



IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2021-2022 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

“A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO AMERICA FOR THE IMMIGRANT AND THE CURIOUS”



PRESENTED BY:

Roya Hakakian

Journalist, Poet, and Author

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (STC 203)

Doors Open 2:30 p.m. | Lecture 3 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge.



Presentation will be
broadcast live via Webex.

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ROYA HAKAKIAN JOURNALIST, POET, AND AUTHOR



Roya Hakakian has collaborated on over a dozen hours of programming for leading journalism units on network television, including *60 Minutes* and ABC documentary specials with the late Peter Jennings. Commissioned by UNICEF and narrated by Robert DeNiro, Roya's most recent film, *Armed and Innocent*, on the subject of the involvement of underage children in wars around the world, was a nominee for best short documentary at several festivals around the world.

Roya is the author of two collections of poetry in Persian, the first of which, *For the Sake of Water*, was nominated as poetry book of the year by *Iran News* in 1993. She is listed among the leading new voices in Persian poetry in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*. Her poetry has appeared in numerous anthologies around the world, including *La Regle Du Jeu*, *Strange Times My Dear: The Pen Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Literature*. She contributes to the *Persian Literary Review*, and served as the poetry editor of *Par Magazine* for six years.

Her opinion columns, essays, and book reviews appear in English language publications, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal* among them. She is also a contributor to the Weekend Edition of NPR's *All Things Considered*. Roya is a member of the editorial board of the journal, *World Affairs: A Journal of Ideas And Debate*.

Roya is a founding member of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, and serves on the board of Refugees International. She was a fellow at Yale University's Davenport College and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She speaks on the subject of the Middle East and human rights throughout the United States and Europe and has appeared on C-SPAN's *Book TV*, CNN International, CBS' *The Early Show*, *Now* with Bill Moyers, and *Fresh Air* with Terri Gross. Her memoir of growing up as a Jewish teenager in post-revolutionary Iran, *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran* (Crown) was a Barnes & Noble's Pick of the Week, *Ms. Magazine* Must Read of the Summer, *Publishers Weekly's* Best Book of the Year, *Elle Magazine's* Best Nonfiction Book of 2004, and was named Best Memoir by the Connecticut Center for the Book in 2005, and has been translated into several languages including German, Dutch, and Spanish. Roya is also a recipient of the 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship in nonfiction.

Her book, *Assassins of the Turquoise Palace* (Grove/Atlantic) about Iran's terror campaign against exiled Iranian dissidents in Western Europe, was named a Notable Book of 2011 by *The New York Times Book Review*, made *Newsweek's* Top Ten Not-to-be-missed books of 2011, and was among Kirkus Reviews Best Non-Fictions of 2011.

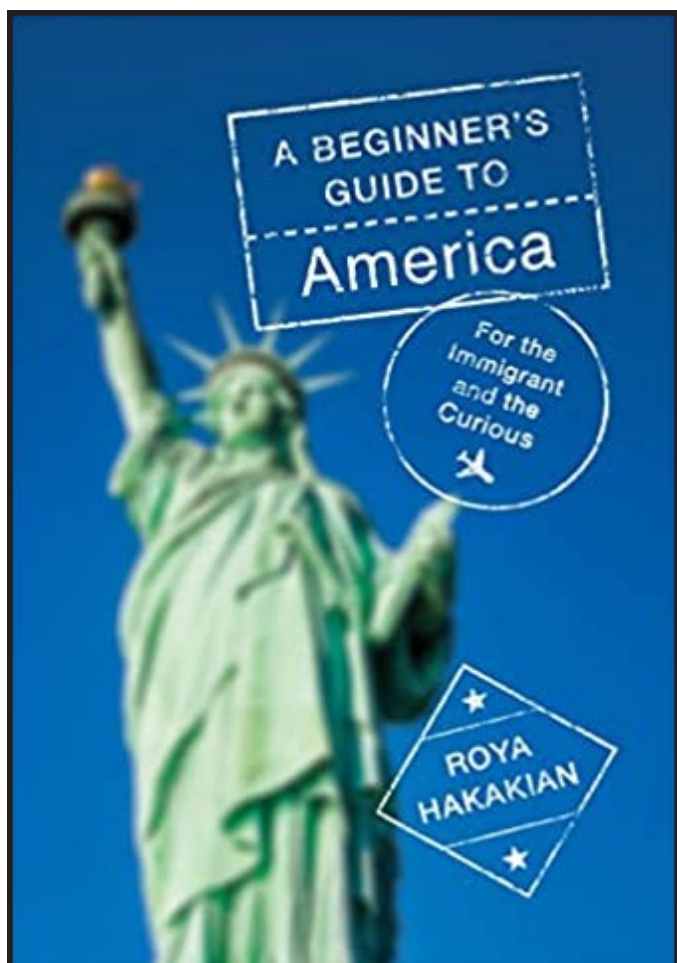
Born and raised in a Jewish family in Tehran, Roya arrived as a refugee to the US in 1985. Her latest book, *A Beginner's Guide to America for the Immigrant and the Curious*, was released in March 2021 by Knopf.





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“A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO AMERICA FOR THE IMMIGRANT AND THE CURIOUS”



Roya Hakakian, a former refugee and naturalized American, guides the immigrant through the hardships of resettling in America and, in the process, reveals for native-born Americans all that they cannot see or take for granted about their own country.

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