



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ISM Today

A Publication of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee

May 2014

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Volume I Issue V

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Annual Meeting of the ISM

On Sunday April 27, 2014, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee held its annual membership meeting at the Islamic Center.

In his "State of the Society" address, President Ahmed Quereshi reviewed the organization's accomplishments during the past year. Br. Ahmed also gave a general overview of the organization's financial status, including the increase in the organization's net worth. He discussed the capital improvements that have been made during the past year, including the work on the new Masjid in Brookfield, and he spoke about the upcoming work that is to be completed at 8th and Layton to accommodate the free medical clinic and adult day care being planned by MCHC. Br. Ahmed also discussed the social service programs that are conducted by the ISM, and the youth and adult education programs. Finally, Br. Ahmed provided the attendees with information about our intra-faith efforts involving other Masajid and Islamic organizations as well as our Interfaith and outreach work with the community at large.

Treasurer Nabil Salous provided a detailed overview of the financial status of the ISM for calendar year 2013, including the organization's operations and investments. Br. Nabil also answered all financial questions that were raised by the members.

After an open discussion of community concerns and issues, the ISM Election Committee (composed of Sr. Hoda Al-Kaff, Dr. Aijaz Qhavi and Sr. Janan Najeeb) announced the results of the elections for 2014. The following individuals were elected to serve a three year term on the thirteen member ISM Executive Board (Shura): Sr. Inshirah Farhoud was elected as ISM Publications/Communications Chair, Br. Munjed Ahmad was elected as Fundraising Chair, Dr. Djelmami-Hani was elected as at At-Large Member and Br. Khaled Ahmed was also elected as an At-Large Member. Congratulations to all of the new Board Members!

Br. Ahmed Quereshi thanked all those who ran in the ISM elections and paid special tribute to the outgoing Shura members, Sr. Rafat Arain and Br. Syed K. Hussaini. Alhamdulillah, both expressed their intention to remain active with the ISM.



Construction of Brookfield Masjid Continues

After a long, cold winter, construction of our Brookfield Masjid is moving at full speed. See Page 15 for an update & more photos.



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Br. Ziad Hamdan

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From the Executive Director

Assalamu Alaikum Brothers and Sisters.

Alhamdulillah, the ISM has seen many visitors over the past few months. On April 12, an "Open House" program was held for the general public. Although the turnout was not as great as we wanted, it was decent. On September 20 and 21, 2014, the ISM will be holding another Open House event as part of its participation in the "Doors Open - Milwaukee" program that is held throughout the city. We expect this program to generate many more visitors. The ISM continues to receive visitors on a weekly basis. During more active months, we receive between 500 and 1000 visitors.



On April 27, the ISM held its annual meeting for members. The annual meeting is a very important gathering that reflects the transparency and openness of the ISM and its governing board. In addition to reviewing all financial matters, the meeting offers an open forum for those who wish to express their concerns or disagreements and those who wish to offer helpful suggestions. Alhamdulillah, our community has many people who have good intentions and good ideas for improving the organization. Some of the attendees used the question and answer session to thank all the volunteers (including ISM Board Members) for their commitment and service. I would like to personally congratulate the new board members and to thank the outgoing board members for the wonderful commitment they have made to your faith and community. May Allah (swt) bless and reward all those who commit their time, their energy, their earnings and their talent in the path of Allah (fee sabeel Allah).

The next few months will be quite busy at the ISM. The ISM will be holding its Annual High School Graduation Program on May 24 to celebrate all Muslim students who are graduating from both public and parochial schools. (If you are graduating this year, we hope that you and your family will participate in our program). The ISM will see a major increase in the use of its facilities during these months for graduations, engagement parties, weddings, Ameen's and other events. The ISM will also be working to prepare the Islamic Center for Ramadan which begins June 28! Insha'Allah, the ISM will be holding its "Get Ready for Ramadan Program" on Saturday, June 21. For Eid ul-Fitr, we have once again booked the Humboldt Park Bandshell since it was an amazing success last year. Insha'Allah we will have the same great weather this year.

May Allah (swt) bless all of you and your families.

Othman Atta

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Community News

Congratulations On Your Newborn!

The ISM would like to congratulate:

- ♦ Rami Bleibel & Yasmeen Qassem on the birth of their daughter, Maryam
- ♦ Nawal Jarabaa & Jamal Sood on the birth of their daughter, Jenna
- ♦ Emily Hernandez & Carlton B Brown on the birth of their son, Zakariah



We wish them a life full of joy & Iman!

Congratulations on your Engagement

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

- * Rawan Assad & Shadi Assad
- * Ayesha Abdullah & Fauzan Ali
- * Muhammad Ayesh & Sandy Awad
- * Ayia Dahir & Radi Abdul Jabar
- * Elif Dogan & Ibrahim Dogn
- * Shazeen Harunani & Zaid Pardesi
- * Ibrahim Masalha & Hadeel Warda

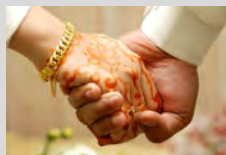


Congratulations on your Marriage

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

Congratulations to you and your families!

- * Ameer Hamza and Hinna Musavvir
- * Omar Joudeh Hamed and Rema Zeyad Abdeljabbar
- * Afreena Khan & Haafiz Saad Syed
- * Najah Mirza & Khawar Ali



إنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

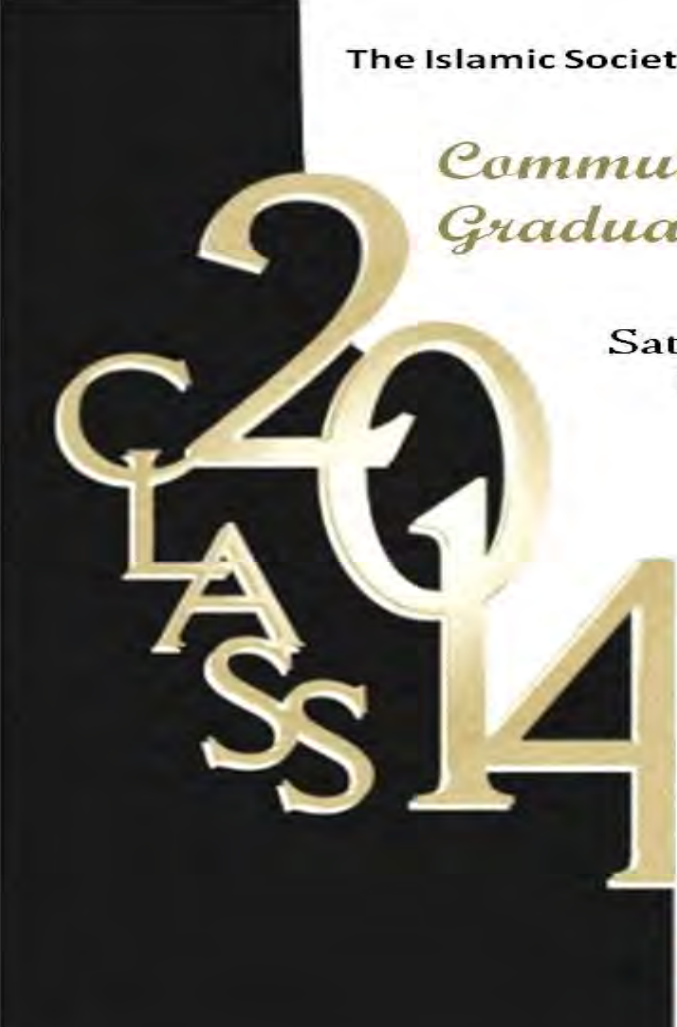
Inna Lilahi wa Ina Ilaihi raji'oun. To Him we belong and to Him we shall return. The ISM would like to extend our condolences to the families who lost someone dear to their hearts. We ask Allah (swt) to forgive their sins and bless them with a home in Jannah.

