



THE HARVARD CLUB OF SARASOTA

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PRESENTS Our **EXTRA** January 2016 Luncheon
Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 - 11:30 am-1:30 pm



**Featuring ALI ASANI
on "Understanding Islam:
Going Beyond the Headlines"**

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, Ali Asani is Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures and the Director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard

University. A specialist of Islam in South Asia, Professor Asani's research focuses on Shia and Sufi devotional traditions as well as popular and folk forms of Muslim devotional life and Muslim communities in the West.

Professor Asani has been active post-Sept 11 in improving the understanding of Islam and its role in Muslim societies. He is particularly interested in the arts, broadly defined, as the primary means by which Muslims have experienced their faith and their potential as pedagogic bridges to foster a better understanding of the Islamic tradition. Involved in the Islamic Cultural Studies Initiative, an international professional development program for high school teachers in Kenya, Pakistan and Texas, Prof. Asani works to promote a culturally and historically based approach to the study of Islam and Muslim societies. He has served on the American Academy of Religion's Task Force on the teaching of religion in schools and as a consultant for the National Endowment for the Humanities Bridging Cultures Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Project. Professor Asani is recipient of the Harvard Foundation medal for his outstanding contributions to improving intercultural and race relations at Harvard and the nation. He also was awarded the Petra C. Shattuck prize for excellence in teaching by Harvard's Division of Continuing Education.

Professor Asani graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 1977 and received his Ph.D. in 1984 from Harvard's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC). He holds a joint appointment between the Committee on the Study of Religion and NELC and also serves on the faculty of the Departments of South Asian Studies and African and African-American Studies. He has taught at Harvard since 1983, offering instruction in a variety of South Asian and African languages and literatures as well as courses on various aspects of the Islamic tradition.

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**• EXTRA JANUARY 2016 LUNCHEON with ALI ASANI, Professor of Indo-Muslim & Islamic Religion & Cultures •
• Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm • THE FRANCIS •**

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