Nevien Shaabneh – Nevien Shaabneh is a novelist, public speaker and educator. Ms. Shaabneh’s roots stretch thousands of miles from Chicago to Palestine where she was born.

She graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a bachelor’s in English Education and from Saint Xavier with a Masters of Arts. Ms. Shaabneh publicly speaks on matters relating to Muslims in America, the Arab-American experience, the Muslim Woman Narrative, on matters relating to Diversity and Inclusion, the Writing Process, Minority Voices in Writing, and is a key contributor in interfaith discussions and diversity training.

Ms. Shaabneh serves as a consultant for the Muslim Women’s Alliance as well as for the youth programs at the Orland Park Community Center. She has worked with several religious institutions and served on dozens of committees in her community to assist in community building, diversity education, and establishing acceptance.

Ms. Shaabneh’s debut novel, Secrets Under the Olive Tree, has sold world-wide with a far reaching reader base. She has currently finished her second novel to be under contract soon. She is a proud mother of three children. She believes in the importance of investing in our youth. She works closely with youth programs and trains young leaders to use their voice for change. She inspires expression and social action through speaking and writing. Ms. Shaabneh has taught high school English for fifteen years.

Ms. Shaabneh remains a staunch advocate in the power of literature and the arts. She believes, “Real literature, great literature, moves people,” and to “Never underestimate the power of a good story.”