

# KhabarNameh

## خبرنامه



Newsletter of the Peace Corps Iran Association  
Volume 11 – Number 2 - February 2023

Copyright 2022@ by Peace Corps Iran  
Association

### FROM THE EDITOR

Joan Gaughan (Rasht/Lahijan, 1964-66)



I wish you all a Happy Now Ruz/NewYear. Like the confluence of the two new years, the **Chicago Conference** and the **Task Force Report** invite us to look both forward and backward. **Aya Midanastid** offers a view of Farsi of which you may not have been aware, while Simin Bebehani's poetry in **Shaehr** and Jafar Panahi's film in the **Nema-ye Nazdik** remind us that art often conveys what the daily newscasts cannot. **Good Friends** and **A Dream Shared** recall bonds that endure, and **John Lorenz** recalls why most of us entered the Peace Corps in **"I Had to do Something to Help."** Don't miss the review of **John Newton's** book in **Books, Books**, the **Dooreh-ye Ketab** schedule for 2023 and a tasty recipe in **From the Ashpaz Khanae**. Be sure to check out **how to donate** your Iranian artifacts to posterity and, as always, our condolences to families of friends we have lost.

And so, Gentle Reader, Befarma'id.

### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Chicago Conference</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>A Dream Shared</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Task Force Report</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>From the Ashpaz Khanae</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Aya Midanastid?</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Dooreh-ye Ketab</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Shaehr</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Books, Books</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Nema-ye Nazdik</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Varzesh</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>"I Had to Help</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Donating Artifacts</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Good Friends</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>In Memoriam</b>	<b>16</b>

## **CHICAGO CONFERENCE**

### **Understanding Iran Today: Fulfilling Our Mission, Ensuring Our Legacy: A Time to Reflect and Look to the Future May 25 - 27, 2023**

By Fraser Lang (Hamadan, 1968-70) and Doug Schermer (Semnan, Shahrud, 1966-67)

#### **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Your service in Iran was a defining time in your life. How did it change you? What impact has it had on your life over the last five decades? How can you continue to make a difference in this troubled world?



View from the Rubenstein Forum Reception Room overlooking the University of Chicago and downtown Chicago.

At this time of unrest and tragedy in Iran, this conference offers a chance to consider your Peace Corps service—what it meant to you and to the people in Iran. It provides an opportunity for you to learn from the experts about the future in this part of the world that we care about. Naturally, there will be ample time to socialize and enjoy what Chicago has to offer. And, of course, it is a special time to reunite with friends from decades ago and to meet others with common experiences.

The conference will be held at the David Rubenstein Forum, a state-of -the-art facility on the campus of the University of Chicago, and the nearby Oriental Institute, whose museum contains artifacts from the excavation of Persepolis. The conference hotel is The Study at the University of Chicago, which is next door to the Forum. A block of rooms at this hotel has been negotiated for conference attendees at a special group rate.

Highlights of the program include:

- A panel discussion: **Understanding Iran Today**
- A video presentation on the **Excavation of Persepolis**
- A tour of the **Oriental Institute Museum** at the University of Chicago featuring treasures from Iran and other archaeological sites in the Middle East
- A look at **The Issue of Water—A Looming Threat to Iran and the World**
- **Evaluating Peace Corps Iran: The Persian Perspective**
- **Using Arts and Literature as a Means to Enhance Cultural Understanding**
- **The Future of PCIA: An Important Discussion**
- And finally, a time to reflect on **Leaving Something of Value Behind—What did You/We Accomplish with Our Service?**

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for “Woman, Life, Freedom.”**

The conference schedule, links to register online, reserve a room at The Study, Ken Opin's lists of local attractions and restaurants can be found at [www.peacecorpsiran.org](http://www.peacecorpsiran.org). There is a mail in registration form available if you prefer by clicking [here](#).

The registration fee includes a Thursday evening reception, continental breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday, coffee and refreshments throughout the meetings and entrance fee for the Oriental Institute.



Jim Houston (Gorgon, 1965-67) serves as a docent in the Oriental Institute Museum. The conference schedule provides time to browse the Middle Eastern collections.

