



News Release

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Muslim Reformer, Best-Selling Author Irshad Manji To Deliver Fribolin Lecture



KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—Irshad Manji, author of the best-selling book *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith*, will deliver the 18th Carl and Fanny Fribolin Lecture Friday, May 5 at Keuka College.

One of the highlights of May Day Weekend, the lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Norton Chapel. It is free and open to the public.

The lecture series carries the names of Geneva resident Carl Fribolin, an emeritus member of the College's Board of Trustees and the recipient of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 2004, and his late wife.

"*The Trouble with Islam Today* is an open letter from me, a Muslim voice of reform, to concerned citizens worldwide, Muslim or not," said Manji. "It's about why my faith community needs to come to terms with the diversity of ideas, beliefs and people in our universe and why non-Muslims have a pivotal role in helping us get there."

Manji calls herself a Muslim refusenik, because she "refuses to join an army of automatons in the name of God."

Her book has been published internationally, but has been banned in some countries. In those countries, Manji reaches readers by posting free translations on her website. Manji also writes columns that are distributed worldwide by *The New York Times Syndicate* and is producing a PBS documentary about what there is to love about Islam.

Manji hosts *Big Ideas*, a Canadian TV program that features maverick thinkers in fields ranging from science to spirituality. She sits on the inter-faith editorial board of *Seventeen* magazine and specializes in human rights and public policy at the Pierre Trudeau Foundation in Montreal.

Oprah Winfrey honored Manji with the first annual Chutzpah Award for "audacity, nerve, boldness and conviction." *Ms.* magazine named her a Feminist for the 21st Century and on International Women's Day, the *Jakarta Post* in Indonesia identified her as one of three Muslim women making a positive change in Islam.

Manji will write her next book in 2006 as a Yale University fellow.