



For Planning Purposes
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June 13, 2022

MONDAY: HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES WORLD REFUGEE DAY WITH AUTHOR TALK



(Hartford, CT) – **At 4 p.m. on Monday, June 20 at the Downtown Library in Hartford,** Hartford Public Library will host an author panel presentation to mark World Refugee Day.

Ahmed Badr, author of “While the Earth Sleeps We Travel,” will be joined by **Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo** and **Ndengo Gladys Mwilelo**, co-authors of “Each of Us a Universe.”

“While the Earth Sleeps We Travel” is a collection of poetry, personal narratives and art from refugee youth around the world compiled by Badr, an Iraqi refugee. “Each of Us a Universe” draws on Mwilelo’s experience as a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo and tells the story of two young girl’s adventure to the top of a mountain.

The panel presentation will be followed by small group discussions and a book signing and networking event.

WHO

Ahmed Badr, author of “While the Earth Sleeps We Travel”
Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo and Ndengo Gladys Mwilelo, co-authors of “Each of Us a Universe.”

WHERE

Hartford Public Library Downtown, Atrium
500 Main Street
Hartford, CT

WHEN

4-6 p.m.
Monday, June 20

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ahmed M. Badr is an Iraqi-American poet and social entrepreneur working to combine poetry, archival material, and multimedia to explore the complexities of migration, identity, and self-expression, with a focus on re-framing and reclaiming the power of tragedy. On July 25, 2006, Ahmed's home in Baghdad was bombed by militia troops. He and his family relocated to Syria, where they lived as refugees for over two years before receiving approval to move to the United States. As a teen, Ahmed founded Narratio, an organization that activates, supports, and highlights the creative expression of displaced young people through fellowships, workshops, publishing, and partnerships. Beginning in 2018, Ahmed M. Badr traveled to Greece, Trinidad & Tobago, and Syracuse, New York, holding storytelling workshops with hundreds of displaced youth: those living in and outside of camps, as well as those adjusting to life after resettlement.



Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo is the author of *A Galaxy of Sea Stars* and *Ruby in the Sky*, which earned two starred reviews and which Booklist called "quietly magical." She is also a volunteer with IRIS-Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services in New Haven. She lives in Ellington with her family.



Ndengo Gladys Mwilelo is a refugee from Democratic Republic of Congo. As an Ambassador with IRIS-Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, she does speaking engagements throughout Connecticut. She also volunteers with IRIS. She is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University and lives in New Haven with her family.