



— THE GEORGE AND LISA ZAKHEM —

# Kahlil Gibran Chair

— FOR VALUES AND PEACE —

## Annual Report

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MAY 2016 - APR 2017

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The George and Lisa Zakhem  
Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace  
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
University of Maryland

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**Annual Report**  
**May 2016—April 2017**

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Prepared by the Staff of the Gibran Chair

# Annual Report

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May 2016– April 2017

**Note:** *This annual report describes major activities undertaken by the George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace from May 2016—through April 2017, a period which included the re-launch of the Chair under the incumbency of its second Director, May A. Rihani. The Gibran Chair reports to the Dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland.*

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# Interview with the Director

*Editor's note (M. Dravis): This interview was conducted via e-mail over a period of several days in late May 2017, after which it was compiled and edited.*

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*You were appointed Director of the Gibran Chair in May 2016 after a career in the field of international development that spanned more than 30 years. From your perspective, what are the most striking similarities and differences between these two worlds, academia and international development?*

**May Rihani:** What an interesting question! From my perspective, the most important and striking similarity between academia and international development is that these two worlds are concerned about a better future.

International development is driven by how to improve the lives of individuals and the state of communities/countries by reforming systems of education, health, nutrition, the labor force, and others, so individuals and communities can improve their daily lives and secure a better future.

Academia is driven by how to impart knowledge to the young men and women of today so that they can have a meaningful future. Both international development and academia work hard on equipping their audience(s) with skills that are relevant to the process of ensuring a productive future. Both serve—academia serves students, and international development serves communities at large. They both respect theory and practice.

The difference is that international development puts a little more emphasis on the learning loop, which is the valuing of continuous learning from the results of practice.

*Your reflections on the future-orientation of academia and international development bring to mind the words of a professor who said that his work is addressed “to the future leaders of the world—in other words, to students....”*

*During your first year as the Gibran Chair's Director, you designed and taught an undergraduate course. What is the theme and content of your course? And, having interacted with your students—and with University of Maryland students generally—what reasons do you have for being optimistic about the future?*

**May Rihani:** You are right I designed and taught an undergraduate course at the Honors College. The title of my course is: “Social Expectations of Gender Roles in Africa, the Middle East, and South West Asia.”

When designing the course, I drew on lessons learned from my more than 30 years of experience in international development. I decided to guide my students in some explorations on how gender roles are embedded in traditional norms. During the course, my students and I examined how processes of socialization of boys and girls take place in order to obtain a multicultural understanding of gender roles, and how such roles define expectations and aspirations of girls and boys, women and men.

This course also explores different cultural interpretations of gender identity and gender expressions in the three geographic regions and examines perspectives on relations in the private and public domains between women and men.

# Interview with the Director

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Specific topics addressed include the impact of cultural interpretations on, and the intersection of gender roles with education, basic health systems, early marriages, violence, communications, media, the labor force, the judicial system, political participation, and peace processes.

After interacting with my students—and with University of Maryland students generally—I continue to be optimistic about the future because of their deep acknowledgment and valuing of some important principles such as: the truth is the light that draws enlightened minds to it, diversity enriches each and every one of us, knowledge is an ocean that has no end, curiosity is the motor of our brain, and that the common ground among religions, cultures, and ethnicities is by far greater than the differences.

*In your Inaugural Lecture as Director of the Gibran Chair, which was delivered in September 2016, you said that “Gibran was not about closing doors, drawing boundaries, or building walls; on the contrary Gibran was about opening doors and windows and building bridges.”*

*What are some of the important ways in which the programs and activities of the Gibran Chair will build bridges between communities?*

**May Rihani:** Yes, Gibran was about building bridges, and allow me before answering your question to quote a wonderful passage by the Polish writer Andrzej Franasze, who in a recent essay published in the *New York Times* states:

“It could be said that the history of humanity is defined and dictated by two opposing processes: building bridges and raising walls. A bridge brings us closer to others, allows us to get to know them; it is a beginning of or an extension to a road. A wall separates, closes. And although it appears to provide security, it also generates a defensive mentality, the conviction that everything on the other side represents a threat....”

