

ISM Today

A Publication of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee

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ISM Elections: Make Your Vote Count!

As many active members of the Muslim community are aware, the ISM is governed by a 13 member Executive Committee that manages and oversees the operations of the organization. The ISM Executive Committee is composed of both brothers and sisters and the ISM encourages the participation of both in its leadership. The Committee is composed of individuals with a variety of backgrounds, professions and areas of expertise. The ISM is always seeking new Executive Committee candidates who are committed to their faith, who wish to contribute to the betterment of the Muslim community and the community at large, and who are willing to contribute some of their time and skills toward the fulfillment of the mission and vision of the ISM.

Each year, the members of the ISM elect four or five new Executive Committee members for three year terms. Over a period of three years, all thirteen Executive Committee positions are contested. Staggering the elections in this manner maintains the organization's continuity and stability, yet allows for the entry of "new blood" onto the Executive Committee.

The ISM Election Committee (ismelection@yahoo.com) is seeking nominations for the four Executive Committee positions being contested in 2014: Fundraising Chair, Publications Chair and two At Large Members. Nominations are due by Friday March 7, 2014. (You can nominate a candidate if you are currently a member of the ISM. Generally, you are a member of the ISM if you donated \$500 to the ISM in 2013 or if you paid your ISM membership dues prior to February 1, 2014).

(Continued on Page 6)



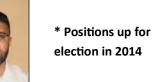
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From the Executive Director

Assalamu Alaikum Brothers and Sisters:

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee has always been concerned about the education and care of the youth of our community. In Article III of the ISM Constitution, one of the stated objectives of the ISM is to "provide special programs for the youth, including full and part-time schools and recreational programs".

When the Islamic Center was first purchased in 1982, the number of youth in our community was quite small. Those who attended the Islamic Center were limited in number and most of the Muslim students on college campuses were foreign students who came to the U.S. to pursue their studies.



Alhamdulillah, since the establishment of the Islamic Center, our community has continued to grow. The number of youth who have been raised here is quite significant. When the ISM puts on its annual high school graduation program in May of each year for Muslim graduates from across the Milwaukee area, we usually identify about forty to fifty high school graduates. No doubt, in addition to these, there are Muslim graduates who we are not even aware of because they are not involved in work with Islamic organizations or they have few contacts with the Muslim community.

Today, if you go to any of the local universities, including UWM, Marquette, Alverno, Cardinal Stritch and others, you will find a significant number of Muslim students. Many of these students are active in Muslim and other organizations. This is very important because these activists will, insha'Allah, form the backbone of the Muslim and other organizations that are located both inside and outside of Milwaukee. With their skills and contacts, they will be able to further expand the role and reach of the Muslim community in our city, state and country.

When I look back at the early years of the ISM, it is easy to identify those individuals who really made a difference. The number of people who lead an organization or a community is always a small fraction (some say ten percent) of the whole. What makes me optimistic today is that the "small fraction" is much larger than it used to be. If we used to have fifty youth in the 1980's, we have over five hundred today. If the "ten percent" continue to take the initiative and utilize some of their skills and efforts for the betterment of the community, we will, insha'Allah, see impressive progress.

In this edition of ISM Today, we have tried to provide you with a sample of some of the programs that the youth are leading, in schools, on college campuses and in the Islamic Center. May Allah (swt) bless all of our youth, guide them to success in this life and the hereafter, and help them improve their lives, the lives of their families, their Muslim community, their country and their world. Ameen.

Jazakum Allah Khair.

Othman Atta

Community News

Congratulations On Your Newborn!

The ISM would like to congratulate:



* Haitham Hasan & Asma Sarsour on the birth of their son, Adam Hassan.

Bilal and Usnije Hamdan on the birth of their twins, Ameen and Malkah Hamdan.

We wish them a life full of joy and a heart full of Iman!

Congratulations on your Engagement

May Allah bless your engagement and grant you a beautiful and happy marriage.

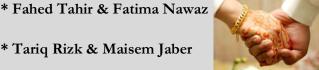
- Asrar Musaitif & Fouad Fares
- Fadia Ahlat & Majd Shalhout
- Zainab Ashraf & Ravi Yada
- Neveen Musa & Omar Saadeldin
- Tasneem Hamdan & Ahmad Nbali

Congratulations on your Marriage

Marriage is equated with "completing half of one's faith". The ISM would like to wish our newlyweds a long, happy and healthy life together, inshallah.

Congratulations to you and your families!

* Fahed Tahir & Fatima Nawaz



Our Condolences

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

Inna Lilahi wa Ina Ilaihi raji'oun. To Him we belong and to Him we shall return. The ISM would like to extend our condolences to the families who lost someone dear to their hearts.

- Br. Muhammad Labanieh, martyred in Syria, brother of Sr. Khuloud Labanieh and brother-inlaw of Br. Fahed Masalkhi
- Yahya Bakhtair, son of Dr. Karim Bakhtair and Huma Bakhtiar. Nephew of Saleem and Nausheen Bakhtiar and Humayun and Margaret Khan.
- Fadeya Sodki Al Qasrawi (Em Mahmoud), mother of Loubna Jaber & Ola Hamed, and mother-in-law of Gassan Jaber & Hussam Hamed
- Sr. Amal Qashou, mother of Dr. Suad Khalil and mother-in-law of Dr. Anas Taqatqa
- Mahmod Abdulbaki, son of Abdelbaki Alruwaishedi and Suhad Mohammed
- Br. Ali Taha Dahche, brother of Abu Adel (Khaled Dahche) & brother in law of Um Adel
- Um Wael, mother of Br. Isam Qudeimat
- Adnan AbdelMajeed, uncle of Br. Isam Qudeimat
- Br. Ghaleb Al-Mayyah, brother of Br. Taleb Al
- Br. Samer Abdul Jaber Mahmoud, cousin of Ayman Jaber and many other community members
- Sr. Jameela Begum, mother of Dr. Akbar Mohiuddin
- Br. Javed Butt, father of Sr. Ashee Eshai and the father-in-law of Khalid Eshai.



SANDWICHES

Chicken Shawarma House Marinated Thin slices of chicken cooked on a Rotisseri	REGULAR \$5.99	SHRAK \$6.99
and served in bread with pickles and our homemade	garlic sauce	
Falafel Sandwich A mixture of seasoned chickpeas fried and served in I with salad pickles and tahini sauce	\$4.99 bread	\$5.99
Beef Shawarma Sandwich Marinated thin slices of beef cooked on a rotisserie and served in bread with tomatoes, onions, and tahin	\$5.99 ii	\$6.99
Kefta Kabab Sandwich Seasoned beef with onions and parsley grilled and served in bread with salad, pickles, onions, and tahini	\$5.99	\$6.99
Sheesh Tawook Sandwich Marinated chicken seasoned with special spices, skew grilled served in bread with tomatoes, pickles, and ou		\$6.99 c sauce
Sheesh Kabab Sandwich Marinated beef seasoned, skewered, and grilled in bread with salad, pickles, onions, and tahini	\$6.49	\$7.49
Zinger Sandwich Seasoned chicken strips, turkey, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes and mayo all served in bread		\$5.99
Arabic Style cheese burger Our Arabic homemade beef patty topped with cheese pickles, tomato, lettuce, and ketchup served on a war		\$4.99

"To make it COMBO (Fries & Soda) \$2.49 extra"

PLATES

All Inn Grill \$11.99
One skewer of each; Kefta, Sheesh Tawook & Sheesh Kabab served
with rice, hummus, Arabic Salad, falafel, grilled onion & tomato and bread
All Inn Shawarma \$10.99
Beef & Chicken Shawarma, rice, hummus, Arabic Salad, falafel and bread.
Beef Shawarma Plate \$7.99
Our thin slices of marinated beef cooked on a rotisserie
and served on a plate with tomatoes, onlons, and Tahini on the side
Chicken Shawarma Plate \$7.99
Our thin slices of marinated chicken cooked on a rotisserie
on a plate with pickles and garlic sauce on the side
Hummus Shawarma Plate \$7.99
Our homemade hummus served with our thin slices of marinated beef
or chicken shawarma
Kefta Kabab Plate \$9.99
Two skewers of kefta kabab served with rice, Arabic salad,
hummus and bread
Sheesh Tawook Plate \$10.99
Two skewers of our marinated chicken seasoned with special spices,
skewered, grilled and served on a plate with rice,
Arabic salad, hummus, and bread
Sheesh Kabab Plate \$8.99
Two skewers of our specially seasoned beef with onions and parsley
grilled and served on a plate with rice, Arabic salad, hummus, and bread

