

ISLAMIC CENTER OF MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2004 • Sha'ban 1425

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* **RAMADHAN** *
* **KAREEM** *

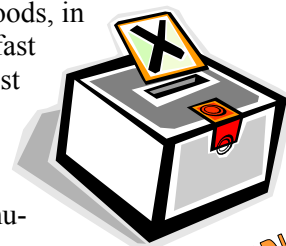
Muslims Reach Out to Political Leaders

Ghulam M. Haniff

On August 21, 2004, a group of Muslims met with Congressman Martin O. Sabo (D-HR), a democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Minnesota's 5th Congressional District. The meeting, organized by Mukhtar Tahakur, was held at South Asian Foods.

A wide range of issues were discussed, centering on the erosion of civil liberties. Heading the list of concerns was the U.S. Patriot Act, which has adversely affected the Muslim community and continues to victimize Muslims living in the United States. Congressman Sabo was one of the few politicians who voted against this bill. Another topic heading the agenda was the profiling and targeting of Muslims by law enforcement authorities.

The meeting took place at South Asian Foods, in a friendly atmosphere, and complimentary breakfast was provided. The discussion continued for almost two hours. Attending the meeting were ten individuals including Hyder and Nazneen Khan, Nasir Mohamed, Minou, Ashfaq Patel, Ahmad Naumaan, Mohammad Islam, Ashraf Siddiqui and Ghulam M. Haniff.



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

SOME HELPFUL WEBSITES:

- Minnesota Elections, Registration, and Voting Information
<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/election/>
- Eligibility criteria and voter registration information is given here:
<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/election/register.html>
- Location of polling places can be found here:
<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

The Islamic Center of Minnesota, 1401 Gardena Avenue NE, Fridley MN 55432
Phone: 763-571-5604 Fax: 763-578-8989 www.icmorg.com

THE ICMNEWS LETTER Volume 6, Issue 1

The Islamic Center of Minnesota's Communication Committee produces this quarterly newsletter as an important source of information for thousands of families and friends. The Newsletter is funded through the ICM and through our advertisers.

To place an ad contact Sister Ayesha at eemaana@hotmail.com or call 763-571-2055.

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Become a Member of ICM

Support the library, the bookstore, the gymnasium, Sunday school, the health clinic, adult Arabic and Islamic classes, marriage services, funeral services, counseling services, prayer services, community events, this newsletter and more!

Students (up to age 24) at \$25/year
Individuals at \$120/year or \$10/month with automatic bank withdrawal
Families at \$180/year or \$15 month with automatic bank withdrawal

To join the ICM listserv, send an e-mail to icm_fridley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Vandalism Shocks the Community

Three vandalism related incidents in eleven days shocks the Muslims and its neighbors in the twin cities. First, pink paintballs were splattered on the brick and windows of the Islamic Center of Minnesota; this was followed by throwing of bottles full of rotten eggs in the direction of the worshipers at the Columbia Heights Mosque; Thirdly, a fire was set to the newly constructed storage shed. Hay, egg shells and egg cartons were found inside.

All of this brought a strong but an united reaction from within and community and its neighbors. A press conference was followed by the media coverage of these unfortu-

nate events.

We appreciate and thank the many local institutions for standing by the Muslim Community here in the twin cities. The ICM has received many letters and e-mails of support. We look forward with hope to peaceful

PIONEER PRESS

Members of a Muslim community in the northern Twin Cities suburbs asked for increased police patrols after a series of recent incidents of vandalism targeting a mosque and community center escalated this past weekend.

"We are shocked and disappointed. This is something very unusual" Hamdy El-Sawaf, the ICM's executive director.

moments, Insh' Allah.

Note: These incidents have prompted the installation of security cameras at the Fridley center

and Columbia Heights mosque. Sentinels also may be posted outside, so please help in whatever way you may Insh' Allah.

JRLC RELEASE

We're calling on all Minnesota citizens to respect the right of all people to worship and live in freedom, and without fear. We are standing with our brothers and sisters in the Muslim community, in our firm commitment to Minnesota, in which the freedoms we all hold sacred are shared by all and respected by all. This sort of violence has no home in a free Minnesota.

