



**Summer, 2020**

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**In the Pottery Town of Laliyeen, 1972**  
Photo courtesy of Bruce Nelson (Taft, Yazd, 1972-74)

## **From The Field - PCIA Board Newsletter**

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

Jalal ad-Din Rumi

Summer, 2020

**Dear Douglas**

***Ja-ye Jackie (Jackie's Place)***

## Speaking Out in Today's America

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

Since we last spoke, my city, Portland, OR has experienced dynamic and passionate protests against systemic racism, racial injustice, and police brutality, sparked by the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis policemen in May. The energy of Portland's protest movement and the destruction at the hands of a small minority of protestors brought about the arrival of federal forces. The majority of Portlanders have been strongly against the use of federal troops and weapons of war, such as tear gas.

But for this piece, I want to call attention to the roots of the struggle. Speaking out is a longheld American value, and protest is the exercise of our first amendment right to disagree with our government, whether by writing our views, holding a private conversation, or marching in the streets. Speaking out is how we create the government we deserve and insist upon. And if America doesn't have a well-functioning democracy, who does?

As we champion Iranians who challenge their own government, we are called upon to also protect our own freedoms. These days, that can be seen as radical, but democracy always was a radical idea.

Here are some thoughts from PCIA board members:

**Paul Barker** (Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran, 1971-76): A thread that combines the horrors in Portland, and soon other American cities, with our concerns for Iran and the broader Middle East is the way our leaders have, for the past 20 years at least, seen militarization, and increasingly privatization of security functions, as their preferred response. It has not worked in Afghanistan or Iraq or Syria. Why would anyone think it might work in American cities?

**Carolyn Yale** (Shiraz, 1974-75): Your point is bigger and more fundamental than concern for a particular cause, be it Peace Corps, PCIA, or... The point is defending

our basic Constitutional rights of assembly and free speech. Non-violence is essential; we should not HAVE to resort to violence to live freely in our country. Trying to light and fan fires in order to assert federal intervention does not and should not belong in civil society.

**Kathleen MacLeod** (Tehran, Gorgan, 1964-66): How about leading readers to Rumi's Field, the center, where we meet non-violently? We have to retreat and be in society. I got a lot out of [this interview](#).

PCIA's board will be discussing this issue. The board is interested to hear [your thoughts and responses](#) to this national crisis, this opportunity for self-examination and search for solutions.

Peace,  
Jackie

Note: Views expressed in Jackie's Place are Jackie's views alone, and not necessarily those of PCIA. The views of the three board members included in this piece are their views alone. [Letters to the editor](#) are always welcome.

Note #2: Because we skipped an issue in July (sorry, don't ask!) this issue is jam-packed with news and fun stories. We hope you will enjoy reading all the way to the end!

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### ***Dooreh-ye Ketaab*, PCIA's Book Discussion Group**

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

Please join us on Wednesday, September 9 at 5:00pm PDT (8pm Eastern) for a discussion of *Ambling through Life*, by Jay Crook. Hired by the Peace Corps as a field representative, Jay Crook finished in 1971 as Deputy Director in the Iran program. He then enrolled in the Doctoral Program of Persian Literature for Foreigners at Tehran University and received his Ph.D. in 1978. Besides

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his many years in Iran, Jay spent more than half his adult life studying, working, and ambling throughout the Middle East and South Asia, with excursions into Europe and elsewhere. This book is a "kind of harvest of journeys, shared with the reader". Amazon. Jay Crook will join us for the discussion on Zoom.

Our last Dooreh of 2020 will be on November 11, when we discuss ***The Man in the Mirror***, by Carole Jerome. Matt Shannon will lead the discussion. Note: This book is out of print and an affordable copy may be hard to find. We suggest you start looking for your copy now!

Doorehs are always on Wednesdays at 5pm Pacific Time (8pm Eastern) and are held on Zoom.

Questions? Suggestions for 2021 discussion titles? Email **Jim** or **Jackie**.

If you have not yet attended a Dooreh, please ask **Doug Schermer** (Semnan, 1966-67) to add you to the Zoom list. If you have been a member of previous Dooreh discussions, we have you in the list, you're good!

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## **Historian Report**

**By Genna Stead Wangsness (Shiraz, Tehran, 1965-71)**

In writing the history of Peace Corps Iran, I have a deficit of submissions from single women. To help balance this underrepresented category of volunteers, I'm appealing for a few more submissions. If you have a story to tell, [contact me](#) to arrange the best way to collaborate. For a balanced history, examples of all types of experiences need telling—do not be afraid to offer your unique story.