SIDES

Hummus Plate					\$5,99
Baba Ghannou	i				\$5.99
Dwali					\$4,49
Six delightful, Midd our seasoned rice a Falafel	lle Eastern nd steame	style, stuf d	fed grape leave	s filled with	
Seasoned ground o	hickness &	fresh vene	etables shaped	into nies & de	en-fried
		50		\$3.00	cp mea.
9 piec			2 piece	\$6.00	
Fries	7111		a piece	40.00	\$2.99
Rice					53,49
Jerusalem Sala	d				\$3,49
Freshly diced cucun	nbers, tom	atoes, and	parsley		72112
Tabouleh					\$3,49
Freshly diced tomat with a magic touch				d cracked wh	eat
Pickle Mix					\$3.49
Fattoush					\$3.99
A harmonious mix					
dressed with our sp	ecial hom	emade dre	essing and hom	emade pita ci	
Yogurt Salad			direction of the con-		\$3.49
Freshly diced cucun Garlic Sauce 20			Tahini 2		\$0.75
Arabic hot sauce					\$2,49
Arabic not saud	e 2 02.			ıþ	\$2,45
		DRII	NKS		
Soda Product	\$1.99		Shaninah		\$1.99
Bavaria	\$1.99	1	Vimto		\$1,49
Rabia' Juice	\$1.49		Hot Mint Tea		\$1.49
Coffee	\$1.49				
		DECC	ERTS		

Knafa \$2.99

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President's Message

Reflection on the Need to Help Local Milwaukee Community

Assalaamu alaikum, brothers and sisters:

One of the essential teachings of Islam is the need for Muslims to care for one's neighbor. Prayers are not enough. In the Qur'an, Allah (SWT) tells us that:

True piety does not consist in turning your faces towards the east or the west, but truly pious is he who believes in God, and the Last Day; and the angels, and revelation, and the prophets; and spends his substance - however much he himself may cherish it - upon his near of kin, and the orphans, and the needy, and the wayfarer, and the beggars, and for the freeing of human beings from bondage; and is constant in prayer, and renders the purifying dues; and [truly pious are] they who keep their promises whenever they promise, and are patient in misfortune and hardship and in time of peril: it is they that have proved themselves true, and it is they, they who are conscious of God. (2:177)

The Prophet Muhammad (saaw) has said, "None of you has faith until you love for your brother what you love for yourself" and: "None of you has faith until you love for your neighbor what you love for yourself." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Iman, Hadith no.13 and Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Iman, 67-1, Hadith no.45.) The seerah

of the Prophet and the anecdotes of his Companions are replete with stories of generosity to neighbors, regardless of whether they were Muslims or even believed in Allah at all. "Piling up wealth" and "looking out for number one (myself)" are not Islamic virtues

Recently, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation put out a report entitled "Vital Signs: Benchmarking Metro Milwaukee 2013." The report, which was more than two years in the making, compares how the Milwaukee metropolitan area is performing in comparison to 16 other metropolitan areas. The entire 116-page report can be viewed here: http://www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/files/4713/7513/4080/VitalSigns_Milwaukee_2013.pdf While Milwaukee ranks highly in a few areas, the study mostly shows significant problems, including racial and ethnic disparity in economic growth, poverty, education and housing. One of the conclusions from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation report is that the solution must involve a regional approach with suburban and state help and not just throw the problem on the City of Milwaukee itself, where the problem is most severe and the resources most limited.

Unfortunately, as written about in a Journal Sentinel article, the greater Milwaukee area is among the most politically polarized regions in this country. The year 2014 is an election year in our country, state and community. When considering which candidates and policies that you will support locally, please consider which candidates and policies persons best exhibit true Islamic teachings in caring for our neighbors and the local community in need.

Ahmed J. Quereshi

(Elections - Continued from Page 1)

If you would like to nominate candidates for the contested Executive Committee positions, or if you would like to be considered for a position, contact the Election Committee at ismelection@yahoo.com. To be eligible for nomination, a potential candidate is required to be an ISM dues-paying member for three consecutive years prior to April 1, 2014. If you are not sure of your membership status for the past three years, please contact the ISM Office at ismoffice@ismonline.org or call the office at (414) 282-1812.

This year's General Body Meeting for all members is scheduled for Sunday April 27, 2014 at 1:00pm (immediately after Thuhr prayer) in the ISM gym. Election results will be announced at the General Body Meeting.

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Ask the Imam

Do you have a question for which you need an Imam's guidance? Please submit your question to the ISM Office or email us at ISMToday@ismonline.org. Your identity will remain anonymous. Questions will be answered in the next ISM Today publication by Imam Ziad Hamdan or Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah.



Question: I have a situation. I'm a Muslimah convert and my husband was born Muslim. I brought him to the U.S. My husband lied to me by claiming he had a degree in a major field. I'm in the process of returning to grad school with the intent of becoming an independent therapist. My husband does not have a degree. He wants to obtain one now, but there is not enough money to financially support our family if I quit my job. Before he came to U.S.A, he said he would take care of me and that he has a degree. What do I do? I feel disappointed. I feel like, in the future, I will be the superior provider.

Response from Imam Ziad: I understand your frustration and disappointment after finding out that your husband was not honest with you when he told you that he held a college degree in a major field when he in fact he does not. It is very unfortunate and disappointing that some individuals do not pay attention to the consequences of their behavior. Clearly, being dishonest leads to a great deal of damage and harm.

From your question, I understand that your husband is now in the U.S. after he was granted an immigrant visa. You also indicated your intent to return to school, but that it would be very difficult so long as the financial stability that you were promised is not there. You asked "What do I do?" Unfortunately, without knowing more information, I do not know what all your options are.

From an Islamic point of view, the false information that your husband provided you is absolutely unacceptable. I want to remind those who are seeking to get married that it is very important to obtain as much information as you can about your future potential spouse from reliable sources. This is Islamically required from both the man and the woman before marriage. Islam requires both the man and the woman to seek information about their future spouse. Only when they are initially satisfied with the information that they obtain should they go ahead and get married. The less one knows about a person and their background, the more important that it is for them to seek reliable information. Sadly, as you have experienced, some people are not honest and Allah will hold them accountable for their behavior.

Since you are already married and living together, my advice to

you, given the limited information that you have provided, is to try to work it out between you and your husband. You need to agree on a mutual plan that will help you go back to school and requires that he works to provide for his family. If he is not able to provide, which he certainly will not be able to do so at the beginning if he has limited language ability and limited skills, then you will have to discuss your options with your husband.

Although Islam gives the right for either spouse to dissolve a marriage based on misinformation and deception, I am not sure if this is what you are looking to do at this stage. If this is not an option for you at this time, I suggest that you sit down with your husband and discuss your future plans together and see what is good for the both of you. I encourage you to seek help by consulting with a Muslim social worker or a close friend of yours and weigh your options in finding peace of mind and the right solution for your concerns. May Allah guide and bless you.



Question: How can we make our faith stronger in very difficult times?

Response from Imam Ziad: Weakness of faith is a disease, the most dangerous disease that affects the hearts of the believers. It is a recipe for falling into sin, falling back on performing one's religious duties and not being able to benefit from or taste the sweetness of the various types of Ibadat. One should treat one's weakness of faith by doing things that bring one closer to Allah. This, however, needs time and patience to bring fruitful results; it is like a seed that one plants that needs time and care to grow and give fruits.

One could strengthen their faith by: (1) Maintaining a close relationship with the Masjid and the Jama'h prayer and by attending Islamic study circles. This will help one to stay close to sources of righteousness and knowledge. (2) Reading about the Seerah of the Prophet, the stories of the Sahaba and Muslim role models who dedicated their lives and time for the obedience of Allah, making a difference in the lives of their people and communities. (3) Keeping righteous company with people who will always remind us of our duties towards Allah and His Deen, and avoiding relationships with people who are disobedient to Allah. (4) Avoiding excessive indulgence in the material life and in other matters that will take the mind and heart away from Taqwa. (5) Reading Quran and making more Dua and Thikr.

