

# KhabarNameh

## خبرنامه

Newsletter of the Peace Corps Iran Association

Volume 14 – Number 2 –April 2026

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### FROM THE EDITOR

Joan Gaughan (Rasht/Lahijan, 1964-66)



In 2012, the founders of the PCIA could not have imagined that, on the eve of PCIA's closing, the United States would be at war with Iran. Yet here we are. While we can do little to shape events, in articulating our outrage, as **Carolyn Yale** does in her poem, "Golestan", we can affirm our shared humanity. That is also what **Chuck Kaminski** and the **Board** do here and what **Paul Barker** and others have done in his **Advocacy Bulletin** and what he has shared in an interview. "**Rom Rom's**" portrait of Reza Shah is, ironically, a refreshing break. **Dave Devine's** film reviews are followed by his review of a recent **Dooreh** subject, and **Bill Brandon** reviews the book by the daughter of one of us. **Chef Babri's sabzi polo** is easy to make. The **Koja Mirim** points out what is next for us as well as how we can preserve the "hidden treasures" of our past. And, finally, a reminder of **Bani Adam**.

And so gentle reader, befarma'id.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Charles Kaminski (Kermanshah, 1969-71)



Salaam!

As I write this, the war in Iran continues—adding to the already immense suffering of the Iranian people. In recent months, protests have reportedly resulted in thousands of deaths—perhaps as many as 30,000, depending on the source. While elements of the old regime have been weakened, new figures continue to emerge. Meanwhile, military strikes by the US and Israel persist, and we hear of “collateral” damage: innocent civilians, schoolchildren, and the destruction of UNESCO-designated cultural heritage sites, particularly in Tehran and Isfahan. All of this unfolds even as the country marked Nowruz, a season meant to bring renewal and hope.

How has the Peace Corps Iran Association responded? There is, frankly, little we can do as we move toward our own closure. We have issued two public statements addressing the war and the damage to Iran’s cultural heritage. As individuals, we can continue to write to our elected representatives sharing who we are, what we learned, and what we value as returned Peace Corps Volunteers from Iran. It may not be enough, but it is something.

Regarding PCIA’s closure, the process is underway. Our closure committee is meeting regularly, and as a registered Oregon 501©(3), we have engaged legal counsel to guide us. At our April Board meeting, we will vote on a formal plan of dissolution.

As required, any remaining assets will be distributed to other 501©(3) organizations. We have identified the following recipients: the National Peace Corps Association, the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation, the American University Peace Corps Community Archives, and the National Iranian American Council.

We have only a short time remaining. PCIA will formally close by June 30, 2026. What endures, however, is not the organization, but the community it fostered—the shared experience, the relationships, and the enduring connection to the people of Iran. That responsibility does not end with PCIA. It continues with each of us.

*Behtarin-ha râ barâyat ârzoo mikonam.*

بهترین‌ها را برای‌ت آرزو می‌کنم

**The war between 72 nations left everyone in regret.**

**Because they have not seen truth, they have created fairy tales.**

*Translated from Hafez, Ghazal 184, by Paul Barker*

**Statement on the US – Israel – Iran War**

**Board of Directors**

**Peace Corps Iran Association**

**March 4, 2026**

Fifty years ago (between 1962 and 1976) we served as Peace Corps Volunteers in Iran. We worked in Iranian schools and offices. We lived in Iranian communities. We earned salaries comparable to those of our Iranian counterparts. We learned to speak Farsi and to appreciate the depths of Iranian friendship and hospitality. Some of us even married Iranians. Our love and appreciation of many things Iranian have endured over the decades.

We know enough history to know that our country has sometimes been a strong ally and sometimes a foolish enemy of Iranian national aspirations for a better life with dignity, freedom, and prosperity. We are pained to witness now some of the worst strands of that history repeated and amplified. Our country has become the major party to a war of choice against Iran, launched in defiance of American laws and the US Constitution as well as international laws and structures. The war is highly destabilizing to regional and likely to global economic and political security.

