

PAN-ARAB CELEBRATION

Ahlan Wa Sahlan "Welcome"

Curita Tinker

APL (Haskett Branch Library)



The Meaning of Ahlan Wa Sahlan



Ahlan wa sahlam 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

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.



AHLAN WA SAHLAN

ARABIC BOOK COLLECTION (Representation)



AHLAN WA AHLAN

Programming

- November-December 2021



"Welcome" in Austin: Join the [Arabian Public Library](#) in celebrating the culture, experiences, and narratives of Arab immigrants.



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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.



AHLAN WA SAHLAN
(NOVEMBER 3, 10 & 17 / DECEMBER 1 & 8)

ENGLISH-ARABIC STORY TIMES & CRAFTS

**(Children's Programming and language
learning development/recognition)**



Songs

وقت القصة العربية مع عروبة Arabic Storytime with Oruba

هل تعلمون تحيتي عند الحضور إليكم

أنا إن رأيت جماعة قلت السلام عليكم

سلام سلام سلام سلام

سلام سلام سلام سلام

The more we get together Together together The more we get together The happier we'll be For your friends and my friends And my friends and your friends The more we get together The happier we'll be	كلما التقينا سوياً سوياً سوياً كلما التقينا سوياً سنفرح أكثر فأصحابك هم أصحابي وأصحابي هم أصحابك كلما التقينا سوياً سنفرح أكثر
These are my glasses and this is my book I put on my glasses and open up my book Now I read read read And I look look look I take off my glasses and close up the book	هذه نظاراتي وهذا كتابي ألبس نظاراتي وأفتح كتابي واقرا اقرا اقرا وانظر أنظر أنظر وأخلع نظاراتي وأغلق كتابي
How Many Donkeys? By Margaret MacDonald and Nadia Taibah	قصة كم حماراً يا جحا، تأليف: نادية طيبة ومارغريت مكدونالد
The itsy pitsy spider went up the waterspout Down came the rain and washed the spider out Out came the sun and dried up all the rain And the itsy pitsy spider went up the spout again	العنكبوت الصغير صعد في أنبوب الماء وجاء المطر جرفته خارج الأنبوب وطلعت الشمس وجفت المطر وصعد العنكبوت الصغير الأنبوب
Head shoulders knees and toes Knees and toes Head shoulders knees and toes Knees and toes And eyes and ears and mouth and nose Head shoulders knees and toes Knees and toes	رأس كتفين والركبتين والقدمين رأس كتفين والركبتين والقدمين عينين أذنين وفم وأنف رأس كتفين والركبتين والقدمين
Tunjur Tunjur by Margaret MacDonald	قصة طنجر طنجر، تأليف: مارغريت مكدونالد
Movement game	لعبة حركية

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands If you're happy and you know it clap your hands If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it If you're happy and you know it clap your hands	إذا كنت سعيداً جداً صفق بيديك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً صفق بيديك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً دع الكل يعرف ذلك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً صفق بيديك
If you're happy and you know it jump twice If you're happy and you know it jump twice If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it If you're happy and you know it jump twice	إذا كنت سعيداً جداً اففز قفزتين إذا كنت سعيداً جداً اففز قفزتين إذا كنت سعيداً جداً دع الكل يعرف ذلك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً اففز قفزتين
If you're happy and you know it flap your wings If you're happy and you know it flap your wings If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it If you're happy and you know it flap your wings	إذا كنت سعيداً جداً رفرف جناحك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً رفرف جناحك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً دع الكل يعرف ذلك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً رفرف جناحك
If you're happy and you know it give a Roar! If you're happy and you know it give a Roar! If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it If you're happy and you know it give a Roar!	إذا كنت سعيداً جداً أزار كالأسد إذا كنت سعيداً جداً أزار كالأسد إذا كنت سعيداً جداً دع الكل يعرف ذلك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً أزار كالأسد
If you're happy and you know it scratch your fur! If you're happy and you know it scratch your fur! If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it If you're happy and you know it scratch your fur!	إذا كنت سعيداً جداً حك فروك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً حك فروك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً دع الكل يعرف ذلك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً حك فروك
If you're happy and you know it shout "hooray"! If you're happy and you know it shout "hooray"! If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it If you're happy and you know it shout "hooray"!	إذا كنت سعيداً جداً قل مرحي إذا كنت سعيداً جداً قل مرحي إذا كنت سعيداً جداً دع الكل يعرف ذلك إذا كنت سعيداً جداً قل مرحي



