

Yadegari

یادگاری

MEMORIES

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

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

October 3-5, 2025
Washington, DC





*“Ask not what
your country can
do for you, but
what you can do
for your country”*

January 20, 1961

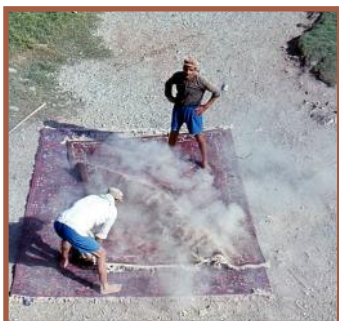
Drawing by Iran Volunteer Ken Opin

Preface

In the fourteen years from 1962 to 1976, a little over 1700 of us went to Iran. We did different things in different times and places—from Bandar Ansali (Bandar Pahlavi) on the Caspian Sea to Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf, from Ahwaz to Zahedan, from West Azerbaijan to Khorasan, and towns and villages throughout the country. We were teachers of English as a foreign language. We worked in agriculture and community development, in public health and animal husbandry, and in fisheries. We played violins and horns in the Tehran Philharmonic. We were nurses and doctors, architects, urban planners, and secretaries. We worked alongside Iranians who were often older than we were. And they were patient with us.

Each volunteer’s experience was different—from outstanding to underwhelming. The first volunteer to die in Iran drowned while trying to save a young Iranian caught in the undertow of the Caspian Sea. Three of our members were taken hostage in the Islamic Revolution of 1979. A trainee in Austin was murdered in the 1966 tower shooting on the University of Texas Austin campus. His tombstone is engraved “Peace Corps Volunteer”.

We were young and perhaps more than a little naïve. We wanted to change things for the better. And maybe we did. Often, we did not know quite what it was that we should change or how we should go about it. What is certain, however, is that Iran changed us.



Peace Corps Tehran Staff — 1962-1976



Photo courtesy Iran volunteer Kerry Segel

Salaam!

Welcome!



Sergant Shriver flew in this plane to visit Iran Volunteers in 1964. Photo courtesy Iran volunteer Dick Metzger



DIRECTORS

- 1962 – 1964
Dr. William J Cousins
- William A Fuller Jr
- 1964 – 1966
Cleo Shook
- Robert L Steiner Jr
- 1966 – 1968
H. Glen Fishbach
- 1968 – 1971
Paul Zimmerman
- 1971 – 1974
Warren Sawyer
- 1974 – 1975
Edward C Thomas
- 1975 – 1976
Quentin Fleming

MEDICAL

- 1962 – 1964
Robert Campbell, MD
- 1964 – 1965
Tom Drake, MD
- 1966 – 1968
Robert Carey, MD
- Vilas Likhite, MD
- 1968 – 1970
Claude O. Roberts, MD
- 1968 – 1971
Terese Maurella Salehyar, RN
- Dr. Ammali, MD
- 1974 – 1976
John Murphy, MD



Peace Corps Tehran Staff — 1962-1976

Kamran Amirsoleymani
Esfandiar “Essie” Bahrampour
Farshid Banani
Paul Barker
Arakal A. Baroyan
Michael L. Basile
Herb Brownlee
Cabby Cabanian
Don Croll
Jay R. Crook
Dr. Gertrude Nye Dorry
Shahla Dorry Kamali
Charlie Duncan
Dr. Abbas Ekrami
Lawrence Ervin

Jim Fox
Jack Frankel
John Hanson
Michael Hillmann
Dale Howe
David Hoyer
Michael Jerald
Ghassem Khosravan
Rudi Klaus
Arden Lampell
David Lucas
Iris Martin
Hossein Moftakhar
Van Nelson
John Newton
Mohammad Rabieh

Paul Reedy
Jim Ricciardi
Joseph B. Richardson
George Sakkal
John Schumann
Larissa Khahatorian Simonian
Ron Smith
Mike Taylor
Robb Walt
Roger Wangsness
Edward White
Bernard J. Winburn
Dennis Yates
Habib Yusefzadeh
Ghassem M. Zarrin

Unsung Staff

Asghar Salmanzadeh, Ahmad, Hassan, Ibrahim, Reza, Yaveri, and others

Another Country by Iran Volunteer Carolyn Yale

I followed the trail of a luminous dream
but left no footprints.
I lived in Iran but cast no shadow.

I entered a hall of mirrors
and saw my face reflected in many faces.
Some turned from my gaze.
Some smiled into my eyes.
Some stared with hostile scowls.
I had no understanding of differences
and was confused: I thought
I could be at ease without
knowing my self differently.



Once I saw the moon in full eclipse,
low near the horizon of the Kavir.
Its face was a wash of pale peach,
its features—sea of tranquility
ocean of storms—were clear
though somewhat darkened
like continents in a sister world.
That moon seemed alone in the sky,
hanging over the desert,
too strange and too splendid
to be believed, or forgotten.



Training Groups in the 1960s

Year	Training Sites in the Sixties	Group #
1962	Utah State – Logan UT – June	1
1963	Georgetown University – Washington DC – June	2
1964	Portland State – Portland OR – February	3
1964	University of Michigan – Ann Arbor MI – June	4
1964	Utah State – Logan UT – June	5
1965	Pakistan Transfers	PAK
1965	University of Texas – Austin TX – June	6 TEFL
1965	Utah State – Logon UT – June	6 AG/CD
1965	Duke University – Durham NC – July	7 MEDICAL
1965	University of Texas – Austin TX – November	7 PAHLAVI
1966	Utah State – Logan UT – February	9
1966	University of Texas – Austin TX – February	10
1966	EIL – Brattleboro VT – February	11
1966	Reed College – Portland OR – June	12
1966	University of Texas – Austin TX – June	13
1966	Westinghouse – Blue Knob PA – July	14
1967	Fresno State – Fresno CA – April	16 AG
1967	EIL – Brattleboro VT – May	16 TEFL
1967	Reed College – Portland OR and Shiraz – July	17
1967	Thykol Trainers – Clearfield UT – August	18
1967	India Group	INDIA
1968	EIL – Brattleboro, Harvard MA, Hamadan – April	19
1968	EIL – Brattleboro VT and Hamadan – June	20
1968	Fresno State – Fresno CA – July	21
1969	EIL – Brattleboro VT, Regional Iran Sites – May	22
1969	Morrison CO – Babolsar (for MPW only) – June	23
1969	Libya Transfers	LIBYA



Training Groups in the 1970s

Year	Training Sites in the Seventies	Group #
1970	Bu-Ali Hotel – Hamadan – June	24
1970	Karaj – June	25
1970	Karaj – August	26
1970	Karaj – October	27
1971	Karaj – March	28
1971	Karaj – June	29
1971	Isfahan – June	30
1971	Bu-Ali Hotel – Hamadan – June	31
1971	Karaj – September	32
1972	Bu-Ali Hotel – Hamadan – June	33
1972	Tehran – June	34
1972	Industrial Institute – Rezaiyeh – June	35
1972	Tehran – September	36
1972	Tehran – November	37
1972	United Nations Training – Marvdasht	UN
1973	Isfahan – February	38
1973	Isfahan – June	39
1973	Borujerd – June	40
1973	Mashhad – June	41
1973	Isfahan – November	42
1974	Tehran – February	43
1974	Borujerd – June	44
1974	Isfahan – June	45
1974	Sahneh – June	46
1974	Mashhad – June	47
1974	Ali Shah Ahvaz – November	48
1975	Ali Shah Ahvaz – February	49

Some training included learning to eat on the floor around a *sofreh*, in the Bu-Ali Hotel in Hamadan.



تقویم ایرانی را یاد گرفتیم We Learned the Persian Calendar

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
Shanbe	Yekshanbe	Dohshanbeh	Sehshanbeh	Charshanbeh	Panjshanbeh	Jomeh

- The week started on Saturday, and if you knew how to count in Farsi, the names of the days were easy to remember.
- The calendar was a bit more difficult since the Iranian months started in the middle of our Gregorian months.

Persian Month (English)	Persian Month (Farsi)	Approx. Gregorian Dates
Farvardin	فروردین	March 21 – April 20
Ordibehesht	اردیبهشت	April 21 – May 21
Khordad	خرداد	May 22 – June 21
Tir	تیر	June 22 – July 22
Mordad	مرداد	July 23 – August 22
Shahrivar	شهریور	August 23 – September 22
Mehr	مهر	September 23 – October 22
Aban	آبان	October 23 – November 21
Azar	آذر	November 22 – December 21
Dey	دی	December 22 – January 20
Bahman	بهمن	January 21 – February 19
Esfand	اسفند	February 20 – March 20

همچنین یاد گرفتیم We Also Learned

- To drink *ab talabi* on a hot summer day.
- To *chaneh zadan* when a bazaar merchant does not expect you to pay the original price he asks for an item.
- Neither *pishkesh* nor *ta'rof* should be taken too literally.
- To take our shoes off whenever we entered someone's house and especially when entering a mosque.
- The joy of walking to a *nanvai* to smell the fresh *sangak*.
- When offered something, such as a gift or a piece of food, it is proper to refuse it at least twice or three times before accepting it.
- Many *shirini* and some *bastani* have rose water: it's a taste to be acquired.
- *Dugh* is also a taste to be acquired. Or not.
- When invited to even the most elegant home for a meal, you are likely to dine cross-legged on the floor around a *sofreh*.
- If you go on a trip, it is bad manners if you do not bring back a *soghat* for your friends.
- If you live on a *kuché*, you can get lost finding your house.
- No matter how fluent your Farsi is, there are parts of Iran where you will not be understood.
- Hanging a bulb of *seer* around a child's neck has medicinal value because it contains allicin, a compound with antimicrobial properties.
- To eat *anar* in a dozen different ways.



