

Local Author to Discuss Saudi Women and Change at Cary Memorial Library

Jefferson author Kay Hardy Campbell will discuss “Saudi Women: Change and Challenge” at the Cary Memorial Library on April 18, 2018 at 6:30pm. The talk will offer perspectives on current changes facing Saudi women, including the recent government ruling that will officially permit women to drive starting this June.

Campbell is an Arabic-speaking writer who worked as a freelance journalist while living in Saudi Arabia from 1978 to 1985. She wrote about Saudi culture, the arts, and business, for English language publications including the Arab News, Saudi Gazette and Saudi Business Magazine. She currently writes feature stories for AramcoWorld Magazine, and has returned to Saudi Arabia three times on assignment. Her blog on Saudi women driving has been following the subject since 2009.

A graduate in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Minnesota, Kay also earned a Master’s Degree from Harvard in Middle Eastern Studies, and an MBA from Northeastern University.

Campbell is the author of *A CARAVAN OF BRIDES*, a recently-published historical novel set in the world of Saudi women. She will also discuss the historic elements in her novel during the talk, and will have copies available for sale.

A CARAVAN OF BRIDES is a multi-generational story about Saudi women. Set in the late 1970’s in the free-wheeling city of Jeddah on Saudi Arabia’s west coast, it also steps back and traces the early history of Saudi Arabia, starting in World War I, all through the eyes of women.

“Usually, when we hear about the history of the Arabia, it’s just about politics, war and oil,” Campbell said. “I wanted to explore how women lived through those years.”

Kirkus Reviews recently gave *A CARAVAN OF BRIDES* a coveted starred review. “Campbell’s masterful debut novel delivers a story that matches up flawlessly with real-life aspects of Middle Eastern culture, geography, and history... A mesmerizing Middle Eastern tale from beginning to end.”

For more information, contact: 685-3612 or jadelbergcml@gmail.com