Duquesne University’s Gumberg Library is one of 840 libraries and state humanities councils across the country selected to receive the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). The program aims to familiarize public audiences in the United States with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf includes books and films organized by six themes: American Stories, Connected Histories, Literary Reflections, Pathways of Faith, Points of View and Art Architecture and Film. These titles were selected with the advice of librarians and cultural programming experts, as well as distinguished scholars in the fields of anthropology, world history, religious studies, interfaith dialogue, the history of art and architecture, world literature, Middle East studies, Southeast Asian studies, African studies and Islamic studies.

For information and discussion guides to use with these new materials, go to http://guides.library.duq.edu/muslimjourneys. All resources are on reserve at the Gumberg Library circulation desk under course instructor name: Saunders and course name: Muslim Journeys.

Major support for the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf was provided by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. Additional support for the arts and media components was provided by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

Find out more by contacting Dr. Laverna Saunders at lsanders@duq.edu or 412.396.6136.
One Book, One Community “kick off”
Event at Gumberg, March 19

In conjunction with the promotion of the One Book for 2013, People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks, Gumberg Library hosted the One Book, One Community event, Passover Seder and the Haggadah. The featured speaker was Dr. Aaron Mackler an associate professor of Theology at Duquesne University. Guests learned about and sampled some traditional foods from the Passover Seder, a once-a-year family ritual celebrating the Israelites’ Exodus from Egypt and their freedom from slavery. The lunch culminated with a tour of the Rabbi Herman Hailperin Collection on Gumberg Library’s second floor. The tour was led by librarian Ted Bergfelt, who highlighted unique books in the collection including one dating back to the 1400s.

Among the fifty attendees were community partners Charity Leonette from the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA), Martha Berg from Rodef Shalom Congregation in Oakland, Susan Melnick and Rachel Calk from the Rauh Jewish Archives at the Senator John Heinz History Center and Miranda Nixon from the University of Pittsburgh.

Library Staff News & Publications

Congratulations to Ted Bergfelt, reference and instruction librarian, on his promotion from Librarian I to Librarian II.

Kudos to Tanya Frederick, circulation student coordinator, who received a staff award at the Holiday Staff Awards Luncheon on December 21, 2012 for outstanding service and extra effort.


Dr. Aaron Mackler shares his knowledge of Passover traditions, ancient and contemporary, along with the symbolism of the food of the Seder.

Ted Bergfelt, reference and instruction librarian, reveals special items from the Hailperin Collection.

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