

Bridging Cultures

## Muslim Journeys

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is pleased to present to the American public the first NEH Bridging Cultures Bookshelf, Muslim Journeys. In January 2013, 843 libraries and state humanities councils across the country received a complete set of materials in the Bookshelf collection. The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf collection consists of twenty-five books and three documentary films; a series of seven short videos exploring the arts of Muslim societies, and access to the resources of Oxford Islamic Studies Online. The Bookshelf's companion website ([bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys](http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys)) provides essays and other materials to frame and contextualize the books and provide avenues for further exploration.

### Oxford Islamic Studies Online

As one of ten libraries in Connecticut to participate, Fairfield Public Library will have the Oxford Islamic Studies Online database available to Fairfield Public Library cardholders through December 31, 2013. You can find it through the Library's list of databases at [www.fairfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.fairfieldpubliclibrary.org). This database is a unique, authoritative reference website designed to foster a more informed understanding of the Islamic world. Oxford Islamic Studies Online provides a number of learning tools for students, scholars, community groups, government officials, and librarians. The site is, first and foremost, a reference center, with over 5,000 articles from a number of sources.

### Interactive Gallery Tours

As part of their Muslim Journeys program, Gateway Community College is offering interactive tours of the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven. These tours are open to the public as space permits.

**Tuesdays, October 29 and  
November 12, 2:30-3:30 PM**

**Wednesdays, November 6 and 13,  
10:50-11:50 AM**

**Thursdays, October 24 and  
November 7, 6:30-7:30 PM**

**These programs are offered by the Fairfield Public Library  
in partnership with Fairfield University.**

All programs are free and open to the public. Limited seating.

**R** Register online at [www.fairfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.fairfieldpubliclibrary.org), or call 203-256-3160.

#### Main Library

1080 Old Post Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

#### Fairfield Woods Branch

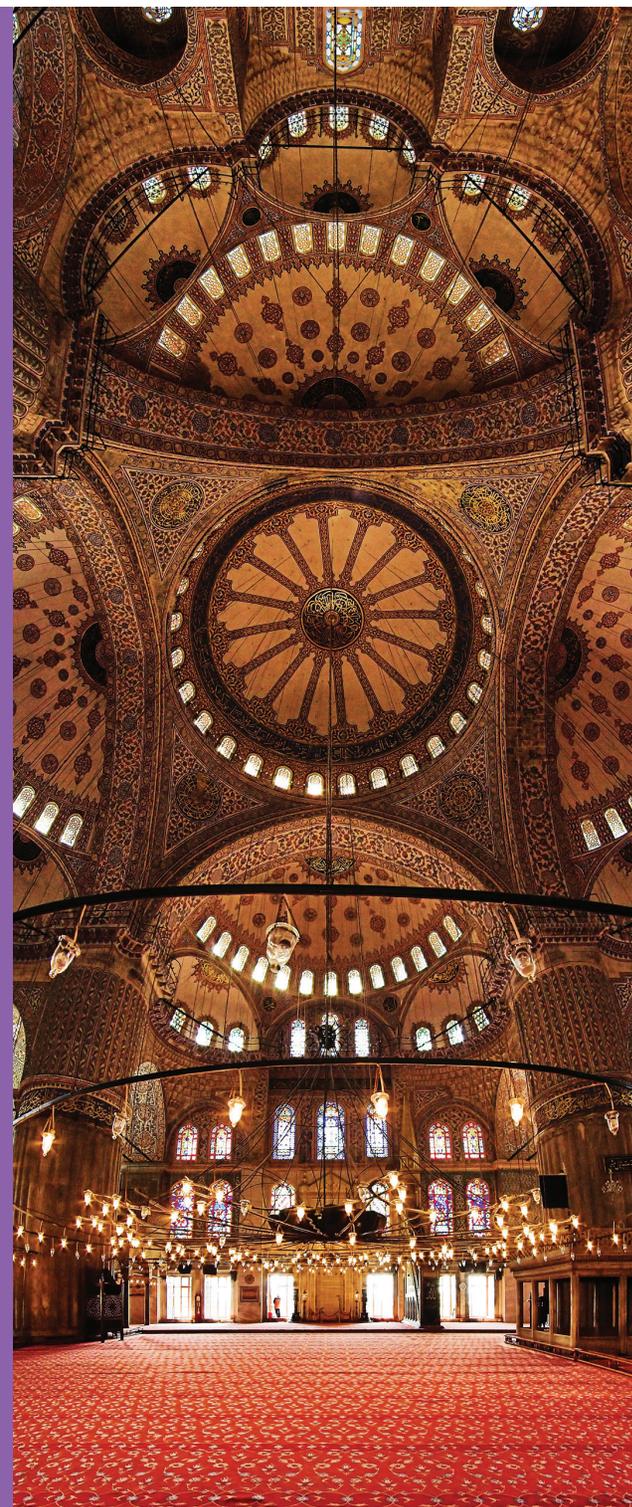
1147 Fairfield Woods Road  
Fairfield, CT 06825



## Muslim Journeys 2013

Fairfield  
Public  
Library

*You belong here!*





Muslim Journeys is a component of the National Endowment for the Humanities agency-wide Bridging Cultures initiative, which engages the power of the Humanities to promote understanding and mutual respect for people with diverse histories, cultures, and perspectives within the United States and abroad.

