



ISM Today

A Publication of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee

December 2017

Muharram 1439

Volume III Issue III

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Open Mosque Day

On Saturday, November 11, 2017, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee held an "Open Mosque Day" at its three locations. Open Mosque Day was organized, in part, to benefit those who attended the play "The Who and the What" that was held at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. The play, produced by former Milwaukeean, Ayad Akhtar, included numerous references to discredited accusations that have been made by anti-Muslim individuals against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Ayad Akhtar, who was born to Muslim parents from Pakistan, has seen his plays enjoy national success. His most successful plays have been replete with anti-Muslim stereotypes and generalizations. Unfortunately, Ayad Akhtar (similar to many Islamophobes!) has determined that playing on peoples' ignorance and fears and mocking Islam and Muslims can be financially lucrative.

Weeks before the first show, the actors in the Milwaukee production of the play visited the Islamic Society of Milwaukee and had a very open and cordial discussion about the issues that were raised in the play, especially the accusations made about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).



A number of individuals associated with the Islamic Society of Milwaukee also participated in "talk back" sessions at the Repertory Theater following some of the performances.

Alhamdulillah, several hundred first time visitors were able to attend the Open House sessions.



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Cultural Group Visits ISM

A group of professionals from Japan visited the Islamic Society of Milwaukee to learn about the Muslim community in our city and nation. The visitors also had the opportunity to learn about our Masjid and to ask questions about Islam and Muslims.

Many issues were discussed. One of the more interesting items was the discussion of American citizens of Japanese descent who were placed in camps during World War II and the current anti-Muslim climate being promoted by some of our national leaders.



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Message from the President of the ISM

Assalamu Alaikum my very dear Brothers and Sisters.

As we are approaching the beginning of a new calendar year, I ask Allah (SWT) to bless each and every one of you. Alhamdulillah, we have a great community and I am honored to be able to serve my faith and my community.

Alhamdulillah, we have a great opportunity to serve our Creator by maintaining three Masajid, running a full time school with over 800 students, offering educational programs for youth and adults, providing vital support for those in need and reaching out to our neighbors throughout southeast Wisconsin.

May Allah (SWT) bless all those who donate their time, their money and their talent to helping us succeed. Please keep us in your dua'.



In the upcoming year, we want to continue to focus on our youth because they are our future. I have been a professor at the university for more than four decades and I know the value of education. I want to especially commend many Salam School students for their exceptional achievements and performance. I have reviewed student data and student performance on Advanced Placement tests (for which students can get college credit), and I am very happy with the results. I want all of our students (in Salam School and outside Salam School) to continue to do their best so that they can help themselves, their families and our entire community. In this country, you do not have an excuse for not doing well in school.

Finally, I want to congratulate all of our community members who are getting ready to leave to Umrah as I am writing this message. May Allah (SWT) make your journey a blessed and safe one. Keep us all in your dua' and give our greetings to our beloved Prophet (PBUH).

Your Brother, Iftexhar Khan

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First Donor Appreciation Night



On Friday, October 13, 2017 the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, held its first Fish Fry dinner to honor members of the community that have shown generosity and support for our community. Similar fish fry's events are being arranged in the future to honor all donors and volunteers.

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee relies solely on local donors and volunteers. The facilities, programs and services that we provide are if it were not for the generosity of our members.

Dinner was served by a number of Salam School student volunteers as well as by members of the ISM Executive Board, including its president Dr. Iftekhar Khan. Dinner included tasty fish, waffle fries, coleslaw, and a variety of drinks. Dinner was prepared by Aladdin Restaurant.

We would like to thank all of those who attended and have supported the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Inshallah, because our facilities cannot accommodate all donors at one time, we will be having additional fish fry events in the coming months. Hope to you soon!



THANK YOU TO ALL OF
OUR WONDERFUL
DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS
AND THANK YOU TO
ALADDIN RESTAURANT FOR
PROVIDING AN
AMAZING DINNER



WHAT ARE YOU SUPPORTING WHEN YOU DONATE TO THE ISM?

Assalamu Alaikum Brothers and Sisters.

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee would like to thank you for your generosity throughout the 2017 calendar year. We appreciate the commitment and trust that you have placed in the ISM as we continue to expand and improve our facilities, programs and services. May Allah (SWT) provide you and your families with the rewards of all the programs and services that are made possible by your donations.

We will continue to keep you informed about how your donations are spent because this is an "amanah". Alhamdulillah, the ISM has ALWAYS provided you with a full accounting of how your donations are utilized!

One Community



One Organization



One Mission



You are SUPPORTING three Houses of Allah

You are supporting the existence, upkeep and maintenance of ISM, ISM Brookfield and ISM University Center. May Allah (SWT) give you a reward for all those who pray, break their fast, learn about their deen, and perform their worship services in every one of these Masajid.

You are SUPPORTING the education of hundreds of children to be our future leaders

You are supporting the Quran and Arabic Institute, Sunday School, the part-time Quranic Hifh Program, youth programs, youth sports, and more. You are also providing the facilities to one of the largest Islamic Schools in the nation, Salam School.

