

A BOOK OF

Remembrance



Dr. Ahoo Karimian

June 15, 1982 - July 31, 2021

Thank you to
Dr. Jillian Pexa for compiling
this remembrance book for our
dear Ahoo Karimian, Psy.D.

September 2021

Dr. Karimian earned her doctorate in Neuropsychology from Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology in 2016. She joined the LACPA Board of Directors as a member of the Student Leadership Committee in 2013 and received the Distinguished Service to LACPA by a Graduate Student Award in 2015. After serving as the Student Leadership Committee Chair, she served as Chair of the Continuing Education Committee from 2018 to 2020. Since 2019, she was employed as a Neuropsychologist at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration. Dr. Karimian's Iranian cultural heritage ran as a proud thread through her professional life, and she took an active role in the Iranian Psychological Association of America.

Absent from the facts of her career are the intense feelings of love and admiration exhibited in the outpouring of memories about Dr. Karimian. The following pages are a collection of these memories and photos of Dr. Karimian from LACPA events over the years.



I remember the day I met Ahoo: August 26, 2011. She was a student interested in health psychology, attending a presentation of mine, and she was so excited to introduce herself and start a conversation about our shared passion.

We instantly connected and had many entertaining, productive, and educational conversations over the years we served on the LACPA board together. We were eternally trying to coordinate coffee dates at Alana's Coffee Roasters in Mar Vista. She was going to teach me the secrets of her perfect cat eyeliner and I hoped to inspire her to write for *The Los Angeles Psychologist*. I had thought we would have a long friendship, and now I will simply miss her with great fondness.

Gretchen Kubacky, Psy.D.

Whenever she entered a room it became visibly brighter because of the vibrance of her spirit and presence. Her sense of humor and smile were positively infectious to all around her. I still haven't been able to stop thinking about her - we lost such a cherished and treasured friend and colleague.

Lynne Steinman, Ph.D.



Ahoo and I worked together at the VA. We were in different buildings, but I would frequently get a knock on my door and it would be Ahoo with my favorite chai tea latte. We snuck away from work to get blue bottle coffee, and we felt so deviant. :) We'd spend our time talking about life and what to do with life. We talked a lot about buying homes and starting IVF. She talked a lot about Scott and how much love and pride she had in their marriage. Ahoo was my friend. I miss her deeply. I will always remember her as funny, quirky, kind, spontaneous, driven, and super capable. I miss you my friend.

Lelsie Dobson, Psy.D.

I'm so saddened by Ahoo's sudden passing. She was so vibrant, quick with a laugh, caring, kind and bright.

My deepest condolences to her family, friends, colleagues (LACPA, IPAA and beyond) and patients.

May her memory be a blessing.

Amy Rosett, Ph.D.



Ahoo and I served on the LACPA Board when she was a student rep. Ahoo came in with an enthusiasm I had not seen in years. She was funny, charismatic and really easy to connect with. One of my favorite memories was when Ahoo, Richard, Michele and I went out before a Board meeting to get something to eat. I can't recall the details now but I remember all the laughter we shared and how it made the Board meeting so enlivening. I still can't believe that she is gone. Despite the fact that we hadn't spoken in many years I still thought of her and smiled when I did.

Colleen Warnesky, Psy.D.



I served on the LACPA Board for several years with Ahoo when she first joined as a graduate student and I tended to see Ahoo at LACPA events and functions. Though I cannot say I knew her well, it is easy to say that anytime I was in her presence, her warmth, playfulness, joy, comradery, dedication, verve, and compassion came through. She exuded hopefulness and possibility in the presence of commitment and action. I was so sad and shocked to hear of her death. My heart goes out to her family and close friends at this difficult time. I hope in time, you are able to find some peace as you remember.

Ilene Bell, Ph.D.

Dearest Ahoo,

Although we only met a few times at professional meetings over 5 years ago, you've made a lasting impression in my memory because your ambition and passion in the field was matched by your kindness and earnestness. I never knew Ahoo could be a name, which in the Persian language translates to "Deer," and that captivated me, not just because of the uniqueness of your name, but because somehow I intuitively felt in your presence how much you were brought up with love and how much your parents must have loved you. Although our encounters were brief and likely elicited by your interest to network with me, as you were then a burgeoning student in the field of neuropsychology, your interaction with me stood out as sincere and I always thought, "I can't wait for her to be in our field & to collaborate!" You are memorable to me, not just because of your (bat) tattoo or involvement with LACPA, but because of your vigor, your vitality, and your true friendliness few people demonstrate in this world.