We are deeply sympathetic to the aspirations of the Iranian people for a government that reflects the values animating recent anti-government demonstrations: Women's rights, life, and freedom (*zan, zendigi, azadi*). We are also deeply aware of the limitations of American military power when it comes to affecting positive change in foreign societies. We are mindful of the costs to international order when laws and conventions are willfully violated. We know that it is easy to blow things up, and ever so complicated to create and build on solid foundations for a better future.

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**From the Special March Edition of the Advocacy Bulletin**

Note from the Editor

By Paul Barker, (Bidokht/Shiraz/Tehran, 1971-76)



*We are now entering the third week of the US-Israel war against Iran. If you consider the current fighting to be a continuation of the war which was launched in June 2025, we are now in the ninth month of the war. We cannot remain silent and still claim allegiance to our roots as volunteers who worked for global peace and understanding. This second Special Edition of the PCIA Advocacy Bulletin calls out and condemns the damage being inflicted on UNESCO world heritage sites in Iran but is also mindful*

*of the human suffering and economic and security losses being inflicted in countries between Iran and Israel. It suggests actions that peace activists can take to counter this disastrous war.*

### **Contents**

- \* This War Must End
- \* The Bombing of ‘Half the World’, by Paul Barker
- \* UNESCO’s Nightmare, and Mine: Losing Our World Heritage, by Carolyn Yale
- \* No Funding for Trump’s Unconstitutional War on Iran, letter
- \* PCIA Board Statement on US-Israel-Iran War
- \* **John Limbert Interviews**
  - [\*Epic Fury Day 2, Newsmax, 2026/3/2\*](#)
  - [\*Day 6 of Israel-US-Iran War, Newsmax, 2026/3/6\*](#)
  - [\*Mojtaba Khamenei Named as Supreme Leader, Newsmax, 2026/3/7\*](#)
  - [\*Centcom: 7<sup>th</sup> US Service Member Killed, Newsmax, 2026/3/8\*](#)
- \* War Damage
- \* Why This War?
- \* How Can This War End?
- \* Nuclear Concerns
- \* History

Read the complete issue by clicking [HERE](#).

### **APRIL 7 SPECIAL EDITION ADVOCACY BULLETIN**

By Paul Barker, Editor of PCIA Advocacy Bulletin

This edition of the Advocacy Bulletin coincides with the day that Donald J. Trump promised to destroy all of the bridges, power plants, and energy infrastructure of Iran. If he does, Iran can be expected to unleash its still significant reserves of drones and missiles against energy and other infrastructure in Israel and across most countries surrounding the Persian Gulf. The damage to all countries involved in the war will be devastating and long-lasting.

**Read the complete Advocacy Bulletin complete with links to late breaking news and commentary by clicking [HERE](#).**

For President Masoud Pezeshkian’s message to the American public, go to :

[https://open.substack.com/pub/brianresists/p/iranian-president-letter-to-americans?r=6rt49&utm\\_medium=ios](https://open.substack.com/pub/brianresists/p/iranian-president-letter-to-americans?r=6rt49&utm_medium=ios)





Photo by Arash Khamooshi for Strikes on Iran Damage Cultural Heritage Sites Infuriating Iranians by Farnaz Fassihi in *New York Times*, 03/11/2026.

### **Golestan Palace—Tehran, March 6, 2026**

By Carolyn Yale (Shiraz, 1974-76)



*Note: Israeli and American airstrikes beginning in early March 2026 severely damaged the Golestan Palace in central Tehran. This was a matter of the ‘collateral damage’ due to proximity to the target. We have seen the civilian casualties in so-called targeted strikes, but there is also damage or even destruction of cultural sites. Iran ranks high among countries with UNESCO World Heritage sites. Some are relatively distant from cities, but others (e.g. mosques) are, by their very nature, centrally located in populated areas. Golestan Palace, now a museum, is one of the UNESCO sites at risk if war continues in Iran, as well as in other countries in the region.*

The shards of broken memories  
are scattered underfoot,  
strewn across a carpet of dreams  
like a million bright jewels.  
The glass has been blasted from its frame,  
the high windows blown out and open to wind.