Photo courtesy Iran volunteer Joel Hettger



Additional Known Sites Where We Served



Abarqu
Aliabad
Amirkola
Andimeshk
Asadabad
Asalem
Azarshahr
Azna
Babolistan
Babolposht
Babolsar
Baft
Bandar-e Chahbahar
Bandar-e Shah
Barmsar
Behbahan
Behshahr
Bidokht
Bishe Kola
Bisotun
Borazjan
Borkhar near Ishahan
Darab
Darreh Gaz
Deh Nasir,
village near Aligudarz
Delijan
Dorud
Eqlid
Esfahanak
Esfayen
Estahbanat or Estaban
Farsan
Fereydunkonar
Firuzkuh
Galishian
Gorge Tapeh
Hamidiyeh
Hashtpar

Bam
Iranshahr
Jaban
Jahrom
Jaidasht
Jazireh-ye Qeshm
Kadkah near Torbat-e Heydarieh
Kalat-e Naderi
Kalechey
Khaf
Khalilabad near Kashmar
Khalkhal
Kheyrod Konar
Khezri
Khomeyn
Khonsar
Khoramdarreh
Khorramshahr
Khoy
Kia Kola
Kord Kuy
Kouchesfahan
Kuhdasht
Kuhsorkh near Kashmar
Langarud
Lar
Lashtenishah
Lawyen Now
Luliyman
Maklavan
Marand
Mehrabad
Meshkinshahr
Miandoab
Mimeh
Minab
Nain
Natanz
Nekah

Nishapur
Noohom Aban
Osku
Paveh
Pol-e Sefid
Purkon
Qasr-e Shirin
Rafsanjan
Ramhormoz
Rudsar
Sabzevar
Salehabad
Saqqez
Sarak
Semirom
Shahabad
Shahendez
Shahi
Shahindezh
Shahpur
Shahreza
Shahrud
Shahsavar
Shamsabad
Shirvan
Shushtar
Siah Dasht
Siahkal
Sirjan
Sisakht
Soleymaniyeh
Sowmaeh Sara
Tabas
Taft
Taiyebat
Torbat-e Heydarieh
Veysar
Yasuj



نو روز جشن گرفتیم و هنوز میگیریم We Celebrated and Still Celebrate Nowruz

A pre-Islamic holiday, celebrated on the first day of the first month, Farvardin, to welcome Spring, Nowruz is the happiest festival in Iran. Iranians prepare for Nowruz for weeks in advance, cleaning their homes, often buying new clothes and arranging visits with friends and family. At the center of the feast is the elaborately decorated table bearing the “haft seen”, seven items with names beginning with the Farsi letter, ‘seen’. Other items with symbolic meanings include a mirror, goldfish, flowers, coins, candles, and decorated eggs. A book of poetry usually by Hafez or the Qoran is also often added.

The Wednesday evening before is *charshanbeh suri*, when people jump over a fire, one of the four most sacred Zoroastrian elements. Depending on the region, desert thorn, rice stalks or other kinds of brush are gathered and piled into 1, 3, 5 or 7 bundles (never an even number) in a clear area, and around dusk the fire is lit. As they jump over the fires, they often chant (سرخى تو از من زردى من از تو) *sorkhi-ye to az man, zardi-ye man az to* that is, “my weakness to you and your strength to me”, thus asking the fire to take away ill-health and problems and replace them with warmth and health in the coming year.



samanu



senjed



sabzeh



seer



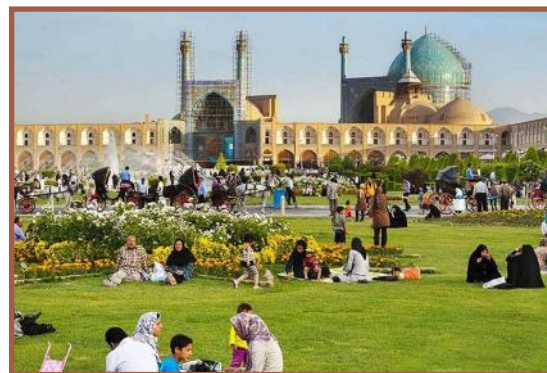
seeb



somaq



serkeh



As if the Iranians can't rejoice too much in the return of life in Nature, on the thirteenth day after Nowruz, *sizdah be dar*, everyone goes outside on a picnic to a park, a garden, even a highway median. Because the number thirteen is unlucky, staying indoors the entire day is sometimes viewed as inviting bad luck for the coming year.



می اوریم We Remember

- The ubiquity of pictures of the shah.
- *Tadiq*, saffron and *fesanjan*.
- The stars at night, especially in southeastern Iran, are closer to the earth than anywhere in the United States. And there are more of them.
- Being awakened by the call of the muezzin to prayer.
- Camels really smell bad.
- Iranians often do not spoon sugar into their tea. They will drink the tea with *gand* held between their teeth.
- Each regional ethnic group has its own unique cuisine, textile and carpet styles.
- Farsi has many dialects.
- An American dollar was worth about seven tomans.
- Celebrating the winter solstice, *Yalda*, on a cold winter night with a bubbling samovar on the table and your feet tucked under a warm *korsi* munching on *pesteh*, fruits, and *shirini*.



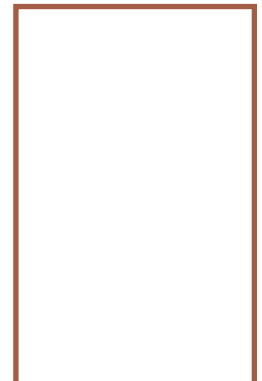
مردم The People



Photo courtesy Iran volunteer Phil Schwarz



Photo courtesy Iran volunteer Kerry Segel



از هنر و معماری ایرانی شگفت زده میشدیم We Marveled at Persian Art and Architecture



“Amin” a
maast maker

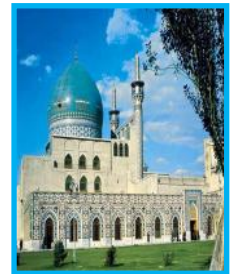
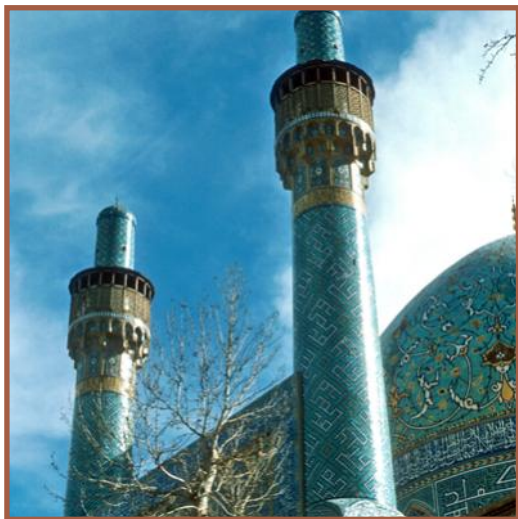


“Parviz” Lahijan farmer carrying young roosters



“Ali” a market laborer

The three “soft sculptures” shown here depicting typical Iranian laborers were acquired by Iran volunteer James Grant from Dr. Gertrude Nye-Dorrey who received these and several others from either a student or an instructor at Tehran University.



گلهارا بو کشیدیم We Smelled the Roses



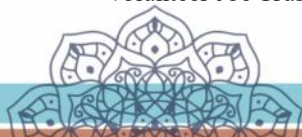
Photo of *Rosa foetida persica*: the native yellow Persian rose, courtesy Gregg Lowrey