Missing you, Mona Mikael, Psy.D.



Ahoo Karimian was a dear friend to me. I hope to never forget the way she laughed, the eloquent, playful way in which she spoke, her thoughtfulness and care, her wit. But mostly, I hope to always remember the sincerity she exuded in interactions big and small-the feeling that when I was with Ahoo, I was really with Ahoo. I am so deeply saddened to know she is no longer here with us. I can only hope to have the strength to endure this sadness to keep her alive inside of me.

Richard Achiro, Ph.D.



A terrible loss. I was fortunate to know her through her work on continuing education. I will miss her tremendously. A wonderful and talented colleague.

Jeffrey Young, Ph.D.

Ahoo grabbed my attention the moment I heard her speak at my first LACPA Board meeting as a student. She was bold, courageous, outspoken, and incredibly bright. I felt inspired by these qualities she possessed.

I will always remember how she greeted me with such enthusiasm that made me feel seen and significant. I'm heartbroken that I, and so many others, won't be able to get to know her better and continue being in her presence. But I do know that her spirit and energy will continue to inspire me and motivate us all, both as clinicians and as human beings. I wish comfort for her family and friends during such a devastating time.

I will always remember Ahoo fondly.

Bahar Moheban, Psy.D.





Dear All,

It is truly heartbreaking to hear about the loss of a wonderful human being who was one of the most alive people I knew. She had enthusiasm and passion for our work that was contagious. Her work on the board, both in meetings and behind the scenes, will leave a mark for years to come.

I remember the day when Ahoon received her Distinguished Service to LACPA as a Student award. Her speech reflected her bubbly personality, her dedication to our field and was meaningful, touching, and funny at the same time. I remember looking over at the crowded table of her family and friends and the rest of the audience wiping tears of pride and joy at her accomplishments. I cannot imagine their grief at this time and the void her passing has left for them.

It is a collective loss for all of us and our hearts go out to the family and friends.

With deep sadness,
Gitu Bhatia, Psy.D.

As you know, Ahoo was not just a member of LACPA, she was family. I knew from the first time I met Ahoo that she was going to be one of LACPA's leaders. She had a grasp for what needed to be done and she did it. Her generosity was unending, she was always there to pick up the pieces when others could not. Saying Ahoo will be missed is an understatement. Her laugh and smile were contagious, she always knew how to brighten any situation and because of that, I feel she made me a better person for knowing her.

Love and miss you,
Carol Torcello



A true loss. Such an incredible person who I had the privilege to work closely with for many years. I am in disbelief. My heart goes out to all who knew her, especially her family. If there is a place to send flowers, please do let us know. Ahoo, please know you were greatly loved, and so many here miss you.

Max G. Feirstein, Ph.D.



Ahoo was a truly wonderful person, much beloved by everyone who knew her at Pepperdine. She was smart, kind, and had an incredible sense of humor.

Just heartbreaking to lose a young person who meant a lot to so many people.

Robert A. deMayo, Ph.D, ABPP

I didn't know Ahoo personally, only professionally. We served on the LACPA Board together for a number of years. I had the pleasure of watching her move from being a shy student, a bit reluctant to put herself out there amidst many seasoned psychologists, to a self-confident psychologist who over and over made significant contributions to the conversation. Ahoo was funny, filled with positive energy, and very insightful. She had a smile that could light up the whole room. I believe we all feel the tragedy of a woman filled with such potential who was way too young to pass away. She will be sorely missed by many, many people.

Terry Marks-Tarlow, Ph.D.

Dear Ahoo's evidence of a life well-lived, even though very short, is found in those who love her and there are many of them. On behalf of the Iranian Psychological Association of America (IPAA) we wish her rest peace at highest place and for her family tolerance and serenity.

Alan A. Modaresi, Ph.D., MSCP

President

Peyman Raoofi, Psy.D.

Vice President & Treasurer



I met Dr. Karimian at the LACPA conference a couple of years ago when we were seated together with other awardees to receive recognition for our work. She was so warm, kind, and excited to share with us the work that she had done and planned to do. It was clear that she was a very special person, as well as professional. It was certainly a pleasure to meet with her and share the excitement we all felt to be recognized for our work by LACPA.

Dr. Nora Baladerian



I'm so very sorry to hear of the loss of Ahoo. She was so very friendly and kind. A huge loss to her family, friends, patients, and the field. I like the idea of a gathering.

Joanna Stan, Psy.D.