There is no key to remap the ancient colors.  
A monstrous thing,  
this unsheltering blow.

And the ruler's stolen crown  
with no original owner  
usurped and claimed,  
again usurped  
throughout aborted histories --  
once more lost in the onslaught!

Surviving memories are disproved  
and rewritten,  
harmonies forgotten, drowned out  
by the latest drumbeat,  
battle shot and roar. Smoke  
rises dark and smothers the sun.

The naked palace windows  
have lost their purpose.  
None can assemble in a ruined hall.  
Gone are the faces in 1000 mirrors  
and the fragile light they saw  
through tinted glass.

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### The Dark Company We Keep

The US attacks on Iran's cultural heritage prompted this stark reflection from **Thomas Huf** (Babolsar, Saari, Mashhad, 1967-71) and was echoed by **Paul Barker** in his article "The Bombing of Half the World" in the March Special Edition of the *Advocacy Bulletin*.

- ISIS for their bombing and destruction of much of pre-Christian Roman Palmyra in Syria
- Taliban for dynamiting the ancient Bhuddas in the Bamian Valley of Afghanistan
- British military, with American participation, for total destruction of historic Dresden after D-Day at the close of WWII when the Nazis had already lost
- British colonialists for their Opium Wars era senseless and retributive burning of the priceless Yellow Palace in China because China had stopped buying British opium

### Paul Barker Featured in Podcast Interview

Christopher Wurst, Producer & Host of *SoftPower/FulStories*, recently interviewed Paul Barker about his experiences in Iran as a Peace Corps Volunteer and tourist. You can listen to this interview at one of the following links:



Website (with photos): <https://www.softpowerfulstories.org/32-paul-barker-iran/>

Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/32-paul-barker-iran/id1819358728?i=1000757646845>

YouTube: [https://youtu.be/cfLoGgb4BbA?si=n0\\_TUB2xR8dZDXot](https://youtu.be/cfLoGgb4BbA?si=n0_TUB2xR8dZDXot)

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1wRRJUrdkhQpgshVwsk6EA?si=676947cf7af24826>

### Khonsar

By Kerry Segel (Khonsar, 1969-71)



Since 2020, I have been writing in the *KhabarNameh* about my Peace Corps mentor and life-long friend Mr./Dr. M.H. Tasbihi. I began by summarizing essays from the *Khonsar Nameh* about several adventures he and I had while we were both teaching at Dariyani High School in Khonsar, Iran, in 1969 and 1970. These essays were unknown to me until the fall of 2019, at which time I decided to provide English language summaries for the *Khaba Nameh*.

Next, I turned to summarizing the first of his travelogs, *Az Khonsar ta Shiraz*, in which he describes in great detail his 1969 summer trip to Shiraz for a high school Persian teacher congress.

The summer following his trip to Shiraz, he participated in another workshop, this time for high school English teachers, a curious fact in and of itself. Like his previous travelog, his essays first appeared in the *Farda* newspaper, then as a book under the title *Az Khonsar ta Khorasan*. I plan to provide English language summaries of this travelog as I did with *Az Khonsar ta Shiraz*. The major difference is that, as *KhabarNameh* will no longer exist by the time I begin my writing, I will be using a different outlet for my articles.

If you are interested in continuing to read about Tasbihi's adventures, please send me a brief email with your preferred email address at: [Kerry.segell@gmail.com](mailto:Kerry.segell@gmail.com). Once the venue has been determined, I will notify you.

P.S. In 1970, Tasbihi is given a position as librarian at the Iran Cultural Center in Pakistan. His essays continue as a collection in the multiple series entitled *Pakistanology*. Like his previous works, apart from introductory comments, they too are written in Persian. Lots for me to write about!