I totally agree with Franasze, and I think his words convey an understanding that is necessary for achieving global Peace. Among the priorities of the Gibran Chair is to ensure better understanding between the East and the West and to deepen knowledge about the common ground among the different religions. We believe that is one of the important roads towards global Peace. For that reason, we invited a well-known scholar, Dr. Maher Mahamasanni, the author of the recently published book *Islam in Retrospect: Recovering the Message*, to give a lecture on “Secularism in Islam: A Path to Peace.”

The audience during the lecture was fully engaged, many questions were asked, and the dialogue that resulted informed and enlightened the professors, students, media individuals, international development organization representatives, and many others.



## Interview with the Director

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*The theme of building bridges carries a special resonance for Lebanon, which you have called a “geographically small country” that nurtured “early globalists [like Gibran, Ameen Rihani and Mikhail Naimy] who brought the Arab world to the West, and the West to the Arab world.”*

*What is the Gibran’s Chair’s relationship with Lebanon? And what do you see as Lebanon’s special contribution to peace-building today and in the coming years?*

**May Rihani:** Oh my goodness! The Gibran Chair’s relationship with Lebanon is very strong and organic: it is named after a Lebanese, Gibran; funded principally by two Lebanese, George and Lisa Zakhem; established by Professor Suheil Bushrui, also a Lebanese and of course I myself am proudly Lebanese.

Kahlil Gibran is considered the most famous and most inspirational son of Lebanon. England has Shakespeare, China has Lao Tzu, Afghanistan and other countries claim Rumi, and Lebanon has Gibran.

You also noted that the theme of building bridges carries a special resonance for Lebanon, absolutely it does; and you rightly recalled how I have mentioned that even though Lebanon is a “geographically small country” it has nurtured “early globalists like Gibran, Ameen Rihani and Mikhail Naimy, who brought the Arab world to the West, and the West to the Arab world.”

Lebanon has always played and continues to play the role of a bridge between the East and the West. It considers itself a country with a message, and the message is that Christians and Muslims—and by extension other communities—can live together in Peace, that religions should inspire human beings and remind them of their brotherhood and sisterhood rather than their differences. Amid great internal and external challenges, Lebanon tries hard to live by this vision.

Even though there were difficult years in past decades, if we look at the last 100 years or so of Lebanese history, we can see that during the vast majority of those years Lebanon was able to live up to its lofty and noble message. This geographically contained country clings to an expansive idea: serving as an example of Peaceful co-existence among religions and cultures.

I have no doubt that Gibran is pleased that his fellow Lebanese continue to strive towards this extremely important and needed objective.

*Perhaps we can conclude this exchange on a note of whimsy: If you could sit down over coffee with Kahlil Gibran, what is the question you would most like to ask him?*

**May Rihani:** I love the question. I would ask him: “If you were granted the power to change one thing in Creation, what would it be?”



## INAUGURAL LECTURE

September 20, 2016

Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Hyattsville, Maryland

May A. Rihani delivered her Inaugural Lecture as Director of the George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace under the title, “Global Interconnections, Several Paths toward Peace: The Vision and Programs of the Gibran Chair.” Speaking before a diverse audience that included diplomatic corps representatives, professors, undergraduates, policymakers, media, and international development researchers and practitioners, Ms. Rihani called “for students and the younger generation to become visionaries and architects of a new narrative of Peace.”



In her lecture, it became clear that Director Rihani’s vision was based on the concept of the oneness of humanity. She emphasized how three main principles will guide the work of the Gibran Chair in the coming years: *social justice* as a foundational cornerstone of peace; *inclusivity* as a necessary condition to peace; and valuing *diversity* as a pathway to peace. In her speech she highlighted the importance of promoting East-West understanding, the prominent role that women should play in building peace, and the crucial and necessary deeper understanding of common ground among cultures, religions, and ethnicities.



University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh and College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Dean Gregory F. Ball spoke during the proceedings, as did First Secretary and Consul of the Lebanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., Mr. Ali Karanouh. Mr. Karanouh’s participation in the Inaugural Lecture event helped highlight the Chair’s special connection to, and lively interest in, Gibran’s homeland of Lebanon, a geographically small country considered by many Arabs and non-Arabs alike as a globally significant “bridge” between the East and the West.