You are SUPPORTING the active outreach/dawah of the ISM to the entire community

You are supporting our outreach to thousands of people in the community as we work actively to combat Islamophobia and to educate the community at large about what Islam truly represents. Thousands of guests come to the ISM as part of Open House programs or scheduled visits. We also visit and speak to thousands at local schools, churches and organizations. We are actively involved in representing the Muslim community in local and state-wide media.

You are SUPPORTING our future youth leaders

You are supporting educational scholarship programs for two activists in our community, Br. Ameer Hamza and Br. Rami Bleibel. Both are being supported by the ISM as they obtain degrees in Islamic Studies. This project is a multi-year commitment on the part of the ISM meant to address our future needs, especially the need for religious leaders who are able to connect with our youth.

You are providing Sadaqah and Zakat to those in need

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee consistently extends assistance to those in need, whether locally or in other parts of the world. In 2017, the ISM collected and distributed over \$200,000 in the form of Sadaqa, Zakat Al-Fitr and Zakat Al-Maal. The funds were used to support needy families, including refugees, to provide primary support for the Food Pantry operated out of the Milwaukee Islamic Da'wa Center on Teutonia Avenue, to provide free rent for the medical clinic operated by MCHC for the benefit of the poor and needy, to provide support to Majsid Mubarak, which provides social services to members of the Rohingya community, to provide assistance to the victims of natural disaster, such as Hurricane Harvey, to cover burial expenses for those who are needy and have no family support, and much more.

Through ISM, you are providing assistance to other Masajid and Islamic Organizations

As the largest Islamic organization in the State of Wisconsin, the ISM provides financial co-sponsorship for events and programs organized by other Islamic organizations (Muslim American Society (MAS), Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition (MMWC), Milwaukee Community and Health Center (MCHC) and many more. The ISM also provides many Islamic organizations the opportunity to raise funds at ISM facilities, including Muslim Student Associations at local universities, Maruf, AMP, and many others.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED DONATIONS AND SUPPORT.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR,
PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION TO:**

ISM, 4707 S. 13th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221.

Please specify if this is a general donation for all Masajid, programs and services or if you want your donation to go for a particular purpose. May Allah (SWT) bless you all!

Press Conference on Occupied Jerusalem

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee held a press release on Friday, December 8th. The speakers included Professor Rachel Buff from Jewish Voice for Peace, Sr. Janan Najeeb from the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, David Sahar who is a Christian Palestinian activist, as well as Br. Othman Atta representing the ISM.

See the statement issued by the coalition of groups regarding Jerusalem.



David Sahar holds up a sign that reads "Here's my deed, I want my home back"



COALITION STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee, the largest Muslim organization in the State of Wisconsin, in cooperation with American Muslims for Palestine, the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, Islamic Centers throughout the State of Wisconsin and a coalition of American Muslim, Arab-American, Christian, Jewish, human rights and interfaith groups are demanding a reversal of the reckless and biased decision of President Donald Trump declaring occupied Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and proposing to relocate the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

President Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel contravenes decades of bipartisan U.S. foreign policy. Former Secretary of State John Kerry stated in his 2016 remarks to the UN Security Council; "...remember that every U.S. administration since 1967, along with the entire international community, has recognized East Jerusalem as among the territories that Israel occupied in the Six-Days War."

In 1980, the United Nations Security Council adopted two binding resolutions on Jerusalem by a vote of 14-0. Both resolutions condemned Israel's attempt to change "the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure, (and) the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem." It also reaffirmed "the overriding necessity to end the prolonged occupation of Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem," and called out Israel as "the occupying power." It further considered any changes to the city of Jerusalem as "a violation of international law."

Israel occupied West Jerusalem in 1948 and East Jerusalem in 1967. During this time, thousands of Muslim and Christian Palestinians have been ethnically cleansed from Jerusalem by successive Israeli governments in their efforts to Judaize the city. Palestinian Muslims and Christians in East Jerusalem have had to endure over 50 years of occupation and brutality.

Except for extremist Jewish and Christian groups, President Trump's decision has been condemned around the world by recognized and mainstream religious leaders and heads of state, including almost all U.S. allies. All 86 countries that have established embassies in areas controlled by Israel have established them in Tel Aviv. Not one country has established an Embassy in occupied Jerusalem.

Every reputable Muslim organization around the world has condemned the Trump decision. All of the recognized Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem wrote a public letter opposing the decision because of the "irreparable harm" that would result. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), a coalition of national church denominations and organizations in the United States, including Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions strongly opposed the move.

President Trump's unwise and provocative decision will only create more misery and tension in the Middle East. The decision will also harm U.S. interests worldwide, because the decision is a violation of international law and is opposed by most of the world community. Rather than maintaining the United States as a global leader and model for the rest of the world, President Trump is betraying the principles upon which our nation was founded and making a mockery of our country's standing in the world.

