

Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys Site Support Notebook

What Is *Let's Talk About It*?

Let's Talk About It[®] is a reading and discussion series led by local scholars and organized around themes that engage and stimulate audiences. It was pioneered by the American Library Association (ALA) on a national level in 1982. *Let's Talk About It* has reached hundreds of libraries and more than four million people around the United States in the past thirty years.

The [ALA Public Programs Office](#)[®] and the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)[®] (NEH) are pleased to offer five themes exploring “Muslim Journeys” through works of literature, history, poetry, memoir, essays, interviews, and more. *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* aims to encourage informed community conversations about the histories, faith, and cultures of Muslims around the world, and engender a love of literature, history and community discussion through the *Let's Talk About It* model.

How will *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* programs work at my library?

Participating libraries choose one of the themes (see [Themes, Books, and Materials](#)) and plan a series of reading and discussion programs typically taking place at the library every two to four weeks (depending on local library preference). The library is responsible for recruiting a scholar to lead each discussion, and promoting the programs to the widest possible public audience. Each of the themes includes a series of five titles to be read and discussed in sequence, accompanied by a scholarly essay.

Each essay, written by a national project scholar, will introduce the theme and illuminate discussion. Libraries will need to purchase and/or acquire the books for their collections and for participant use. See Section 3 for more about ordering materials.

What makes *Let's Talk About It* unique?

- It is designed for libraries.
- The readings are organized around an overarching theme.
- Reading and discussion groups explore the theme through the lens of the humanities—that is, by relating the readings to historical trends and events, other works of literature, philosophical and ethical considerations.
- A humanities scholar, often a professor from a local college or university, presents a short talk at the beginning of each discussion session to help focus and provoke discussion.
- The discussion is led or facilitated by the humanities scholar.

Why does ALA work with other institutions and funders to develop reading and discussion programs?

Libraries are many things to their communities. They offer the practical information people need to improve the quality of their lives and to increase their options in a complex society. Libraries also give their communities something less tangible, yet just as essential to a satisfying and productive life—nourishment for the spirit.

Programs in the humanities and the arts that encourage people to think about literature, history, ethics, science, music, visual and literary arts, and human values are an integral part of the mission of libraries.

Reading and discussion series stimulate public interest in the world of ideas. They are as much an opportunity for continuing education as starting points for substantive discussion, study and programming.

One goal of ALA adult programming initiatives is to encourage the public to go beyond the stacks to explore themes with fellow patrons and the help of scholarly resources. A related goal is to help libraries strengthen their role as intellectual forums and central cultural and educational institutions in their communities.

We hope that the experience and information gained through these programs will encourage librarians to plan future humanities and arts based programs for their communities.

About Our Partners

The National Endowment for the Humanities [↗](#): Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, exhibitions and programs in libraries, museums and other community places. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at the [NEH website](#) [↗](#).

The Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies [↗](#) at George Mason University: The Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies supports research, interdisciplinary academic programs, and community outreach to advance knowledge and understanding of Islam as a world religion, its role in world history, and current patterns of globalization in Muslim societies. The center aspires to be a hub of international excellence for research and learning, and to promote a sophisticated understanding of the complex dynamics that shape Muslim societies and communities worldwide.

Additional Funding

Support for the Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys initiative 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](#) [↗](#).

Schedule of Programs

Please send any schedule changes to publicprograms@ala.org for posting.

Libraries

Troy University-Dothan Library

Dothan, AL

American Stories

Prince Among Slaves: 9/02/2014

The Columbia Sourcebook (selections): 9/16/2014

Acts of Faith: 9/30/2014

A Quiet Revolution: 10/14/2014

The Butterfly Mosque: 10/28/2014

Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University

State University, AR

Pathways of Faith

The Children of Abraham: 4/2/2014

Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction: 4/16/2014

The Story of the Qur'an: 4/30/2014

The Art of Hajj: 5/14/2014

Rumi: Poet and Mystic: 5/28/2014

Pepperdine University Libraries

Malibu, CA

Pathways of Faith

The Children of Abraham: 1/21/2014

Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction: 2/11/2014

The Story of the Qur'an: 3/4/2014

The Art of Hajj: 3/25/2014

Rumi: Poet and Mystic: 4/15/2014

University of Redlands, Armacost Library

Redlands, CA

Points of View

In the Country of Men: 9/28/2013

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood: 10/26/2013

House of Stone: 11/23/2013

Broken Verses: 1/25/2014

Dreams of Trespass: 2/22/2014

San Diego Public Library

San Diego, CA

Connected Histories

When Asia Was the World: 1/13/2014

The House of Wisdom: 2/3/2014

The Ornament of the World: 2/24/2014

Leo Africanus: 3/17/2014

In an Antique Land: 4/7/2014

San Jose State University Research Foundation, Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. Library

San Jose, CA

Literary Reflections

The Arabian Nights: 10/1/2013

The Conference of the Birds: 11/5/2013

Snow: 2/4/2014

Dreams of Trespass: 3/4/2014

Minaret: 4/8/2014

<p>Ventura College Library Ventura, CA Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 11/13/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 12/4/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 1/15/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 2/12/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 3/12/2014</p>	<p>Contra Costa County Library System - Walnut Creek Library Walnut Creek, CA American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 8/27/2014 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 9/10/2014 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 10/08/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 10/22/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 11/12/2014</p>
<p>Gilpin County Public Library Black Hawk, CO Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 1/18/2014 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 2/1/2014 <i>Snow</i>: 2/15/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 3/1/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 3/15/2014</p>	<p>High Plains Library District Greeley, CO Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/17/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 9/24/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 10/22/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 11/5/2013</p>
<p>Wilkinson Public Library Telluride, CO Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/10/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 11/12/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 1/14/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 2/11/2014</p>	<p>Gateway Community College, GCC Library & Learning Commons New Haven, CT Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 9/24/2013 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 10/29/2013 <i>Snow</i>: 11/5/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 2/11/2013 <i>Minaret</i>: 4/15/2013</p>
<p>Nova Southeastern University, Alvin Sherman Library Ft. Lauderdale, FL American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/16/2014 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selection): 9/30/2014 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 10/21/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 11/04/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 11/18/2014</p>	<p>Miami Dade College Homestead Campus Learning Resources Homestead, FL Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 1/23/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 2/6/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 2/27/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 3/27/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 4/10/2014</p>

<p>Georgia Southern University, Zach S. Henderson Library Statesboro, GA Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 1/28/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 2/18/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 3/11/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 4/1/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 4/22/2014</p>	<p>Athens Regional Library System/Oconee County Library Watkinsville, GA Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 1/21/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 2/11/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 3/4/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 3/25/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 5/15/2014</p>
<p>Bettendorf Public Library Bettendorf, IA American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 4/16/2014 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 5/14/2014 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 06/18/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 7/16/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 8/20/2014</p>	<p>Ada Community Library Boise, ID Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/17/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/08/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 10/29/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 11/19/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 12/10/2014</p>
<p>Eastern Illinois University, Booth Library Charleston, IL Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 2/4/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 2/18/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 3/4/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 3/25/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 4/8/2014</p>	<p>Northeastern Illinois University, Ronald Williams Library Chicago, IL Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 11/21/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 2/20/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 5/22/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 7/17/2014</p>
<p>DeKalb Public Library DeKalb, IL American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/17/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 10/15/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 11/19/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 1/22/2013 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 2/26/2013</p>	<p>Evanston Public Library Evanston, IL Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/15/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/6/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 11/17/2013 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 3/9/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 4/6/2014</p>

<p>Frankfort Public Library District Frankfort, IL Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 1/9/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 2/13/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 3/13/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 4/10/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 5/8/2014</p>	<p>Matteson Public Library Matteson, IL Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 11/11/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 12/9/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 1/13/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 2/10/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 3/10/2014</p>
<p>Moline Public Library Moline, IL Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 2/18/2014 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 3/18/2014 <i>Snow</i>: 4/15/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 5/20/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 06/17/2014</p>	<p>Monmouth College, Hewes Library Monmouth, IL American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 10/17/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 11/21/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 2/20/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 3/20/2014</p>
<p>Dominican University, Rebecca Crown Library River Forest, IL American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/18/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 9/25/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 10/2/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 10/9/2013 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 10/16/2013</p>	<p>Wilmette Public Library Wilmette, IL Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 10/16/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 11/13/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 1/15/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 2/19/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 3/19/2014</p>
<p>Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana-Central Indiana Library Indianapolis, IN Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 12/4/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 1/15/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 2/12/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 3/19/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 4/9/2014</p>	<p>Saint Mary's College, Cushwa-Leighton Library Notre Dame, IN Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/18/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 11/06/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 1/22/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 3/5/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 4/30/2014</p>

<p>West Lafayette Public Library West Lafayette, IN Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 8/28/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 9/18/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 10/16/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 11/13/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 12/04/2014</p>	<p>Purdue University/IPFW Walter E. Helmke Library West Lafayette, IN American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/20/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 10/18/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 1/17/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 2/21/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 3/21/2014</p>
<p>Morehead State University, Camden-Carroll Library Morehead, KY Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 2/17/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 3/3/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 3/31/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 4/14/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 4/28/2014</p>	<p>Hingham Public Library Hingham, MA Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/7/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 9/28/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 10/19/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 11/9/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 11/30/2013</p>
<p>Peabody Institute Library Peabody, MA Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 1/13/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 2/10/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 3/10/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 4/14/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 5/12/2014</p>	<p>Salem State University Library Salem, MA Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 10/22/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 11/7/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 2/06/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 3/20/2014</p>
<p>Somerville Public Library Somerville, MA American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/10/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 11/13/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 2/11/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 3/18/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 5/8/2014</p>	<p>Enoch Pratt Free Library Baltimore, MD Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/18/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/2/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 10/16/2013 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 11/06/2013 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 11/20/2013</p>