- **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 Continued



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

AHLAN WA SAHLAN (NOVEMBER 23)

ARABIC GAME NIGHT (Intergenerational program)

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



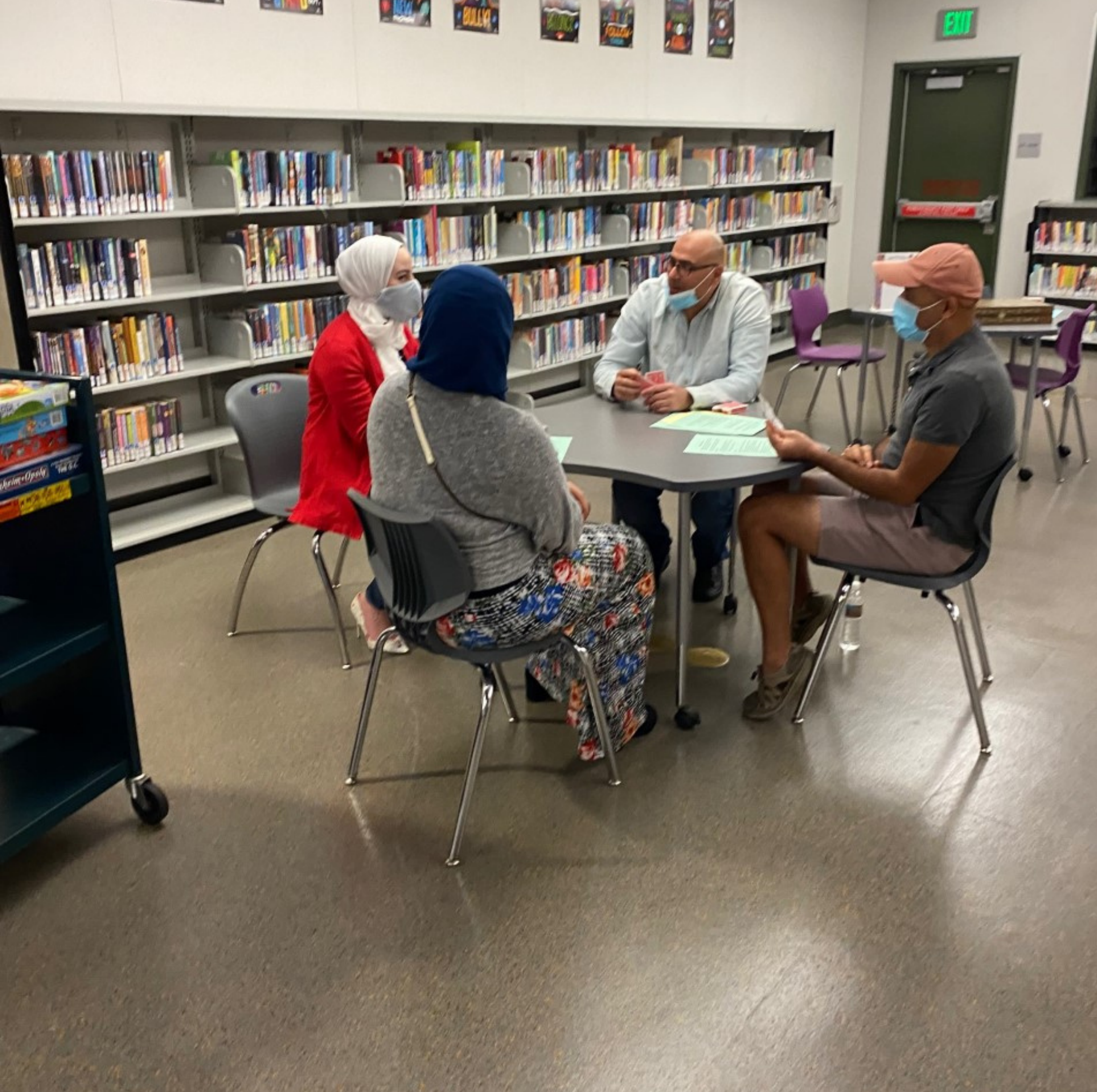
**Tuesday, November 23 at 5:30 PM
at the Haskett Library**

