and an actual voice to Iranian American women. Events such as the leadership conferences in New York have not only allowed us to highlight our individual achievements but have effectively afforded us the opportunity to expand and broaden our image.

As a colorful group representing many different religions with a wide range of expertise in our midst, Iranian American women's influence can be found in all sectors of the New York economy as well as the national stage. In a city that both appreciates and is influenced by a myriad of cultures, the Iranian American professionals based here have effectively learned how best to marry the subtle and sophisticated nuances of our Persian culture with the direct, assertive and merit-based city of New York, building each of the individual success stories that we now celebrate and want to highlight.

Sincerely,
Jeyran Ghara, Chair
IAWF NY Chapter

# HEALTHY HEARTS
## WITH LEADING CARDIOLOGISTS







Following the successful New York Conference at NYU in the fall, IAWF brought the network together in February 2016 for an evening of connecting, networking, and launching the new year of activities. The committee members of IAWF NY welcomed two leading cardiologists from the community to shed some light on the recently released research on heart health for women. Dr. Roxana Mehran and Dr. Newsha Ghodsi led an informative session on women's health and hearts to a group of 30 attendees.

# DINNER WITH DONNA SHALALA

Dr. Shalala has a long history and an amazing love affair with Iran, in which she spent three years of her professional career. She joined IAWF for an intimate dinner with IAWF NY to speak about her own professional growth, and the importance and role that a good network can play in moving an agenda forward. Maryam Ansary kindly hosted and welcomed close to 50 people at her home for this event.







# IAWF NEW YORK CHAPTER MEET & GREET



IAWF's NY Meet and Greet was held on November 10, 2016. Thank you to Nassrin Iromloo Zahedi for sponsoring the event. IAWF would also like to thank the committee members for hosting a welcoming and warm reception to bring the network of professional Iranian American women together. The evening was filled with wonderful food and company, and guests were able to enjoy some remarkable Persian wine that was generously donated by Maryam Ansary. It was a great night filled with inspiring women from multiple generations with the drive to pull through, connect and empower.



# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON










IAWF would like to give special thanks to Saba Vahdat for hosting a successful and outstanding fundraising event at her residence in New York. The Women's Leadership Luncheon was hosted by Elham and Saba Vahdat at their residence in New York on May 1, 2017. The event also featured some very special guests!





# IAWF Events in D.C.

# IAWF MEET & GREET IN WASHINGTON D.C.

On June 27, 2017, IAWF D.C. members and friends gathered at the Greenhouse Bistro to learn more about the mission of the organization, ways to engage, and to connect with fellow members. The multi-generational community shared their ideas and inspirations for the group. The seeds of future collaborations and partnerships were sowed.







# COMMUNITY, PEACE, & TRANSFORMATION

## *Perspectives of Iranian American Women*



On November 12, 2017, IAWF partnered with Georgetown University's Persian Language and Culture Program and presented a panel called, "Community, Peace, and Transformation: Perspectives of Iranian American Women". One of the three panelists included Leila Milani, a Senior International Policy Advocate for Futures Without Violence, where she leads their work on global violence prevention, with a focus on women and children. While sharing her work and story, Leila expressed the importance of moving from a perspective of individual to collective prosperity.

# Programs

# MENTORSHIP TO INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

IAWF provides a Mentorship Program to empower the youth in our community through direct interaction between a mentor and mentee. The program is designed for mentors with highly valued professional experience who provide expert guidance for the next generation of women. A strong commitment to the professional growth of their mentee is required, along with careful cultivation of a unique one-on-one relationship. Mentees build strong ties with mentors by sharing all aspects of their journeys, from the frustrations to stories of success. In this supportive and collaborative atmosphere, the mentorship program thrives by offering a refreshingly honest and grounded experience not found in most mentorship programs today. By utilizing diverse approaches grown out of trust and a common cultural heritage, a strong and unfaltering confidence is built in the young leader in training.



