

IN MEMORIAM

Parvin Paidar (1949-2005)

Parvin Paidar, an active contributor to the fields of Middle Eastern Studies and Women and Gender Studies passed away on October 20th, 2005 in Los Angeles after fighting with a relapse of melanoma for two years.

Born in 1949 in Tabriz, Iran, Paidar received her BSc in Accounting from the National University of Iran in 1973 and her Ph.D. in Political Sociology from the University of London. Paidar's seminal book, *Women and the Political Process in Twentieth Century Iran* (Cambridge, 1995) has remained unsurpassed.

Paidar's numerous publications on gender and development issues drew from her academic training in sociology and her extensive practical and hands on experiences in Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan. Through the British Refugee Council, Inter-Agency Coordinator for the Bosnia Program, World University Service, Save the Children, Voluntary Services Overseas, and UNIFEM, she offered women and children long years of service. In her last position as Program Director of the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Kabul, Afghanistan, Paidar was responsible for strategic planning and program development. While working through the Ministry of Women's Affairs, she was trying to establish community-based women centers in provincial capitals all over the country. In early 2004, she had to leave Kabul for Los Angeles in order to stay with her sisters while receiving medical treatment at UCLA medical center.

Paidar was a key founding editor of *Nimeye Digar* (1984-1999), the first feminist and scholarly journal published in Persian language outside Iran. In the words of her long-time colleague and close friend, Afsaneh Najmabadi, "More than anyone else in that editorial group, she knew how invaluable it was to bring feminists of differing politics into a working alliance and keep that coalition working....Her most important contribution was her vision. She passionately and...with remarkable insight, saw the necessity of working across the secular/religious divide, of reaching out to women's rights activists who spoke and lived Islamic."

Paidar was a coalition builder rather than a divisive ideologue. As a person she came from love, understanding and empathy. For many of us, she was an inspiring role model for the art of good living, fine scholarship, effective fighting for justice and freedom, and even the art of peaceful dying. During the last month of her struggle with cancer, she wrote a moving short piece as part of her will. Addressed to her family and friends, she wrote: "I am grateful to life for my family, friends, work and strength in facing death. I wish the same for all of you. I discovered only towards the end of my life that the fear, anxiety, anger and control that we hang on to throughout

life day in and day out are false and can evaporate for good in a matter of minutes. They have no more significance than a smoke screen under which our real life takes place....Since I've known that I don't have anymore treatments available to me anymore, I've been feeling enormously peaceful. It is as if I'm invited to make a transition to another world...I have had a shorter life but a very valuable one and I have no complains about the length of my life and feel grateful for the life I've had. Everyone has to face death at some point sooner or later. It's the quality of life that counts rather than the length...."

Paidar is survived by her husband Soroush Javadi-Motlagh, her parents Homa and Asghar Paidar and her four sisters Nasrin, Zarrin, Shirin, and Nooshin who surrounded Parvin with love and care till the last moments of her life.

Paidar's immature death has left us with a deep sense of loss and sadness. Her productive life has enriched our feminist scholarship and struggles for equal rights, democracy, freedom and justice. The fond memories of her positive energy, openness and cheerful face, and immense intellectual contributions to the women's movement in Iran will remain with us for generations.

Nayereh Tohidi

California State University, Northridge

Thomas B. Stauffer (1935 - 2005)

On March 11, 2005, Dr. Thomas Reynolds Stauffer, internationally respected energy economist and analyst, author, educator and consultant died of cancer at his home in Washington, D.C.

Born in Fremont, OH, he attended the University School in Shaker Heights, OH before graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He developed his love for the Middle East and energy affairs while completing his doctorate at Harvard University. Dr. Stauffer taught economics and Middle East Studies at Harvard (1971-1982), the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna (1982-85), and Georgetown University (1985-1989). He was a frequent lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State, and at the Army and Navy war colleges.

He published widely, with over 100 professional writings published in scholarly journals and the public media in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Persian Gulf. Among his areas of focus were measurement of corporate rates of return, the economics of gas-based industrialization in the Gulf, the impact of tax systems upon oil exploration incentives, the effect of tariff designs on oil pipeline economics, and the politics of water in the Middle East.

Dr. Stauffer served as an advisor and consultant to several Middle East governments and private industry on arbitration and related negotiations. A consultant