***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.calhum.org.”





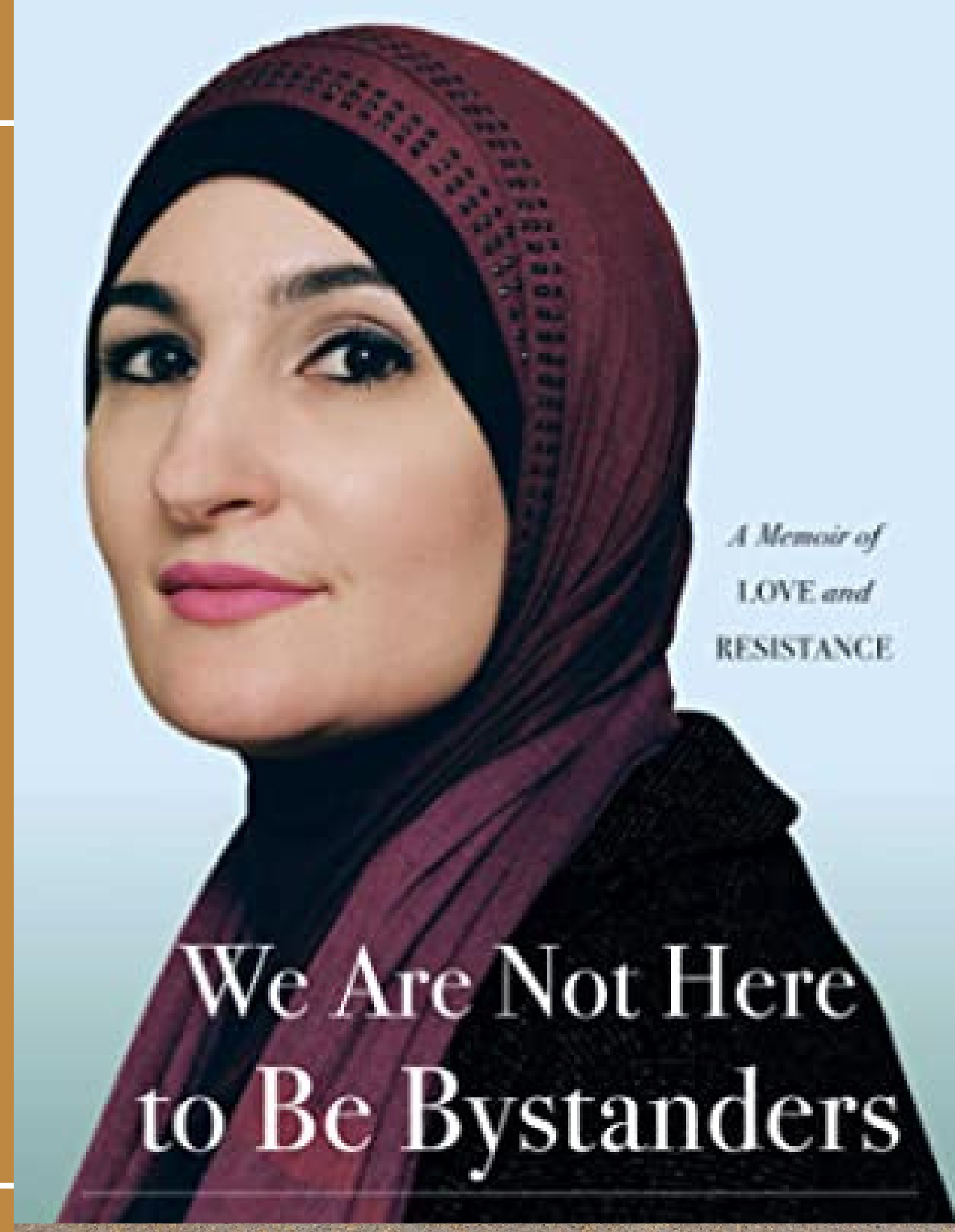


Barjess, dama & Tawleh

- 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 tawleh. 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.

AHLAN WA SAHLAN (DECEMBER 14)

IN CONVERSATION WITH LINDA SARSOOR



A Memoir of
LOVE and
RESISTANCE

We Are Not Here
to Be Bystanders



[View more on Instagram](#)



