

**Message from the Board:**

Please let Nancy Sheppard nashesf@sbcglobal.net know if you have an Turkmen Ensi you would like to show off for our Fall Show and Tell.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 15-18, 2015**

**ARTS: Antique Rugs  
& Textile Show**

**Motel Capri, S.F.**

[www.facebook.com/  
artsrugshow](http://www.facebook.com/artsrugshow)

Join the ARTS opening reception and preview on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 PM. Dinner and wine catered by [La Mediterranee](#) will begin at 5:00 PM. Reception is \$25 through pre-registering or \$40 at the door. Guests are asked to RSVP through the ARTS website at <http://sf.artsrugshow.org/reception>.

Be the first to browse a wealth of antique rugs and textiles from thirty dealers and enjoy a Middle Eastern buffet dinner and wine bar.

The show is open and free to the public Friday-Sunday, October 16-18. This year ARTS will hold an exhibition of Kazak rugs co-sponsored by SFBARS.

**Sat. October 17, 2015 5-7pm**

**Turkmenistan Today:  
Oil, Tribal Politics and Islamic Cultural Traditions**  
**Silk Road House 1944 University Ave, Berkeley**

A Slide Lecture by Peter Poullada, Former President, San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society. The talk is based on a trip to Turkmenistan in April 2014 to all five of the major provinces of this Central Asian republic, each representing one of the historical tribal "Yurts" of the Turkmen people. Today Turkmenistan represents one of the least known and rarely visited of all the former republics of the Soviet Union. Less than 2500 tourists a year currently visit this fascinating country. Turkmenistan today is a mixture of a wealthy oil-producing nation, with a per capita income higher than that of Russia, its old colonial master, but with an underdeveloped infrastructure and a society still deeply influenced by the two main legacies of its past: that of the tribal/nomadic Turco-Mongol Islamic culture and society of the Pre-Modern era and secondly, that of the approximately 120 years of Russian/Soviet domination. It is the contrasts of these two legacies that makes Turkmenistan such a fascinating destination.

This illustrated talk (approximately 50 minutes) takes the form of a travelogue, looking briefly at some of the major indicators of these legacies. It will reference the ancient traditions of the Turkmen tribal groupings and the deep and enduring role of Sufi-influenced Islam, which remains the most important "Folk" culture of the nation, in spite of 100 years of attempted suppression by the Russians and Soviets.

**Over the past 15 years Peter has organized and led seven private tours to Central Asia. Peter is a member of the Middle East Studies Association, the Royal Central Asian Society, the International Society for Iranian Studies and the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies. In addition he is the Chair of the Advisory Council to the Near East Studies Department at Princeton University. He has published articles on Central Asia in the Journal of the Royal Society for Asian Studies and in Hali Magazine: the leading journal for the study of Islamic carpets and textiles.**