<p>C. Burr Artz Trust on behalf of Frederick County Public Libraries Frederick, MD Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 8/25/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 9/15/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 10/06/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 10/27/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 11/17/2014</p>	<p>Montgomery College, Takoma Park-Silver Spring Library Takoma Park, MD Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 2/18/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 3/4/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 3/25/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 4/8/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 4/22/2014</p>
<p>Towson University Albert S. Cook Library Towson, MD Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 2/2/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 2/9/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 2/16/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 2/23/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 3/2/2014</p>	<p>Dearborn Public Library Dearborn, MI Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/17/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 10/29/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 11/19/2013 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 12/10/2013</p>
<p>Michigan State University Libraries East Lansing, MI Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 1/30/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 2/13/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 2/27/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 3/13/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 3/27/2014</p>	<p>Fremont Area District Library Fremont, MI Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/24/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 11/14/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 12/12/2013 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 1/16/2014</p>
<p>Peter White Public Library Marquette, MI American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/16/2014 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 9/23/2014 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 10/09/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 10/16/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 10/23/2014</p>	<p>Monroe County Community Colleges, Learning Resource Centers Monroe, MI American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 11/12/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 1/14/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 2/11/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 3/11/2014</p>

<p>Stair Public Library Morenci, MI Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 10/3/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 11/7/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 12/5/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 1/9/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 2/06/2014</p>	<p>North Central Michigan College Library Petoskey, MI Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 10/11/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 11/06/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 12/4/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 2/5/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 3/12/2014</p>
<p>Saginaw Valley State University, Zahnnow Library University Center, MI Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 11/13/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 1/8/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 2/12/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 3/12/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 4/9/2014</p>	<p>Macomb Community College Library Warren, MI Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 9/02/2014 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 9/18/2014 <i>Snow</i>: 10/06/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 11/10/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 12/02/2014</p>
<p>University of Minnesota Duluth Library Duluth, MN Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 10/15/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 11/12/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 2/18/2013 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 3/11/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 4/8/2014</p>	<p>University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Libraries Minneapolis, MN Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/17/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/1/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 10/15/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 10/29/2013 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 11/12/2013</p>
<p>New Ulm Public Library New Ulm, MN Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 10/17/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 11/21/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 2/20/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 3/20/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 4/17/2014</p>	<p>Great River Regional Library Saint Cloud, MN Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 4/30/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 5/14/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 5/28/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 6/11/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 6/25/2014</p>
<p>College of Saint Benedict, Clemens Library St. Joseph, MN Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 2/12/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 2/26/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 3/12/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 3/26/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 4/19/2014</p>	<p>Concordia University Library St. Paul, MN Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 10/2/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 11/12/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 2/11/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 3/5/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 4/8/2014</p>

<p>Kansas City Public Library Kansas City, MO Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/10/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 10/1/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 10/22/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 11/12/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 12/3/2013</p>	<p>University City Public Library University City, MO American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 1/23/2014 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 2/27/2014 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 3/27/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 4/24/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 5/22/2014</p>
<p>Carroll College, Corette Library Helena, MT Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 10/22/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 11/19/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 1/21/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 2/18/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 3/18/2014</p>	<p>Appalachian State University Library Boone, NC Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/10/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 11/5/2013 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 2/18/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 3/25/2014</p>
<p>Fargo Public Library Fargo, ND Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 2/6/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 2/20/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 3/6/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 3/20/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 4/3/2014</p>	<p>Omaha Public Library Omaha, NE Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 10/3/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/17/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 10/29/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 11/14/2013 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 11/21/2013</p>
<p>Kingston Community Library Kingston, NH Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 8/21/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 9/25/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 10/16/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 11/12/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 12/10/2014</p>	<p>Pease Public Library Plymouth, NH Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 5/13/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 9/09/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 10/07/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 10/28/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 12/02/2014</p>
<p>Bernards Township Library Basking Ridge, NJ Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 10/24/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 11/21/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 3/20/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 4/24/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 5/22/2014</p>	<p>Rowan University, Campbell Library Glassboro, NJ Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/3/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 10/31/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 11/14/2013 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 12/5/2013</p>

<p>Hudson County Community College Library Jersey City, NJ American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 10/11/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 10/25/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 11/8/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 2/21/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 3/14/2014</p>	<p>Fairleigh Dickinson University Library Madison, NJ American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 10/24/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 11/28/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 2/13/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 3/13/2014</p>
<p>Central New Mexico Community College Library Albuquerque, NM Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/26/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/10/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 10/24/2013 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 11/7/2013 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 11/21/2013</p>	<p>New Mexico Highlands University, Thomas C. Donnelly Library Las Vegas, NM Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 9/5/2013 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 9/26/2013 <i>Snow</i>: 10/17/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 11/7/2013 <i>Minaret</i>: 12/5/2013</p>
<p>Briarcliff Manor Public Library Briarcliff Manor, NY Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 2/06/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 3/06/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 4/3/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 5/1/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 06/5/2014</p>	<p>College at Brockport, Drake Memorial Library Brockport, NY Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 1/30/2014 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 2/20/2014 <i>Snow</i>: 3/13/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 4/3/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 4/24/2014</p>
<p>Hostos Community College Library Bronx, NY Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 10/15/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 11/12/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 3/11/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 4/15/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 4/29/2014</p>	<p>New York City College of Technology Library Brooklyn, NY American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 12/11/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 2/2014 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 3/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 4/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 5/2014</p>

<p>East Meadow Public Library East Meadow, NY Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 9/18/2014 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 10/30/2014 <i>Snow</i>: 11/20/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 12/18/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 1/22/2014</p>	<p>Crandall Public Library Glens Falls, NY Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/12/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 9/26/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 10/10/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 10/24/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 11/7/2013</p>
<p>Clinton Essex Franklin Library System Plattsburgh, NY Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 10/17/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 11/21/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 12/19/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 1/16/2014</p>	<p>Saranac Lake Free Library Saranac Lake, NY Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 9/17/2013 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 10/15/2013 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 11/19/2013 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 12/17/2013 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 1/14/2014</p>
<p>Utica Public Library Utica, NY Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/10/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 9/24/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 10/22/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 11/5/2013</p>	<p>Mt. Kisco Public Library Mt. Kisco, NY Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 2/8/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 3/8/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 4/12/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 5/10/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 06/14/2014</p>
<p>Miami University Library Middletown, OH Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/06/2014 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/04/2014 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 11/01/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 12/06/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 1/03/2014</p>	<p>Miami University Libraries Oxford, OH Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 12/5/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 1/30/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 2/13/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 3/06/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 4/10/2014</p>
<p>Thomas Library Springfield, OH Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/19/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/10/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 10/30/2013 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 11/20/2013 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 12/5/2013</p>	<p>Lourdes University Library Sylvania, OH American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 10/15/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 10/22/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 10/29/2013 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 11/5/2013</p>

<p>Westerville Public Library Westerville, OH American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 8/19/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 9/2/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 9/9/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 9/30/2013 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 10/21/2013</p>	<p>Wilmington College, Watson Library Wilmington, OH Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/10/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/8/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 11/12/2013 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 2/11/2014 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 3/11/2014</p>
<p>Multnomah County Library Portland, OR Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 8/25/2014 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 9/22/2014 <i>Snow</i>: 10/20/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 12/31/2014</p>	<p>Middletown Free Library Lima, PA American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 9/14/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 10/12/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 11/9/2013 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 12/14/2013 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 1/11/2013</p>
<p>Lower Macungie Library Macungie, PA American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 4/3/2014 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 4/10/2014 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 4/17/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 4/24/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 5/1/2014</p>	<p>Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Main Pittsburgh, PA Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 10/29/2013 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 11/19/2013 <i>Snow</i>: 12/10/2013 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 1/7/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 1/28/2014</p>
<p>Indian Valley Public Library Telford, PA Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 2/2/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 2/23/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 3/16/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 4/06/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 4/27/2014</p>	<p>Allen University, J.S. Flipper Library Columbia, SC American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 8/23/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 11/16/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 2/25/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 3/4/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 8/12/2014</p>
<p>Coastal Carolina University, Kimbel Library Conway, SC Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 8/26/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 9/09/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 9/23/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 10/07/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 10/21/2014</p>	<p>West Texas A&M University, Cornette Library Canyon, TX Literary Reflections <i>The Arabian Nights</i>: 5/22/2014 <i>The Conference of the Birds</i>: 6/19/2014 <i>Snow</i>: 8/21/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 9/25/2014 <i>Minaret</i>: 10/23/2014</p>

<p>University of North Texas Libraries' Digital Scholarship Co-Operative Denton, TX American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 10/4/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 11/8/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 2/7/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 3/7/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 4/4/2014</p>	<p>Texas Christian University Library Fort Worth, TX Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 1/23/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 2/06/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 2/20/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 3/06/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 3/20/2014</p>
<p>Houston Community College Northwest Library Houston, TX Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/27/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 10/24/2013 <i>House of Stone</i>: 1/30/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 2/27/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 3/27/2014</p>	<p>Smithville Public Library Smithville, TX Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 9/16/2013 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 1/20/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 3/24/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 5/19/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 06/30/2014</p>
<p>Loudoun County Public Library Leesburg, VA Connected Histories <i>When Asia Was the World</i>: 8/20/2014 <i>The House of Wisdom</i>: 9/10/2014 <i>The Ornament of the World</i>: 9/24/2014 <i>Leo Africanus</i>: 10/08/2014 <i>In an Antique Land</i>: 10/22/2014</p>	<p>St. Norbert College, Mulva Library DePere, WI Pathways of Faith <i>The Children of Abraham</i>: 9/24/2013 <i>Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction</i>: 10/22/2013 <i>The Story of the Qur'an</i>: 2/11/2014 <i>The Art of Hajj</i>: 11/12/2013 <i>Rumi: Poet and Mystic</i>: 4/8/2014</p>
<p>UW-Milwaukee Libraries Milwaukee, WI American Stories <i>Prince Among Slaves</i>: 10/2/2013 <i>The Columbia Sourcebook</i> (selections): 11/06/2013 <i>Acts of Faith</i>: 1/29/2014 <i>A Quiet Revolution</i>: 3/5/2014 <i>The Butterfly Mosque</i>: 4/30/2014</p>	<p>Verona Public Library Verona, WI Points of View <i>In the Country of Men</i>: 2/8/2014 <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>: 3/8/2014 <i>House of Stone</i>: 4/5/2014 <i>Broken Verses</i>: 5/3/2014 <i>Dreams of Trespass</i>: 5/24/2014</p>

