



May, 2022

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In This Issue

Ja-ye Jackie

Jackie Spurlock

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Dooreh-ye Ketaab

Jackie & Jim

**Subscribe to PCIA's
newsletters:**

Iran Issues Discussion Group

John Salamack

[From the Field](#)

Board News

[Advocacy Bulletin](#)

And more..

[Action Alerts](#)



Fabric Shop. Esfarayen.
Photo by David Colley (Esfarayen, Tehran, 1967-69)

From The Field - PCIA Board Newsletter

May, 2022

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there.”

Jalal ad-Din Rumi

Ja-ye Jackie (Jackie's Place)

By Jackie Spurlock (Abadeh, Riz/Zarrinshahr, 1974-76)

Mother's Day Greetings!

To all the mothers and grandmothers out there – Happy Mother's Day! If like me, you served in the Peace Corps long before becoming a mother (or father), you may not have noticed Mother's Day being celebrated in Iran. [This video](#) can help fill you in.

I remember the concern of so many Iranians upon learning that we were in Iran without our mothers, hence “alone”. Our friends and neighbors worked hard to make us feel comfortable and even loved, given that we were separated from our own mothers' love.

On this Mother's Day, 2022, my wish is that all mothers and grandmothers may find love in the encircling warmth of their families, and that they may thus be empowered to go forth, raise their voices, and begin the work of building peace in the world, as envisioned by [Julia Ward Howe in this poem](#).

Peace,

Jackie

Dooreh-ye Ketaab, PCIA's Book Discussion Group

By Jackie Spurlock (Abadeh, Riz/Zarrinshahr, 1974-76) and Jim Goode (Tuysarkan, 1968-71)

Here are the remaining titles to be read and discussed in 2022's *Dooreh* (book group).

- May 11, 5:00pm Pacific (8:00pm Eastern) - Ansary, Nina. [Jewels of Allah: The Untold Story of Women in Iran](#). Revala Press, 2015. The author presents a provocative roller coaster ride that shatters the stereotypical assumptions and the often-misunderstood story of women in Iran today. Highlighting many courageous female leaders and advocates throughout Iran's history, the book illuminates the unanticipated consequences of the Islamic Revolution and the unexpected twists and turns leading to a full-blown feminist movement within a post-revolutionary patriarchal society.
- July 13 - Pezeshkzad, Iraj. [Hafez in Love: A Novel](#). Translated by Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi & Patricia J. Higgins. USYRC, 2021.
- September 14 - Bakhash, Shaul. [The Fall of Reza Shah: The Abdication, Exile, and Death of Modern Iran's Founder](#). I.B. Tauris, 2021. Paperback edition, May 2022.
- November 9 - Gaughan, Joan (Lahijan, Rasht, 1964-66) [The Shuster Mission to Iran: Leaving Something Worthwhile Behind](#). Real Nice Books, 2021.

Doorehs are held in odd-numbered months, on the second Wednesday, at 5:00pm Pacific (8:00pm Eastern).

A Zoom link will be emailed to you close to the meeting date. If you have never attended a *Dooreh*, please email doug@peacecorpsiran.org to ask for that Zoom link. If you have attended previously, we have you in the list, you're good.

Looking forward to seeing you at a *Dooreh!*

[Jackie Spurlock](#) (Abadeh, Riz, 1974-76) and [Jim Goode](#) (Tuyserkan, 1968-71)

Iran Issues Discussion Group

Monday, May 23, 5:00pm Pacific (8:00pm Eastern) Moderated by John Salamack (Bojnurd, 1965-67), this is a monthly virtual friendly discussion of current events having to do with Iran. All are welcome. Meetings are held on Zoom, on the fourth Monday of every month. If you have never attended the PCIA Iran Issues Discussion Group and would like to receive the Zoom link, **let us know.** Questions? Email **John Salamack.**

Board News

- **Future of PCIA Project.** From Fraser Lang (Isfahan, Tehran, 1968-70), correspondent for The Future of PCIA Project

And the work goes on.

