LAUNCH ANNOUNCEMENT

CONTACT: Phyllis Hegner, Library Public Relations
(513) 369-4571 or phyllis.hegner@cincinnatilibrary.org

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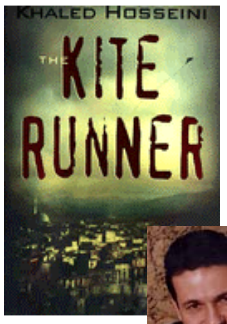
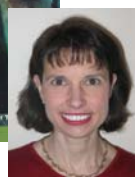
Read the Book in March; Attend Programs & Discussions Through May 1

4th Annual On the Same Page Community-Wide Reading Program Begins March 1

Anything Can Happen When We Get On the Same Page! People of all ages in Greater Cincinnati are invited to read, discuss, and become enlightened by the challenging issues raised by the books chosen for 2005's On the Same Page Cincinnati. Now, in its fourth year, this exciting community-wide reading club is designed to foster a sense of community through reading. Reading begins March 1 followed by book talks, discussion groups and related programs to take place through May 1.



This year's selection for adults, *The Kite Runner*, has been lavishly praised by the critics, captured the attention of readers across the country, and climbed steadily up the bestseller lists. Khaled Hosseini, the author of this moving and evocative novel comments: *"It is a tremendous honor for me that* The Kite Runner *has been selected for Cincinnati's On The Same Page community reading program. I am grateful and proud. I hope this novel of my homeland resonates with Cincinnati's readers and, through its universal themes of friendship, loss, and redemption, helps bridge gaps. I also hope* The Kite Runner *offers insight into Afghan culture and helps humanize in some way the Afghan's people's trials and hardships of the last quarter of a century.*"



A youth book, *Among the Hidden,* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, has also been selected to encourage students to read and engage in dialogue. In the book the author imagines a futuristic state that brutally enforces a two-children-only policy, where 12-year-old Luke Garner, the "illegal" third child, spends his entire life hiding from anyone outside his immediate family.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Khaled Hosseini was born and raised in Kabul, Afghanistan, the son of a diplomat whose family received political asylum in the United States in 1980. He now lives in Northern California, and is a physician. *The Kite Runner* is his first novel.

Margaret Peterson Haddix grew up on a farm near Washington Court House, but now lives in Powell, Ohio along with her husband and two children. A graduate of Miami University with degrees in English journalism/creative writing and history, her books have been honored with the International Reading Association's Children's Book Award; American Library Association Best Book and Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers notations; and many state reader's choice awards.

- more -

Throughout April – Cultural series related to *The Kite Runner* held in conjunction with the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati and the Council on American Islamic Relations:

Program/Discussion Series:

What Is Islam? – Discuss *The Kite Runner* and learn more about Islam with Karen Dabdoud of the Council on American Islamic Relations at various library locations. (Check the On The Same Page website for times and locations).

Panel Discussions:

Understanding Islam—Its People and Cultures with members of the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati and the Council on American Islamic Relations to be held at:

- Symmes Branch Library, Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.
- Main Library, Sunday, May 1, 2:00 p.m. with *Foods of the Islamic World* sampler.

Saturday, March 26 – Kite Building Workshop and Kite Flying Demos with PIGS Aloft Kite Club, Symmes Township Branch Library, 11850 Enyart Road, 1:00 p.m., (513) 369-6001.

Saturday, April 2 – History of Kites with PIGS Aloft Kite Club, Symmes Township Branch Library, 11850 Enyart Road, 3:00 p.m., (513) 369-6001.

Saturday, April 2 – *Art of the Islamic World* with Danya Karram, Anderson Branch Library, 7450 State Road, 2:00 p.m., (513) 369-6030.

Monday, April 4 – Cooking class featuring Afghan cuisine at Wild Oats (Rookwood Commons), 6:30 p.m. Call (513) 981-0794 to register.

Thursday, April 7 – Discussion on *The Kite Runner* at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, North Star Cafe (Perseverance Pavilion), 7:00 p.m. Call (513) 333-7737 or (877) 648-4838 to register or get more information.

Friday, April 15 – Come back to the Freedom Center for a short play and monologues dealing with the themes found in the book, Harriet Tubman Theater (Courage Pavilion), 8:00 p.m. Call (513) 333-7737 or (877) 648-4838 to register or get more information.

Saturday, April 23 – Through *The Art of Islam* explore centuries of Islamic art from the early years of Islamic expansion to its flowering under African and Asian empires with Andrew Haslit, Cincinnati Art Museum Curatorial Assistant, at the Cincinnati Art Museum, 1:00 p.m. Reservations required. Call (513) 721-2787 or email the Cincinnati Art Museum for details.

Monday, April 25 – Discussion of *The Kite Runner* and Islam at Xavier University Library, 3800 Victory Parkway. For more information, call (513) 745-4808.

Tuesday, April 19 – Meet Margaret Peterson Haddix, author of *Among the Hidden* in the Shadow Children series.

- Madeira Branch Library (10:00 a.m.), 7200 Miami Avenue, (513) 369-6028
- Groesbeck Branch Library (1:00 p.m.), 2994 W. Galbraith Road, (513) 369-4454
- Xavier University Library (4:00 p.m.), 3800 Victory Parkway, (513) 745-4808

Here's How You Can Participate!

- **Get the Book!** Ask for a copy of the *The Kite Runner* or *Among the Hidden* at your local library. Or, pick one up at the nearest bookstore.
- **Read!** During March and April encourage others to read these thought-provoking books together with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- **Talk About It!** Join in on interesting discussion groups held at your local library, bookstore, community center, coffeeshop or favorite gathering place. Or, organize your own discussion group. Let us know, and we'll post it on the On the Same Page website.
- **Involve Yourself!** Come to any or all of the related cultural programs and discussions.

On the Same Page is a project of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and is made possible in part by the Friends of the Public Library, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, and *Cincinnati Magazine*. Program partners include: The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Xavier University, Wild Oats, The Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati, The Council on American Islamic Relations, Blue Manatee Bookstore, and PIGS Aloft Kite Club.

Visit the Website! For more information about the books/authors, discussions guides, and a complete list of related programs, book discussions, and activities log onto http://www.cincinnatilibrary.org/samepage/