## AYA MIDANASTID?

By “Rom Rom”

### Reza Shah Pahlavi and His Impact on Iran



Reza Shah Pahlavi was the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty and ruled Iran from 1925 to 1941. During his reign, he worked to modernize the country and strengthen the central government. He built a national army, improved roads and communications, and created many new schools and hospitals. One of his biggest projects was the Trans-Iranian Railway, which connected the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea and helped trade and travel across the country. He also established modern courts and reduced the power of religious courts, aiming to build a more modern state system.

Reza Shah also introduced social reforms. He promoted modern education, founded the University of Tehran in 1934, and encouraged women to participate more in society. In 1936, he banned the wearing of the veil in public as part of his push toward modernization, although this policy was controversial.

Before his time, Iran had suffered major territorial losses during the Qajar era, including the Treaty of Turkmenchay. This treaty ended a war with the Russian Empire and forced Iran to give up large parts of the Caucasus, including areas that are today Armenia and Azerbaijan. Many Iranian nationalists later saw this treaty as a symbol of foreign pressure on Iran. Reza Shah’s policies aimed to restore national strength and independence so the country would not face such humiliating agreements again.



Although his rule was authoritarian, his era marked a major turning point in building modern infrastructure, education, and national institutions in Iran.



This, as well as the other images of tile motifs that appear in this issue, are copied from the Yadegari booklet that was available to attendees at the October 2025 Washington DC conference. To order copies, please contact Brad Hanson at [hansbrad@gmail.com](mailto:hansbrad@gmail.com) or Joan Gaughan at [allgaughan@yahoo.com](mailto:allgaughan@yahoo.com). Or you can download a PDF version by clicking [HERE](#).



## NEMA-ye NAZDIK

Reviewed by David Devine (Zahedan, 1971-73)

Unlike last year, no Iranian film won an Oscar in 2026. Two movies, however, were nominated. The first was Jafar Panahi's *It Was Just an Accident* that was a finalist in both the Best International Feature Film category as well as for the Best Original Screenplay. It's an interesting movie that combines drama, comedy, and tension to make its poignant point.

The other nominated movie was the real life story, *Cutting Through Rocks*, by filmmakers Mohammadreza Eyni and Sara Khaki. The official logline of the movie reads: "The documentary follows Sara Shahverdi, the first elected councilwoman of a remote Iranian village. 'Sara Shahverdi fearlessly breaks patriarchal traditions by training teenage girls to ride motorcycles and stopping child marriages. When accusations arise questioning Sara's intentions to empower the girls, her identity is put in turmoil.'"

While these films didn't win, the book *The Teacher of Nomad Land: A World War II Story* by Iranian-American author Daniel Nayeri was the winner of the 2025 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. According to one review, the book is "set in 1941 Iran, [and] 13-year-old Babak attempts to become a teacher following the sudden death of his father. Nayeri said that often the first sentence one learns in Farsi is 'father gave water' and 'father gave bread.' He believes it is "a reflection that what we need most in this life was given to us and given to us freely."

## BOOKS, BOOKS

*King of Kings* by Scott Anderson, Doubleday, 2025, 424 pages. Reviewed by David Devine, (Zahedan 1971-73).

These occasional book reviews conclude with where it began for all of us—with the Shahanshah.

*King of Kings* is deeply researched and well written. But it focuses almost exclusively on who lost Iran, not on who won it. For more on that subject, see Robin Wright's 2001 book, *The Last Great Revolution*.

Having interviewed numerous involved people, including RPCV Michael Metrisko, Anderson takes a deep look back at both the indecisive shah and the vacillating administration of President Jimmy Carter. Some of the material, however, seemed to be excess filler, not necessary to the storyline.

The book only lightly touches on the numerous causes of the Revolution—religious, economic, SAVAK, political, and budgetary. It delves much more into the isolating cocoon that both the

shah and the American Embassy and administration wove for themselves. Plus, it only hints at the religious governing philosophy that the revolution was based upon. Thus, it turns out to be an in-depth look at an already somewhat familiar topic.

In the end, as the book points out, the success of the Iranian Revolution may have come down to a basic difference between Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and Ruhollah Khomeini. Shortly before his fall, the former said: “I do not intend to murder the youth of my nation in order to rule it.” The latter, and those who followed him, obviously had no such qualms.

