

# April is Arab American Heritage Month!

The Jane Addams Peace Association celebrated Arab American Heritage Month this April by bringing a Palestinian author and her books to an elementary school in Wisconsin.



JANE ADDAMS PEACE ASSOCIATION

APR 03, 2026



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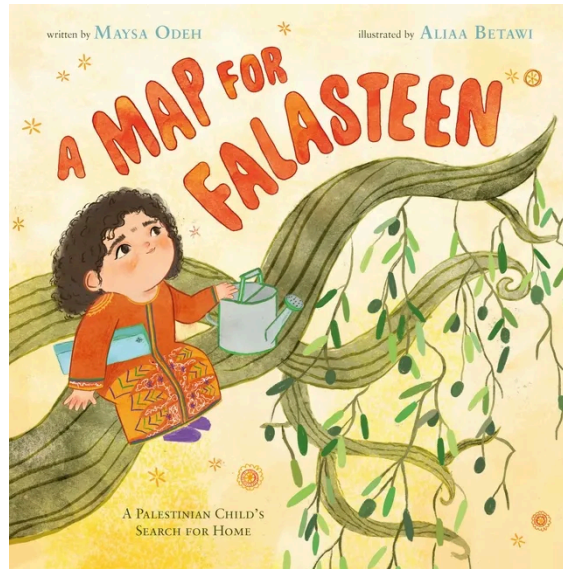
Author Maysa Odeh handing her book to a student

To kick off Arab American Heritage Month this April, the Peace Association's "Books In Their Hands" program was able to bring Palestinian author Maysa Odeh to a school in Wisconsin to talk with students about her book and her work as an author. Every student received a copy of *A Map for Falasteen: A Palestinian Child's Search for Home*, the Peace Association was able to distribute books to 310 students!

Arab American Heritage Month is celebrated annually to honor the historical and contemporary contributions of Arab Americans. You can learn more about this awareness month using the link below:

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## [A Map for Falasteen: A Palestinian Child's Search for Home](#)



by Maysa Odeh and illustrated by Aliaa Betawi (2025 Honor)

*A Map for Falasteen* describes a dilemma for Falasteen when her school class is tasked with finding their families' home countries on a map. Despite her determined search, Palestine is nowhere to be found. This absence sparks a journey of discovery, as Falasteen turns to her family for answers.

## **More Books That Highlight Arab American Stories**

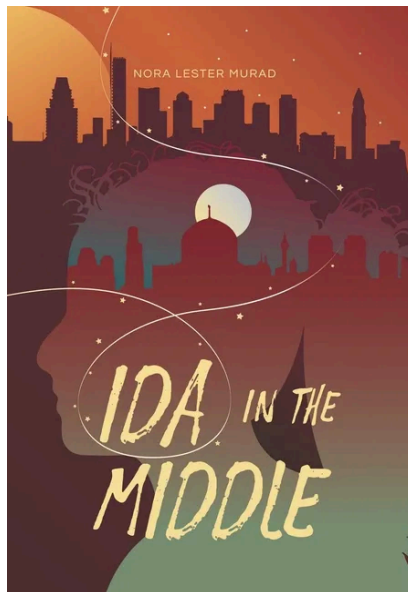
[Kareem Between](#)



by Shifa Saltagi Safadi (2025 Finalist)

When Kareem's best friend moves away and he fumbles his tryout for the football team, he feels like he might not survive middle school. To make things worse, he is then targeted by racist bullies that attack him for his Syrian American identity. Can Kareem find his inner confidence to stand up for himself and others?

## Ida in the Middle



by Nora Lester Murad (2024 Finalist)

A Palestinian eighth-grader named Ida is bullied by her classmates because of the violence erupting in the Middle East. Feeling lost, she finds a jar of magical olives that came from her aunt. After eating one, she is transported to Palestine and must navigate the complexities of identity and belonging there.

## Community Highlight: Middle East Books and More



1902 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Middle East Books and More is a bookstore and cafe in Washington DC. Their goal is to foster more awareness in the United States about the Middle East, focusing especially on Palestine. They have an extensive collection of books, cookbooks, rare books, Palestinian ceramics, food, and more.

## Support Our Work!



The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians as they “deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.”

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