

Celebration of the Arts of Ancient Persia and Contemporary Iran

In the spirit of Iranian President Khatami's call for an international Dialogue of Civilizations, Search for Common Ground and the Meridian International Center are presenting a *Celebration of the Arts of Ancient Persia and Contemporary Iran*. The celebration begins with an exhibition of contemporary Iranian art, *A Breeze from the Gardens of Persia: New Art from Iran*, followed by a series of cultural events focused on the literary and performing arts of ancient Persia and contemporary Iran. This broad range of cultural events illustrates the thriving artistic life of Iran today, which has been largely unknown in this country since the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

April 27-July 15: Art exhibition *A Breeze from the Gardens of Persia: New Art from Iran* on view at Meridian International Center, 1624 Crescent Place, NW, Washington, DC.

May 5, 7:30pm: Pari Zanganeh, popular Iranian folk singer, Terrace Theater, the Kennedy Center. This concert is produced by Harmony Group. For information call: (301) 365-2429. For tickets call: (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324

May 7, 6:30pm: Iranian pianist Ariana Barkeshli, Meridian International Center. For information call: Claudine Hughes, (202) 939-5568

May 20, 8:00pm: The Dastan Ensemble from Iran (traditional Persian and Kurdish music), with vocalist Shahram Nazeri, Gaston Hall at Georgetown University. This concert is produced by the Center for Contemporary Iranian Art and Culture. For tickets and information call: (703) 256-5831

June 2, 10am-500pm: Museum "Walk-Day" at Meridian International Center. Enjoy a Persian afternoon with music by popular Iranian musicians Shahin and Sepehr (12:30pm to 3:30pm), poetry readings, and a taste of Persian cuisine. For information call: Claudine Hughes, (202) 939-5568

June 14, 6:30pm: Lecture: Paintings and Poetry-Image and Word Farzaneh Milani, Persian literature scholar and author, at Meridian International Center. For information call: Claudine Hughes, (202) 939-5568

June 15, 2:00pm: Three leading scholars discuss Persian poetry and read selected poems from Persian classical, mystical, and contemporary Iranian poetry. Library of Congress, Middle East Reading Room. For information call: Susan Koscis, (202) 777-2215

June 17, 2:00pm: Persian Carpets, Textiles, and Culture-Lecture and slide presentation by Carol Bier, Curator of the Eastern Hemisphere Collection. The Textile Museum, 2320 S Street, NW, Washington, DC. For reservations and information call: Education Department, (202) 667-0441, ext. 35

June 21, 6:30pm: Young Professionals Evening at Meridian International Center. Informal talk and slide presentation about Persian cuisine, followed by food tasting and reception with noted lecturer and Persian cookbook author Najmieh Batmanglich. For tickets and information call: Claudine Hughes, (202) 939-5568

July 11, 7:00pm: Persian Classical Music Ensemble, w/traditional instruments, led by Nadr Majd. Corcoran Museum of Art, 500 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC. Cocktail reception following the event sponsored by Iranian-American Cultural Association. For reservations and information call: Corcoran Museum, (202) 639-1770

Many events are free. For additional information, please see www.sfcg.org.

The Persian Cultural Celebration is organized by Search for Common Ground, in cooperation with Meridian International Center, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and International Arts Management Consulting, with the generous financial support of Conoco, Inc.

Search for Common Ground is an international non-governmental organization with projects in ten countries around the world that promote peaceful and cooperative approaches to conflict resolution.

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Style

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