

KhabarNameh

خبرنامه

Newsletter of the Peace Corps Iran Association

Special Conference Edition

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Chuck Kaminski (Kermanshah/Tehran, 1969-71)



Salam dear PCIA friends,

In two months, we will meet for our final reunion and conference in Washington DC. Our conference committee has created a program that we think will appeal to the variety of interests of the attendees. Opening with a reception with a brief talk by former Congressman and former PC Dominican Republic volunteer Joe Kennedy III, the following two days will be filled with programs, that I am sure you will find of interest, including reminiscences by volunteers from Group 1, an award winning film, *Dawn is Too Far*, and a film on the Peace Corps in Iran, *When We Grew Together*. There will be presentations on the nomads of Iran, Forough Farrokhzad and the rise of the Iranian women's movement, Omar Khayyam's poetic forms, discussions on women in contemporary Iran and the possibility for diplomatic openings in Iran today. We will conclude with words from the leaders of various PC projects that continue after PCIA ends its run in 2026. Additional information on the conference schedule can be found on the PCIA website: www.peacecorpsiran.org The conference ends on Sunday night with a festive banquet catered by JOON restaurant led by Chef-Owner Chris Morgan and Executive Chef Najmieh Batmanglij who is hailed as the Grande Dame of Iranian Cooking by the *Washington Post*.

I hope you will join PCIA the weekend of October 3-5 for our milestone and memorable event. Room reservations at our special PCIA rate are still open at the Grand Hyatt, Washington DC, located a short distance from the conference venue at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Go to www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASGH/G-PEA5 and use Group code, G-PEA5

If you are still in contact with the volunteers from your group, reach out and have a mini reunion during the weekend. Saturday night is on your own so it would be a perfect time for a dinner of recollections of your time in Iran.

Khosh bash



Who is Registered to Attend?

Go to the last section of this issue to see the list of who is currently registered to attend the conference.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU COME TO DC

September 15 – Absolute Deadline to Register for the Conference

We cannot accept new registrations for the conference after September 15. This is a necessary to accommodate our caterers for the Saturday and Sunday box lunches and the Sunday night Persian banquet.

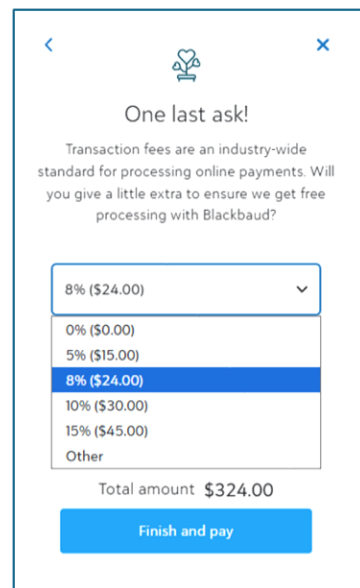
You can use this URL (also on the www.peacecorpsiran.org website) to register for the conference and use a credit card.

https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=b418e948-6b63-42aa-9e65-95e90f50660e&envId=p-sii_d3RVj0KXTGgNOEfiBw&zone=usa

IMPORTANT: Something new! After you enter your credit card information, the very last screen will look something like this:

The default is 8% but you may choose any option. Your choice will have no impact on the amount of funds PCIA receives.

Yes, you can bring a guest to the banquet!



In response to requests, the planning committee decided to make it possible for **those who have already registered and paid the \$300 registration fee** to bring a guest (who is not attending the conference) to join us for the Sunday night Persian banquet. The cost to attend only the banquet is \$150. A separate sign-up for this can be found at this URL

https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=1c9fca9c-8d2e-484a-b43c-b0771cf5e4ef&envId=p-sii_d3RVj0KXTGgNOEfiBw&zone=usa

IMPORTANT: Something new! After you enter your credit card information, the very last screen will look something like this:

You may choose any option. It will have no impact on the amount that PCIA receives.

LUNCH SIGN UP ORDER FORM DUE SEPT 15

Our caterer needs to know your choices for box lunches no later than **September 15**. Go to this link to **place your orders for boxed lunches** on Saturday and Sunday: [PCIA 2025 Conference Lunch Request Form](#). You can use this link more than once, for example if you are filling out the form for yourself and someone else.

