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PCIA BOARD NEWSLETTER

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December, 2022

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Dhow Shipyard, Ormuz, 1975
Photo by Ellery Kuhn (Tehran, 1974-75)

From The Field - PCIA Board Newsletter

September, 2022

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

Jalal ad-Din Rumi

Upcoming Peace Corps Iran Association Conference

Watch your email next month for news and registration details for our semi-annual gathering.

An opportunity to visit the past - see old friends
And contemplate the future - Iran American relations.

Chicago, Illinois
May 25th - 28th, 2023

Save the dates!

Questions? Contact conference co-chairs **Jeanette Gottlieb** (Noshahr, Hamadan, 1965-67)
or **Doug Schermer** (Semnan, Shahrud, 1966-67)

Board Accepts PCIA Future Task Force Report; Considers Next Steps

By Fraser Lang (Isfahan, Tehran, 1968-70)

At its first in-person Board meeting since COVID-19 struck the U.S., the Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the "Final Report" of the Task Force on the Future of Peace Corps Iran Association, and thanked the Task Force for its work. Meeting in Chicago November 12 and 13, the Board also agreed on three next steps in responding to the Report. It is developing recommendations for consideration in 2023, especially at the biennial conference in Chicago, May 25-27.

The question that generated the two-year strategic planning effort was how PCIA should respond to the aging out of its core membership of Peace Corps Volunteers and staff who served in Iran. At the end of October, the 28-person Task Force delivered its Final Report, the result of ten months of intensive work. "The Future of Peace Corps Iran Association: Strategic Planning Alternatives" explored alternatives that the Board can choose among, rather than recommending specific courses of action to the Board. The Board's next steps are: developing a condensed summary of the Final Report for publication in *KhabarNameh*; determining a realistic timetable for whatever future emerges for PCIA; and conducting further in-depth exploration of potential nonprofit organizations that might make alliance or merger partners which share PCIA's aims.

Questions? Task Force Co-Chairs: **Bill Brandon** (Shiraz, 1964-66) and **Chuck Kaminski** (Kermanshah, 1969-71)

Tis the Season for Donations

By Doug Schermer (Semnan, Shahrud, 1966-67)

Peace Corps Iran Association is requesting donations to help support the upcoming conference and reunion in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend. We have not made this request since Covid because our expenses were minimal, and we were

able to hold an online conference using Zoom.

Now that our level of activity is picking up, we again request your support. You can donate online by clicking [HERE](#). If you prefer to donate by mail, you can download a form by clicking [HERE](#).

Thank you for your support. Questions? [Doug Schermer](#)

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 planned for May 25-28, 2023, in Chicago), 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 also 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 (Mahallat, 1974-75)
- **Barb Deekle** (Zahedan, 1968-70)
- **Bill Brandon**, Future of PCIA Task Force Co-Chair (Shiraz, 1964-66)
- **Brad Hanson**, (Khaf, Shiraz, 1973-76)
- **Chuck Kaminski**, Future of PCIA Task Force Co-Chair (Kermanshah, 1969-71)

- **Doug Schermer**, Webmaster (Semnan, Shahrud, 1966-67)
- **Fraser Lang**, (Isfahan, Tehran, 1968-70)
- **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)
- **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**

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