*Guardians of the Trees: A Journey of Hope Through Healing the Planet*, by Kinari Webb, New York: Flatiron Books [a Macmillan imprint], 2021. Reviewed by Bill Brandon (Shiraz, 1964-66)

This memoir by Kinari Webb, MD, daughter of Iran PCV Timothy Thomas (Group V, 1964-66), is an account of Webb’s discovery of the fundamental link between the need for clinical health



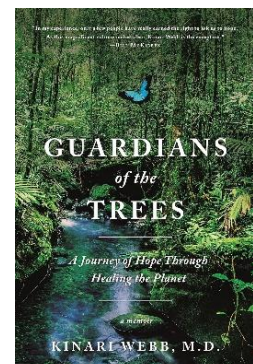
services and the survival of primordial rain forests. During an undergraduate year studying orangutans in a remote rainforest in Borneo and a post-graduation gap year at an Indonesian hospital’s village health program, she began to understand that largely subsistence households would have no need to cut down ancient trees for the export market if they did not periodically face the unpredictable and impossibly large costs of modern health care. The insight that human health and ecosystem health are inseparably intertwined guided her life

for the next three decades.

She went on to Yale Medical School followed by a family medicine residency, cut short by a return to Indonesia as one of the few Indonesian-speaking American physicians responding to the 2004 tsunami disaster. In often difficult circumstances, she then spent years working to realize her dream of a medical clinic that provided affordable and easily accessible care in the villages near a gigantic national park threatened by illegal logging. By attending to what are now termed “the social determinants of health” this project became a broad indigenous public health and socio-economic engine for improving village life and protecting the primal integrity of an important tropical rainforest—one of “the lungs of the earth.”

To make that vision a reality required founding a global philanthropy, Health in Harmony, which now has projects to protect rainforests in Madagascar, Brazil and collaborations with villages in Panama as well as expanding the program in Indonesia. In 2024, Health in Harmony had revenues of 8 million dollars; only 16 percent was spent on fundraising, management, and administration with the rest going to provide services.

The book is something of a page-turner, including an encounter with the usually fatal box-jellyfish that left Kinari disabled, a love story, and a



spiritual journey. But it is also a useful case study of building an Indonesian non-profit run by Indonesians as Kinari strives to distance herself from the work that had been her life for so many years.

### **DOOREH-ye KETAAB**



The last Dooreh will meet on Wednesday, May 13, and is open to anyone who is interested. We meet at 5 pm PST/8 pm EST. To receive the Zoom link, contact [doug@peacecorpsiran.org](mailto:doug@peacecorpsiran.org). We will be discussing *Iran's Grand Strategy: A Political History*, by [Vali Nasr](#), 2025. Vali Nasr will join us. (See David Devine's review, December 2025 *KhabarNameh*, page 16.)

### **FROM THE ASHPAZ KHANAE**

By Chef Babri

#### **Sabzi Polo for Nowruz**

One of the most beloved dishes for Nowruz is Sabzi Polo, a fragrant rice dish filled with fresh green herbs. The word *sabzi* means “greens or herbs,” and *polo* means rice. Traditionally it is served with fish at the Persian New Year because the green herbs symbolize spring and rebirth, while the fish represents life and movement.



#### **Ingredients**

- 2 cups basmati rice
- 1 cup chopped parsley
- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- 1 cup chopped dill
- ½ cup chopped green onions or chives
- 4–6 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons dried fenugreek (optional)
- 3 tablespoons oil or butter
- Salt
- Pinch of saffron (optional)

### **How to Make It**

1. Wash the rice several times until the water runs clear, then soak it in salted water for about 30 minutes.
2. Boil the rice in salted water for about 6–7 minutes until it is slightly tender. Drain it.
3. Mix the chopped herbs and garlic together—this is what gives Sabzi Polo its bright green color and amazing aroma.
4. Add oil or butter to the bottom of a pot and layer the rice and herb mixture.
5. Cover the pot with a lid wrapped in a towel and steam on low heat for about 30–40 minutes. This creates the famous crispy bottom layer called *tahdig*.
6. Fluff the rice gently and serve it with fried or baked fish.
7. The result? A fluffy, fragrant rice full of fresh herbs and garlic—perfect next to golden fish on the Nowruz table. It tastes like spring on a plate!

