PAN-ARAB CELEBRATION

Ahlan Wa Sahlan "Welcome"

Curita Tinker
APL (Haskett Branch Library)
Ahlan wa sahlan or “welcome” in Arabic, literally means “as family and easily.” This phrase is a shortened version of the longer statement, “may you arrive as family and may you tread easily.”
Community Needs

Findings:

The Community expressed the need for cultural programs, children programs, intergenerational programs, Arabic books, language classes, and food demonstrations. Participants wanted to be recognized by the community and the next generation of Arabs.
Problem Statement

My LIL project will focus on meeting the needs of the community with respect to representation and cultural awareness. I hope to foster a better understanding of the Arab community through a wide variety of programs, experiences, and services that highlight the contributions of Arab immigrants in Anaheim and throughout history. Furthermore, the goal is that these programs/experiences would promote inclusion, spark conversation, and uplift each other.
ARABIC BOOK COLLECTION
(Representation)
Programming
• November-December 2021
PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

AHLAN WA SAHLAN
"Welcome" in Arabic. Join the Armenian Public Library in celebrating the culture, experiences, and narratives of Arab immigrants.

KICK OFF CELEBRATION
TUES, NOV 9 AT 5:30 PM AT HASKETT
The Haskett Library will celebrate the opening of "Ahlan Wa Sahlan" Pan-Arabic celebration with the official opening of the Arabic American National Museum’s traveling exhibition. The Arabic American National Museum is dedicated to the recognition and appreciation of the Arab American community’s contributions to American society.

WORKSHOPS
ARABIC GAME NIGHT WITH "A COUNTRY CALLED SYRIA"
TUES, NOV 23, 6:30 PM AT THE LIBRARY FACILITY
Join us as we play classic Arabic games such as berbere, damar, tanou, and manisal. All are welcome, and refreshments will be provided.

THE ART OF HENNA WITH SAMIA WAREF
TUES, DEC 7, 6:30 PM AT HASKETT
Sameh has been doing henna for more than 16 years and has been on the forefront of the henna art. She will teach the basics of the art and help the participants create their own designs. Registration required.

REDEFINING THE HYNHEN
TUES, DEC 14, 6:30 PM AT HASKETT
Refugees are more than their situations, struggles, language or culture. Join us as we collaborate with ACCESS California to celebrate the unique Arab American women, tales, and stories of our immigrant population.

VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISIT WITH LINDA SARSOOF
TUES, DEC 21 AT THE LIBRARY FACILITY
Linda Sarsoo is an American political activist. Join us as she discusses her latest book, "We Are Not Here to be Understood, a Memoir of Love and Resistance.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS
IN CONVERSATION WITH ASEM ABURISH OF KNAFEN CAFE
TUES, DEC 28, 6:30 PM AT HASKETT
Asem Aburish, an immigrant from the City of Nablus, Palestine, came to the United States 50 years ago and brought along the art with him that he brought from his grandmother. Join us as he shares his experiences, culture, and love of his cuisine with the community.

ARABIC IN THE WORLD AROUND US WITH RAHELA MANAR
TUES, JAN 11 AT THE LIBRARY FACILITY
From the high to low in cities across the world, the contributions of Arabs and Muslims are all around us. In this interactive online presentation, you will get a chance to see the history of Arab and Muslim contributions to our world. Dr. Rahela Manar is a professor in the Foreign Language Department at California Irvine.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION
PALESTINIAN AMERICAN CO-ORGANIZER OF THE WOOL Cousins and the Goat, Linda Sarsoor details her experience from the revolutionary figure that his father named to wrestle for the interests of the interests of Palestinian Americans. TUES, DEC 18 AT HASKETT

ARABIC STORYTIMES
Hastert Branch will host a five-week storytime and craft program in Arabic and English with storyteller Shoba Sabah. During this program, participants will engage in language development, culture awareness, and creativity. All ages are welcome.