ICM Bookstore



The Islamic Center of Minnesota (ICM) Bookstore and Library is open Sunday through Friday all year round, except major holidays. Hours are 10:30-3:00 PM on Sundays and 9 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday. Someone in the main office of the ICM will assist you Monday - Friday. The Library has over 1500 titles in English, Arabic, Urdu and Somali for life-long learning and self-improvement. We are seeking help to expand our collection. The ICM Bookstore has over 500 books, videos and Islamic supplies for sale.

A complete list of books for sale can be viewed at our website:

<http://www.myicm.org/bookstore.htm>

The ICM Bookstore is seeking dedicated volunteers for regular help on Saturdays or Sundays. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nahid Khan or Dawud Mulla at (763) 561-4909, or dmulla@soils.umn.edu. The ICM Bookstore and Library is located at 1401 Gardena Ave. in Fridley.

Letter from the Editor

Respected Readers,

Us' salaam u alykum (may peace be with you).

Thank you for your continued support of the Islamic Center of Minnesota (ICM), and thereby the Minnesota Ummah (Muslim community) with your contributions, your time, your well wishes and Duw'as (prayers). The ICM is only as strong as its membership. The ICM does not belong to one group of individuals. Those who come forth and volunteer are those who are blessed and burdened with the opportunity to lead. Become a volunteer today. Your community needs you!

This issue of ICMNEWS would not have been made possible without the tireless efforts of Sisters Ayesha Eemaan-Sales and Brother Kashif R. Saroya. Their dedication to the end-product and attention to detail was exemplary. I simply could not have done this project alone. So thank you—my sister and brother in Islam.

ICMNEWS welcomes signed Letters to the Editor, community announcements, and short articles. All submissions not selected for publication will be considered for future publication. We reserve the right to edit for content and space. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the ICM or the ICM Board of Directors. We strongly encourage youth involvement and contributions.

We hope you enjoy this issue of ICMNEWS and find it connects you with your Minnesota Muslim community.

Jazak Allah Khair,

Sister Sumbal Mahmud

Editor-In-Chief, ICMNEWS

communicationdirector@hotmail.com



Council of Trustees

Owais Bayunus, Chairman Council of Trustees.

The Council of Trustees met in July to discuss long range plans for the Islamic Center. In the brain storming session, ICM President, Executive Director, and some members of Board and ICM community were also present. Several good proposals were discussed during the session. One more meeting is being scheduled shortly to finalize the plans. These plans will be passed on to the Board and presented to the General Assembly in its next annual meeting.

Council of Trustees also met in September to discuss the response to Br. Ghulam Quraishi's letter related to 2004 election procedure. The position of the Council of Trustees was conveyed to Br. Quraishi and to the members of the Board and the Election committee. The Council is in agreement that the new by laws should be followed in this years election in December, and any change to the by laws has to be ratified by the General Assembly.

Council members have been involved in committees connected with the expansion project of the Islamic Center. The general architectural plan has been made. The Engineering design of the project is also being made. It will also help in ascertaining the cost of construction. The final project and its cost will also be presented to the General Assembly before proceeding with the construction.

Some members of the Council of Trustees have also been involved with the Interfaith Dialog with Minnesota Council of Churches and also with Muslim Adult Education. Members of the Council have also been invited to speak in St Thomas University and also in several churches during the summer of 2004. The Council has also sponsored a program to offer free SAT/ACT/PSAT classes on Sunday to the eleventh and twelfth grade students.

BelAhdan Show Invites ICM Communication Director

Brothers Esam Abd-Aal and Ahmed Tharwat, of the BelAhdan show, were kind enough to invite Sister Sumbal Mahmud to speak about her role as the Communication Director of the ICM. The taping and production were handled with a high degree of professionalism. BelAhdan, "A Show With An Accent" airs on public TV Ch.17, Sundays 10:30 p.m. For more information, visit: www.Belahdan.com.

We would like to thank the organizers of this show for their recognition & invite.



ICM NEWS

Board Members Resign:

- ✓ We regrettably inform our members that the ICM President Br. Ahsanuddin Ansari and Secretary of the ICM, Br. Fawzi Awad, have resigned. It is unfortunate to see them leave. They cited personal reasons and public accusations (from a few members) as reasons to step down. We would like to take this moment to thank them for their sincere commitment to the ICM Community.

