SWANA honors the diverse cultures, traditions and histories of Southwest Asian and North African heritage. Throughout the month, enjoy a diverse array of lectures, films, cooking demonstrations and performance programs for all ages at every library location.

In recent years, the Library has celebrated Middle Eastern Heritage. In order to recognize more of our residents and the region, we are renaming our celebration SWANA. Many universities are adopting this language for use with their Middle East studies programs. SWANA is a way to describe the Southwest Asian and North African region in a geographical, non-political, non-religious and non-Eurocentric way.

During SWANA, view a collection of outstanding short films from the Arab Film Festival, listen to beats by Opium Sabbah, son of the legendary Algerian DJ Cheb I Sabbah, attend calligraphy demonstrations, learn about traditional Palestinian garb and attend a presentation about the role and status of Muslim women today. Fantastic food programs include sampling dishes by Chef Aliza, made with with her unique Israeli spice blends, Palestinian food tastings and hummus making classes.

For younger audiences, enjoy Arabic dances by Heaven Mousalem and a special performance by the Shahrazad Dance Company. More live performances include *Leila’s Quest for Flight* by the Golden Thread Fairytale Players and cultural performances by The Kidworks Touring Theatre. Teens can get an exclusive sneak peek of a teen written-and-produced podcast about contemporary Muslim fashions. Local baker Nora Takouat teaches families how to make authentic Algerian desserts, and the library brings out the bike-powered blender to whip up tasty batches of hummus.

With SWANA, we hope that our residents from this region recognize that San Francisco welcomes and celebrates them. We also hope all our residents learn something new, have their curiosity stoked, and enjoy our varied programs.
FOOD

Hummus Making and Tasting with Rock-the-Bike
• Thursday, Sept. 6, 2–3 p.m., Excelsior
• Saturday, Sept. 15, 2–3 p.m., Ocean View
• Thursday, Sept. 27, 5:30–6:30 p.m., Richmond
Hop on the Rock-the-Bike blender bike and pedal your way to a yummy hummus snack. Ingredients provided. Ages 5 and up can pedal the bike. All ages are welcome to taste.

Algerian Sweet Treats
• Thursday, Sept. 20, 4–5 p.m., Sunset
• Saturday, Sept. 22, 4–5 p.m., Potrero
Local baker Nora Takouat teaches you how to make the delicious authentic Algerian dessert *khamsa bniwen*, which means “hand shaped sweet” and includes chocolate, nuts and honey. For all ages. Space is limited, please sign up in advance.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Henna Hands-On Workshop
• Saturday, Sept. 8, 1:30–3 p.m., Presidio
Learn the history, art and traditions of henna from the Arab world with Henna Garden. Henna artist Renda Dabit shares a brief presentation, gives (temporary) henna tattoos, and teaches participants to create their own henna art.

Islamic Art Craft for Kids
• Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2–3:30 p.m., Golden Gate Valley
Create a unique tile pattern inspired by Islamic art. Use repeating geometric shapes to explore this intersection between math and art. For children ages 5 and up.
**THEATER**

*Leila’s Quest for Flight*, Presented by Golden Thread Fairytale Players  
- Thursday, Sept. 20, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Noe Valley  
- Friday, Sept. 21, 3–4 p.m., Portola  
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 2–3 p.m., Richmond  
- Saturday, Oct. 6, 2–3 p.m., SFMOMA Public Knowledge

When the optometrist shatters little Leila’s dreams of becoming a pilot, a menagerie of mythic birds gathers to help her accomplish her goal. Drawn from beloved Palestinian folktales, *Leila’s Quest for Flight* incorporates music, dance and physical comedy. For children ages 5 and up and their families.

*The Music, Dances & Traditions of Southwest Asia to North Africa*, presented by Kidworks Touring Theatre  
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Main Library  
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 1:30–2:30 p.m., Parkside  
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 4–5 p.m., Western Addition  
- Sunday, Sept. 23, 1–2 p.m., Ingleside  
- Sunday, Sept. 23, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Merced

Explore the cultures and traditions of Southwest Asia and North Africa. Learn peaceful Arabic phrases, play ancient instruments and belly dance with us. Loaded with audience participation. For ages 4-12 and their families.