- * Abu Ajeel Al-Dulaimi whose brother and his sons (Br. Al-Dulaimi's nephews) were killed in Iraq
- * **Hajj Mohammad Attari**, grandfather of AbdelMagid Taleb Attari
- * **Br. Javaid Iqbal**, husband of Shabana Javaid and father of Usman, Noman, Maham and Mahnoor Javaid.
- * **Br. Mahmoud Jassar**, father of Mohammad Jassar and Mona Jassar.
- * **Br. Zaki Musa Al-Bakri**, relative of Faisal Qedan (Abu bashar) and others.
- * **Sr. Khairiah Bajis**, mother of Abdulmuti Abdelfattah and Omar Abdelfattah.
- * **Br. Ghaleb Kayali**, uncle of Ayman Alamy.
- * **Hajja Suaad Alayan**, mother of Zahreddin, Malek, Abdulghani and Jamal Al Chaar.
- * **Sr. Kamela Ibrahim Nassar**, mother of Yasser Abu Hadba and Adnan Abu Hadba
- * **Br. Jamal Yousef Eid**, father of Yousef, Medhat, Abdelhameed, Olfat, Arwa and Heba Attari.

Register Now!!

Alhamdulillah, another academic year has come to an end and our community has a new group of students who have successfully completed high school. If you or anyone you know would like to participate in the ISM Annual Community Graduation, please email us at ismooffice@ismonline.org. Please complete and attach the high school graduation form which can be found in the ISM office or on our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IslamicSocietyofMilwaukee>. Please send a current photo of yourself, a baby photo of yourself, and any other photos you would like to share for our graduate slideshow. **All materials must be submitted to the ISM Office by May 12th, 2014.**

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!



The Islamic Society of Milwaukee presents..

*Community High School
Graduation Celebration*

Saturday, May 24th 2014
ISM Community Center
815 W Layton Ave.

Reception

<i>Social</i>	5:00pm
<i>Dinner</i>	5:30pm
<i>Program</i>	6:30pm

Ticket Information:
Adults \$12
Children \$8

For more information, please contact the ISM Office at 414.282.1812 or via email at ismooffice@ismonline.org.

The June edition of the ISM Today will feature all the university and high school graduates of 2014. If you are interested in writing a personalized message to a graduate, email us at ismtoday@ismonline.org.



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President's Message

Reflection on the ISM's 2014 Annual Meeting

Assalaamu alaikum, brothers and sisters:

On April 27, 2014, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee held its Annual Meeting. First of all, I wish to assure all of you who weren't there that we conducted our normal annual meeting, including a general discussion on community affairs. We discussed the challenges that face our community, including but not limited to challenges facing our youth and families, our needy and the financial goals of: acquiring use of another school building for Salam School; completion of the ISM West masjid construction by September 2014; completing development of parking in the land behind the Islamic Center; participating in development of the medical clinic and adult daycare space for the Muslim Community & Health Center; acquiring additional land around the Islamic Center; and last, but not least, paying off the 801 W. Layton Ave. building loan in 2015.



However, most of our dues-paying members – more than 90% – were not there. We probably had only about 50 to 60 brothers and 5 to 10 sisters in attendance out of a total dues-paying membership of about 860 people. In other words, the in-person turn-out was less than 10% of our dues-paying membership.

Of course, there can be a variety of reasons why our dues-paying members might not attend that would range from purely personal reasons of no concern to the ISM to other reasons that should concern the ISM. Of course, those with the responsibilities of leadership at ISM could seek to re-assure themselves that most people are satisfied with the general course of progress at the ISM and thus might feel that their attendance was unnecessary, but I think that that would be doing a disservice to those who don't attend out of genuine negative feelings.

In the past, the ISM Shura has held open meetings to receive community feedback. For a period during my presidency, we held meetings on Fridays after the Jum'ah prayer, but at those meetings more Shura members attended than community members with a total attendance of fewer than 20 people. If we can't attract our members to an annual meeting or to meetings after Jum'ah prayer when we have more than 1000 people in the masjid, then we must find another effective way to receive feedback and answer questions.

Perhaps, one way to accomplish this is to institute an occasional question-and-answer section in our newsletter, similar to what has been done in the past regarding questions and answers for an imam. Therefore, I am requesting that our members e-mail me at my e-mail address ahmedquereshi@hotmail.com with their questions and comments. Some of the questions and comments, insha'Allah, will be routed to the Shura for further consideration, while others that are appropriate for the purpose will be selected for a response in the newsletter.

Finally, you will read elsewhere in this newsletter about the ISM election results. I am not complaining about any of the results or about the work of the ISM Election Committee. I am grateful for those who were willing to run and for the hard work of the ISM Election Committee. However, regardless of the cause, there seems to be general agreement that the election process needs to be improved. In addition, I note that in the past, the number of sisters on the Shura frequently numbered three; however, the number declined two and now there is only one. I consider the leadership, advice and role of sisters on the ISM Shura to be a valuable asset that this Society cannot do without. For whatever reason, except for the two sisters who were willing to stand for re-election, no other sisters were willing to be nominated to run for a position, while, on the other hand, 16 brothers were nominated. I think that prior to next year's annual meeting, there should be a special meeting of the ISM general body to consider a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a certain number of positions for sisters, even if this means expansion of the Shura.

May Allah (SWT) guide us all on the straight path.

Ahmed J. Quereshi, ISM President

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



Question: Q1: I have tried multiple times to start wearing full Hijab (like skirts, Abaya, dresses). However, I just can't seem to push myself to fully commit to it. What do you advise?

Response from Imam Ziad: Thank you for your question. It proves that you are trying your best to please Allah and follow the divine guidance, but still struggling in some aspects, which is normal. It is a known fact that our commitment as Muslims to various religious obligations is connecting with our level of Eman (Faith). The more we have a strong faith, the easier for us to apply. The opposite is true too.

