



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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“Muslim Journeys” Series Continues: Educational Enrichment Courses on Islamic “Convivencia” Period in Medieval Spain during Golden Age of Islam

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library continues its presentation of the *Muslim Journeys* series with a three-part lecture and discussion program on the *Convivencia* in medieval Spain during the Golden Age of Islam on **Mondays, December 2, 9 and 16 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Mary Hollis Clark Conference Center on the first floor of the new San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, located at 330 Park Blvd in downtown San Diego. Sponsored by National Endowment for the Humanities the American Library Association, the program aims to familiarize public audiences with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the U.S. and around the world. Dr. Laurel Corona, professor of Humanities at San Diego City College will lead this free series.

La Convivencia, “living together,” is the term used to describe the seven centuries in which Jews, Christians and Muslims lived together on the Iberian Peninsula. Unprecedented in the western world, this era of diversity is often referred to as the Golden Age of Spain. With all contributions valued, the resulting achievements in science, medicine, literature, philosophy, and the arts led to a brilliant culture that fostered the Renaissance. Longstanding animosities among the different faiths, however, took their toll, and the Convivencia splintered in the fifteenth century with the expulsion of the Jews by Ferdinand and Isabella. Today, as we face a world increasingly polarized by religion, are there insights to be gained from a time when tolerance was the rule?

Professor Corona is the Christopher Medal winning author of *Until Our Last Breath: A Holocaust Story of Love and Partisan Resistance*, and *The Mapmaker’s Daughter*, her upcoming novel set during the Convivencia era. She’s the author of seventeen non-fiction works for young adults. Her award winning fiction includes: *Finding Emile*, *Penelope’s Daughter*, and *The Four Seasons*. Visit her at: <http://www.laurelcorona.com/>.

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Detailed description of the Convivencia lecture series, on December Mondays at 6:30 pm:

- **December 2: Coming Together: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Iberia**
Dr. Corona takes us through the arrival of the Jews in the second century CE, the christianizing of the region under the Visigoths and Romans, the arrival of the Muslims in the 8th century, and the establishment of Al-Andalus as a Muslim Caliphate, whose capital city, Cordoba, was known as the “ornament of the world.”
- **December 9: Muslim Spain and the Reconquista**
During the centuries of Muslim rule, power struggles within the Caliphate led to a slow and deliberate recapture of the Iberian Peninsula by Christian rulers. By the thirteen century CE, all that remained was the Caliphate of Granada, on the southern coast, where Muslim culture continued to flourish.
- **December 16: The Inquisition, the Fall of Granada, and the End of the Convivencia**
Dr. Corona presents the watershed events that brought an end to the era of Convivencia. Looking to strengthen a kingdom newly united by their marriage, Ferdinand and Isabella focused on conquering Granada, the last stronghold of Muslim rule in Iberia, and on forging a singular Catholic identity for Spain. In 1492, Columbus sailed and Granada fell.

San Diego Public Library was selected to participate in the Muslim Journeys project conducted by the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Library Association. Major support for the project 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. For more information visit:

<http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys/>.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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