



2014 International Children's and Young Adult Literature Celebration

Muslim Journeys

Saturday, August 16th, 2014

Madison Concourse Hotel | 1 W. Dayton Street | Madison

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

8:30 am Registration begins with a light breakfast and coffee in the University Rooms

8:45 am Welcome: **Rachel Weiss**, Co-Chair, WIOC, UW-Madison

9:00 – 9:45 am **"Muslims on the Move: Spatial and Spiritual Journeys in the Modern Era"**

Terrence Peterson, PhD Candidate, Department of History, UW-Madison | From its origins, Islam has been a religion of movement, expanding from the Arabian Peninsula to span the globe, and growing to encompass a broad range of cultures and practices. How have world historical events, particularly in the past two centuries, shaped the geographic movements of Muslims and Islam? And how have these journeys in turn shaped spiritual movements within the global community of Muslims? This talk will provide some broad historical context and pedagogic advice on teaching the recent history of Islam.

10:00 – 10:45 am **"Is the Relationship Between Muslims and Non-Muslim that bad?"**

Saideh Jamshidi | The tension between Islam and the West has always existed. The question is how best to address this debate in a productive manner. Unless both sides understand the other's point of view, any form of resolution is hopeless. In an attempt to explain the differences between the West and Islam, Iranian-American journalist and CEO Saideh Jamshidi created a new narrative in the media. Through "peace journalism," Saideh is taking one step forward toward reconciliation.

11:00 – 11:45 am **"Childhood and Literacy in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco"**

Ali Alalou | This presentation is about the author's experiences as a child growing up in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco in North Africa. The presentation will touch on the author's initiation to fiction, oral fiction, that is, and how his schooling saved him from poverty. The story "The Butter Man" is among the numerous stories that had an important impact on his imagination as a child and taught him a lifelong lesson. The author will talk a bit about his introduction to literacy and about how schools have consistently failed, for ideological reasons, to expose students of the Atlas Mountains to world literature and great works of fiction.

12:00 – 12:45 pm **Buffet Lunch**

****Books for sale by A Room of One's Own Bookstore and posters and calendars for sale from the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers****

1:00 – 1:45 pm **"Thomas Jefferson was a Muslim and other Fables"**

Naheed Senzai | Although Islam is portrayed as a foreign, and fairly recent, arrival to the shores of the United States, Muslims have been part of the American landscape since the time of the founding fathers. We will journey through history and separate fact from fiction and get a glimpse into the demographics of the Muslim Americans of today. Ms. Senzai will discuss how current events impacted her decision to write stories and use fiction to illustrate the life of Muslim American children, hoping to build bridges of understanding between diverse communities.

2:00 – 2:45 pm **"A Journey from the Margins"**

Rukhsana Khan | Growing up as one of the only children of South Asian origin in a very small town, Rukhsana relates how she used literature to survive and how she learned to express her own struggles into award-winning stories that have traveled the globe.

3:00 – 4:00 pm **Muslim Journeys continued: Exploring resources**

Sarah McDaniel (Go Big Read, UW-Madison) | **Heather du Bois** (Great World Texts in Wisconsin, UW-Madison) | **Elsa Martson** (author) | **Janan Najeeb** (Islamic Resource Center, Milwaukee) | **Rachel Weiss** (Center for South Asia)

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Speaker Panel with invited authors**

4:30 – 5:00 pm **Reception and Book Signing**

This event is sponsored by the **Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium**, including funding from the UW-Madison's African Studies Program, Center for European Studies, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies, Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, Center for South Asia, Global Studies, and the International Institute; UW-Milwaukee's Center for International Education, and Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Special thanks to A Room of One's Own Bookstore Madison, WI. For archives of this event and past events, go to: www.wioc.wisc.edu/childlit/

Speaker Bios
(in order of presentations)

Terrence Peterson is a PhD candidate in the UW-Madison history department where he is writing a dissertation on the overlaps between counterinsurgency and population development projects during Algeria's war of independence from France (1954-62). His research and teaching interests focus on French colonialism in North Africa, decolonization, and European Muslims since the 1950s. Terrence studied in France on a Fulbright during the 2012-13 academic year. In spring 2014, he designed and taught a course in the history department, "Muslims and Europeans in the Modern Mediterranean from 1800 to the Present."

Saideh Jamshidi | fashionmuslima.com/

Saideh is an Iranian-American journalist/ entrepreneur. Saideh has worked in print, broadcast, and online media as a writer, producer, chief editor and commentator both in the United States and in Iran. Recently, she founded Goltune News, an online digital news magazine focusing on Muslim women and peace journalism. Saideh has won many national and international awards in journalism. She speaks four languages.

Ali Alalou teaches French and applied linguistics at the University of Delaware. Born in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, Ali met Elizabeth Alalou while he was teaching at a public school in southern Morocco. They are now married and live with their four children near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

N.H. Senzai | www.nhsenzai.com/

Naheed is the author of the *Shooting Kabul* and *Saving Kabul Corner*. *Shooting Kabul* was chosen by the Asian Pacific Librarians Association as their 2010-11 Young Adult Literature winner. The book was also an NPR Backseat Book Club pick. Senzai spent most of her childhood in San Francisco and Jubail, Saudi Arabia. She attended high school in London, England where she was voted "most likely to read a literary revolution" due to her ability to get away with reading comic books in class. Today Ms. Senzai lives in the Bay Area with her husband and son. Her upcoming novel is *Partition Junction*.

Rukhsana Khan | www.rukhsanakhan.com/

Rukhsana is an award-winning author and storyteller. She was born in Lahore, Pakistan and immigrated to Canada at the age of three. She has twelve books published and other projects under contract. She has appeared on television and radio numerous times, has been featured at international conferences in Denmark, Mexico, India, Singapore, Italy, and South Africa, and has presented all across Canada and the U.S. She tells tales of India, Persia, the Middle East, as well as her own stories. She has four grown children (three girls and a boy) and nine grandchildren. She lives in Toronto with her husband and family. Rukhsana is a member of SCBWI, The Writers Union of Canada, and Storytelling Toronto.

Sarah McDaniel (Go Big Read, UW-Madison) | www.gobigread.wisc.edu/

Heather du Bois (Great World Texts in Wisconsin, UW-Madison) | humanities.wisc.edu/public-projects/gwt/about-gwt

Elsa Martson (author) | www.elsamarston.com/

Elsa is an award-winning author of over 20 teen and children's books, specializing in the Middle East and North Africa, ancient and modern. She has a master's degree in international affairs from Harvard University with further study at the American University of Beirut, and has lived in Egypt, Lebanon, and Tunisia with her husband, the late Professor Iliya Harik of Indiana University. In addition to her books with Wisdom Tales (*The Compassionate Warrior* and, forthcoming, *The Olive Tree*), her recent work includes *Santa Claus in Baghdad and Other Stories About Teens in the Arab World*, *Women in the Middle East: Tradition and Change*, *The Byzantine Empire*, and *Muhammad of Mecca*, a historical biography. She lives in Bloomington, Indiana.

Janan Najeeb (Islamic Resource Center, Milwaukee) | ironline.info/