



**Friday, October 3, 2025**

**4:00-5:00 PM:** Conference Registration - 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Library

**5:00-8:00 PM:** Rooftop Reception - 5<sup>th</sup> floor, including hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

**6:00 PM:** PCIA President Chuck Kaminski introduces former HHS Secretary and Congresswoman Donna Shalala who introduces our speaker, the Honorable Joe Kennedy III, Former Congressman, Diplomat, and RPCV (Dominican Republic, 2004-06).



**Included in your registration** -- Coffee, tea, water, snacks, and a box lunch are provided both Saturday and Sunday. Breakfast on your own.

**Saturday, October 4, 2025**

**8:00-9:00 AM:** Registration - 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Library

**9:00-10:30 AM:** First Plenary - Auditorium: "Peace Corps Iran: Early Volunteers and a PCIA Retrospective"

- Conference logistics: Skip Auld and Brad Hanson.
- Welcome PCIA President Chuck Kaminski.
- Introduction of NPCA president by PCIA Past- President Jeanette Gottlieb.
- Welcome by National Peace Corps Association President/CEO, Dan Baker.
- Doug Schermer, co-founder of PCIA and webmaster, will briefly review PCIA history.
- Chuck Kaminski will introduce our Keynote Speaker Donna Shalala who entitles her talk, "Time present and Time past are perhaps both present in Time future" (a quote from TS Elliott).
- A short film, "Iran 1: Experience - Retrospect" produced by John Lorentz.
- Allen Clutter moderates a panel of fellow Group 1 PCVs, speaking to their individual experiences, reflecting on the first two years of Peace Corps in Iran. Panel members include John Lorentz, Richard Eaton, Jack Huxtable, Jeff Gritzner.

**"Past Reflection and Future Vision"**

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

**Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Library**

**Washington, DC, October 3-5, 2025**

**10:30-11:00 AM:** Break

**11:00 AM-12:15 PM:** Second Plenary - Auditorium: "The Life and Legacy of Forough-e Farrokhzad." Panelists include: Kerry Segel, Farzaneh Milani, and Persis Karim.

**12:15-1:15 PM:** Box Lunch

**1:15-2:15 PM:** Breakout Session 1 - 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Event Space: "Iranian Nomads: Past, Present, and Future." Presenters include Brad Hanson and Ashkbous Talebi.

**1:15-2:15 PM:** Breakout Session 2 - Auditorium: "Reading Khayyami Quatrains Poetically." Presenters include Kerry Segel and Michael Hillmann.

**1:15-2:15 PM:** Breakout Session 3 - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 401-A: "Post-PCIA Activities." Presenters include Chuck Kaminski, Jackie Spurlock, and Joan Gaughan.

**2:15-2:45 PM:** Break

**2:45-4:30 PM:** Third Plenary - Auditorium: Peace Corps Iran Documentary Film, "When We Grew Together." Presenters include Bill Brandon, Abbas Ahmadi Motlagh, Film Director, and Hossein Mahallati, Film Producer.

**5:00-7:00 PM OPTIONAL:** Exhibit Opening and Reception by Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Event Space. All PCIA conference attendees are invited.

Evening: Dinner on your own with friends old and new.

**Use this QR code to access the PCIA website for information about sessions and bios of the presenters.**





PCIA Board members met in the MLK Jr. Memorial Library in October 2024 to begin planning for this conference.

## Sunday, October 5, 2025

**8:00-8:45 AM:** Registration - 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Library

**8:45 AM:** Auditorium: “Zan, Zandegi va Azadi” Anthem: “Baraye” video

**9-10:15 AM:** Fourth Plenary - Auditorium: “Women, Life, Protest in Contemporary Iran.” Presenters include Narimon Safavi, Yeganeh Torbati, and Elham Gheytauchi. The short film “A Move” will be shown.

**10:15-10:45 AM:** Break

**10:45 AM-12 Noon:** Fifth Plenary - Auditorium: “Iran Today and the Way Forward for Diplomatic Openings.” Presenters include Paul Barker, John Limbert, Barbara Slavin, Sina Toossi, and Trita Parsi.

**12 Noon-1:00 PM:** Box Lunch

**1:00-2:15 PM:** Breakout Session 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Event Space: “Responses to Threats to the Iranian Diaspora in the U.S.” Presenters include Andy Mott, Ezra Tzfadya, and Myriam Sabbaghi.

**1:00-2:15 PM:** Breakout Session 5 - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 401-A: “Changes in the Persian Language the Last 50 Years.” Presenters include Richard Eaton, Kerry Segel, and Kamran Talatof.

**1:00-2:15 PM:** Breakout Session 6 - Auditorium: Film: “The Dawn Is Too Far.” Presenters include Carolyn Yale and Persis Karim, Film Director.

**2:15-2:45 PM:** Break

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

Part 1: Peace Corps Legacy Projects - Presenters include Zack Klim, Leslie Nellis, Glenn Blumhorst, Jonathan Pearson, and Travis Matthews, all introduced by PCIA VP Jackie Spurlock and followed by a brief Q & A.

Part 2: Recognition of Peace Corps Leaders especially helpful to PCIA Chuck Kaminski.

Part 3: PCIA News and Business: Looking Ahead to PCIA Legacy Issues, Chuck Kaminski.

**4:15-5:00 PM:** Break

**5:00-8:00 PM:** Cash Bar - 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Library

**6:00-8:00 PM:** Persian Buffet Dinner and Tea, catered by “Joon” Restaurant - 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Library.

- 7:00 PM Start of Banquet Program
- PCIA President Chuck Kaminski will welcome guests and introduce Marcia Franklin, M.C.
- Welcome خوش آمدید by Joon Executive Chef and Noted Persian Cookbook Author, Najmieh Batmanglij.
- Meleia Rose (Malawi 2007-09) will recite her poem, “60 Years of Peace Corps: A Message for Soon to Be Volunteers. on the Occasion of the Peace Corps’ 60th Anniversary,” followed by her recitation of the Peace Corps Pledge.
- Recognition of PCIA Leaders and Activists.
- Genna Wangsness will lead a Moment of Silence in Memory of Iran RPCVs and Staff.
- PCIA Co-Founder Jackie Spurlock will introduce Jody Olsen.
- Banquet Speaker, the Honorable Jody Olsen, Former Peace Corps Director, author of *A Million Miles: My Peace Corps Journey*, and RPCV (Tunisia, 1966-68).
- Readings of “The Reach of Earth’s Shadow” and “A Last Pass at the Wine” by Carolyn Yale.

### About Peace Corps Iran Association

Peace Corps Iran Association (PCIA) is primarily an organization of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Iran between 1962 and 1976, as well as Peace Corps Iran staff, trainers, family members, and all who are interested in the legacy of Peace Corps Iran.

Formed in 2012 as a nonprofit, PCIA has sponsored seven conferences to reunite and focus on our goal to promote a better understanding of Iran on the part of Americans. Our eighth conference will be in Washington DC in October 2025.

The values of the Peace Corps hold that peace is accomplished through tolerance, diplomacy, and person-to-person mutual understanding.

#### Our Vision:

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

#### Our 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.**

**PCIA is a 501-c-3 nonprofit**

**ID is 45-4989757**

**Donations gratefully appreciated.**

#### QUESTIONS?

**Charles Kaminski, President**

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