

Sunday 7 March 2010: NowRuz
Celebration at the Sackler Gallery of the
Smithsonian Museums, Washington DC.



“Fire” Jumping

Sunday, March 7, 11 am – 4 pm
Cast off the troubles of the past year and
celebrate the victory of light over
darkness with the return of spring by
jumping over an artificial fire.

Backgammon

Sunday, March 7, 11 am – 4 pm
Enjoy playing the board game of
backgammon, created in ancient Persia.
New to the game? Members of the
Northern Virginia Backgammon Club offer
introductory lessons. (12 & 2 PM. Sackler
sublevel 1)



Displays of Haft Sin tables

Sunday, March 7, 11 am – 4 pm
Learn about the beautiful Haft Sin displays that Iranian
families traditionally set out to honor the return of spring.



Greeting cards, “fire” jumping, and fortunes for children

Sunday, March 7, 11 am – 4 pm
Welcome in the new year by making your own Nowruz
greeting card, jumping over an artificial fire, and finding your
fortune in a fun version of the *Falnama* (Book of omens).



Storytelling: Xanthe Gresham: Persian Magic

Sunday, March 7, 11 am
Back by popular demand! Xanthe Gresham brings to life
stories of ancient Persian kings and exciting episodes from
the *Shanama* (Book of kings) and other classic Iranian epics.
A lecturer in storytelling and drama at the University of East
London, Xanthe entertains young and old alike in the
spacious Discovery Theater.



Video: Babak and Friends: A First Norooz

Sunday, March 7, 11 am – 4 pm
In this delightful animated film, young Babak lives in the United
States and learns about Nowruz when his cousins arrive from
Iran to celebrate the New Year. 2005 / 30 min. / video / English



Storytelling: Surabhi Shah: Asian Stories of Rebirth and New Beginnings

Sunday, March 7, 12 pm
Storyteller Surabhi Shah returns to the Freer to share stories of



new beginnings from across Asia. Her engaging storytelling style is part of a rarely heard tradition from India that weaves story with melodic verse. Enjoy stories of Shiva (India), Peach Boy (Japan), the Buddha, and the Shahnama (Iran).



The Pejvak Ensemble, directed by Behfar Bahadoran

Sunday, March 7, 12:30 pm

- Enjoy new music performed on traditional Persian instruments, featuring Bahadoran on *tar* and *setar*; Faraz Minooei on *santur*; Pezhham Akhavass on *tombak*; Shohreh Majd, vocals; and Steve Bloom on percussion.

Book signing: Najmieh Batmanglij

Sunday, March 7, 1 – 3 pm

- Acclaimed chef and author Najmieh Batmanglij signs copies of her cookbooks, including *Happy Nowruz: Cooking with Children to Celebrate the Persian New Year*.

Storytelling: Surabhi Shah: Asian Stories of Rebirth and New Beginnings

Sunday, March 7, 2 pm

- Storyteller Surabhi Shah returns to the Freer to share stories of new beginnings from across Asia. Her engaging storytelling style is part of a rarely heard tradition from India that weaves story with melodic verse. Enjoy stories of Shiva (India), Peach Boy (Japan), the Buddha, and the Shahnama (Iran).

Storytelling: Xanthe Gresham: Persian Magic

Sunday, March 7, 2 pm

- Back by popular demand! Xanthe Gresham brings to life stories of ancient Persian kings and exciting episodes from the *Shanama* (Book of kings) and other classic Iranian epics. A lecturer in storytelling and drama at the University of East London, Xanthe entertains young and old alike in the spacious Discovery Theater.

The Pejvak Ensemble, directed by Behfar Bahadoran

Sunday, March 7, 3:30 pm

- Enjoy new music performed on traditional Persian instruments, featuring Bahadoran on *tar* and *setar*; Faraz Minooei on *santur*; Pezhham Akhavass on *tombak*; Shohreh Majd, vocals; and Steve Bloom on percussion.