Waunakee Public Library

Waunakee, WI

Points of View

In the Country of Men: 10/21/2013*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*: 11/18/2013*House of Stone*: 12/16/2013*Broken Verses*: 1/13/2014*Dreams of Trespass*: 2/10/2014**American University Library**

Washington, DC

American Stories

Prince Among Slaves: 9/19/2013*The Columbia Sourcebook* (selections): 10/3/2013*Acts of Faith*: 10/17/2013*A Quiet Revolution*: 10/31/2013*The Butterfly Mosque*: 11/14/2013**State Humanities Councils****Georgia Humanities Council**

Atlanta, GA

American Stories

Tucker Branch Library, Scott Candler Branch Library

Prince Among Slaves: 1/7/2014, 3/11/2014*The Columbia Sourcebook* (selections): 1/21/2014, 3/25/2014*Acts of Faith*: 2/4/2014, 4/8/2014*A Quiet Revolution*: 2/18/2014, 4/22/2014*The Butterfly Mosque*: 3/4/2014, 5/06/2014**Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities**

New Orleans, LA

American Stories

Norman Mayer Branch Library, Louisiana Tech University

Prince Among Slaves: 9/19/2013, 10/1/2013*The Columbia Sourcebook* (selections): 9/26/2013, 10/8/2013*Acts of Faith*: 10/3/2013, 10/15/2013*A Quiet Revolution*: 10/10/2013, 10/22/2013*The Butterfly Mosque*: 10/17/2013, 10/29/2013**Maine Humanities Council**

Portland, ME

Points of View

Norway Memorial Library, Lewiston Public Library

In the Country of Men: 9/18/2013, 1/15/2014*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*: 10/16/2013, 2/19/2014*House of Stone*: 11/20/2013, 3/19/2014*Broken Verses*: 12/18/2013, 4/16/2014*Dreams of Trespass*: 1/15/2014, 5/21/2014**Michigan Humanities Council**

Lansing, MI

Points of View

Pickford Community Library, Public Libraries of Saginaw

In the Country of Men: 10/9/2013, 3/11/2014*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*: 10/16/2013, 3/18/2014*House of Stone*: 10/23/2013, 4/1/2014*Broken Verses*: 10/30/2013, 4/8/2014*Dreams of Trespass*: 11/06/2013, 4/15/2014

Mississippi Humanities Council

Jackson, MS

American Stories

Various

Prince Among Slaves: 9/12/2013, 3/13/2014*The Columbia Sourcebook* (selections): 10/10/2013, 4/10/2014*Acts of Faith*: 11/14/2013, 5/8/2014*A Quiet Revolution*: 2/13/2014, 06/12/2014*The Butterfly Mosque*: 3/13/2014, 7/10/2014**Humanities Montana**

Missoula, MT

Literary Reflections

Missoula Public Library, Dillon Public Library

The Arabian Nights: 9/18/2013, 9/19/2013*The Conference of the Birds*: 10/16/2013, 10/17/2013*Snow*: 11/13/2013, 11/14/2013*Dreams of Trespass*: 12/18/2013, 12/19/2013*Minaret*: 1/15/2014, 1/16/2014**North Carolina Humanities Council**

Greensboro, NC

American Stories

Jackson County Public Library

Prince Among Slaves: 9/09/2014*The Columbia Sourcebook* (selections): 9/23/2014*Acts of Faith*: 10/07/2014*A Quiet Revolution*: 10/21/2014*The Butterfly Mosque*: 11/04/2014**Oklahoma Humanities Council**

Oklahoma City, OK

American Stories

Oklahoma State University-Tulsa

Prince Among Slaves: 8/26/2014*The Columbia Sourcebook* (selections): 9/16/2014*Acts of Faith*: 10/07/2014*A Quiet Revolution*: 10/28/2014*The Butterfly Mosque*: 11/18/2014**The Humanities Council SC**

Columbia, SC

Points of View

Seneca Branch of the Oconee County Library, Chapin

Memorial Library

In the Country of Men: 9/9/2013, 1/15/2014*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*: 10/7/2013, 1/29/2014*House of Stone*: 10/28/2013, 2/12/2014*Broken Verses*: 11/18/2013, 2/26/2014*Dreams of Trespass*: 12/9/2013, 3/12/2014**Humanities Tennessee**

Nashville, TN

Points of View

In the Country of Men: 1/13/2014, 9/10/2013*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*: 9/24/2013, 1/27/2014*House of Stone*: 10/8/2013, 2/10/2014*Broken Verses*: 10/22/2013, 2/24/2014*Dreams of Trespass*: 11/5/2013, 3/10/2014**Utah Humanities Council**

Salt Lake City, UT

American Stories

Salt Lake City Public Library, Utah Cultural Celebration Center

Prince Among Slaves: 10/8/2013, 12/3/2013*The Columbia Sourcebook* (selections): 10/15/2013, 12/10/2013*Acts of Faith*: 10/22/2013, 1/7/2013*A Quiet Revolution*: 11/5/2013, 1/14/2013*The Butterfly Mosque*: 11/12/2013, 1/21/2013**Vermont Humanities Council**

Montpelier, VT

Literary Reflections

George Peabody Library

The Arabian Nights: 6/11/2014*The Conference of the Birds*: 6/25/2014*Snow*: 7/09/2014*Dreams of Trespass*: 7/23/2014*Minaret*: 8/06/2014

Wyoming Humanities Council

Laramie, WY

Points of View

Laramie County Library, Albany County Library

In the Country of Men: 1/28/2014, 1/29/2014

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood: 2/18/2014, 2/19/2014

House of Stone: 3/26/2014, 3/26/2014

Broken Verses: 4/22/2014, 4/23/2014

Dreams of Trespass: 5/20/2014, 5/21/2014

Themes, Books, and Materials

Themes and Essays

The books selected for the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf have been organized by five themes: **American Stories**, **Connected Histories**, **Literary Reflections**, **Pathways of Faith**, and **Points of View**. These theme-specific, five-book groups will serve as the foundation for *Let's Talk About It*: Muslim Journeys reading and discussion program grants.

National project scholars have written thoughtful and reflective essays that inform each theme. Each thematic essay is a discussion tool and guidepost for local scholar and participant alike. Each *Let's Talk About It* participant should be given the essay in advance of the first discussion session. Thirty printed copies will be mailed to participating libraries, and additional copies of the essay may be downloaded and printed from the theme pages above.

Grant Payments and Book Orders

All libraries and state humanities councils that submitted a Grant Acceptance Form by the May 23 deadline should receive their grant payment by mail, no later than June 14. If you have not received your check by June 14, please contact publicprograms@ala.org for more information.

Grant payments were distributed with instructions for ordering Muslim Journeys books through Baker & Taylor for discounts of up to 40% off retail. Grantees may download and complete the **Baker & Taylor order form** (Excel, password required; contact publicprograms@ala.org for access instructions). Participating sites are in no way required to purchase books through any particular vendor.

As of May 2013, there are limited quantities in stock of many of the Muslim Journeys titles. **Therefore, ALA is urging all grant recipients to order their print materials as soon as possible.** This way, if a reprint is necessary, there will be ample time for your materials to arrive before programs begin.

Libraries participating in LTAI Muslim Journeys may wish to download selected readings from **The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States** (PDF, password required—contact publicprograms@ala.org for assistance), edited by Edward E. Curtis IV. The publisher has provided permission for participating sites to download, print and distribute these readings during the term September 1, 2013–August 31, 2014, using the following credit line: ©2007 Columbia University Press; used by arrangement with the Publisher, all rights reserved.

Ordering Books (Print and Digital)

If your library regularly hosts reading and discussion programs, you will already have policies and practices in place for making books available to patrons. Whether reading and discussion programs are new to your library or not, here are the most common strategies for ensuring that patrons have access to the books:

- **The library provides the books:** Ideally you will provide one book for each participant for each program in the series. Larger systems may be able to gather enough copies from their branches and through interlibrary loan to respond to the demands of participants, particularly if multiple Muslim Journeys Bookshelf awards were received locally. Most libraries create a budget to purchase multiple copies of each title in addition to any they have gathered. In either case, plan in advance and place copies of the books on reserve for Let's Talk About It participants.
- **Participants purchase their own copies:** Even when the books are available through the library, participants often want to purchase their own copies to annotate as they go along. It can be helpful to contact local bookstores and let them know about the *Let's Talk About It* series far in advance. Bookstores can be a valuable partner in publicity and will often agree to offer a discount on purchases of books for the series. Note that some of the books on the Muslim Journeys reading lists are available in limited quantities and may require reprinting, so greater lead-time for orders is strongly recommended.
- **Exchanges with other participating *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* libraries:** Many libraries participating in this program will communicate with each other via the Let's Talk About It electronic discussion list (see Online Resources) and may wish to work out book sharing, buying, and exchange arrangements based on differing program schedules.

