CITY OF OCEANSIDE

# NEWS RELEASE

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**OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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## Local Scholar Ibrahim Al-Marashi Hosts a Talk and Discussion Oceanside Public Library Awarded Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Collection from NEH & ALA

On May 11 at 2:00 p.m. the Oceanside Public Library at 330 N. Coast Highway will host a brief Islam 101 course, followed by a talk and discussion on the American Muslim experience, with Ibrahim Al-Marashi. Dr. Al-Marashi is an Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Cal State San Marcos. He is an Iraqi-American who has lived in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Morocco and Turkey, and has travelled extensively throughout the Middle East. This talk and discussion are a part of the Library's *Culture through Literature* series and in celebration of the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Award.

Oceanside Public Library is one of only a few libraries and state humanities councils across the country selected to receive the "Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys" from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). The program aims to familiarize public audiences in the United States with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf includes the following titles, organized by theme:

American Stories:

- *A Quiet Revolution* by Leila Ahmed
- *Prince Among Slaves* by Terry Alford

- *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV
- *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel
- *The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam* by G. Willow Wilson

Connected Histories:

- *The House of Wisdom: How Arabic Science Saved Ancient Knowledge and Gave Us the Renaissance* by Jim Al-Khalili
- *In an Antique Land* by Amitav Ghosh
- *When Asia Was the World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors, and Monks Who Created the "Riches of the East"* by Stewart Gordon
- *Leo Africanus* by Amin Maalouf, translated by Peter Sluglett
- *The Ornament of the World* by Maria Rosa Menocal

Literary Reflections

- *Minaret* by Leila Aboulela
- *The Arabian Nights* (anonymous), edited by Muhsin Mahdi, translated by Husain Haddawy
- *The Conference of the Birds* by Farid al-Din Attar, translated by Dick Davis and Afkham Darbandi
- *Dreams of Trespass* by Fatima Mernissi
- *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk, translated by Maureen Freely

Pathways of Faith

- *Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction* by Jonathan A. C. Brown
- *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life* by Ingrid Mattson
- *The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam* by F. E. Peters
- *The Art of Hajj* by Venetia Porter

- *Rumi: Poet and Mystic*, edited and translated by Reynold A. Nicholson

Points of View

- *In the Country of Men* by Hisham Matar
- *Dreams of Trespass* by Fatima Mernissi
- *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi
- *House of Stone* by Anthony Shadid
- *Broken Verses* by Kamila Shamsie

Art Architecture and Film

- *The Art of Hajj* by Venetia Porter
- *Islamic Arts* by Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair
- *Islamic Art Spots* (short films designed, written, and presented by D. Fairchild Ruggles, and produced by Twin Cities Public Television)
- *Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World* (2011)
- *Prince Among Slaves* (2007)
- *Koran by Heart* (2011)

The books and films comprising the Bookshelf were selected with the advice of librarians and cultural programming experts, as well as distinguished scholars in the fields of anthropology, world history, religious studies, interfaith dialogue, the history of art and architecture, world literature, Middle East studies, Southeast Asian studies, African studies, and Islamic studies.

This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library. For information about these new materials, please visit www.oceansidepubliclibrary.org or call (760) 435-5600 or contact Jennelise Hafen directly at (760) 435-9614 or jhafen@ci.oceanside.ca.us.

The Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys is a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities, conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association. Major support for the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf was provided by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. Additional support for the arts and media components was provided by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

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