

Women of Vision, a chapter of Iranian Jewish Women Organization, IJWO, held an event discussing the topic of "Iranian Women in Leadership" with Rudi Bakhtiar as the main speaker. This program was held at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The event was attended by many Iranian women and on the agenda was "Women in the public arena".

After an introduction by Sanam Saraf, the interview of Rudi Bakhtiar was conducted by Sharon Baradaran . Rudi Bakhtiar shared her experiences as a female reporter working for different television networks. In addition, she discussed her views on the steps a female reporter has to take in order to move up the corporate ladder.

Being born in the United States, Rudi moved back and forth between U.S. and Iran. Her family settled down in Los Angeles where she continued her education at UCLA majoring in Biology. Rudi's inspiration for entering the field of Journalism was due to her uncle, Shahpour Bakhtiar. After receiving her Bachelors of Science degree in Biology, she pursued her dream of journalism, and received an internship at CNN. Rudi talked intimately about how she progressed from being an intern to a major news anchor woman in less than six years. She credited this incredible achievement to having passion, perseverance, as well as right timing.

One of the many questions asked that evening regarded her advice with respect to professional women entering and/or climbing the corporate world. Her feeling towards women working side by side with men in business and other professional corporations, was the following: first that it is a difficult journey because one has to remain a lady and retain her composure and two, to always be aware of one's conduct around men in order to be taken seriously. Nevertheless, she believes that a woman can be everything to everybody and more, and this is an asset that one can always employ in one's business, profession, and career to in order to succeed and achieve one's goals.

Currently, Rudi is the public relations director at PAAIA, Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans, and she is very enthusiastic about her involvement and uniting the Iranian American Community and having our voice heard at Capital Hill. She encouraged everyone to join PAAIA.

Rudi Bakhtiar provided a lot of insight and advice to the audience with respect to handling the challenges of being a woman in the corporate world as well as becoming successful in this arena. The evening ended with more questions and answers for Rudi as well as final networking amongst the professional ladies who attended this informative seminar.

The objective of Women Of Vision, a Chapter of IJWO, is and has always been to promote Iranian-American Jewish women in their professional and personal endeavors, by offering them education and networking resources. In addition, another important mission of IJWO is to recognize and document the accomplishments of the Iranian Jewish women in our society.