TIP: Consider putting together program "kits" that pre-registered participants can check out. Kits might include the first book and the participant folder (containing essays, bookmark, and a flyer with meeting times and dates). For future sessions, participants can trade in the title discussed that night for the next title in the series, adding it to their kit.

Costs and quantities: Many libraries choose to purchase paperback editions of the books whenever they are available, in an effort to keep costs down. Because book orders should be placed in advance of pre-registration deadlines, the number of books you order will usually be based on your audience estimate.

Also, when estimating quantities, keep in mind that publicizing the *Let's Talk About It* programs may create demand for the titles among those who want to read the books but do not have the time to participate.

The possibility of higher-than-estimated participation is another reason to contact local bookstores in advance and work out favorable purchasing arrangements for participants. Encourage the bookstores to create window displays featuring Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys books and publicizing the discount.

E-books: You may wish to purchase e-book versions of any Muslim Journeys title that is available, via your usual e-book vendor.

To access information about ebook availability, please see the public list in WorldCat, [Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Collection](#)[Ⓔ].

Program Planning

Goals and Objectives

By now, the grant has been awarded and a preliminary plan for programs has been put together. As the program dates approach and you begin implementing the program plan, revisit the reasons why you want to hold a *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* series. It may seem like you already know the answer, but it's worth taking another look. Think about what you want the series to accomplish:

Audience Goals

- Who will your program serve (ages, demographics, library use)?
- How many (% of target population)?
- Why this audience?
- What are the interests of audience?
- What are the needs of this audience and how will they benefit?

(For more on target audience, see [Promotion](#))

Collection/Thematic Goals

- Is there an area of the collection that you want to emphasize or build around the series theme?
- Does this discussion series theme relate to other library or community programming or events?

Community Goals

- How will the community benefit?
- Which partner organizations might be interested in your library's *Let's Talk About It* series?
- What community issues/agendas tie into the Muslim Journeys theme you've selected?

Program Goals

- What do you want this *Let's Talk About It* program to accomplish?
- How will the library benefit?
- What future activities might this series foster?

Good programs find connections between goals.

Planning the Series

Good programs are the result of good planning. After your project goals are in place, review your timeline and break your planning process down to construct a practical working timeline that will enable you to complete an excellent *Let's Talk About It* series. The following checklist should help you give yourself enough time to produce a well-organized reading and discussion series.

- Prepare a project budget
- Recruit program scholar(s)
- Select program dates, times
- Recruit potential program partners
- Apply for funding
- Receive funding: (*Congratulations! You have been awarded an LTAI grant and are already this far along in the planning process.*)
- Alert library staff, Friends, Board
- Secure "buy-in" from library staff and administration
- Apply for matching funding, contact potential sponsors
- Contact scholar, program partners with notification of grant award
- Reserve meeting space
- Finalize marketing plan
- Order any additional books, alert local book stores
- Finalize audience recruitment plan
- Publicize reading and discussion series
- Distribute publicity materials to program partners
- Place ads, public service announcements
- Put together staffing plan; if need be, recruit discussion group leaders
- Track potential participants through sign-up system
- Order refreshments
- Distribute program materials to pre-registered participants
- Last minute confirmations with scholar, partner organizations
- Send email reminders to registrants (week or day before sessions)
- Hold discussion sessions
- Monitor book circulation
- Publicize throughout series
- Conduct evaluation of each program
- Collect end-of-series evaluations from participants and scholars
- Submit ALA/NEH online final report (due September 30, 2014)

Not all of these steps may be necessary for your program series, or you may come up with other items for your checklist—tailor the checklist to fit your library's needs.

Program Personnel Job Descriptions

Project Director

The project director has the job of managing the *Let's Talk About It* series from beginning to end. This may seem like a large undertaking, however, with adequate planning it can be quite manageable.

Although the project director may have help from a planning committee, volunteers and other library staff, he/she is primarily responsible for overseeing:

- Selection and coordination of the scholar(s)
- Reservation, preparation of the meeting room
- Pre-registration of participants
- Distribution of program materials
- Publicity and outreach
- Working with community partners
- Preparation of budget, payment of bills, honorarium
- Management of programs
- Coordination of assisting staff and/or volunteers
- Evaluation and reporting

Project Scholar

If you've worked with humanities programming before, the idea of involving a scholar is not only familiar but also appealing. The scholar isn't an obstacle to be overcome—if that's your approach it could all too likely become the result. Think of the scholar as your program partner and make sure he or she understands that role.

Both of you, the project director and the scholar exist only to make this discussion series a terrific experience for the participants. You must both be open to the interests of the group, encouraging their ideas and offering assistance. You both have a great deal to offer in facilitating this program, but the program is for the participants, not for the scholar or the library.

Minimum scholar qualifications:

- Must possess appropriate academic qualifications to speak on the program themes and have teaching or other experience relevant to selected titles;
- Must be engaging, comfortable and experienced speaking before and facilitating discussion with adult audiences.

Preferred scholar qualifications (the above qualifications, plus):

- A Ph.D. or advanced degree in world history, world literature, religious studies, Islamic or Near East studies, or another related humanities subject.
- He or she should be adept at facilitating discussion with adult audiences on themes related to the human condition, and in particular on Islamic history, literature, or culture.

Working with a Project Scholar

Finding and contacting a scholar(s) for your series is only the first step; working with them so you have a mutual understanding of program goals and expectations is what will make this a successful experience for the participants, the scholar, the partners and you.

- This is not a college-level class—people are participating for the pleasure of reading and talking about the things they've read. They want to learn about—but not necessarily major in—the subject or subjects introduced by the themes. Make sure your scholar understands this and has experience working with non-college student audiences.
- Try to “interview” the scholar before making your selection. Ask if they've worked with library audiences or out-of-school adults before; gauge their interest in the overall subject; ask for a short biographical statement or other background information.
- Make some educated guesses about the general characteristics of your audience (age, interests, education, etc.) and share that information with the scholar.
- Be clear about the format—an opening set of remarks from the scholar, usually not more than 20-25 minutes, followed by discussion for the rest of the program.
- Be clear about the scholar's role—the scholar is not only to take the lead in the opening remarks, but also to facilitate participation by the group during the discussion portion of the program.
- The scholar may want to prepare points for discussion for the group, based on the theme, books and essay. These discussion points may be distributed to participants in advance of the sessions, along with the rest of the program materials.
- Outline the commitment from the library and the commitment from the scholar in writing—include honorarium to be paid, any expenses to be covered, and schedule of all programs.
- Provide the scholar with any background materials you feel would be helpful, including the theme essay, copies of the books, related articles, “typical questions,” or prompts for discussion, copies of PR materials, roster of pre-registered attendees, etc.
- If you've held *Let's Talk About It* programs before, share some of the comments from participants' evaluation forms, to give the scholar an idea of what to expect.
- Involve the scholar in publicity, such as an interview with a local newspaper or magazine about the program. Encourage the scholar to market the series to his or her own network.
- Keep the scholar informed throughout the process. Let them know how pre-registration and publicity progress. If you receive feedback from participants after each session, share their comments with the scholar.

See [Tips for Scholars](#) for reading and discussion program tips to share with your scholar.

Community Partners

Partnerships can assume many forms: co-presenters, financial partners, organizations that will donate goods or services, marketing and outreach efforts, and volunteers.

A partnership is successful if both partners gain something from the relationship. Identify groups that you have worked with in the past and ones that you would like to work with in the future. Share your project plans with potential partners and see if your goals resonate with their mission, interests, or intentions for community outreach.

Possible *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* program partners:

- Arts and humanities organizations (historical societies, museums, cultural centers)
- Book clubs
- Community centers
- Senior organizations
- Area mosques, churches, synagogues, interfaith groups and other religious organizations
- Public libraries in neighboring communities, library systems
- Professional associations
- Community colleges
- Universities
- Literacy organizations
- Social justice agencies
- Literary magazines
- Writers groups and poetry guilds
- Fraternal organizations
- Local businesses
- Councils on Aging/AARP groups
- Minority group associations
- Local chapters of national organizations (ADL, ACLU, ZONTA, ROTARY)

More information on promoting the series by working with community partners can be found in the [Promotion](#) section.

Program Length

One-and-a-half to two hours are about right for this type of reading and discussion program. Attendees should come prepared to discuss the book and the essay. Distribute participant folders at least two weeks in advance of the first program, to allow for time to read and consider the essay. The scholar will talk for twenty to twenty-five minutes, group discussion will last for about an hour, and time will be needed for getting started, seated, wrapping up, and if needed, taking a break.

Group Size

There is no magic number for the best group size. You want to make this program available to the largest number of people who will make an active commitment to participate. If the group is large, either break into smaller groups for discussion or plan to hold the program at additional times, and/or venues. Asking people to pre-register by signing up in advance for these programs is the best way to predict group size, as well as to ensure a commitment to attendance.

If you know you will have very large attendance and opt to break up into small discussion groups, recruit staff or experienced volunteers to serve as discussion leaders. Under this model, the scholar floats between the discussion groups.

Day of the Program Checklist

The following items should be in place before the start of each program. An affirmative answer to the following questions should mean you are ready to go.

- **Staff:** Has staff been alerted to the program location?
- **Signage:** Are there signs telling people where to go?
- **Room Set-up:** Are the chairs, nametags, and sign-in sheets in place?
- **Refreshments:** Have you checked delivery and setup?
- **Scholar:** Has the scholar been called to confirm directions, time, place, and other arrangements?
- **Volunteers:** Do volunteers and staff have all the necessary information?
- **Pre-registration:** Have participants who signed up for the program in advance picked up their program materials? Do you have a sign-in sheet ready for the program?
- **Introductions & Acknowledgements:** Have you prepared introductions and a list of funders, sponsors, partners, and others to thank?
- **Reminder email:** Have you sent a reminder email to pre-registrants?
- **Greetings:** Has someone been designated to greet participants as they arrive?