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## **Board News**

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## **PCIA Business**

### **Changes on the Board**

At the end of July, **Carolyn Yale** (Shiraz, 1974-75) left the board. Carolyn was a founding member of PCIA and served as president from 2015-2018. Over the years, Carolyn lent a level head, clear vision, and tons of hard work in many roles, including PCIA secretary, Advocacy/Impact committee chair, and lead on the Our Man in Tehran project. Among her many other talents, Carolyn is a writer, both of exquisite poetry and of dry, but somehow readable and compelling reports. Her experience from her long career with the EPA gives her unique perspectives that helped us get to the crux of many a discussion. She is an advocate for peace with Iran, regularly lending her keen understanding of the issues, her insight, and her spoken and written voice to our internal and external communications. We are pleased that Carolyn has agreed to stick around and help on board and committee matters as needed, a slightly less intense commitment that will allow her to pick and choose her activities with PCIA. Carolyn, we thank you for your years of dedication to PCIA's goals and mission, and indeed, for helping shape them. We all look forward to seeing you at the next conference, whether virtual or otherwise. *Kheili mamnun and khoda hafez, Carolyn!*

As Carolyn leaves the board, we couldn't be more pleased to welcome **Marie Mitchell** (Mahalat, 1974-75) to take her place. Marie has hit the ground running and is already on a couple of committees. There will be an introductory article on Marie in the next issue of *KhabarNameh*. *Khosh amadid, Marie!*

### **Election of Officers**

At its July meeting, the board elected officers for the 2020/21 year. The following slate was unanimously approved: President - Jeanette Gottlieb (Noshahr, Hamadan, 1965-67); Vice-president - Jackie Spurlock (Abadeh, Riz/Zarrinshahr, 1974-76); Secretary - Kathleen MacLeod (Tehran, Gorgan, 1964-66); Treasurer - Ed Seiders (Noshahr, Chalus, 1967-69).

### **Advocacy Actions Taken by PCIA in June and July**

Last month, the board, with several other organizations, signed onto a letter to Congress urging them to support Rep. Jan Schakowsky's amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) stating that Congress has not authorized war with Iran and requiring the administration to cease hostilities against Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

In addition, on July 15, the advocacy committee sent out an *Action Alert*, urging members to contact their Members of Congress in support of the above-mentioned amendment to the NDAA. *Action Alerts* are sent out as needed, suggesting actions that members can take. To sign up for *Action Alerts*, send email to [alerts@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:alerts@peacecorpsiran.org). For questions about the board's advocacy activities, please email [Paul Barker](#) or [Jeanette Gottlieb](#).

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## Member News

### Regarding This Month's Photo..

Taken by **Bruce Nelson** (Taft, Yazd, 1972-74) in the summer of 1972, and submitted to *From the Field* by **Joe Truskot** (Ardestan, 1972-74), who said: "Lalijeon is a pottery town outside of Hamadan. They made both ornamental pottery, as well as everyday yogurt bowls and jugs. I have one of the ornamental ones -- a little vase perfect for violets -- but would have loved one of those blue glazed jugs. They were everywhere in Iran." Upon seeing his photos for the first time in years, Bruce replied: "Joe, I am amazed and humbled that you have these. I must have taken them with a Yashica Lynx 35 1.4e camera I bought for 35 dollars shortly before I came to Iran. I only dimly remember them, but they look like pictures I would have taken. My eye was attracted to geometric patterns. I later did an even trade for a Leica IIIf that I found in a shop in Isfahan. The shopkeeper thought that a more modern camera would be easier to sell. I have had quite a bit of my work published and have had some exhibitions, especially from work I did in Japan. I lost a lot of my work, and most of my cameras, when the boat we were living on sank a few years ago, so this is especially appreciated.

**Dennis Briskin** (Arak, 1967-69) has published his 2nd photo book, *The Face of Iran Before...* This new book concentrates on people rather than buildings and landscapes. The book contains the same high quality black and white photographs as the first one, but more, and somewhat more captioned, text. Dennis' new book is again in coffee-table format with high-class photographic reproduction. John Krauskopf (Ahwaz, Kermanshah, Arak, Babolsar, 1965-69) reviewed Dennis' first photo book and says he believes this one is even better. "For most of us who took personal snapshots, these images are the ones we wish we could have taken ourselves and are highly

evocative of Iran in the mid-Pahlavi era." It is available directly from: Dennis Briskin, P.O. Box 1195, Palo Alto, CA 94302 or [Dennis' website](#).