Photo of *Rosa damsca* “Isfahan,” courtesy Iran volunteer Joe Truskot



Photo of “Omar Khayyam,” also known as Damask rose, courtesy Gregg Lowrey



با اصطلاحات عامیانه و تعارف های روزانه آشنا شدیم و آنها را استفاده کردیم

We Became Acquainted with and Used Ta'rof and Everyday Expressions

Chashm! Be chashm! Pish kesh! Gol posht nadarad! Mesl-e bolbol sohbat mikoni!	Befarmayid, agha, khanom! Khahesh mikonam! Nemishay. Shoma bafarmayid!	Dast-e shoma dard nakonad! Sar-e shoma dard nakonad!
Ja-ye shoma khali eh! Ja-ye man dust eh!	Ahval-e janaab-e 'aali chetowr ast? Gol posht o ruh nadarad! Mesl-e bolbol sohbat mikoni! Chashm! Be chashm! Pish kesh! Khejalat nakeshid	Qorbon-e shoma! Nokar-e-tan-am! Bandeh-ye shoma! Man khak zir-e pa-ye-tan-am! Mokhlesam!
Ba ejazeh-ye-tan? Saheb-e ejazeh shomast!	Nushi jan! Be salamati! Salamati bashid!	Ba ejazeh-ye-tan? Saheb-e ejazeh shomast
Khasteh nabashid! Mandah nabashid!	Ta'til, jashn, ruz-e bikaar	Zud bash! Dir shodim! Berim bacheha! Raftim! Ajaleh nakon! Ehtiat kon! Mo'vazeb bash!
Salaam Alaikom! Wa Alaikom as-Salaam!	Hamam. Hamam-e omumi. Aftaabeh, kenaar-e o.	Insha'Allah! Y'Allah! Ya'Ali! Bismallah ar-Rahman ar-Rahim!
Haleh shoma chetowreh? Halet khubeh? Sar-e hal astid? Khubam. Bad nistam.	Varzesh, Zurkhaneh, Baazi.	Mehman, mizban. Da'vatam! Mazehdar, Khosh mazeh. Lezat mibaram!
Sobh bekhair! Shab bekhair! Shab-e khosh!	SAVAK, SAVAKI	Che meil darid? Che minushid? Ab. Sheer. Ab-e anar. Ab-e portugali. Abjo. Dugh. Faanta. Kokaa. Esprait.
Esm-e-tan chieh? Esm-e man folan	Shahanshah Aryamehr!	Yek chai lotfan! Qand darid? Dagh eh! Sard eh! Kam rang eh! Damesh kon! Samavar, Nalbaki, Estekan, Pialah, Shirini Michaspeh!
Che kar mikonid? Man davt-alab-e guruh-e solh astam. Guruh-e solh chieh?	Naan. Barbari. Lavaash. Taftoon. Sangak darad?	Dustet daram! Eshq, 'Aasheq. Ma'shuq, Jaanam! Deltang shodam!
Az koja astid? Bacheh-ye kojaid? Az Amrika astam. Amrika-i-am. Khosh amadid!	Maast. Maast o khiar.	Shayad. Momken, Emkaan darad. Bayad. Ejbari. Rah-ye dige nist.
Koja zendigi mikonid? Nazdik eh. Dur eh.	Ya'ni chi? Aib nadarad! Chizi nist!	Khoda negahdar! Khoda hafez! Ta didar! Mibinamet!
Merci, Motshakaram. Mamnunam, Lotf kardid. Hezar shokr! Sepasgozaram. Tashakor.	Chand eh? Geran eh! Aarzan nist! Nemiarezeh! Miarzeh! Jensesh khub eh! Takhfif bedid, agha!	Tavalodet mubarak! Bah, bah! Bah, bah!
Ezdevaj kaardid? Nakhair. Mojaradam. Bali, aareh. Zan daram. Shohar daram. Hanevadeh darid? Bali, tefl-e kucheke daram. Bali, yek pesar va yek dokhtar daram.	Bakhshish! Bakhshish bedid!	
Hoquq-e shoma cheqadr ast? Kaafi eh.	Afarin! Barekallah! Mashallah!	
	Ma'zarat mikham. Bebakhshid!	
	Boro! Qom sho! Khaafeh sho! Khariji! Magar adam ta hala nadidid! Be tow che!	
	Charand parand! Qati pati!	



We Learned Persian Proverbs ضرب المثل په زیان فارسی یاد گرفتیم



دیدن جهان از خوردن جهان بهتر است
Didan-e jahan az khordan-e jahan behtar ast
 It is better to see the world than to eat it.



از بزرگان بخشیدن هست

Bakhshidan az bozozrgon ast.
 From the great come forgiveness.

کسی که از خدا بترسد از هیچ کس دیگه نمیترسد
Kas-e kay az khoda betarsad az hich kas-e degay nimitarsad!
 He who fears God, fears no one else.

هر آن کس که پف گذ ریشش بسوزد چراغی را که ایزد بر فروز
Har an kas kay puf gaz rishesh besuzad charaghi ra kay izad bar faraz!

Whoever tries to puff out/ A lamp that God has lit/
 Shall burn his beard.

هزار دوست کمه یک دشمن زیاده

Hezar dust kam eh, yek dushman ziyad eh.
 A thousand friends are few, one enemy many.

دیوار موش دارد و موش گوش دارد

Divar mush darad va mush gush darad.

The walls have mice, and the mice have ears.

هر کی دنا بود تنا بود

Har ki danaa bovad tanaa bovad!

Whoever is knowledgable, is capable.

هر چه زودتر بهتر

Har che zudtar behtar!

The sooner the better.

هر روزیک سیر بخری هیچ روز پیش دکتر نروی

Har ruz yek seer bokhori, hich ruz pish-e doktor naravi!

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

هم روه جمیت باش

Ham ruh-ye jamiat bash!

When in Rome do as the Romans do.

صبر طلا است

Sabr talaa ast.

Patience is gold.

راه بین حرف و امل زیاده

Rah bayn-e harf va amal ziyad eh.

The way between words and action is great.

صبر تلخ است مگر ثمدش شیرین است

Sabr talkh ast magar samadash shirin ast

Waiting/patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.



دنیا کوچک است

Donya kuchek ast.

It's a small world.



We Appreciate از خواندن و شنیدن اشعار فارسی کلاسیک لذت میبریم Classical Persian Poetry—Hafez

دوش دیدم که ملایک در میخانه زدند
ساکنان حرم ستر و جفاب ملکوت
آسمان بار امانت نتوانست کشید
جنگ هفتاد و دو ملت همه را خُدر بینه
شکر ایزد که میان من و او صلح افتاد
آتش آن نیست که از شعله او خندد شمع
کس چو حافظ ننگشاد از رخ اندیشه نقاب
گلی آدم پسر شتند و به پیمانه زدند
با من راهنشین باده مستانه زدند
قرعه فال به نام من دیوانه زدند
چون ندیدند حقیقت ره افسانه زدند
صوفیان رقصکنان ساغر شکرانه زدند
آتش آن است که در خرمن پروانه زدند
تا سر زلف سخن را به قلم شانه زدند



Ghazal 184 from Hafez

Last night I saw angels knocking on the tavern door.
They molded the clay of Adam and formed a wine goblet.

The residents of the abode of angelic purity
With me and fellow travelers became drunk with the spirits.

The sky could not bear the burden of trust.
The lot of prophecy struck my name with madness.

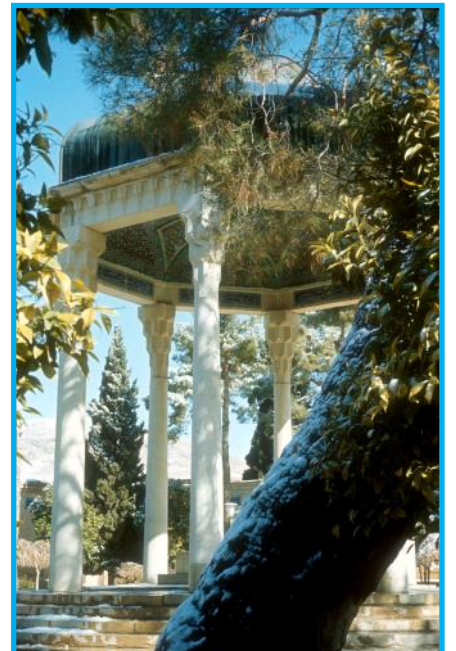
The war between 72 nations left everyone in regret.
Because they have not seen truth, they have created fairy tales.

Thank God that between me and He peace came.
Sufis danced and others gave thanks.

Fire is not the flickering of a candle flame;
Fire is that power that draws in swarms of moths striking them.

The thoughts of one like Hafez are veiled even to himself,
'Till the secret locks of speech are combed straight with a pen.

—Translation by Iran volunteer Paul Barker



Tomb of Hafez in Shiraz



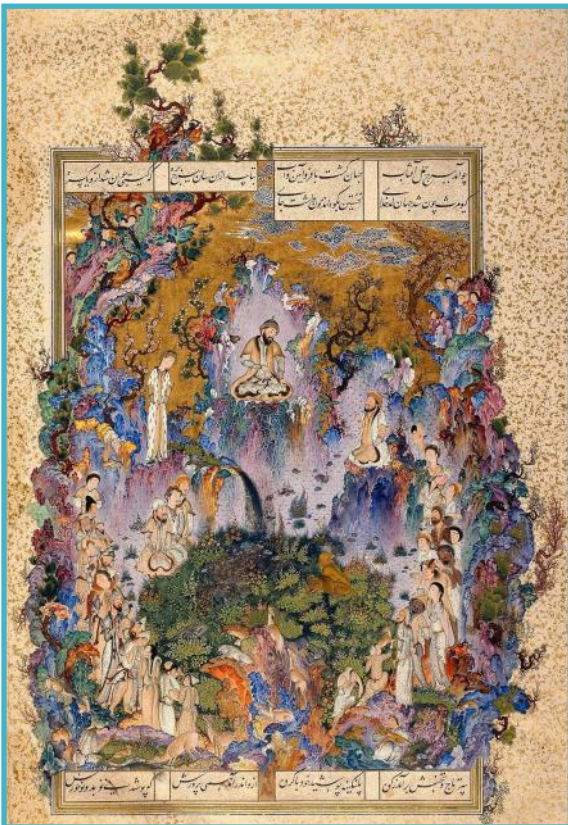
We Appreciate Classical Persian Poetry—Ferdowsi

Prologue to Ferdowsi's perhaps most famous story in the *Shahnameh*, that of Sohrab and Rostam.

Translation by Iran volunteer Jerome W. Clinton in *The Tragedy of Sohrab and Rostam* (1966).

