



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Discussion to Focus on Shared Beliefs of Semitic Religions *“The Journey of Abraham” Event is Part of Library’s Stories of Faith Program*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library and Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice will host “The Journey of Abraham,” a panel discussion on the common roots and shared faiths of the Semitic religions of Baha’i, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9 in the auditorium of the Joan Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice, on the University of San Diego campus, located at 5998 Alcalá Park. This event is free and open to the public.

The panel on Abrahamic religions also referred to as desert [monotheism](#) or the belief in a single, universal, all-encompassing deity, will discuss the following issues:

- Each religion’s belief in God. The religions' beliefs about their founders.
- What each religion believes about the written sacred or inspired texts.
- What each religion holds about being community.
- The ethical expectations of the believers.

The purpose of the discussion is to explore the ideas or situations that these four religions have in common, as well as their differences, with the hope of gaining a greater understanding and respect for other beliefs.

Orlando Espin, Ph.D., director of USD’s [Center for the Study of Latino/Catholicism](#) and a professor of religious studies, will moderate the discussion. The panelists will be Omid Ghaemmagham, a graduate student in Islamic and Near Eastern Studies at Washington University; Rebecca Moore, Ph.D., associate professor of religious studies at SDSU; Khaleel Mohammed, Ph.D., assistant professor of religious studies at SDSU; and Rabbi Alexis Roberts, Congregation Dor Hadash.

This event is presented in conjunction with “Stories of Faith: Religion and Diversity in San Diego,” a five-month series of programs consisting of dance, music, live theater, films, exhibits, lectures and panel discussions with the goal of enabling participants to learn more about each other’s beliefs and values. The project is made possible by a California Speaks grant from the California Council of the Humanities. For more information, visit the Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library> or call the Library at 619-236-5800.

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