



HUDSON VALLEY FOR PRESENTS- A NIGHT JOURNEY – IRAN

Sunday, June 14th, 2:00-4:00pm

At the FOR- 521 North Broadway, Nyack NY

(845) 358-4601

Join us for a Community Circle and Conversation

Moderated by Dr. Mark C. Johnson, Executive Director of FORUSA

with invited guests:

Zora Kassai, Dr. Manoucher Shahab, Iris Bieri, and Jim Murphy

Invited Guest Bios:

ZORA KASSAI came to the USA following high school in 1976. She studied art at the NY Institute of Technology and received her BA at the Jersey City University in advertising and design, with a Masters degree in Communications from William Patterson University. Ms. Kassai created Rush Graphics, a New Jersey certified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) was formed in Passaic, New Jersey in 1985. Its mission was to bring highly professional pre-press and precise color separations to a marketplace that consisted of Advertising Agencies, Printers, Publishers and Independent Designers. of personalized service recognized by the industry. Her interest in culture has been a lifelong pursuit. She became an activist, promoting language, religion and culture of Iran here in the United States. Her work with Noor va Danesh started in 1998, as a board member helping them to create the actual cultural center itself. She is currently the president of the board of trustees. Noor va Danesh promotes and keeps Iranian culture alive for Iranian Americans, including outreach to Iranian American youth, promoting pride and identity.

DR. MANOUCHER SHAHAB was born and raised in Tehran. He graduated from University of Tehran, Medical school. He came to United States for his post doctrine Education. He had his residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at University of Cincinnati in Ohio. Then he had his Fellowship in gynecology oncology at university of Kentucky. He returned to Iran and was chairman of the department of Ob/Gyn at university of Tabriz, Iran and director of female Cancer center in the same city for three years. He returned to United States and was involved in private practice and teaching. Now he is retired from private Practice and only continues teaching and training. His interests include history of Religion, and Islamic history. Since opening of Noor va Danesh he was an active participant of this organization. He conducted several lectures in Medicine and religion in the past in this place. Now he is serving as treasurer and member of board of trustee of Noor va Danesh.

IRIS BIERI is project coordinator for the Cost of War project at the American Friends Service Committee's Metro New York Regional office. A 2006 graduate of Earlham College in Indiana, she holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology. She traveled to Iran in December 2008 with the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

JIM MURPHY is Coordinator of NY Vets Speak Out, a counter recruiting program reaching out the NYC metropolitan area high schools. Jim retired from teaching in NYC for 25 years...the first 18 with Principal Ed Reynolds at West Side High School where he was also the dean of students. A graduate of Fairport High School (NY), he served in Vietnam for a TDY in 1966 and then '67-'68. In Vietnam he served with 1st MOB and 1972nd Comm (AF) at DaNang, Quang Tri City (19th Adv, MAC-V) and at sites on Highway 9 between Dong Ha and Lang Vei on the Laotian border. When he came home, he was an activist with the Vietnam Veterans Against The War (VVAW). He earned his B.A. at the University of Maryland and became Director of Education at Shon Tai Wilderness School (an alternative to incarceration for young men). Next he attended Indiana University's Alternative School Teacher Education Program (ASTEP). His current goal is to help establish an Ithaca Veterans Peace Council to collaborate with members of VFP, VVAW, IVAW, MFSO and the FOR. Jim was on the FOR's first delegation to Iran.

Mark C. Johnson, Ph.D., became the executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation/USA in 2007. A 1969 graduate of The College of Wooster in Ohio, and with a 1981 doctorate in sociology from Columbia University in the City of New York, Mark spent most of his professional career in the YMCA and as a volunteer in environmental, arts, and peace and social justice organizations. He did alternative service as a conscientious objector in Lebanon, teaching in Beirut for six years. Over the past six years he has been active with the emergent Alliance for Middle East Peace and has supported the development of leadership programs for young adults at the Jerusalem International YMCA as a member of the staff of the YMCA of the USA. Currently Mark serves on the non-profit boards of Associated Solo Artists/Creative Leaps International, Schools That Can (a national alliance of public, private independent and parochial charter schools), and the International Student Exchange Program, and is on the executive committee of the Leadership Forum at Silver Bay, and the advisory boards of Girls Learn International and Whole Women Healing. He is married and has three adult children. In the spirit of Parker Palmer, Mark sees himself as a poet doing the work of a peacemaker.

www.forusa.org

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Mary Heckler- Special Events Coordinator