Strangers in the West: The Syrian Colony of New York City, 1880-1900

Dr. Linda K. Jacobs has been involved with development work in the Middle East for 30 years as a scholar, business executive and nonprofit administrator. She is committed to promoting Middle Eastern culture and knowledge in the United States, founding Kalimah Press in 2011 and establishing the Violet Jabara Charitable Trust. She also serves on the board of several nonprofits including the Near East Foundation and the Moise Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. Dr. Jacobs also authored Digging In: An American Archaeologist Uncovers the Real Iran (2012).

Strangers in the West is the never-before-told story of the Arab immigrants who settled in New York City beginning in 1880. They came primarily from what was known as "Greater Syria" and founded an Arabic-Speaking enclave just south of the future site of the World Trade Center. Relying on their business acumen, they quickly built a thriving "colony" that was the cultural and economic center of the Syrian diaspora in America. They learned English, built businesses, and became an important thread in the rich tapestry of the immigrant culture of 19th century New York. Dr. Jacobs paints a vivid portrait of life in this early immigrant community and the people who founded it.

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6:00PM
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