I ask Allah to keep our faith strong and help us in times of difficulties. Ameen.





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Community Events

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mohamed Ratib An-Nabulsi



The ISM and the Muslim community in Milwaukee were honored to welcome Sh. Mohammad Ratib Al-Nabulsi on Tuesday January 7, 2014. Dr. Nabulsi gave two lectures, one for sisters and the other, a fiqh session, for both brothers and sisters. Dr. Mohammad Al-Nabulsi is an Islamic scholar and a member of

the Syrian Islamic Scholars Association (Rabitah Ulama al-Sham).

In the sisters' event, titled "Righteous Women," Dr. Nabulsi spoke about the noble status given to women in Islam as compared with other ideologies. He provided the audience with many examples from the prophetic tradition that highlighted the value and importance of the role of women in society. He discussed the prophetic tradition that raising two, or even one, righteous daughter will lead the parents to Jannah. He mentioned that the reward of a wife and a mother who fulfills her obligations towards her household exceeds that of a devout worshipper who fails at those tasks. He also indicated that the task of being a good mother and wife is equivalent to jihad. Dr. Nabulsi spoke about the essential role played by women in creating a successful society. Because of their important contributions, they need to be-along with their husbands-positive role models for their children and avoid setting bad examples. Dr. Nabulsi also stressed that women need to seek knowledge and education so that they can pass on these values to their children and not let them be overwhelmed by outside pressures.

After the Isha Prayer, the Sheikh's lecture covered a more general topic, that of Man's relationship with God in this life. Man is the noblest creation of Allah, but yet, we were not forced into His worship; rather, it is meant to be voluntary. There are many who don't know their purpose in this life. As believers, it is okay for us to fulfill our desires as long as it is within the Islamic

framework. However, we always have to remember our purpose and strive to make Dawah; one form of of Dawah is excellence in this Dunya (this world) so that our faith is respected. A constant theme of Dr. Nabulsi was that this life is ephemeral and our actions here should focus on the next life.

Thanks to the many the brothers and sisters who braved the bitter cold weather to attend this valuable lecture.

Seerat Un Nabi Program



On Sunday, January 12th, the ISM hosted its annual Seerat Un-Nabi program with guest speakers Shaykh Kifah Mustafa (Imam and Associate Director of the Mosque Foundation) and Mufti Minhajuddin Ahmed (Director of DarusSalam Foundation).

The event was moderated by Sh. Ziad Hamdan who reminded those in attendance that, regardless of our opinion on celebrating the birth of the prophet (peace be upon him), we should strive to learn and emulate his Seerah.

Both speakers focused on the qualities of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his mercy, in spite of his very tough and challenging environment and his humble upbringing. The audience was treated

to many examples of his kindness, including the kindness which he even displayed toward those who regarded themselves as his enemies.

Alhamdulillah, the program was very well attended. We thank and appreciate to all those who made this program a success.







ISM Community Outreach

2:143 And Thus We have made you a medium (just) nation that you may be the bearers of witness to the people and (that) the Messenger may be a bearer of witness to you;...

A Discussion of "Acts of Faith" by Eboo Patel Wednesday January 29th, 2014 - UWM Library



On January 29, 2014, Dr. Irfan Omar, Professor at Marquette University, Janan Najeeb, Director of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition and Othman Atta, the Executive Director of the ISM, led a discussion about <u>Acts of Faith</u> at the UWM Library.

Written by Ismaili Muslim activist Eboo Patel, a Rhodes Scholar and the founder of Interfaith Youth Corps, Acts of Faith describes Mr. Patel's struggles as he was growing up, how he was inspired by people of different faiths, including Dorothy Day's Catholic Worker's Movement, and how he came to the conclusion that the only way to combat those who promote religious extremism (regardless of which faith they belong to) is by promoting religious pluralism and interfaith cooperation.



The Amazing Faith Dinner Projects

I would like to invite our community members to participate in The Amazing Faith Dinner Projects. The Amazing Faith Dinner Project is a program that is sponsored by the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. This program brings people of various faiths together so that all may learn about the beliefs and faith traditions of others through exploration and dialogue. These events take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and enable everyone involved to stand as witness for tolerance and understanding. The format: a group of 8 - 10 people gather in one of the participants' homes over a very light meal. One of the participants is a moderator who will facilitate the discussion.

Please contact Inshirah Farhoud if you are interested in participating in one of the dinner projects. Inshirahf@aol.com or 414-313-1595.

<u>Visitors to the Islamic Society of Milwaukee</u> <u>(January-February)</u>

- Unitarian Universalist Church West: A group of youth from UUCW came to the ISM for a tour and presentation about Islam
- Christ Church Episcopal and All Peoples Lutheran Church visited the ISM together as part of an Urban/Suburban program
 - ◆ St. Thomas Moore High school: Juniors and seniors heard a lecture about Islam and Muslims and had the opportunity to ask questions.
 - Cardinal Stritch University: Students from the Cultural & Nursing Class visited the ISM to learn about Muslims & how to care for their Muslim patients.
 - Peace Catalyst International:
 - ♦ Unitarian Church of Mequon
 - ♦ First United Methodist Church

If you know of any group that would like to visit the ISM, please contact the ISM at (414) 282-1812 or email us at ismoffice@ismonline.org.

I Have Never Visited A Mosque: A 365 Day Journey of Self-Exploration

Alhamdulillah, the ISM receives thousands of visitors each year. Although many visitors come as part of a group, the ISM also welcomes visits by individuals who want learn more about Muslims and Islam. On January 10, the ISM hosted one such individual, a Madison, Wisconsin native. What made this visit different from all others was that the visitor, Caleb Andrew, was in the midst of a very unique project which he referred to as his "I Have Never Journey". Basically, Mr. Andrew decided to do something different during the 30th year of his life: he decided to try something new each day for 365 days as part of a journey of exploration for self-discovery.

Mr. Andrew maintains a detailed blog account of his experiences. His accounts are very thorough and descriptive and also include photos. The range of Mr. Andrew's new experiences is impressive: from hand-gliding (day 35) to butchering an animal (day 212), from driving a Lamborghini (day 62) to baking a pie from scratch (day 199), from taking a bee keeping class (day 140) to replacing a car battery (day 162).

Mr. Andrew also decided to experience all major faiths as part of his year of new experiences. He visited St. Josephat's Catholic Basilica (day 231), a Buddhist Temple (day 66), a Hindu Temple (day 53) and a Bahai Temple (day 175).

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee was on the agenda for the 243rd day of Mr. Andrew's journey. He had never visited a mosque before and had very little exposure to Islam and Muslims. Below are a few excerpts from his blog. To read the complete account of his experience at the ISM (as well as his other experiences), visit his blog at www.never365.blogspot.com.

"I have never visited a mosque...When I first contacted the mosque to explain my hopes of attending a prayer service, I was greeted with openness to the idea that astounded me. After explaining the reason for my visit, the woman answering the phone confirmed I was more than welcome to attend a service and immediately offered to set up an appointment with the local imam and a member of Islamic Society leadership to provide me a more comprehensive first experience with the faith. Understanding the meetings would provide me an opportunity to get some background on Islam and to better understand the proceedings during the prayer, I happily accepted the offer... At that point, there was nearly a month left before I made the trip, but I was already floored by the warm, accepting nature of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Such a first impression was more than I ever expected, which left me hopeful my first experience with Islam would have a lasting impact...

...Despite my early arrival, it was clear the Islamic Center of Milwaukee was happy to accommodate me, which made me feel comfortable from my first few minutes in the office. Explaining my desire not to interfere with the schedules of others, I told the woman I was happy to wait as necessary, which caused her to reply with understanding. "Well, you can wait here with us for a little while, and when the imam or the executive director become available I will let you know," she said with a warm, helpful tone.

... Othman began our conversation simply. "So, what brings you here today?" he asked with sincerity. I replied with a brief explanation of my "I have never..." journey, which made Othman respond with a look of surprise and a healthy degree of curiosity. After fielding a few of his questions about my experiences, our conversation led into my intentions to learn more about the faiths of the world and my desire to gain more experience with Islam.