One last ask!

Transaction fees are an industry-wide standard for processing online payments. Will you give a little extra to ensure we get free processing with Blackbaud?

0% (\$0.00)	▼
0% (\$0.00)	
5% (\$7.50)	
8% (\$12.00)	
10% (\$15.00)	
15% (\$22.50)	
Other	

Total amount \$150.00

Finish and pay

PLAN YOUR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Skip Auld highly recommends that you **make dinner reservations for Friday and Saturday**. (Note: On Friday, we'll have hors d'oeuvres at the Opening Reception with Joe Kennedy III, from 5:00 to 8:00PM; there will be a cash bar with alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. On Saturday, there's a reception sponsored by the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, from 5:00 to 7:00PM. Here are some restaurant choices.

Some of the following restaurant recommendations will be an Uber/Lyft ride from Grand Hyatt/MLK Library.

- [Rumi's Kitchen: the Essence of Persian Hospitality](#) (a 15-minute walk or half-mile Uber/Lyft ride from the MLK Library & Grand Hyatt)
- [Succotash](#) (3-5 minute walk from the MLK Library & Grand Hyatt)
- [Kramers](#) (10-minute Uber/Lyft ride from MLK Library & Grand Hyatt), bookstore & restaurant a block from Dupont Circle
- [Find D.C.'s Best Restaurants](#) - includes "budget-friendly," "affordable gourmet," "breweries, distilleries, wineries," etc.
- [Neighborhood Dining Guides](#)
- [Downtown Restaurants](#)
- [Penn Quarter & Chinatown](#)

- [Dupont Circle](#)
- [Southwest & the Wharf](#)
- [Adams Morgan](#)
- [Capitol Hill](#)
- [Georgetown](#)
- [Foggy Bottom & the West End](#)

Pre- and Post Conference Bonus Activities

Below are pre- and post-conference opportunities. If you're interested in ANY of these opportunities, please let Skip Auld (skip@peacecorpsiran.org) know and he will connect you with the right folks.

- Friday tour of the **Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art** with Dr. Massumeh Farhad, The Ebrahimi Family Curator of Persian, Arab, and Turkish Art, Senior Associate Director for Research, and Director of the Freer Research Center.
- Monday tour of the **Peace Corps Community Archive** with Leslie Nellis, Head Archivist for Special Collections/Digital Initiatives at American University.
- Monday **Advocacy Day on the Hill** – You'll need to set up individual meetings with your Representatives and Senators. Paul Barker will provide an update for interested conference attendees. Contact him at paul@peacecorpsiran.org for more information.

Getting to Washington

From Skip Auld (Mahallat, 1973-74)

By car: You can drive and park at the outer lot of the Metro system. There are three in northern Virginia and one in Maryland (where someone from NYC would park—I've done this myself). The way it works is to park at the lot (Greenbelt, MD), then take Metro Green Line to the Gallery Place Metro Station—then you can then either walk to Grand Hyatt or take Metro Red Line one stop over to Metro Center which is right at Grand Hyatt. (In Virginia, people can do the same thing from Huntington, Franconia-Springfield, and Wiehle-Reston East Metro Stations.)

Also, you can park right at Grand Hyatt using an app called Spot Hero. I parked there for \$78 for three nights which I thought was reasonable.

By air: Attendees also have the option of three airports. National is closest to our venue. However, sometimes it's less expensive and/or more convenient for departures or arrivals to fly into BWI or Dulles. There's public transportation from all three airports.

The Grand Hyatt hotel informs us that a power mobility scooter is available for anyone wanting to rent during the conference.