Program Support Materials

Promotional Materials

Each library will receive the following printed promotional materials, to support *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* programs:

- 200 bookmarks for distribution to library patrons.
- 5 theme-specific posters to display around your library or other strategic community locations to promote the upcoming program series.
- 30 copies of the national project scholar's thematic essay, to be distributed to program participants.
- 30 folders, to be used to distribute supporting materials to program participants. Feel free to slip in information about other upcoming programs at your library, along with the *Let's Talk About It* materials.
- 125 bookplates, to be affixed to your library's Muslim Journeys books

These promotional materials will be shipped via FedEx to the attention of library project directors within a week of the national workshop, to arrive in three to five business days. Libraries wishing to print additional copies of these items (excluding the folders) may download PDF files from [Promotional Materials](#).

Books

Libraries are responsible for making sufficient quantities of books available for patrons to check out and/or arrangements for patrons to purchase the books. See [Themes, Books, and Materials](#) for tips on ordering books.

Project-Related Website

You may also wish to consult the [Muslim Journeys website for the general public](#)¹³, developed by the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University and the National Endowment for the Humanities. This site is a useful resource for librarian project directors, project scholars, and program attendees.

Customizable Program Flyers, Postcards, and More

Professionally designed, customizable flyers and postcards may be downloaded from [Promotional Materials](#). These promotional resources are available as high-resolution PDF files, for libraries that wish to print and customize their own. The project bookmark, poster, bookplate, and essays are also available to download and print.

Web Banners

To make program advertising via your library and partner organization websites, you may wish to download one of several professional designed web banners from [Promotional Materials](#). Banners are available in several sizes, for each of the five project themes.

Program Format

Suggested program format:

I. Welcome and Introductions (5–10 minutes)

Project director welcomes participants and introduces self, scholar. Thank participants, library, funders, and partners. Go over format and let people know what to expect. Provide any necessary information regarding program materials, schedule for rest of series. Lead applause for scholar.

II. Scholarly Presentation (20–25 minutes)

Scholar's presentation on the week's reading, author background, the reading in context of the theme and essay, salient points made by the reading, and other relevant matters.

III. Discussion (45–60 minutes)

If the group exceeds thirty to thirty-five people, it may be necessary to break into small groups. In this case, the project director should recruit discussion leaders to facilitate small group discussion while the scholar floats between the small groups. After the discussion period, the small groups may reconvene for closing remarks.

IV. Wrap Up (10–20 minutes)

Scholar provides closing comments. Project director thanks the participants and scholar, distributes and collects evaluations, gives instructions for next session, and makes other announcements.

Related Programming

The five scholar-led discussion sessions corresponding to the books in the series are the minimum requirement for participating *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* libraries. Libraries are encouraged to hold related programs such as film series, forums, receptions, lectures, and related exhibits, to expand the reach and impact of the *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* series. Here are some suggestions and ideas for related programs:

Muslim Journeys Programming

- Host a Muslim Journeys welcome celebration with a display of the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf books, films, and promotional materials. Include readers' guides to selected topics or titles in the set, give away bookmarks, and feature readings from the books.
- Present a discussion of the books and films on local cable TV and radio programs.
- Host an exhibition of local collections of Islamic art in your library, kicked off with a launch event highlighting the Muslim Journeys collection materials.
- Present a scholar-facilitated discussion of a topic in Islamic history or culture, drawing on the Muslim Journeys themes and resources.
- Schedule a lecture by a local scholar with expertise in the program themes.
- Host an event celebrating the poetic voices of Muslim-majority societies, featuring readings from *Rumi: Poet and Mystic* and other related works already in your library's collection. You may also consider launching a "One Community, Many Poems" program, encouraging your community to read and discuss Islamic poetry.
- Invite a local storyteller to present readings from *The Arabian Nights*, or partner with a community or school theatre group to host a staged reading of selections or an adaptation.
- Create a Muslim Journeys webpage featuring the titles of the books, including images of the book jackets, book quotes, and patron or staff reviews. Have a librarian moderate an online discussion through the library's blog or Facebook account.
- Ask the local newspaper, cable access television station, or radio station to feature a story or editorial about the Muslim Journeys collection and your library's related programs. Be sure to contact book editors and well as news and feature editors.

Film and Video Programming

Film and video showings are very popular related programming options. Here are some guideposts for good film and video programming practices:

- Libraries wishing to show films or videos related to the *Let's Talk About It* series to the public must arrange for public performance rights (PPR). Note that films included as part of the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys have already been approved for public performances. For more information, see [Copyright Tips for Programming Librarians: Public Performance Rights](#) on Programming Librarian.
- [Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.](#) offers a Movie Public Performance Site License to public libraries on an annual basis.
- Please share information about films and videos with other libraries via the electronic discussion list. The ALA Public Programs Office will also pass along to you any film information we find.

In addition to those included on the [Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys](#), here are some additional films to consider for supplemental programming, with the related Muslim Journeys theme noted where applicable:

- ***Bombay* (Mani Ratnam, director, 1995):** In January 1993, sectarian rioting erupted after Hindus destroyed an ancient mosque in northern India, leaving 2,000 Hindus and Muslims dead in Mumbai (formerly Bombay). Two years later, Mani Ratnam made the film *Bombay*, using these events as a backdrop to a love story between a Hindu boy and a Muslim girl. The film focuses on religious and ethnic conflict in Hindu-majority and Muslim-minority India and a passionate romance that tries to overcome it, but not without putting the mixed-faith couple and their children in danger from extremists on both sides of the religious divide. Even though it caused controversy in India, the film was very popular, and won several awards in international film festivals. (Literary Reflections)
- ***Color of Paradise* (Majid Majidi, director, 1999):** *Color of Paradise*, whose Persian title literally translates to “The Color of God,” is the story of the struggle of a blind Iranian boy and his father to coexist in contemporary Iran. Mohammad is the blind son of the widower Hashem, who is worried that his son’s condition will get in the way of his own plans to remarry into a prosperous family. Mohammad is a smart and gentle boy who loves his studies in Tehran’s school for the blind and is deeply loved by his grandmother and two sisters back in his native village. God is ever present in this explicitly religious film, from the opening scene, where the words “To the glory of God” appear on a black screen, to Mohammad’s intimate relationship with the nature around him, his full participation—along with his grandmother, Aziz—in the joys of life in this earthly world, and the moment of suffering experienced by Hashem at the end of the film that brings him closer to enlightenment. (Literary Reflections)
- ***Inside the Koran: A Journey into the Heart of Islam* (Antony Thomas, director, 2008):** An acclaimed documentary film, *Inside the Koran* focuses on the Islamic holy scripture by means of a topical treatment of its teachings in the everyday life of Muslims in the real world. These topics include the relationship between the sexes; Islam’s roots in Judaism and Christianity; tolerance and intolerance both within and beyond Muslim contexts; the differences between Sunni and Shia Islam; crime and punishment; and the ways in which the Qur’an is printed, reproduced, and dispersed globally. Some controversial issues are addressed about how the scriptural text evolved from early Islamic history into its contemporary canonical form. The film concludes with a discussion of the “twenty-first-century Qur’an,” with a focus on the impact of the Internet. (Pathways of Faith)

- ***Journey to Mecca: In the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta* (Bruce Neibaur, director, 2009):** This superb production dramatically traces the pilgrimage of the legendary medieval Muslim traveler Ibn Battuta from his home city of Tangiers to the sacred Arabian city of Mecca in 1325 CE. The narrative is based on Ibn Battuta's personal diary account of the journey, which included being attacked by bandits and suffering through sandstorms, among other dangers. After crossing all of North Africa, Ibn Battuta was persuaded by a new friend to join a caravan of 10,000 pilgrims journeying south from Damascus to Mecca in relative safety. Ibn Battuta and his fellow Muslims are portrayed by excellent actors, and the sacred sites are rendered with convincing medieval settings and details. But the film is also a presentation of the ritual details of the hajj as the narrative switches in a respectfully entertaining manner from the historical settings to the contemporary context. The action flows in its proper liturgical pattern in the Mecca of today, with its tall modern buildings overlooking the ancient open-air hajj mosque with its central cubical Ka'aba structure marking the center of the world for Muslims, toward which they prostrate themselves from all directions on the globe in their five daily prayers. (Pathways of Faith)
- ***Me and the Mosque*** [☞] (Zarqa Nawaz, director, 2005): This documentary film nicely complements Leila Ahmed's book *A Quiet Revolution* on the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf. It tells the story of Muslim women's struggle for social justice within mosques in North America. It also demonstrates how Islamist struggles for social justice have influenced a new generation of Muslim women activists fighting for gender equality in Islam. (American Stories)
- ***Stand Up: Muslim-American Comics Come of Age* (Glenn Baker, Omar Naim, directors, 2009):** Following the attacks of 9/11, American Muslims came under suspicion from both the government and their fellow Americans. This hilarious PBS documentary shows how five American Muslims employed comedy as a means of expressing American Muslim experiences to a national audience. (American Stories)

The following websites may be useful in obtaining additional information about these and other related films, including release dates, reviews, and distribution information:

- [International Movie Database](#) [☞]
- [Rotten Tomatoes](#) [☞]
- [AMG Film Site](#) [☞]
- [Movie Licensing USA](#) [☞]

Tips for Scholars

Do's

- Be sure that everyone wears a nametag to help the participants become acquainted with each other.
- Suggest that the group form a circle, if possible, so that each person can see all the members of the group and the format is less like a classroom.
- Make certain that everyone who wants to participate has a chance to do so.
- Help keep the group on track.
- Aim to be the "leader" as little as possible.
- Accept and acknowledge the ideas of all group members.
- Look mainly at the overall group atmosphere. Don't overreact to the needs of specific individuals.
- Listen attentively to what each member has to say. Listen in such a manner that members will see that you are listening and are genuinely interested.
- Encourage wide participation by occasionally asking if there are alternate points of view.