**SWANA Celebration at Bernal**  
- Saturday, Sept. 8, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Bernal Heights  
Music, crafts and refreshments for all ages.

**ARTS & CRAFTS**

for youth and family

*Art on the Go with The Contemporary Jewish Museum*  
- Saturday, Sept. 15, 12–1 p.m., Ocean View  
- Saturday, Sept. 15, 3–4 p.m., West Portal  
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 1–2 p.m., North Beach  
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 4–5 p.m., Anza  
- Saturday, Sept. 29, 2–3 p.m., Visitacion Valley

Create custom designs using block printing on fabric, explore symbols and patterns found throughout the cultures of Southwest Asia and North Africa and learn about the art of fabric folding on mini-mannequins.

This program is inspired by *Veiled Meanings: Fashioning Jewish Dress, from the Collection of The Israel Museum, Jerusalem* on view Aug. 30, 2018–Jan. 6, 2019 at The Contemporary Jewish Museum.
Programs for Teens & Tweens

Teens & Tweens

ARTS & CRAFTS

Henna Tattoos
• Saturday, Sept. 8, 2–3:30 p.m., Bernal Heights
Try out a henna tattoo. These tattoos last about 8-10 days; a permission slip is required from a parent/guardian. Sign up at the front desk.

Henna Hands-On Workshop
• Saturday, Sept. 8, 4–5:30 p.m., Park
• Tuesday, Sept. 11, 4–5:30 p.m., Ortega
• Monday, Sept. 17, 4–5:30 p.m., Excelsior
Learn the history, art and traditions of henna from the Arab world with Henna Garden. Henna artist Renda Dabit shares a brief presentation, gives (temporary) henna tattoos, and teaches participants to create their own henna art. Space is limited. Please contact the library to reserve your spot.

FOOD

Hummus Tasting and Mancala
• Wednesday, Sept. 12, 3–4:30 p.m., Western Addition
• Tuesday, Sept. 25, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Bayview
Try out delicious hummus and take part in one of the oldest games played. Ages 10-18.

Middle Eastern Snack Trials for T(w)eens
• Thursday, Sept. 13, 3–5 p.m., Glen Park
Taste some delicious Middle Eastern snacks. Ages 8-18.

SWANA

Afghanistan  Morocco
Algeria      Oman
Bahrain      Palestine
Cyprus       Qatar
Djibouti     Saudi Arabia
Egypt        Somalia
Eritrea      Sudan
Iran         Syria
Iraq         Tajikistan
Israel       Tunisia
Jordan       Turkey
Kazakhstan   Turkmenistan
Kuwait       United Arab Emirates
Kyrgyzstan   Uzbekistan
Lebanon      Western Sahara
Libya        Yemen

For craft programs, all materials are provided unless noted. For food programs, please be aware of food allergies.
Henna Hands-on Workshop
• Monday, Sept. 10, 4–5:30 p.m., The Mix, Main Library
Learn the history, art and traditions of henna from the Arab world with Henna Garden. Henna artist Renda Dabit shares a brief presentation, gives (temporary) henna tattoos, and teaches participants to create their own henna art.

Ward Off the Evil Eye with a Hamsa Craft
• Sunday, Sept. 16, 3–4 p.m., Visitacion Valley
The Hamsa is an amulet used for protection, blessing, and strength in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Learn more about the Hamsa and make your very own to decorate your home with.

FOOD

SWANA Snacks and Social Hour
• Wednesday, Sept. 5, 4:30–5:30 p.m., Ingleside
Take your time and relax while catching up with friends during a celebratory SWANA social hour.

SWANA Snack Trials
• Friday, Sept. 7, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Ortega
• Monday, Sept. 17, 3–4 p.m., Ocean View
• Tuesday, Sept. 18, 4–6 p.m., The Mix, Main Library
Join us after school to experience a taste of Southwest Asia and North Africa. Contact Tony, the teen librarian, for any questions.