...His explanation was full but concise, and it revealed more insight about Islam in the first few minutes of our conversation than I had obtained on my own over the first 30 years of my life. Following his introduction, Othman and I spent nearly an hour and a half talking about the core of the Islamic faith, the role of modern Islam, and the perversions of the faith that have led to anti-Islamic perspectives. Othman's openness to discuss and address such topics was apparent as we spoke, with reason operating as the anchor of our conversation. Together, we discussed modern historical events and the role of politics in manipulating the tenets of the faith for the personal gains and aspirations of corrupt and greedy individuals. I listened as Othman cited and summarized passages from the Quran that contradict such actions outright and tied back to the concepts harmony and oneness in faith that we had discussed earlier...

...The light he shed on Islam and the compassion he showed for all people in the 90 minutes we spent together reflected what I had hoped to find during today's experience, but the went beyond simple statements...I didn't need anything more to know that true Islam was built on benevolence and good principles... Still, I knew I wouldn't be able to gain the full experience until I attended a full prayer service...

...the imam took to the front of the room and began speaking about a variety of topics all focused on being better people, better citizens, and better neighbors in the name of God. His message expressed the universality of such topics and the need for all people to try to be better in each aspect of their lives. Drawing directly from the stories and passages in the Quran, the imam tied the ideas of humility and humanity back to the words of Muhammad and closed with a final message of love for all those in attendance.

...I stood silent against the wall near the back of the room for some time as the mosque slowly began to empty. Outside in the hallway, sounds of laughter and spirited conversation filled the air, but the mosque remained quiet but for the imam giving a few final words and the murmurs of prayers being said around the space. The entire experience was surreal but somehow uplifting. There was no question it had touched me...

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ISM WEST - Mufti Hussain Kamani Series

Alhamdullilah, over the past 4 months, the ISM West community has been blessed to be in the company of Mufti Hussain Kamani, a well-known scholar from the Chicago-land area. The current format arrangement brings Mufti Hussain to our community the 1st weekend of every month. The weekend program starts with Friday Khutbah at Elmbrook Hospital, followed by a Friday night family program with a topic of interest. On Saturday morning, for the more serious student, a Deen intensive study series on "The Beginning of Guidance" (Bidayat al-Hidaya) by Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali is held. All mentioned programs take place at Elmbrook Hospital Auditorium. The weekend program concludes with a Saturday evening program at Masjid Al-Huda, normally more geared toward the youth.

Mufti Hussain Kamani was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky and went through an intense journey in his pursuit of sacred Islamic knowledge. Alhamdullilah, at the young age of six, he began to memorize the entire Quran, which he completed in 1999. He then traveled across the world to the UK to attain more advanced formal Islamic authorizations in the field of Islamic theology. He studied at Darul Uloom Bury, where he completed the traditional six-year curriculum covering the Arabic language, Arabic morphology, Islamic jurisprudence, Tafseer (exegesis) of the Holy Qur'an, Hadith (Prophetic Sciences), philosophy, and Aqeedah (Islamic Creed) under the guidance of some of the pioneer scholars in England. Upon graduation Mufti Hussain Kamani was then specially selected to enter a post-graduate level course in Islamic Law and Legal Verdicts (Fatawa). He completed this course in two years and received formal authorization in it as well. Following his graduation with top honors, Mufti Hussain Kamani went on to earn his post-graduate degree in Business Management & Strategy at the University of Coventry (RDI).

In addition to Mufti Hussain's tremendous background, his overall style of delivery and ability to connect with both the youth & adult members of the community are truly special. Any time that you are able to spend listening & learning from him in his future monthly visits would be highly recommended and beneficial.

To date, the Friday evening programs have been very successful, with an average turnout of about 100 people. The event is attended by families, including children, and includes light food and snacks during and after the lecture. Some of the topics that have been covered include "The Importance of Family", "New Year's Resolution", "Life of the Prophet SAS", & "Parenting".

The Saturday morning classes take place from 10am-1pm, and have been wonderful thus far. Mufti Hussain takes us through Imam Al-Ghazali's Bidayat al-Hidaya, in great detail, providing the twenty some youth/adult students, an opportunity to engage with him and go through informative question/answer dialogue throughout the session. Some of the key content has included reviews of many duas, etiquette of wudu, seeking knowledge, worship, and etiquette of setting out & staying in the masjid. Insha Allah, the plan is to complete "The Beginning of Guidance" book over the next 3 months.

We thank Allah SWT for this opportunity of learning and the time our community has been given to spend with Mufti Hussain. Alhamdullilah, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and the attendees all feel an increase in their level of Iman and spirituality after a weekend of gaining knowledge. We pray for continued opportunities to gain benefit and build on our relationship with Mufti Hussain, Ameen.

Lateef Khan, ISM Secretary & ISM West Leader



Construction of the new Masjid in Brookfield has been set back due to the extreme cold and snow. (Photo: 2/19/2014)

MSA & ISM Youth Activism

ISM Youth

Crossroads-February 22

Suffering from an identity crisis, young Muslims in America are fighting an uphill battle: trying to remain faithful to what they hold sacred while facing a withering storm of social norms undermining the very fabric of their belief. In many cases, our youth are at crossroads:

What's wrong with music? Why can't I talk to him/ her? Is Islam really the true path?

In this series, we address these sensitive topics and provide our youth with guidance to make the right choice, to overcome their obstacles and to remain faithful. Nationally and internationally renowned speakers will address critical issues such as gender interactions, entertainment craze, crises of faith, and more. In this 4 week series, our youth, inshaAllah, will be inspired, motivated, and educated to overcome the crossroads of their lives!

Join us for this four week journey, every Saturday at 6PM, beginning on February 22nd.



Marquette MSA

PAGE 16

The Life of Malcom X: An Islamic Perspective

On Wednesday, February 19, Imam Abdullah Madyun spoke at Marquette University on "The Life of Malcolm X: an Islamic Perspective". In a well attended program, the audience learned about the life of a man who was born into difficulty, lived a life of strife, and became a product of his destructive environment, until he ultimately found faith, peace and personal redemption. Dr. Madyun spoke about how Malcolm X (Al-Hajj Malik Al-Shabazz) was an iconic figure of the Civil Rights Movement and is both, an integral part of America's rich history and an Islamic symbol.

MSA Marquette thanks all those who attended the program. Those who were not able to make it can hear the lecture on a soon to be released MSA Marquette page.

-Amir Khalil

ISM Youth

Story Night featuring Nouman Ali Khan: March 28th, 2014

This March, Ustadh Nouman Ali Khan, internationally renowned speaker and founder of Bayyinah Institute, will be blessing the Milwaukee community with his wonderful advice in "Story Night".

"The Qur'an has remarkable beauty from countless perspectives but one that has always really captured my curiosity is the incredible style of divine story telling. Many books are written about the stories of the prophets (may Allah's peace be upon them all). Such books tell the accounts of these great men based on authentic sources. Excerpts from various Surahs, Ahadeeth and narrations come together to paint a thorough chronological picture. Is there more to these stories than the chronology of events? Allah the Most High chose to tell parts of Ibrahim's (AS) account in one Surah, and some parts in another. Why did He do that? Is there something about the way Allah Himself tells the story that we are missing out on?"

-Noman Ali Khan

ISM Youth Activism

ISM Youth Night

We are pleased to announce the kick-off of the new Friday Youth Program beginning February 14, 2014 every Friday from 7:00PM to 10:00PM for boys ages 11-18 only at the ISM Gym! We will be incorporating a new structure with many new faces and new rules. We have prepared numerous opportunities and exciting activities for our male youth to participate in, including a weekly Halaqa & discussion, a game room with PS4, sports games, snacks and lots more. We will start with a new exciting lecture series entitled: "Islam's Hall of Fame", where we will cover the lives of great heroes and legends from our Islamic history to give our youth role models they can look up to while drawing lessons from their lives that can be applicable in our times. The program will also include a recreational portion where the youth can play various sports or video games on the PS4 in an effort to build an Islamic social atmosphere for our youth to have fun while also maintaining their Islamic identities. In addition there will be pizza, nachos & other snacks for the youth to enjoy while participating in Youth Night. For more information or to register for the ISM Friday Youth Night program, please contact the ISM office.



Dar Al Arqam



When we reflect upon the current state of Islamic education, more specifically Qur'anic education, we are often shocked by the archaic, often times disengaged, and passive approach to such an enormous priority in a life of a believer. It is not uncommon that a typical Muslim teenager would associate boredom, dullness, and lethargy with Qur'anic education and parents having to promise endless rewards or constant threats to drag their children into it. Apart from that, we find that Qur'anic education has become compartmentalized where we either find a fixation on Tajweed and outward memorization, or we find an exclusive focus on Arabic, or just an academic approach to Tafsir. It is unfortunate that Qur'anic institutes have drifted away from the Tarbiyyah model that once produced the greatest generation known to history.