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CONFERENCE AND LECTURE ORGANIZED BY THE CHAIR



## “SECULARISM IN ISLAM: A PATH TO PEACE” (Lecture)

October 11, 2016

Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Hyattsville, Maryland



In a groundbreaking lecture, Dr. Maher Mahmassani—author of numerous articles and books including *Islam in Retrospect: Recovering the Message*—identified and reaffirmed Islam’s underlying and guiding principles as they relate to secularism, peace and peace-building. His analysis and interpretation shed light on the fact that Islam not only respects but even calls for secularism, meaning a substantive separation of mosque and state that allows maximum scope for individual liberty in religious and non-religious matters. Audience members enthusiastically embraced Dr. Mahmassani’s position that Islam—if correctly understood by both its practitioners and critics—can be a path to peace, and accorded him a standing ovation.



College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Dean, Gregory F. Ball, and Gibran Chair Director, May Rihani, also spoke during the event. The lecture of Dr. Mahmassani carried a dual significance: first, as a reasoned defense of a world religion by a scholar and practitioner that was, in effect, both a call for internal reform and a plea for external understanding; and second, as an explication of Islam given under the auspices of an academic Chair named in honor of Gibran, one of the leading and inspiring Lebanese-American voices of the twentieth century, who calls for the recognition of brotherhood among all human beings.



## “THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARAB WOMEN TOWARD A LASTING PEACE”

### (Symposium)

December 7, 2016  
Adele H. Stamp Student Union  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD



This international symposium—organized jointly by the Gibran Chair at the University of Maryland and the University of California, Davis—brought together noted scholars from around the United States and several Arab countries including: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Morocco, and Tunisia. Dean Gregory Ball gave the opening remarks for the Conference followed by a keynote address by prominent anthropologist Professor Emeritus, Suad Joseph, entitled “Neither Warrior Woman nor Maternal Thinking: Strategic Feminist Interventions for Peacemaking.” In her address, Professor Joseph challenged binary conceptions of women’s roles and offered insightful examples of strategic interventions by women to advance peacemaking.





Another highlight in the proceedings occurred when Gibran Chair Director May Rihani moderated a panel discussion on the roles of Arab women and on the pursuit of peace. Similarly, Dr. Michael Paolisso—professor and interim chair of the University of Maryland’s Department of Anthropology—led a discussion of how women are struggling for peace and rights throughout the world amid challenging social and political climates.

Throughout the proceedings panelists, moderators, and audience members engaged in lively dialogue with each other—both in the course of formal sessions and informal exchanges conducted during breaks—a process that helped distill new ideas and forge new connections even as the symposium progressed. Dr. Joseph’s keynote address lent thematic unity to the conference, and the active participation of peace luminaries such as Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi (holder of the Bahá’í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland) and Dr. Shibley Telami (incumbent of the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development at UMD) helped ensure that a broad range of perspectives on peace and peacemaking were represented at the gathering.



In her closing remarks, Ms. Rihani drew insight from each speaker and presentation, and remarked that progress toward peace for all people will require full recognition of and participation by women, everywhere in the world.

The policy-relevance of the conference was demonstrated by the fact that senior career officials of the U.S. Department of State were in attendance; only weeks later, the State Department’s U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) issued a request for application focused on promoting women’s leadership and gender inclusive policies in the Middle East and North Africa (for more information about the MEPI initiative, please see the entry below entitled “Department of State Grant Proposal Submitted by the Chair”).

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## LECTURES GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR



### **“GIRL’S QUALITY EDUCATION AS A CORNERSTONE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PEACE IN ARAB COUNTRIES”**

August 6, 2016

The Arab American Conference

Chicago, IL

**T**he Director highlighted statistics about secondary education in countries such as Yemen and Sudan, and in rural areas of countries such as Morocco and Egypt. She discussed reasons for the differential that exists between girls and boys and the social and economic benefits of closing this gap. Her presentation also highlighted the intergenerational benefits of girls’ secondary education especially in the social, economic, nutrition, health, and educational sectors.



