

Press release for *Night of a Thousand Stars: A Portrait of Life in Iraq*

(This press release should be completed with your organization's information and printed on your letterhead.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: (YOUR NAME), (YOUR PHONE, E-MAIL, AND WEBSITE)

FREE DISCUSSION ABOUT WAR, MEDIA BIAS, AND AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS OF IRAQIS AND MIDDLE EASTERNERS

Event part of the statewide Conversation Project: A New Chautauqua.

(YOUR CITY, Ore.)—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 **(day of week), (month, day, year)** at **(time)** at **(name and program location address)**. This program is hosted by **(host organization)** 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.

For more information about this free community discussion, please contact (name) at (phone) or (e-mail).

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.

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