Want to know more about the Teen Advisory Board at the de Young Museum?
The Teen Advisory Board is composed of ten high school students who plan, host and promote events to their teen communities. The teens see the museum as a place to unite and support one another through exploring important social issues.
Programs for Adults

SPECIAL EVENTS

Palestinian Dress
• Saturday, Sept. 8, 12:30–1:30 p.m., Sunset
• Saturday, Sept. 8, 3–4 p.m., Excelsior
The traditional clothing of Palestine is extremely rich in embroidery. Learn about the regional differences in traditional garb.

Islamic Art & Geometric Design
• Saturday, Sept. 15, 2–3:30 p.m., Golden Gate Valley
Create your own unique geometric pattern inspired by Islamic art. All materials provided.

Calligraphy Demonstration and Performance
• Saturday, Sept. 22, 2–3 p.m., Marina
Audiences usually view calligraphy when it’s complete. Attend a performance of calligraphy for a unique opportunity to see the act done live.

SWANA Fest: Celebrating Southwest Asian and North African Cultures
• Thursday, Sept. 27, 5–7 p.m., Western Addition
Take a tour of Southwest Asian and North African culture. There will be poetry, story readings, film, music, and a variety of treats to sample from around the region.

Muslim Women Beyond the Stereotypes
• Saturday, Sept. 29, 2–3 p.m., Golden Gate Valley
The role of Muslim women and Islam’s view of women is one of the most widely misunderstood and misrepresented aspects of the religion and its practitioners. Learn about the status of Muslim women today and hear about many notable Muslim women.

FOOD

Israeli Spice Blending with Bishulim SF
• Saturday, Sept. 1, 1–2 p.m., Golden Gate Valley
• Saturday, Sept. 1, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Bayview
• Saturday, Sept. 29, 1–2 p.m., Eureka Valley
• Saturday, Sept. 29, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Ortega
Israel is a melting pot, fusing East and West, resulting in unique and delicious dishes. Chef Aliza presents foods that incorporate her unique spice blends.

Hummus Tasting
• Tuesday, Sept. 4, 7–8 p.m., Parkside
Learn to make hummus, taste samples, and make your own to take home. Space is limited; register by calling (415) 355-5770.
Hunt for the Best Hummus
• Thursday, Sept. 6, 4–5 p.m., Noe Valley
Hunt for your favorite hummus with a sampling from the familiar to the more unusual flavors.

Egyptian and Moroccan Spice Blends
• Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7–8 p.m., Park
• Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Golden Gate Valley
Learn about spice blends used in Egyptian and Moroccan cuisine, during a hands-on participation. Attendees will leave with a small sample of the spice blends. All materials are provided.

Taste SWANA
• Thursday, Sept. 13, 6–7 p.m., Potrero
Curious about the snack delicacies of SWANA? Sample food from many countries that are part of this important geographical region.

Palestinian Food Tasting
• Saturday, Sept. 15, 12–1 p.m., Ingleside
• Saturday, Sept. 15, 3–4 p.m., Visitacion Valley
• Saturday, Sept. 29, 1–2 p.m., West Portal
• Saturday, Sept. 29, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Presidio
Chef Nikki shares traditionally prepared Palestinian cuisine and discusses the history of the dishes presented.

Middle Eastern Snack Trials
• Sunday, Sept. 16, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Portola
You may know pita and hummus...now let’s get adventurous and try some other tasty snacks of the Middle East.

MUSIC & DANCE

World Music with Opium Sabbah
• Saturday, Sept. 1, 1:15–2 p.m., Park
• Saturday, Sept. 8, 1:30–2:15 p.m., Bernal Heights
Son of the legendary Algerian DJ Cheb I Sabbah, carries the torch for the world music genre music his father helped pioneer.

SF Kala Kendra Dances
• Saturday, Sept. 29, 2–3 p.m., Merced
Sarika Parekh and her troupe perform a classical Indian dance, Kathak, and demonstrates the Middle Eastern influence on the style.

Jewish Folk Songs
• Saturday, Sept. 29, 3–4 p.m., Richmond
An accordion performance of Jewish folk songs played by Dina Gutkina.

BOOK CLUB

Sugar Street by Naguib Mahfouz
• Thursday, Sept. 6, 6–7:30 p.m., Main Library
Join SFPL’s World Literature Book Club for a spirited discussion of Sugar Street by Nobel Prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz.
Looking to read more about Southwest Asian and North African cultures? Check out this booklist with selections inspired by two clothing and textile exhibitions at The Contemporary Jewish Museum and the de Young Museum.