Saturday and Sunday School Back in Session:

- ✓ The Weekend School for the year 2004-05 is back in session, Alhamdulillah. Welcome Back students!
- ✓ A special acknowledgment and thanks goes to Brother Shafi Khaled for all his services in and around the ICM community, as he and his wife, Taslima, have decided to explore other opportunities with ISNA. They will surely be missed. We extend our best wishes for their future endeavors. Sr. Rukhsana Ghouse has been appointed the Interim Educational Director until the new elected person takes over.

Election Process Update:

- ✓ Many members were nominated for the upcoming 2004 ICM elections.
- ✓ A 'Meet the Candidates Session' will be held on December 5 Insh'Allah.
- ✓ ICM Elections will be held on December 12 Insh'Allah.
- ✓ **NOTE:** in order to be eligible to vote in the December 12th elections, members must be in good standing for a period of 90 days prior to the vote. This date has been determined by the Election Committee to be: September 14, 2004.
- ✓ Any questions regarding the process may be directed to the Election Committee.

ICM Executive Director Recognized:

- ✓ Dr. Hamdy El-Sawaf was recognized for his commitment and service to the Minneapolis Police Department by the Chief of Police for the city of Minneapolis.



Social Activities/Updates

Eid Toy Drive:

Toys will be collected at the ICM during Ramadan and distributed via the food shelf prior to Eid. Volunteers are needed to collect and wrap toys, organize toys and help with toy distribution.



Pre-school Playgroup:

A pre-school play group has been established for young children waiting for siblings in Sunday school. Toys and other supplies will be supplied by the ICM. Parental supervision is required. Volunteers are needed to help set-up toys and put away toys. Timings are from 10:30 until Zuhr prayers in the gym.

Welcome Table:

A welcome table has been set up to answer questions and greet ICM guests on Sundays. Volunteers are needed to help work the table as needed.

Eid Prayers:

Volunteers are needed to help assist with set-up and clean up of prayer hall and facilitate prayer sessions.

Other Suggestions:

If you have other suggestions for social activities or would like to volunteer at the ICM please contact Farhana Ali at farhana888@yahoo.com.

Community Announcements



Mabruk to brother Adam Meah and Sister Hafsa Kaka on their wedding this past August in California! Sister Hafsa just came from California so please welcome her to our community. Please keep the happy married couple in you duas.



Mohammad Salih Khalil, son of Ahmed & Sadia Khalil, got married to Heba Kholousi on 9/25.



Mona Elabady, daughter of Nasr & Nadia Elabady married to Wesam Balshy on 8/14.



An elaborate wedding took place in Canada on August 20, 2004. Fazeel Karim son of Fazal and Shireen Karim of Brooklyn Park, married Safia Bacchus, daughter of Manzil and Sadia Bacchus. Over six hundred friends and families attended including many from I.C.M. Good luck Fazeel and Safia, may Allah bless both of you.



Mohamoud M. Ashmawy, son of Mohammed Ashmawy & Amina Sonbol, got married to Noha in Egypt on July 17, 2004.



Mohamad Elmasry and Susan Samaha were married on June 4, 2004 at the Shoreview Community Center.



Saira Fatima Khatoon, born June 30, 2004, to Anjum Fatima Khatoon and Jawad Ali Khan in Chicago. Anjum's third child and Hyder Khan & Nazneen's third grandchild, Alhamdulillah.



Haji Salim Saidi, father of Brother Tamim Saidi passed away in September. Please remember Haji Salim and brother Tamim's family in your prayers.



Brother Irfan Sandozi was a 2004 Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights Volunteer Award Recipient. Brother Irfan is a member of Supporters of Human Rights in India and has been a volunteer with Minnesota Advocates since April 2002. Brother Irfan also volunteers on the Refugee and Immigrant Program's physician panel, and last August was a member of Minnesota Advocates' delegation to the 55th session of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

Congratulations to Brother Irfan for this prestigious award!