What if a wind springs up quite suddenly,
And casts a green unripened fruit to earth.
Shall we call this a tyrant's act, or just?
Shall we consider it as right, or wrong?
If death is just, how can this not be so?
Why then lament and wail at what is just?
Your soul knows nothing of this mystery;
You cannot see what lies beyond this veil.
Though all descend to face that greedy door,
For none has it revealed its secrets twice.
Perhaps he'll like the place he goes to better,
And in that other house he may find peace.
Death's breath is like a fiercely raging fire
That has no fear of either young or old.
Here in this place of passing, not delay.

اگر تند بادی برآید ز کنج
بچاک افگند نارسیده ترنج
سنم کاره خوانیمش ار دادگر
هنرمند دانیمش ار بی هنر
اگر مرگ دادست بیداد چیست
ز داد این همه بانگ و فریاد چیست
از این راز جان تو آگاه نیست
بدین پرده اندر ترا راه نیست
همه تا در آرزو رفته فراز
بکس بر نشد این در راز باز
برفتن مگر بهتر آیدش جای
چو آرام یابد بدیگر سرای
دم مرگ چون آتش هولناک
ندارد ز برناو فرتوت باک
درین جای رفتن نه جای درنگ



چنان فاش گردد غم و رنج و شور
که شادی به هنگام بهرام گور

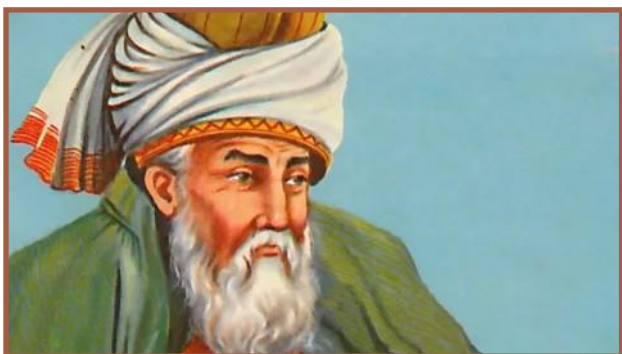
So widespread will become sorrow, suffering, and mayhem,
As was happiness at the time of Bahram the
Hunter of Onagers.



We Appreciate Classical Persian Poetry—Rumi and Sa’adi

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
There is a field. I’ll meet you there.
When the soul lies down in that grass,
The world is too full to talk about.
Ideas, language, even the phrase *each other*
Doesn’t make any sense.

From *The Essential Rumi*, translated by Coleman Barks with John Moyne. (Castle Books: Edison NJ, 1997), p. 36.



Tomb of Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi, located in the Mevlâna Museum in Konya, Turkey

Listen to the reed flute for it is speaking
Of separations it is complaining – Jalal ad-Din Rumi
بشنو از نی چو هکایت میکند ز جدایها شکایت میکند



Tomb of Sa’adi in Shiraz

So great was the famine that entered Damascus
That lovers forgot love – Sa’adi
چنان قحط سالی شد اندر دمشق که یاران فراموش کردند عشق



It is Only Sound That Remains

By Forugh Farrokhzad

Why should I stop, why?
The birds have gone in search
of the blue direction.
The horizon is vertical, vertical,
and movement fountain-like
and at the limits of vision
shining planets spin.

چرا توقف کنم، چرا؟
پرنده ها به جستجوی جانب آبی رفته اند
افق عمودی است
افق عمودی است و حرکت: فواره وار
و در حدود بینش
سیاره های نورانی می چرخند

Trans: Iran volunteer Michael Hillmann, *A Lonely Woman: Forugh Farrokhzad and Her Poetry*. Washington, DC. Three Continents Press and Mage Publishers, 1987, p. 160. Photos courtesy of Shirin Neshat.



Peace Corps Departs—1976

When the Tehran office at #65 Takhte Jamshid closed its doors on June 30, 1976, Director Quentin Fleming gathered the remaining staff on the office steps. The sign that hung for fourteen years was removed and has remained with the Fleming family since that time.



کتابهای راجب ایران نوشتیم We Wrote Books About Iran

BAHRAMPOUR, Tara, 1999. *To See and See Again: A Life in Iran and America*. Farrar Straus & Giroux.

BRISKIN, Dennis, 2019. *Iran Before*, privately published. Dennis's two large-format, coffee-table style books contain art-quality, black and white images of Iran in the Peace Corps era.

BRISKIN, 2020. *The Face of Iran before...*, privately published.

CLINTON, Jerome W. (1996 Revised edition). *The Tragedy of Sohráb and Rostám*. University of Washington Press.

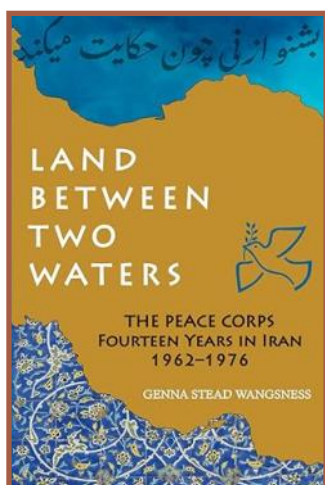
CROOK, Jay R. (writing as Robert Bangor), 2011, revised Ed. 2015. *The Burnt City (A Novel of Iran on the Eve of Revolution)*, privately published.

CROOK, 2015. *Ambling Through Life: With Stopovers in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, France, Greece, Paradis, and Elsewhere*, IMN Productions.

DEVINE, David, 2001. *Persian Mosaic: Getting Back to Iran After 25 Years*, Writer's Showcase.

EATON, Richard M., 2019. *India in the Persianate Age, 1000-1765*. University of California Press. Almost a dozen of Dick's books written since 1978 are available on Amazon.

ETHERIDGE, John C., 2010. *Uncharted Waters: One man's voyage to discover what he was born to do*, AuthorHouse.



FAIRBANKS, Stephen C., 2023. *Before the Revolution: Photographs of Provincial Iran 1964-1979*, independently published.

FRAME, Margaret A., 2014. *Passage to Persia: Writings of an American doctor during her life in Iran, 1929-1957*, Summertime Publishing. Margaret's mother was a missionary doctor in Iran when she was born in 1941. Margaret joined Peace Corps in 1999 and spent two years in Morocco.

GAUGHAN, Joan, 2021. *The Shuster Mission to Iran – Leaving Something Worthwhile Behind*, Real Nice Books. Joan has published other books beginning in 1991.

GOODE, James F., 2007. *Negotiating For the Past: Archaeology, Nationalism, and Diplomacy in the Middle East, 1919-1941*. University of Texas Press.

GOODE, 2021. *Living, Loving Iran: A Memoir*, Mazda Publishers.

GRAY, Arlene Elle, 2012. *Letters From Iran: Memoirs of a Peace Corps Volunteer 1970-1972*, Xlibris Corps.

HALL, John Gregory, 2022. *Journeying Out Alone*, privately published. On leaving rural Mulberry, Texas to serve in Peace Corps Iran (plus other genealogical books on life in Mulberry).

HEGLAND, Mary Elaine, 2014. *Days of Revolution: Political Unrest in an Iranian Village*, Stanford University Press.

HILLMANN, Michael Craig, 1991. *From Durham to Tehran*, Iranbooks.

HILLMANN, 1986. *A Lonely Woman: Forugh Farrokhzad and Her Poetry*, Rienner Publishers. Mike has a long list of published books.

HOOGLUND, Eric J., 2014. *Land and Revolution in Iran, 1960-80*, CMES Modern Middle East Series Book 7, University of Texas Press. Eric has published several books and over a hundred articles on Iran.

HOUSTON, Andre, 2017. *Angels: A Young Girl's Quest*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Includes six pages on Mosques and Persia.

HUGHES, Tom, 2023. *Iran and Me, All of Us, Actually: Reflections of a Peace Corps Volunteer and How Persian Peoples Originated or Improved Upon Everything We Take for Granted*, Eats Publishing.

KEECH, Rea, 2015. *A Hundred Veils*, Real Nice Books.

KEECH, 2025. *Saint Sergey's Head*, Real Nice Books. Rea has written novels with international locales from Afghanistan to Iran to Russia.



KLOBE, Tom, 2014. *A Young American in Iran*, Peace Corps Worldwide.

KLOBE, 2022. *The Islamic Ceilings of the Cappella Palatina in Palermo: Other Views*. Mazda Publishers. Art-quality, coffee-table style book with 500 color photos.

KRAUSKOPF, John, 2014. *Iran: Stories from the Peace Corps*. Lulu.

KRAUSKOPF (Editor), 2021. *Memories and Insights: Iran through the Eyes of Peace Corps Volunteers*, Lulu.

LANDSBERG, Marc, 2006. *Landsberg's Law: A Journey of Discovery*, Morris Publishing.

LEMONS, David K., 2011. *The Crescent, the Sea, & the Long Sand: Poems and Stories*, CreateSpace. Poems and short fiction inspired by David's travel and his Peace Corps service.

LIMBERT, John, 2004. *Shiraz in the Age of Hafez*, The University of Washington Press.

LIMBERT, 2009. *Negotiating With Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History*, United States Institute of Peace Press. John has written multiple books and co-authored a novel.

LIMBERT, and Marc Grossman, 2020. *Believers: Love and Death in Tehran*, Mazda Publishers. A thrilling and engrossing spy novel.