### **From Skip Auld (Borujerd, 1973-74)**

Iran RPCV and PCIA board member Skip Auld shared his experience of changing his name after learning its racist roots. Read the story [here](#) and [here](#), and listen to him tell the story on NPR [here](#). Way to go, Skip!

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### **Member Support**

#### **While We Sequester at Home..**

**By Jackie Spurlock**

..staying connected is more important than ever. Check out the following PCIA-sponsored Zoom programs. We'll help you get connected if you need help!

- **Dooreh-ye Ketaab.** A *dooreh* is a discussion group, and *ketaab* is of course, a book. This is our bi-monthly book club. New members always welcome. The next one will be on Wed, Sept 9 at 5:00 PDT. (See details above.) [Let us know](#) if you'd like to join us. Grab a copy of the next book and start reading!
- **Iran Issues Group.** Our newest offering, this is a monthly friendly discussion of current events having to do with Iran. All are welcome. You don't have to be an expert, or even know much at all. Bring your interest, your questions, your opinions, and your conversational skills. Meetings are on the fourth Monday of every month at 5:00 pm PDT. The next one will be on Mon, Aug 24. [Let us know](#) if you'd like to join us!

..relations between Iran and the U.S. continue to unfold. Here are a few upcoming free virtual events where you can learn more (since they are virtual it doesn't matter where you live - but be sure and check the time zone!)

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- Monday, August 3, 17:00-17:45 Tehran time - University of Tehran, Faculty of World Studies - ***The World in Transition*** online lecture series, featuring **Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif**, Part 2 of 5, "The Characteristics of the Transitional Period". In English. Live on Instagram at [iranian\\_studies\\_ut https://www.instagram.com/p/CDWHJe4psjV/?igshid=29b7z3zj2yu](https://www.instagram.com/p/CDWHJe4psjV/?igshid=29b7z3zj2yu). Visit their [website](#) too. Here is [part 1 of the lecture series](#).
- Thursday, August 6, 10-11am EDT - Middle East Institute - **After Qassem Soleimani: The Islamic Republic's Strategy for the Arab World** - How has Iran's strategy in the Arab world performed following Soleimani's death? In what ways have proxy forces in the Middle East that operate under Tehran's command been affected? Who is left to make key decisions about the Islamic Republic's involvement in the Arab states, and are we faced with a weaker IRGC Quds force after Soleimani? Finally, what do Arabs think of Iranian policies aimed at them? [Register here](#).
- Tuesday, August 18, 10-11am PDT - Stanford's Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies - **The Iranian Women's Movement: A Conversation with Mahnaz Afkhami** - Ms Afkhami is an activist and author. She will discuss her experience with the Iranian women's movement. [Register here](#).
- In your own time, at your own pace
  - Free [online classes in peacebuilding](#) from the U.S. Institute of Peace.
  - Harvard Iranian Alumni presents [Chai Time 2 with Dr. Neda Maghbouleh, Dr. Niaz Kasravi, and Bianca Sia](#). "The Iranian Diaspora's Role in Supporting BLM and Combating Racism" a 90-minute panel held 7/20/20.

..enjoy these free short Iranian films

- [Thursday Appointment](#). Written & directed by Sayed Mohammad Reza Kheradmandan. Translated by BARR Pictures Media. Beautiful. Can you see what is going on in this film?
- **[The School That Was Blown Away](#)**. Written & directed by [Mohsen Makhmalbaf](#). A rural Iranian school is conducted in a tent. "A man, apparently a school inspector, visits the class and asks the students to answer several questions.

He explains that he is merely a passerby who wanted to know about the school. The teacher then asks a student to tell the man about the time the wind blew the school away." Letterboxd.

- **The House is Black.** Produced & directed by [Forough Farrokhzad](#). "A look at life and suffering in a [leper](#) colony, focusing on the human condition and the beauty of creation, and spliced with Farrokhzad's narration of quotes from the [Old Testament](#), [the Koran](#) and her own poetry. The film features footage from the [Bababaghi Hospice](#) leper colony. This film has been recognized as a landmark in Iranian film." Wikipedia. PCIA's Dooreh (book discussion group) has discussed two books about the influential Iranian poet and film director, Forough Farrokhzad.
- [An Interview with Pooran Farrokhzad](#). The sister of the prematurely deceased Iranian poet Forough Farrokhzad discusses her sister's life and work.

