

From the Field

January, 2022

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there.”
Jalal ad-Din Rumi



مرغه - محاسی پرنو

[Photo: Mahabad, 1969. Courtesy of Steve Horowitz \(Maragheh, Rasht, 1968-71\)](#)

Ja-ye Jackie (Jackie's Place)

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

Welcome to 2022! Happy new year! Sol-e no mobarak! With an appreciative nod to one of my favorite John Lennon songs, "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)", another year over. And a new one just begun.... And what have we done? That's the question. War is certainly not over. Let's stop all the fight. This continues to be my life's dream and vision. For mankind to live together in peace. The black and the white, the yellow and red ones. The near and the dear ones, the old and the young. Rather than making resolutions this year, I am setting intentions. They serve as a reminder, a nudge, without the rigidity of a resolution's line in the sand. One big intent for me this year will be working for peace, with respect and care for others.

So what have I done? What was I working on this last year? My work with PCIA is peace work at the macro level – international and national. So yes, I'm working for world peace. At the community level, I try to be a good neighbor, for example by learning about racism with my church women's group. And at the interpersonal and personal levels, the pedal hits the metal, I find the rub and the grind right there. In no particular order, here are some of my intentions for 2022: Be kind; move more; get outside more; notice, enjoy, have fun with, and take pleasure in every aspect of life; and work for peace – world peace, inner peace, interpersonal peace. Bring peace into my heart and into my actions. Same with joy. And acceptance. There's my plan for 2022! Let's hope it's a good one. I wish you peace and joy in the coming year.

Jackie Thank you to John Lennon and his song "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)"

Dooreh-ye Ketaab, PCIA's Book Discussion Group **By Jackie Spurlock (Abadeh, Riz/Zarrinshahr, 1974-76) and Jim Goode** **(Tuyserkhan, 1968-71)**

The votes are in and tallied for next year's Dooreh titles, and our first discussion is coming right up, so it's time to grab a copy and start reading! Here are the details:

- **Wednesday, January 12, 5:00pm Pacific time (8pm Eastern): Goode, James. *Living, Loving Iran: A Memoir* (2021)** A tale of one American's life-long interaction with Iran, its people and culture. From an immature Peace Corps volunteer, to married life in Iran's second city and finally as a scholar of US-Iranian relations, the author focuses on what has fascinated him about this much-maligned but little understood land. This memoir, based on diaries and letters, presents selected details of a life-long relationship between the author and Iran.

This title is only available from the publisher, [Mazda Publishers](#). (Click on the underlined link to be taken to order information.) If you have never attended a Dooreh discussion, please email [Doug Schermer](#) to be sent the Zoom link; if you have attended Doorehs in the past, we still have you in our list, you're good.

Here is the Dooreh schedule for the rest of the year:

- **Wednesday, March 9: Kahn, Margaret. *Children of the Jinn: The Story of My Search for the Kurds and their Country* (1980)**
- **Wednesday, May 11**
- **Wednesday, July 13**
- **Wednesday, September 14: Bakhash, Shaul. *The Fall of Reza Shah: The Abdication, Exile, and Death of Modern Iran's Founder* (2021)**
- **Wednesday, November 9**

And here are the remaining three titles that were also chosen in the recent survey, but have not yet been scheduled. (This is NOT necessarily the order they will be read in):

- **Ansary, Nina. *Jewels of Allah: The Untold Story of Women in Iran* (2015)**
- **Gaughan, Joan. *The Shuster Mission to Iran: Leaving Something Worthwhile Behind* (2021)**
- **Pezeshkzad, Iraj. *Hafez in Love* (2021)**

The Dooreh meets on the second Wednesday of every other month, in January, March, May, July, September, and November, usually at 5:00pm Pacific time (8:00pm Eastern).

The Dooreh is open to all. You do not have to be a PCIA member or a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. If you have not yet attended a Dooreh, email us to be included on the invite list. If you have participated in previous Dooreh meetings, we have you in the list, you're good! Please let one of us know if you have any questions

Co-hosts: [Jim Goode](#) (Tuysarkan, 1968-1971) and [Jackie Spurlock](#) (Abadeh, Riz/ZarrinShahr, 1974-76)

PCIA's New Anthology

Over the holiday season your Anthology editor (John Krauskopf, Ahwaz, Kermanshah, Arak, Babolsar, 1965-69) received a flurry of requests for copies of the PCIA Anthology to be given to various Iranophile friends. Christmas has come and gone, but NowRuz, another occasion for gift-giving, is fast approaching. *Memories and Insights - Iran through the Eyes of Peace Corps Volunteers* would make the perfect eid'i (NowRuz gift) for those Iranophile friends whom you have forgotten. You can obtain your gift or personal copy of the Anthology by [visiting the PCIA website](#).