LORENTZ, John H., 1995. *Historical Dictionary of IRAN*, Scarecrow Press.

LORENTZ, 2010. *The A to Z of Iran*, Scarecrow Press.

MACKINNON, Colin, 2009. *The Contractor*, St. Martin's Press. In addition to foreign intrigue fiction books, Colin's writings include Iranian linguistics, the history of cryptography, and Middle East trade.

MARKS, Mary Dana, 2017. *Walled In, Walled Out: A Young American Woman in Iran*, Peace Corps Writers.

MOORE, Thomas R., 2010. *The Bolt-Cutters: Poems*, FortHemlockPress. Tom has written multiple books of poetry, including poems about his life in Iran.

NEWTON, John, 2022. *An American in Revolutionary Iran*, Tasora Books. Volunteer experiences and working in Tehran during the years leading up to the return of Khomeini.

NYE-DORRY, Gertrude, 1998. *45 Years in Iran, A Memoir*, privately published.

O'DONNELL, Terence, 1980. *Garden of the Brave in War*, Ticknor & Fields.

O'DONNELL, 1999. *Seven Shades of Memory*, Mage Publishers. Short fiction based on his seventeen years in Iran. Terry authored historical books on Oregon, while working for the Oregon Historical Society in Portland.

PEKNIK, George, 2004. *The Meaning of the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse*, Hoopoe Publications. History and description of the Sister-Cities project begun during the Cold War between Boulder, Colorado, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

PHINNEY, Alice, 1975. *Yekke Bud, Yekke Na Bud*, Hearthstone Book.

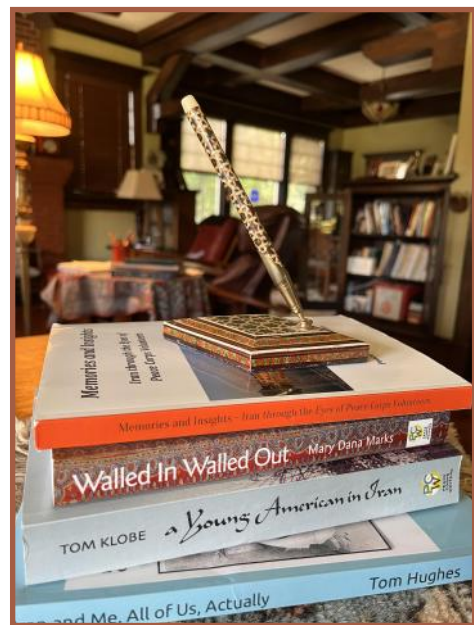
PILLER, Thomas J., 2024. *A Pathway, From No Path, A Memoir: A heartfelt depiction of an African American's struggles, successes, and the profound influence that his unlikely 1962 Peace Corps journey to the heart of Iran had on shaping his future*, Peace Corps Writers.

PITZER, Paul C., 2015. "Hello Mister," Blurb Publishing. PDF or softcover with color photos. Month-by-month chronicle of Paul's PC service in Ahar, Azerbaijan.

ROSEN, Barbara and Barry, with George Feifer, 1982. *The Destined Hour, The Hostage Crisis and One Family's Ordeal*, Doubleday.

ROSTAM-KOLAYI, Jasamin, 2018. "The New Frontier Meets the White Revolution: The Peace Corps in Iran, 1962-76." *Iranian Studies*, 51(4), 587-612.

ROSTAM-KOLAYI, 2022. "We Learned How to Be Friends: What Oral History Tells Us about the American Peace Corps in Iran." *American-Iranian Dialogues: From Constitution to White Revolution, 1890s-1960s*, edited by Matthew Shannon, Blooms-



SEEVER, Jennifer B-C, 2004. *Journeys: A Novel of Iran*, iUniverse.

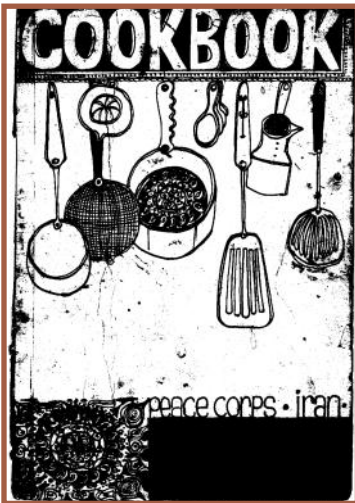
VANDERWERF, Barbara, 2021. *Four Seasons, A Khareji in Iran in the 1960s*, privately published.

WANGSNESS, Genna Stead, 2023. *Land Between Two Waters: The Peace Corps, Fourteen Years in Iran, 1962-1976*, Peace Corps Writers. A chronological history of over fifty volunteer groups that trained for Iran and memories of those who served.

YALE, Carolyn, 2015. *Night Vision*, privately published. Twenty-four poems paired with stunningly beautiful art photographs reproduced on high-quality paper.

YALE, 2013. *Between the Fault Lines*, Sugartown Publishing. Seventeen of Carolyn's poems are included in this anthology by a group of eight poets residing on the east side of San Francisco Bay, an area of many earthquake faults.

غذاهای ایرانی میزیم We Cook Persian Food



Bitter & Sweet: Global Flavors from an Iranian-American Kitchen, Roustaei, Omid, 2025.

Bokhor: The Eat Book, American Peace Corps Tehran, 1970s.

Bottom of the Pot: Persian Recipes and Stories, Deravian, Naz, 2018.

Cookbook: Peace Corps Iran, American Peace Corps Tehran, 1969.

Cooking in Iran: Regional Recipes and Kitchen Secrets, Batmanglij, Najmieh, 2022.

East and Me, Persian Cuisine: A Personal Encounter with the Mid East, Bean, Deana Safford, 1992.

Food of Life: Ancient Persian and Modern Iranian Cooking and Ceremonies, Batmanglij, Najmieh, 1986, 2024.

Persian Version of *Food of Life*, available from PersianBasket.com: *Nushe Jan: Honar-e*

Ashpazi va Adab va Rasum-e Irani, Batmanglij, Najmieh, 1392 [2013].

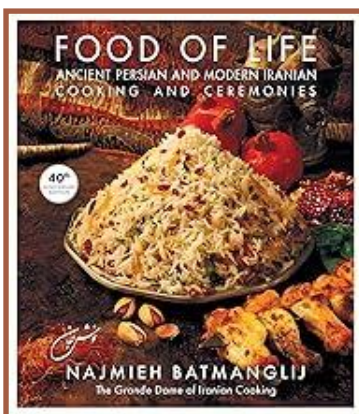
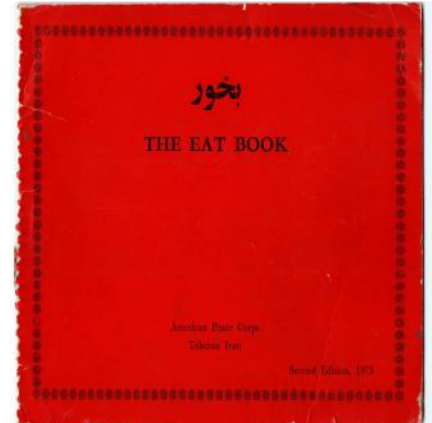
In a Persian Kitchen, Mazda, Maideh, 1960, 1989.

Joon: Persian Cooking Made Simple, Batmanglij, Najmieh, 2015.

Silk Road Cooking: A Vegetarian Journey, Batmanglij, Najmieh, 2004.

Taste of Persia: A Cooks Travels Through Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, and Kurdistan, Duguid, Naomi, 2016.

The New Persian Kitchen, Shafia, Louisa, 2013.



در دورهی کتاب ما کتابهای راجب ایران بحث میکنیم We Discuss Books About Iran at our Dooreh-ye Ketaab

2017-2018

Marks, Mary (PCV), *Walled In Walled Out: A Young American Woman in Iran* (2017)
Hegland, Mary (PCV), *Days of Revolution: Political Unrest in an Iranian Village* (2013)
Keech, Rea (PCV), *A Hundred Veils* (2017)
Parsi, Trita, *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy* (2017)
Hillmann, Michael (PCV), *A Lonely Woman: Forugh Farrokhzad and Her Poetry* (1985)
Limbert, John (PCV), *Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History* (2009)

2019



Klobe, Tom (PCV), *A Young American in Iran* (2014)
Ghaffari, Rbeah, *To Keep the Sun Alive* (2019)
Erllich, Reese, *The Iran Agenda Today: The Real Story Inside Iran and What's Wrong with U. S. Policy* (2019)
O'Donnell, Terence, *Garden of the Brave in War* (1980)
Karim, Persis, *Let Me Tell You Where I've Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora* (2006)
Jobrani, Maz, *I'm Not a Terrorist But I've Played One on TV: Memoirs of a Middle Eastern Funny Man* (2016)

2020

Crook, Jay (PC Staff), *Ambling Through Life* (2015)
Darznik, Jasmin, *Song of a Captive Bird* (2018)
Devine, David (PCV), *Persian Mosaic* (2001)
Farmanfarmaian, Sattareh, with Dona Munker, *Daughter of Persia* (1992)
Jerome, Carole, *The Man in the Mirror* (1988)
Rezaian, Jason, *Prisoner* (2019)