Every Muslim woman must know that Hijab is a Fard (Obligatory), and not optional, for her. It is a worship that Allah prescribed unto believing women in front of strange men. Therefore, believing women should abide by Allah's and His prophet's command in regard to dress code. They should say "Here we listen and obey". Allah SWT in the Quran clearly describes the stand of the Muslim when he or she receives the command of Allah and His Prophet, where He said:

وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا مُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَىٰ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا مُّبِينًا

Now whenever God and His Apostle have decided a matter, it is not for a believing man or a believing woman to claim freedom of choice insofar as they themselves are concerned: for he who [thus] rebels against God and His messenger has already, most obviously, gone astray (Quran 33:36)

In another part of the same Chapter in the Quran, Allah commands His Prophet Mohammad PBUH to command his wives, his daughters and the believing women to adhere to the prescribed dress code in Islam and the wisdom behind such matter.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لَأَزْوَاجِكُمْ وَبَنَاتِكُمْ وَنِسَاءَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ ذَلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

O Prophet! Tell thy wives and thy daughters, as well as all [other] believing women, that they should draw over themselves some of their outer garments [when in public]: this will be more conducive to their being recognized [as righteous women] and not annoyed. But [withal,] God is

indeed much-forgiving, a dispenser of grace! (Quran 33:59) Based on the clear divine instructions in the previous Quranic verses, the believing woman should not hesitate to abide by the divine command and should hasten wholeheartedly to please Allah SWT and His Prophet PBUH.

A Muslim women, regardless where she resides, should be proud of her commitment and modesty. Hijab is a symbol of liberation and not oppression as some claim. It is a symbol of purification and modesty. Those who claim it is a sign of ignorance, backwardness and extremism do not intend to promote good for Muslim women. Those that claim that Eman (Faith) is only in the heart make a false claim that goes against the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad PBUH. Can those who claim this say that the Muslim women who are opposed to Hijab have purer and more believing hearts than the wives of the Prophet Mohammad and the early Sahabiyat (female companions of Prophet Mohammad PBUH). Muslim scholars defined Eman (faith) as: "believing in the heart, saying of the tongue and the actions of the physical body." Eman (faith) increases by obedience to Allah and decreases by disobedience. Therefore, believing in the heart alone without implementation in real life is not going to benefit those who claim that faith is only in the heart. It has been said: "Faith is what is rooted in the heart and proved by one's actions."

I sincerely give a lot of credit to those sisters who convert to Islam and without hesitation commit themselves to Hijab from day one, whereas many Muslim women who were born and raised in Muslim families are still thinking about Hijab or not even considering it.

Another important item to note is that Hijab is not only (or primarily) covering the hair. A Muslim woman who wants to truly to adhere to the Muslim dress code should read the requirements of Hijab in the books of Hadith and Fiqh and try her best to follow such requirements.

I ask Allah to help you and all the Muslim women (and men) to commit yourselves to what pleases Allah. Pleasing Allah is our ultimate goal in this life. I advise you to take the necessary steps to follow Allah's command when it comes to dress code and be sure that Allah will reward you greatly and make things easy for you. Allah SWT promised those who strive for His sake to guide them to His path:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ (29:69)

But as for those who strive hard in Our cause -We shall most certainly guide them onto paths that lead unto Us: for, behold, God is indeed with the doers of good.

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Falafel Sandwich A mixture of seasoned chickpeas fried and served in bread with salad pickles and tahini sauce	\$4.99	\$5.99
Beef Shawarma Sandwich Marinated thin slices of beef cooked on a rotisserie and served in bread with tomatoes, onions, and tahini	\$5.99	\$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, skewered and grilled served in bread with tomatoes, pickles, and our homemade garlic sauce	\$5.99	\$6.99
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 warm toasted bun.		\$4.99

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

PLATES

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

SIDES

Hummus Plate	\$5.99
Baba Ghannouj	\$5.99
Dwali Six delightful, Middle Eastern style, stuffed grape leaves filled with our seasoned rice and steamed	\$4.49
Falafel Seasoned ground chickpeas & fresh vegetables shaped into pies & deep-fried.	
3 piece	\$1.50
6 piece	\$3.00
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12 piece	\$6.00
Fries	\$2.99
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Jerusalem Salad Freshly diced cucumbers, tomatoes, and parsley	\$3.49
Tabouleh Freshly diced tomatoes, onions, parsley, green paper and cracked wheat with a magic touch of olive oil and lemon juice	\$3.49
Pickle Mix	\$3.49
Fattoush A harmonious mix of romaine lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions dressed with our special homemade dressing and homemade pita croutons	\$3.99
Yogurt Salad Freshly diced cucumbers and fresh mint dressed in yogurt	\$3.49
Garlic Sauce 2oz.	\$0.75
Tahini 2 oz.	\$0.75
Arabic hot sauce 2 oz.	\$0.50
Lentil soup	\$2.49

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DESSERTS

Baklava	\$1.99
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Community Events

ISM Youth recently concluded two mega events which, with the blessing of Allah swt received overwhelmingly positive feedback and witnessed incredible turnouts!

Crossroads

This youth series featured four episodes with each targeting a sensitive topic relevant particularly to youth between the age of 14-18. Given the critical nature of the discussions, qualified speakers such as Mufti Kamani, Dr. Abu Taleb, Habeeb Quadri, and Sheikh Khalid Herrington, each with substantial experience with youth and counseling, were brought in to address the community. Series featured a strong Q&A component where youth could anonymously get their questions addressed and alleviate their deep-seated issues.



Overall, the series witnessed a large turnout from the youth featuring entertaining skits, foods, youth khatiras, and other activities to create a unique Saturday experience which youth would look forward to weekly. On average, each episode was attended by over 200 people and we ask Allah swt to accept the efforts of all those involved!

Family Night: Stories from the Qur'an



Family Night is a class offered by Bayyinah Institute taught by renowned Ustadh Nouman Ali Khan. This mega sold-out event witnessed over 1000+ people from Milwaukee community (and beyond) jam-packing the ISM gym and spilling well into the hallways and Center Hall!

In this 3-hour class, Ustadh Nouman introduced the audience to the incredible and breathtaking Divine storytelling style of the Qur'an. As he dove deep into the story of Musa AS, he drew attention to the modern filmmaking devices already being used in the Qur'an 1400 years ago. Furthermore, he expounded upon the profound similarities between the plot of Qur'anic stories and their 'plagiarized' counterparts masquerading as Hollywood/Disney masterpieces such as Lion King, Kung Fu Master, and others. In addition, he shared deep lessons at each turn of the story of Musa AS all the while delighting the audience with his incredible sense of humor and keeping them awake during this 3 hour journey.

While all above went incredibly well, Allah swt further blessed this gathering with the conversion of Anthony C. who, being mesmerized by the depth of the Qur'an, accepted Islam and took the shahadah at the hands of Ustadh Nouman. Although Ustadh Nouman has visited countless Muslim communities nationally and internationally (in many cases much larger than Milwaukee), he complimented Milwaukee Muslim community for an incredible turnout and their vibrant spirit.



Community Event: Story Night Featuring Sh. Noman Ali Khan



Community Event: Story Night Featuring Sh. Noman Ali Khan



Community Event: ISM Open House



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;...



