



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**San Diego Public Library**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Central Library to Host Immigrant & Refugee Writers Panel**  
*Prominent San Diego Writers Discuss Writing from Immigrant and Refugee Perspective*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library will host an *Immigrant Writers' Panel* discussion in conjunction with the 2011 *One Book, One San Diego* reading campaign. The event will be held on Monday, April 11 at 6:30 pm at the Central Library, located at 820 E Street, downtown. Three writers, of Korean, Somali and Persian descent respectively, will share their experiences of the writing life and discuss their books from an American immigrant perspective. This event is free and open to the public. The three featured writers are:

- **Choimija (Mija Kim) – *San Diego Hen***  
San Diego Hen, which includes 12 essays in English and 50 essays in Korean in which the author shares the passion of experiencing life as both Korean and American.
- **Yasmeen Maxamuud – *Nomad Diaries***  
Stories about Somalia and Somalis regularly occupy the front page news. Whether it's about naval piracy, young boys missing from their homes, the Somali civil war or the Islamist groups that control parts of the country, Somalia is a headliner. In this novel, based mostly in San Diego, the quiet lives of Somali refugees in America take center stage, providing a welcome window into the culture and ways not offered by the media. *Yasmeen Maxamuud began writing to tell the stories of the Somali Diaspora community in America, influenced by a rich Somali poetic life and the vivid stories of women.*
- **Zoe Ghahremani – *Sky of Red Poppies***  
Set against the backdrop of a nation forced to mute its profound identity, *Sky of Red Poppies* is a novel about culture, politics and the redeeming power of friendships. It begins with a casual friendship between two girls as they come of age in politically charged 1960's Iran under the rule of the Shah. Together, they contend with becoming the women they want to be. This poetic and thought-provoking narrative is based on a true story.  
*Zoe Ghahremani is an artist, writer, gardener. A trained dentist and former college professor, in her work she explores the boundaries of beauty in all its forms.*

Copies of the books will be available for signing and purchase at the event and online at the author websites: [www.nomaddiaries.com](http://www.nomaddiaries.com) and [www.zoeghahremani.com](http://www.zoeghahremani.com).

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**Immigrant / Refugee Writers' Panel**

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 *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, by native San Diegan lê thi diem thúy. Still more One Book events have been scheduled at various San Diego Public Library locations and partner organization venues. Find the most current listings at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org) or [www.kpbs.org/onebook](http://www.kpbs.org/onebook).

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