



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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Central Library to Screen “The Lion’s Journey: The Story of Wadie P. Deddeh” About the Retired Iraq-born State Senator and Chaldean Leader *Respected Politician Known as the Father of Caltrans*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library will screen *The Lion’s Journey: The Story of Wadie P. Deddeh* in conjunction with the ongoing One Book, One San Diego community reading campaign. The film will screen at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24 in the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This event is free to the public.

Emmy award-winning filmmaker Bonni Rooney tells the inspiring story of retired state Senator Wadie Deddeh from a life of poverty in Iraq to becoming the highest-ranking Iraqi to hold public office in California. This film focuses on the essence of Deddeh’s success as a man who ably worked across the aisle to bring about change, and illuminates his status as an iconic leader in the Chaldean Christian Iraqi community of San Diego. Deddeh authored the legislation that formed the California Department of Transportation, earning his recognition as the "Father of Caltrans," and also helped to bring the trolley system to San Diego. Senator Deddeh and filmmaker Rooney will be present to answer questions after the screening.

The *One Book* campaign, sponsored with KPBS, is designed to encourage all San Diegans to read the same book at the same time, and to educate and enlighten on topics and themes of concern to the community. This year’s selection is *Outcasts United* by New York Times journalist Warren St. John. Throughout the year the San Diego Public Library, KPBS and other partner organizations will present workshops, lectures, discussion groups and TV and radio programming.

Learn about other events at the SDPL’s Central Library and 35 branches, including an entire section for *One Book, One San Diego*, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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