Brother A.J. SIDDIQUI won the primary election for Blaine City Council! Now he needs your help to win the **November 2** election!!! If interested in a door knock and literature drop (need not be a Blaine Resident) please signup by calling 763-571-7999 or 612-636-6655 or E-mail ajcpa@sana.cc

[Please NOTE: Although the ICM can not officially endorse any particular candidate, we do strongly encourage everyone to register and vote in local and national elections!]



Fiyyaz Karim graduated with his bachelors in psychology and sociology. He is the son of Fazal and Shireen Karim of Brooklyn Park. Currently he is working at the Maimodes Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. He will be pursuing his masters in the fall. Congratulations Fiyyaz from all your five brothers; Fazeel, Faheem, Faruq, Feroze, and Faisal. We love you and miss you.

Important Dates: *come a short time before Iftaar (sunset)

10/23/04: Al-Amal Fundraiser/Dinner

Speaker: Dr. ALI KHALIF GALAYDH • **Location:** Irondale High School, New Brighton

10/30/04: ICM Ramadhan Dinner

Speaker: ALTAF HUSSEIN • **Location:** Maple Grove Jr. High School

10/31/04: MYLA Fundraiser/Dinner

Speaker: FISAL HAMMOUDA • **Location:** Islamic Center of Minnesota



ISNA REGIONAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 26, 27 & 28

DOWN TOWN MINNEAPOLIS

EXPECTED PROMINENT SPEAKERS Include...

HAMZA YUSUF • IMAM SIRAJ WAHAJ • MUZAMMIL SIDDIQI • DR. JEFFERY LANG • DR. JAMAL BADAWI • DR. INGRID MATTSON • SH. ABDALLAH IDRIS ALI

Mark Your Calendars • Great Educational & Social Family Event

Al-Shifa Clinic News

Alhamdulillah, we had the clinic staffed and open for patients during spring and summer. We have a clinic manager (Halima Mohammad) who speaks English, Arabic, Turkish and Somali. We also have in place laboratory and blood draw facilities at a very small fee for patients who need to have these services and can't get them elsewhere. We are thankful to all the physicians who volunteer for this noble cause. We are fortunate to have a wide representation of physicians from different specialties to serve the different needs of our community members. Special thanks to the following physicians who have devoted their time and effort to staff the clinic this year and successfully rejuvenate the Al-Shifa Clinic: (alphabetically with specialty) Dr. Afshan Anjum (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry), Dr. Ameen Rahmatullah (Cardiology), Dr. Hyder Khan (Pediatrics), Dr. Ibrahim Mujir (Family Practice), Dr. Mesqat Uddin (Internal Medicine), Dr. Sajad Mir (Cardiology), Dr. Salman Waheeduddin (Internal Medicine). We hope to have a greater participation from the community in establishing the clinic on a firmer footing soon. Jazak Allah.



Irfan Khan Sandozi (Gastroenterology and Hepatology)

IRG & Al-Amal News

One of the major objectives of Al-Amal School's mission statement is to instill leadership qualities among the students. As a step in this direction, Al-Amal School teamed up with the Islamic Resource Group (IRG) to provide training for both staff and students on presenting Islam to non-Muslims. This event was held on June 26 at the Al-Amal School. Drawing upon the expertise of the IRG in this area, eight attendees learnt about the IRG principles, Religion in Public Schools, and watched Br. Tamim Saidi do a live presentation on Islam.

It is hoped that this crucial aspect of leadership training will eventually be made part of the curriculum. Plans to hold similar training sessions in the upcoming school year are already in the works Insha'Allah.

JAK

Zafar Siddiqui

Public Relations, Al-Amal School Board of Directors



Community Chips in for the ICM/Al-Amal School Playground

The AL-Amal PTSA organized a silent auction this summer to raise money to repair and resurface the ICM/Al-Amal School playground. Thanks to Sr. Tahera Mamdani's efforts, 35 individuals/businesses donated items for the auction. Al-Amal students worked hard to create calligraphy art items for the auction. The 75 auction items drew bids from about 45 attendees. Alhamdulillah, \$1,300 were raised. Matching donations increased the amount to \$5800. Thanks to these efforts, the playground is now much safer and enjoyable for the kids.