When Darul Argam was first established, it was precisely these thoughts and realities which became the bedrock and launching pad for a unique institute which would return to the roots of the Qur'anic Tarbiyyah model. "Al-Arqam" is the name of the companion who secretly devoted his house to the students of the Qur'an who were taught at the hands of Prophet Muhammad PBUH. Darul-Argam (literally translated as the House of Argam) became the very first school of Qur'an from which graduated the greatest students of Qur'an nurtured and prepared by the Prophet Muhammad PBUH himself. From Darul Arqam came the luminaries and stars of this Ummah who not only recited and memorized the Qur'an, but also exemplified and gave life to the words, commands, and lessons of the Qur'an. The inception of this Ummah can be traced back to Darul Argam, roots of our Deen extend back to Darul Argam, and indeed seeds of knowledge were sown at Darul Argam.

It is precisely this vision and spirit that we seek to capture at Darul Arqam Institute where we are striving to prepare the next generation of Qurras who will go beyond recitation and memorization to building their characters from Qur'anic teachings. It's a unique program where the students:

- ♦ Achieve mastery of Tajweed
- ♦ Memorize the Qur'an from cover to cover
- ♦ Internalize the Darul Arqam's Value System: Ownership, Proactivity, Patience, Discipline, and Affection
- Progress in Tarbiyyah with PDGs (Personal Development Goals) with special focus on Tazkiyyah
- Learn to communicate and take ownership of their goals and responsibilities
- Achieve bonds of brotherhood with their fellow students
- Participate in recreational activities to build solidarity

Our slogan is the "Walking Qur'ans of Tomorrow". We want to produce the next generation of heroes who are steeped in the Qur'an: mentally, physically and spiritually.

Campus Activism

SJP at UWM & Marquette



Walkout on Israeli Propaganda-January 30, 2014

On Thursday, January 30th, the Students for Justice in Palestine at UW-Milwaukee, Students for Justice in Palestine at Marquette, and other humanitarian activists collaborated in solidarity to denounce the views of Ron Leshem at an event held on the UWM campus. Leshem is a prominent film producer in Israel, and is responsible for Homeland, a T.V Series about a U.S soldier kidnapped in Iraq by Al-Qaeda and then brainwashed to return to the U.S on a suicide mission. Whilst depicting the Arab-Muslim community to be oppressive terrorists, Leshem's work also portrays the IDF soldiers in Israel to be heroic figures who fight against Muslims and Arabs. About 45 activists stood up after a short clip of the show, briefly stated why his work was unacceptable, and silently walked out. And although there was a bit of an inevitable outcry from the audience, our silent exit spoke louder than any words could. The purpose of the walk-out was to take action against Zionists who come to our campus to promote a false image of both Arabs and Muslims, so that we can raise awareness to others on the issue. Ultimately, the message was delivered strongly and successfully across the audience, which further motivates solidarity activists to continue to raise awareness and promote the right to self-determination and the right of return for the indigenous Palestinian people.

-Reema Hamdan

Alverno's MSA

Student Involvement Fair – January 17-24th, 2014

Although the semester has just begun, we have taken part in the Student Involvement Fair at Alverno College. In this Fair, different student organizations display boards about their organizations with basic information about each group and its mission, and a sign-up sheet for those interested in learning more or joining the club. This event has helped us increase awareness of MSA on campus. We have also started our bi-weekly meetings where MSA members come together and discuss issues that we face as Muslims, as well as other topics of interest. At Alverno, we have made it a priority to not only make dawah among non-Muslims on campus, but also to have a group where young Muslim women get a chance to express themselves to other Muslimahs. Alhamdulilah, the Alverno MSA is growing in number and we are looking forward to our upcoming events inshaAllah! -Seema Oweisi

UWM's MSA

Ice Cream Social-February 4, 2014

The MSA hosted an Ice Cream social that was open to all Muslim college students. The students had the opportunity to enjoy some delicious ice cream while socializing with one another. The Cream Social's main purpose was to get the Muslim college students in the greater



Milwaukee Area under the same roof to talk about career options, to gain resources and to establish connections. We had recent Muslim graduates from different fields — such as Architecture, Engineering, Nursing, Art, Pharmacy, Dental, etc. — come in and speak with the students to provide some assistance and advice for them to succeed in their career paths. Our guest speaker, Ameer Hamza, ending the event with a powerful talk on how to attain success not only in this life but also in the hereafter.

— Sehar Javed

ISM College Forum

Muslims students from local universities gathered at the ISM on Saturday, January 25th to discuss issues they may come across in today's day and age. The ISM invited Sister Tahera Ahmad, the Associate Chaplain at Northwestern University, to facilitate that discussion amongst the students. Topics included Islamophobia, anti-Muslim rhetoric, misinterpretation of Islamic beliefs, homosexuality, and gender relations.

Prior to the discussion, Sr. Tahera made a short presentation in which she described why she chose the path of Islamic studies and what her role as a Muslim chaplain entails. Living in a post 9/11 world, her decision to study Islam was to not only better her faith, but to strengthen the Imaan of those around her. She shared personal experiences about the racism and intolerance that she has encountered and how she reacted to this unexpected bigotry.

The discussion then moved to address an issue many students face on campus—namely, the LGBTQ community. How should Muslim student organizations, whether political or religious, act towards the homosexual community? A scenario was presented to the group: If an LGBTQ group



approached an MSA about working together to build houses for the homeless, should the MSA turn the project down because it does not want to associate with an LGBTQ group? Similar scenarios were given and the students discussed how they believed each scenario could be properly handled.

The students then discussed gender relations both on and off campus. How should brothers and sisters interact on campus? Should MSA sponsored events separate men and women, or should they be allowed to mingle? Where does a woman stand in the Muslim American community? These were some of the questions discussed amongst the students. Input from the students allowed for a thorough discussion about how the students perceive themselves *and* the opposite gender. Sr. Tahera then led us into a conversation about relationships and marriage in Islam. What is the proper way of seeking a spouse in Islam? How do you go about starting the process? What are your expectations of marriage, and are these expectations within reason? More often than not, students ponder these questions and don't have the correct platform to discuss them. Alhamdullilah, this event was a great way to initiate dialogue and allow our youth to discuss taboo topics in a friendly environment.

One of the most effective ways to overcome the issues we face as Muslims in the West is to brainstorm ideas as a group. Whether it may be Islamophobia, gender relations, or coalition building, we should always aim to educate ourselves first. Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave. InshAllah, the ISM will be hosting another college forum later this semester with topics chosen by the students.

- Jameela Asmar





MUSLIM AGENDA INFILTRATING PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH FEDERALLY FUNDED SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

(MEMRI-TV/HASBARA PROJECT) Pam Geller and Robert Spencer, co-founders of the group "Stop the Islamization of America (SIOA)", recently uncovered an insidious attempt by Muslims to invade the public school systems in the United States by stealthily promoting the use of Muslim symbols through the federally funded school lunch program.

Although the plot was initially uncovered by SIOA, FOX News Channel quickly expanded the investigation and uncovered the pervasive nature of this well-devised plot to promote Islam and Muslims.

Roger Ailes, President of Fox News Channel, declined comment, other than to say that this was the most significant attack against the United States and its symbols since 9-11.

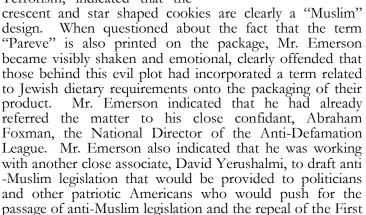
The attempt to promote Muslim symbols was surreptitiously packaged under the innocuous brand name of "Mrs. Pure's Cinnamon Sky Minis". Conservative commentator and Christian author Ann Coulter indicated that the name "Mrs. Pure's" was a clear reference to the virgins that Muslims are allegedly promised as a heavenly reward for converting or attacking non-Muslims.

Inside the package of "Mrs. Pure's" are cookies shaped like

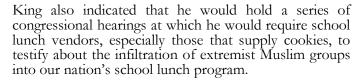
two important symbols often identified with Islam: the crescent and the star. The packages are apparently distributed to tens of thousands of unsuspecting school children.

