



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**North Olympic Library System**  
**2210 South Peabody Street**  
**Port Angeles, WA 98362**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** May 2, 2016  
**Contact:** Mary Coté, Customer Service Specialist, Sequim Branch Library  
360.683.1161; mcote@nols.org  
**Re:** Islam 101: Perceptions, Misconceptions, and Context for the 21st Century

This May, the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) will partner with Humanities Washington to host a conversation about Islam with David Fenner, a lecturer with the 2015 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau. Mr. Fenner will lead this free, engaging conversation at 6:30pm on Monday, May 16, at the Port Angeles Main Library, and again at 6pm on Tuesday, May 17, at the Sequim Branch Library.

### **Islam 101**

What does it mean to be Muslim in the modern world? What if much of what we believe about Islam is incomplete or simply wrong? For more than 1.3 billion people across the world and many people in Washington State, Islam is not only their religion but also a way of life. Led by scholar David Fenner, this presentation will focus on Islam and the many aspects that form the substance of a rich culture and way of life. Fenner will provide an accurate view of Islam, and create an atmosphere that encourages open dialogue while promoting greater understanding of Islam, its history, and its place in the modern world. The discussion is open and inclusive, and will address topics such as: Who was Mohammed? What is the Qur'an? And delve into the use and history of head scarves. Bring your curiosity; any relevant topic is up for discussion.

### **About David Fenner**

David Fenner's interest in Islam dates back to his experience as a young man when he first traveled to the region to live in the Sultanate of Oman on the Arabian Peninsula for six years.

He retired from the University of Washington in 2007 as the Assistant Vice Provost for International Education, following a successful career that included establishing exchange programs with universities in Egypt, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Turkey, and Pakistan. Fenner and his wife later returned to the Arabian Peninsula to found an educational center for Arab and Western students that is designed to explore faith, language, natural resources, and diplomacy.

### **About Humanities Washington**

Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across the state. Speakers Bureau is one of Humanities Washington's oldest and most popular programs. A roster of 28 cultural experts and scholars provides low-cost, high-quality public presentations across the state, encouraging audiences to think, learn and engage in conversation. These diverse and engaging speakers cover a variety of topics, including popular culture, photography, architecture, literature, food, film, and history. For more about the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau, visit [www.humanities.org/programs/speakers](http://www.humanities.org/programs/speakers).

### **More information**

For additional information about this program, visit [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org) and select "Events," contact the Sequim Branch Library at 360.683.1161, or send an email to [mcote@nols.org](mailto:mcote@nols.org). Programs like these are offered free to the public with the generous support of the Port Angeles Friends of the Library and the Friends of Sequim Library. To receive regular updates about upcoming library events and programs, "Like" NOLS on Facebook. The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody Street in Port Angeles. The Sequim Branch Library is located at 630 North Sequim Avenue in Sequim. The library is always open at [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org).



David Fenner will present *Islam 101* on May 16 and 17.



[www.humanities.org](http://www.humanities.org)

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