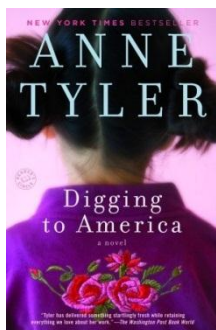


## Bridging Cultures Book Group

Thanks to support from Connecticut Humanities Council the Bridging Cultures book club is going strong. The Club is designed to foster cross-cultural communication and understanding and covers a variety of themes. We generally meet the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 PM to 8:00 p.m.

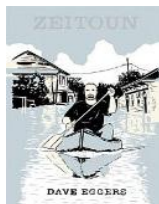


### **Digging to America by Anne Tyler**

Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, Hartford History Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

*Digging to America* tells the story of two very different families whose lives are forever entangled after they adopt two infant daughters from Korea. From their first chance meeting at the airport, the lives of the Iranian-American Yazman family and the Caucasian upper class Americans, the Donaldsons, are never quite the same. Both families find themselves clashing over their different cultures and traditions, and both parties question that it means to be a parent, a family, and a traditional American.

### **Previous Discussions:**



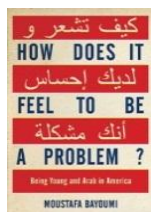
### **Zeitoun by Dave Eggers**

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a prosperous Syrian-American and father of four, chose to stay through the storm to protect his house and contracting business. Eggers' riveting nonfiction book, explores Zeitoun's roots in Syria, his marriage and his children. *(Discussed Oct. 2012)*



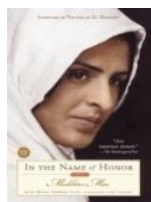
### **Beyond the Cayenne Wall by Shaila Abdullah**

This collection of short stories tells about Pakistani women struggling to find their individualities as they dare to go beyond the wall that divides their traditions and the world outside. *(Discussed Mar. 2012)*



### **How Does It Feel to Be a Problem by Moustafa Bayoumi**

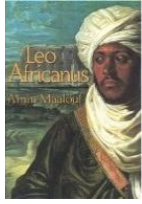
This book is a provocative investigation exploring how young Arab-Americans are still struggling to define their identities in a hostile environment and coping with the government's mistrust. *(Discussed Jun. 2011)*



### **In the Name of Honor by Muhktar Mai**

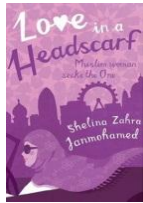
In June 2002, Muhktar Mai, a Pakistani woman, was gang raped, arranged as punishment for indiscretions allegedly committed by the woman's brother. While not the first account of a female negotiated for honor in a family, this time the survivor fought back and in doing so, single-handedly changed the feminist movement in Pakistan. *(Discussed Apr. 2011)*

## Bridging Cultures Book Group



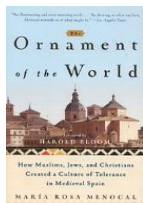
### **Leo Africanus** by Amin Maalouf

This historical memoir tells the story of the meeting of real-life Arab traveler, Leo Africanus and geographer Hassan al-Wazzan. *(Discussed Feb. 2012)*



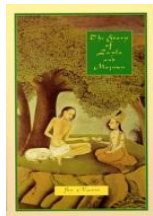
### **Love in a Headscarf** by Shelina Janmohamed

This memoir tells the story of what it is like to be a young British Muslim woman. *(Discussed Jan. 2012)*



### **The Ornament of the World** by Maria Rosa Menocal

A portrait of the vibrant civilization of medieval Spain where literature, science, and art flourished in a climate of cultural openness and tolerance was often the rule. *(Discussed Nov. 2011)*



### **The Story of Layla and Majnun** by Nizami

Both a touching love story and a profound spiritual allegory, the story of Layla and Majnun, two lovers of this classic tale are remembered to this day in the poems and songs from the Caucasus to the interior of Africa, and from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. *(Discussed Nov. 2011)*