Visitors to the Islamic Society of Milwaukee (March-April)

- ◆ Urban Immersion Group
- ◆ Alverno: Nursing students visited the ISM to learn about cultural sensitive ity when dealing with Muslim patients.
- ◆ Urban Immersion Group #2
- ◆ Alverno: Students from a Middle Eastern Class learned about Middle Eastern cultural, political activism and cultural connections.
- ◆ Academy for Leadership Innovation
- ◆ Rufus King High School: An interfaith group from Rufus King came to explore the Islamic faith .
- ◆ Thomas Moore High School: A group of students interviewed a member of the ISM staff for a sociology class.
- ◆ Marquette: A Marquette counselling student toured the ISM and interviewed a member of the staff on Islam and the different cultures represented at the ISM.

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 ismooffice@isonline.org.

Outreach by the Islamic Society of Milwaukee (March-April)

- ◆ Wilson Park Senior Center: A member of the ISM staff gave a speech on Muslim practices, rituals and worship: their purpose, goal and influence on the wider human community.
- ◆ Concordia University: A member of the ISM Staff spoke to a Cross Cultural Communications class on the general beliefs of Islam and Muslims.
- ◆ Emerge Religious Diversity Panel: A member of the ISM staff participated in the religious diversity panel during Emerge's Cultural Competency Weekend.

ISM West Construction Resumes!

With the arrival of spring and following a cold, brutal and seemingly never-ending winter in Wisconsin, alhamdulillah, masjid construction in Brookfield has resumed.

Over the next several months there are many activities planned to accelerate the building progress. Some of the recent accomplishments and upcoming work are as follows:

Accomplishments & In Progress

- The concrete flooring on all levels is being completed. This will allow the installation of the outside doors and will accelerate work on the inside of the Masjid.
- HVAC units have all been installed on the roof
- 50+ truck loads of dirt have been transferred from the south side to the Brookfield Masjid site to fill the planters and for grading the area
- Masonry work is progressing on the structure

Next Steps

- Sprinkler system installations are scheduled
- Begin framing and dividing the inside area into rooms as per design
- Finalizing the calligraphy work for the masjid entrance & design between the windows
- Selection of internal fixtures, including plumbing, railings, etc.

Unfortunately due to the weather related inactivity over the past couple months, the masjid completion is now targeted for around September 2014. Insha'Allah, we will be organizing a large "Open House" for the entire community at that time. We will invite our neighbors, our elected officials and our interfaith partners.

The ISM West Fundraiser is scheduled for the third Saturday of Ramadan (Saturday, July 19th) in the Peck Welcome Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The fundraising target will be around \$450-500K, which will allow us to complete the construction, insha Allah.

We request you to remember this project in your du'as. To all of you who have donated to the construction of this masjid, may Allah SWT build you a house in Jannah.

Lateef Khan

ISM Secretary & ISM West Leader





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ISM TODAY

Campus Activism

Marquette MSA

MSA's are tricky. Messy. Complicated. In a delicate balance between building relationships with those of other faith communities and providing resources and comfort for Muslim students, we, the organizers, often find ourselves struggling to maintain balance.

Alhamdulillah, by the immeasurable grace of Allah, our MSA provided not only an environment of comfort and safety for Muslims, but we have built significantly long lasting relationships with our friends from other faith communities this year. Perhaps the most essential example of this was Islam Awareness Week, in the beginning of April.

With Islam Awareness Week, we educated hundreds of individuals about the beautiful Islamic way of life; beyond just awareness, students even appreciated and admired our ways and customs. At our daily table services in the Union, students were offered free pamphlets, copies of the Qur'an, and "fortune cookies" with statements about the Prophet (sws) in them, etc. We had a movie screening on Islamophobia, a speech by Hafiz Ameer Hamza on the character of the Prophet (sws), an interfaith discussion on misconceptions in faith with Imam Zia Sheikh from Dallas, a speaker panel called 'Does Religion Still Matter?' with Haroon Moghul from Columbia University, Tahera Ahmad from Northwestern University, and Imam Zia again, and lastly, an entertainment night with comedian Aman Ali. Through these events, we not only made people aware and appreciative of Islam, but strengthened our own ties of brotherhood and sisterhood with our very own Muslim student population. Just ask the Muslim students you know who go to Marquette, and you'll hear for yourself.



Moving forward with the immense momentum we have built this past year, as well as with the support of our greater community, our successes will continue next year as well, bi'idhnillah. We have already elected our new board for the 2014-2015 year:

President: Amir Khalil
 Vice President of Student Outreach: Oday Rafati
 Vice President of Religious Coordination: Aatif Nowman
 Administrator: Ayah Ali
 Treasurer: Shaheer Khan
 Event Manager: Alaa Shanaa
 Public Relations: Samama Mahmud

Please keep the MSA in your du'as. I pray that Allah accepts all that we have done, and gives us wisdom and success in our work.

- Amir Khalil

Marquette SJP

Israeli Apartheid Week at Marquette University

From March 24th through March 27th, Students for Justice in Palestine at Marquette University had their first Israeli Apartheid Week. The events included a mock apartheid wall, Archbishop Hanna of Sebatia speaking about the struggles of Palestinian Christians under Israeli occupation, and a renowned panel of speakers from different faith backgrounds, including Osama Aburshaid and Max Blumenthal. They discussed how Palestine is a cause worth fighting for regardless of your faith. Alhamdulillah, it was a very successful week that brought attention to the Palestinian issue on the Marquette University campus. For the most part, we received positive feedback and comments but there were a few negative comments from Israeli apologists. Regardless of the opposition, Students for Justice in Palestine will continue to spread awareness about Palestine on Marquette's campus.

- Ala Ismail



Campus Activism

UWM MSA

Islam Awareness Week– March 3rd-6th)

In the beginning of March, the Muslim Students Association at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee held their Annual Islam Awareness Week. The event lasted for four days with each day focusing on different major topics in Islam. The first day of IAW touched on the basic aspects of Islam, the purpose of life, and how Islam influences a Muslim's daily life. The second day focused on the similarities of Islam to the two other Abrahamic religions, Christianity and Judaism. On the third day, the controversial topic of Jihad was discussed to shed light on the misconceptions of this concept. We had a variety of interactive activities, such as basketball and jeopardy, to get the students involved in participating in this exposition. The last and final day touched on women & cultures in Islam to show the crucial roles women play in the deen and the cultural and socio-economic diversity of Muslims.

Upcoming event: Know Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (May 1st)

The Muslim Students Association decided to end the school year with a day full of interactive posters, new videos and updated pamphlets focusing on the most perfect of men, Prophet Muhammad (S). It was a day full of knowledge for both Muslims and others to get the opportunity to educate themselves on the influential leader and final Messenger of Allah (SWT). The event will take place in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union concourse from 11am-3pm on Thursday, May 1st!

-Sehar Javed



Alverno MSA

During the spring semester, Alverno MSA organized multiple events to support Muslim students and to reach out to the community around them. Recently, Alverno MSA hosted a round table at Alverno College featuring Br. Rami Bleibel. This round table revolved around the topic "Love of the Prophet PBUH". Muslims and those of other faiths were able to learn more about the life of the Prophet PBUH and his relationship with his loved ones. Another event Alverno MSA hosted was Islamic Awareness Week (IAW). Alhamdulillah, IAW was a great success and people expressed many positive remarks. Many people from all over the Alverno campus came to view our displays, ask questions and have some food! Alverno MSA also collaborated with UW-Milwaukee MSA on a sister's zoo trip. This trip gave the Muslim sisters a chance to relax and unwind from the stresses of school while interacting with others. As the semester is coming to an end, we reflect on the past year and find ways in which we can improve our MSA next semester. Alverno MSA wishes everyone a wonderful summer inshAllah.