PCIA board member, Paul Barker (Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran, Bahrain, 1971-76) reads the fine print beside a lamassua, a celestial being from ancient Mesopotamian religion bearing a human head and bull's body, located in the Persepolis room at the Oriental Institute Museum. This is one of the artifacts on display from Persepolis.

**PCIA AUTHORS:** You are invited to bring a sample copy of your book(s) together with order forms to the Writers Table at the conference. For more information, email [contactus@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:contactus@peacecorpsiran.org).

**IRAN DISCUSSION GROUP** meets the fourth Monday of every month. Led by John Salamack, it is an open discussion of current events in Iran and other Iran related issues. These discussions are on Zoom. An email with the Zoom link is sent a day or two before the meeting.

**MISSING EMAILS FROM PCIA?** We have reports that emails from [peacecorpsiran.org](http://peacecorpsiran.org) sometimes are sent to spam or junk folders. Please double check and make us a safe and valued sender.

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

## Task Force on the Future of Peace Corps Iran Association Delivers Final Report

By Fraser Lang (Hamadan, 1968-70)



**PCIA Vision:** Achieve and maintain cultural understanding and peaceful relations between the U.S. and Iran.

**PCIA Mission:** Building on the legacy of Peace Corps in Iran, Peace Corps Iran Association advances peace and understanding between Americans and Iranians through education, outreach and advocacy.

Confronting the inevitability of a declining membership, in July of 2021, the PCIA Board established a Task Force on the Future of Peace Corps Iran Association. Mindful of the vision and mission of PCIA, the Task Force formed five workgroups to plan for the future.

After engaging twenty-nine Board members and volunteers in months of deliberations, in October the Task Force presented three alternatives to the Board of Directors: (1) Planned Phase-out, (2) Expanding PCIA with new membership and (3) Partnering with a successor organization. The Task Force noted that the Board might want to create a hybrid that combined aspects of several of the alternatives.

**Planned Phaseout.** This workgroup produced a comprehensive checklist of items that the Board will have to address in closing the organization. They include financial, organizational and legal requirements.

**Expanding PCIA.** University and college students interested in Iran, especially those leaving higher education for professional careers, can provide a pool of new, young PCIA members. The workgroup identified thirty such university-based organizations or higher education programs.

**Successor Partnering.** This workgroup identified one or more like-minded organizations as partners in the short term to gauge their suitability for ultimate merger. Using guidelines that it developed, as well as information collected on the PCIA Common Spreadsheet, the list of possible partners was winnowed down to five, and Board members are doing due diligence to evaluate their suitability. Further investigation by the Board and implementation committees in 2023 may, of course, suggest that additional groups be considered.

### **The two remaining workgroups pondered:**

**Endowment/Financial Legacy.** This workgroup discussed the disposition of remaining PCIA funds, and a potential fundraising effort to establish a perpetual endowment that would continue the PCIA legacy.

**Status of PCIA.** This group provided a handy comprehensive overview of PCIA's development, its programming and publications.

The "Conclusion" effectively summarizes both the principal yes/no decisions to be made on the basis of the sections above and the subsidiary questions that emerge from a positive decision.

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

While the PCIA Board voted unanimously at its November 2022 meeting to accept the report, no final decisions will be made without member input generated through outreach to the members and a session at the upcoming conference in May 2023 in Chicago.

In the meantime, members of the Board will be doing extensive research on the potential partner organizations to determine compatibility and suitability.

Stay tuned for further updates..

فارسی

## **AYA MIDANASTID?**

By “Rom Rom”

### **Farsi: An International Language**

Readers may be aware that Persian is related to languages spoken outside of Iran. It can be heard in Iraq, Uzbekistan, even parts of southern Russia. A variant, Dari, is the official language of Pakistan and another variant, Tajik, is the official language of Tajikistan.