Though there is nothing to report as of yet from the board members and volunteers working on the Future of Peace Corps Iran Association, that doesn't indicate a lack of work. As previously reported, several groups are working on various aspects of a plan. Most significantly, board member Ed Seiders has developed a spread sheet listing a dozen or more groups that might be interested in an affiliation with PCIA. They include cultural, educational, social and advocacy organizations. Outreach will soon begin.

Just a reminder that the no decisions will be made before extensive board review and a vote by the entire PCIA membership.

Questions about the Future of PCIA Project? Send email to the Task Force leaders - [Bill Brandon](#) and/or [Chuck Kaminski](#).

- **Conference. From PCIA President Jeanette Gottlieb (Noshahr, Hamadan, 1965-67)**

Mark your calendar for our in-person conference in Chicago in May, 2023. For conference questions or suggestions, [send email to Jeanette](#).

We Get Mail

- **From National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)**
 - **Returned Volunteer Survey: Help Us Tell the World about the Impact of Peace Corps Service in Your Life.**

Sixty years ago, in convincing a skeptical Congress of the value of the Peace Corps, President Kennedy stated that Peace Corps would not only share the talents of its Volunteers within their countries of service and work to build peace and friendship abroad, but that Returned Peace Corps volunteers would unequivocally provide a significant dividend to the United States. Although anecdotal evidence exists of that dividend, there has never been an empirical study to determine the extent to which the Peace Corps experience has made a difference in the lives of returned Volunteers and in our country. Take part in a survey of returned Volunteers and help others understand that impact as never before. **[Take the Survey!](#)**

- **Volunteers Have Returned to Colombia.**

These are exciting times for the Peace Corps community! Volunteers are returning to service around the world, with the most recent cohort arriving in Colombia in April. Invitations to serve in 30 countries are now being issued, and over 1,000 Volunteers are expected to be back in the field by year end.

- **From Bill Beeman**

Filmmaker Rabeah Ghaffari has posted her film *The Troupe* on YouTube about the Iranian Ta'ziyeh performances presented at Lincoln Center in 2002 featuring her father, Mohammad Bagher Ghaffari. I also appear in the film, as well as Tony Kushner. You can [watch the film here](#).

- **Letters to the Editor**

- **From Joan ValaNejad.** Best wishes for your health, happiness, and well-being.
- **From Jim Heideman (Mianeh, 1974-76).** Thank you for your thoughtful insights into today's life changes. I recognize the feelings associated with moving and in the process finding old memories.
- **From Tom Klobe (Alang, Kordkouei, Gorgan, 1964-66).** Tonight I'm doing a lecture to the Society for Asian Arts on *Celebrating NowRuz at Persepolis*. Forty people have signed up. Interest in Iran is never ending here in Hawaii. Meanwhile, I keep refining my book and getting it closer to the publisher.
- **From Kathleen Conroy Pueschel (Mashhad, Khoy, 1964-66)** I continue professional art work for 4 My Town and sustainable farming in a way all we hope for goes on in a small way
- **From Mike Basile (PCV Turkey, Trainer in Iran 1974-75).** I am moved to send you and your colleagues this note of appreciation. Your work is extensive, highly informative, and

heartfelt. I feel reconnected to those years and am grateful for your activism now.

Shopping on Amazon?

Check out [AmazonSmile](#). It's a simple and automatic way to support PCIA, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices and shopping experience as at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to PCIA.

Submit Your Photos

Each month, *From the Field* features a photo submitted by one of our members. We invite you to submit your own photos of Iran, from either your Peace Corps years or recent trips. Send to jackie@peacecorpsiran.org.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted recently, and keep `em coming!

Find Us on Facebook

For some time, we have had a lively Facebook group, with over 400 members. We post articles, photos, questions, and comments about Peace Corps in Iran or Iran itself. We invite you to [click here](#) and ask to join. Be sure and answer the

membership question you will see there. We will accept your request within a day or two, and you're in!