2021

Azar, Shokoofeh, *The Enlightenment of the Greengage Tree* (2020)
Bahrapour, Tara, *To See and See Again* (1999)
Briskin, Dennis (PCV), *The Face of Iran Before* (2020)
Harris, Kevan, *A Social Revolution: Politics and the Welfare State in Iran* (2017)
Limbert, John (PCV), and Marc Grossman, *Believers: Love and Death in Tehran* (2020)
Maghbouleh, Neda, *The Limits of Whiteness: Iranian Americans and the Everyday Politics of Race* (2017)

2022

Ansary, Nina, *Jewels of Allah: The Untold Story of Women in Iran* (2015)
Bakhash, Shaul, *The Fall of Reza Shah* (2021)
Gaughan, Joan (PCV), *The Shuster Mission to Iran: Leaving Something Worthwhile Behind* (2021)
Goode, James (PCV), *Living, Loving Iran: A Memoir* (2021)
Kahn, Margaret, *Children of the Jinn: The Story of My Search for the Kurds and their Country* (1980)
Pezeshkzad, Iraj, *Hafez in Love* (2021)



2023

Aslan, Reza, *An American Martyr in Persia: The Epic Life and Tragic Death of Howard Baskerville* (2022)

Elghanayan, Shahrzad, *Titan of Tehran: From Jewish Ghetto to Corporate Colossus to Firing Squad—My Grandfather's Life* (2022)

Ghazvinian, John, *America and Iran: A History, 1720 to the Present* (2021)

Krauskopf, John, editor (PCV), *Memories and Insights - Iran through the Eyes of Peace Corps Volunteers* (2021)

Newton, John (PCV), *An American in Revolutionary Iran* (2022)

Radjavi, Heydar, *Father Takes a Drink and Other Memories of Iran* (2019)

2024

Hakakian, Roya, *A Beginner's Guide to America: For the Immigrant and the Curious* (2022)

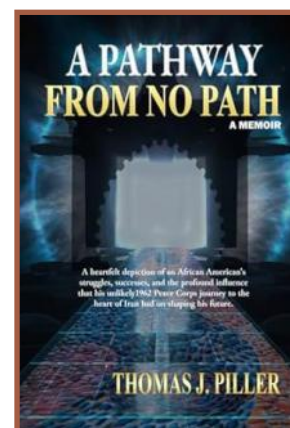
Rad, Assal, *The State of Resistance: Politics, Identity and Culture in Modern Iran* (2022)

Arvin, Amir, *The Mirror Years* (2022)

Frame, Margaret A., *Passage to Persia – Writings of an American Doctor During Her Life in Iran, 1929-1957* (2014)

Goode, James F. (PCV), *Negotiating for the Past: Archaeology, Nationalism, and Diplomacy in the Middle East, 1919-1941* (2007)

Wangsness, Genna Stead (PCV), *Land Between Two Waters: The Peace Corps Fourteen Years in Iran, 1962-1976* (2023)



2025

Hughes, Tom (PCV), *Iran and Me, All of Us, Actually* (2023).

Piller, Thomas J (PCV), *A Pathway From No Path* (2024).

Kashani-Sabet, *From Heroes to Hostages: America and Iran, 1800-1988* (2023)

Kamali, Marjan, *The Lion Women of Tehran* (2024).

Hashemi, Manata, *Coming of Age in Iran: Poverty and the Struggle for Dignity* (2020)

Homa, Ava, *Daughters of Smoke and Fire* (2020).



PCIA historian Genna Wangsness displays materials she gathered for the history of Peace Corps in Iran at the 2019 conference in San Diego.



فلمهای ایرانی میبینیم We Watch Iranian Films

Compiled by Iran volunteers John Limbert and Brad Hanson, with assistance from Mohsen Ashtiani

How to watch these films: Google the title and you will find that some can be viewed on YouTube for free, some you must rent, some you must buy, and a very few are difficult to find. Also, be on the lookout for Iranian film festivals in your region, which sometimes feature some of these films.

Pre-revolution

Grass: A Nation's Battle for Life, Merian C Cooper and Ernest B Schoedsack, 1925, a documentary about the Bakhtiari migration.

Qarun's Treasure, گنج (Ganj-e Qaarun), Siamak Yasemi, starring Mohammad Ali Fardin, 1965, Note: Qarun is the same as the Biblical Korah in the Old Testament Book of Numbers.

The Cow, گاو (Gaav), Dariush Mehrjui, 1969.

Dancer of the City, رقاص شهر (Raqaas-e-Shahr), Naser Malek-Moti' and starring Foruzan, 1970.

The Interim Husband, محلل (Mohallel), Nosratollah Karimi, 1971.

Chess of the Wind, شطرنج باد (Shatranj-e baad), Mohammad Reza Aslani, 1976.

Post-revolution

Bashu, the Little Stranger, باشو غریبه کوچک (Baashu gharibeh-ye kuchekek), Bahram Beyzai, 1989.

Under the Olive Trees, زیر درختهای زیتون (Zir-e derakhthaa-ye zaitun), Abbas Kiarostami, 1994.

Gabbeh, گبه (Gabbeh), Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 1996, Note: See the online Encyclopedia Iranica article entitled GABBA by Digard and Carol Bier.

The White Balloon, بادکنک سفید (Baadkonak-e sefid), Jafar Panahi, 1996.

The Color of Paradise, originally titled Rang-e Khoda, رنگ خدا Majid Majidi, 1999.

The Wind Will Carry Us, باد مارا خواهد برد (Baad maaraa khaahad bord), Abbas Kiarostami, 1999.

The Hidden Half, نیمه پنهان (Nimeh-ye Penhaan), Tahmineh Milani, 2001.

Kandahar, قندهار (Qandahaar), Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 2001.

Rain, باران (Baaraan), Majid Majidi, 2001.

The Lizard, مارمولک (Maarmulak), Kamal Tabrizi, 2004.

Turtles Can Fly, لاک پشت ها هم پرواز میکنند (Laakposht-haa ham parvaaz mikonad), Bahman Ghobadi, 2004.

Border Café, کافه ترانزیت (Kaaf-e Traanzit), Kambuzia Partovi, 2005.

Iron Island, جزیره آهنی (Jazireh-ye Aahani), Mohammad Rasoulof, 2005.

A Separation, aka The Separation of Nader from Simin, جدایی نادر از سیمین (Jodaa-i-ye Naader az Simin), Asghar Farhadi, 2011. 2012 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

Manuscripts Don't Burn, دست نوشته ها نمی سوزد (Dast neveshtehaa nemisuzad), Mohammad Rasoulof, 2013.

Taxi, تاکسی (Taaksi), Jafar Panahi, 2015.

The Salesman, فروشنده (Forushandah), Asghar Farhadi, 2016.

Thursday Appointment, ملاقات پنجشنبه (Molaaqaat-e panjshanbeh), Mohammad Reza Kheradmandan, 2019, a powerful 2-minute film about love at a stop light.

There is No Evil, شیطان وجود ندارد (Shaitaan vojood nadaarad), Mohammad Rasoulof, 2020.

A Hero, قهرمان (Qahraamaan), Asghar Farhadi, 2021.

No Bears, خرس نیست (Khers nist), Jafar Panahi, 2022.

In the Shadow of the Cypress, در سایه سرو (Dar saaye sarv), Shirin Sohani and Hossein Molayemi, 2023, Winner of 2025 Oscar for Best Short Film (Animated).

My Stolen Planet, سیاره ی دزدیده شده ی من (Saiyaareh-ye dozdideh shodeh-ye man), Farahnaz Sharifi, 2024.

Universal Language, Persian title: آواز بوقلمون (Avaaz-e bughalamun), Mathew Rankin, 2024.

The Seed of the Sacred Fig, دانه ی انجیر معابد (Daaneh-ye anjir-e ma'abad), Mohammad Rasoulof, 2025. Winner of 2025 Cannes Special Jury Prize, nominated for 2025 Best Foreign Film Oscar.

It Was Just an Accident, یک تصادف ساده (Yek tasaadof-e saadah), Jafar Panahi, 2025, Winner of 2025 Cannes Palm d'Or.

When We Grew Together: Peace Corps Journeys in Iran: Memories that Shaped Our Lives, Abbas Motlagh and Hossein Shirazi, documentary premiering at the 2025 PCIA conference.



