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## News Release

### **Union County Public Library Receives \$1000 from the North Carolina Humanities Council**

**January 27, 2010, Monroe, NC** - The Union County Public Library has been awarded a \$1000 grant by the North Carolina Humanities Council (NCHC) for the project, "Let's Talk About It-Divergent Cultures: The Middle East in Literature." The program is scheduled to take place Tuesdays evenings, March 2, 16, 30, April 13 and 27 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Event will be held at the Monroe Library, located at 316 East Windsor Street and will be open to the public. Registration is required. Refreshments and additional support are provided by the Friends of the Union County Public Libraries.

"Let's Talk About It" series bring scholars and community members together to explore how selected books illuminate a particular theme. The program includes reading and discussing five books over the course of nine weeks. In this series about the Middle East, readers explore ancient and modern conflicts to build understanding about the varied and richly textured peoples, cultures, histories, and geographies of the Middle East. Each session is facilitated by a local professor, who will discuss the writer and their work. To kick off the series on March 2, we will discuss *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* by Azar Nafisi. This session will be led by Dr. Charles McAllister of Catawba College. On March 16, Dr. Pam Thomas of Wingate University will lead *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. The other books include *A Perfect Peace* by Amos Oz, *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen, and *Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women* by Geraldine Brooks. Books are available for loan throughout the duration of the series. Contact Jill Peth at 704-283-8184, ext. 241 to register and receive your books.

This project is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in partnership with the North Carolina Center for the Book, a program of the State Library of North Carolina.

The NCHC is a non profit foundation and its primary mission is to work with NC communities to broaden the meaning of public education for the public good. The Council's free, public humanities programs provide ongoing educational forums for all North Carolinians which address questions of identity, community and citizenship.