The silent auction drew over 400 people who enjoyed the beautiful weather, and Dean Circle donated burgers. The PTSA arranged many fun activities for the kids including moonwalk, athletics, cricket, soccer and much more!

If you wish to contribute to the upkeep of this playground, Insha'Allah, please contact Sr. Tahera at 763-502-8586 or taheram@hotmail.com.



A Youth's Ambition - The Urban Journalism Workshop

I was at a 2-week Journalism Workshop at the University of St. Thomas. Its name was "The Urban Journalism Workshop." We stayed on campus, and it was a fully paid tuition. We attended seminars about journalism, and the different types of writing. We had different journalists come in and talk to us. Vanessa Sawkar, Don Shelby, and other broadcast journalists also came to talk to us. We visited the channel-5 broadcast studio as well. Writers from The Star Tribune and Pioneer Press also talked to us. We visited the newsrooms.



During the first week of the workshop, the students spent time interviewing people, and writing a story of their choice. I chose to write a story on Muslim Youth, and the struggles they go through while attempting to keep their Muslim values, and keep their Faith strong. My story discussed the clashes between the American society/culture, and Muslim youth. I interviewed Liala Helal, a Columbia Heights High School graduate. During the second week of the workshop, students learned the different aspects of newspaper layout, which I was a part of, and other students created a broadcast video.

Iman H. El-Sawaf

MYM Summer Reflections

Kashif R Saroya - President Advisory Board

With a purpose to enrich and strengthen the hearts, minds and bodies of our youth in a safe and healthy environment MYM traveled up north this summer to a beautiful campsite near Brainerd for a week long camp. This was an opportunity for parents and youth to learn and blossom both spiritually as well as physically.

Morning strolls through the woods, a dream come true view of the sunrise & sunset, scary camp fire stories topped with melting Halal marshmallows, water fights and late evening swims in the lake, were few of the unplanned adventures the campers got to enjoy during their week stay.



Sign Language, team building workshops, a practical look into the life of our beloved prophet (pbuh) along with an opportunity to memorize and recite the beautiful verses of the Qur'an are few of the educational highlights of the camp that the campers got to benefit from. Youth, parents and organizers alike came out of this blessed experience with not only renewed brother and sisterhood but it was a phenomenal spiritual experience. Those who missed this will hopefully get another chance next year so keep an eye open.

I would personally like to thank the organizers for their dedication, the youth for their respect and involvement and most importantly the parents for their trust and presence for this beautiful experience.

www.MYMNet.org

MYLA

Imani Jaafar - Mohammad

MYLA (Muslim Youth Leadership Awards) is pleased to report that we have given away \$7,000 of college scholarships to young Muslim students for the 2004-05 school year. MYLA held an awards ceremony where the recipients were recognized for their accomplishments and awarded scholarships.

The recipients were: Khaled El-Sawaf, Zakkiyya Ismail, Anisa Baradia, Asma Haidri, Mohammed Abdul Ali, and Nadhir Budhwani. Alhumdulilah, it was a great event and over 150 people from the community came to support and encourage both MYLA and the recipients. This year, we hope to give between \$12,000-\$15,000 worth of scholarships, Insha Allah, but we need your help.

Your donations make MYLA scholarships possible and will be Sadeqa Jareeya because it encourages our youth to become leaders, role models, and will lead to a stronger Ummah, Insha Allah. Also, if you sponsor a scholarship (minimum \$1000), you can have that scholarship co-branded with a name of your choosing. This is a great way to create a scholarship in your business name, your name, or even someone in your family (i.e. your parents). Please consider donating to MYLA and May Allah Bless you for your time and generosity. For more information, please visit our website at

www.MYLAwards.org



The Women's Society

As an organization the Women's Society serves lunch and sells snacks each Sunday. The lunch is provided by volunteers from the community who donate food. Proceeds from the lunch go to the ICM. We raise approximately \$300 dollars weekly.

We started off the events this year by organizing Seerat-ul-Nabi, a celebration honoring Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.). The event was held at the ICM on September 18, 2004. About 100 women from the community joined us for lunch and the ceremony. Youth participants included Mariam Malik and Sarah Dar, who gave short speeches on relevant Hadith. On October 3, 2004, we held the pre-Ramadan Bazaar. This event we had food and clothing stalls from cultures from around the world.

