



# The Middle East in America

## *Expect the Unexpected*

### Summer Institute for Teachers 2021

Sunday June 20 to Thursday June 24

Featuring artistic performances, daily interactive seminars, access to cutting edge films and drop-in coffee hours for networking - and conversation!

All educators are welcome!

New Haven Public School teachers will receive a special set of book resources for their classrooms.

#### Topics include...

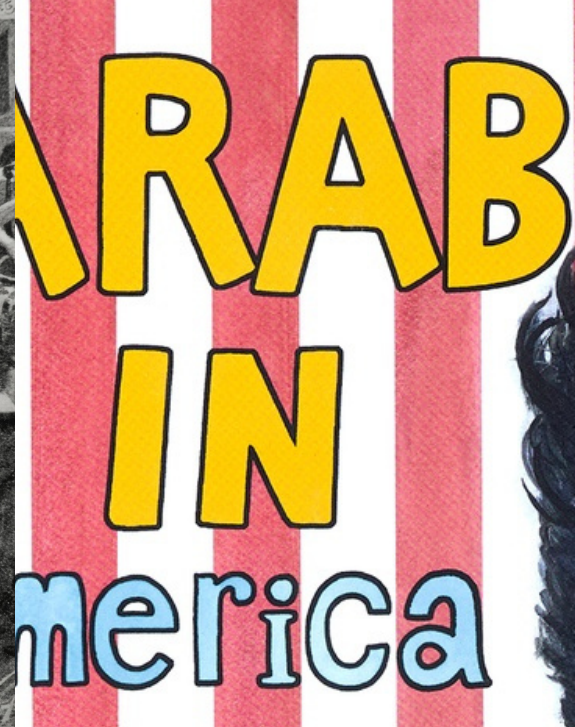
- Black Lives Matter in the Middle East
- Date Palms & Orientalist Fantasies in Coachella Valley
- How Cartoons & Graphic Novels Help us (Mis)Understand MENA
- The Yazidis of Lincoln, Nebraska
- Uncovering America's Mizrahi & Sephardic Jews

Yale MACMILLAN CENTER  
Council on Middle East Studies

Register at: <https://bit.ly/MENA2021>

Funded by a Title VI grant from the US Department of Education





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### Sunday, June 20

**7:00-8:30pm:** Opening Performance! **MC Omar Offendum** & Multi-Instrumentalist maestro **Ronnie Malley** tell the story of Palestinian and Syrian diasporas through music, memories and conversation. Watch two cultural visionaries weave stories of the past, present and future!

### Monday, June 21

**10:30am-12:00pm:** Opening Keynote: BLM in the MENA: The Global Impact of an American Movement, **Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen** (Postdoctoral Associate with the Council for African Studies, Yale University)

**1:00pm-2:30pm:** Coachella Valley's Improbable Date Palms: Orientalist Fantasies in the California's Desert, **Sarah Seekatz** (Professor, Mexican American & U.S. History, San Joaquin Delta College)

### Tuesday, June 22

**10:30am-12:00pm:** Cartoons, Comicstrips and Graphic Novels: American Visions of the Middle East, Maryanne Rhett (Professor of Middle Eastern & World History, Monmouth University) and **Toufic El Rassi** (Graphic Novelist & Adjunct Professor of Humanities and Philosophy, Oakton College)

### Wednesday, June 23

**11:00am-12:30pm:** The Yazidis of Lincoln, Nebraska: Communities of Resilience with **Hadi Pir** (PhD candidate, University of Nebraska; Founder of Yazda NGO)

### Thursday, June 24

**2:30pm-4:00pm:** Centering the Sephardic & Mizrahi Jewish Experiences with Dr. Saba Soomekh (Associate Director at the AJC-Los Angeles & Lecturer at the Academy for Jewish Religion)

**7:00-8:30pm:** Closing Performance! Black, Arab, African, American: **Alsarah & the Nubatones** - exclusive performance video followed by a moderated conversation