## “ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM REFORMS”

October 21, 2016

ProSeminar for the International Education Policy Program of the College of Education, University of Maryland

The Director spoke about educational systems reform in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. She highlighted field experiences in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali, Malawi, Pakistan, Yemen, and Morocco. During informal discussions that followed this lecture, the Director spoke and exchanged ideas with students majoring in education about the complexity and the necessity of education reform strategies and about lessons learned and best practices.



## “ON SEXISM”

November 1, 2016

Lecture on Gender Roles and Their Intersection with Power organized by the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland

The Director discussed the belief that one sex—typically the male—is considered superior to the other and should dominate politics, economics, and social life. This belief, she argued, expresses itself in behaviors and attitudes that foster stereotypes of social roles based on gender. As a result of this practice, sexist discrimination has minimized opportunities and reduced possibilities for girls and women in countries around the world. However, she stated these beliefs could be changed and once this transformation happens, then the potential for each individual—girl or boy, woman or man could be realized.



## “REFLECTIONS ON WORKING WITH GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST”

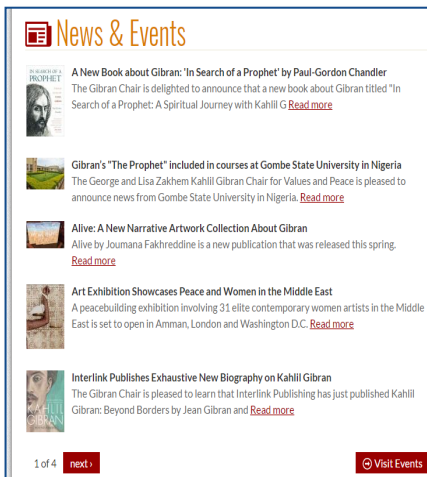
April 25, 2017

Talk sponsored by the Global Communities Living and Learning Program, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland

The Director highlighted some foundational principles of international development such as ownership of visions and priorities, active listening, building on national and/or local strategies and successes, creating partnerships, and strengthening local capacities. She also took questions from students and engaged in an extended dialogue with them, many of whom expressed interest in international careers, including in the fields of international education and international health.

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## OUTREACH BY THE CHAIR



### NEW WEBSITE

For the first time in its history, the Gibran Chair has a fully realized website, available at [gibranchair.umd.edu](http://gibranchair.umd.edu)

Our website contains information on Gibran, Peace, the priorities, programs, and events of the Chair, a News Section, a Twitter Feed, and several hyperlinks that give the reader deeper information about the subject at hand. This webpage, like many other webpages, is a work in progress, is constantly updated, and continues to expand. The Gibran Chair is delighted to see that readership of this web page includes students and professors, diplomats and media, and researchers and practitioners. Lately we received a message from a professor at Gombe State University in Nigeria informing us that he discovered us through the webpage and shared news that he is teaching Gibran's book, *The Prophet*, in his courses at his university.

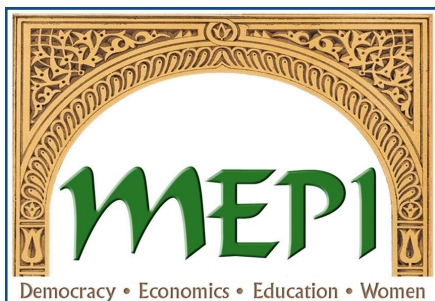


### MAILING LIST

The Gibran Chair has created a mailing list composed of over 1,300 entries representing organizations and individuals, in both the United States and abroad. These names and addresses include; universities, peace institutions; think tanks; media; members of the diplomatic corps; international development organizations; libraries of universities and public libraries; foundations; non governmental organizations; United Nations agencies; and others. The Chair will draw on this list when sending out key information and publications, including the Director's Inaugural Lecture (published under the title *A New Narrative of Peace*). To be included on the Gibran Chair mailing list, please send your contact information to: [gibranchair@umd.edu](mailto:gibranchair@umd.edu)

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR



### GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR TO MEPI

*Notes: this entry has been updated as of late May 2017; for additional background information about proposal described below, please see the entry above entitled “‘The Contributions of Arab Women Toward a Lasting Peace’ (Conference)”.*



A grant proposal submitted by the Gibran Chair is in review by the Department of State's U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). In March 2017, MEPI issued a funding opportunity called “Promoting Women's Leadership and Gender Inclusive Policies in the Middle East and North Africa.” Within a few weeks, the Chair responded with an extensive, multi-section proposal entitled “Women as Partners in Progress.”