*"My experiences with Laya Khadjavi as a part of IAWF's Mentorship Program have been invaluable. She has been such a tremendous resource for me and has served as a key contributor to my growth as a professional within my industry. I am extremely thankful and appreciative to the Iranian American Women Foundation for connecting the two of us."*

*- Shayan Ardalan, Mentee (Los Angeles, CA)*

*"I have really enjoyed my experience with the mentorship program. I have been exposed to so many beautiful and peaceful souls, that have helped me work on my inner peace…My mentor is great, she really listens to me and tried to help me with my problems with a lot of love and understanding. I have been mainly working on my peace and going through with understanding my career and what I can do to change it. She offers different options I could have to change any problem I have and I don't feel stuck."*

*- Tahmineh Nikakhtar, Mentee (Washington D.C.)*

*"IAWF has been true to its vision to inspire, empower, and connect Iranian American women. IAWF's mentorship program is one great example, which has cast its net beyond helping Iranian American women students and young professionals. As a proud mentor over the past two years, I have truly enjoyed guiding my mentee in the early and critical stages of his career in finance, and reciprocally have learned so much from him. I am proud of IAWF's achievements; it is exhilarating to be part of this incredible organization!"*

*- Laya Khadjavi, Mentor (New York, NY)*

*"IAWF's mentorship program is a perfect fit for anyone who wishes to get connected and gain some valuable lessons from a professional in their designated industry. The mentors will guide the mentees into finding their career path and advise them along the way. This program is phenomenal for students or recent graduates who wish to find their career paths while an expert supports and guides them through it."*

*- Azadeh Safavi, Mentee (Orange County, CA)*

*"My time with IAWF Mentorship program has been a wonderful experience. I had the opportunity to network with others in my field and make connections with other women in the D.C. Maryland, Virginia area. The mentorship program provided an opportunity for me to grow as a professional and individual. My mentors gave me advice on how to navigate my way into securing a job interview, and what is essential for me to learn in the workforce upon the beginning stages of my career. Aside from expressing my career aspirations, I was able to connect with my peers and mentors on a more personal level. The IAWF Mentorship program is a fantastic program that I highly encourage young individuals to take part in as it will help them develop long lasting relationships and skills critical to their personal and professional career growth & success."*

*- Safoura Kashfipour, Mentee (Washington D.C.)*

*"I've had such an amazing experience with the IAWF Mentorship Program. My mentor has been a constant source of support and encouragement. In fact, she was the reason I was nominated as a rising star speaker for the 2017 IAWF conference. I got to speak to the entire conference about my experiences in both the private and public sector. It was such an honor!"*

*- Tara Kheradpir, Mentee (Washington D.C.)*

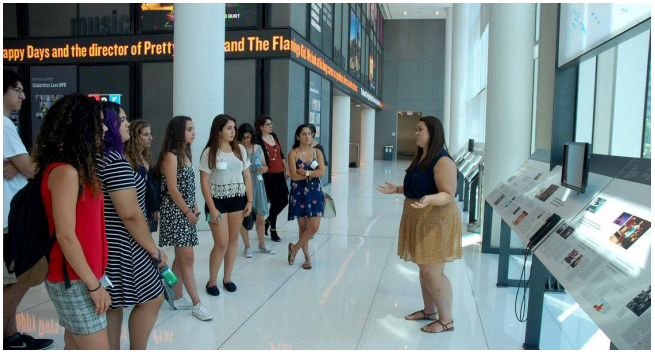
# LIFE ACADEMY: PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

On July 19, 2016, eight students from Southern California came together at Georgetown University for IAWF's first Life Academy program in Washington, DC. The purpose of the program was to equip students with the tools, information, and network they need to improve their professional lives. It also helped build a bridge between the experienced generation of successful Iranian Americans and the younger generation currently en-route to building their professional careers. Over the course of three days, Life Academy participants explored many career paths available to them in the Nation's Capital.