ARABIC ALPHABET
TUES, DEC 29, 6:30 PM
During this lesson, we will introduce children to the Arabic alphabet with sounds and singing. Children will create an Arabic Alphabet Craft by tracing their names in Arabic and condensing it with colors.

THE ARAB WORLD ROCKS!
WED, DEC 19, 6:30 PM
Join us as we celebrate the diversity of Arab cultures, the food, the music, etc. Each child will paint an Arab country flag on a rock to take home.

ANIMALS
WED, DEC 5, 6:30 PM
Children will learn animal names and sounds in Arabic. Each child will make their favorite animal with sand art to take home.

CLASSIC ARABIC TALES
WED, DEC 12, 6:30 PM
Children will learn two classic and popular Arabic tales. Each child will make their favorite character from the stories.

WINTER ARABIC TALES
WED, DEC 19, 6:30 PM
Children will learn about winter. Children's favorite intercultural winter tales. Participants will also learn winter terms in Arabic and sing along to winter songs. Each child will make his own winter craft.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO PARTNERS
ACCESS CALIFORNIA ACCESS 25 COUNTRY CALLED SYRIA JAMER BOOK STORE & LE MANGE PASTRY

THE PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE, A LOCAL MATCH FROM THE ГОРОДСКОЙ ЗАГС, CITY OF CALIFORNIA
AHLAN WA SAHLAN (NOVEMBER 9)

KICK-OFF CELEBRATION
AHLAN WA SAHLAN
(Cultural Programming/ Representation)
Musician Peter Hanna started the celebration with traditional medleys on the oud. Our first speaker, Nahla Kayali, who is the Founder & Executive Director of Access California Services; shared a heartfelt message and encouraged immigrants/ refugees to never lose hope.

Amin Nash from the Arab American Council served as Master of Ceremonies and shared an educational Arab history lesson for participants.

Dania A. Alkhouli concluded the night’s festivities with her poetry, and a captivating message concerning the importance of preserving Arab art, culture, and language for future generations. Visitors then explored the exhibit, sampled Arab desserts, and enjoyed additional selections from Peter Hanna.
A Traveling Exhibition from the Arab American National Museum

OVERVIEW: (REPRESENTATION)

- The Arab American National Museum ‘s(AANM) traveling exhibition Arab Americans: History, Culture and Contributions illustrates how Arab Americans have been an integral part of American society for more than 125 years. Through this traveling exhibition, visitors will explore the history, culture and contributions of this community.
- Over eight hundred people stopped by to visit the exhibition. Patrons were happy to see their contributions in print.
ENGLISH-ARABIC STORY
TIMES & CRAFTS
(Children's Programming and language
learning development/recognition)
**Songs**

- **Together Together**
  - Arabic: كلا الهدوء سوا
  - English: We are all at peace together

- **These are my glasses and this is my book**
  - Arabic: هذه عنيчки ولولبي كتاب
  - English: These are my glasses and this is my book

- **The Icy Pitsy Spider went up the water spout**
  - Arabic: ذئب القلوب الفيض الذهبي صعد إلى السماء
  - English: The Icy Pitsy Spider went up the water spout

- **Head shoulders knees and toes**
  - Arabic: رأس كفية ونحات وكف ناحات
  - English: Head shoulders knees and toes

- **Twirly Twirly**
  - Arabic: لعبة حركة
  - English: Twirly Twirly
As part of the California Humanities grant, during the month of November, the Haskett Library hosted several Arabic/English Story Times.

Storyteller Oruba Rabie led participants in lively storytimes, which brought out a plethora of participants.

Participants young and old enjoyed the stories, music, dancing, and crafts. More importantly, new connections were created between Arabic families.