This is truly heartbreaking. Ahoo was a shining bright light of kindness, compassion, and much more. Her lovely smile warmed the room and our hearts.

Her light is going to continue to shine while we all miss her presence.

With deep heartfelt sadness for her family, friends, and colleagues.

LACPA President 2013

Evelyn Pechter, PsyD



I knew Ahoo as a colleague and friend through our affiliation with the Los Angeles County Psychological Association. I remember the first time I met Ahoo, when she was serving as a student host for a LACPA event. She was a warm and cheerful presence from early in the morning until the end of the day. Her warmth, kindness, incredible intelligence, clinical skill, and dedication to our profession continued to be revealed through the years of her participation and service to the LACPA community. What I remember most about the occasion when she was honored by LACPA, was that she was surrounded by her loving family and friends who shared her pride and joy. While her time with all of us has been cut short, her passion for those she loved, those she befriended and those she served will live on in all us - in our hearts and in our memories.

With heartfelt sympathy to her family and community of loved ones,
Andrea Ackerman, Ph.D.



I met Ahoo once at a meeting. She was a very sweet and lovely person. Her loss is shocking and very sad. I wish her family and loved ones strength. May she Rest In Peace.

Monica S. Karbassioun, Psy.D.

I am shocked and cannot get her off my mind. Tremendous loss to our community. She will be missed.

Nancy B. Irwin, PsyD, C.Ht.

I did not know her very well, but I know she was very involved and many of you knew her and loved her. What a young, vibrant soul, lost far too soon.

Karen Shore, PhD, ABPP, CGP



I did not know Ahoon personally but encountered her a few times professionally at LACPA events. She was always so professional, pleasant, kind, helpful, and I could tell dynamic. I am so very sorry for and saddened by her loss that I know has impacted so many, especially her family. My deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Erin Joyce, Psy.D.

I had the pleasure of serving with Dr. Ahoon Karimian on the Los Angeles County Board of Directors and participating with her in many professional events over the years. Ahoon had an easy, heartfelt smile, infectious laugh, sense of humor and vitality. She emanated warmth, genuine interest and enthusiasm for our shared professional passion and community. She made our organization and our world a better place and will be deeply missed.

Pamela J. McCrory, Ph.D.



I didn't know Ahoo but now I wish I had. I love the idea of sending everyone's comments to her family. It may help them to know how many lives she touched with her light, kindness, dedication, and radiant heart. May all her loved ones be comforted by their memories of her.

Alisa Dennis, Ph.D.

I am sorry to say that I did not know this remarkable person and wish I had. What a terrible shock and I send my condolences to her family as well.

Alison Freeman, Ph.D.

I would like to have had the honor of knowing this wonderful woman.

Saddened by her passing.

Charlyne Gelt, Ph.D.

I admired and looked up to Ahoo as a role model in so very many ways. Since I started working for LACPA in 2019 I have watched her at countless LACPA Board and Continuing Education meetings contribute so much. She was always willing to take on the majority of the work needed for events, and we knew we could count on her to make things happen. I was endlessly in awe of how intelligent, hilarious, charismatic, beautiful, and yet extremely humble she was! She did not have an ounce of arrogance in her soul and she was just so truly lovely to be around. She always said the right thing at the right time to make everyone laugh or feel inspired. I feel so blessed and honored to have known her for even such a short time.

I pray her beautiful heart is at peace, and I'll always remember her and the glowing legacy she left.

Adriene Ghiasian, B.A.



My deepest condolences to all, her friends and family. She was such an asset to the field.

Best,

Laleh Mehrad, PsyD., C.Ht.

Ahoo was so special to me - it's hard to find just a few words, traits, or memories to write about. I met Ahoo in 2013 when we were both graduate students, when she was chairing in the Student Leadership Committee. We immediately hit it off-Ahoo had that effect on people. She made you feel special, valuable and put you at ease. At professional events, it can sometimes be hard to relax and feel yourself, but Ahoo was so authentic that she encouraged you to be so too. We loved exploring the various coffee shops and restaurants Encino had to offer before LACPA Board meetings. Although we didn't see each other too often, it always felt like no time had passed. When we met up, it often felt like we didn't have enough time to cover it all, and of course now, I wish we would have been able to spend more time together. I'm devastated that she is no longer here and I don't get to see her beautiful, smiling face over dinner and at LACPA events.

I hope to carry the memory and inspiration of her beautiful spirit with me forever.

Missing you my sweet friend....

Jillian Pexa. Psy.D.