



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Niel Laudati 541-726-3780

~ Media Advisory ~

NIGHT OF A THOUSAND STARS: A PORTRAIT OF LIFE IN IRAQ

A free discussion about war, media bias, and American perceptions of Iraqis and Middle Easterners as part of a statewide event by the Oregon Humanities / Conversation Project

What would a comprehensive portrait of Iraqi society look like before and after the U.S. invasion in 2003, as seen from the perspectives of both Iraqis and U.S. soldiers?

This is the focus of “Night of a Thousand Stars: A Portrait of Life in Iraq,” a free conversation with photojournalist Joel Preston Smith on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Springfield Public Library. This program is brought to you by the “Springfield Library Foundation’s Author and Music Series” and sponsored by Oregon Humanities (formerly Oregon Council for the Humanities).

Smith is a freelance writer, photographer, and artist based in Portland. Born in Liberty, West Virginia, Smith has served as a photojournalist in the U.S. Army and as a civilian on humanitarian aid missions to Rwanda, Honduras, Palestine, and Iraq. His work has been published in *Gobshite Quarterly*, the *Irish Times*, the *Oregonian*, and others. Smith traveled in central and northern Iraq for four months in 2003, living with Iraqis and Kurds and patrolling with U.S. soldiers.

Through the Conversation Project program, Oregon Humanities (OH) offers statewide opportunities for civic dialogue and humanities learning with an emphasis on discussing contemporary issues through interactive, facilitated conversations. Oregon Humanities (813 SW Alder St, #702, Portland, OR 97205) is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities that believes in the power of ideas and insights to transform communities. More information about OH’s programs and publications, which include the Conversation Project: A New Chautauqua, Think & Drink, Humanity in Perspective, Teacher Institutes, Summer Honors Symposium, Public Program Grants, and Oregon Humanities magazine can be found at oregonhumanities.org.

Admission is free.

What: *Night of a Thousand Stars: a portrait of life in Iraq*, an Oregon Humanities / Conversation Project

When: Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30pm

Where: Library Meeting Room, Springfield Public Library, 225 5th St.

Additional Information: Contact Carrie Schindele-Cupples at 541-726-2237