**For children:**

*Deep in the Sahara* by Kelly Cunnane
An Arab girl of the Sahara who wants to wear a malafa, the veiled dress worn by her mother and older sister, learns that the garment represents beauty, mystery, tradition, belonging and faith.

*Mommy’s Khimar* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
A young Muslim girl spends a busy and imaginative day wrapped up in her mother’s colorful headscarf.

*Nabeel’s New Pants: An Eid Tale* by Fawzia Gilani-Williams
Nabeel the shoemaker celebrates the Eid holiday with a pair of pants stitched from love.

*Something from Nothing: Adapted from a Jewish Folktale* by Phoebe Gilman
A modern adaptation of a beloved Jewish folktale about how a young boy’s blanket is transformed over the years into a jacket, a button, and ultimately, a story.

**For teens and adults:**

*Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi
A hilarious, poignant and true story of one teen’s experience growing up in America as an undocumented immigrant from the Middle East.

*A Strangeness in My Mind* by Orhan Pamuk
“Nobel Prize winner Pamuk has added another major work to his oeuvre with this carefully detailed and compassionately told tale of life in Istanbul over the last 60 years” – Library Journal

*Frankenstein in Baghdad: A Novel* by Ahmed Saadawi
A wartime spin on Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and a tragicomic look at the Iraq War through the lens of a small neighborhood in U.S.-occupied Baghdad.

*Mother of All Pigs: A Novel* by Malu Halasa
“The struggles of being female in the Middle East, which include stringent cultural demands and discrimination, are thoroughly documented in this timely novel.” – Library Journal
Muslim Fashion: Contemporary Style Cultures by Reina Lewis
A contextualization of modest wardrobe styling within Islamic and global consumer cultures, including interviews with designers, bloggers, shoppers, store clerks and shop owners.

My Father’s Paradise: A Son’s Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq by Ariel Sabar
A journalist explores his Jewish and Kurdish roots with his father by traveling to Iraq.

Pious Fashion: How Muslim Women Dress by Elizabeth M. Bucar
Shows how Muslim women approach the question “What to wear?” with style.

The Flying Camel: Essays on Identity by Women of North African and Middle Eastern Jewish Heritage (anthology)
Exploring the stereotypes of who Jewish women are, this collection introduces the stories of Jewish women from the Arab and North African worlds.

The Jewish Wardrobe: From the Collection of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem
In this colorful volume, Jewish communities—particularly those established for centuries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa—are revealed through their garments.

EXHIBITIONS

“Geometric Abaya” dress with belt. Faiza Bouguessa (est. 2014, United Arab Emirates) Courtesy of Faiza Bouguessa.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco’s de Young museum hosts Contemporary Muslim Fashion (Sept. 22, 2018 through Jan. 6, 2019).
The first major museum exhibition to explore the complex and diverse nature of Muslim fashions and current modest dress codes.

This exhibition focuses on how clothes balance the personal with the social, how dress traditions distinguish different Jewish communities and how they portray Jewish and secular affiliations within a larger societal context.

“Great Dress” (berberisca or al kesswa l’kebira) (detail). Fez, Morocco, early twentieth century. Photo © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem by Mauro Magliani.
*Where Should the Birds Fly*
- Thursday, Sept. 13, 4–5:30 p.m., Ocean View
  A documentary film about Gaza made by Palestinians living the reality of Israel’s siege and blockade of a tiny enclave.

(2013, NR, 64 mins.) Refreshments served.

*Best of Arab Shorts*
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 1–4 p.m., Main Library
  Arab Shorts is a multifaceted program that includes narrative, documentary and animated short films. This event will feature a collection of outstanding short films from the upcoming Arab Film Festival, showcasing emergent voices and diverse approaches in cinematic storytelling by contemporary Arab filmmakers and artists. Sponsored by the Arab Film and Media Institute.