### Discovery Art: Mosaic Art Tiles **R**

Virtually all countries with a history of Islamic Culture have a tradition of decorative tiles and decorative bricks, used to ornament both the interior and exterior of important buildings. This art form of intricate and inspired patterns is based on geometric shapes, calligraphy and arabesque. Join artists Christine Orlando and Priscilla Igram, owners of The Studio, (an art studio dedicated to all ages) as they discuss Islamic tiles. Then make your own repeating design out of colorful paper. Your designs will be displayed throughout the Library during October and November. For families.

**Saturday, October 5, 10:30 AM-NOON**  
**Children's Program Room, Main Library**

### Koran by Heart, an HBO Documentary **R**

Film & Discussion

**Wednesday, October 9, 6:00 PM**  
**Rotary Room, Main Library**

Director Greg Barker is fascinated by an internal debate within Islam: whether to embrace modernity or to take a more fundamentalist approach. Talking about that idea with colleagues, he came up with the idea of shooting a Koran recitation competition as an interesting entry point into a complex subject. As we get deep into the competitors' stories, we see families grappling with issues that Muslims and non-Muslims are dealing with all around the world: how should Muslim children be educated?

**Presenter:** Martin Nguyen, PhD is Assistant Professor of Islamic Religious Traditions in the Religious Studies Department at Fairfield University.

### Stories from the Muslim World **R**

This family program will feature Omer Bajwa telling traditional stories from the Muslim world. Join us as we enjoy traditional Arabic folktales. We will share the lighthearted humor, adventure, deep morals, glittering rewards and insights into Muslim life. *The Arabian Nights* will be the starting point as Omer weaves his way through the *World of Arabic Tales*.

**Sunday, November 17, 2:00 PM**  
**Fairfield Woods Branch Library**

**Presenter:** Omer Bajwa is the Coordinator of Muslim Life in the Chaplain's Office at Yale. He has been engaged in religious service, social activism, and educational outreach for the past nine years. His interests include Islam in the United States, interfaith activities, Islam and the global media, and transnational religious and intellectual networks.

### A Trip through Muslim Journeys **R**

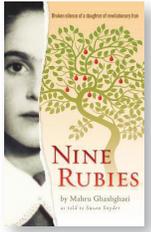
As a way of deepening understanding of connections to the Islamic world and its history, take an intellectual sojourn through varied "Muslim journeys". Learn why some Muslim individuals and groups have chosen to migrate, explore, and travel, and how these expeditions connect to Islamic history and beliefs.

**Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 PM**  
**Rotary Room, Main Library**

**Presenter:** Brian Kelahan is a history teacher at Common Ground High School in New Haven, CT. He completed his MA and PhD coursework in Islamic Studies and Comparative Religion at New York University and has published and lectured on topics related to the study of Islam.

### Author Talk and Luncheon **R**

Mahru Ghashghaei and Susan Snyder talk about their book *Nine Rubies*. In 1990 two mothers sat in a modest Connecticut kitchen enjoying a spring day and getting to know someone new. Sue was an American Jewish educator; Mahru was an Iranian Muslim nurse and counselor. Mahru's stories were metaphors for the larger human struggle, and Sue began to write them down. The book begins nearly a century ago with Mahru's grandfather escaping the Russian Revolution and building a life in Northern Iran, and continues through the final years of the Shah, and the Iran-Iraq war.



**Thursday, November 14, NOON**  
**Rotary Room, Main Library**

### Book Club Discussions

Four Library Book Clubs will be reading and discussing the following books during October and November.

**Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 PM**  
*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (Hamid)  
**Jennings Room, Main Library**

**Thursday, October 17, 1:30 PM**  
*In the Sea there are Crocodiles* (Geda)  
**Fairfield Woods Branch Library**

**Wednesday, October 30, 2:00 PM**  
*In the Country of Men* (Matar)  
**Fairfield Woods Branch Library**

**Wednesday, November 6, 11:00 AM**  
*Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind* (Staples)  
**Senior Center,  
100 Mona Terrace, Fairfield**