Don'ts

- Don't require members to ask for permission to speak.
- Don't require members to speak only to you.
- Don't preach or teach. Avoid advocacy.
- Don't take sides or argue on any issue.
- Don't manipulate the discussion or inhibit its flow.
- Don't push people to participate before they feel ready.
- Don't embarrass any member.
- Don't hog the spotlight.

Tips for Dealing with Problem Situations

Here are some ideas from experienced discussion leaders of ways to deal with typical problem situations:

To deal with a dominating participant:

- "Just a second, Bill. Let's get back to the first point you made. Is there someone who would like to add to Bill's remark?"
- "Bob, I think your point is a good one, and I see that Mary would like to comment."

To include the shy participant:

- “I remember your saying, Sarah, that you particularly enjoy memoirs. Do you have anything to share about your thoughts on this reading?”

To include all participants:

- When participants share information about themselves, make a mental note of it and bring it up at a later time, when appropriate.
- Use personal names often during the discussion and encourage others to use them.

To cope with expressions of deep emotion:

Remember that *Let's Talk About It* is a reading and discussion project. While its purpose is to encourage lively and profound discussion of the humanities through literature, it is not the appropriate setting to explore personal problems.

- Acknowledge the depth of feeling in a members' remark:
- “I can feel from the tone in your voice how much this means to you.”

Draw others into the discussion. This helps remove the person from the focus of the group and allows him or her to get their emotions back under control.

- “I understand this is a problem for you, Lisa. Let's hear how the others have coped with it.”

Widen the discussion, moving from the personal to the impersonal:

- “You sound like the man in this story, Glen. Do you remember how he dealt with this situation?”

To deal with conflicting opinions:

The way you handle conflict will greatly influence the way the participants handle it as well. Give people time to say what they think, but don't prolong the exchange beyond the interest span of the group. No matter what is said, it is important that no evaluation of opinion or judgment of personality is indicated.

- “This disagreement shows diversity of feelings here.”
- “I think both points of view are valid.”
- “This subject certainly evokes strong emotions, and that's good.”

Promotion

To draw the audience you seek and create awareness about your *Let's Talk About It* series, your library needs to plan and implement an effective promotional campaign. The following guidelines are intended to help you launch a successful campaign. Included are general suggestions for promotional activities and sample media materials.

Please note: All promotional materials must carry the funder credit line and/or logos that appear in [Sponsor Credits](#). Libraries are required to follow credit guidelines in all promotions.

Getting Started

To meet media and other deadlines, you will need to start promoting your *Let's Talk About It* series two months in advance.

First, determine your target audience, goals for audience size and the best communication methods for this program. Involving your fellow staff members in program planning can be a great way to start determining these things and foster new ideas and additional support and enthusiasm. Try holding a mini-workshop or brainstorming session. During this session:

- emphasize the potential for recruiting new users and building support for the library;
- communicate the goals for your program—what audiences you wish to reach, what you wish to accomplish; and
- assign staff with various interests/talents to work in small groups to carry out the goals.

Additionally, share your program plans with the library director, board, Friends and other library support groups and invite their ideas and cooperation.

Defining the Target Audience

General promotional materials such as postcards, flyers, press releases, and advertisements are great vehicles for reaching a general audience of mixed ages and backgrounds. Certainly, there are also several groups in your community that will be very interested in your *Let's Talk About It* series. These groups can provide support through passing information about the series onto members of their organization who may be interested in attending or providing financial, programmatic, and other support. For a list of some of these organizations that may be in your community, see [Program Planning](#).

Choosing Communication Methods

Once you've determined who you would like reach out to, you need to focus on how you're going to let them know about the series. Most communication methods fall into these four categories:

- **Public Relations/Publicity:** press releases, newspaper and magazine articles, announcements on television and radio programs, websites, public service announcements (PSAs), letters to the editor, social media;
- **Direct Marketing:** direct mailings, mass email messages, online marketing;
- **Personal Contact:** word of mouth, public speaking engagements, telephone, emails, letters;
- **Advertising:** print ads, TV and radio spots, banners, flyers, bookmarks, posters, buttons, and displays.

Public Relations/Publicity

Public relations/publicity refers to content about your library and programs that appear in the media. For example, a press release or public service announcement informing the media about your events may result in newspaper coverage or an announcement on a local radio program.

Press and Media

Contacting the media and using the Internet to publicize your event is key to getting your message out to a mass audience. Here are a few methods you can use to contact your local media and reach out to audiences through the Internet:

- Email a *press release* announcing the event to your local newspapers, radio stations and television stations at least two to four weeks before the event. If you have regional magazines or talk shows that list upcoming events, you may want to send a release to them as well. Since these media outlets often have longer lead times, send these press releases out at least four to eight weeks before the event. Sample press releases have been included in the following pages and the *Let's Talk About It* Online Site Support Notebook.
- About a week before your event, follow up the press release by sending a *media alert* via fax or email to key contacts. A sample media alert appears on the following pages and in the *Let's Talk About It* Online Site Support Notebook. The alert provides specific information about the date, time and location for reporters and photographers who may be interested in attending the series, reporting on the series, or including the information in an "Upcoming Events" section. If possible, call each contact a day or two later to confirm that they received the media alert, find out if they have any questions, and see if they are interested in attending the program, scheduling an interview with the program director or scholar, getting more information about the program, or if they plan to include the news in an upcoming issue.

- If you find that media professionals are interested in visiting the library for a program in the series, a related event, or an interview, you will need to have additional materials available in a *press kit*. The press kit should contain one copy of the press release, media alert, photos and biographies of your scholar and other key participants, and copies of all promotional materials—flyers, bookmarks, postcards, etc. Alternately, you may decide to create an *electronic press kit*, which would include PDFs of all the materials listed above saved to a disc or a USB flash drive, or uploaded to a section of your library's website that can be easily accessed by the local media. If you do get an opportunity to discuss the event with a reporter, suggest story ideas and offer to schedule an interview with your speakers and partner organizations. (First, make sure your program guests, scholar, and partner organization representatives are willing to be interviewed.)
- Since television and radio stations are required to use a percentage of their airtime for non-profit and public announcements, your local stations may be willing to air a *public service announcement (PSA)* about your *Let's Talk About It* series. A PSA will advertise your event, but is donated airtime, so there is no cost to your library. If you have the capabilities, you may wish to create taped, ready-to-air PSAs for radio and/or TV. If not, you will need to work closely with stations in your community to gain their interest in the series and help them develop the PSAs.

Internet

- If your library's website doesn't have a calendar or Coming Events section, talk to your webmaster about creating one. This is the perfect place for library patrons to find out details about your series. Make sure you include as much information as possible on your website and keep it current. If you do have a Coming Events section, you need to include information about the series in it. Participants in the series who do not visit the library on a regular basis will look to the library's website for details or last minute information, and it's important that you make that information available. If you post information about the series on your library's website, be sure to include the URL on promotional materials.
- The Internet can also be useful for getting the word out about your event through other organizations' websites. Your partner organizations, city, community centers, local media outlets and Chamber of Commerce may post information about community events on their websites. Additionally, many major cities also have local entertainment and news websites, such as Patch.com, Eventful.com, Upcoming.Yahoo.com, and Everyblock.com, which provide information about events in several cities. Find out if these websites exist in your area and learn how you can go about getting your library's events added to the site. Many sites allow for user-generated content, so adding your *Let's Talk About It* series could be easier than you think. Also, be sure to include links to your partners' sites and encourage them to return the favor.

Social Media

- If your library has a presence on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, or Flickr, be sure to post information to those venues when promoting your upcoming events. Include the relevant information about date, time, and location, but also include a preview of the themes of the program. Consider creating a short video or podcast to preview the subject matter to be discussed and provoke conversation. Remember to include the library's electronic networks not just through the promotion period, but through the programming period as well. Sites such as Facebook and Twitter can be the logical place for participants to continue any conversation that begins in the library.

- To establish connections between local library programs and the national Bridging Cultures initiative, please consider tagging any related content with the hashtag #muslimjourneys. On Twitter, include @NEHBookshelf to have your content considered for retweeting and posting to the [public Muslim Journeys public website](#). You may wish to ask your project scholar(s), community partners, and program attendees to join the conversation by using this hashtag as well.

Direct Marketing

Using the list of community organizations and other groups you have identified as your target audience, you can use direct marketing to contact these groups and individual members of these groups:

- When contacting community and other organizations, use a personalized letter or phone call. You can also use a copy of your program flyer as an informal letter, if needed, but be sure to include a personal note soliciting support, especially if you are asking for financial or other support. A sample letter to community groups appears on the following pages.
- In addition to contacting organizations, you may want to target individuals in your community. If you keep a list of patrons' email addresses, sending a mass email message about the upcoming event can be an effective and inexpensive way to get the word out to a number of people. You may also want to consider printing a customized version of the *Let's Talk About It* postcard found in the Online Site Support Notebook. Postcards can be mailed to library patrons, community members or others. Additionally, you may want to send an email message about the program to community group leaders to post to their electronic discussion groups or forward on to their own address lists.

