



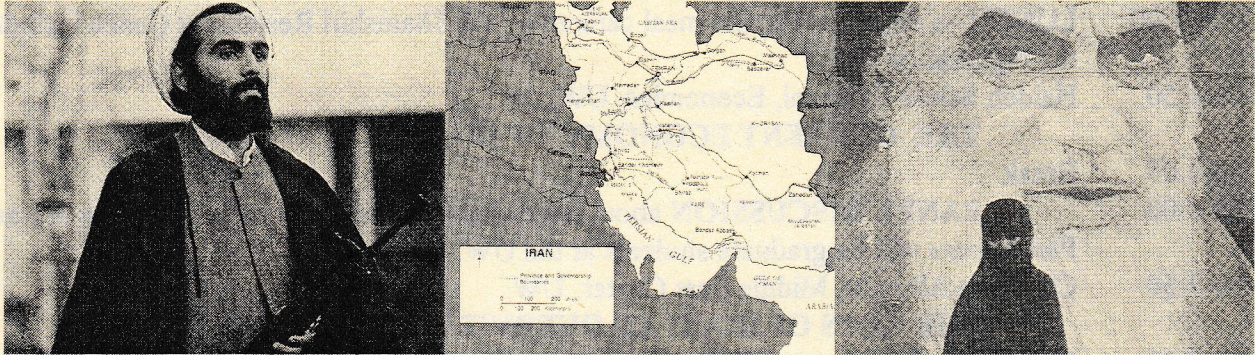
Middle East Newsletter

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September, 1995

MIDDLE EAST CENTER TO PRESENT SEMINAR ON IRAN



The Middle East Center's annual seminar will feature Iran this Saturday, September 30, 1995. Iran has not been in the headlines in the past several months, so the following paragraphs are to remind readers why we would want to present such a seminar:

In the mid-1970s Iran was viewed as one of a handful of countries in the Middle East that might ever look forward to long-term economic growth. It was blessed with oil in a large country with diverse geography including agricultural lands almost capable of feeding its population. Skilled laborers and competent technicians could be called upon to assist in the development of an already adequate infrastructure. Iran's southern border was close to all the major oil fields in the Middle East which are not already in Iran, and its northern border was shared with the Soviet Union.

These facts made Iran a key player in U.S. foreign policy in the region. After World War II, the U.S. had worked with Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, to make Iran a bulwark against the perceived threat of communism and to protect our access to oil in the Persian Gulf. Unfortunately, our support of the Shah gradually alienated many Iranians, who disliked the monarch and his increasingly repressive government. After the Shah's fall in 1979, Iran's relations with the U.S. soured, particularly after the Iranian seizure of the American embassy in Tehran. In the 1980s the U.S. government saw Iran as the epicenter of a general Islamic threat to U.S. interests in the Middle East and elsewhere. Our suspicion of Iran did not diminish even after Ayatollah Khomeini's death in 1989. Finally, last spring, President Clinton issued an executive order banning trade between Americans and Iranians. Many scholars and foreign policy gurus decried this decision, saying it was sending the wrong message to Iran, and would only play into the hands of hardliners there.

Mark September 30 on your calendar now and plan to attend this seminar on **TWENTIETH CENTURY IRAN: ISLAM, WESTERNIZATION, REVOLUTION**. We can use our twenty-twenty hindsight to examine some of the details of Iran's immediate past history and test our foresight in discussing the present and predicting what the future will bring to this pivotal Middle Eastern nation and U.S. relations with it.

TWENTIETH CENTURY IRAN: ISLAM, WESTERNIZATION, REVOLUTION PROGRAM

8:30-9:00 am Registration. Coffee and rolls.

9:00-9:50 Nader Nazemi, International Studies, UW.

IRANIAN STATE AND SOCIETY IN REVOLUTION AND WAR.

