

## 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..

Theme: *Muslim Worlds*

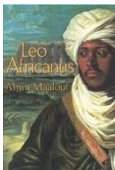
**Tuesday, October 2, 2012**



**Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers

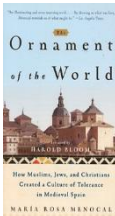
When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a prosperous Syrian-American and father of four, chose to stay through the storm to protect his house and contracting business. Eggers' riveting nonfiction book, explores Zeitoun's roots in Syria, his marriage and his children.

### Previous Selections:



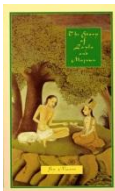
**Leo Africanus** by Amin Maalouf

This historical memoir tells the story of the meeting of real-life Arab traveler, Leo Africanus and geographer Hassan al-Wazzan.



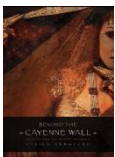
**The Ornament of the World** by Maria Rosa Menocal

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.



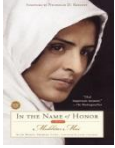
**The Story of Layla and Majnun** by Nizami

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.



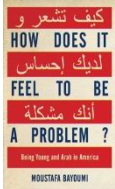
**Beyond the Cayenne Wall** by Shaila Abdullah

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.



### **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 being negotiated for honor in a family, this time the survivor fought back and in doing so, single-handedly changed the feminist movement in Pakistan.



### **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.