-Seema Oweisi



12 Tips for Married Couples

Things to Think About

1. **Take stock of what is truly important in your life.** How would you spend your time if you had six months to live? How would you think about your relationship differently?
2. **Accept compromise and tolerate the persistent differences.** Most happy couples learn to live with significant differences about money, in-laws, vacations, household chores, etc. Acknowledging the differences between the two of you does not have to mean you agree with them.
3. **Identify and separate your frustrations.** Frustrations come from many sources, work, children, school etc. Frustrations can come from the present and the past. Avoid dumping frustrations on your partner that belong somewhere else.

Things to Do

4. **Catch your partner doing something right.** Look for partner behaviors that are pleasing, and compliment your partner when he or she does them.
5. **Surprise your partner with thoughtfulness.** Use your knowledge of your partner to please him or her unexpectedly. Allow your partner to discover your thoughtfulness by her or himself. Curb your disappointment if your partner misses your effort. Try something else.
6. **Carve out “couple time” your partner will enjoy.** Our busy lives often fill up with tasks. Take time to spend with your partner.

Manage Tense Moments

7. **Before reacting angrily, count to ten.** This old adage actually works. Speak your point, but without the anger. Every expression of negative emotion requires five expressions of positive emotion to regain a position of neutral feeling.
8. **Negotiate an unconventional place to discuss contentious issues.** Moving from your usual location of arguments to another room can shift your disagreements enough to reduce negative feelings and introduce new ideas.
9. **Take a time out.** When issues get heated, politely announce a twenty-minute time out and then return with a calm tone and the intention to compromise.

When you know you have made a mistake, apologize. Few of us live closely with a partner without making some mistakes. Admit your fault, say you are sorry, and explore ways to avoid the mistake in the future.

Listen with Your Heart

11. **Provide support, solutions are secondary.** Feeling attached is a strong binding force in a relationship. Many partners seek to relieve the frustrations of daily life by sharing them with a partner. Really listening fosters togetherness. Many of us impatient listeners try to shorten the process by offering solutions before our partner is ready to hear them. Listen first. If a solution occurs to you say, “When you are ready, dear, I have a solution that might be helpful to you.” When your partner is ready, she or he will be more open to your idea.
12. **Deeply listen to your partner.** On an issue that is important to your partner, repeat your partner’s words so that he or she knows you are really listening. Keep this up and when your partner is finished, say the three most challenging words in a relationship, “Is there more?” Continue listening until your partner can answer “No” to this question. This is difficult to do but it can go a long way to strengthening your relationship.

**Brother Sohail Majeed offers family/marriage counseling at Aurora Family Services.
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ISM TODAY

Duaa of the Month: Duaas for Students

Finals week is right around the corner! Are you anxious about your upcoming exams? Having a difficult time concentrating? Read the following du'aa to achieve maximum output for your efforts.

O Allah. Let my heart be filled with light & insight & understanding & knowledge, verily you have control over all things.

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ لِي فِي قَلْبِي نُورًا وَ بَصَرًا وَ فَهْمًا وَ عِلْمًا إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

Duaa After Studying

Oh Allah! I entrust you with what I have read and studied. Oh Allah! Bring it back to me when I am in need of it. Oh Allah! You do whatever you wish; you are my availer and protector and the best of aid.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَوِدُّكَ مَا قَرَأْتُ وَمَا حَفَظْتُ،
فَرَضُهُ عَلَيَّ عِنْدَ حَاجَتِي إِلَيْهِ، إِنَّكَ عَلَى مَا تَشَاءُ
قَدِيرٌ وَأَنْتَ حَسْبِي وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

Allahuma inni astaw-di'uka ma qara'tu wama hafath-tu farudduhu 'allaya inda hajati elayhi innaka 'ala ma-tasha'u qadeer wa anta hasbeeya wa na'mal wakeel

Duaa Before Studying

اللَّهُمَّ انْفَعْنِي بِمَا عَلَّمْتَنِي وَ عَلَّمْنِي مَا يَنْفَعُنِي
اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ فَهْمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَ حِفْظَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ
اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ لِسَانِي غَامِرًا بِذِكْرِكَ وَ قَلْبِي بِخَشْيَتِكَ .
إِنَّكَ عَلَى مَا تَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ وَأَنْتَ حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَ نِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

Allâhumma infa'ni bimaa 'allamtani wa 'allimni maa yanfa'uni. Allahumma inee as'aluka fahmal-nabiyyeena wa hifthal mursaleen al-muqar'abeen. Allahumma ij'al lesanee 'amiran bi dhikrika wa qalbi bi khashyatika. Innaka 'ala ma-tasha'u qadeer wa anta hasbun-allahu wa na-mal wakeel

Translation

Oh Allah! Make useful for me what you have taught me and teach me knowledge that will be useful to me.

Oh Allah! I ask You for the understanding of the prophets and the memory of the messengers, and those nearest to You.

Oh Allah! Make my tongue full of your remembrance and my heart with awe of You.

Oh Allah! You do whatever you wish, and you are my availer and protector and best of aid.

Duaa for Removing Anxiety

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ وَالْحَزَنِ
وَ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ
وَ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْجُبْنِ وَ الْبُخْلِ
وَ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ غَلَبَةِ الدَّيْنِ وَ قَهْرِ الرِّجَالِ

Allâhumma inni a'udhu bika min al-hammi wa al-hazan. Wa a'udhu bika min al-'ajzi wa al-kasal. Wa a'udhu bika min al-jubni wa al-bukhl. Wa a'udhu bika min ghalabat id-dayni wa qahr ir-rijal.

Translation

Oh Allah, I seek refuge in You from worry and grief,

from helplessness and laziness,

from cowardice and stinginess,

and from overpowering debt and from the oppression of men.



Salam School NEWS

Arabic & Quran Programs



The third quarter of the year brought so many activities to Salam School. Both buildings celebrated the Arabic language by hosting an Arabic Day program. The theme this year was "Knowledge is Light." Students performed skits, read poetry, developed power point productions and performed dabka line dances. Over 300 parents turned out for the Arabic Day events. Both events were produced by the Arabic and Quran teachers at both campuses.

Some other events that also displayed the students' knowledge included the Arabic Spelling Bee in early April. Students were given word lists that were age appropriate and asked to spell the words, using all the correct vowels, (harakat). Finalists were selected from preliminary competitions in the classrooms. Preparations are under way for the Islamic Studies Knowledge Bowls and the Quran Contest, in late April and early May.