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## HONORS COLLEGE SEMINAR TAUGHT BY THE DIRECTOR



### HONORS COLLEGE SEMINAR TAUGHT ON EXPECTATIONS OF GENDER ROLES

University of Maryland, College Park



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

### HONORS COLLEGE



For this undergraduate honors seminar—entitled “Social Expectations of Gender Roles in Africa, the Middle East, and South West Asia”—the Director draws on her more than 30 years of experience in international development to explore how gender roles are embedded in traditional norms. Processes of socialization of boys and girls are examined in order to obtain a multicultural understanding of gender roles and how such roles define expectations and aspirations of girls and boys, women and men.

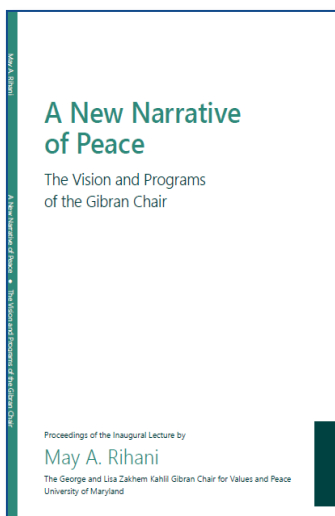
This seminar also explores different cultural interpretations of gender identity and gender expressions in the three geographic regions and examines perspectives on relations in the private and public domains between women and men. Specific topics addressed include the impact of cultural interpretations on family gender roles, education, careers, basic health systems, violence, communications, media, the labor force, the judicial system, political participation, and peace processes.

Overall, the seminar is designed to inculcate among students an understanding of the different social forces that are shaping the education and futures of girls and boys.

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## CHAIR AND CHAIR-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**RIHANI, MAY. *A NEW NARRATIVE OF PEACE: THE VISION AND PROGRAMS OF THE GIBRAN CHAIR. THE PROCEEDINGS OF AN INAUGURAL LECTURE DELIVERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2016. COLLEGE PARK, MD: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, 2017.***

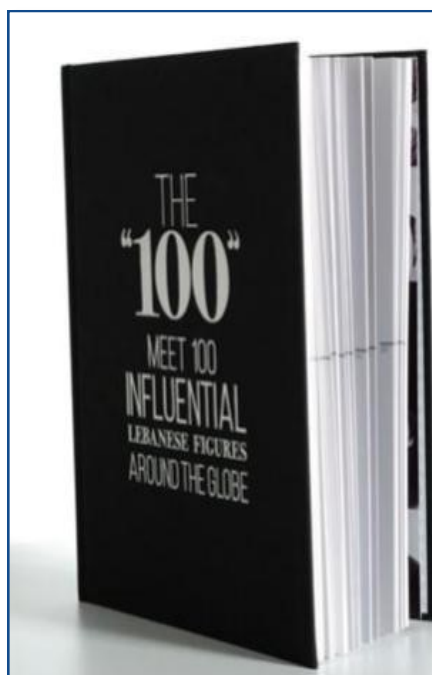


This publication brings together the edited proceedings of May Rihani’s Inaugural Lecture, which is reproduced along with a Foreword by University of Maryland President Wallace Loh, introductory remarks by Dr. Gregory Ball (Dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences), additional remarks by Mr. Ali Karanouh (First Secretary and Consul of the Embassy of Lebanon in Washington, D.C.), as well as much additional and supplementary material.

Mr. Leonard G. Epstein—former Senior Adviser on Culture, Language and Health Literacy with the Health Resources and Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services—writes: “This Inaugural Lecture—presented before a distinguished audience of thought leaders, policy makers, researchers, academics, and students—is inspirational, motivational, scholarly, well presented and organized (in a non-linear way), and contains a good balance of theory, policy, and realistic activism. The main text is presented together with two supplemental brochures that are beautifully crafted, aesthetic, content-oriented, highly informative, and enlightening.”