### **KOJA MIRIM?**

By Joan Gaughan (Rasht/Lahijan, 1964-66)

Yes, the PCIA is closing its doors as of June 30, but as Chuck Kaminski has pointed out, the community it fostered does not end. Or, as a certain beloved baseball player from New York once put it, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” And it’s not quite over.

**John Krauskopf** with support from **Rea Keech** is working on another anthology of our stories which is tentatively scheduled to come out under PCIA sponsorship by June 30. If you have anything you want to be included in that anthology, it must reach John by the end of this month. His email address is: [jkrauskopf7@comcast.net](mailto:jkrauskopf7@comcast.net). If you miss that date, however, two other avenues are available.

One of these is **Peace Corps Connect+**. Your story can be published here and will not only keep you connected with other members of the Peace Corps Iran community but will expand the reach it would have received beyond the *KhabarNameh*. If you haven’t already seen Jeanette Gottlieb’s *From the Field*, these are the directions she gives:

1. Go to [Log in | Peace Corps Connect+ by NPCA](#) and join Peace Corps Connect.
2. You may need to create an account if you do not already have one.
3. Once the Peace Corps Connect page opens, look for a row of tabs: “My Activity,” “My Events,” “My Groups,” and “My Account.”
4. Click on “My Groups” and search for “Iran RPCVs” and click on “Join.”

5. After you click on “Join,” the administrator may need to approve you before you have full access to the discussions and postings. Be patient. You will receive an email confirmation that you have been approved.

Another platform for your stories, your poetry, your literary, scientific, political, social and community interests, research and travel adventures, and articles about not only Iran but other geographic areas as well, may be on **Substack**. The domain name, **Maidan**, suggests a marketplace for a variety of submissions. **Details on how to use Substack will be available in the next issue of the *KhabarNameh*.**

**Marcia Franklin**, a producer and host at Idaho Public Television, is considering opening a new book discussion group to replace the *Dooreh-ye Ketaab*. While not a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, she has long been a supporter of the Peace Corps Iran Association. You may remember her from PCIA’s October 2025 conference, where she hosted the events on our last evening together. She invites your thoughts on what you would like to see in such a group by contacting her at: [marciajfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:marciajfranklin@gmail.com).

Over the years, many of you have not only enjoyed the PCIA publications, the *Advocacy Bulletin*, *From the Field*, *Dooreh*, and the *KhabarNameh*, but you have also contributed to them. You have also benefitted from the information on our website. NONE OF THAT IS BEING LOST. It is being archived at American University where it is available to researchers and former PCIA members. However, as Bill Brandon points out in the following article, other materials, including earlier newsletters, will also survive, possibly at the American University.

### **Treasures Found in Long-Forgotten Files**

By Bill Brandon (Shiraz, 1964-66)

In her letter to the *Iran Peace Corps Association Newsletter* (August 1989), **Barbara Engbretson** (Dusadj, 1970-71) expressed the frustration underlying efforts to maintain contact among those who shared our intense experiences so many years ago:



I don’t think many days go by when Peace Corps/Iran does not pass through my mind or come up in a conversation. When we first came home, not many friends or anyone for that matter could relate to the experience we had.

Notwithstanding the sense of isolation that she expressed, a trove of written materials discovered this year reveals that, before the creation of Peace Corps Iran Association (PCIA), considerable efforts had usually been made not only to maintain contact among Peace Corps Iran volunteers and staff, but also to organize an institutional base that could facilitate continued contact among them and

preserve information about the work they had done in Iran. Ironically, one of those efforts was the Iran Peace Corps Association in whose newsletter Ms. Engebretson's plaintive note appeared.