Steven Emerson, founder of the Investigative Project on Terrorism, indicated that the

Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.



When contacted about this matter, Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) and Michelle Bachmann (R-Minn.) indicated that they were seeking to suspend all funding for the federal school lunch program until this matter was fully investigated. Rep.



After viewing the packing of the "Muslim" product, ACT! For America leader Bridgette Gabriel (a/k/a Hanah Tudor) commented that people should not be deceived by the cartoon-shaped figure on the front of

the package. Ms. Gabriel indicated that the figure was clearly a Muslim woman wearing gloves and a veil, with only her eyes, nose and mouth showing. Ms. Gabriel indicated that Islam and Muslims are bent on dominating our nation and that communities throughout the United States should work to destroy all existing pro-Muslim products, including Mrs. Pure's, Qur'ans and Hummus.



When sent a package of the product, Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, founder of American Islamic Forum for Democracy, indicated that those behind the product had a clear proextremist Muslim agenda and he indicated that the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) likely had a hand in the plot. Dr. Jasser warned the public not to consume the product until it was tested for chemical, biological and nuclear byproducts. Dr. Jasser indicated that he would soon be organizing a press conference for national and international media outlets at which time he would distribute his photo and C.V. and other newsworthy information.

When Pat Robertson and Franklin Graham were informed that many Christian children may have been exposed to this secret Muslim product, both indicated that they were very disturbed since all Muslim symbols are a sign of the devil and the anti-Christ. Keeping in line with their strong right wing Christian traditions, they expressed their strong desire to destroy Islam and Muslims. Remarked Franklin Graham: "That is what Jesus would do." Pat Robertson bobbled his head in agreement.

(Special thanks to the Bradley Foundation, Frank N. Stein Gaffney and the Clarion Fund for providing the support needed to fund this important research)

(THIS ARTICLE IS A PARODY THAT MIMICS THE INTELLIGENT OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS OF SOME OF OUR NATION'S ISLAMOPHOBES!)



جمال عمرو * Jamal M. Amro, MBA

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Duaa of the Month:

Salaat Al-Istikhara

Should you marry this person? Should you accept this job offer? What graduate program should you attend? If you are unsure about a decision you must make, seek Allah's guidance through Salaat Al-Istikhara.

Anytime a Muslim is making a decision, he or she should seek Allah's guidance and wisdom. Allah alone knows what is best for us, and there may be good in what we perceive as bad, and bad in what we perceive as good.

According to Bukhari, Volume 2, Book 21, Number 263:

Narrated Jabir bin 'Abdullah: The Prophet (SAW) used to teach us the way of doing Istikhara, in all matters as he taught us the Surahs of the Quran. He said, "If one of you is concerned about some practical undertaking, or about making plans for a journey, he should perform two units (rak'atain) of voluntary prayer." Then he/she should say the following du'a:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ وَأَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَصْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ فَانِّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَلَا أَقْدِرُ وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي فَاقْدُرْهُ لِي وَيَسِّرُهُ لِي ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرِّ فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةٍ أَمْرِي فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ وَاقْدُرْ لِيَ الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ ثُمَّ ارْضِنِي بِهِ

Translation

"O Allah! I seek goodness from Your Knowledge, and with Your Power (and Might) I seek strength, and I ask from You, Your Great Blessings, because You have the Power and I do not have the power. You Know everything and I do not know, and You have knowledge of the unseen. Oh Allah! If in Your Knowledge this action (state the action which you intend to do) is better for my religion and faith, for my life and end [death], for here [in this world] and the hereafter, then make it destined for me and make it easy for me and then add blessings [baraka'] in it, for me. O Allah! In Your Knowledge if this action is bad for me, bad for my religion and faith, for my life and end [death], for here [in this world] and the hereafter then turn it away from me and turn me away from it and whatever is better for me, ordain that for me and then make me satisfied with it."

How to Perform Istikhara

- 1. Perform Wudu (the ablution) if you do not have it already.
- 2. Pray two rakat with the intention of praying istikhara separately or jointly with 2 rakat of, for example, tahajjud.
- 3. Immediately after you have completed the two rakat, recite duaa al-istikhara.
- 4. There is no limit on the number of times you can pray salat al-istikhara.

Salam School NEWS

Salam School Mock Trial Team





Although it is only in its third year of existence, the Salam School Mock Trial team was selected one of the four top team in the January 25, 2015 scrimmage that was held at Brookfield Academy. In the Milwaukee regional competition held on February 8, Salam School placed second in performance points behind the first place team from Shorewood, a school that has been a top contender for a number of years. Thanks to Coach Blair Thorpe for all of his dedicated efforts and hard work. Thanks also to Attorney coaches Munjed Ahmad and Othman Atta. Mock Trial members this year were: Attorneys: Dunia Amer, Dana Hamed, Mahnoor Javaid, Maham Javaid, Judy Kattan and Ufaira Shaykh. Witnesses: Reem Abulughod, Malak Amer, Eilaf Amro, Yasmeen Atta, Nadia Black, Nesreen Hamoudeh, Mohammad Ismail, Hamza Jaber, Wasef Mahmoud and Fatima Yusuf.

Salam School Science Fair Competition

Salam School middle and high school students competed in the annual science fair competition on Wednesday, February 5th. There were many creative projects and all the students showed sincere effort in their work.

Congratulations to all the winners and all the students who participated!

8 th Grade 1 st Place:		7 th Grade		6 th G	<u>rade</u>
1st Place:	Hajira Khan	1st Place:	Syed Shah	1 st	Ameen Atta
	Hannan Ali		Esmma Almousa		Malik Khelifat
2 nd Place:	Muqtadir Ali	2 nd Place:	Afaaq Munawar		Ammat Zeinoba
2 nd Place: 3 rd Place:	Nagham AlJalous	3rd Place:	Khizar Malik	2^{nd}	Mohammad Mustafa
	_ •			3 rd	Ahmad Ahmad

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

'Nonviolence . . . the most potent weapon' was the theme of this year's student essay contest honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Several students from Salam School participated in the contest this year, and four students were selected for their winning essays.

Ahsan Sikander – Third Place | Grades 11-12 Khamis Assad– Second Place | Grades 9-10 Kanaan Hamdan – Third Place | Grades 4-5

These students received an award at the 30th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration which took place on Sunday at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. The students' winning essays were also published in a special section of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Sunday, January 19th, 2014. As part of our outreach efforts, the ISM has co-sponsored the MLK program for a number of years. The program focuses on the civil rights efforts of Martin Luther King and the African American Community. Congratulations to all these students and to all those who participated!

Salam School NEWS

Salam School held its annual Islamic Studies Speech Competition in late November and December. The topic this year was "The Importance of Salat.' All students in grades 4 through 12 participated in the competition and winners were selected by judges that were enlisted from the community at large. Salam School thanks all of the Islamic Studies teachers, staff and judges, for all their assistance in making this a hugely successful endeavor of the school.

Mr. Shalaby, Salam School Principal, has started a blog, http://www.salamschool.net/blog/index.php. Not only is he the school principal, but he is also teaching some high school English classes. In his blog, he analyzes great pieces of literature. Be sure to visit his blog and leave commentary on the essays.

On January 18, 2014, Salam School held a pancake Students from Salam School also participated in the breakfast. About 150 people braved the snow and cold weather and enjoyed pancakes. Mrs. AbuSaif, Ms. Migdady and Mrs. AbdelSamad, faculty of Salam Elementary School, along with a troop of high school student volunteers, made the pancakes fresh and hot off the griddle. Bright yellow scarves were raffled off and 26 of the guests left the event with a new scarf. The scarves were gifts from The National School Choice Organization. The Week of January 26-February 1st is School Choice Week. Milwaukee has the oldest and most successful school choice program in the nation.

Students from Salam School participated in the Scripps Howards Spelling Bee in early January. Competitions are held in classrooms to determine winners. The c-h-a-m-p-io-n and runner up then represent out school at the district competition. This year's winners were Nurahayati Ali, 1st place, Hanan Khawaja, 2nd place, and Abdelrahman Kadadha, 3rd Place.





school wide National Geographic Geography Bee. The winners were Ameen Ali, 1st Place, Ahmad Kadadha, 2nd and Qosai Kadadha, 3rd place.