They had the opportunity to visit and speak to Iranian Americans working at the World Bank, National Public Radio, Voice of America, and the Department of State. Through engaging dialogues, participants learned about every speaker's path to their current position, the benefits and struggles of each given career, and discovered what a typical workday looks like. The three-day program also included workshops on how to pick a fitting career, leave positive impressions, tell a powerful personal story, and network effectively.





IAWF would like to thank all the wonderful speakers who made this program possible. Speakers included Iran Davar Ardalan, Sanaz Meshkinpour, Nadereh Chamlou, Shervin Hadjilou, Behrad Mahdi, Parastoo Golesorkhi Zahedi, Nick Lore, and Farifteh Emamghorashi. IAWF would also like to extend their true appreciation to Sogand Seirafi and Sima Jafari, dedicated volunteers, as well as the wonderful host, Professor Farima Sadigh Mostowfi, and the Persian Language and Culture Program at Georgetown University. They are grateful for their sponsors, Marjan Shallal, Manijeh Marvastian, One Foundation, and Firoozeh Bolourian.

# D.C. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ORIENTATION





On January 29, 2017, DC mentors and mentees gathered at Georgetown University for Iranian American Women Foundation's first Mentorship Program Orientation.

Participants created and shared their intentions for joining the program, learned about fellow participants, shared bits of their life journey, and began their relationship with their mentorship partner.

# REFLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



In May 2017, Iranian American Women Foundation held the Reflective Leadership Workshop in collaboration with Oakland-based organization, YES! This organization facilitates programs across the world, brings together inter-generational change makers to build community, and to become equipped with tools for personal, interpersonal and systemic progress. In this workshop, participants reflected on their leadership talents and ways that their community and relationships can support their growth.

# ART & IDENTITY WORKSHOP

On October 22, 2017, the IAW Foundation's Mentorship Program participants were invited to explore their multi-faceted identity through art. Local artist, Maryam Rassapour, guided the collaging workshop by providing participants with the basic knowledge and strategies involved in creating a mixed-media collage. Participants spent the afternoon outside working on the pieces and speaking about their Iranian American woman identity.





# NEW YORK MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ORIENTATION





On September 14, 2017, New York mentees and mentors gathered at the residence of Laya Khadjavi to launch New York's Mentorship Program. The 22 participants spent the evening learning more about the program, set intentions for their involvement, and shared their personal stories. The room was filled with accomplished and passionate male and female mentees from multiple generations, each committed to learning more about themselves and their mentorship partner throughout the 10-month duration of this program. Laya's home buzzed with excitement as many new connections were made and the seeds of friendship sowed.

# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



IAWF Scholarships are to help students achieve their goals by providing them financial assistance based on their needs. Scholarships are only available to current IAWF Mentorship to Internship Program participants. However, only a limited number of individuals will be selected to receive the scholarship. Scholarships are meant to assist the students with tuition, textbooks, and other course materials. Qualifying criteria include academic achievement, community service, and financial need.

**For more information, please visit: www.iawfoundation.org**




## JUNE 2016 - ONLINE

Up Close Va Personal was a summer storytelling project to collectively explore the passion, purpose, and power online as Iranian American women. This story project is the first element of an evolving digital strategy around the collective work and contributions as IAWF scales the impact and reach beyond the leadership conferences. Since 2011, the IAWF conferences have been a unifying force for the community. But in 2016, IAWF needed a unifying strategy for the digital age. Today, Iranian American women should be interacting across social media to give voice to the important stories in our community and begin engaging around a digital platform. IAWF would like to thank Davar Ardalan for launching the Upclose Va Personal blog to showcase the achievement of Iranians.