EL OMEIRA, GHASSAN, SIMONA EL KHOURY HARFOUSH, SARAH LEE AMRO, AND SABINE ALPHONSE. *THE “100”—MEET 100 INFLUENTIAL LEBANESE FIGURES AROUND THE GLOBE*. BEIRUT: SOCIÉTÉ DE PRESSE, 2017.



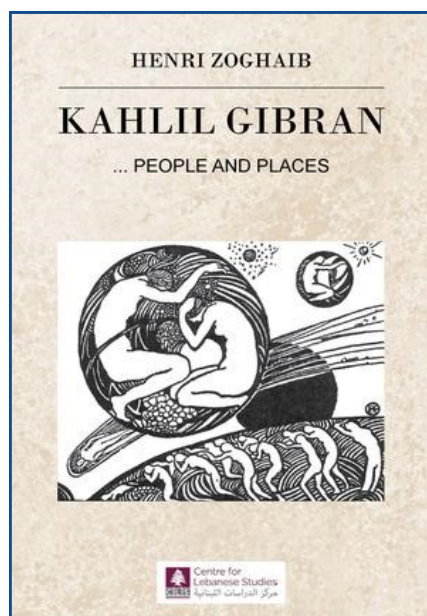
This elegant coffee table style book is a collection of 100 profiles, each based on extensive research and an in-depth interview, featuring Lebanese women and men around the world—including May Ri-hani, the Gibran Chair Director—who have achieved prominence and influence in their profession, whether it be medicine, engineering, philanthropy, art, music, education, or journalism, just to name a few. The book was launched at a gala celebration held in Beirut in March 2017. The book’s publisher, Ghassan El Omeira, writes that honorees were selected based on “their remarkable achievements and for the difference they have made in their field of work.”

Among the luminaries profiled in *The “100”* are: Yvonne Abdel Baki (diplomat, politician, and peace negotiator, who ran for the presidency of Ecuador); Ralph Nader (political activist, author, lecturer and attorney, who ran for the presidency of the U.S.); Philip Salem (medical doctor and researcher who is known for his pioneering work in cancer research); Richard Shadyac Jr. (president and CEO of ALSAC, the charity that secures funds so that children who are cancer patients at St. Jude’s Hospital are treated for free); and Huda Zoghbi (medical doctor, and professor who is known for her pioneering research on rare brain disorders).

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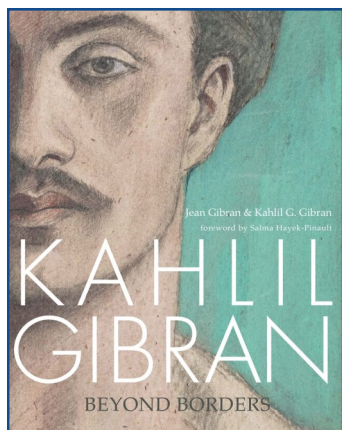
#### NEW SOURCES AND RESOURCES ON GIBRAN

ZOGHAIB, HENRI. *KAHLIL GIBRAN...PEOPLE AND PLACES*. BEIRUT: CENTRE FOR LEBANESE STUDIES, 2016.



Henri Zoghaib is a prominent Lebanese poet and Director of the Centre for Lebanese Heritage at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. His book, *Kahlil Gibran...People and Places*, brings together selections from the author’s writings on Gibran spanning a twenty-five-year period.

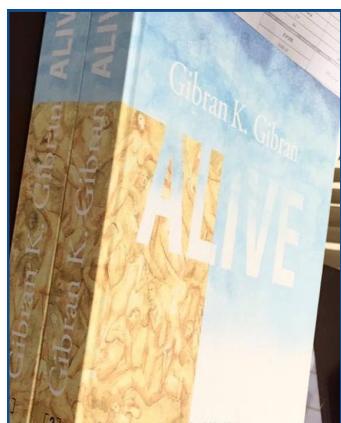
GIBRAN, JEAN, AND KAHLIL G. GIBRAN. *KAHLIL GIBRAN: BEYOND BORDERS*. FOREWORD BY SALMA HAYEK-PINAULT. NORTHAMPTON, MA: INTERLINK PUBLISHING, 2017.