Power Mobility Scooters - RENTAL (Zask Medical Supply, 703-354 1266. - <https://zaskmedical.com/index.php/rental/power-mobility-scooters.html>)

Things to do in Washington DC

- 1 Admire the modern design of the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art and then explore the many wonderful exhibits in both wings connected by a moving light tunnel, <https://npg.si.edu>
- 2 Smell what's blooming at the National Botanical Garden, <https://www.usbg.gov>
- 3 Ramble among the larger-than-life size statues memorializing FDR and his impact on American life, <https://www.nps.gov/frde/index.htm>
- 4 Remember our war dead while reflecting yourself at the World War II, Korean War, and Viet Nam War Memorials on the Mall, <https://www.nps.gov/wwii/index.htm>, <https://www.nps.gov/kowa/index.htm>
- 5 Discover the special and permanent exhibits, including pre-Islamic Iranian art, at the Smithsonian Museum of Asian Art, <https://asia.si.edu>



SPECIAL EXHIBIT HONORING THE PEACE CORPS

Dr. Zack Klim (Bangladesh, 2000-2001) is the Executive Director of the [Museum of the Peace Corps Experience](#). In coordination with our conference, they will be installing a Peace Corps exhibit in the 5th floor pre-function space at the MLK public library where we will be setting up registration.

With Iran in the spotlight now, Dr. Klim wants to enhance the Peace Corps Iran elements of this exhibit. He would like photos, maps, stories and any items that would provide the strongest content we have. Especially useful would be high-resolution images of volunteers interacting with Iranians from the days we were there.

The exhibit will also include poetry and Dr. Klim would love to have poetry in the exhibit in both English and Farsi. He really would appreciate translators who could work with him on any Iranian poetry they put in this exhibit. [NOTE: the exhibit will cover ALL Peace Corps, not just Iran, but he wants to highlight Iran.] If you can help with artifacts and/or translations, please reach out to Zack Klim at zack.klim@museumofthepeacecorpsexperience.org

Peace Corps Community Archive Open House

Monday October 6th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Talk to Leslie Nellis, the archivist, and visit the facility that houses the Peace Corps Community Archive at American University—a collection of Returned Peace Corps Volunteer papers and photographs.

Learn about our collections, our collecting scope, and see some of our Peace Corps materials.

[Learn more about the Peace Corps Community Archive here.](#)

Getting to the American University Archives

The AU Archives office is located in the AU Spring Valley Building in Suite 204/205 on the 2nd floor, at 4801 Massachusetts Ave, about 1 mile from the main campus. For information about getting to the AU Archives & Special Collections, parking, etc., please refer to this FAQ: <https://answers.library.american.edu/faq/286022>

Please Note: guests visiting the Spring Valley Building are required to use the PIN 9352 in order to enter the parking garage and the main building entrance on Massachusetts Ave. There is a PIN pad at the entrance of the parking garage and a PIN pad at the front building entrance located in the foyer just inside the first set of doors. If you have any issues using the PIN 9352, please contact us via email or our department phone number is 202-885-3256.

When you arrive in the Spring Valley Building, we are located on the 2nd floor in Suite 204/205, just up the set of stairs which you will see past the elevators. Please ring the doorbell and one of our team members will meet you.

Peace Corps Iran Association Reunion and Conference:**“Past Reflection and Future Vision”**

کنفرانس و گردهمایی انجمن گروه صلح ایران: یادگارها و خاطراتی از گذشته و چشم اندازی به آینده

Washington, DC, October 3-5, 2025**CONFERENCE PROGRAM****Friday, October 3, 2025****4-5 PM: Conference Registration, Fifth Floor of the Martin Luther King, JR Public Library****5-8 PM: Rooftop Reception, including hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar****6 PM: Address by the Honorable [Joe Kennedy III](#), Former Congressman, Diplomat, and RPCV (Dominican Republic, 2004-06)****Evening: Dinner on your own with friends old and new****Saturday, October 4, 2025****8-9 AM: Registration****9-10:30 AM: First Plenary – Auditorium: “Peace Corps Iran: Early Volunteers and a PCIA Retrospective”****11 AM – 12:15 PM: Second Plenary – Auditorium: “[The Life and Legacy of Forough-e Farrokhzad](#)”****12:15-1:15: Box Lunch****1:15-2:15 PM: Breakout Session 1: “[Iranian Nomads: Past, Present, and Future](#),”****1:15-2:15 PM: Breakout Session 2: “[Reading Khayyamic Quatrains Poetically](#),”****1:15-2:15 PM: Breakout Session 3: “[Post-PCIA Activities](#),”****2:45-4:30 PM: Third Plenary – Auditorium: Peace Corps Iran Documentary Film, “[When We Grew Together](#)”****Evening: Dinner on your own with friends old and new****Also, evening reception hosted by the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience in the same event space, to which all PCIA conference attendees are invited.****Sunday, October 5, 2025****8-9 AM: Registration**