..explore these awesome websites created by Iran RPCVs (and maybe create your own?)

- **Al Greene** (Rasht, 1964-66) has created a humor blog that you can log into regularly, or simply "follow" him to receive notifications of new posts. Here's a random paragraph that I enjoyed: We were standing around when Marv approached a girl and asked, "Would you like to dance?" She gave him the once over and replied, "With who?" [Check it out here.](#)
- **Dee Fink** (Ahwaz, 1962-64) and **Jeff Gritzner** (Ahwaz, 1962-64), upon completion of their PC service embarked, with **Will** (Tabriz, 1962-64) and **Ginny Loudon** (Qazvin, 1962-64), upon an amazing one-year around the world journey in a sturdy Land Rover. Will and Ginny have passed away, but Dee and Jeff have spent months and years creating [this website](#) of the trip. You will be inspired and fascinated at the pluck of these four members of Iran Group 1!

..get involved with PCIA. We are compiling a list of jobs for members who have time to volunteer with us. We'll share the list soon, but meanwhile, if you've thought about what you could contribute to PCIA, or things you'd like to do within the organization,

please [let us know!](#) We need you.

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## **We Get Mail**

### **Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, 6/9/20**

Peace Corps' 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is only a few months away. The [Museum of the Peace Corps Experience](#) is already planning an exhibit in the [Katzen Art Center, American University](#), Washington DC, January – May, 2021. We need more stories and experiences from non Anglo-American volunteers who represent minority populations in the U.S.; for example, Black, African descent, Hispanic, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, indigenous groups of the Americas, or LGBTQIA+. How did your host community welcome you? Did your racial or cultural background impact your experience? If you are willing to be interviewed, please send us an email and include “many faces” on subject line. Send to: [contactus@peacecorpsmuseum.org](mailto:contactus@peacecorpsmuseum.org).

Nicola Dino (*RPCV Ecuador 1994-1997*) and Patricia Wand (*RPCV Colombia 1963-1965*)  
Co-chairs, Museum of the Peace Corps Experience

### **From Peter Bradley (Mashhad, 1965-67)**

#### **Letter to the Editor, 6/9/20**

Dear Jackie,

Your feelings are echoed around the world, not just in this country. Here in Santa Monica, my friends and I are working on suggestions to our City Council for reforms to policing here. I'm sure I don't have to remind you that racial intolerance and injustice aren't limited to African Americans and Hispanic Americans. We've all seen and heard the intolerance directed at Iranians and other Muslims, and to Chinese, blaming the latter for COVID-19. These reforms, when we get them passed, will have far reaching effects. I suggest you and all RPCV-Irans contact your local city government and demand changes in police roles and tactics. Reach out to like-minded people in your communities to push for change. None of us is naive enough to believe we can change what is in people's hearts and minds this way, but we can surely change the behavior of our elected and appointed officials. Peter

### **From John Krauskopf (Ahwaz, Kermanshah, Arak, Babolsar, 1965-69)**

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### **Reflections on the Worldwide Pandemic, 7/2/20**

In the last week, I have learned about two Covid19 deaths in Iran of people I knew in Ahwaz 50 years ago. Azmin Afra, one of my host-family brothers, was hospitalized in Ahwaz, seemed to be recovering but died of an underlying heart condition. He was vulnerable to the Covid19 because of the heart condition. **Gerry Gillio** (Ahwaz, Mahabad, Kermanshah, 1966-68) reported that the daughter of one of the teachers she worked with in Ahwaz died of Covid19 in a hospital in Tehran. Khuzestan seems to be having a particularly virulent spread of the corona virus. The country has not controlled the virus very effectively, and most of the personal contacts that Iran RPCVs have are in the vulnerable age range in a country whose health system is constrained by the sanctions. The irony is that I don't personally know anyone among my family and friends in the U.S. who who has contracted the corona virus. Perhaps my crowd doesn't get out much.