Kahlil G. Gibran, a noted Boston sculptor, is the famous poet's cousin and namesake. His wife, Jean Gibran, is the author of *Love Made Visible: Scenes from a Mostly Happy Marriage*. From the publisher: "Kahlil Gibran: Beyond Borders tells the inspiring saga of the artist's life and creative vision." The forward of the book is by the internationally known actress Salma Hayek who produced a movie about Gibran.

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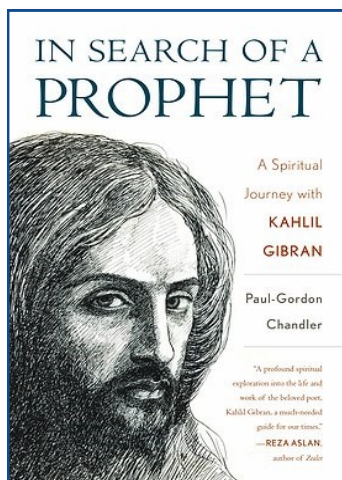
FAKHREDDINE, JOUMANA. *ALIVE*. BEIRUT: DAR AL-MOULAEF, 2017.



*Alive* is a new publication that was released this spring. It focuses on the life and work of Kahlil Gibran, through the medium of art. The collection includes various visual forms of high-resolution pictures and hand-drawn artwork. Gibran's manuscripts are presented as well, and narration accompanies several images detailing key moments in Gibran's life. Fakhreddine, an independent investigative journalist, wrote this book as an attempt to bring to light the work of brilliant Lebanese cultural contributors.

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GORDON CHANDLER, PAUL. *IN SEARCH OF A PROPHET*. LANHAM, MD: ROWMAN AND LITTLEFIELD, 2017.



This forthcoming book about Gibran titled *In Search of a Prophet: A Spiritual Journey with Kahlil Gibran* will be published in September 2017, by Rowman and Littlefield. The publisher states: *In Search of a Prophet* is a fascinating journey through the spiritual life of Kahlil Gibran, author of the bestselling book *The Prophet*. Capturing our imaginations and enriching our spirits, Chandler explores this beloved writer and artist, a mystic who sought to build bridges and tear down walls."



### THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) is one of America's leading academic centers for scholarship, education and public service. Ranked in the top tier of the nation's public research universities, UMD's faculty is known nationally and internationally for their myriad contributions to the fields of science, engineering, mathematics, computer science, economics, government, politics, international relations, sociology and the humanities. Located adjacent to the nation's capital, UMD draws to its campus a truly international student body and contributes its faculty's expertise to the development of national and international policy and public opinion through the major departments of national government and global institutions like IMF and World Bank. To learn more about UMD, please visit [umd.edu](http://umd.edu)

### THE COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS) is the University of Maryland's academic center for teaching and research in psychology, sociology, economics, government and politics, hearing and speech sciences, anthropology, geographical sciences, criminology and criminal justice and African American studies. The College increases understanding of and pursues innovative solutions to the challenges facing our global community, drawing on its Washington, D.C., and worldwide connections to enrich its teaching, research, and service. The BSOS community works to enhance international relations, advance global sustainability, understand societies and cultures and improve the human condition. The College aims to *Be the Solution* to the world's great challenges. To learn more about BSOS, please visit: [bsos.umd.edu](http://bsos.umd.edu)

### THE KAHLIL GIBRAN CHAIR FOR VALUES AND PEACE

The George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace at the University of Maryland is an endowed academic program that strengthens understanding between Eastern and Western cultures in general, and the Arab ethos and American values in particular. The Gibran Chair's active program addresses major global topics such as Studying the Pursuit of Peace; Exploring Paths toward Peace; Examining Common Ground; Understanding Cultural Pluralism; Highlighting the Contributions of Women toward Peace; Deepening Cross-Cultural Understanding; Transcending the Barriers of East and West; Revisiting Poetry, Literature and Art as Connectors within the Global Village; and Celebrating Universal Values. To learn more about the Gibran Chair, please visit: [gibranchair.umd.edu](http://gibranchair.umd.edu)