Salam School is a participating school in the WIAA, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. sports include both varsity and junior varsity athletics in volleyball, cross country, soccer, and basketball. Mr. Petrick is our athletic director and coordinator of the competitions. Students from Salam School compete with their peers all over the state of Wisconsin. The Salam Varsity Basketball team is set to compete in regionals. Great job all you student athletes!

Students at Salam Elementary School enjoyed Mad Science Night in November. Over 150 students along with their families participated in the event. Additionally, over 70 students participated in an afterschool Mad Science Camp for 8 weeks in November and December.

Upcoming events include: Family Literacy Night, Family Math Night, AHA Jump Rope for Heart, Junior Achievement Seminars, Arabic Day in both schools, The

Islamic Studies Knowledge Bowl, Arabic Spelling Bee, and the annual Quran Contest.

Khawla Asmar, M. Ed. Vice Principal Salam Elementary School

Love: An Islamic Perspective



Love is a multifarious comprehensive concept and involves a variety of different feelings, states, attitudes and modes. It can be an interpersonal affection based upon kinship and familiarity; an emotional attraction and attachment stemming from physical passions and desires for intimacy; a spiritual urge to do good to others

through acts of love, mercy, compassion and affection; a material urge to gratify certain pleasures; and, a divine virtue in emulation of divine perfections and bounties. One loves one's children and parents; one's spouse and potential life partner; one's goals and life priorities; one's preferred meals and sports; and one's religious and spiritual causes. Love means different things to different people based upon their orientations, outlooks and preferences. In the modern Western culture, love is usually connected with romance and emotional intimacy.

Love in its modern usage often refers to a significant relationship connection. Very often it is romantic, emotional and intimate. It is based upon a sense of appreciation of beauty, perfection, excellence, preciousness, value, rarity and extraordinariness in the beloved. It involves the loving and the beloved and a strong emotional desire on the part of lover to connect with the beloved. Initially it may start as an emotional urge to appreciate the beloved, but soon it degenerates into passions culminating into desires for physical closeness and intimacy. Romance and intimacy are thought to be the two constituent elements of modern concept of love. Psychologists have shown that love in its modern physical garb is a chemical reaction that takes place in human brain. Norepinephrine, dopamine and some other chemicals are released by the brain and are responsible for the sense of bliss and excitement which humans feel during the process of love.

One can imagine that love in its emotional and material sense is short lived as the endocrine glands can never secrete norepinephrine and dopamine hormones for a long time or on permanent basis. Hormones are released momentarily and are also conditioned by a number of other factors such as health conditions, age and mental status. Therefore, romantic love is very short lived and temporary. At the same time its effects are very real. The brain reacts to love as it reacts to cocaine. The neural fireworks caused by the sense of love are truly strong and can be addictive like cocaine. That is why Islam does neither deny nor ignore romantic love and its consequences. However, it places it in

the realm of passions rather than compassion or true love. Islam does not confine its concept of love in a fleeting phenomenon such as momentary pleasure without denying its fervor and intensity. The Islamic concept of love is far more comprehensive, encompassing and enduring and is rather spiritual than material. It involves the totality of one's being. Islam recognizes romantic love as a means to building a lasting relationship between the husband and wife so that they can develop a sense of compassionate love over time. The gradually attained compassionate love then results in a long term commitment and pair bonding. It provides the needed stability to glue the couple together so that they can contribute to procreation and reformation of human species. A progressive transition from short lived romantic love to enduring compassionate love is the key to a stable and lasting relationship. It provides common grounds, interests and activities through which the couple cement their bonds. On the other hand, compassionate love is fundamental to spiritual love which, according to the Qur'an, is the essence of human existence. Unfortunately, many people stop at the first step and do not make a transition from the romantic to spiritual kinds of love.

For the purpose of this article I am dividing love into two main categories: 1) Popular Romantic or Compassionate Love and 2) Divine or Spiritual Love. Islam recognizes both kinds of love but prefers the spiritual aspect of love over the romantic one. Islamic law thoroughly deals with the popular concept of romantic love and provides guidance for proper channelization of passions, desires and needs for emotional affinity and physical intimacy. recognizes that the sentiments of love are natural and can be intensely overwhelming. Indirect and discrete expression of loving sentiments is one thing while turning them into unlawful gestures and forbidden acts is something totally different. Discrete expressions are permitted while the unlawful gestures are proscribed. The way social media and communicative tools are currently being used by the Muslim youth to express their sentiments is totally unacceptable. Self-control and discipline are highly encouraged.

(Continued on Next Page)

See Dr. Shah's Khutbas and lectures at: www.youtube.com/DrZulfiqarAliShah

The Qur'an states:

وَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِيمَا عَرَّضْتُمْ بِهِ مِنْ خِطْبَةِ النِّسَاءِ أَوْ أَكْنَنْتُمْ فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ أَنْكُمْ سَتَذْكُرُونَهُنَّ وَلَكِنْ لَا تُوَاعِدُوهُنَّ سِرًّا إِلَّا أَنْ تَقُولُوا قَوْلًا مَعْرُوفًا وَلَا تَعْزِمُوا عُقْدَةَ النَّكُمْ سَتَذْكُرُونَهُنَّ وَلَكِنْ لَا تُوَاعِدُوهُنَّ سِرًّا إِلَّا أَنْ تَقُولُوا قَوْلًا مَعْرُوفًا وَلَا تَعْزِمُوا عُقْدَةَ النِّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُ وَاعْلَمُوا النِّكَاحِ حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ الْكِتَابُ أَجَلَهُ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ خَلِيمٌ

"There is no sin for you in that which you proclaim or hide in your minds concerning your troth with women. Allah knows that you will remember them. But plight not your troth with women except by uttering a recognized form of words. And do not consummate the marriage until (the term) prescribed is run. Know that Allah knows what is in your minds, so beware of Him; and know that Allah is Forgiving, Clement." (2:235)

Romantic love is permitted only in a controlled and institutionalized setting. Islam works towards proper channelization of romantic and emotional sentiments through the institution of marriage which is founded on three pillars of "Sukun, Mawaddah and Rahmah", meaning a mutual sense of tranquility, loving affection and mercy. The Qur'an states:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

"And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect." (30:21)

Therefore, the Qur'anic concept of emotional love revolves around the precepts of mental, spiritual and physical tranquility, loving compassion and a sense of caring and sharing bordering on mercy and kindness. Love is not confined to emotional and physical gratification. It encompasses mental as well as spiritual realms. It is also not duty bound only. It goes further than that into the areas of loving compassion where one goes far beyond the call of duty into the realms of selfemptying and Ihsan. One does not perform only the duties and give what is due to the other but out of love gives more than what is required by norms. In true love the utmost sense of caring and sharing overcomes the temporary pleasures of intimacy. Intimacy and pleasure serve as a mean to lasting bondage and happiness and not the end in itself. That is why the true love is neither time bound nor restricted by moods, age or health. It is an everlasting internal connection which stands the pressures of circumstances. It involves the totality of one's being. Physical and emotional intimacies are momentary while loving compassion is lasting. Islam believes in lasting love rather than temporary and fading feelings of intimacy expressed on specific occasions. Islamic concept of love encompasses intimacy, both passion and compassion and a strong sense of commitment that goes beyond the call of duty and verges on self-sacrifice and self-emptying.

Compassionate love then is connected with the love of Allah (SWT), His Prophet (SAW) and His Way, the religion of Islam. Spiritual love is the highest kind of love in Islam. Allah (SWT) is the most perfect, beautiful, precious, extraordinary and unique. Nothing comes closer to His perfections, beauties, bounties and sublimity. That is why He deserves the utmost love. Creatures should be loved through the lense of divine love. The Islamic credo of faith can be translated as the credo of love. There is no love except the love of Allah (SWT). We must love Him with the totality of our beings and love everything else due to our love for Him as everything other than Him is the creation of Allah (SWT).

In short, romantic love is a part and not the whole of love in Islam. It is a means to establishing a lasting compassionate love, which in turn is a prelude to spiritual love. Thus, spiritual love is the essence of Islamic tradition and surpasses all other kinds of love. The Qur'an states:

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَهْوَالُ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بَأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ

"Say: If your fathers, and your sons, and your brethren, and your wives, and your tribe, and the wealth you have acquired, and merchandise for which you fear that there will no sale, and dwellings you desire are dearer to you than Allah and His messenger and striving in His way: then wait till Allah brings His command to pass. Allah guides not wrongdoing folk." (9:24)

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah ISM Religious Director

Ibn Abbas reported: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "We do not see for those who love one another anything like marriage."