Character Education Program

Salam School encourages students to behave according to the Quran and Sunnah. We have implemented a very strong student lead character education program which is weaved into all the core disciplines taught at the school. Every month, a major theme is stressed and student presentations are an integral part of the morning assembly. As Muslims, students are taught that service to others is extremely important. Salam School students had fundraisers that generated over \$4,000. Funds benefitted the American Heart Association, through the Jump Rope for Heart program in March. Donations were also raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The National Elementary Honor Society raised funds for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities enrich the curriculum and offer the students activities to strengthen both mind and body. In February, the PTA arranged for a clown to visit the elementary school and talk about the importance of Reading. Ronald McDonald and the elementary students spent about an hour discussing manners in which a student can be a proactive reader. The students and teachers enjoyed the program. The middle and high school girls enjoyed an evening of dressing up during their annual Spring Fling. The PTA along with high school volunteers sponsored Spring Fest.



Sports

Sports at Salam School encourage the students to stay fit and healthy. There is a girls' volleyball adventure after school, basketball for both boys and girls. Recently, the high school athletic banquet was held. The Varsity Boys' Basketball team record was 18-5, outstanding performance they were named co-conference champions. Anas Hammad and Abdallah Badwan were named 1st team all-conference. Joseph Schaub was received an honorable mention all-conference. School awards were disbursed as follows: MVPs Anas Hammad and Abdallah Badwan. The Coach Klop award was given to Josef Schaub. The 6th man award was given to Abraham Yousef.

Girls Varsity Team honorable mention all-conference award was given to Tasneem Amro, who also received the Salam School Girls' MVP award. Jameela Yusuf received the Hustle and Heart award, Ayah Musaitif received the Most Improved Award and Zahiah Hammad received the Best Offensive Player award.

The Athletic & Physical Education department includes Mr. David Petrick, Mrs. Lorri Amin & Mrs. Julianna Snow.

Salam School NEWS

Annual Book Fair

The annual book fair was recently held at the elementary school. The book fair is yet another way to continue to encourage kids to read. Research shows that when children are provided with and surrounded by books, they will read. Reading daily is the best manner in which a child can build their literacy skills and a love for lifelong learning. Families are highly encouraged to visit bookstores and build home libraries. Students should also visit the local public library at least once a week. The following suggestions are ways to encourage reluctant readers:

1. **A book allowance is a good idea.** In addition to whatever other allowance a child may receive, provide an allowance for books. Even if the allowance allows for the purchase of one paperback book or magazine a week, you've helped encourage reading.
2. **Regular visits to a good magazine rack,** coupled with purchases, provide reading material. Parents will probably want to exercise some judgment on reading purchases, but magazines your child shows some interest in and which you approve are a good way to provide material and encourage reading.
3. **Model reading.** Children who see their parents reading, often become readers and come to accept that reading is a matter-of-fact activity.
4. **If your child is willing, whatever his or her age, don't be afraid to read aloud.** Reading to children is one of the best ways to encourage interest in reading. Older brothers and sisters can read to younger children. If your child is too old to be read to (some would suggest that no one is too old to be read to), just read articles aloud from the newspaper from time to time.
5. **Buy books for yourself and let your children know you do it.**
6. **If your child decides to read something to YOU...be patient and let him or her.**
7. **It's important that children have hobbies or interests.** Help your children develop such interests and make sure they have or seek reading material about their interests.
8. **Praise your child for his or her reading when appropriate.** For example, praise the child when a long or difficult book is completed.
9. **When a topic of interest develops which involves the whole family--an upcoming trip or vacation, for example--bring home some books on the topic to share with the family.**
10. **Attend used book sales at libraries** and other places where good books can be had inexpensively.
11. **Discuss with your child any book he or she is reading for a class at school.** Read the book yourself.
12. **When you and your child are working on something together have him or her read the directions.** Many models and construction kits turn out better when a child reads the instructions.

Khawla Asmar, M. Ed.
Vice Principal



The Loving God of Islam



The Holy Week of the Christian calendar starts with the Palm Sunday and ends in the Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. This year, Palm Sunday fell on Sunday, April 13th. Good Friday (April 18) marks the day Christians believe that Jesus Christ was crucified and Easter Sunday is the day that

Christians believe he was resurrected. The Holy Week commemorates the passion of Christ, his love for humanity and, according to Christians, his atoning death for man's sin. The theme of "Loving God" who empties himself for humanity is the salient feature of the Holy Week. What is the Islamic perspective of God's Love, Compassion and Mercy towards humanity?

In its purest sense Islam is nothing but the act of loving God and His creatures and being loved by God. Allah SWT is the purest of all kinds of love. Allah is al-Salam, one of the Ninety Nine names of Allah. It means that He is the source and originator of all love, mercy and peace. The Muslim scripture, al-Qur'an, is called "the way" to love and peace. The very first verse of the Qur'an is a thematic semblance of love, mercy and compassion. It goes like this: "In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate." The same theme of love and mercy is continuously repeated throughout the Qur'anic text. This verse is repeated in the Qur'an no less than 114 times. It shows the level of significance Islam attaches to such values as love, mercy and compassion. The Prophet of Islam is depicted in the Qur'an as the mercy to mankind. The Paradise is the eternal abode of peace. In short, Almighty God and His teachings are all about love, mercy and peace.

The word "Allah" also denotes extreme love. Views vary about the etymology of the word "Allah". Allah is the proper name (*ism `alam*) that God has given to His (*dhāt*), to Himself, argues the famous Muslim theologian Al-Ghazālī. Other theologians like Ibn al-Qayyim, and philologists like the renowned Sībawayh, prefer to derive it from *ilāh*, derived from one who *ilāhs* (as a verb) another when the latter seeks refuge with him during the time of fear or calamity, and he would grant him refuge and a safe haven; so, the word would become *ilāh* (as a noun) of people.

Allah is *al-Rahmān* (which occurs 57 times in the Qur'an and 170 times in the *basmalah*), and *al-Rahīm* (occurring absolutely

for God 114 times in the Qur'an), the Infinitely Good and the Merciful. Both the names are derived from the root "*Rahmah*" meaning mercy. Mercy is one of the most frequently mentioned and discussed attributes of God in the Qur'an. "Thy Lord is Self-sufficient, full of Mercy" (6:133). "Your Lord is full of Mercy all-embracing" (6:147). "He hath inscribed for Himself (the rule of) Mercy" (6:12). "Your Lord hath inscribed for Himself (the rule of) Mercy" (6:54; also see 7:156; 18:57; 40:7). God is in fact "the Most Merciful of those who show mercy" (12:64; 12:92; 21:83; 23:109; 23:118). In addition to these great many verses of the Qur'an, the *shahādah* itself is one of the great witnesses to this Divine attribute. The *shahādah* tells us that all mercy is the gift of the Merciful. "There is no god but the Merciful" which means that "There is no mercy but God's mercy," or "There is none merciful but the Merciful." God's mercy overshadows all the mercy in the universe. His mercy is the true and real mercy and others' mercy is relative. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) expressed this idea in the following hadith:

"God created one hundred mercies on the day He created the heavens and the earth, each mercy of which would fill what is between the heaven and the earth. Of these, He placed one mercy on the earth. Through it, the mother inclines toward her child, and the birds and animals incline toward each other. When the day of resurrection comes, He will complete those mercies [the 99 remaining] with this mercy."