Please join us for an Eid Carnival on **November 21st**. Everyone is welcome! Jazak-Allahu-Khair.

Aneela Shafqat

President Woman Society of ICM

aneelashafqat@hotmail.com

Dawah through Art

Artist Kulsum Tasnif's paintings are being displayed at the Birchwood Cafe in Minneapolis through the months of October and November. She views Islamic art as a non confrontational way to show the beauty and diversity of Islam, and encourages all artists to use their art as a means of communication. Kulsum has conducted workshops for MSA National/ISNA entitled "Daring Daawa." Her showings in Minneapolis include galleries such as Kulak Art Company, Rogue Buddha Gallery, Calhoun Square Art and the IDS Center Gallery; Cafe exhibitions include Barnes and Noble and Dunn Brothers, to name a few.

An Opinion

In the eighties, for eight years, the Muslims of Iraq and Iran spared no effort in brutalizing each other. If the atrocities disturbed the Muslim masses, they certainly kept their feelings to themselves.

For more than ten years, the Muslims of Afghanistan went on a rampage turning their country into a wasteland. Again the Muslims of the world watched and yawned.

In the nineties, while the Algerian Muslims were bringing cruelty to a new level and the Muslims of Somalia were doing their best to turn their country into a gangland, the Muslim masses showed nothing close to dismay.

Now every evening on the news program we witness scenes of misery coming from another part of the land of Islam. In Darfur, many emaciated women and their starving children lie on the hot sand of west Sudan forsaken by their government left to the mercy of the international community, mostly non-Muslim. Accounts of killings, destruction and rape abound. Still no outrage. Why such an indifference?

Failing to avoid such atrocities could be explained away by our political inaptitude. Failure to help their victims could be due to our economic shortcomings. What about this glaring absence of disdain for the injustice and brutality exacted on fellow Muslims? Does the hurt have to come from non-Muslims for the Muslims to notice?

Esam M. Aal - Mpls MN

Letter (s) to the Editor

People in over half of the developing world live on less than \$2 a day. We probably spend more than that on coffee everyday. We are blessed, Alhamdulillah, and we know it. Despite this and the importance Islam attributes to thanking Allah (SWT) for our blessings, including food, there is a disturbing trend in this community of throwing away perfectly good food. I've seen embarrassed adults as well as not-so-embarrassed kids do it in social situations. The simplest reason that comes to mind is that we overestimate our appetites. An equally simple solution is to take less than we think we want to eat. This is something I would teach kids who didn't know better, but even grown-ups could use a reminder here. We will, after all, be held accountable for everything we had at our disposal in this world.

Munazza Humayun
Coon Rapids, MN



In a mosque in the Twin City, an honorable Khateeb proceeded from counseling us on the proper ways of disciplining our children to the proper ways of disciplining our wives. "Spanking your wives must be performed in a gentle manner," advocated the gentleman.

Two questions occurred to me then: Had the speaker run out of issues to tackle and disciplining wives was his last choice of topics? Also, was the Khateeb aware of the fact that in this country we live in spanking wives could lead to the imprisonment of the spanking husband?

Esam M. Aal - Mpls MN

Reflection:

Upon Reading The Holy Qur'an
Salima Currimbhoy

The words you wrote
I read them today
Reflected in awe
The language so divine
Sentences flowing
Like water in a river
A beauty so breathtaking
Only men and women of understanding
Will see
The truth so perfect
The message so clear

My mind raising with questions
The answers all there
As I witness creation and
Reflect upon the universe
I turn to the glorious Book
And find my hands trembling
In fear
Of not fulfilling
My true purpose
And disappointing my Creator

Yet no day goes by
That I am not aware
Nor a moment of time pass
That I do not reflect and wonder
When my time will come
And I will be awoken
From this dream of reality
And the illusion of control

Reflecting upon your words
Tears fall
My heart softens and
My life will be
In constant remembrance
Of your names
As I reflect

IRG Report for the Year 2003-2004

IRG's MN Islamic Speakers Bureau (MN ISB) gave 268 presentations for the year 2003-2004 reaching over 8000 people. A vast majority of these were to the area public schools. Presentations were also given in churches, hospitals, businesses, law enforcement agencies, community education and media. This brings the total presentations since the inception of MN ISB in 2001 to 868 and total audience to about 40,000 people.

