

STUDIO 5

Resource Guide

ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF ARABS IN AMERICA

While estimates vary, Arab Americans make up about **three million members** of the U.S. population.



Arab immigrants came to the United States in **four waves** from Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, but also from Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria, many Gulf countries, and Libya.

1. The first wave was made up of mostly Lebanese and Syrians, who worked largely as grocers and peddlers throughout the Northeast and Midwest.
2. Arab immigration really took off at the start of the twentieth century, as Detroit's exploding auto industry drew immigrants from all over the world.
3. The Third Wave, which lasted until 1990, witnessed escape from the war in Lebanon and poverty in Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen.
4. The current Fourth Wave comprises refugees from Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, and Syria.

Source: "Four Waves", Arab American National Museum

OUR ESTEEMED GUEST SPEAKER



RICHARD FAWAL

Communications Entrepreneur
Founder & CEO, Voxtopica

Richard Fawal is a veteran of political, public policy, business, and non-profit communications. Over the past 35 years, he's helped candidates running for everything from school board to President, advised organizations like the Mayo Clinic and the Brookings Institution, and guided advocacy campaigns for companies like Delta Air Lines and Kellogg's.

Arab American culture is a vibrant mosaic of customs, traditions, and contributions that span generations and continents. Its diverse identity, influenced by history and heritage, encompasses unique facets including language, music, dance, art, religion, cuisine, fashion, and community engagement. We've highlighted several experiences that reflect these rich cultural expressions, celebrating Arab American history and heritage across the decades.

FOOD CULTURE:

- **"The Arab American National Museum - Living in America"** a look at Arab American Food Culture with Dave Serio

ART:

- **"New Golden Age for Arabic Calligraphy"** by Iraqi artist Taha Al-Hiti

MUSIC:

- **"Nami Nami Egyptian Lullaby"** by ODO Ensemble
- **"Violin and Dance Show"** by Hanine El Alam

RESOURCES

For even more amazing examples of celebrating Arab Americans in media, art, and other forms of storytelling, check out these additional resources. Also, be sure to support Arab American businesses and creators!



PODCASTS

[Arab Talk with Jess & Jamal](#)

[Obnoxiously Pleasant](#)

[FannBoy Friday with Shahjehan Khan](#)

[Seen Jeem](#)

[The Amreekies Podcast](#)

BOOKS

[A Woman Is No Man : a novel](#) by Etaf Rum

[When we were Arabs : a Jewish family's forgotten history](#) by Massoud Hayoun, MD PhD.

[I was their American dream : a graphic memoir](#) by Malaka Gharib

[The other Americans](#) by Laila Lalami

[Loom : a novel](#) by Thérèse Soukar Chehade



STUDIO5

Curious to learn more about our Cultural Celebrations programming?

Let's have a conversation.

Adam Mischlich

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