Iran Issues Discussion Group

Monday, January 24, 5:00pm Pacific (8:00 Eastern) Moderated by John Salamack (Bojnurd, 1965-67). PCIA offers this 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

- Message from President [Jeanette Gottlieb](#) (Noshahr, Hamadan, 1965-67) – I would like to wish all a happy and healthy new year. Due to the ongoing nature of the Covid pandemic and the uncertainty many facilities are experiencing, the Board has decided to delay our in-person conference until spring of 2023 to insure a safer experience for all. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago then.
- The **Future of PCIA** core team – over two dozen volunteers – has organized workgroups to look into options for our association going forward. At our next meeting, on January 6, we will be discussing the role of each workgroup and its meeting schedule. For more information, contact [Carolyn Yale](#) (Shiraz, 1974-75) or [Bill Brandon](#) (Shiraz, 1964-66). Coming soon: updates on our website.
- Several board members signed [this petition](#) as individuals, encouraging the Senate to pass Rep. Ilhan Omar's [Combating International Islamophobia Act](#). When PCIA president Jeanette Gottlieb signed, she indicated that she was representing Peace Corps Iran Association.
- HELP WANTED: If you know Microsoft Word, PCIA historian [Genna Wangsness](#) (Tehran, Shiraz, 1965-71) needs assistance with formatting table of contents, indexes, and other technical aspects to finalize the PC Iran history. If

you can volunteer your help, send your contact information to genna@peacecorpsiran.org.

We Get Mail

- The conversation about Barkley Moore (Gonbad Kavoods, 1964-70) continues. [Here is the article](#) that has sparked two months of reminiscences (scroll down until you find it). Here is a message we received this month, from Kathleen MacLeod (Tehran, Gorgan, 1964-66):

Wonderful edition this month, especially the highlights about Barkley Moore. I often think of him when I peruse the coffee table book of the 2500th Celebration of Iran that he gave my former husband and me for our wedding, 50 years ago this month. The force of Barkley's personality really pushed boundaries: he set up a private school for privileged children as a strategy to create seats in public schools for tribal Turkoman children. The library he established allowed books to be checked out for reading at home — at the chagrin of officials who feared stealing! He didn't lose one book as long as he was there. He forced the change in Peace Corps rules prohibiting extensions in Peace Corps service — and served 6 years in Gonbad Kavoods. His personality was so charismatic and persuasive that Peace Corps hired him as a national recruiter when he returned from Iran.

For Barkley fans, here's a link to a 1978 interview he gave for the [Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History](#), which is one of the libraries at the University of Kentucky in which he charmingly describes the history of bringing the Frontier Nursing Service to Oneida, KY — an example of "domestic Peace Corps" service. Incidentally, this center is also a repository for the Peace Corps' oral history project.

- From Anne Baker, Vice-President, National Peace Corps Association
 - The U.S. has brought in tens of thousands of refugees from Afghanistan, and resettlement systems are stretched beyond capacity. To help individuals and families make a new start in communities, National Peace Corps Association is partnering with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) program. **NPCA affiliate groups will be invited to step forward to sponsor arriving Afghan families** and take the lead in supporting these new arrivals in communities. IRC will provide technical assistance and training. The duration of the sponsorship per case is 90 days, although affiliate groups are welcome to continue to provide support. [Submit this form](#) if you are interested in getting involved
 - Cause-related groups for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers:
 - [Peace Corps Community for Refugees and Friends of Afghanistan](#)
 - [RPCVs for Environmental Action](#)
 - [Global Allies Program: Partners Ending Poverty with RESULTS](#)
 - [Partnering for Peace: Friends of Peace Corps and Rotary](#)
 - [RPCV Oral History Archive Project](#)

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.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted recently. It will take a few months, but we plan to use them all.

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 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 Members

- 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 (Shiraz, 1964-66)
- Brad Hanson (Khaf, Shiraz, 1973-76)

- Doug Schermer (Semnan, Shahrud, 1966-67)
- Fraser Lang (Isfahan, Tehran, 1968-70)
- Joe Mangi (Malayer, 1966-68)
- John Krauskopf (Ahwaz, Kermanshah, Arak, Babolsar, 1965-69)
- John Salamack (Bojnurd, 1965-67)
- Kerry Segel (Khonsar, Isfahan, 1969-73)
- Paul Barker, Advocacy Bulletin Editor (Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran, 1971-76)

Other PCIA Leaders

- Carolyn Yale, Future of PCIA Core Team co-leader (Shiraz, 1974-75)
- 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.