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## WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

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*Education Program Presents*

### **Iran: The Turquoise Bridge to Civilization**

**Ladan Hamedani**, PhD, Roshan Institute Instructor in Persian Language & Culture College of Languages, Linguistics, & Literature, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**F. Don Parsa**, MD, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Wednesday, February 18, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wailana Room, Imin International Conference Center

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In this special panel discussion, two Persian scholars will guide the audience through a fascinating exploration of one of the world's oldest and most prolific cultures, and its many important and enduring contributions to humanity.

Professor Hamedani's presentation, *Persian Poetry and Its Influence on Iranian Life*, will delve deep into the richness of Persian poetry, the most significant part of Persian literature, renowned for its magnificent use of beautiful language composed mostly in rhythmic rhymes. Divine love is at the center of the spiritual content in Persian poetry, a reflection of the great impact that Iranian mysticism has had on it. Reading Persian poetry is very much common among Iranians today, indicating the extent of its interweaving with Iranian culture.

Dr. Parsa's presentation, *Ancient Persia/Iran and Its Cultural Contributions to the World: From Mithra to Manes*, will highlight the historic backdrop for Persian influence on world civilizations, covering the cultural, religious and spiritual contributions of Ancient Persia from 1000 BC to 1000 AD. Ancient Persian prophets and spiritual teachers Mithra, Zoroaster, Manes, and Mazdak will be presented and discussed.

**Dr. Ladan Hamedani** is the Roshan Institute Instructor in Persian Language and Culture, coordinating the Persian Language, Linguistics, and Culture Program at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She received her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Ottawa, Canada in 2011. She previously worked as a Persian lecturer at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, from 2007 to 2009, and was a member of the faculty at Islamic Azad University, Faculty of Foreign Languages, in Tehran, Iran, from 1998 to 2002. Her research interests are Persian language, Persian syntax, testing, translation, literature, and culture, as well as pedagogy and second language acquisition.

**Dr. F. Don Parsa** was born in Tehran, Iran, and left at the age of 12 to study in Geneva, Switzerland. After obtaining his medical degree in Switzerland, he moved to the U.S. for specialty training, first in Los Angeles at UCLA and then in Houston, Texas at the Baylor College of Medicine. He has taught at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at UH Manoa since 1981, and is Professor of Plastic Surgery and chief of that division in the Department of Surgery. His passions include teaching plastic surgery to medical students, and the study of Persian poetry and culture. He has published over 80 major articles and textbook chapters.

**We are firm believers in food-based learning. Excellent refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil. The public is invited to attend.**