There was an average of 50 participants at each program. Each program introduced a new theme centered around Arabic culture and traditions.
Storytimes
Crafts
Crafts Contined
ARABIC GAME NIGHT
(Intergenerational program)

ARABIC GAME NIGHT
WITH DANIA ALKHOULI
FROM “A COUNTRY CALLED SYRIA”

Join us as we play and learn about classic Arabic games such as barjees, dama, tawleh, and mancala. All are welcome. Refreshments provided.

Tuesday, November 23 at 5:30 PM at the Haskett Library

*Please note for all in-person programs: All participants ages 3-11 must wear a mask

“This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.callhum.org.”
On Tuesday, November 23, Dania A. Alkhouli hosted an intergenerational Arab Game Night at the Haskett Library. To begin the night’s activities, Dania explained the historical/cultural significance of the board games that she supplied.

Participants then played games such as barjees, dama and tawlekh. Several participants shared that they had heard about these games, but never had a chance to play them and were delighted to share this experience with their children.

There were participants who shared that they played these games back home and playing brought back many memories of their childhood. Everyone was treated to classic treats such as Knafeh Cake Pops, Zaatar Bread, and mint tea.

This cultural program brought together participants of all ages and backgrounds.
On Tuesday, December 14, the Anaheim Public Library was honored to host an Author Discussion with Author Linda Sarsour, who shared her autobiography, We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders: A Memoir of Love and Resistance.

During this thought-provoking conversation, Ms. Sarsour shared her advocacy work and story of resilience with the audience. She asked us to be bold, courageous, and fearless in fighting against the injustices of this world. Linda reminded us that we truly have more in common than that which divides us and we must embrace these differences.
"Defeat is not an option."
AHLAN WA SAHLAN (DECEMBER 16)

CLOSING CELEBRATION
(Cultural Programming/Representation)
On Thursday, December 16, the Haskett Library hosted Closing Celebration of “Ahlan Wa Sahlan” Pan-Arabic program funded by California Humanities.

Participants enjoyed the Qabila Folkdance Company as they journeyed across the Arab World in a celebration of dance and music from Gulf to the Maghreb.

Evening closed with delicious sampling of Arabic treats such as manakeesh and baklava.

Special thanks to Felicia Kelley, Project and Evaluation Director, from California Humanities for her attendance.
Journey Across the Arab World
Dancing Continued
Partnerships

- ACCESS CALIFORNIA
- ARAB AMERICAN CIVIC COUNCIL
- NATION MUSEUM
- VOICE OF REFUGEES
- JARIR BOOKSTORE
- A COUNTRY CALLED SYRIA

- HASKETT LIBRARY STAFF
- APL SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM
- MENTORS
OUTCOMES

- The need for ongoing Arabic programs throughout the year.
- The need for additional Arab resources.
- I gained a better understanding of the diversity of the Arab culture.
- Families telling each other about programming.
- Arab families building community.

Outcomes
- The need to continue story time programming to build community connection.
- Understanding the need for Arab representation
- APL was able to build a better relationship with the community.
- More Arabs immigrants are checking out the collection and participating in other programs.
RESULTS

Reasons for Success
- Listening to what the community wanted based on interviews and surveys.
- Partnering with local Anaheim organizations/businesses to garner help/support.
- Listening from mentors and colleagues.
- Respecting the culture/people.
- Learning not to sweat the small stuff.

Challenges
- Covid 19 resurgence
- Holidays
- The weather
- Partnerships that never fully developed.
- Partners that did follow through with services promised.
- Community participation
WHAT I LEARNED...

- We truly have more in common than that which divides us and we must embrace these differences.
- Don’t be scared to put yourself out there in the community.
- Everyone has a story.
- I don’t know as much as I thought I knew about the Arab community.
IN THE FUTURE...

- I hope to continue Arab programming and storytimes at our library.
- Expand the Arab book collection
- Celebrate Arab achievements, culture, and people all year long.
- Everyone wants to be seen, heard, and celebrated.
- Focus on the black Arab population. Arabs from Somalia and Sudan and throughout the Arab world.
Thank you, Cal Humanities for this opportunity!