The year 2004-2005 is off to a brisk start as presentation requests continue to pour in. Please contact the IRG if you would like to get involved in this exciting bridge-building effort.

Some of highlights of the presentations in the year 2003-2004 are:

- **Took part in Education Minnesota Conference where 15,000 educators from all over MN attend. Conducted a workshop and set up a booth and served thousands of educators.**

- **Citywide seminar on Islam for the city of Faribault:**

"We owe so very much to you (IRG) for playing a major role in making the day a success. I heard a LOT of wonderful things said about both your speakers. They are both highly skilled "ambassadors without portfolio" and tremendously effective spokespeople. Thanks so very much."

(An organizer of the seminar in Faribault)

- **"More in Common Than You Think" advertisement in Star Tribune and Rochester Post-Bulletin**

The advertisement educated the readers on Muslim reverence for Jesus (pbuh). This advertisement reached over 800,000 subscribers in Minnesota. WCCO (a CBS affiliate) covered this advertisement in its evening news segment.

- Helped the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights in reviewing their training material that dealt with Muslim countries/cultures.
- Presentation to Christian Journalists
- Educator training for St. Paul Public Schools
- IRG is now on the advisory board of Tolerance Minnesota program

Jazak Allah Khair
Zafar Siddiqui
President Islamic Resource Group

MOSQUE/ICM ETIQUETTE

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during Khutbah (sermon), salaah (prayer) and speeches.

Also, this Ramadan, consider helping your children show appreciation to ICM volunteers (teachers, staff, etc.) with a Ramadhan/Eid Card.



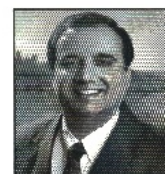
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The Qur'an on Ramadhan

Abdul-Hameed Mamdani

As Muslims we all know it is a must upon us to fast in the month of Ramadan.

"The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Quran, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadan), he must fast that month, and whoever is ill or on a journey, the same number (of days which one did not fast must be made up) from other days."

Since we know it is a must upon us to fast, we all do, but unfortunately we think the experience of Ramadan is a one-month thing. We fast for a month, pray, and read Qur'an, which is all good, but we end up making a big mistake; returning to our old ways after the end of Ramadan. We are supposed to gain something in Ramadan and keep it for the rest of our life. What is it? Allah tells us in the following Ayah.

"O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may acquire Taqwa."

Allah tells us that one of the main goals of fasting is to acquire Taqwa. Taqwa means the fear and love for Allah. I believe at the end of each month we should sit down and ask ourselves, if we have reached our goal, which is to attain more Taqwa.

Also some Muslims think it is a chore to fast, and to do worship during the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is actually a good chance to gain a lot of Hasana, or reward. One of the most important and powerful nights is in Ramadan.

"Verily! We have sent it (this Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr. And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr is? The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months (of worship). Therein descend the angels and the Ruh (Gabriel) by Allah's Permission with all Decrees, Peace! Until the appearance of dawn"

To conclude my article, I would like to say we should all take advantage of the month of Ramadan, and do as much worship as possible, because we don't know if this is our last Ramadan or not.



BEGINING FASTING - DUA

وَيَصُومُ عِدَّةً نَوَيْتُ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ

Wa bisawmi ghadinn nawaiytu min shahri ramadan

(I intend to keep the fast today in the month of Ramadan)
[abu Dawud]

BREAKING FAST - DUA

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صُمْتُ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

Allahumma inni laka guntu wa bika aamantu wa 'ala rizq-ika aftarthu

(O Allah! I fasted for You and I believe in You and I break my fast with Your sustenance)
[abu Dawud]