Timeline of the Peace Corps Iran Associations

The Peace Corps Iran Association is the third association for those who served in Iran. Prior to PCIA, volunteers had initiated two other associations, the first was Iran Peace Corps Association, and the second was Peace Corps Friend of Iran. A separate history of these three associations has been drafted by Douglas Schermer. Below is a brief timeline:

- 1986 – Peace Corps celebrated 25 years with an event in Washington, DC which was attended by several Iran RPCVs including Tom Hughes, Tom Ricks, Joe Truskot, and Steve Grummon. Initial discussions were held about forming an Iran RPCV group.
- 1986 Joe Truskot agreed to serve as leader of the group and secured affiliation with the National Peace Corps Association.
- 1988 – First issue of Iran Peace Corps Association Newsletter mailed to members.
- 1988 – IPCA membership directory lists 551 names.
- 1991 – Last known issue of the IPCA Newsletter.
- 1999 – NPCA and Friendship Force sponsored a trip to Iran with Bill Brandon as the designated group leader.
- 2002 – Led by Peter Russell, a group of Iran RPCVs traveled to Iran under sponsorship of National Peace Corps Association and Friendship Force.
- 2003 – Peace Corps Friends of Iran formed, became a formal affiliate with NPCA, with Peter Russell as president.
- 2011 – Iran RPCVs celebrated Peace Corps’ 50th anniversary with reunion and conference in Portland, Oregon.
- 2012 – Peace Corps Iran Association incorporated in Oregon as the third Iran RPCV affiliate with NPCA..
- 2012 – Jackie Spurlock first president of PCIA.
- 2012 PCIA Facebook group initiated by Jackie Spurlock for PCIA members and a Facebook Page for the general public.
- 2012 – Under the editorship of Mary Marks, the first issue of *KhabarNameh* sent by email as a PDF to all members.
- 2013 – IRS approved Peace Corps Iran Association’s application for nonprofit 501 (c) (3) status.
- 2013 – PCIA Board sent a letter to President Obama urging “peaceful and diplomatic solutions to the differences that challenge our countries.”
- 2013 – PCIA hosted several sessions at the NPCA Gathering in Boston followed by dinner at a Persian restaurant.
- 2014 – PCIA Board met in person in Austin to initiate plans for a 2015 conference and reunion at the University of Texas, Austin.
- 2014 – Genna Wangsness named Historian for PCIA and wrote two columns in the *KhabarNameh*, “Where are they now?” and “In Memorium.”
- 2015 – PCIA launched the www.peacecorpsiran.org website with Doug Schermer as webmaster. The website template designed by Moshen Daemi, an architecture student of Tom Huff at the University of Massachusetts, Amhurst.
- 2015 - PCIA logo designed by Maryam Shafiee, also an architecture student working with Tom Huff.
- 2015 – Under the theme of “Iran Today: Quest for New Narratives,” PCIA sponsored its third conference and reunion on the campus of the University of Texas, Austin, UT Austin was a training site for Iran volunteers in the 1960s.
- 2015 – PCIA Board adopted a resolution in support of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, (JCPOA).
- 2015 Carolyn Yale assumed the role of PCIA President.
- 2016 – Joan Gaughan succeeded Mary Marks as the editor of the *KhabarNameh*.
- 2017 – Fourth conference and reunion held in Annapolis with “Preserving our Legacy and Advocating the Future” as the theme.
- 2017 – Conference participants approve a resolution in support of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action stating: “We strongly support diplomacy as the primary means for the United States and the international community to resolve issues of mutual interest with Iran and to prevent further military conflict in the region.”
- 2017 – PCIA launched the *Advocacy Bulletin*, published monthly and edited by Paul Barker, it featured essays and links to news sources on the web.
- 2017 – PCIA initiated Dooreh-ye Ketaab, a bi-monthly book discussion group on Zoom led by Jackie Spurlock and Jim Goode. The first book featured was *Walled In Walled Out: A Young American Woman in Iran*, by Mary Marks.
- 2018 – PCIA recognized by NPCA for its work in advocacy.
- 2018 – PCIA decided to use NPCA’s recommended website platform, SilkStart.



- 2018 – Jeanette Gottlieb became president of PCIA.
- 2019 – PCIA received the Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service from the National Peace Corps Association.
- 2019 – Jackie Spurlock participated in a trip to Tehran sponsored by Code Pink, a women’s peace and social justice organization, where the group met with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif.
- 2019 – Fifth conference and reunion held in San Diego with the theme of “A Modern Mosaic: Iran, America, and the Peace Corps.” A special guest was Jason Rezaian.
- 2019 – PCIA reaffirms the 2017 resolution in support of the JCPOA that also calls for the UN to implement measures to increase security in the region, called on the US to revoke its “Muslim ban,” facilitate people-to-people exchanges in the areas of education, science, sport, academia, art, and other fields.
- 2020 Kerry Segel began his *KhabarNameh* series of articles and translations of *Khansar Nameh*, a journal by Hossein Tasbihi, his friend in Khansar. Segel’s name appeared in six of the essays.
- 2021 – PCIA board initiated a long-term strategic planning process with the assistance of Telesto Strategy.
- 2021 PCIA celebrated Nowruz virtually on Zoom which began at the home of Terry Hashemi who explained her *Haft Seen* table.
- 2021 – PCIA hosted the fifth conference and reunion on Zoom with John Ghazvinian, author of *America and Iran: A History, 1720 to the Present*, as a key speaker. John Limbert, Iran volunteer, Sinja Toosi, NIAC, and Bahman Baktiari of the Baskerville Institute led a discussion of Iran-America relations.
- 2021 – A film about Peace Corps Volunteers by Abbas Motlagh and Hossein Mahallati was previewed during the virtual conference.
- 2022 – Sheldon Fleming, PC Staff Dependent, described unsettling experiences during the last days in Iran in a two-part *Khabar-Nameh* article, “The Long Night.”
- 2022 – PCIA Board announced support for the Iranians raising their voices for “Women, Life, Freedom.”
- 2023 – Iran RPCV Lynne Meena featured on CBS Morning News as she reunites with a former English student Iran Murphy who had immigrated from Ahwaz.
- 2023 – “Understanding Iran Today: Fulfilling Our Mission, Ensuring our Legacy” was the theme for the seventh PCIA conference and reunion at the University of Chicago.
- 2023 – Genna Wangsness publishes *Land Between Two Waters: The Peace Corps Fourteen Years in Iran, 1962-1976*.
- 2023 – Charles “Chuck” Kaminski became president of PCIA.
- 2024 – PCIA sent a letter to President Biden urging him to not let the Israel-Iran hostilities ensnare the US and calling for pursuing diplomacy with a goal of restoring diplomatic relations with Iran.
- 2024 – PCIA Board met at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in Washington, DC, to plan the 2025 reunion and conference.

و سپس ملا نصرالدین بود And Then There Was Mulla Nasruddin

Mulla Nasruddin’s beloved donkey had been lost for several days. Rather than getting upset, he was drinking tea in the tea house. Everyone was puzzled because they all knew how much Nasruddin loved his donkey. Someone finally asked him why he could look so happy and why he wasn’t out looking for his donkey.

“Why would I do that?” asked Nasruddin. “If I were on the donkey, I would be lost too!”

Once a man asked Nasruddin, “What is the meaning of Fate?”

“Assumptions,” he replied.

The man questioned again, “In what way?”

Nasruddin looked at him and said, “Sometimes you assume things are going to go well but they don’t. That time you call it bad luck. Then sometimes you assume things are going to go badly but they don’t. That time you call it good luck.

We assume that certain things are going to happen or not happen because you don’t know what is going to happen. You assume that the future is unknown and when you are caught out – you call that Fate.”



PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION (PCIA)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Jackie Spurlock
June 2012 – July 2015
Carolyn Yale
July 2015 to July 2018
Jeanette Gottlieb
July 2018 to July 2023
Chuck Kaminski
July 2023 to present

VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Opin
June 2012 to May 2013
Mary Marks
June 2013 to July 2014
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June 2012 to July 2014
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July 2014 to July 2018
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July 2018 to July 2019
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July 2019 to July 2020
Kathleen MacLeod
July 2020 to June 2021
Marie Mitchell
July 2021 to present

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

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June 2019 – June 2021
Paul Barker
June 2019 – present
Bill Brandon
June 2021 – present
Allen Clutter
June 2023 – 2025
Barbara Deekle
June 2022 – present
Kendall Dudley
June 2014 – 2016
Jeanette Gottlieb
January 2014 – present
Brad Hanson
June 2021 – present
John Holehan (d)
June 2016 – June 2021

Tom Huf
June 2014 – Feb 2016
Katie Hug
June 2023 – present
Chuck Kaminski
June 2022 – present
John Krauskopf
June 2012 – present
Fraser Lang
June 2021 – 2023
Kathleen MacLeod
June 2016 – June 2021
Joseph Mangi
June 2021 – June 2022
Mark Marks
June 2012 – June 2016
Marie Mitchell
June 2020 – present

Andy Mott
June 2017 – Feb 2019
Ken Opin
June 2012 – May 2013
John Salamack
June 2012 – present
Doug Schermer
June 2012 – present
Kerry Segel
June 2021 – present
Edmund Seiders
June 2018 – present
Jackie Spurlock
June 2012 – present
Carolyn Yale
June 2012 – July 2020



PCIA Leaders and Volunteers

Paul Barker
Advocacy Bulletin Editor and Committee Chair
2017 – present
Iran Issues Discussion Group Co-Moderator
2022 – present

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Co-Chair Strategic Planning, 2021-22
Work Group Convenor, Strategic Planning,
2021 – 2022

Joan Gaughan
KhabarNameh Editor
2016 – present
Katie Hug, John and Linda Krauskopf,
Doug and Shirley Schermer, Genna Wangsness
Copyeditors

Jeanette Gottlieb
From the Field Newsletter
2023 – present
Ad hoc Leader in Strategic Planning
2021 – 2022

Jim Goode
Dooreh-ye Book Club Co-Coordinator
2017 – present

Brad Hanson
Iran Issues Discussion Co-Moderator
2022 – present

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John Krauskopf
PCIA Anthology Editor
2012 – present
Co-Chair, Planned Phaseout Group,
Strategic Planning, 2021 – 2022

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KhabarNameh Editor
2012 – 2016

John Salamack
Iran Issues Discussion Group Moderator
2020 – 2022
Co-Chair, Planned Phaseout Group,
Strategic Planning, 2021 – 2022

Doug Schermer
Webmaster
2015 – present
Database Manager
2011 – present
Layout and Assistant Proofreader for all KhabarNameh Issues
Ad hoc Leader in Strategic Planning
2021 – 2022

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Work Group Convenor, Strategic Planning
2021 – 2022

Stan Slaven
Volunteer Search Master

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Dooreh-ye Book Club Co-Coordinator
2017 – present
From the Field Newsletter
2011 – 2023
Work Group Convenor, Strategic Planning
2021 – 2022

Genna Stead Wangsness
Historian
June 2014 – present
Tom and Del Marie Klobe
Alison Clement, Renny Gorman,
John Limbert, Eleanor Abdella Doumato
Land Between Two Waters
Assistant Designers, Editors, Proofreaders

Carolyn Yale
Co-Chair, Strategic Planning, 2021 – 2022
Work Group Convenor, Strategic Planning
2021 – 2022



Conferences-Reunions



Group 1 volunteers reunite at the Chicago 2023 conference

“Peace Corps Reunion,” **Portland, OR**, August 5-7, 2011. Chairs: Doug Schermer, Jackie Spurlock, and Genna Wangsness.

