

International Congress of Women in Engineering and Science (ICWES)

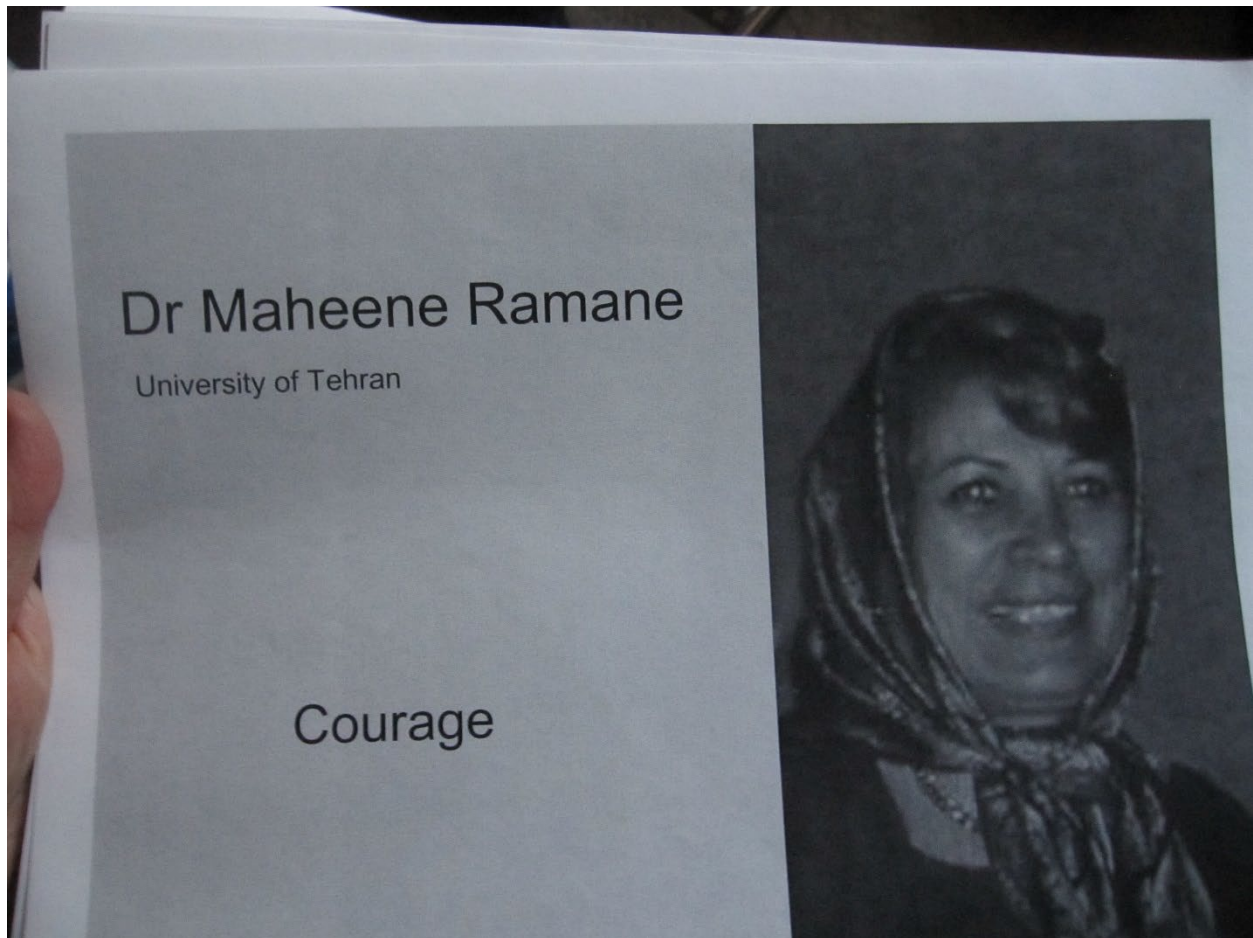
The International Congress for Women in Science and Engineering has an international emphasis. Women in the sciences and engineering from all over the world are invited to attend their conference. I was the West Coast Oregon Delegate at the first ICWES held in 1964 that SWE hosted. The conference planners asked me to run the “sing song” entertainment for the evening. For that evening entertainment we all had Indian headdresses on.

We all sang songs together at first. Well, everything went fine until we started singing individually. Individual people would come up with a song they wanted to sing. When people quit volunteering, brilliant me here decided that all the women from the contiguous countries from Africa east to Iran (middle-east countries) could sing together. My friend Shirley from the SWE Seattle section was standing in the back of the room gesturing NO. Her dad worked in the foreign service. She knew I didn’t have any idea what I was up to asking Israelis to sing with Iranians. Anyway, there was a Turkish woman who saved my bacon. She came up to me and said she knew a lullaby but didn’t think anyone else knew it. She sang it and saved my bacon. By that time, Shirley got word to me to shut up. Then I regrouped and asked for a duet from the same nationality. That was so funny. I had no idea what I had done. Fortunately, we did not have a middle-east chorus or crisis.

Chapter 9 Pritch's Tribe of Influential People

When I moved into Rose Villa in 2006, I was asked to introduce myself. Rose Villa's "Getting to Know your Neighbor" program included that I share who has been influential in my life. So I picked out a dozen people who have been influential. This is the group I put together.

Courage



My dear darling friend, Dr. Maheene Ramane, taught school at University of Tehran. She is a very very lovely human being. She was also Secretary of Transportation for the Shah of Iran before he was deposed. After the Shah was deposed, she went and taught at University of Tehran. The University of Tehran was its own enclave. They don't get involved in any of the politics that are going on in Tehran or outside campus. Both she and her husband were teachers there.

When the shah fell, or it looked like he was going down, she came home one day and there was a note on her kitchen table from her boys that were born about three years apart. She had one in high school, one in middle school, and one in grade school. The note was written by the oldest boy. "We are gone underground. Do not look for us. Consider us dead." So she went along with it and didn't try and do anything at that point because it would be too dangerous.

She was back on faculty at the University. She taught astrophysics and physics. Anyway, I met her at the first International Conference of Women in Engineering and Science (ICWES) conference and we got to be good friends. The ICWES conferences are held every four years. The 9th or 10th ICWES conference was in Ottawa, Canada. She came out through London and her husband came out through Japan. They were not allowed to travel together.

Her friends in London asked her to come visit them a week ahead of time. She did. She went early for a visit. Her friends picked her up at the airport, took her to their home and there was a big spread on the table. And when she walked in, here were all three boys and their grandbabies. And her husband came out the next week and they pulled the same surprise on him. He had not known either. They did not know that the boys were alive since the note on the kitchen table. Two of the boys were married and had grandbabies and the youngest was teaching at University of London. They were all there living in London. She hadn't known all those intervening years if they were even alive.

This picture of Dr. Ramane was taken in Ottawa. They were lining all 10 of us up that had been to all 9 or 10 ICWES conferences. When she realized that a picture was going to be taken, she was concerned that she was not wearing a scarf. So she starts looking around. All of a sudden she noticed one of the African attendees in front of her with a shawl scarf on and she pulled the shawl off to cover her own head. Then she returned it and thanked the African woman. As you can see, she did get her head covered for the picture.