Personal Contact

One-on-one personal contact can be one of your most effective means of communicating with key individuals and groups. It can create a better understanding and build more enthusiasm than any other communication method. Some tips:

- Create a list of influential individuals in your community—the mayor, city council members, business leaders, religious leaders, etc.—who may be interested in your event. Send them a letter and program flyer about the event and ask to meet with them to discuss further. If a meeting is not possible, mention in your letter that you will call them within a week to follow-up. Even if these individuals are not able to participate in the series, letting them know about the program could help the library in other ways.
- When contacting community groups, you may want to ask to speak for five to ten minutes at one of their upcoming meetings or events. This is inexpensive and effective since it allows you to both deliver your message and gauge responses. At the meeting, outline your overall series plan and present convincing reasons why the series may be of interest to them. Bring flyers, bookmarks and other materials along to distribute after your speech. If possible, speak at the end of the meeting or offer to stay until the end of the meeting to answer questions.
- If speaking at a meeting is not possible, solicit support from these groups to help promote the program themselves. Ask the group leaders to pass out flyers or mention the program to their members and staff.

Advertising

Often the most expensive promotional method, advertising can also be one of the most effective vehicles for promoting your program. Here are a few advertising methods:

- *Promotional posters:* Participating libraries will receive 5 posters that can be customized to include information about your library's *Let's Talk About It* series. Posters should include series program times, location(s), scholar's name and title or brief biographical information, acknowledgement of local funders, and your library's URL, email address, and/or phone number people can call for more information. Posters can be posted at your library, community centers (e.g., city hall, the post office and schools, local colleges), restaurants, grocery stores, dry cleaners, bookstores, health clubs, etc. Ask Friends and trustees to post flyers and posters at places they frequent. It's easy for them to take the posters with them and won't require as much work for the project director or staff. If you need more posters, the print file can be downloaded from the Online Site Support Notebook.
- *Paid advertising* in local newspapers and on local radio or television stations can be another effective, but costly method. Before considering paid advertising, approach your local newspapers, radio and television stations regarding public service announcements (see Public Relations/Publicity above). Some newspapers and broadcast stations may be willing to donate or offer discounted airtime or ad space for non-profit groups. If you do receive free advertising, acknowledge the media outlet as a sponsor on program materials. If you consider paid advertising, also look to your Friends or other groups to underwrite costs.
- Developing simple, cost effective promotional items (bookmarks, buttons, pens/pencils, etc.) is another effective way to promote your event. These promotional items can also double as a "freebie" for patrons who attend the *Let's Talk About It* series. Hand out promotional items at schools, community group meetings or other locations. Ask Friends and trustees to hand out bookmarks to their friends and others. To get you started, ALA will provide 200 printed copies of a *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* bookmark. Additional copies may be printed from the Online Site Support Notebook.

Putting It All Together

After reviewing this list, spend a little time thinking about which of these methods will work best for your event, your community and your library. Consider your budget and time available. Consider your planning team—is this effort a one-man production or committee-based? And, consider your past successes and failures by taking a look at which communication methods you've used to promote past events. For this *Let's Talk About It* series, you may want to combine some successful methods you've used before with some new ideas.

Also, keep in mind your goals for the size and type of audience you wish to attract. If your library can only hold a group of twenty, you do not need to spend hundreds of dollars on publicity. Instead, use your resources wisely. Use cost-effective methods and spend the majority of your time contacting individuals and groups that you are most interested in reaching or that could benefit the most from the series.

On the other hand, if you are looking to attract an audience of people who have never set foot in the library, you will need to be more creative in your promotional activities. Most likely, you will need to spend a little more time contacting new people and developing promotional materials for new outlets and locations. However, this time and effort should pay off. Bringing new faces into the library for a program will undoubtedly result in issuing more library cards and finding new life-long library patrons.

Promotional Materials

Media Outreach Templates

Media outreach for your *Let's Talk About It* series may have two goals: to recruit participants for your program and to draw attention to your library's achievement in being selected to participate in this national initiative. The below template materials are available to help you get started, but please update as necessary in order to customize the message for your community.

- [Press release I](#) (Word)
- [Press release II](#) (Word)
- [Media alert](#) (Word)
- [Letter to community groups](#) (Word)
- [PSAs](#) (Word)

Media Inquiries

If your library or state humanities council is contacted by a member of the media, and you would like assistance preparing a response or for an interview, feel free to email the ALA Public Programs Office (publicprograms@ala.org) or the National Endowment for the Humanities (bridgingcultures@neh.gov) for support.

Promotional Materials

Each library will receive the following printed promotional materials, to support *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* programs:

- 200 bookmarks for distribution to library patrons.
- 5 theme-specific posters to display around your library or other strategic community locations to promote the upcoming program series.
- 30 copies of the national project scholar's thematic essay, to be distributed to program participants.
- 30 folders, to be used to distribute supporting materials to program participants. Feel free to slip in information about other upcoming programs at your library, along with the *Let's Talk About It* materials.
- 125 bookplates, to be affixed to your library's Muslim Journeys books

These promotional materials will be shipped via UPS to the attention of library project directors within a week of the national workshop, to arrive in three to five business days. Libraries wishing to print additional copies of these items (excluding the folders) may download PDF files below.

- **Poster** (PDF, includes a poster for each theme)
- **Bookmark** (PDF)
- **Bookplate** (PDF, includes a poster for each theme)
- **Essays**
 - **American Stories** (PDF)
 - **Connected Histories** (PDF)
 - **Literary Reflections** (PDF)
 - **Pathways of Faith** (PDF)
 - **Points of View** (PDF)

These additional promotional materials may also be helpful in electronic and print promotion of your *Let's Talk About It* series:

- **Postcard** (PDF)
- **Flyer** (PDF, includes a poster for each theme)
- **Web banners** (ZIP)

Sponsor Credits

Sponsor Acknowledgment

In all promotion for your *Let's Talk About It* series, be sure to include sponsor credits. This ensures not only that the program funders receive due credit for their work in supporting this program, but it also aligns your library with this significant national initiative. The credit line in written materials such as press releases, media alerts, and newsletter articles should read as follows:

Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys, a reading and discussion series, has been made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Library Association.



Please note: As long as your materials include the proper sponsor credit line you do not need to have your materials approved in advance by ALA or NEH.

Additional sponsor credit guidelines:

- The credit line above should appear on all printed and other visual materials related to the program, including press releases, brochures, publications, invitations, program flyers, advertisements, press kits, announcements, websites and local posters. It should also appear on any signage regarding the program. On all materials, it should appear in a type size that is readable and appropriate to the overall design.
- Please use the NEH, ALA and *Let's Talk About It* logos whenever possible.
- In speaking to or sending press releases to newspaper reporters, radio and TV interviewers and other media personnel, please stress that full sponsorship and funding credit should be included in all articles and features. Some libraries include a line set off at the beginning of press releases saying "*Editor: Please do not edit out sponsorship credits in paragraph ____.*"
- At press events and in public programs: The sponsorship of the *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* program by NEH and ALA should be acknowledged orally at the beginning and end of each *Let's Talk About It* program, press conferences, and related programs, and at the beginning and end of radio or television interviews, when possible.
- Local sponsor credits: Local sponsor credit must follow the above official program credit line and be in a type size no larger than the program credit. The exception is materials that are entirely supported by another funding source. In those cases, it is still necessary for the credit line above to appear, but the additional sponsor's credit may appear first and in larger type.

Logos

On printed materials and on electronic promotion such as emails or websites, logos for NEH and ALA are required, and use of the *Let's Talk About It* logo is optional.

- [National Endowment for the Humanities logo](#) 
- [American Library Association logo](#) 
- [LTAI logo \(zip\)](#)

Budgeting and Funding

Download a [sample Excel file](#) to help track expenses and revenue.

You may want to look into finding funds to match your *Let's Talk About It* grant. Matching funds will expand the budget for your program and increase the potential reach and impact.

- Many state humanities councils award “mini-grants” or “resource grants” to support free admission public humanities programs of short duration. In most states, programs must involve a humanities scholar in order to qualify for a grant.
- Short-term grants usually cover only the direct costs of a humanities program; for example, honoraria and travel expenses for lecturers, film or video preparation and presentation, printing and postage for promotional items, or the purchase of books for discussion programs. Short-term grants do not, in most cases, cover the costs of food or beverages for receptions or other social events.
- Mini-grants and resource grants range from \$100 to \$1,500 or more, depending upon the state’s guidelines and the purpose of the grant. Matching funds or in-kind contributions are often required for state humanities council grants.
- Application deadlines for short-term grants vary from state to state. In general, state humanities councils ask that mini-grant applications be received from six to ten weeks before a program is to begin. Some states also award one-time grants of a few hundred dollars that can be applied for at any time.
- Contact your state humanities council for short-term grant guidelines and application requirements.
- For a list of state humanities councils or information on your state humanities council, contact:

[The Federation of State Humanities Councils](#) 

1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 902

Arlington, VA 22209

Tel.: 703-908-9700

Fax: 703-908-9706

Evaluation

Evaluation

Evaluation is essential for determining the effectiveness of your program, its impact and whether your original goals have been met.

Not all participants will attend every session, but it can be valuable to hear from every participant as the series progresses. By distributing evaluation forms at each discussion session, you will be able to respond to any problems, address questions, and make any adjustments in format that may be necessary.

Consider in advance how you will judge the quality and effectiveness of your reading and discussion series. By number of participants? By their evaluations? By whether your original goals were met? By the comments of the scholar? By requests for future reading and discussion programs? Most project directors will evaluate the series by weighing each of these and other factors.

Valuable sources for feedback include:

- participants
- scholars
- community partner organizations
- project director
- planning committee
- library staff
- sponsors and funders
- library patrons

Think of evaluation not only as a way to gauge the level of effectiveness of this program, but also as a tool to plan future programs. Download sample [scholar](#) and [participant](#) evaluation forms in Word document format.

