



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NEW SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY HOSTS FOUR-PART READING
AND DISCUSSION PROGRAM ON ISLAM**

*Continuation of the Exciting "Muslim Journeys" Series Begun in 2013 in SDPL Branch
Libraries*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library continues its presentation of the *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* with a scholar-led four part Reading and Discussion program designed to provide opportunities for informed discussion about the histories, faith, and cultures of Muslims around the world and in the U.S. on **Wednesdays, February 12, March 5 and 26, and April 16** at **6:30** in Room 563 of the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, located at 330 Park Blvd in downtown San Diego. Dr. Bahar Davary of the University of San Diego's Religious Studies Department will lead this free series. Muslim Journeys is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Read the four books listed below and take advantage of this unique opportunity to discuss them with an expert scholar. Copies are available throughout the San Diego Public Library system; card-holders may visit any of our facilities or place "holds" on the titles online with their library account and PIN to have them sent to any San Diego Public Library location.

February 12: ***Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction*** by Jonathan A.C. Brown

This book discusses the life of the Prophet Muhammad from both a Muslim and Western historical perspective. It explains the importance of Muhammad in medieval and modern Islam and includes discussion of controversial issues in historical and contemporary times.

March 5: ***Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*** by Fatima Mernissi

In this rich narrative of a childhood spent behind the iron gates of a domestic harem, the author weaves her own memories with the dreams and memories of the women who surrounded her in the courtyard of her youth.

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March 26: *The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam* by G. Willow Wilson

The extraordinary story of an American woman's conversion to Islam and articulation of a Westerner embracing the Muslim world. Part travelogue, love story, and memoir, it is an inspiring story of faith, and in the ability of relationships to transcend cultural barriers and exist above the evils that threaten to keep us apart.

April 16: *Minaret* by Leila Aboulela

In this novel, the protagonist, Najwa, has left a life of privilege in Sudan and moved to England. In her home country, she recalls, Islam and its rituals were reserved for the servant class rather than the Westernized class to which she belonged. "We weren't brought up in a religious way. . . Our house was a house where only the servants prayed." Only after joining a newly-established mosque in London does she discover Islam afresh.

Professor Bahar Davary is an associate professor of Religious Studies at USD, specializing in women in the Quran, gender in Islam, interreligious dialogue, and Islam and the environment. Dr. Davary's scholarly research focuses on the interpretation of the classical Islamic canon as well as engagement with the concrete lives and social situations of women in various parts of the Muslim world. She is the author of *Women in the Qur'an: An Islamic Hermeneutic*.

San Diego Public Library was selected to participate in the Muslim Journeys project conducted by the National Endowment for the Humanities with cooperation from 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.

Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other

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