

Celebration of Traditions Mehregan – Persian Harvest Festival Orange County Fair Oct. 1-2, 2005

IRVINE, CA – September 22, 2005 – the Network of Iranian-American Professionals of Orange County ([NIPOC](http://www.nipoc.org)) on behalf of the Southern California based Persian Community announces that Mehregan, the Persian Harvest Festival, will be celebrated on **Saturday October 1 and Sunday October 2, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center, 88 Fair Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626**



The 10th annual event celebrates Persian culture with music, dance, artwork, crafts, traditional Persian cuisine, Traditional Tea House, and costumes. The front gate at the festival, designed to evoke Persepolis, the capital of the Persian Empire will greet thousands of visitors. The festival represents Iranian Americans' interest in their heritage and commitment to share that heritage with the community. Iranian Americans pride themselves on maintaining a commitment to education, business and social causes in the tightly woven community of over **500,000 in Orange and Los Angeles Counties**. They have strong cultural connections and a strong value system.

Mehregan (pronounced 'meh-re-gahn'), is celebration of nature from ancient Persian Goddess Mehr, the spirit of love, knowledge and commitment.



Food, Fun, Entertainment – Persian Style!

At Mehregan, there are plenty of activities for young and old including traditional music, dance, arts and crafts, ancient sports, pop music, and of course the exotic Persian food.

Entertainment, two large stages are setup for various modern and traditional Persian Music featuring the hottest stars.

Tea House: One area which is always the crowd's favorite is the Tea House.

This area which is decorated by several tables covered by Persian rugs reminds people of the old tea houses in Iran. Activities include live performances, dancing, Poetry reciting, and of course Persian Music performed by well-known traditional artists.

Facts & Figures: Attendance: 15,000 – 20,000

Duration: Two Days (Sat. & Sun.)

Facility: 180 tents, 500 Tables, 4000 chairs **Median Age:** 35 **Average Household Income:** \$98,000

Marital Status: 80% Married 20% Single **Education:** 65% Bachelors or Higher

Further information is available at www.nipoc.org or by calling (949) 851-3993.

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