



Carnegie
Library of
Pittsburgh

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New Voice of the Middle East, Islamic Scholar Dr. Sabiha Al Khemir, To Discuss East/West Cultural Relations During Visit to Pittsburgh

(PITTSBURGH, PA – October 20, 2008) World recognized Islamic scholar, Dr. Sabiha Al Khemir, will share her insight on bridging East/West cultural relations during a free lecture at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main, 4400 Forbes Avenue. Her appearance on Monday, November 3 at 7:00 pm in the Library's lecture hall coincides with the release of her new book, *The Blue Manuscript*.

The Blue Manuscript presents the important theme of the universal quest for communication and understanding. A fictional story in which a tangible quest is taken on by various members of an archaeological team to uncover the religiously significant Blue Manuscript, the book takes readers into the uneasy relationship between Islam past and present, and between Islam and the West.

Dr. Al Khemir is the founding director of the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar. As a highly respected Islamic art historian, she has consulted for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and has written and presented documentaries for Channel Four Television. She lectures worldwide on Islamic art and other cultural topics and has recently compiled an exhibition and book of 42 Islamic treasures, which were shown in the Louvre museum in France.

The November 3 lecture is presented free of charge thanks to event partners, Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies (CERIS), the Pittsburgh Middle East Institute and the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Copies of Dr. Al Khemir's book, *The Blue Manuscript*, will be available for purchase at the lecture. For more information please visit www.carnegielibrary.org.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh *Building Communities, Enriching Lives*

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country's great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset. Each year the Library provides more than 8,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.

About Libraries for LIFE

While Andrew Carnegie provided the seed money to build the library facilities; he did not leave an endowment for their ongoing operations and maintenance. Thanks to local, county and state government, corporations, foundations and individuals, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries for LIFE Capital Campaign is renewing library buildings to meet the needs of today's library customer. In 2000 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh embarked upon a \$55 million capital campaign, the first in the Library's history, to make neighborhood libraries accessible system-wide. Since the campaign began, the Library has renovated or relocated six neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. CLP-Hill District is the seventh library to be completed in the system-wide renewal, and the city's first newly constructed library since 1980. The visibility of the completed renovations has brought new vitality, with all locations benefiting from increased visitor and circulation numbers.