But did you know that, until the early nineteenth century, the official language of the British Empire’s “jewel in the crown”— India — was Persian? The spread of Islam into India between the eleventh and early twelfth centuries had embedded Persian culture so deeply in India that Persian became the court language. There was a brief but not total lapse during the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, but during the reign of the second Mughal emperor, Akbar (1556-1605), Persian became not only the official language of the court but also the language of culture, art, education and eventually was adapted for social intercourse as well. So ubiquitous had Persian culture become by the seventeenth century when the British East India Company entered India that scholars speak of an Indo-Persian culture in India, and Company officials who wanted to do business with Indian officials found it almost impossible to do so without a knowledge of Persian.

The decline of the Mughal empire beginning in the early eighteenth century saw some decline of the use of Persian. Nonetheless, Persian was still used in education, the judiciary, literature and often in everyday speech, especially in northern and western India. By the time the British East India Company came to power in India in the mid-eighteenth century, knowledge of Persian was still a requirement for anyone who sought a post in the colonial administration. By 1837, however, the Company had become the dominant power in India, and a Parliamentary Act in that year mandated the use of English rather than Persian in education as well as official proceedings, with Hindustani as the means of ordinary communication. Hindi, of course, became an official language, together with English, at India’s independence in 1947.

*Thanks to Dick Easton (Tabriz, 1962-64) for helpful advice on this story.*

## **SHAEHR**



In view of recent events in Iran, the following poem by Simin Behbahani seems appropriate. A discussion of Behbahani and her poetry by Mostafa Rahbar can be found in “An Evening with Simin Behbahani” in **KhabarNameh**, October 2018, page 16 on the Peace Corps Iran website.

From *A Cup of Sin* by Simin Behbahani. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1999, 68. The line in italics was quoted by President Obama in a Now Ruz greeting to the people of Iran in March 2012.

### **My Country, I Will Build You Again**

My country, I will build you again.

If need be, from bricks made from my life.

I will build columns to support your roof if need be with my bones.

I will inhale again the perfume of flowers favored by your youth.

I will wash again the blood from off your body with the torrent of my tears.

Once more the darkness will leave this house.

I will paint my poems blue with the color of our sky.

The resurrection of “old bone” will grant me in his bounty a mountain’s splendor in his testing grounds.

*Old I may be, but given the chance I will learn.*

I will begin a second youth alongside my progeny.

I will recite the hadith of “love of country” with such terror as to make each word bear life.

There still burns a fire in my breast to keep undiminished the warmth of kinship.

I feel for my people.

Once more you will grant me strength, though my poems have settled in blood.

Once more I will build you with my life, though it be beyond my means.

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for “Woman, Life, Freedom.”**

## NEMA-YE NAZDIK

### *No Bears*—a new film by Jafar Panahi

*No Bears* is a powerful Iranian film about directors and their movies. Those who follow Iranian films will likely recognize this name, Jafar Panahi, and are aware of his current status in prison for having defied a ban on making films in Iran.



Jafar Panahi

Panahi is associated with the Iranian New Wave Film movement and served as an assistant to Abbas Kiarostami. His debut film, *The White Balloon* (1995) was awarded the Camera d'Or at Cannes, the first Iranian to win that award.

*No Bears*, filmed along the Iran-Turkish border, is a movie within a movie in which Panahi directs a movie in Iran while the action is in Turkey. The film won the Special Jury Prize at the 2022 Venice Film Festival and is beginning to make the rounds in the US.

Below are some reviews and a link to a trailer.

The *San Francisco Chronicle*:

<https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/movies-tv/review-irans-no-bears-is-the-most-profound-film-yet-about-directors-and-their-movies>

The *New York Times* :

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/22/movies/no-bears-review-jafar-panahi.html>

NPR:

<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/20/1144126121/best-movies-2022-fresh-air>

Here is a trailer on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/oTJBVrxLfRs>

### **Amazon Smile Ends February 20, 2023**

For several years PCIA members have been able to use Amazon's "Smile" program which donates a small percentage of each sale to nonprofits. As of November 2022, contributions from Amazon to PCIA have totaled over \$735. A hearty thank you to those who participated. The last sale eligible for Amazon Smile will be on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Amazon announced that they will focus future charitable giving to support affordable housing, future engineers, logistics for community food banks, disaster relief, and local charities.

