



# DĀNESH Newsletter

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Spring 2011

## DĀNESH CONFERENCES

On November 5, 2010, in partnership with the Indiana University School of Social Work and the International Interfaith Initiative, DĀNESH participated in the sponsorship of a conference entitled Interfaith Peace Building: Global and Local Perspectives. Held in Indianapolis, the conference included several presentations by speakers from the United States and abroad. One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation by Dr. Yahya Kamalipour entitled Interfaith Peace Building: An Iranian-American Perspective. This presentation along with a summary of others will appear in the forthcoming Proceedings to be published by DĀNESH. The next DĀNESH conference will be announced later.

## DĀNESH ELECTIONS

It is with pleasure to announce the election of the 2011-2014 DĀNESH officers and at-large members of the Board of Directors. Elected members of the new Board are as follows:

Irene Queiro-Tajalli, President  
Sara Allaei, Treasurer  
Ebrahim Fakouri  
Mitra Fallahi  
Mary E. Hegland  
Patricia J. Higgins  
Yahya R. Kamalipour  
Sholeh Shahrokhi  
John Walbridge

Congratulations and best wishes to the elected officers and at-large members of the new Board. We also want to express our appreciation to Ali Akbar Mahdi and Kazem Tehrani, the two outgoing members of the last Board. Dr. Mahdi had served since almost the beginning of DĀNESH. In addition to his many valuable contributions, on several occasions, he had been invited to make keynote presentations at

DĀNESH conferences. With his central leadership in the Portland, Oregon Iranian community, Dr. Tehrani had served DĀNESH as the liaison with that community. To Drs. Mahdi and Tehrani, we express our sincere gratitude for their loyalty and many contributions. They have our very best wishes for their future endeavors, and we look forward to their future participation as members of DĀNESH.

Members of the 2011 Elections Committee included Nahid Shahnavaaz (Chair) and Mohammad Kaviani. We owe them our genuine appreciation for their expedience and effectiveness throughout the election process.

## MESSAGE FROM DĀNESH PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Spring issue of DĀNESH Newsletter. In this brief message, I would like to share my feelings of joy in anticipation of Nourooz and the delight it brings to our lives with its wonderful traditions, from bonfires to Haft-Seen and Sizdah Bedar, and the reminder of my favorite concept of Nourooz "in harmony

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with the rebirth of nature.” Along with this joyous feeling is that of apprehension considering the difficult times we are all going through due to a tough economy, diminishing labor rights, world unrest, and the fury of nature with earthquakes and tsunamis. In spite of all these adversities, our members continue their commitment to excellence in scholarship and contributions to society.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank Dr. Akbar Mahdi and Dr. Kazem Tehrani, who have retired from the board after extensive years of service to DĀNESH. They will be missed. Our newly elected board members are Dr. Mitra Fallahi and Dr. Sholeh Shahrokhi. We welcome you all to the Board. My thanks to Mr. Mohammad Kaviani and Dr. Nahid Shahnavaaz who served as members of the Elections Committee, with Dr. Cyrus Behroozi as its at-large member.

Our partnership with the IU School of Social Work and the International Interfaith Initiative in conducting the 2010 annual conference proved to be a successful undertaking. The conference was well attended and the feedback was extremely positive. As mentioned in the last newsletter, one of the goals of the conference was to encourage further dialogue about the role of interfaith collaborations in promoting world peace, and indeed, the presenters provided diverse worldviews and the energy to continue the dialogue. I hope you enjoy the proceedings included with this newsletter.

As the newly elected Board of Directors starts its work, we will keep you abreast of the plans for this year. Please keep in touch and send us your suggestions. Let the spirit of Nourooz be with us throughout the year.

Irene Queiro-Tajalli

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

**Dr. Mitra Fallahi** has published two articles in 2010. Her latest article is “Complexity of Teaching Middle School Students: Focusing on Characteristics of Middle School Students that May Enhance Positive Interactions between Teachers and Students,” Critical Issues in Teacher Education, 2010.

**Dr. Mary E. Hegland** has been serving on the editorial board of Anthropology of Middle East. Several of her articles have been published in this journal, including those on ethnographic field work in Iran, Iranian elderly, and Tajikistan women. A forthcoming special issue of the journal is to focus on Iranian-Americans. Dr. Hegland is also serving on the advisory board for the Persian and Iranian-American Studies Initiative under the leadership of Dr. Persis Karim at San Jose State University.

The 5th Global Communication Association (GCA) conference, Global Power Shifts: Impact on Economy, Politics, Culture, and Media, is scheduled for October 18-20, 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Dr. Yahya Kamalipour** is the founder and chair of GCA.

**Dr. Khadija Khaja** has been honored as one of this year's recipients of the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Awards. In addition, with Dr. Irene Queiro-Tajalli and two others, Dr. Khaja has co-authored an article, “Experiences of Muslims in Four Countries Post-9/11,” in Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work, 2010.

In 2010, **Dr. Bruno Nettl** published a book, Nettl's Elephant: On the History of Ethnomusicology, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2010, which has frequent mention of his experience studying Persian music. This coming April, Dr. Nettl will have a short residence at the University of North Texas School of Music and give a number of talks, two of them devoted to Persian classical music.

Dr. Nettl also reports that Dr. Hormoz Farhat is scheduled to visit the University of Illinois at Urbana. He is a distinguished Iranian musicologist, educator, and composer. Dr. Farhat is to make a presentation, *Traditional Elements in Contemporary Persian Music*, on April 18, 2011 at 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Dr. Nettl at [b-nettl@uiuc.edu](mailto:b-nettl@uiuc.edu).

