



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT**

Jennifer Patterson, assistant director, 425-257-8021

## Chef Reem Assil, author of “Arabiyya,” to speak in Everett Event kicks off One Everett One Book: Food for Thought

EVERETT, WA – [Everett Public Library welcomes chef Reem Assil](#), author of the cookbook and memoir “Arabiyya: Recipes from the life of an Arab in diaspora.” Assil will speak in person on Tuesday, October 11 at 7 p.m. at the Everett Performing Arts Center, 2710 Wetmore Ave. This event is free, and tickets are not required. Artisans PNW will provide copies of the book to purchase at the event, and Assil will be available for book signing after her presentation.



[Reem Assil](#) is a Palestinian-Syrian chef based in Oakland, CA, and owner of [Reem's California](#), the nationally acclaimed restaurant. She was a James Beard finalist in 2022. Her work sits at the intersection of her three passions: food, community and social justice. She uses food to invoke the central virtue of her Arab culture — hospitality —to build strong, resilient and connected community.

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Assil's cookbook "Arabiyya" explores her activism, her Southwest Asian identity and the joy of Arab hospitality and cooking in short vignettes. Of the cookbook, acclaimed food writer Ruth Reichl says, "This is what a cookbook should be: passion, politics and personality are woven through the fabulous recipes."

"Reem Assil's story illustrates the power of food as a connector and community builder, and we are excited to welcome her to kick off this year's rendition of One Everett One Book: Food for Thought," says Abigail Cooley, director of Everett Public Library.

[One Everett One Book](#) is a community-wide reading initiative designed to deepen an appreciation of reading and unite the Everett community through conversation. Community members are encouraged to read Assil's book and try her recipes at home; copies are available to check out, and a limited number of giveaway copies will be available at both library locations and the Sno-Isle Food Co-Op beginning the week of September 26.

Through fall and winter, the library will present a variety of programs under the theme "Food for Thought," including a spice club, a youth writing program, a community-built cookbook, and presentations from chefs, foragers and other food experts. Find more information about One Everett One Book: Food for Thought at [epls.org/OneBook](http://epls.org/OneBook).

This program and all other library events are free and open to the public. Call 425-257-8000 or visit [www.epls.org/events](http://www.epls.org/events) for more information about these or other library programs.

**The Everett Public Library** was founded in 1894 by the Everett Woman's Book Club. The historic Main Library was built in 1934 by architect Carl Gould, and the Evergreen Branch opened in 1985. The library's two branches serve the residents of the City of Everett and nearby locales, circulating over 400,000 items per year and hosting hundreds of programs for children and adults. We connect the community to resources and services that inform, educate, and entertain. For more information about the Everett Public Library, visit [www.epls.org](http://www.epls.org).

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Photo of Reem Assil by Andrea Lo