Reporting

An online final report about your *Let's Talk About It* series must be submitted within 60 days following the completion of the last program, or by September 30, 2014 (whichever comes first).

To access the online final report, visit the *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* [application site](#), and log on using the email address and password used to submit your original application. If you have forgotten your password, you may use the password reset option on the login page.

The following questions are included in the online final report. Please note that you may log in to the report at any time to begin working on your responses, save your changes, and return at a later time to continue working on or submit the report.

Reading & Discussion Program Log

(state humanities councils will see two tables, one for each program location)

Program/Event Date	Location	Book Discussed	Scholar/Speaker	Projected vs. Actual Attendance

Supplemental Program Log

(includes an option to add rows)

Program/Event Date	Location	Program Title and Description	Scholar/Speaker	Attendance

The following questions should be answered in narrative format (600 words or less). NEH and ALA ask that state humanities councils representatives collect answers to these questions from the two organizations that hosted the LTAI series, and share them below.

- Describe any related programming conducted at your library, in support of the Bridging Cultures Muslim Journeys initiative.
- Describe how your actual programs compared to original program plans (roles of partners, anticipated vs. actual attendance, etc.).
- Describe your library's promotional campaign for the LTAI: Muslim Journeys series, as well as the publicity received.
- Report on the library's progress toward goals listed in your original proposal.
- What are your library's plans for continued cultural programming (upcoming events, pending funding proposals, library support, partnerships, etc.)?
- Do you plan to apply for another LTAI grant from the ALA Public Programs Office, and/or to conduct LTAI programming with support from another source? Please tell us why or why not, and describe your plans.
- If there is anything else you would like to tell us about your experience conducting this LTAI series, please use the space below.

The following items must be provided via file upload:

- Completed scholar(s) evaluation.
- Summary or samples of participant evaluations.
- Samples of library promotional materials and/or press coverage.

Online Resources

Electronic Discussion List

ALA has created an electronic discussion list that will allow librarians at libraries participating in the *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* project to exchange information about their series, ask questions of each other, and pool resources. The electronic discussion list is named letstalkmj@ala.org. The list is unmoderated, and all LTAI project directors will be automatically subscribed within five business days of attending the national orientation workshop.

Once you've been subscribed, you will receive a confirmation message from the list. After that, it will be your responsibility to manage your own communication preferences. Instructions for completing common subscription modifications are below. Please note that this list is *only* for currently project directors and other library staff working on the project. Interested project scholars are also welcome to sign up. If you require assistance with list use, please email publicprograms@ala.org.

To subscribe to letstalkmj@ala.org: Send an email message to listproc@ala.org with the following command as the first line of text in the body of the message:

```
subscribe letstalkmj [first and last name] (for library staff interested in joining)
```

To receive messages in digest form (one message per day, which will contain all messages posted to the list in the previous twenty-four hours), send another email to listproc@ala.org with the following command:

```
set letstalkmj mail digest
```

To unsubscribe from letstalkmj@ala.org: Send an email with the following command to listproc@ala.org:

```
unsubscribe letstalkmj
```

[Manage your subscription](#) to this and other ALA electronic discussion lists.

Muslim Journeys Public Website

Created by the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the [Muslim Journeys public website](#) is intended to introduce the Bookshelf collection to the American public and to enrich the experience of readers by offering online resources that place the books and documentary films in a larger context. By visiting the website, those who seek broader paths for making their Muslim Journeys will find themed essays that draw connections among the books, video essays that illuminate the role of the arts in Muslim societies, and a rich array of primary resources and interpretive articles intended to enhance understanding of ideas and events encountered in the books.

Programming Librarian

The ALA Public Programs Office maintains [Programming Librarian](#), an online resource center for all things related to presenting cultural programs for all types and sizes of libraries. Visit the site to find information about other ALA grant opportunities, programs, and more. You can also visit the [Let's Talk About It](#) area of the site to access essays, book lists, and resources from more than thirty other *Let's Talk About It* series on themes ranging from African-American migration to Latino literature to the new millennium and even children's literature.

Additional Online Resources

[Account of the life of Omar ibn Said](#) (1832)

This page on the Documenting the American South website leads to an 1832 account of the life of Omar ibn Said, a Fulbe Muslim slave in North Carolina who wrote an autobiography in Arabic. The site also provides links to other contemporary accounts of Omar, a sample of his handwriting in Maghribi Arabic script, and his portraits.

[Aman Ali and Bassam Tariq, 30 Mosques in 30 Days](#) (blog)

This is a blog of two young Muslim men who, since 2010, have taken an annual road trip to visit thirty mosques across the United States during the month of Ramadan, when Muslims are obligated to fast from sunrise to sunset. Each day, they break their fast at a different mosque while sharing the stories of the Muslim communities they meet through pictures, videos, and texts.

[Bridging Cultures: Islam and The West](#),

This site airs interviews with scholars who participated in the NEH-supported forum *Bridging Cultures: Islam and The West*, held at the University of Minnesota in February 2011. Scholars discuss cultural and scientific exchanges that have occurred over centuries between Western and Islamic nations and have led to countless advances in literature, philosophy, architecture, mathematics, physics and the visual arts. Produced by Twin Cities Public Television with the University of Minnesota Program in Religious Studies, this video was originally broadcast in November 2011.

[Building Islam in Detroit](#)

This website, hosted by the University of Michigan, provides an excellent overview of the history and religious activities of the Muslim community in Detroit, one of the first and best-known centers of American Islam.

[The Ecstatic Faith of Rumi](#)

Produced for *On Being*, a series from American Public Media, *The Ecstatic Faith of Rumi* is a multimedia production that draws out both the intellectual and spiritual substance of this Muslim Sufi religious scholar and poet who focused on the intellectual and spiritual content of Islam. Through an extended interview with Rumi scholar Fatemeh Keshavarz, a musical performance of Rumi's poetry, and a selection of his poems, this program familiarizes American viewers with the continuing relevance of the teachings of the revered Muslim mystic.

[Encyclopædia Iranica](#)

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* is a comprehensive research tool dedicated to the study of Iranian civilization in the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. The online version offers features to assist scholars looking for specific information or general readers interested in browsing its pages. The *Encyclopædia* is an international, collaborative project, based at [Columbia University](#) in the City of New York.

[In the Footsteps of Marco Polo](#) (Denis Belliveau, director, 2008)

In this Emmy-nominated PBS documentary, two modern explorers follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo, perhaps the most celebrated traveler in the entire age of *Connected Histories*.

[The Indian Ocean in World History](#)

This free online educational resource shows the history of trade, migration, and interaction in the *Indian Ocean* region across the centuries, through a series of interactive maps and educational aides.

[Invitation to World Literature](#)

A presentation of the Annenberg Foundation on the Annenberg Learner website, this multimedia series covers thirteen works of literature from around the world. The series aims to introduce readers to timeless stories from diverse cultures and contexts. The links chosen here include *The Thousand and One Nights*—otherwise known as *The Arabian Nights*—and *My Name Is Red*, by the Turkish Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk.

[The Thousand and One Nights](#)

This video introduces *The Thousand and One Nights*, which presents a world of high Islamic culture, lowbrow comedy, and encounters with the spirit world, all through the stories of the brave Scheherazade, who saves her own life, her husband's sanity, the kingdom, and the happiness of all her readers from the evils of life with her stories.

[My Name Is Red](#)

This video introduces *My Name Is Red*, Orhan Pamuk's evocative novel of miniaturists in sixteenth-century Istanbul. Then, as now, the city was on the edge of two worlds, responding to the demands of change and tradition.

Islamopedia Online [□]

The mission of Islamopedia Online is to provide access to news and background analysis on Muslim countries and Islamic topics that are often absent from Western media because of language barriers or lack of familiarity with the country, the issues or players at stake. Islamopedia Online is a comprehensive database of the most influential religious figures across Muslim countries and their positions translated from Arabic, Urdu, and Farsi on issues like political violence, women and the rights of religious minorities. Islamopedia Online also provides a translation in English of major news at the intersection of religion and politics, as well as background analysis country profiles. There is also an original production of videos from scholars and journalists to better understand the current debates on Islam either in the West or in Muslim-majority countries. Islamopedia Online is institutionally supported by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard University, the Transatlantic Program on Islam in the West based at the CNRS in Paris (see: [Euro-Islam.info](#) [□]), the Social Science Research Council, and the Minerva Fellowship.

Muslim Life in America [□]

The U.S. State Department created this website to showcase Muslim life in America during the early years of the so-called war on terror. It serves as an example of the intermediary role American Muslims have often played in U.S. cultural diplomacy involving Muslims not only in Muslim-majority countries but also in Europe.

Prince Among Slaves: The Cultural Legacy of Enslaved Africans [□]

Based on the award-winning NEH-supported documentary film, *Prince Among Slaves*, this website features content focusing on three theme areas: identity, Muslims in early America, and the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Its purpose is to deepen public understanding about the impact and legacy of American cultural and religious history in the antebellum era, and its influences on our pluralistic society today.

Teach Mideast [□]

The TeachMideast website is an educational initiative of the Middle East Policy Council. It features essays, activities, resources, maps, and other materials appropriate for K-12 students on geography, history, culture, religion, languages, and current issues in the Middle East.

Thomas Bluett, *Some Memoirs of the Life of Job, the Son of Solomon, the High Priest of Boonda in Africa* [□] (1734)

This is the first known book-length account of the life of an African Muslim in America. Job Ben Solomon was a noble Fulbe who was sold into slavery in Kent County, Maryland. He was manumitted by philanthropists who paid for his passage to England, where he met with the British royal family and the gentry of the time before being employed by the Royal African Company to help advance English trade in the interior of Africa.