

## The celebration event in honoring Lu'bat Vala in London

The celebration event in honoring Lu'bat Vala, poetess, writer, lyric writer, journalist, and an associate of the Keyhan newspaper on Sunday night at Town hall in Chelsea London, together with a group of scholars, elites, her colleagues, and some of her family members took place. To be a part of this celebration a number of famous poets and writers such as Simin Behbahani, Muhammad Asemi, and Mahmud Khushnam had come to London from Iran and other parts of the world. Her Royal Majesty Farah the former Queen of Iran, Mehrdad Pahlbod, and Shuja' al-Din Shafa thanked Lu'bat Vala for her achievements during the past half century by sending messages, they further praised her activities in the field of the liberation of women in Iran.

Fakhri Nikzad, who was the host of the event, started the program by saying: welcome to the celebration event in honoring Lu'bat Vala, to begin this event, we first salute the intellect, the intellectuals, the art and the artists and the Iranian nation. We salute freedom



and freethinking. Following this start, the life story of Lu'bat Vala was displayed by slides while she was giving a speech herself. Lu'bat Vala said: my mother "Rukhsareh" was the daughter of a village chief in Khalkhal and my father was the great grand son of 'Abbas Mirza and my older sister was married to Ahmad Shah Qajar.

The other slides related to Lu'bat's activities during her service at the Ministry of arts and culture and her involvement in art and cultural, literal, and social assemblies.

Following the slides show, Dr Bizhan Shafiqian "her son in law" spoke of his engagement period with

his wife where they both met at the school of medicine during their studentship. He said: sadly, I must say that Shiva has not inherited the feeling and talent of poetry from her mother.

Dr Mahmud Khushnam the famous writer gave the next speech. He talked about his friendship with Lu'bat and stated that it began from Tehran and continued until the present time in London with the Keyhan newspaper. Khushnam further added: I have brought one of Lu'bat's beautiful poems which was sung by Gulchān and the music was composed by Pāyvar as a souvenir. This song was later played for the audience.

The message from Khatereh Parvaneh from Tehran changed the atmosphere and brought tears to the eyes of the audience. Khatereh in part

lady, who has been a believer of free thinking and has always been a freedom fighter, protecting the rights of women.

Tehran magazine with colour pictures. In the poetry book "*Gusasteh*" we encounter idioms more profound with vaster subjects in



of her message spoke of the depressing situation of Iran and then said: I am disabled and can only stand up with the aid of medicine and pain killers and at the time of performance I rest against the piano. In fact, I am at the corner of a house of sadness until I die. During the next part of the program a message from Mehrdad Pahlbod the former Secretary of the Ministry of arts and culture and Shuja' al-Din Shafa the former cultural deputy of the Imperial court and the famous writer Sirius Amuzegar was played. Shafa said: Lu'bat Vala is a liberal

Sirus Amuzegar spoke of her qualities and mentioned some memories of their friendships during the time they were involved in examining stories for Ballets and Operas. Thereafter, some messages from various artists and scholars were played. Javad Mujabi stated that the poems written by Lu'bat in those days were about the birth and of the women's personality in the Iranian society these poems occupy somewhat a sentimental space and they were published in

which women are independent, putting their problems forward in their society.

Shamsi 'Asar (Shusha) who so far has published few successful books in English about Iran, read two self-translated poems of Lu'bat Vala.

'Abdul Vahab Shahidi the famous Iranian classical singer in a message sent to Lu'bat from Iran said: *I have a garment filled with tears, and a bosom full of flames...Open your wings, oh you, whose vice is the soul to my wild candle.* Azar Pazhuhish the former

speaker of the radio and the *Gulha* program, who had travelled from Paris to London, read a poem by Lu'bat Vala under the title of "*Sarkesh*". Later, Muhammad 'Asemi in a long speech talked about his friendship with Lu'bat and added: The meetings with Simin Behbahani, and Lu'bat Vala is like a meeting with one's youth. 'Asemi spoke of some sweet and interesting memories with Lu'bat and the old days when they used to play on stage and worked as a stage designer. Towards the end he thanked everyone on behalf of Dr Musabah Zadeh the chief editor of Keyhan newspaper, who was not present due to ill health and that there was no denying in the fact that he was missed.

Following Asemi's speech, a message from Parviz Sayyad was played, in it he said: I knew Lu'bat Vala when I first visited "Nasr" theatre to collect my custom made dress. Dr Sadr al-Din Ilahi who is a journalist, writer, translator, and the editor of undated notes in the Keyhan newspaper in London said: Lu'bat is a woman of many talents and in kindness she is also second to none as a modern Iranian woman. She was the chief editor of the Tehran Musavar magazine and she managed the section for

women, literature, and poetry, during that time we had a pleasant association with her. Lu'bat Vala was the first woman editor of a political magazine in Iran and she had no desire to turn it into a woman dominated magazine.

Among the sent messages there was one from Mr. Ahmad Harar, who expressed his appreciations and stressed out that Lu'bat Vala was a distinguished woman with whom he has had a long friendship, he emphasised that she was an honourable and outstanding lady.

During the program Mr. 'Ali Behbahani the son of Simin Behbahani talked about novel writings of Lu'bat Vala and read some sections from one of her stories. Following that Shadab Vajdi, Shirin Razavian, and Ziba Karbasi the poetesses of London read some poems for Lu'bat Vala and later it was Simin Behbahani's turn she began by speaking about the previously mentioned trio and her fifty years friendship with Lu'bat Vala. She then told some jokes and turned to the audience and said: I say to you the intellectuals and the broad minded why not be kind to one another? Why do we have to reject one another? Simin said: I told Lu'bat,

humbleness is a virtue; however, we must not forget ourselves.

Following the speech of Mrs. Behbahani, it was 'Ata Shafiqian's turn (the grand son of Lu'bat). 'Ata played a piece which he had composed for his grand mother by the electronic Organ. Peyma Khusravi assisted him by playing the Violin.

At the end of the program Lu'bat Vala thanked all those responsible for the celebration and said my tongue is powerless in expressing my appreciation for this beautiful event; however, by reading this couplet I hope a token appreciation is expressed to some extent.

***If I am granted a second life by God  
I shall stay alive for a further 100 years  
Every day I shall speak of appreciations  
Oh friend, able to thank your love, I am not!***

Lu'bat said: Simin Behbahani is my friend and my other half; our relations go back for years since the University time until now. Lu'bat, later read some poems for Simin Behbahani which were composed specially for her and then presented Simin with a memorial tablet which was given by Mrs. Jamileh Kharrazi the founder of the Toos

foundation. The celebration in honoring Lu'bat Vala was prepared for six months and it was due to the efforts and the financial support of the Toos Foundation and also the efforts of Tufiq Mumtaz and Dr Shiva Sheybani.

## **To Mrs. Lu'bat Vala**

The published collection of your poems "*Par Gushudanha be Hava-yi Parvaz*" is the cause for happiness and satisfaction. As I have been a witness to the years of your activities and efforts in relation

with modernity of the women of our beloved homeland, I shall therefore, take this new work as a token of charm and I wish you continues success in providing service in cultural and literal fields.

**Farah Pahlavi**