*Between Fences: Israel’s African Refugees and the Theater of the Oppressed*
- Thursday, Sept. 27, 6–8 p.m., Excelsior
  An Israeli filmmaker documents the story of African asylum-seekers in a detention facility in the middle of the Negev desert where they are confined by the state of Israel.

(2016, NR, 85 mins.)

*Feminism Inshallah: A History of Arab Feminism*
- Saturday, Sept. 1, 10:30–11:30 a.m., Mission Bay
- Sunday, Sept. 2, 1–2 p.m., North Beach
- Thursday, Sept. 13, 6–7 p.m., Visitacion Valley
- Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Glen Park

This groundbreaking documentary recounts Arab feminism’s largely unknown story, from its taboo-shattering birth in Egypt by feminist pioneers to viral Internet campaigns by today’s tech-savvy young activists during the Arab Spring.

(2014, NR, 55 mins.)

*Kedi-The Cats of an Ancient City*
- Saturday, Sept. 8, 2–3:30 p.m., Chinatown

Hundreds of thousands of cats roam the metropolis of Istanbul freely. For thousands of years they’ve wandered in and out of people’s lives, becoming an essential part of the communities that make the city so rich. In Turkish with English subtitles.

(2016, NR, 79 mins.)

*Sonita*
- Sunday, Sept. 9, 1:30–3 p.m., Western Addition

After her family attempts to sell her into marriage, a young Afghan refugee in Iran channels her frustrations and seizes her destiny through music. Winner of Best World Cinema Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival.

(2015, NR, 92 min.)
LIBRARY LOCATIONS

ANZA
(415) 355-5717
550 37th Ave. (near Anza)

BAYVIEW/LINDA BROOKS-BURTON
(415) 355-5757
5075 Third St. (at Revere)

BERNAL HEIGHTS
(415) 355-2810
500 Cortland Ave. (at Moultrie)

CHINATOWN/HIM MARK LAI
(415) 355-2888
1135 Powell St. (near Jackson)

EUREKA VALLEY/HARVEY MILK MEMORIAL
(415) 355-5616
1 José Sarria Court (16th Street near Market)

EXCELSIOR
(415) 355-2868
4400 Mission St. (at Cotter)

GLEN PARK
(415) 355-2858
2825 Diamond St. (near Bosworth)

GOLDEN GATE VALLEY
(415) 355-5666
1801 Green St. (at Octavia)

INGLESIDE
(415) 355-2898
1298 Ocean Ave. (at Plymouth)

MAIN LIBRARY
(415) 557-4400
100 Larkin St. (at Grove)

MARINA
(415) 355-2823
1890 Chestnut St. (near Webster)

MERCED
(415) 355-2825
155 Winston Dr. (at 19th Ave.)

MISSION
(415) 355-2800
300 Bartlett St. (at 24th St.)

MISSION BAY
(415) 355-2838
960 Fourth St. (at Berry)

NOE VALLEY/SALLY BRUNN
(415) 355-5707
451 Jersey St. (near Castro)

NORTH BEACH
(415) 355-5626
850 Columbus Ave. (at Lombard)

OCEAN VIEW
(415) 355-5615
345 Randolph St. (at Ramsell)

ORTEGA
(415) 355-5700
3223 Ortega St. (at 39th Ave.)

PARK
(415) 355-5656
1883 Page St. (at Cole)

PARKSIDE
(415) 355-5770
1200 Taraval St. (at 22nd Ave.)

PORTOLA
(415) 355-5660
380 Bacon St. (at Goettingen)

POTRERO
(415) 355-2822
1616 20th St. (near Connecticut)

PRESIDIO
(415) 355-2880
3150 Sacramento St. (near Baker)

RICHMOND/SEN. MILTON MARKS
(415) 355-5600
351 9th Ave. (near Clement)

SUNSET
(415) 355-2808
1305 18th Ave. (at Irving)

VISITACION VALLEY
(415) 355-2848
201 Leland Ave. (at Rutland)

WEST PORTAL
(415) 355-2886
190 Lenox Way (at Ulloa)

WESTERN ADDITION
(415) 355-5727
1550 Scott St. (at Geary)

MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES
(415) 557-4346

- Visit our newest branch library: SFMOMA Public Knowledge, 151 3rd Street, San Francisco -