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

## **“I HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP”**

By John Lorentz (Karaj, 1962-64)

*Editor’s Note: A recent article in the Washington Post on the use of land mines in Ukraine prompted this response.*



It was the extensive use of mines (called butterfly mines) by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the mid-1980s that led me to take a leave of absence from the academic world for nearly two years and take on the task as Executive Director of the NGO (or in those days as they were called PVO—Private Volunteer Organization) “American Aid for Afghans.” These mines were not very effective in a military sense as they were easily detectable on the barren landscape of Afghanistan. However, they maimed and killed innumerable Afghan children who picked them up as one would a toy.

The carnage which I became aware of through my Afghan connections was so extensive and outrageous that I decided I could no longer stand-by but had to actively do something to help the Afghans. The rest is history.

It was, in my mind, a latter-day Peace Corps experience harkening back to my two-year experience in Iran as one of the first PC Volunteers in the world in 1962-1964. The stories are many including the close-to near-death event I experienced in Pakistan in 1985. That event is mentioned in a book on Afghanistan a few years later in which my name is mentioned, though I have yet to write about it myself. Such experiences change your perspective on a lot of matters in life.

For the text of the *Post* article see <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/01/31/ukraine-land-mines-russia/>

### **PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION ON THE WEB**

**Website:** Our official website featuring news and archives is at [www.peacecorpsiran.org](http://www.peacecorpsiran.org).

**Facebook:** You can join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PeaceCorpsIranAssociation/>.

**From the Field**, edited by Jackie Spurlock, is the PCIA Board’s monthly e-newsletter for sharing information and organizational updates. To subscribe send an email request to: [contactus@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:contactus@peacecorpsiran.org).

**Advocacy Bulletin**, edited by Paul Barker, is a monthly update on advocacy issues of interest to PCIA members. To subscribe send an email request to: [contactus@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:contactus@peacecorpsiran.org).

**Advocacy Alerts** is focused on late breaking issues in need of immediate response. If you would like to be on the PCIA Advocacy Alerts email distribution list, please send your name, email address, state, zip code and phone number to [Alerts@PeaceCorpsIran.org](mailto:Alerts@PeaceCorpsIran.org)

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for “Woman, Life, Freedom.”**

## **GOOD FRIENDS**

By Richard Beaupre (Rasht, 1965-67)



I was assigned to Rasht in Gilan by Gertrude Nye Dorry. At training in Texas, she had asked if there was any place in Iran I did not want to go to. I said the Caspian as I did not like hot weather. She ignored that and I ended up on a TBT bus to Rasht.

On the second day, there was a knock on my hotel door and I opened it to find an Iranian lady standing there. She was not wearing a chador. She said her name was Parmiz and immediately asked me in English if I was a Peace Corp person. Yes, I said. She asked, “Do you know my friend Linda?” She had done nursing training at Duke University where Linda was her roommate. I guess she thought all PCVs knew each other. I told her no, I did not know Linda. That did not stop her and she invited me to dinner.

That was my introduction to Parmiz Ershad, and later to her husband Mahmud Bazighali with whom I became close friends. Parmiz was a nurse and Mahmud was a dentist. I met their daughter, Farah, and son, Hamid, and Pony, their Pekinese. Having a pet dog in Iran was not common. That was the first of what would become many more visits over many more years, not as a guest who sat in the living room and drank tea, but as a good friend.

In 1969, I found myself working in Saudi Arabia. I returned to Rasht on vacation as soon as I could. I checked in to the Iran Hotel and went to their house. Mahmud was surprised when he opened the door. He asked me where my suitcase was, presuming I would stay with them. When I said at the Iran Hotel, he called Hamid and told him to go to the hotel and get my suitcase and tell the desk clerk I was staying with them.

In 1971, after two years in Saudi Arabia, I was back in Iran teaching at Community School in Tehran. During 1971-72, I made several trips back to Rasht. Mahmud insisted each time that I had to stay with them. After one contract ended, I returned to Saudi Arabia on a new contract. I made one or two trips a year back to Rasht during the eight years I worked at a Saudi university.