The name *al-Rahmān* is more specific than *al-Rahīm*. *Al-Rahmān* is not used for anybody other than God while *al-Rahīm* can be used for others. Always preceded by the definite article in the Qur'an, the term *al-Rahmān* is considered a proper name of God because nothing is said of *al-Rahmān* that is not also said of Allah. Allah is then nothing but absolute Mercy. The term *al-Rahmān* focuses thought on the unfathomable unicity and love, while *al-Rahīm* focuses it on the depths of divine mercy and benevolence.

God is *al-Laṭīf* (the Benevolent), *al-Wadūd* (the Loving-

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kind), *al-Halim* (the Mild), *al-Ra'uf* (the All-Pitying), *al-'Afū* (the Effacer of sins), *al-Barr* (the Doer of Good) and possesses many other such names to express His infinite Love, Mercy, Grace, and Kindness towards all of His creatures.

In the Qur'an, the names referring to God's mercy are much more frequent than those describing him as a fearful master. Regarding the latter, in the Qur'an, God is called *al-Qabbār* (the Fearsome) only four times and *al-Jabbār* (the compeller or the Awesome, 59:23) only one time.

As Muslims living in a predominantly Christian society we need to familiarize ourselves with this very fundamental aspect of our faith, tradition and God Almighty. Very often Islam and Muslims are labelled with violence rather than love and compassion. We need to highlight the loving nature of Allah SWT, His Prophet (SAW) and His Message (Islam). May the God of Love and Peace and the Peace and Love of God be with all. Ameen!

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah
ISM Religious Director

Opinion Piece: Chicago Muslims “Dance” in “Happy” Video

Some weeks ago, the British website “The Honesty Policy” produced a video of Muslims laughing and smiling and moving to the tune of Pharrell Williams’ smash hit “Happy”. A short time later, Milwaukee native Rayyan Najeeb organized a similar video involving Chicago Muslims.

The response to both videos has been overwhelmingly positive. The videos completely undermine the popular portrayal of Muslims in the media as being somber, angry or miserable. The films also put on display an important characteristic of Muslims: their diversity.

As expected, a number of Muslims have been critical of the videos, largely due to their portrayal of Muslim women “dancing” in public. You gotta really wonder about some of these critics. Is the dancing lewd and meant to stir the passions? From the vehemence of the critics’ objections, you would think that the films were featuring twerking Miley Cyrus wannabees or the sexually provocative moves of Rihanna, Lady Gaga or any other of today’s popular exhibitionists. People looking for anything inappropriate in these videos are gonna be disappointed. The “dancing” is not really dancing at all. The action in this film is about as titillating as a local imam delivering a Friday Khutba.

“In our tradition, we believe that a smile is charity, that we get reward for it. It is a blessing being able to spread cheer.” - Rayyan Najeeb

Some of the most strident critics really need to get a life. Practically pornographic music videos are the standard fare in our society, so no one with any sense of decency should find this video to be provocative or shameful. This is not a music video nor is it a dancing video. It is a video of Muslims with a simple, positive message. The women in the video (as well as the men) are happy, some are amusing, and all are respectful and honorable.

Another argument of critics is to decry what they consider to be an inappropriate attempt to “humanize” Muslims in order to please the haters. According to this argument, Muslims are not angry and miserable. Muslims are like all other people and the negative stereotypes of Muslims that are pervasive in our society and in the media are inaccurate, inflammatory and often based on bigotry, intolerance and hatred. (I agree so far). A video portraying Muslims hopping around to the tune of a Western musician is regarded by these critics as caving in to society’s intolerance. Simply put, these Muslims are sacrificing their principles and trying to “fit in” by behaving in a manner which their critics would approve.

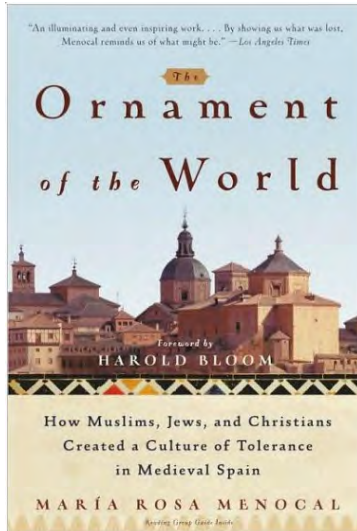
I disagree with such thinking. This video is not meant to appease anti-Muslim critics nor to reform Islamophobes. Actually, these videos will infuriate the haters. Despite all they do to malign Islam and Muslims, we are still happy. We are proud of our faith and our commitment to Allah (SWT). In addition, these videos can provide members of our society (who are appallingly ignorant about Islam) a positive portrayal of their Muslim neighbors as regular, everyday citizens who are happily enjoying the many blessings of Allah (SWT).

You can view the “Happy Chicago Muslims” video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwQIcqy2XKw> .

Book Corner

ORNAMENT OF THE WORLD

Summary by Nabil Salous



The author Maria Rosa Menocal called this book Ornament of the world as a reflection of the Islamic Culture of medieval Spain. She narrated the story of a young man named Abed-Al-Rahman who abandoned his home in Damascus in search a place of refuge. Damascus became the slaughterhouse for his family, the ruling Umayyads, who were eradicated by the rival Abbasids in 750.

Abed-Al-Rahman was the sole survivor from his entire family. He was very young – in his late teens or early twenties – and terrified with the loss of his entire family and the many odds against him. He continued to travel West until he reached the Berber tribes in Morocco, the homeland of his mother. Morocco which has been called by Arabs Almaghrib, “the Far West” is the place where Abed-Al-Rahman reappeared five years after the demise of his family.

In 711, the Berber tribes – under the leadership of Tareq Ibn Ziad pushed through to the Iberian peninsula, today’s Spain. Abed-Al-Rahman followed the same path and crossed over to Spain. He managed to garnish the support of many Berber tribes and other Arabs and assembled forces loyal to him. In 756 a battle just outside Cordoba decisively changed the face of European history and culture. Abed-Al-Rahman’s emergence was disturbing news to the Abbasids in Baghdad. His escape was a loose end that had never been finished. Considering the fact that they killed his entire family and he was residing on the western frontline and living in exile, the Abbasids let him go and considered him as dead.

Under the leadership of the Umayyad’s, there were two hundred and fifty years of stability and prosperity throughout the Iberian peninsula. Cordoba became a major education center that rivaled Baghdad. The number of major libraries in the city reached 400, with each library holding more than 4000 volumes each when all Europe had only a handful of small libraries. During this era, Cordoba became the cultural center of that part of the world; the courts of the city were filled with philosophers, architects, musicians and many poets.

During these golden years, scholars like the Muslim Ibn Rushd and Jewish Maimonides appeared. Magnificent buildings, masajid, churches and synagogues were erected with the influence of Islamic architecture and Arabic calligraphy on every inch of those walls.