43 likes

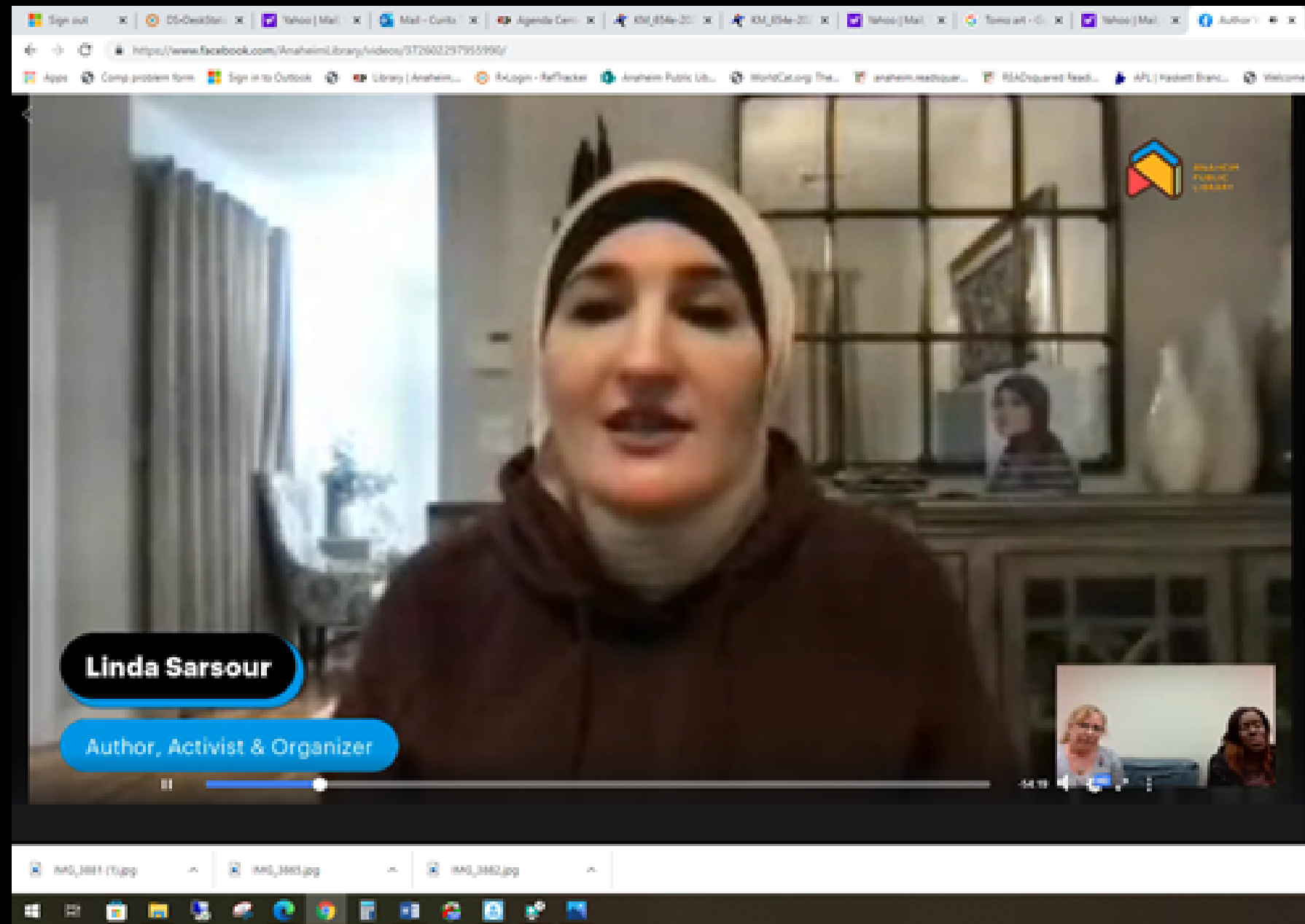


Add a comment...



- On Tuesday, December 14, the Anaheim Public Library was honored to host a 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.