My last trip to Rasht was in 1978... just before it all fell apart. On this last trip, I had rented a car to revisit the places in the area that I knew so well. Near the Mordab, I was stopped by men with guns who were surprised when I spoke to them in Farsi. They wanted to look in the trunk. I asked why. They were looking for fish that many people smuggled back to Tehran to sell on the black market. They found no fish.

But after that incident I knew it would be my last trip. The uprising began three or four months later. I have never been back to Iran and it was the last time I stayed with Parmiz and Mahmud.

*Editor’s Note: At the NPCA gathering in Boston in 2013, Jennifer B-C Seaver (Rasht, 1966-68) gave a reading “Reunion with Parmiz” in which she celebrated the hospitality of Parmiz and Dr. Bazghali not only to her but, as this story illustrates, to many of the volunteers who served in Rasht.*

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for “Woman, Life, Freedom.”**

## A DREAM SHARED

The following letter to a new restaurant owner, Mohammed Golestan, was shared by Mohammed's son, Jahangir Golestan, the producer of the film *Bam. 6.6*. It is dated July 21, 1974. The inside address is: c/o Hotel Golestan, Char Bagh Avenue, Isfahan, Iran.

Dear Mr. Golestan,

I would like to take a few minutes to express my appreciation and pleasure for your invitation and tour of your new restaurant which is under construction.

Your restaurant is undoubtedly one of the most unique restaurants that I have seen since I first came to Iran in 1972. I was particularly impressed with the restaurant for several reasons which I would like to elaborate on.

First. Your restaurant is a beautiful combination of traditional Persian style

using new materials in a unique combination which portrays the heart and soul of Iran and Persia. The wood arches that you have designed and constructed, are not to be found anywhere



Jahangir identifies the gentleman with the hat on the right as his father, Mohammed.



PCIA historian, Genna Wangsness, identifies the man second from the right in the top row as Michael Horodyski.

else in Iran. The fact that you have collected and arranged old traditional tile mosaics throughout the restaurant demonstrates a tactfulness of style which is beautiful. This in combination with the traditional semi-private and open space concept gives one a feeling of being in the Persia of the Rubiyat.

Second. As the restaurant is designed in traditional style using new materials, you are most likely meeting the preconceived ideas of

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

Iran and Persia that most foreigners who will be visiting Isfahan have. For this reason, I would predict that you will have a large foreign tourist trade in addition to a large local trade.

Third. Because this is the only restaurant of its kind and because of the uniqueness of the restaurant, I feel that this restaurant is meeting a felt need that cannot be fulfilled by any other establishment in Isfahan.

Thank you once again for sharing with me your dream and I hope that I will be in Isfahan when you open your restaurant to the public.

Wishing you the best of luck.

Michael J. Horodyski

Project Director, Architecture and City Planners  
American Peace Corps  
P.O. Box 11-1576  
Tehran, Iran



### **FROM THE ASHPAZ KHANAE**

By Chef “Babri”

#### **Baghali Polo**

The way I make it...

Rice, cooked as we had in an earlier edition. (October, 2021, p. 13)

While it is boiling, add:

Fresh chopped or dried dill

Fava beans, canned or frozen’

Oil and salt

Chopped garlic, optional

Let it steam.

People usually eat this with *mahiche* (lamb shank) joojeh kebab or fish.

Merci!!!! and nooshe jan.



## **DOOREH-ye KETAB**

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

Here is the complete list of titles chosen by you, our Dooreh members, to be read and discussed in 2023:

March 8 - Newton, John. *An American in Revolutionary Iran*. (2022)

May 10 - Aslan, Reza. *An American Martyr in Persia*. (2022)

July 12 - Elghanavan, Shahrzad. *Titan of Tehran: From Jewish Ghetto to Corporate Colossus to Firing Squad*. (2021)

September 13 - Ghazvinian, John. *America and Iran: A History, 1720 to the Present*. (2021)

November 8 - Krauskopf, John, ed. *Memories and Insights: Iran Through the Eyes of PCVs*. (2021)