### **From Kathleen MacLeod (Group 4, Tehran, Gorgan, 1964-66), 7/2/20**

Global nationalism and the unrest in our country lay bare the need to promote Peace Corps' 3rd Goal and our values among Americans. One way to do that is to adopt an official song for the Peace Corps community that reflects our aspirations and beliefs, and serves as an expression of Peace Corps identity. One song that makes me think of Peace Corps every time I sing it is *This is My Song*, by Jean Sebelius. (According to Wikipedia, it is a national song of Finland, but not its anthem.) Here is a [link to the performance](#) by the Indigo Girls, Joan Baez and Mary Chapin Carpenter and here is a [link to the lyrics](#). I am volunteering to promote support for an official Peace Corps song with the PCIA Board and National Peace Corps Association, if members agree. Please contact me at [Kathleen@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:Kathleen@peacecorpsiran.org).

### **Child Foundation, 7/3/20**

We are encouraged by the words and actions of our community members. Among them, supporters in Iran who testify to how important education is for children to learn about their rights and potential. [Here is a video](#).

### **SISCA (Seattle-Isfahan Sister City Advocacy) Newsletter, 7/17/20**

"As with so many organizations all over the world, SISCA's activities have been dramatically altered by COVID-19. However, the pandemic is not stopping us from pursuing our goal of creating a community in the Seattle area that supports and incubates nonpolitical, people-to-people collaborations with Isfahan and other cities in Iran. We work to emphasize our common humanity and shared aspirations and to support finding practical roads away from confrontation and war."

Iran RPCV and PCIA member **Fred Noland** (Isfahan, 1965-67) was a cofounder of SISCA. Here is a [link to an editorial](#) he wrote for that issue of the SISCA newsletter.

### **From PCIA Friend, Matt Shannon, 7/17/20**

I am working on a book about the Presbyterian missionaries who lived and worked in Iran from the 1940s-1960s. I am trying to identify the precise location of a mission-run facility called the "Clinic of Hope" that was located in South Tehran. I've exhausted all the usual sources, but I recently discovered that, when the Iranian superintendent was drafted into the Health Corps, a Peace Corps couple took over administrative responsibilities. I think this was in 1966. Is there a place/person to which you can direct me? Perhaps someone writing the history of this PC cohort might have some information? Maybe you've heard something that relates to this? Contact Matt at [mshannon@ehc.edu](mailto:mshannon@ehc.edu).

### **From Greg Brown (Isfahan, 1967-69), 7/22/20**

A member of my partner Karen's family has leukemia and also his blood type is very rare. Because of this he hasn't been able to find a bone marrow donor to help him fight the disease. His parents are both Persian, and I understand that he is more likely to find a donor match among the Persian community than in the general population. I am a member of PCIA, and it occurred to me that we could spread the appeal for a donor through official channels or other members and their contacts. I am not sure what privacy protocols might apply. I have a lot more detailed information, some of it already on Facebook, but am keeping this initial contact brief to see if you think the PCIA may be able to help. My iPhone is 760-994-5317. Please email, phone or text. Thank you for your help.

### **National Peace Corps Association**

- From **NPCA Affiliate Group News, 7/31/20**: Over the past several weeks we've been asking: **What are the big ideas for the Peace Corps, National Peace Corps Association, and the Peace Corps community going forward?** We convened eight town halls and on July 18 we hosted a global ideas summit, [Peace Corps Connect to the Future](#). Highlights included "[Peace Corps Today](#)" report from Director Jody Olsen; host country perspectives from Global Citizen Awardees from [Nepal](#), [Kenya](#), and [Guatemala](#); town hall recaps; and an [RPCV panel](#) on taking ideas into action. You'll find the full recording of the three-hour summit as well as transcripts/videos of individual portions of the program on our website. Please continue to [share your ideas and input!](#)

- **Peace Corps Stories:** [The Unofficial Podcast](#) presents an unfiltered, uncensored look at the toughest job you'll ever love. Each episode features true stories about the Peace Corps, told by returned Volunteers reflecting on their service. The series is produced by the New York City Peace Corps Association, with help from content partners at other affiliate NPCA groups in the U.S. Have a story to share?  
Email [info@peacecorpsnyc.org](mailto:info@peacecorpsnyc.org).
  - Sign up to become an **RPCV mentor**. Please complete [this questionnaire](#) if you are an RPCV interested in mentoring a recently returned RPCV. Completion of this form implies that you have career experience you are willing to share.
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## Shopping on Amazon More These Days?

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](https://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.

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## Submit Your Photos

### Message from Jackie

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.