I have now catalogued those written materials and arranged them in eight separate categories with brief descriptions of the diverse items in each category. I then inserted them into a 3-ring binder protected by transparent plastic sheaths. That binder was made available for perusal at the last PCIA conference held in Washington this past October. On October 6, the day after the conference closed, I delivered the folder to the Archives of the American University for preservation as part of the Peace Corps Iran collection with the understanding that when the Archives staff have time to examine the materials, they may decide that some do not merit retaining.

When I found these materials, I had no memory of any early organizing efforts. However, Items V, VI, and VII, show that precursor organizations of both PCIA and the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) had been established by the second half of the 1980s. The note from **Joe Truskot** (Ardestan, 1972-74) in Item V, for instance, thanks me for joining both the Iran Peace Corps Association (IPCA) and the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (NCRPCV). In addition, he promises to send a piece explaining how Iran Peace Corps Association got started and mentions "our latest directory." At least three (four?) newsletters were published by the IPCA, but I could not find that history nor the directory of names that he mentioned.

I dimly remembered several pleasant conversations with Joe about donating to help with relief after a major earthquake in Iran. I did donate, but my understanding at the time was that transferring funds to Iran—even for earthquake relief—proved to be impossible. Therefore, the money raised remained in an account that ultimately went, not to the Iran Peace Corps Association but to NPCA when it was created.

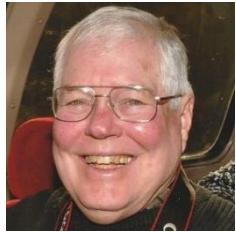
I hope that some or all documents in this collection will ultimately be digitized and available for access through the AU Archives' website. The rosters with biographical information provided by returned volunteers from 1971-1976, and the revised final account of the first NPCA-sponsored trip to Iran in 1999 seem particularly worth digitizing.

*Editor's note: In the original article, an "Annotated Table of Contents" is attached that describes the contents in each of the eight files.*



## HOW TO DONATE ARTIFACTS FROM YOUR PEACE CORPS IRAN EXPERIENCE

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



*As many of you are aware, our artifacts can and probably also should be donated to the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience. **Douglas Schermer** provides details on how that is done.*

While American University archives documents and photos, the Museum of The Peace Corps Experience collects and preserves stories and objects of material culture donated by volunteers who served in communities around the globe. It fosters cultural understanding through education and promotes research on the impact of Peace Corps, encouraging visitors to serve—wherever they live, however they can. For information on how to donate objects to the museum go to the Museum’s website <https://museumofthepeacecorpsexperience.org/contribute-to-the-collection> 1) Click on the “Objects” tab. Go to bottom of the page and click on “Gift an Object.” 2) That will take you to the Donor Request form, which should be completed and submitted. Photographs (required) of the object(s) should be attached to that form. 3) The form goes to the Collections Team Leader who then puts it on the agenda for the next Collections Team meeting (they meet once a month). The Leader contacts the donor. 4) The Collections Team considers the object(s) for the Museum’s collection. There is a complete policy on what the Team considers for a donation. (A summary of this policy is on the website under “Objects”.) 5) The Collections Team Leader emails the donor with the decision of the Team. 6) If the object is accepted, then the Team Leader emails a “Deed of Gift” form to be completed and the address of where to send the object(s). Correspondence at any phase is encouraged ([debbiemanager@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiemanager@yahoo.com)).

### IN MEMORIAM

By Genna Stead Wangsness (Shiraz, Tehran ,1965-1971)



**FRANKEL, Ira William**, died in Beaverton, Oregon, in late 2025. Raised in Pelham, New York, he attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he continued scientific work conducted during his high school years. For instance, in junior high he built equipment and passed the Federal Communications Commission’s tests to become an amateur radio operator and assigned a license with call sign W2WOH. Joining Peace Corps Iran in 1965, he taught at Pahlavi University, becoming fluent in Farsi. At the University of Oregon in Eugene, he met his wife

Linda and the two became a popular singing duo, since in addition to studying physics as a graduate student, his heart was with music, especially in the varied world of folk. In Portland, he was active in the Portland Folklore Society. Ira retained a lifelong interest in Persian culture and

food but was discouraged at the world's failure to get along and live more creatively with differences of belief, language, and cultural ways, often playing his guitar and singing a Persian song.