**Dr. Irene Queiro-Tajalli** has written a book chapter entitled "In Search of Economic and Social Justice: The Piquetero Movement in Argentina," published in W. J. Mello and T. Iverson (Eds.), *Trabalhadores, Novas Perspectivas e Comparacoes*. Brazil: University Press of Ceara (EDUCE), 2010. With Dr. Khaja, Dr. Queiro-Tajalli has also authored a paper, "Emerging Issues in Undergraduate Education: Constructing Multicultural Curriculum for Displaced Older Muslims," accepted for presentation at the 2011 Annual Program Meeting of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors.

Recently, **Dr. Reza Varjavand** published several articles in OpEd news, an electronic journal. These include "Incentivising Religion," "Blind Adherence to Free Market Ideology May No Longer Serve Us Well," and "Are We in This Together?" Focusing on the skewed income distribution in the United States, the last article is especially timely.

**Dr. John Walbridge**, Indiana University, has recently published *God and Logic in Islam: The Caliphate of Reason* (Cambridge University Press) on the role of reason and rationalism in Islamic intellectual history. He has also been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship for 2011-12 to translate two of Suhrawardi's philosophical works.

## STUDIES ON IRANIAN-AMERICANS

### Project Zendegi

Dr. Maryam Kia-Keating reports that this project is a research study aiming to better understand the lives of young adults of Iranian descent living in the United States and Canada. Iranian

immigrants are among the least studied and least understood cultural minority groups, despite the growing number of Iranian-Americans and -Canadians. The project includes 217 (44% males, 56% females) participants between ages 18 and 25, the majority (60%) of whom were born in the U.S., but also, 39% of whom immigrated (mostly born in Iran). Project Zendegi examines challenges such as discrimination, stress, and mental health as well as strengths such as cultural emphases on education, family support, and connection to both old and new cultures. Preliminary results were presented at the 2010 annual American Psychological Association convention, at a symposium entitled "Examining the experiences of Iranian American youth: An ecological approach." If you would like further information please visit [www.kiakeating.com](http://www.kiakeating.com) or email [projectzendegi@gmail.com](mailto:projectzendegi@gmail.com).

### Success(ion): Second-Generation Iranian-Americans\*

Published in *Iranian Studies*, January 2011, this study was conducted by Mehdi Bozorgmehr and Daniel Douglas. The study is the first consideration of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the second generation of Iranian-Americans. It uses the 2005-2007 merged data set from the United States Census in the American Community Survey. The major findings of the study indicate: (a) a preliminary continuation of economic and educational success from the first- to the second-generation Iranian-Americans; and (b) the balance of this success across the gender lines in the second generation. In terms of educational and employment success, females had significantly closed the gap in relation to their male counterparts. The study concludes that, given the youth of the second generation, a definitive assessment of the intergenerational mobility among Iranian-Americans is premature. However, considering its initial achievement, an upward mobility of this generation should be expected.

\*This summary of the article's online abstract is cited with permission of the publisher.

## BOOK REPORT

Robin Wright (Editor). The Iran Primer: Power, Politics, and U.S. Policy. United States Institute of Peace Press in Collaboration with Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2010.

This remarkable book is the result of a project bringing together experts on Iran as well as a number of younger scholars. The editor, Robin Wright, is an internationally recognized and renowned author, journalist, and foreign policy analyst. In addition to an introduction, the book includes nine sections. Each section covers a number of papers. The sections are titled Iran's Politics, The Opposition, The Iranian Military, The Nuclear Controversy, Iran's Economy, Sanctions, U.S.-Iran, Iran and the Region, and Policy Considerations. A summary of the book printed on its back cover is as follows:\*

Since Iran's 1979 revolution, the West has struggled to understand what drives the Islamic Republic and how to deal with it. Difficult to engage yet impossible to ignore, Iran presents the world's most complex foreign policy dilemma. The Iran Primer offers a comprehensive but concise overview of Iran's politics, economy, military, foreign policy, and nuclear program. It chronicles U.S.-Iran relations under six American presidents and probes five options for dealing with Iran. Organized thematically, this book provides top-level briefings by 50 experts on Iran (both Middle Eastern and Western authors) as well as a handful of rising talents. It provides hard factual information for ready reference, thoughtful analysis, and context.

\*Reprinted with permission of the Endowment of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reza Aslan. Tablet and Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East. W. W. Norton, 2011.

Dominic Brookshaw and Nasrin Rahimieh (Eds.). Forough Farrokhzad: Poet of Modern Iran. I. B. Tauris, 2011.

Jasmin Darznick. The Good Daughter: A Memoir of My Mother's Hidden Life. Grand Central Publishing, 2011.

Haleh Esfandiari. My Prison, My Home: One Woman's Story of Captivity in Iran. Ecco, 2009.

Laura Fitzgerald. Dreaming in English. NAL Trade, 2011.

John W. Limbert. Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History. United States Institute of Peace Press, 2009.

Hooman Majd. The Ayatollahs' Democracy: An Iranian Challenge. W. W. Norton, 2010.

Scott Peterson. Let the Swords Encircle Me: Iran--A Journey Behind the Headlines. Simon and Schuster, 2010.

William R. Polk. Understanding Iran: Everything You Need to Know, from Persia to the Islamic Republic; from Cyrus to Ahmadinejad. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Robin Wright (Ed.). The Iran Primer: Power, Politics, and U.S. Policy. The United States Institute of Peace Press & Woodrow Wilson International Center of Scholars, 2010.