- 9:50-10:50 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Homa Sarshar, Iranian Women's Studies Foundation.
WOMEN IN IRAN: THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL
- 10:50-11:10 Break
- 11:10-12:00 Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, UW.
CONTEMPORARY PERSIAN POETRY: A FAREWELL TO THE PAST
- 12:00-1:00 LUNCH--a delicious Persian meal catered by the Shamshiri Restaurant (lunch included in the registration fee)
- 1:00-1:50 Haideh Salehi-Esfahani, Economics, UW.
THE CURRENT ECONOMY OF IRAN.
- 1:50-2:05 Break
- 2:05-3:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** about the current political and social situation in Iran.
 Participants will be graduate students at the UW.
- 3:00-3:50 Charlotte Albright, Middle East Center, UW.
THE ARTS OF IRAN: AN OVERVIEW.
- 3:50-4:10 Wrap-up and Evaluation

Speakers:

Nader Nazemi received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the UW. He has taught at WSU and is a lecturer this year at the UW.

Homa Sarshar is President of the West Coast branch of the Iranian Women's Studies Foundation. She has been concerned with Iranian women's issues both in Iran in the 1960s and 1970s and in the U.S. since the revolution in Iran. In Iran she worked as a journalist and a TV and radio producer, director, and talk-show host. In the U.S. she has written extensively on women in works such as her book *In the Back Alleys of Exile* and in several articles, such as "Iranian Women's Image in Iranian Culture," "Women and Family in Iran and Abroad," and "Women and Politics in Contemporary Iran."

Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak is the Professor of Persian in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the UW. One of his specialties is modern Persian literature and, since the revolution in Iran, Iranian writers in exile. His works include a book, *An Anthology of Modern Persian Poetry*, and several articles including "Revolutionary Posturing: Iranian Writers and the Iranian Revolution" and "A Storyteller and His Times: 'Ali-Akbar Sa'idi-Sirjani of Iran." A forthcoming book is *Recasting Persian Poetry: Scenarios of Poetic Modernity in Iran*.

Haideh Salehi-Esfahani is a Lecturer in Economics at the UW. She travels widely in Asia and has spent part of the last two summer in Iran, seeing how the Iranian economy works first hand.

Charlotte Albright is the Assistant Director of the Middle East, where she has worked since 1977. Her main area of academic expertise is Iranian music. Aside from articles on Iranian music, she edited *Iran: A Precollegiate Handbook*, a set of teaching units on Iran in 1992.

A note about our caterer: Mr. Bahman Behmanesh, owner of the Shamshiri Restaurant, will prepare a wonderful lunch for this seminar. It will include hors d'oeuvres of eggplant borani and green salad, a main course of chicken and beef kebabs, white rice, rice with broad beans, a stew with eggplant, a dish with lentils, bread, and dessert!

To register for this seminar, fill out the form below and mail it to the Middle East Center, c/o the address on page 1. The cost is a remarkably low \$25.

NEW DIRECTORS AT JSIS

The Jackson School of International Studies (JSIS), where the Middle East Center resides, underwent several administrative changes in the past months. Jere Bacharach, who served as Director of the Middle East Center for over 10 years, has become the Director of JSIS. As of August 1 Ellis Goldberg, Associate Professor of Political Science, UW was named Director of the Middle East Center. Professor Goldberg specializes in the study of the Arab world. In addition, Resat Kasaba, also a Middle East specialist, has become the Director of the International Studies Center, the largest unit (with approximately 100 undergraduate students) in JSIS. Congratulations to all!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 19 Professor Gad Gilbar, a noted historian from the University of Haifa, will speak on **THE MIDDLE EAST: FERTILITY POLICIES AND THEIR UNEXPECTED RESULTS.**

Time: 3:30-5:00 pm. Room to be announced. Please call 206-543-4227 in October for the room number.

Thursday, November 2 Writer Nahid Rachlin will give readings at both the University Bookstore 634-3400 (in the afternoon) and at the Elliott Bay Books 624-6600 (in the evening) from her latest book *The Heart's Desire*, a story about an American artist and her Iranian immigrant husband, who visit Iran shortly after the Iran-Iraq War.



MOSAICS PLANNED AGAIN THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

The Jackson School Outreach Programs will join forces again this year to bring you a series of one-day workshops aimed primarily at K-8 teachers, but open to anyone. The dates and topics for these workshops are:

November 4, 1995 Southeast Asia: The Island Cultures. Contact Maureen Jackson, 543-9606

February 3, 1996* Europe: East and West. Contact Kurt Engelmann, 543-4852

*tentative date

March 30 Islam Contact Maureen Haley Terada, 543-4800

April 27 Performing Arts Contact Mary Hammond Bernson, 543-1921

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE DINNERS

This popular lecture/dinner series will be back winter and spring of 1995. Eight of these events are scheduled for next year. A detailed program will be published soon.