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## Find Us on Facebook

For some time, we have had a lively **Facebook group**, now at about 375 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. 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 there. Invite your friends too!

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## We Accept Donations

Supporting PCIA with your donations is crucial to our success because we don't charge dues. Donations support our biannual conferences (for example, the last one in [San Diego, CA in October, 2019](#)), 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 an (optional) check. We are grateful.

**Donate with** [mail-in donation form](#).

**Donate with** [PayPal](#).

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## PCIA Publications

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- ***KhabarNameh***, PCIA's official e-newsletter is published in February, June, and October. All PCIA members receive it. You may become a member [here](#). Back issues may be found [here](#). Editor [Joan Gaughan](#) (Lahijan, Rasht, 1964-66).
  - ***From the Field*** is the board's monthly e-newsletter. It is emailed to all members during the first weekend of every month. Back issues may be found [here](#). Editor [Jackie Spurlock](#) (Abadeh, Riz/Zarrinshahr, 1974-76).
  - ***Advocacy Bulletin***, covering Iran relations, opinion, analysis, and commentary, is published monthly and emailed to all members in the third week of the month. You may become a member [here](#). You may sign up for the Bulletin only [here](#). Back issues may be found [here](#). Editor [Paul Barker](#) (Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran, 1971-76).
  - ***Action Alerts*** are sent out in response to urgent situations as they arise. Unlike the above three newsletters, *Action Alerts* are sent only to those who have requested them. If you would like to be added to our *Action Alert* mailing list, [please email us](#). Include your name and ask to be added to the *Action Alerts* list.
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## 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, [print this form](#), fill it out, and mail to the address on the form.

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## 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.**

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**Adopted February, 2017.**

### **PCIA CORE VALUES**

- **Experience.** We value the experience and knowledge of Iran and its people that our members have acquired through Peace Corps. We seek to preserve and share the legacy of our experience. We believe the experience of living in another culture shaped our worldview and commitment to giving back.
- **Making a Difference.** We aspire to make a difference by speaking up in accordance with our mission and goals.
- **Diversity and Inclusion.** We value diversity of experience and opinion, and believe understanding is achieved through open mindedness, inclusiveness, and respectful dialogue.
- **Integrity, Accountability and Transparency.** We are accountable to our members and donors to ensure that our activities meet the highest ethical standards of organizational and personal integrity. We are good stewards of the time, talent, and treasure of our members and volunteers. We practice sound financial management. *Adopted, Feb. 2017*

### **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Peace Corps Iran Association advocates for peace and understanding through education, outreach, and cultural diplomacy. *Adopted Feb. 2017*

### **PCIA GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. Understanding and acceptance of other people and cultures are the building blocks of friendship, inclusiveness and world peace. As citizens of a world power, Americans bear a special responsibility.
  2. Tolerance and mutual respect form the foundation for peaceful interactions between countries and their citizens.
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3. Bringing countries and their citizens into the global community through cultural and economic ties reinforces international cooperation and reduces the likelihood of armed conflict.

4. Negotiation and diplomacy are essential to resolving international issues.

5. Force is rarely justified in dealing with conflicts. Peace is built and sustained through voluntary agreement and consent.

The Principles will be used as guidelines for the Advocacy Bulletin and other advocacy activities. The board may speak for the Association in the sense of upholding our mission, values and principles. *Adopted June, 2017*

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**Peace Corps Iran Association is a registered 501(c)3 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. This newsletter is sent from that field.

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### **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)

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[Kathleen MacLeod](#), Secretary (Tehran, Gorgan, 1964-66)

[Doug Schermer](#) (Semnan, 1966-67)

[John Holehan](#) (Mashhad, 1967-71)

[John Krauskopf](#) (Ahwaz, Kermanshah, Arak, Babolsar, 1965-69)

[John Salamack](#) (Bojnurd, 1965-67)

[Marie Mitchell](#) (Mahalat, 1974-75)

[Paul Barker](#), *Advocacy Bulletin* Editor (Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran, 1971-76)

[Skip Auld](#) (Borujerd, 1973-74)

### **Other PCIA Leaders**

[Genna Wangsness](#), Historian (Shiraz, Tehran, 1965-71)

[Jim Goode](#), Dooreh Co-leader (Tuysarkan, 1968-71)

[Joan Gaughan](#), *KhabarNameh* Editor (Lahijan, Rasht, 1964-66)

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