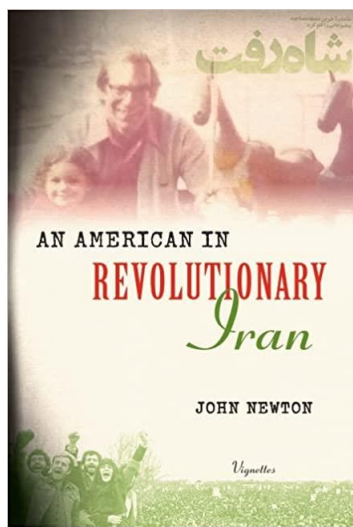
Meetings are on second Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. Pacific time. Almost all of these authors have agreed to join us for the meetings. (Does anyone have contact information for Shahrzad Elghanavan?) These titles are all available on Amazon as well as from other sources, including your public library. Feel free to start reading now! To receive the Zoom link and reminder, send an email to [contactus@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:contactus@peacecorpsiran.org).

Questions? Contact Jackie Spurlock [jackie@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:jackie@peacecorpsiran.org) or Jim Goode [jim@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:jim@peacecorpsiran.org).

## **BOOKS, BOOKS**

John Newton. *An American in Revolutionary Iran*. Tasora Books: Minneapolis, 2022, 220 pages.

Reviewed by Kerry Segel (Khansar, 1969-71)



Let me begin by saying that the title, *An American in Revolutionary Iran*, needs to be amplified in two significant ways. This book is not about any American. It is about John Newton, a Peace Corps volunteer and later Peace Corps field officer in Iran. He has advanced fluency in Persian and is culturally adept to the extent that he can successfully negotiate the most bureaucratically challenging situations the Iranian society can offer. Moreover, he gained this proficiency beginning some fifteen years prior to the Iranian Revolution; thus he is well prepared to critically evaluate the events of the revolution as they unfold.



Kerry Segel

The book consists of an introduction, fifteen chapters, and an epilogue. The introduction establishes John Newton's credentials as a keen observer of and

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

participant in Iranian society. We learn about his teaching experience and activities as a field officer. The vignette Newton provides in the introduction is unforgettable: He is driving on a particularly bumpy road and sees dust clouds arising from the desert ahead. When he arrives at the next village, he discovers a horrible truth: he has just experienced a massive earthquake. The village is obliterated. This was the 7.3 Richter scale earthquake that struck Khorasan Province in 1968.

Dashing madly all day in his Jeep Wagoneer between obliterated villages and the city of Gonabad, ferrying people and supplies, he witnesses both tragedy and hope. He describes with precise detail how Peace Corp volunteers rush to the area to aid in the rescue and rebuilding effort. One of them convinces the American Embassy to provide 1000 all-weather tents embossed with the autograph of baseball great, Ted Williams. They turn out to be the best quality emergency shelters utilized in the disaster recovery effort. (*Note: Additional stories about that earthquake can be found by clicking [here](#).*)

The introduction reveals another quality of the book—no chapter is without photographs. Almost all are from his own personal collection and never before published. Photographs with the Persian script are translated by the author; thus, there is no ambiguity for any reader as to why they were chosen for inclusion in the book. Whether of John standing next to the Jeep Wagoneer or the front page of the *Kayhan* newspaper, they demonstrate his intuitive sense of history being made, and thus needing to be recorded. In one photo, he points to the Ted Williams signature on a tent. It does need to be noted that these photos reveal death as well as life, such as one of a father looking down upon his dead children.

The chapters of the book successfully interweave John Newton's personal experiences in Iran and the looming Iranian Revolution. Chapter 1 gives a succinct history of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Iran as background to the 1979 Revolution. Typical of the other chapters, Newton uses his personal experiences to capture the essence of the events.

Some of the chapters are focused more on Newton's private experiences, such as buying an Iranian vehicle, in which he and many fellow buyers are swindled, or taking a walk in his neighborhood. In others, he details the interactions of the personnel in the publishing company where he works, or the revolutionary marches he takes part in as a news correspondent and translator. Regardless of the focus of a chapter, the Revolution is ever present, as is the presence of John Newton himself.

