MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 25, 2014
AGENDA ITEM #: 9
ITEM: CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None
-----Original Message-----
From: <YourEmailAddress> [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 1:49 PM
To: Library Commission
Subject: Commission mail, Copy of an email sent to the Walnut Creek Library Foundation

This message was submitted to the Library Commission.

e-mailmessage: This message was submitted to the Library Commission.

subject: Commission mail, Copy of an email sent to the Walnut Creek Library Foundation
to: ccclibcommission@ccclib.org

========

From: <YourEmailAddress> [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 4:52 PM
To: Library Administration
Subject: Fwd: Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys... and Hatem Bazian

Dear Ms. Hudson,
I am forwarding to your attention an email sent today to the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, regarding a highly anti-Semitic speaker they are hosting.
Sincerely, [Your Name]

========

From: <YourEmailAddress> [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 1:34 PM
To: [YourEmailAddress]; [YourEmailAddress]
Cc: librarian@wclibrary.org; Chris Brown; [YourEmailAddress]
Subject: Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys... and Hatem Bazian

Dear Chris and Kristin,

I am writing to express my severe disappointment that the Walnut Creek Library Foundation is providing a forum for Hatem Bazian to speak. While Mr. Bazian may be a professor at UC Berkeley, he is also a rabid anti-Semite and someone who has called for violent attacks on Jews and Israelis.

As the founder of Students for Justice in Palestine, he has made anti-Semitic remarks that Jewish money and influence were behind the arrest of violent SJP protesters at UCB who broke up a Holocaust Remembrance ceremony. And he has on numerous occasions referenced Koranic scripture calling for violent attacks on Jews. I include the following links for just the barest corroboration of his background, but if you google him or check the website of the Anti-Defamation League, you will see there is much more to him.

http://www.nationalreview.com/article/380695/anti-semites-rock-colleges-molly-wharton

While a series devoted to Muslim culture sounds fascinating, the idea that Bazian should be moderating it in a public forum like our local libraries is truly absurd.

Sincerely,
Hi Chris,
Thank you for responding to my email. I appreciate your taking the time to do so. There are several points I would simply like to make in response.

Firstly, in your criteria for choice of scholars you included "and to not exclude a voice because of origin or background." I would like to make crystal clear that at no point have I suggested that Mr. Bazian's voice in the series is inappropriate because of his origin or background.

His voice, however, is inappropriate for inclusion because (despite whatever other civil rights involvement you say he is involved in) he also heads a group that protests Holocaust memorials and, more personally, he has espoused hate-speech suggesting that someone like me (a Contra Costa County resident who happens to be Jewish) is part of a cabal that wields undue influence for nefarious purposes, a classic anti-Semitic canard.

If you visited any of the websites I cited, you will see that he has also played roles in suppressing Jewish students' right to free speech at SF State.

In any case, while I appreciate your taking the time to respond, I do not for one second accept the reasons you cited for his inclusion, and feel this is a terrible precedent in terms of the Contra Costa County Library system normalizing the promotion of anti-Semitism.

Sincerely,

---------------

From: Chris Brown <cbrown@ccclib.org>
To: [name] <name@domain.org>; librarian@wclibrary.org; [name2] <name2@domain.org>; [name3] <name3@domain.org>
Cc: librarian@wclibrary.org
Sent: Fri, Aug 1, 2014 11:33 am
Subject: RE: Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys... and Hatem Bazian

I'm glad you reached out to me, and giving me the opportunity to respond to your email. The Library selected Bazian as our program scholar because he teaches at higher education schools that follow a rigorous principle for teaching, namely UC Berkeley and St. Mary's. Additionally, in the first round of the program, held in Pleasant Hill, Bazian never used the platform to speak either positively or negatively about any religion. All the events centered around culture and history. As an activist, Dr. Bazian played a significant role in almost every human and civil rights movement in the Bay Area, both nationally and internationally, including the defense of Affirmative Action in California, American With Disabilities Act, Anti-Apartheid, Anti-Globalization Movement, and the Central American Solidarity struggles. The Library selected the program topic and Bazian in light of our core institutional values to both present various points of view and to not exclude a voice because of origin or background. Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to respond to your email.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown | Senior Community Library Manager
This message was submitted to the Library Commission.

e-mail message: This message was submitted to the Library Commission.

subject: Commission mail, Unclaimed Property Search

to: ccplibcommission@ccplib.org

comments: The State Controller's office lists unclaimed property on their website (for instance, refunds that a company issued to someone but it goes to the wrong address and is never cashed, the company then has to report it to the state). I noticed on the State Controller's office website there is an entry for the Walnut Creek Library. You can find it under property ID 961966197 (it is for over $900). There may be more listed under different names and search terms. I wanted to bring it to the Commission's attention, I hope you look into it for the libraries in the county and file for the money.

Name: 

email address: 

spambegone: Library

phone: 

v1.1