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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

Years ago, Dr. Laina Farhat-Holzman joined the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations as a California scholar expert in Persian history.

An incisive thinker, armed with extensive knowledge of the history of civilization, Laina possesses a critical mind that never stops challenging received explanations for the events humanity has faced, and the patterns and meanings of our sojourn over the past several thousand years. She has worked professionally for many years as an editor and professor, a writer of books that probe the intersection of the currents of history and religion in Iran and elsewhere, a skilled debater on topics of the day in both the U.S. and abroad, and a weekly author of commentary on current events. An indefatigable world traveler, she has also been for many years a Bay Area leader on the analysis of global concerns.

Soon after we met, Laina and I teamed up, and together we have headed the editorial section of this journal. For the felicitous results, she must be given all the credit.

At the annual ISCSC meeting held in beautiful Monmouth University, New Jersey, early this past summer, Laina announced that she was leaving editorship of the journal in order to concentrate more intensively on her opinion columns, which are followed nationally and internationally and which appear at least twice a week in Northern California newspapers, and on her ever-expanding series of scholarly books.

Over the summer she reminisced, writing down some of her key thoughts about these years at the *CCR*. They are published below.

On behalf of the members of the Editorial Board, the international society, and the many dozens of authors you have mentored over these years, and in recognition of continuous and extensive labor offered by you without any financial recompense whatsoever, my observation is: thank you, Laina. What the *CCR* has become – the journal of record on comparative civilization and the intellectual flagship of the ISCSC – would have been impossible without your cheerful leadership and active intellectual architecture over the past decade and a half.

Joseph Drew
Washington, D.C.
Autumn, 2014