9-10:15 AM: Fourth Plenary – Auditorium: ”Women, Protest, and Life in Contemporary Iran”

10:45 AM – 12 Noon: Fifth Plenary – Auditorium : “Iran Today and the Way Forward for Diplomatic Openings”

12:00 - 1:00: Box Lunch

1 – 2:15 PM: Breakout Session 4: “Responses to Threats to the Iranian Diaspora in the US”

1-2:15 PM: Breakout Session: 5: “Changes in the Persian Language the Last 50 Years,”

1-2:15 PM: Breakout Session 6: Film: The Dawn Is Too Far,

2:45-4:15 PM: Sixth Plenary: “A Look Ahead: PCIA and Peace Corps”

- Part 1: Keynote Speaker, Peace Corps Acting Director (invited)
- Part 2: Peace Corps Legacy Projects
- Part 3: Recognition of Peace Corps Leaders especially helpful to PCIA
- Part 4: PCIA News and Business: Looking Ahead to PCIA Legacy Issues

5-8 PM: Cash Bar

6-8PM: Persian Buffet Dinner and Tea, catered by “JOON” Restaurant

- Recognition of PCIA Leaders and Activists
- Banquet Speaker, the Honorable Jody Olsen, Former Peace Corps Director, author of *A Million Miles: My Peace Corps Journey*, and RPCV (Tunisia, 1966-68)
- Genna Wangsness will lead a Moment of Silence in Memory of Iran RPCVs Who are no Longer with Us
 - Reading of “Last Pass of the Wine“ by Carolyn Yale

Up to the last minute information on the conference schedule can be found on the PCIA website: <https://peacecorpsiran.org/CONFERENCE-SCHEDULE/>



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Public Library

Peace Corps Iran Association Donors**July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025**

Adair, Jane	Easterly, Michael	Kelsh, Bruce
Adkins, Kirsti	Emmerich, Gerald	Kim, James
Anonymous	Endicott, Jim	Kimball, Kenneth
Auld, Skip	Fleming, Sheldon	Kinunen, Wayne and Barbara
Barker, Paul	Frame, Margret	Krauskopf, John
Basford, Jeffrey	Ferguson, David	Lamm, Jim and Cathy
Beaufait, Neil	Gaughan, Joan	Landress, Harvey
Beauvais, Susan	Gianfortoni, Emily	Leonardson, Gene and Nancy
Belcher, James	Gillio, Geraldine	Lucas, Dave and Peggy
Bell, Nancy	Goode, Howard and Reka	Mack, Stephen
Bengtson, Brent	Gritzner, Jeffrey and Yvonne	McKinney, Jeanne
Bently, Sue and Ernie	Gottlieb, Jeanette and Stephen	Mason, Richard
Bernhard, Michael	Grummon, Stephen and Corrie	Meier, Donald
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Bones, Stanley	Harris, Edward	Milks, William
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Brandon, Bill	Horning, Philip	Mitchell, Marie
Brown, Greg	Howe, Dale	Montalto, Nicholas
Chappell, James	Howell, Daryl	Moulton, Laurence
Christy, Rosemarie	Hoyer, David	Murphy, Sara
Clarke, Bonnie and Thomas	Hug, Katie	Newton, John
Clutter, Allen	Hulbert, Michael	Nix, Roger
Deekle, Barbara and Peter	Huxtable, Jack and Margaret	Norland, Diane
Derezkewicz, Mike	Jaynes, David	Osterberg, David
De Riis, Ray	Kaminski, Chuck	Overby, Kent
Devine, David		Paine, Charles
Doughty, Roger		Pasley, William

Pritchard, David and Dorothy	Seiders, Ed and Stella	Wangsness, Roger and Genna
Russell, Peter	Shalala, Donna	Westheimer, Tom and Bev
Salamack, John	Sinclair, Fraser	Wynkoop, Catherine
Salony, Timothy	Spurlock, Jackie	Yale, Carolyn
Sander, Alexander	Taaffe, Ann	Zachow, Rosalind
Schermer, Doug	Thomas, Timothy	Zimmerman, Margie
Seaver, Jennifer	Walczak, Peter	
Seeto, Victor	Wallenhorst, Robert	
Segel, Kerry	Walker, Charles	

PCIA BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Kaminski, President	Jackie Spurlock, Vice President
Marie Mitchell, Secretary	Edmund Seiders, Treasurer
Conference Planning Committee	
Paul Barker	William Brandon
Skip Auld	Brad Hanson

WHO'S COMING TO DC?