Listen



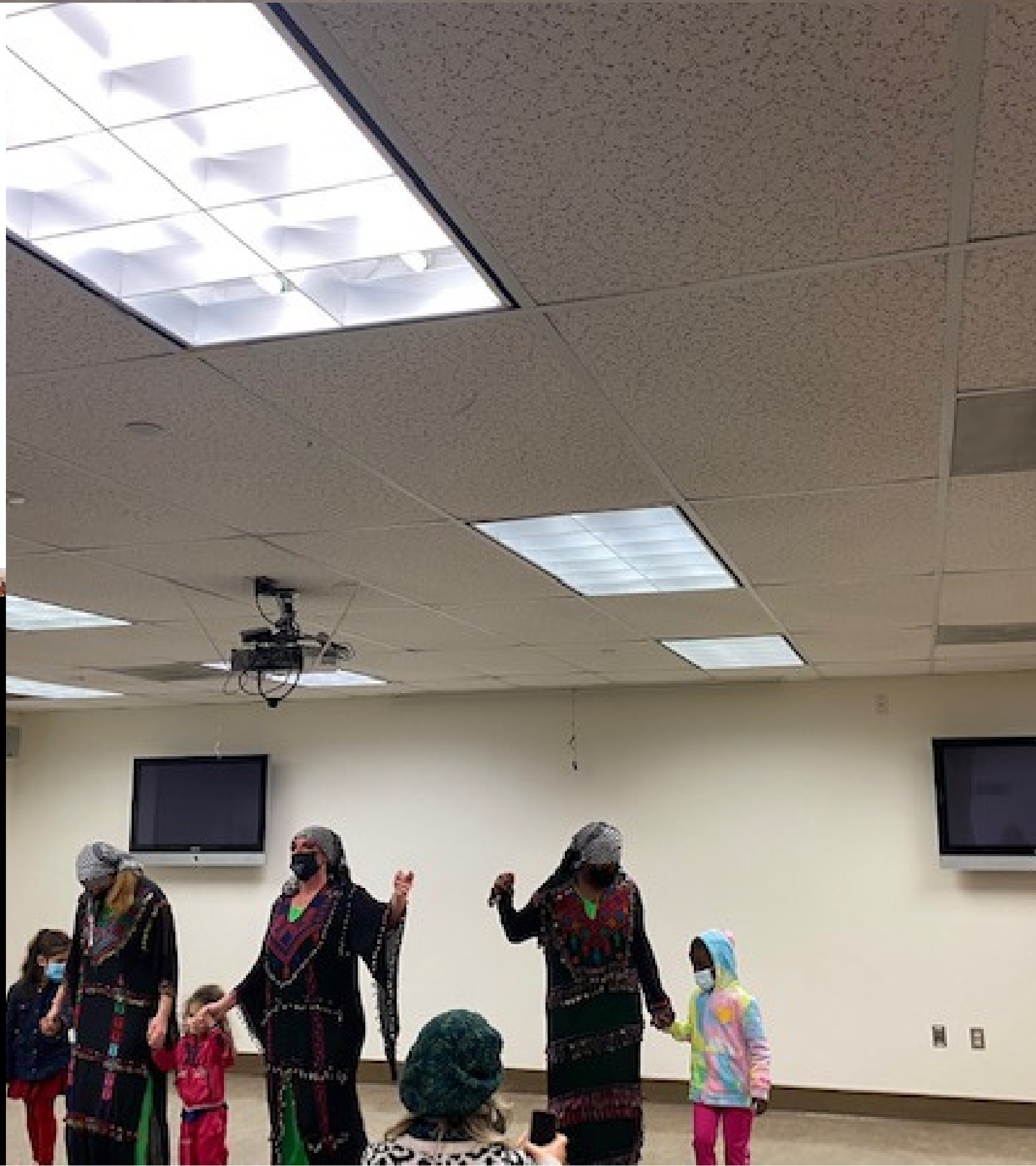
"Defeat
is not an
option."

AHLAN WA SAHLAN (DECEMBER 16)

CLOSING CELEBRATION

(Cultural Programming/
Representation)



