

## **From the Field August 2023**

### **By Jeanette Gottlieb**

#### **FROM PCIA PRESIDENT CHUCK KAMINSKI:**

I am in awe of the energy and enthusiasm of the PCIA board and membership. Stepping into the shoes of Jeanette Gottlieb is a big lift as Jeanette has shepherded PCIA for many years leading us thru conferences, our organization's future strategy and engaging with national Iranian organizations aligned with many aspects of PCIA's mission. I would also be remiss in not acknowledging the roles and time that Jackie Spurlock, Ed Seiders, Marie Mitchell, Doug Schermer, Carolyn Yale, Genna Stead Wangsness, John Salamack, Paul Barker, John Krauskopf, Bill Brandon, Joan Gaughan and so many others have given and I apologize if I have not recognized your involvement as I begin to fit in these shoes. Our Board and members have started to explore new opportunities from another potential conference and final reunion in 2025 to collaborating further with the Iranian filmmakers and their film on the Iranian Peace Corps experience, a small segment of which was shown at the Chicago conference this past May. Even as we "age in place" both as an organization and as individuals our passion for our interest in Iran continues to grow and expand. Salamati!

**As summer winds down** many of us are wondering where it went. Here in the North east we seem to have spent most of it indoors, between wildfire smoke from Canada, rain, rain and more rain that alternated with miserable heat.

**The 4th Monday Iran Discussion Group** on August 28th focused on the water crisis in Iran. There the extended drought and misuse of water has dried up wetlands and the digging of ever deeper wells is sapping aquifers. The discussion was lively and the hour sped by. If you have not joined us on the 4th Monday of each month you are missing an opportunity to share knowledge of Iran today with an eclectic and knowledgeable group. To join the next discussion on September 25, contact Doug Schermer at [doug@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:doug@peacecorpsiran.org).

**As we approach the anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini** on September 16, The regime is once again trying to enforce dress codes and imposing restrictions in Kurdish areas. It is difficult to know what is happening inside Iran because news reports are filtered through a western bias. Here are a few sources you might want to explore: [Iran Unfiltered](#); [Iran Disinformation Project](#); [Iran Wire](#); and [Al Jazeera](#).

**Board news:** President Chuck Kaminski presided over the meeting on August 21. Aside from the usual reports Skip Auld reported on possible venues for our final conference/reunion in 2025. We are looking at Washington, D.C. The [Peace Corps Commemorative](#) is slated to open in 2025 and the [Museum of the Peace Corps Experience](#) is interested in working with us to mount an exhibit. If you live in the Greater Washington area and are interested in helping please contact Brad Hanson [brad@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:brad@peacecorpsiran.org).

**NPCA news:** The annual NPCA meeting and Affiliated Group meeting will be virtual this year and take place on September 8 and 9. All NPCA members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending or want more information go to [National Peace Corps Association | Peace Corps Connect 2023](#).

**Are you retired but still have an urge** to serve but are not up for a two year stint? You may be interested in the [Virtual Service Pilot](#) project. These are virtual service projects that require a short commitment usually measured in weeks. There are no projects in Iran but the expertise you have garnered in a life of work and volunteering may be just what is needed for some of the projects.

**Snip its. And a fun link:**

- **RPCV Tom Hughes, Group 19**, has a new book, [Iran and Me](#). It is available on Amazon.

**Genna Wangsness's history of Peace Corps Iran is still available.** With the way the year is rushing by, you may want to order autographed copies for holiday gifts. The order form is on our [website](#) or in the KhabarNameh

**New York Times articles on the Iranian water crisis appeared** on June 21 and 23 of this year. [Click here](#) to find them.

**Here is the link to an interview (CBS Morning) with Nasim Alikhani**, the owner of Sofreh, the New York (Brooklyn) restaurant. She has a cookbook by the same name.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/chef-nasim-alikhani-found-success-with-her-first-restaurant-at-age-59/>.