The lucky and blessed person was considered the one who had the opportunity to learn at the hands of Muslims. Arabic became the mother language. Even Christians and Jews studied Islam and philosophy in Arabic not for the purpose of trying to refute the faith but to form a correct and elegant Arabic. The educated and intellectuals expressed themselves eloquently in Arabic. Alvarus, a representative of the churches in the City expressed his anger toward his community members when he said “*the Christians and the Jews of Cordoba have forgotten their own language and adopted Arabic instead*”. The frustration within the Church community reached its climax. In order to bring attention to their situation, more than fifty priests committed suicide. Also, they introduced the negative term “Mozrab”, originally meant “wanna be Arab” to ridicule their community members who spoke and dressed like Arabs.

The Umayyads under Abed-Al-Rahman III announced Cordoba as the Center of the Islamic Caliphate. Also, he ordered the construction of Madinat Al-Zahra as part of this major declaration. This city, if it survived, would have

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)

Book Corner

been considered one of the wonders of the world. After Abed -Al-Rahman III died in 956, his son Alhakam took over the caliphate; he lived only 15 years after his father and died suddenly. The legitimate heir of the caliphate was his only son Hisham who was only 11 years old. This young boy ended up a prisoner in his own palace.

The year 1007 marked the end of the Umayyad dynasty. Many groups and forces tried to claim power after the demise of the Umayyads such as Almuhad (Al-Mowahidoon) and Almravids (Al-Murabitoon). Many of these forces found themselves as foreign policemen and strangers in strange land. Division, weakness and conflicts dominated the post-Umayyad era. Madinat Al-Zahra, with its magnificent palaces and gardens, was sacked and destroyed by Muslim groups, many who came after the Umayyads and were very strict in terms of enforcing the Sharia and in their treatment of non-Muslims.

Toward the end, the number of Muslim “Emirates” reached over 23. They were getting weaker and more divided to the extent that many of them were seeking help from Christian kingdoms to defeat their Muslim rivals.

During this era, Christian kingdoms were getting stronger and more united. Also, there was tremendous effort by the Christian groups to translate many books from Arabic to their European languages. In this way, Muslim knowledge was transmitted to Europe and to the west. For example, when Christopher Columbus sailed to America he used the

Astrolabe, the navigating tool that had been created by Muslims. The books of Ibn Rushd and Ibn Sina were taught in European Universities for centuries after Muslims lost Spain. The original Arabic volumes were burnt or sold in the rummage market.

In a peaceful ceremony in 1492, the last Muslim Sultan, Muhammad XI, surrendered the keys of the Al-Hambra palace to the Christian Monarch Ferdinand and his wife Isabella after signing a treaty with them. The term of the treaty would protect mosques, institutions and personal property. Muslims would be allowed to practice their faith freely, they would be full citizens with full rights under the Christian rule. Unfortunately, this agreement was abrogated by the Christian Monarch three months later. This is known in history as the Spanish inquisition. Muslims and Jews were given an ultimatum to leave the country, convert to Christianity or face the death penalty. The Arabic language was banned despite the fact it was their beloved language and it was engraved on their palaces and graves as well. The great mosque was changed into a Church. Suspected Muslims and Jews were forced to eat Pork and drink alcohol as a proof of their conversion to Christianity.

The author of the book being reviewed summed up the experience of Muslims in Spain in one sentence: ***‘And for neither the first time nor the last time in Islamic history, the lack of a governance system has dire and grave consequences’.***



ISM Today-Green

Say NO to Styrofoam Cups and Food Containers ... for Your Health

Styrofoam, the trademark name for polystyrene foam, the cheapest food packaging product around used for disposable cups and food containers, is manufactured from petroleum, which is a non-sustainable, heavily polluting and diminishing resource.

Styrofoam is suspected to be harmful to humans. Polystyrene can release potentially toxic breakdown products (including styrene), especially when heated!



If Styrofoam is used regularly, this may cause health problems such as low platelet and hemoglobin values, chromosomal and lymphatic abnormalities, and carcinogenic effects. This is completely preventable as there are several easy alternatives to Styrofoam cups and plates. Choose ceramic, glass, paper or biodegradable plastic products.

After we have harmed our own health by using Styrofoam items, we then throw them away, further harming the environment. Only a very small amount of polystyrene/Styrofoam food/drink container products gets recycled. It is classified as a #6 plastic, which many recycling centers don't take. Polystyrene does not biodegrade but rather breaks into smaller fragments which will exist forever in the landfills, leaching into the soil and groundwater. These small pieces can be lethal to any animal that might ingest them and can block their digestive tracts, ultimately causing starvation.

The good news is that we can significantly decrease the use of polystyrene/ Styrofoam by making a few simple changes and exploring alternative materials:

REDUCE your use of polystyrene by replacing it with reusable items, paper or biodegradable plastic. Reusable/ washable items are always best, but in some instances disposable plates and cups cannot be avoided. Paper goods will decompose in a landfill over time. Biodegradable "plastics" made from corn are becoming more widely available. Bring your own takeout/washable container or ask for aluminum foil the next time you take leftovers home after dining out. If enough people ask for alternatives, the restaurants and food venues may get the hint to choose a more eco-friendly serving and packaging material.

REUSE by investing in a personal travel mug. Coffee and tea cups are one of the most common daily uses of polystyrene. Some vendors now give discounts for folks who bring their own cups to refill, and in a home or office setting you can save because you no longer need to purchase cups to throw away.

For your own health and the well-being of Earth, say **NO** to polystyrene/Styrofoam cups and food containers.

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The Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin, a volunteer group formed in 2005, intends to educate its members, the Muslim community and the general public about the Islamic environmental teachings, to apply these teachings in daily life and to form coalitions with others working toward a just, peaceful and sustainable future.



Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin

<http://IslamicEnvironmentalGroup.org/>

Contact: interfaith.earth@yahoo.com

ISM Calendar of Weekly Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Arabic Tafseer class for brothers (after Isha) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Fiqh Class with Dr. Zulfiqar (6:30pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sister's Halaqa (Urdu) (11-1) ♦ Quran & Arabic Institute (QAI) (6-8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Pre-Khutbah ♦ Khutbah (1pm) ♦ Book Club (7pm) ♦ Urdu Jalsa (6pm) ♦ Youth program (7-10) ♦ QAI ♦ Arabic Jalsa (After Isha) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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
MAY						
1-10	4:45	5:35	1:10	5:00	+5 min	9:45
11-20	4:30	5:23	1:10	5:00	+5 min	10:00
21-28	4:30	5:16	1:10	5:00	+5 min	10:15
JUNE						
1-10	4:30	5:12	1:10	5:15	+5 min	10:30
11-20	4:30	5:12	1:10	5:15	+5 min	10:30
21-30	4:30	5:15	1:10	5:15	+5 min	10:30

ISM Upcoming Events

May/June Events

May 4	2pm	Renegotiating our Relationship with the Earth: A Conversation on Democracy, Sustainability & the Role of the Faithful
May 24	6pm	ISM Community High School Graduation
May 28	6pm	Salam School High School Graduation
May 29	6pm	Salam School Middle School Graduation
June 28		Ramadan Begins

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@isonline.org

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Granite & Marble by Design was created with the understanding that service, dependability, craftsmanship, and affordability are number one. Customer satisfaction is our highest concern. We take the time to listen and understand you, to help you to design an inviting home where family and friends come together. Where beauty and elegance bring an air of comfort to all who gather there.