As of August 10, here is the list of those registered for the October 3 – 5 PCIA Conference in DC.

Adair, Jane	Bentley, Sue	Clarke, Bonnie
Adkins, Kirsti	Bird, Elizabeth	Clarke, Thomas
Auld, Charles	Blumhorst, Cathy	Clutter, Allen
Baker, Ann	Blumhorst, Glenn	Cullen, Noreen
Baker, Dan	Brandon, Pam	de Ris, Raym
Barker, Nora	Brandon, William	Deekle, Barbara
Barker, Paul	Brernhard, Michael	Deekle, Peter
Bazemore, Denise	Bush, Lynn	Devine, David
Bentley, Ernie	Bush, Rock	Doughty, Gail

Doughty, Roger	Karim, Persis	Reed, Donna
Dykgraaf, Christine	Keech, Rea	Reid, George
Eaton, Richard	Kelsh, Bruce	Reid, Sylvia
Emmerich, Signe	Kendall, Kieth	Ricks, Janice
Emmerich Jr, Gerald H	Kennedy III, Joe	Ricks, Thomas
Endicott, Jim	Klim, Zack	Rosen, Barry
Frame, Margaret	Kuthy, Susan	Russell, Edward
Freeman, Kayvan	Kuthy, William	Russell, Lynn
Freeman, Stephen	Lamm, Catherine	Sakkal, George
Frieden, Gil	Lamm, James	Salamack, John
Frieden, Nancy	Leonardson, Gene	Sander, Alexander
Garrett, David	Leonardson, Nancy	Schermer, Douglas
Gaughan, JoAnn	Lessert, Megan	Schermer, Shirley
Gharakhlou, Mehdi	Limbirt, John	Seaver, Jennifer
Gheyanchi, Elham	Limbirt, Parvaneh	Segel, Kerry
Goldie, Renae	Lorentz, John	Seiders, Edmund
Goode, Howard	Lucas, David	Seiders, Stella
Goode, Jim	Lucas, Margaret	Shalala, Donna
Goode, Rika	Mahallati, Hossein	Shams, Fatemeh
Goode, Virginia	McKinney, Jeanne	Slavin, Barbara
Gottlieb, Jeanette	McPherron, Phyllis	Speake, Christine
Gottlieb, Stephen	Meyer, Doug	Speake, Sam
Greene, Allison	Meyer, JoAnn	Spurlock, Jackie
Gritzner, Jeffrey	Milani, Farzaneh	Taaffe, Ann
Gritzner, Yvonne	Miller, James	Talattof, Hayden
Grummon, Corrie	Mitchell, Marie	Talattof, Kamran
Grummon, Stephen	Montalto, Gloria	Talebi, Ashkbous
Hanson, Bradford	Montalto, Nicholas	Thiebolt, Gerald
Hart, Neil	Moore, Marjorie	Thomas, Timothy
Heideman, James	Mostafavi, Taghi	Torbati, Yeganah
Hershberger, Seth	Mostafavi, Zari	Wangsness, Genna
Hershberger, Wendy	Motlagh, Abbas Ahmad	Wangsness, Roger
Hillmann, Michael	Munjaj, Barbara	Wangsness Clement, Alison
Hillmann, Sorayya	Nellis, Leslie	Wasserman, David
Horning, Philip	Nelson, Tom	Yale, Carolyn
Howze, Phillip	Nix, Roger	Zachow, Rosalind
Hug, Kathryn	Noll, Douglas	
Hughes, Tom	Olsen, Jody	
Huxtable, Jack	Parsi, Trita	
Huxtable, Margaret	Pearson, Jonathan	
Jahromi, Manizheh	Pritchard, David	
Jaynes, David	Pritchard, Dorothy	
Jaynes, Marie	Rahbar, Mostafa	