Sunan Ibn Majah, Book Of Marriage Number 1847, Sahih

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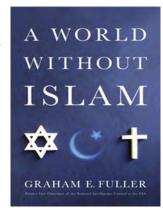
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Book Corner

A World Without Islam

By Graham E. Fuller

The author of our book selection, Graham Fuller, served as Vice Chairman of the National Intelligence Council with the CIA and is currently a professor of history at Simmons Fraser University. During his work with the CIA, he was in charge of long range strategic forecasting in the Middle East during the Iranian revolution.



Imagine that Saudi Arabia or any other country in the region undergoes a radical revolution that would lead to the failure of its current regime. What hidden forces, currently unknown today, might rise to power? "The purpose of this exercise is to lend flesh and substance to otherwise unthinkable or unlikely series of events. This exercise would serve to sharpen the analytical antennae to indicators to such possible events".

The author employed the method of strategic forecasting to illuminate history from an alternative angle. Assuming that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had never emerged from the Arabian peninsula and the Islamic conquest that spread Islam across a vast part of the Middle East never took place, what would the relations between the East and the West look like then and now? What powers would have emerged? Would this world be more or less peaceful?

By the time Islam appeared, injustice, intolerance and lack of human rights were prominent and guaranteed to get worse. The Roman and Persian Empire were crumbling and a power vacuum had been gradually created. Islam provided a major stabilizing force. The land controlled by Muslims grew at a much faster rate than the number of Muslims. This is a powerful indication that Islam didn't spread by the sword; in fact, it took the people of Syria 500 years to convert to Islam.

When the Muslim Army, led by Khalid Ibnu Al-Walid arrived to Damascus, leaders of the church alerted the Muslim army about points of defensive weaknesses around

the City. These tips turned out to be very helpful to the Muslims. The local communities welcomed and cooperated with Muslims. In comparison, when the Crusaders' army ran through Constantinople, they massacred over 80,000 of their fellow Christians and when they reached Jerusalem, they massacred all of the inhabitants of the City- whether they were Christian, Muslims or Jews. They didn't even spare the animals.

The Author discussed at length the relation between the religious and political establishment. He argued that the closer the religion becomes linked with State power, the further it drifts from the realm of the true teachings of the faith into the realm of politics and power. It is a selfserving cycle, where the theological doctrine comes to serve the State interest. The state then recruits clerics who bestow their theological blessing upon the state's When these government self-serving interpretations. controlled clerics lose credibility and legitimacy, others take over the interpretation of Islam. Many of these movements tend to be strict, harsh, radical and violent. The scope of the discussion changes and is no longer limited to praising the government and entertaining the safe question of ritual purity (Taharah).

While Islamists today are constantly emphasizing the unity of religion and State in Islam (*al-din wa-dawala*), in reality, religious officials in Islam never appointed leadership or controlled the State. The clerical domination of Iran is a glaring exception, which is a modern Shiite innovation. Even in Saudi Arabia, the monarchy is far more powerful than clerical institutions.

The Author concluded that the factors that lead to the decline of the Muslim world have little to do with Islam and a great deal to do with political and geopolitical changes in the world, as well as other external factors. Muslim lost their global vision and retreated to their local communities. Many of them started to seek exclusivity, drew boundaries between themselves and others, and viewed themselves right while others are wrong and misguided.

Summary by Nabil Salous

Verily it is your Lord that knows best, which (among men) have strayed from His Path: and He knows best those who receive (true) Guidance.

(Surah Al-Qalam 68:7)

ISM Today-Opinions

The Hearts of Young Muslims: Music, it's Influence & Islam

About the author: Alan Knapinski is a revert to Islam. Based on his experiences growing up with different types of music, he feels that some music can have a detrimental impact on our youth. He explains his personal views in the article below.

As a revert to Islam, the Muslim and Muslima youth may

not face the same problems growing up as I did. Maybe I cannot relate to them the same way a Muslim born and raised here can, but if they are going to grow up on the same streets of my own, I am sure I can offer some advice. The topic I have chosen is the dangers of music.

Music is more insidious than it seems. It is everywhere. It is heard in the marketplace when you are out for groceries. It is present in every movie and every video game. It is easily accessible, and it is addictive. The media is the greatest tool to ever be used against a pious people. I was raised on music. Growing up, it wasn't the prophet Muhammad, the praised, peace be on him, who told me to be a simple man. It was Lynyrd Skynard. Nowadays we have Wiz Khalifa telling the youth, "So What."

"So what we get drunk?
So what we smoke weed?
We're just having fun
We don't care who sees
So what we go out?
That's how it's supposed to be
Living young and wild and free"

This is targeted at the youth, and we can't say 'so what' to what Allah sees. We have been given a gift in Islam, and we are a favor to all mankind. Take it from someone who didn't care and lived a profligate life to tell you that the

cursed road is so full of hardship that you will ride and float easily all the way until you are waving goodbye and sinking into hellfire. Music is addictive. I have quit many things, including a vice that holds many tight, including Muslims (tobacco). Of all the drugs, and all the stimulants, and all the desires that can control a person, music is the hardest I have encountered and tI have ried to free myself from its grip.

Music works on you. It elevates your mood and works on you subconsciously until you are nodding your head and

saying "so what".

That was last years hit, but it still stays relevant. Science shows that music alters the mood, and sometimes the lyrical message is good, but you cannot mix good with bad.

We must recognize a fact. Most music is anti-Islamic. It propagates a lifestyle that is un-islamic, and many people base their whole image off of rock stars and what they sing. Sometimes, maybe, we don't want to hear Qur'an any more than we want to hear our parents tell us again and again how to live our lives. But fear Allah, and fear a sin that may seem small, but is not small. It is important to listen to the Qur'an and it is not important to listen to music. Otherwise, you might be caught in a sin that will cost you to the tune of your afterlife. May Allah reward us all with Jinnah.



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On the Day of Judgment, No Step of a servant of God shall slip Until he has answered concerning four things:

His body and how he used it,
His life and how he spent it,
His wealth and how he earned it and
His knowledge and what he did with it.



ISM Calendar of Weekly Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 ◆ Brothers Basketball ◆ Topic Oriented class with Dr. Zulfiqar (11:00-1:00) ◆ Sunday School (10:00—1:00) ◆ Introduction to Islam Class (11:00-1:00) 		◆ Arabic Tafseer class for brothers (after Isha)	◆ Fiqh Class with Dr. Zulfiqar (6:30pm)	◆ Sister's Halaqa (Urdu) (11-1) ◆ Quran & Arabic Institute (QAI) (6-8)	 ◆ Pre-Khutbah ◆ Khutbah (1pm) ◆ Book Club (7pm) ◆ Urdu Jalsa (6pm) ◆ Youth program (7-10) ◆ QAI ◆ Arabic Jalsa (After Isha) 	 ◆ Brothers Volleyball ◆ Children's Morning Program (11-1) ◆ QAI Program (10-1)

Iqama/Jama'ah Prayer Times at ISM

Day	Fajr	Sunrise Dhuhr		Asr	Maghrib	Isha
			FEB	RUARY	,	
11-20	6:00	6:41	1:10	3:15	+5 min	8:00
21-28	5:45	6:29	1:10	3:30	+5 min	8:00
		MARCH				
1-8	5:30	6:07	1:10	3:30	+5 min	8:00
9-20	6:15	6:56	1:10	4:30	+5 min	8:30
21-31	6:00	6:35	1:10	4:45	+5 min	8:45
	APRIL					
1-10	5:45	6:20	1:10	4:45	+5 min	9:00
11-20	5:15	6:02	1:10	4:45	+5 min	9:15

ISM Upcoming Events

February/March Events

6pm	Youth Night Commencement
6pm	Crossroads (Youth Program)
6pm	Community Dinner
	Salam School Convention
	Salam School Spring Fest
7pm	Story Night with Noman Ali Khan
	6pm 6pm

ISM Today is a publication of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit religious organization.

All articles, news, events, pictures, and other content should be submitted to ISMToday@ismonline.org



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