REGIONAL MIDDLE EAST SEMINAR

Looking way ahead, the date for this year's Regional Middle East Seminar will be May 4, and it will take place at the UW in Seattle.

MESA IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) will take place in Washington, D.C., December 7-10. Approximately 2,000 people from all over the world, but primarily North America, will attend these scholarly meetings. At least ten people from the University of Washington will be among that number.

MORE NOTES ON NORTHWEST SCHOLARSHIP ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The following are two more (several were noted in the last issue of the *Newsletter*) articles written by scholars in this area about the Middle East:

Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak wrote "A Storyteller and His Times: 'Ali-Akbar Sa'idi-Sirjani of Iran," for the Summer, 1994, issue of *World Literature Today*. This article about a scholar and dissident in Iran turned out to be all too timely as Mr. Sa'idi-Sirjani died under suspicious circumstances in jail in Iran earlier this year.

Stephen Zunes, who has taught at Whitman College and currently operates the Institute for New Middle East Policy on Bainbridge Island, has published several articles, the latest of which is "The Israeli-Jordanian Peace agreement: Peace or Pax Americana?," in *Middle East Policy*, Vol. III, No. 2; Fall, 1994.

STUDY ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN TUNISIA

The Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) and the National Heritage Agency of Tunisia have arranged a six-week, college-level program focusing on archaeology and art history in Monastir, Tunisia. This course will take place from May 23-July 6 and will include visits to Tunis, Sousse, and Karouan. Deadline for application is April 1, 1996. Students will earn 6 credits. For further information, contact CIEE at 212-661-1414, FAX 212-972-3231, or email <info@ciee.org>. CIEE also has a web site at [HTTP://www.ciee.org/](http://www.ciee.org/).

NEW MATERIALS AT THE MEC

You may borrow these materials free of charge by contacting the Middle East Center c/o the address at the bottom of page 1, or by telephoning 206-543-4227, or by email <calbrigh@u.washington.edu>. You may also request a complete listing of MERC materials that we loan called the "Teaching Materials Resource Guide."

Audiovisual Materials:

A Dream of Justice and Freedom with Hanan Ashrawi. 52 min. VHS. Landmark Media, Inc. An in depth profile of a remarkable Palestinian woman who, among many other achievements, helped the Palestinian negotiating team "score a public-relations triumph" during the Madrid peace conference in 1991. She continues to work on Palestinian issues today. Secondary school level and older.

Fun With Hieroglyphs. Metropolitan Museum of Art. A set of 24 stamps of hieroglyphs, chart, and booklet (stamp pad missing). Good teaching tool for 4-7 graders.

Oasis of Peace. 28 min. Landmark Media, Inc. The story of a village in Israel where Jews and Palestinians, all Israeli citizens, have been living together as equals since 1978. Secondary school level and older.

Rivers of Fire. 40 min. VHS. Landmark Media, Inc. A close look at the resource most Middle Easterners need more than oil--water. Two main river systems, the Tigris-Euphrates and the Jordan, are examined. In both regions population is far outstripping supply and water tables are dropping. No easy solutions here (no pun intended). Secondary school level and older.

Print Materials:

National Standards for World History, Grades 5-12. Los Angeles: National Center for History in the Schools, UCLA. 1994 or 95. Contains recommendations for standards in world history developed by hundreds of teachers and historians across the country in recent years.

Republic of Yemen. Najda Newsletter, Spring, 1995. A 16-page unit on Yemen. Includes brief articles about archaeology, architecture, women, a children's story, art, and a bibliography. Secondary level and older.

Erratum: In our last issue, we thanked Rita Zawaideh for donating the videotape *We Are God's Children* to the Middle East Center. Our thanks should have been extended to Arab Film Distribution.

Registration for seminar

☐**TWENTIETH CENTURY IRAN: ISLAM, WESTERNIZATION, REVOLUTION**

I am enclosing a check for \$25.00 (made out to the Near East Studies Council) for the seminar.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE:(work) _____ (home) _____

SCHOOL AFFILIATION (if applicable) _____

Charlotte F. Albright
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University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

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