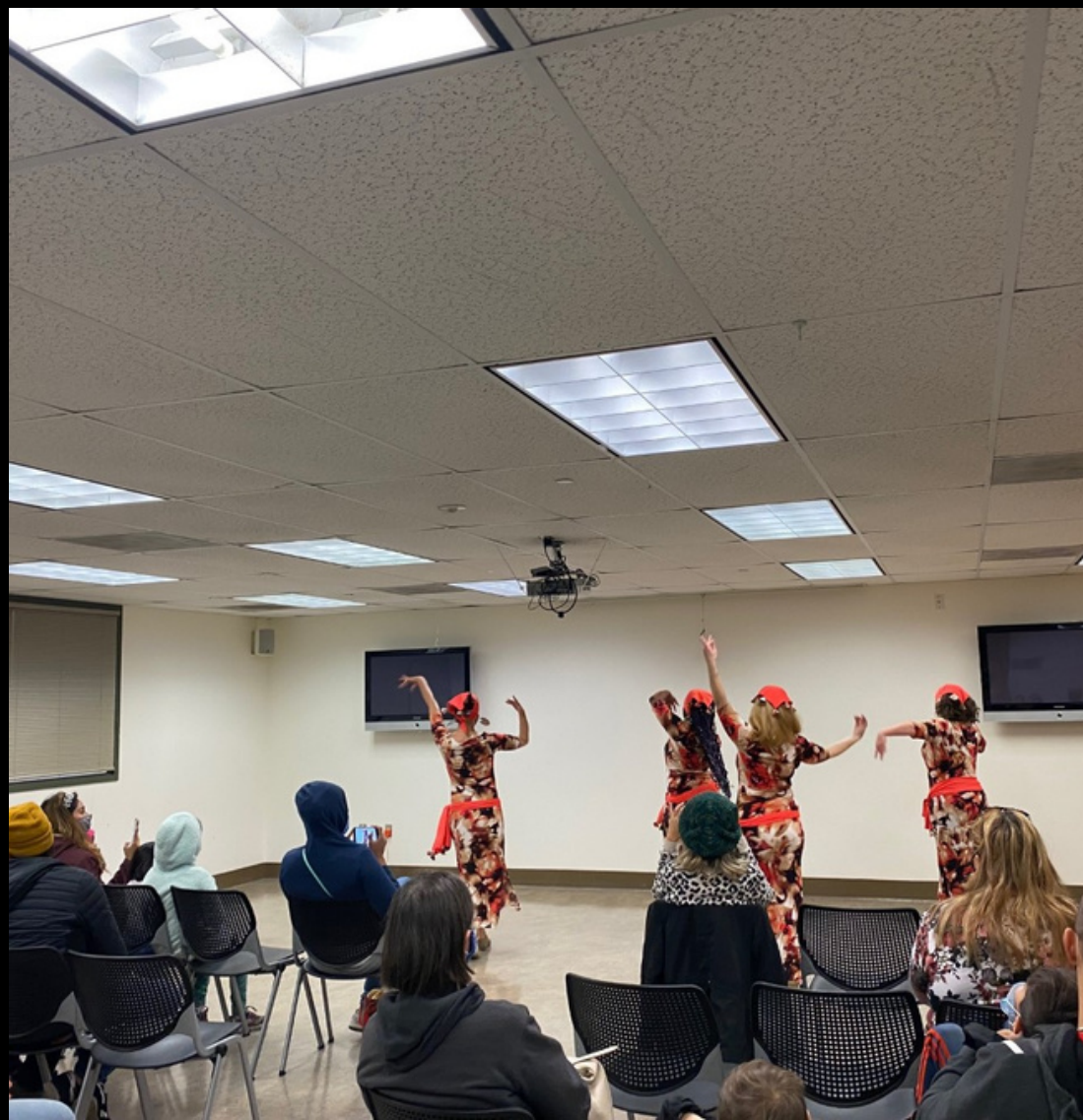


- **On Thursday, December 16, the Haskett Library hosted Closing Celebration of “Ahlan Wa Sahlan” Pan-Arabic program funded by California Humanities.**
- **Participants enjoyed the Qabila Folkdance Company as they journeyed across the Arab World in a celebration of dance and music from Gulf to the Maghreb.**
- **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

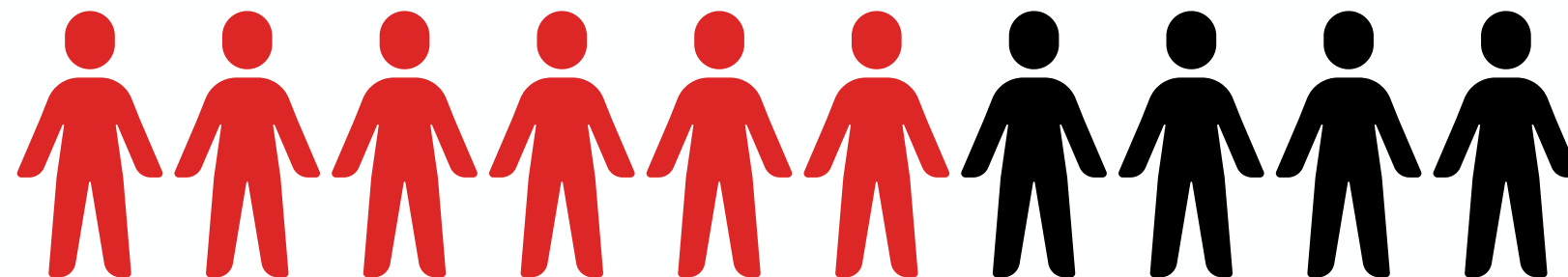


Dancing Continued



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!