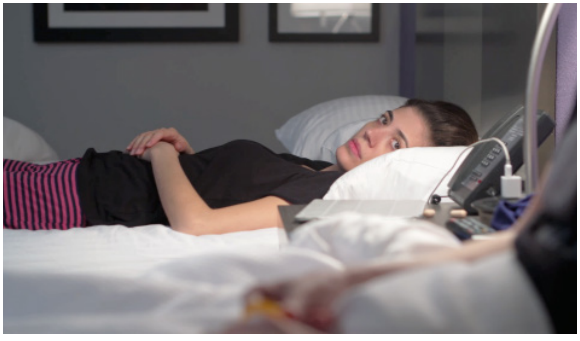








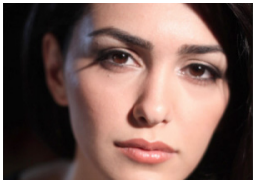







of a Lifetime' Granted for 97-Yr-Old
AP
ROYA SOLEIMANI
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, GOOGLE







# Partnership

*Events*

# iBRIDGE BARCELONA

From December 8 - 10, 2016, over 750 Iranians gathered in Barcelona for the inspiring three-day iBRIDGE Conference. iBRIDGE brings together high-tech entrepreneurs of Iranian decent for three days of collaboration, creation, and connection. On December 9, participants were invited to join the IAWF, "Entrepreneurial Challenges and Success Stories" panel. The panel comprised of Sara Ahmadian, Zohre Elahian, Elnaz Sarraf, and moderated by Anousheh Ansari. Each panelist shared their unique story and connected the audience to a place of internal ambition and motivation. IAWF's Founder, Mariam Khosravani, delivered a speech on the importance of building bridges within our community. Her speech discussed the necessity of these bridges between areas of diversity for the well-being and growth of our vibrant community. IAWF is honored to be part of their creation and community. IAWF would also like to thank trustee member Zohre Elahian, one of the iBRIDGE co-founders, for inviting IAWF to participate at the conference.






# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS' LECTURE SERIES

On October 22, 2017, the South Bay Persian Heritage Foundation welcomed IAWF Founder, Mariam Khosravani, to speak at their Distinguished Speakers' Lecture Series. Ms. Khosravani spoke about the Iranian American women's role and their contributions to the society, and was later presented with the Khaneh Iran Award.



# PARS TALK WITH MARIAM KHOSRAVANI

On November 16, 2017, ParsTalk OC hosted the Immigrants Path to Success Event Series. ParsTalk is an ongoing series of educational and inspirational events to put the spotlight on highly accomplished Iranian Americans in different fields who share their career experiences and the secrets of their success. Mariam Khosravani gave a speech about success and its definition to the audience.






# CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON
## *with IAWF & NIPOC friends & members*

IAWF and NIPOC held a joint Holiday Season Celebration on December 13, 2017, at the Red Bar in Hotel Irvine. The successful event brought members from both organizations together to celebrate the holidays, enjoy a festive dinner, participate in raffle prizes, and create new relationships through networking for the future. IAWF looks forward to having more occasions with NIPOC and other organizations to bring members of the Iranian American community together!



# Community

*Support*

The Iranian American Women Foundation is proud for sponsoring the following organizations and individuals in 2016 and 2017! It is our social responsibility to help and support one another in the community.