Ramadan Program at Columbia Heights Mosque

- ✓ Every Friday we will have I'tikaf at the Masjid from Maghrib to Fajr
- ✓ I'tikaf: The last 10 days and nights of Ramadan
- ✓ Halaqah for Adults, Children **6yrs-12yrs**, Sisters and Youth 13yrs-17 yrs
- ✓ Reciting & Memorizing Qura'n
- ✓ Suhur before Fajr Prayer
- ✓ **Daily Iftar:** Donated by Muslims for at least 50 people. Will need to sign up at the ICM or Columbia Heights Masjid. Here are the following options:
 - You order out, Catering • You cook at Columbia Heights • You cook at home and bring it to C. Heights • You pay money to the ICM, and ICM will order (Catering) \$350.00 on weekdays and \$500.00 weekends (The 27th of Ramadan is already taken)
 - One Family or more could participate in one Iftar

For Questions please call ICM @ 763-571-5604

Ramadhan Prayer Time

www.islamicFinder.org

Day	Ramadan	Gregorian	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Fri	1	15/10	6:09	7:28	12:59	3:58	6:29	7:50
Sat	2	16/10	6:11	7:30	12:59	3:55	6:26	7:47
Sun	3	17/10	6:13	7:32	12:59	3:54	6:24	7:45
Mon	4	18/10	6:14	7:33	12:59	3:53	6:23	7:43
Tue	5	19/10	6:14	7:33	12:59	3:53	6:23	7:43
Wed	6	20/10	6:16	7:36	12:58	3:50	6:19	7:40
Thu	7	21/10	6:18	7:37	12:58	3:49	6:18	7:39
Fri	8	22/10	6:18	7:37	12:58	3:49	6:18	7:39
Sat	9	23/10	6:19	7:38	12:58	3:48	6:16	7:37
Sun	10	24/10	6:21	7:41	12:58	3:45	6:13	7:34
Mon	11	25/10	6:23	7:42	12:58	3:44	6:11	7:33
Tue	12	26/10	6:23	7:42	12:58	3:44	6:11	7:33
Wed	13	27/10	6:25	7:45	12:57	3:41	6:08	7:30
Thu	14	28/10	6:26	7:46	12:57	3:40	6:07	7:28
Fri	15	29/10	6:27	7:48	12:57	3:39	6:05	7:27
Sat	16	30/10	6:27	7:48	12:57	3:39	6:05	7:27
Sun	17	31/10	5:30	6:50	11:57	2:37	5:02	6:24
Mon	18	1/11	5:31	6:52	11:57	2:36	5:01	6:23
Tue	19	2/11	5:32	6:53	11:57	2:34	4:59	6:22
Wed	20	3/11	5:34	6:55	11:57	2:33	4:58	6:21
Thu	21	4/11	5:35	6:56	11:57	2:32	4:57	6:19
Fri	22	5/11	5:36	6:57	11:57	2:31	4:55	6:18
Sat	23	6/11	5:37	6:59	11:57	2:30	4:54	6:17
Sun	24	7/11	5:38	7:00	11:57	2:29	4:53	6:16
Mon	25	8/11	5:40	7:02	11:57	2:28	4:52	6:15
Tue	26	9/11	5:41	7:03	11:57	2:27	4:50	6:14
Wed	27	10/11	5:42	7:04	11:58	2:26	4:49	6:13
Thu	28	11/11	5:43	7:06	11:58	2:25	4:48	6:12
Fri	29	12/11	5:44	7:07	11:58	2:25	4:47	6:11
Sat	30	13/11	5:46	7:08	11:58	2:24	4:46	6:10

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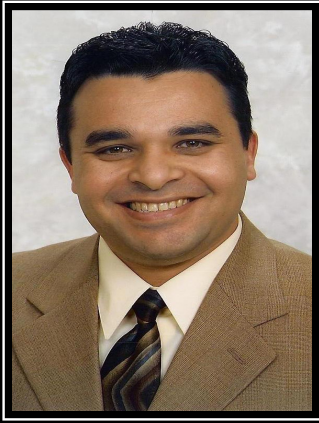
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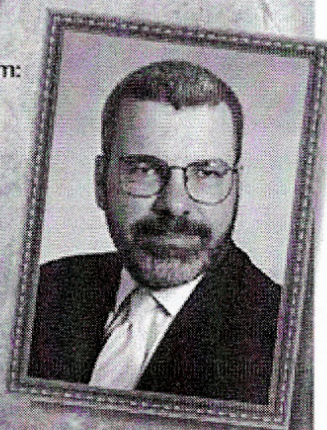
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