**RENO, Tom** passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at home. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. An ASU graduate, (1962) Tom served with the Peace Corps and taught English in Iran; an experience that broadened his worldview and fostered cultural understanding and compassion. When Tom returned home, he worked on the Navajo Reservation helping to facilitate the transition of school leadership from the BIA to the Rough Rock Demonstration School run by the Navajo Tribe. Tom went on to earn his doctorate at Michigan State which led to a career spanning fifty-eight years; dedicated to improving teaching and learning. Tom worked as a superintendent in Apache Junction and Yuma. He and his wife Vicki had three children together, Lucy, Fran, and Matt, who all followed their parents in the field of education. Tom and Vicki eventually divorced. He was lucky to find yet another wonderful woman, Jackie, whom he married. She and her young son, Michael, joined Tom in Tempe and his family grew. Tom and Jackie built a wonderful life together, celebrating nearly fifty years of marriage. Tom became an associate superintendent at the State Department of Education and, years later, he joined the faculty at NAU as a professor, then as the Executive Director of NAU-Mojave. Tom continued working with graduate students online as an NAU Professor Emeritus. An avid hiker, Tom conquered both the Havasupai Trail and the Grand Canyon "Rim to Rim". He never missed the annual Turkey Trot in Havasu. He was a big fan of ASU football. Tom was also a spiritual person; he and Jackie faithfully attended Mass together throughout his life. Tom is survived by his beautiful wife, Jackie, his four children and six grandchildren. Services will be private. In memory of Tom, please participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's or make a donation to the Peace Corps.



**TIPPLE, Emma Louise**, 86, of Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 4, 2025. Born in 1939, Emma received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and served proudly as a nurse in the US Navy for two years. In 1964, Emma married Ronald Tipple and they served with TEFL 6 in Kazeroon from 1965-1967. (Emma had lived in Iran with her parents when she was young.) Post Peace Corps, she continued her nursing career at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan and at Morningside Health Services. Married for sixty happy years, she and Ron loved raising their two sons and traveling. Survivors include Ron and

their sons Kevin Tipple of Madison and Scott (Cathy) Tipple of Sheboygan, grandchildren Alan and Julia, and other family members.



**ZIMMERMAN, Margot Lurie**, died peacefully on January 8, 2026, in Skillman, New Jersey. Born in Pennsylvania in 1935, Margot graduated from Cornell University in 1956 and married Paul Zimmerman, a Yale Law School student. She taught social studies and English while Paul was with the US Army. In 1966, they moved to Bangalore, India, when Paul became a US Peace Corps regional director. There, Margot volunteered at an orphanage, marking the beginning of a four-decade career in family planning and public health. Following Paul’s service as Peace Corps Iran’s director from 1968 to 1971, Margot had a

long career that included director of the DC office of the Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology (later renamed PATH). Her last position was director of PATH’s office in Nairobi, Kenya. She and Paul loved to collect art collected during their travels, and in 2017 they returned to Iran for a visit. Margot’s survivors include their three children, Jeffrey, Jonathan, and Julie and their spouses, and great grandson Zachary. She is remembered for her commitment to make the world a more just and fairer place, especially for women and girls.

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College students gather at the tomb of Hafez in Shiraz in 2014. Photo by Doug Schermer

**BANI ADAM**

From Sa'adi's *Golestan*

ریای امدم ینب دنار ر  
دنهوگ ر و شنررفم رد هک  
راگور دروم درد هب بوی وچ  
رار دن اقرن ار اهوی رگد  
یقغ ینب نارگرد گندق وک وت  
یقدم دنهن گقان هک دراشن

**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.

Translated by Dick Davis



Photos from left right are courtesy of Gregg Lowery, Joe Truskot and Gregg Lowrey. All are also included in the Yadegari booklet.