In the epilogue, Newton shares his initial reactions to returning with his family to the US. He obtains a position with Time-Life Books as a writer. Associates in Iran inform him of the fates of coworkers which he introduced to us across several chapters.

So, who should read this book? Certainly, anyone with an interest in the Iranian revolution, or wanting a first-person account of that history. It is also a book about the Peace Corps and the influence that one well-prepared, sensitive, dedicated person, an outsider to a culture, can have on the people of a society. In this regard, it should be a "required" reading for those in the diplomatic service as well as future Peace Corps volunteers. Finally, it is a chance to learn about an extraordinary individual, John Newton.

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

## VARZESH



### IRAN PRIMER

Iran Primer provides news about Iran and Iranian-US relations via a website and timely newsletters. Affiliated with the United States Institute for Peace, it boasts a full panel of experts who provide commentary. It is a valuable source of information about events in Iran.

In 2010, USIP and the Woodrow Wilson Center launched “[The Iran Primer](#)”—an original book and regularly updated website—to provide resources and education about Iran, which has been one of the thorniest foreign policy issues for the United States since 1979. Author [Robin Wright](#) is one of the founders.

You can sign up for the Iran Primer newsletter [here](#).

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for “Woman, Life, Freedom.”**

## **HOW TO DONATE ARTIFACTS FROM YOUR PEACE CORPS IRAN EXPERIENCE**

Submitted by Doug Schermer (Semnan, Shahrud, 1966-67)

There are two organizations currently accepting donations of artifacts and documents from our Peace Corps Iran experience.

### **MUSEUM OF THE PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE**

The [Museum of the Peace Corps Experience](https://museumofthepeacecorpsexperience.org) collects and preserves stories and objects of material culture donated by volunteers who serve in communities around the globe. It fosters cultural understanding through education and promotes research on the impact of Peace Corps, encouraging visitors to serve—wherever they live, however they can.

#### **How to Donate Objects to the Museum**

Go to Museum's website <https://museumofthepeacecorpsexperience.org/contribute-to-the-collection>

- 1- Click on the "Objects" tab. Go to bottom of the page and click on "Gift an Object."
- 2- That will take you to the Donor Request form, which should be completed and submitted. Photographs (required) of the object(s) should be attached to that form.
- 3- The form goes to the Collections Team Leader who then puts it on the agenda for the next Collections Team meeting (they meet once a month). The Leader contacts the donor.
- 4- The Collections Team considers the object(s) for the Museum's collection. There is a complete policy on what the Team considers for a donation. (A summary of this policy is on the website under "Objects".)
- 5- The Collections Team Leader emails the donor with the decision of the Team.
- 6- If the object is accepted, then the Team Leader emails a "Deed of Gift" form to be completed and the address of where to send the object(s). Correspondence at any phase is encouraged ([debbiemanget@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiemanget@yahoo.com)).

### **THE PEACE CORPS COMMUNITY ARCHIVE**

The [Peace Corps Community Archive](https://americanlibrary.org/peace-corps-community-archive), curated by the American University Library, collects, preserves, and makes available materials that were created and acquired by Peace Corps Volunteers. The archive is used to support student and scholarly research, create exhibits and provide educational and public programs that document the experiences and impact of individuals who served in the Peace Corps.

Materials created and/or acquired by volunteers during their service can be donated, such as: correspondence, diaries, film, photographs, reports, lesson plans, scrapbooks and sound recordings.

If you are interested in making a donation, please contact the archive at <mailto:archives@american.edu> or by telephone at +1 (202) 885-3256. The archivists will be happy to answer your questions and guide you through the process of making a donation.