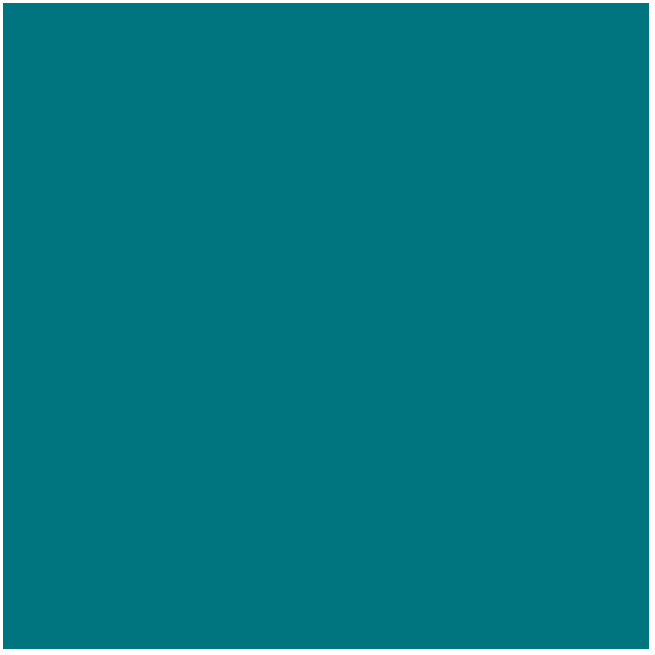
## 2016

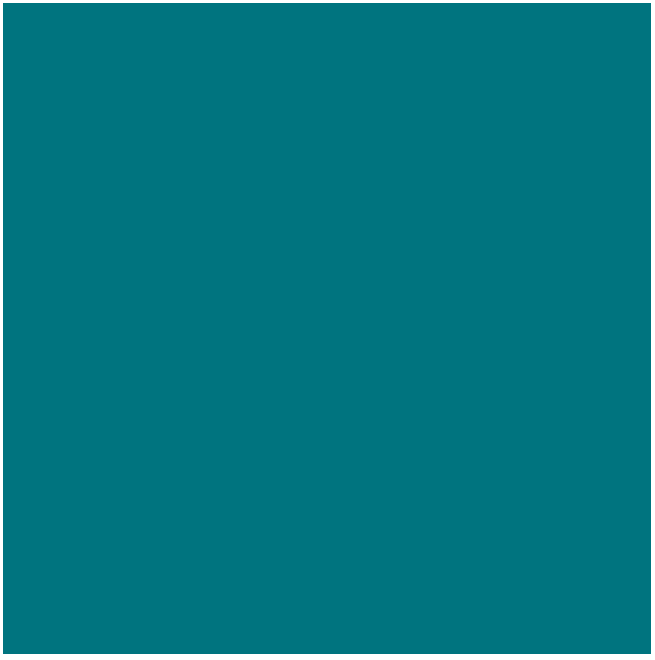
Child International (C.H.I.L.D.)
Farhang Foundation
Iranian American Bar Association
Iranian American Community Group (IACG)
Iranian American Scholarship Fund
Iranian Student Union, UCI
Keep Children In School (KCIS)
Magic of Persia
Moms Against Poverty
Network of Iranian American Professionals of OC (NIPOC)
Nowruz Commission
Pars Equality Center
Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA)
Lupus LA Foundation

## 2017

Child International (C.H.I.L.D.)
Farhang Foundation
International Society for Children with Cancer (ISCC)
Iranian American Bar Association
Iranian American Community Alliance (IACA)
Iranian American Community Group (IACG)
Iranian American Scholarship Fund
Keep Children In School (KCIS)
Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF)
Moms Against Poverty
Network of Iranian American Professionals of OC (NIPOC)
Omid Foundation
Pars Equality Center
Persian American Women Conference
Popli Khalatbari Foundation
Iranian Student Union, UCI
Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA)


IACA PRESENTS
THE 11th ANNUAL
Seattle
Iranian
Festival
جشنواره ایرانیان سیاتل
12 AUGUST 2017
SEATTLE CENTER ARMORY
11am – 7pm / free admission
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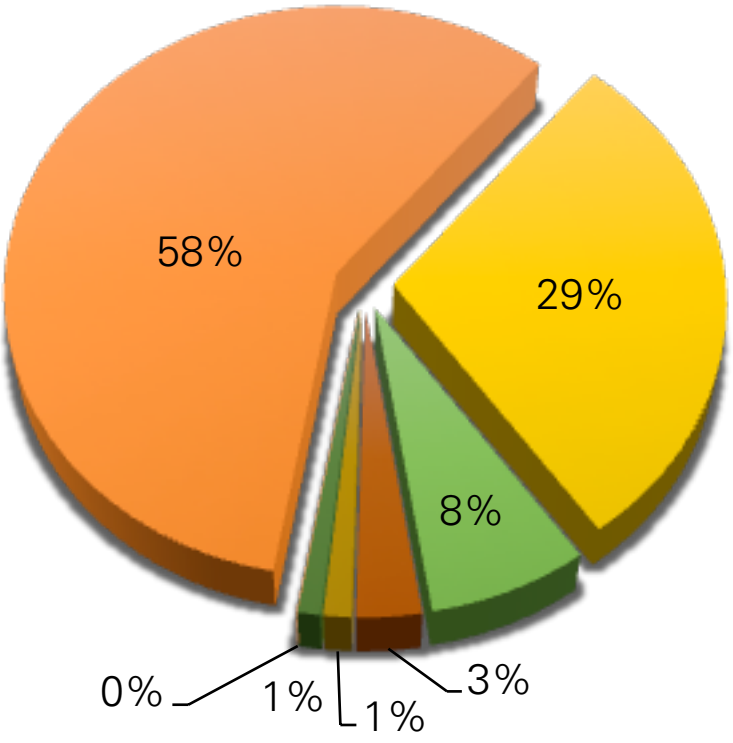