We also have a Facebook page, open to the whole world. **Located here,** this is a public page that features news about Iran and PCIA. We add photos and videos regularly. The purpose of the FB page is to engage our visitors to consider Iran with a more complete and nuanced view, in the spirit of Peace Corps' Third Goal. Hope to see you participating in both of our Facebook venues. Invite your friends too!

We Accept Donations

Supporting PCIA with your donations is crucial to our success because we don't charge dues. Donations support our biannual conferences (our next one is tentatively planned for Chicago in the spring or summer of 2023), as well as our many other advocacy, legacy, civic engagement, publishing, and member connection projects. If you are proud of your Peace Corps experience and believe that PCIA leverages and amplifies your ideals and your voice as an RPCV, we invite you to donate as you are able, either through **PayPal** or by **printing this form** and mailing it with a check. We are grateful.

Membership

Membership in PCIA is free (no dues). We welcome everyone who shares our values of peace, diplomacy, cultural understanding, and preserving the legacy of Peace Corps Iran. Members do not need to have served in the Peace Corps or lived

in Iran. To become a member, [click here](#). You will find that you must first join the National Peace Corps Association (it's free), and in doing so, you will then have the opportunity to join PCIA.

PCIA Mission Statement

Peace Corps Iran Association advances peace and understanding between Americans and Iranians through outreach, education, and advocacy, and upholds the legacy of Peace Corps in Iran. Adopted February, 2017.

Peace Corps Iran Association is a registered 501c3 nonprofit based in Portland, OR. We are affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association.

Title: *From the Field* comes from the Rumi quote at the top of each issue: "Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there." Jalal ad-Din Rumi. The idea is that PCIA is operating in a field that is outside of the conflict between our two governments as to who is right and wrong. In that field we meet all those who, like us, find the conflict detrimental and irrelevant in the friendship between the American and Iranian peoples. This newsletter is sent from that field.

PCIA Board

- [Jeanette Gottlieb](#), President (Noshahr, Hamadan, 1965-67)
- [Jackie Spurlock](#), Vice-President; Dooreh Co-leader; *From the Field* Editor (Abadeh, Riz/Zarrinshahr, 1974-76)
- [Ed Seiders](#), Treasurer (Noshahr, Chalus, 1967-69)

- [Marie Mitchell](#), Secretary (Mahalat, 1974-75)
- [Bill Brandon](#), Future of PCIA Task Force Co-Chair (Shiraz, 1964-66)
- [Brad Hanson](#), (Khaf, Shiraz, 1973-76)
- [Doug Schermer](#), Webmaster (Semnan, Shahrud, 1966-67)
- [Fraser Lang](#), (Isfahan, Tehran, 1968-70)
- [Joe Mangi](#), (Malayer, 1966-68)
- [John Krauskopf](#), Anthology Editor (Ahwaz, Kermanshah, Arak, Babolsar, 1965-69)
- [John Salamack](#), Iran Issues Discussion Group Leader (Bojnurd, 1965-67)
- [Kerry Segel](#), (Khonsar, Isfahan, 1969-73)
- [Paul Barker](#), *Advocacy Bulletin* Editor (Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran, 1971-76)

Other PCIA Leaders

- [Carolyn Yale](#), Board Member Emeritus and Future of PCIA Task Force Member-at-Large (Shiraz, 1974-75)
- [Chuck Kaminski](#), Future of PCIA Task Force Co-Chair (Kermanshah, 1969-70)
- [Genna Wangsness](#), Historian (Shiraz, Tehran, 1965-71)
- [Jim Goode](#), Dooreh Co-leader (Tuysarkan, 1968-71)
- [Joan Gaughan](#), *KhabarNameh* Editor (Lahijan, Rasht, 1964-66)

About this email

You have received this email because you are a member of Peace Corps Iran Association or have an interest in Iran. If you do not wish to receive future issues of *From the Field*, please use the unsubscribe link in the footer.

Comments

We welcome your thoughts and feedback. Please submit to [**jackie@peacecorpsiran.org**](mailto:jackie@peacecorpsiran.org)

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