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

## **IN MEMORIAMM**

By Genna Stead Wangsness (Shiraz, Tehran, 1965-1971)

### **Peter Bradley**



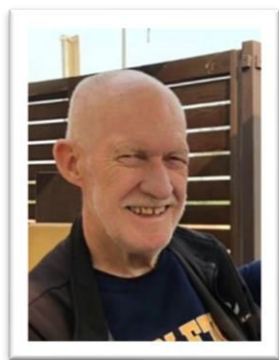
Peter died at the age of 82 on January 5, 2023, at his home in California. Born in Chicago on July 30, 1940, Peter grew up in Ossining, NY, before attending Virginia's William and Mary College where he received a B.A. in history in 1964. A member of Iran 6 TEFL, he served in Mashhad for two years from 1965 to 1967. Following Peace Corps, Peter received an M.A. from the University of Arizona in Tucson and served as a Peace Corps recruiter in Arizona, Southern California, and Hawaii. Peter was an English instructor in Santa Monica, CA, for more than fifty years. He was active with the Democratic Club, serving in various positions. His sports passion was the Los Angeles Dodgers. Peter is survived by his sister, Pamela, two nephews, three great nephews, a niece, as well as a bevy of friends all over the world.

### **Jennie Fitzgerald Crews**



Jennie died unexpectedly on January 10, 2023. Jennie and her husband Terrance Fitzgerald joined Peace Corps as a young married couple, serving with Iran 31 from 1971-1973 in Gonabad as TEFL instructors, and assisting with TEFL training the summer of 1972. Two years followed at the University of Mashhad, where their daughter, Erin, was born in 1974. Returning from Iran, Jennie received an MFA in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures from NYU, followed by a PhD in 1984. Jennie and Erin relocated to Houston following Terry's death. There she met and married Dr. Michael A. Crews in 1994, relocating to Albuquerque, where she was an active member in the city's community. Jennie is survived by her husband, daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and other relatives.

### **David Lewis Jones**



The Sufi saying "Because we are different provides opportunity for harmony, like an orchestra" was the principle by which Dave Jones lived his life. He died on October 28, 2022, in California. The lure of adventure and an innate desire to help other people led him to the Peace Corps, serving two years in Karaj with Iran 5 teaching agricultural mechanics. Post Peace Corps, he worked at an ag firm until he became Director of Hanford Visitor Agency. In each of his positions, his greatest ability was developing his employees. An advocate for equality, he led a social justice class at a local church, inviting a Muslim Imam to speak. Dave is survived by his wife, Linda, children Chris, Lisa, Lindsay, Aaryn and their families, including nine grandchildren.

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom."**

### **Charles Wayman Mitchell**



Charlie died in Arizona on December 10, 2022, following complications from a stroke. From Kansas, Charlie did a short stint at Fort Hays Kansas State University before moving to Munich for a year, then returning to FHKSU, where he met Marie. Together they spent a year in Europe, Charlie in Paris and Marie in Madrid. Following their marriage in 1972, they applied to Peace Corps in 1974, with a posting to Mahallat as TEFL teachers. Returning to Iran as teachers with Bell Helicopter after receiving master's degrees, a son, Michael, was born, but he died before they left in 1978. Their daughter, Amber, and later son, Nathan, were born in Arizona. Next came Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, followed by a return to Arizona, where Charlie opened Charlie's Espresso on Mill. Eventually Charlie had five cafes on Arizona State University's campus. He and Marie both retired the same day in 2013, continuing to make trips around the world and volunteering as docents at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix.

### **Barbara Anne Moe**



Born Barbara Raidt in Cincinnati, Ohio, Barbara died on March 31, 2021, in Colorado. She met Paul G. Moe, M.D., at the University of Cincinnati, while in an RN nursing program, and they married in 1959. She later received a master's degree in medical-surgical nursing. With children Dan, Steve, and Susan in tow, the couple joined Peace Corps and served with Iran 7-Medical in Shiraz for two years, where Barb taught nursing students part time at Namazi Hospital and son, David, was born. After their return to the States, daughter, Amy, was born, and they adopted Rosemary and Christopher. Barb then returned to school for a master's degree in social work, over the years authoring over two dozen children and medical books. She is survived by Paul, her children and seven grandchildren.

*Happy New Year*



سال نو مبارک

**Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support for Iranians as they raise their voices for “Woman, Life, Freedom.”**