FARHANG
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# FINANCIAL REPORT | 2016

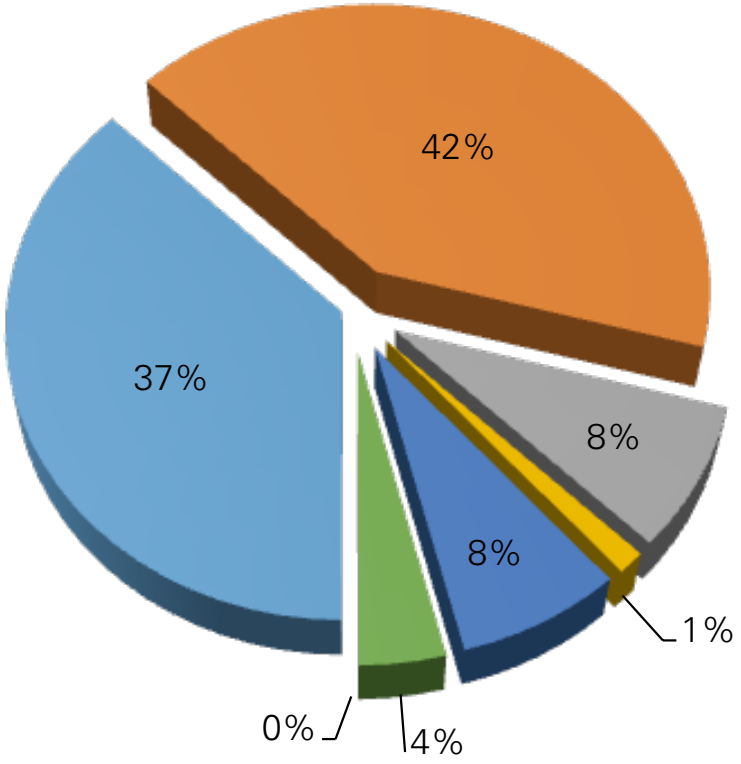
## Gross Proceeds




| | |
|---|---|
| Conferences | 325,390 |
| Board of Trustee, Circle of Visionaries & 1000s | 163,000 |
| Activities | 41,025 |
| Chapters | 16,650 |
| Community Support | 7,128 |
| Life Academy Program | 5,894 |
| Interest Income | 76 |
| **Total Gross Proceeds** | **559,163** |

# FINANCIAL REPORT | 2017

## Gross Proceeds




| | |
|---|---|
| Conferences | 190,516.04 |
| Board of Trustee, Circle of Visionaries & 1000s | 213,800.00 |
| Activities | 41,375.00 |
| Chapters | 6,415.95 |
| Community Support | 38,325.82 |
| Grants | 20,000.00 |
| Interest Income | 55.78 |
| **Total Gross Proceeds** | **510,488.59** |

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OC, LA, NY, DC, SF, & SD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Anoosheh Oskouian
Anousha Wickser
Anousheh Razi (in memory of)
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Bita Milanian
Donna Ghalambor
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## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Kamelia Vahneshan
Nira Photography
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