Reunion at the National Peace Corps Association gathering in **Boston, MA**, June 28-29, 2013, including the opening session, “Evoking the Complex, Vivid Life of Today’s Iran.” Chairs: Doug Schermer and Jackie Spurlock.

“Iran Today: Quest for New Narratives,” University of Texas, **Austin, TX**, May 28-30, 2015. Chairs: Doug Schermer, Jackie Spurlock, and Carolyn Yale.

“Preserving the Legacy and Advocating the Future,” **Annapolis, MD**, October 29 – November 1, 2017. Chairs: Skip Auld, Jeanette Gottlieb, and Doug Schermer.

“A Modern Mosaic: Iran, America, and Peace Corps Interconnections,” **San Diego, CA**, October 4– 6, 2019. Chairs: Jeanette Gottlieb and Doug Schermer.

“Looking Back to a Path Forward,” **Virtual Conference**, October 2, 2021. Chairs: Jeanette Gottlieb and Doug Schermer.

“Understanding Iran Today: Fulfilling Our Mission, Ensuring Our Legacy,” University of Chicago, **Chicago, IL**, May 25-27, 2023. Chairs: Jeanette Gottlieb and Doug Schermer.

“Peace Corps Iran Association Reunion and Conference: Past Reflection and Future Vision.” **Washington, DC**, October 3-5, 2025. Chairs: Skip Auld and Brad Hanson



Panel on “Iran Today” at the conference in Chicago, 2023



A Last Pass at the Wine

A LAST PASS AT THE WINE

By Iran volunteer Carolyn Yale

For the final PCIA reunion

We move slowly these days,
bent as if confronting a prevailing wind.
Over years the seasons have lost their rhythm.
Long winters have starved the promises of spring.
Will there come a time when summer is forgotten?

We are unable to follow the storyline to its end
but we know how it began,
how it might end if we could write it.
This may be our last chance for reunion
before our testimony is erased.

Warmed by cabernet
we share memories of Iran a half century past.
For this occasion we exchange stories
as if the coinage of the old regime still holds
and gardens still ring Shiraz, as if
a furnace of asphalt has not engulfed their beauty
and the attar that heralded summer
has not turned bitter.

Kerman, Teheran, Sari...
where were we in those years
when youth and hope seemed
inexhaustible, and the flames of Vietnam
were oceans distant?

What has become
of the innocent clamor of tinsmiths
and murmur of women in line
to buy nan plucked hot from the oven.

What of friends who took us into their lives?
Have their children been swept into war?

What becomes of a world
where traffic has no fixed lanes
and there is no fixed price for worldly things--
but generosity is abundantly free?

What has become of the peacemakers?
What concessions are demanded these days
what surrender
without a second offer?

What has become of our country
that these people are now the enemy?
The conclusion seems incomprehensible.

We take a last pass at the wine,
glasses balanced tentatively, canes in hand.
We knew in our time to brush stones
from the morning bread.

Ancient Achaemenid rhyton used in ceremonial libations at elite banquets. Photo by Iran volunteer Doug Schermer of a rhyton on display at the Reza Abassi Museum in Tehran.



The poem comes from Sa'adi's book, *Golestan* (Chapter 1, Story 10), completed in AD 1258. Translated by Dick Davis

بنی آدم اعضای یک پیکر اند
که در آفرینش ز یک گوهرند
چو عضوی به درد آورد روزگار
دگر عضوها را نماند قرار
تو کز محنت دیگران بی غمی
نشاید که نامت نهند آدمی

*banī-ādam a 'zāy-e yek peikarand
keh dar āfarīnesh 'ze yek goharand
cho 'ozvī be-dard āvarad rūzgār
degar 'ozvhā rā namānad qarār
to k'az meḥnat-e dīgarān bī-ghamī
nashāyad keh nāmat nahand ādami*

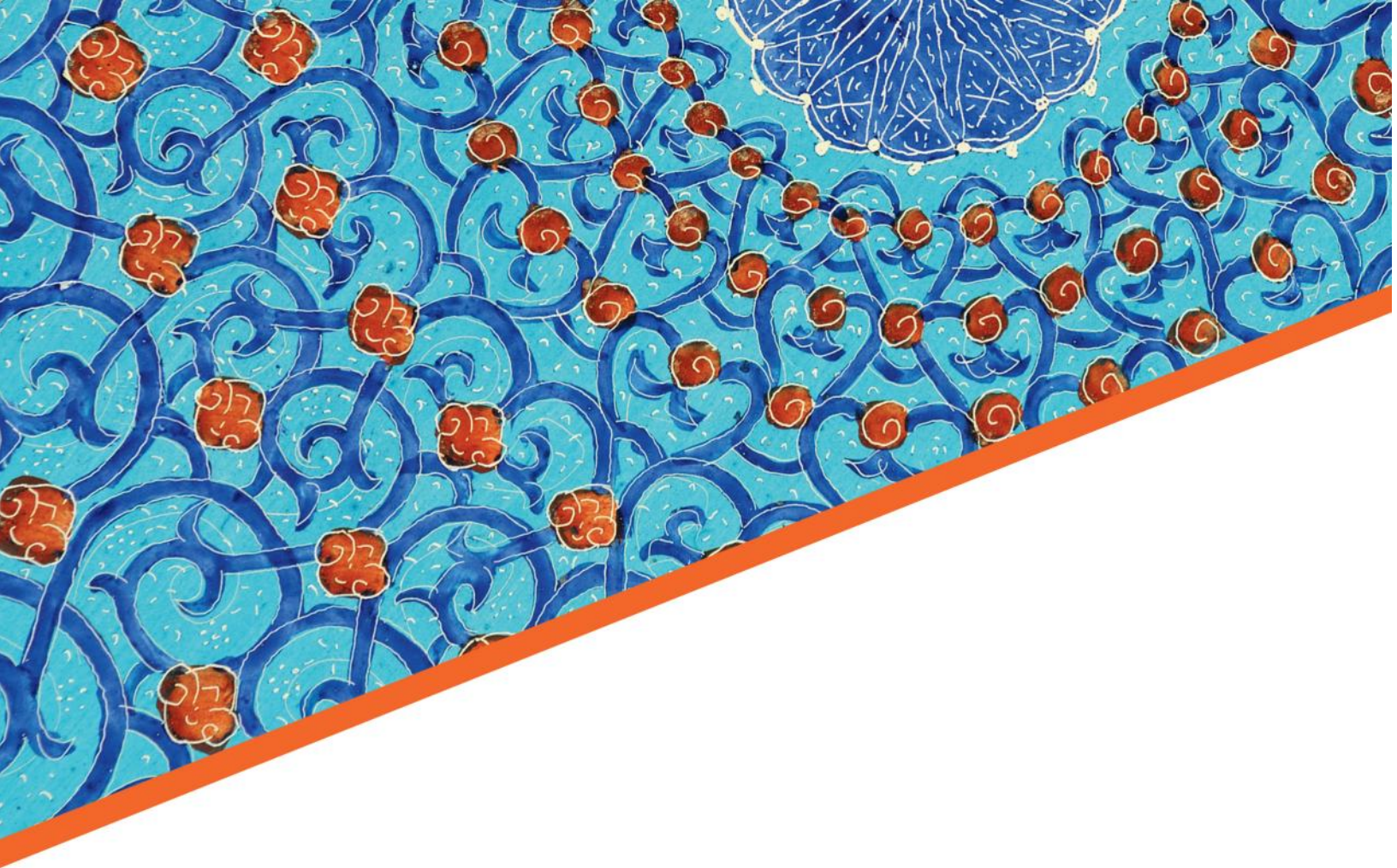
Man's sons are parts of one reality
Since all have sprung from one identity;
If one part of a body's hurt, the rest
Cannot remain unmoved and undistressed;
If you're not touched by others' pain, the name
Of "man" is one you cannot rightly claim.



Bani Adam by Sa'adi Shirazi is one of the most powerful expressions of human solidarity ever written, and it holds a place of honor at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The poem is woven into a Persian carpet gifted by the Iranian people to the UN, and it hangs prominently as a reminder of our shared humanity.





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Yadegari Production Committee:
Joan Gaughan, Brad Hanson,
Doug Schermer, Genna Wangsness



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