Because of past military and financial support provided by the U.S. to Israel (which Israel used to expand its occupation, its control over the Palestinian people and the theft of their land), the U.S. government has been regarded as a biased partisan of Israel. However, the U.S. government has tried to promote itself as a peacemaker. For this reason, decades of U.S. administrations refused to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel because such a biased and illegal move would have completely discredited the U.S. as an "honest broker" working for peace in the Middle East. President Trump's decision will completely extinguish the ability of the United States to be considered a fair and honest mediator.

The far right-wing government of Israel and their advocates in the United States are thrilled by President Trump's decision because it helps to solidify Israel's illegal occupation of Jerusalem and its oppressive and discriminatory policies against Palestinian Muslims and Christians. The Israeli government's racist policies even target United States citizens of Palestinian origin, both Christian and Muslim, by denying them the right to visit their holy sites in Jerusalem. American Jews face no such restrictions.

President Trump's decision will not bring about an "ultimate deal." Rather, the decision will practically end the attempts of those who seek to peacefully resolve the decades long Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. In addition, President Trump's decision does nothing to further our country's strategic interests or national security.

Since the President of the United States has made a decision that has no positive outcomes and a decision that has been condemned around the world, we must ask why President Trump made such a decision. The only realistic explanation is that, due to heightened tensions and legal issues plaguing his administration and family, President Trump sought to appease his right wing "armageddon" Christian supporters and the right wing Jewish extremist supporters and financial backers, such as Sheldon Adelson, who support the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian population and the establishment of Jewish colonies on stolen Palestinian lands. It is also important to note that Trump's decision was made following consultations with his totally inexperienced son-in-law, Jared Kushner, whose sits on the board of his parents' foundation. The foundation has provided major financial support for illegal settlement groups on the Israeli occupied West Bank.

We are calling on supporters on all people of conscience to contact the White House and to contact their elected officials to demand a reversal of this reckless and biased decision and to demand that President Trump stand alongside the international community in recognizing the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem. At the very least, we must demand that the Trump administration adheres to the decades old U.S. foreign policy that recognizes the special status of Jerusalem by maintaining our embassy in Tel Aviv.

-End-

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Airport Meditation Room

On Wednesday, November 15th, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee participated in the dedication ceremony for the Airport Meditation Room which was recently completed at General Mitchell International Airport.

The airport meditation room is a designated space located at the airport intended to provide space for individuals to meditate, pray, relax and contemplate.

The meditation room was a private effort by many community leaders. The Islamic Society of Milwaukee has been involved with the planning and implementation of this project for many years. Br. Nabil Salous, an ISM Executive Board Member, is a member of a Board of Directors of the Airport Meditation Room. Sr. Janan Najeeb, was initially on the Board of Directors and later joined their Advisory Board.

Muslim travelers and employees now have a quiet place where they can perform their daily prayers. Of course, this place is shared with people with various faiths and backgrounds.

The meditation room is located in an area off of the parking structure and is open at all times.

A number of representatives of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee attended and participated in the opening ceremony that was also attended by other religious and political leaders. The ISM selected Imam Noman Hussain to speak a few words on behalf of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee.

We wish to thank all those from the Muslim community who assisted the ISM in working with other faith communities to bring this project to a reality. We especially want to thank all those who donated for this project and who volunteered their time and efforts.

Alhamdulillah, a major mission of the ISM is its continued commitment to Dawah, outreach, and interaction with other faith communities.

This project will, inshallah, be of great benefit to the entire community.



The Airport Meditation Room included the involvement of many faith communities and groups. All had to agree upon the design and contents of the meditation room. Rather than including a quote or saying on the walls of the room, the groups agreed to attach the following words inside the meditation room.

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Love
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Seerah Programs with Shaykh Mustafa Umar

On Friday and Saturday, December 8th and 9th, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee hosted Shaykh Mustafa Umar.

Shaykh Umar was born and raised in Orange County, California. He completed his Bachelors in Information and Computer Science from the University of California-Irvine. He studied Arabic and various Islamic sciences through personal study and attended local intensive Islamic classes. His knowledge led him to study at Nadwatul Ulama in Lucknow, India and then to Cairo, Egypt. After two years in the East, he moved to France for another three years and graduated with a degree in Theology & Islamic Law [taught completely in Arabic] from the European Institute of Islamic Sciences. He went on to serve the Muslim community of Southern California as an Imam and activist for about three years. He currently serves as the Education Director at the Islamic Institute of Orange County.

During his Friday khutbah, Shaykh Umar spoke about the importance of Jerusalem to Muslims, religiously and historically, in light of the shocking decision of President Donald Trump to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the occupying State of Israel and his proposal to move the US Embassy to Israeli occupied Jerusalem.

During his Friday evening lecture, Shaykh Umar spoke about Islamic ethics and adab and how we should deal with our friends and family in this age of technology.

On Saturday, Shaykh Umar conducted a seminar on the history of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The seminar provided an overview of the life of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) including major events that took place during his lifetime.



Interfaith Conference Annual Awards Luncheon



On Thursday December 7, 2017, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee participated in the Annual Awards Luncheon for the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee.

The ISM has been a full member of the Interfaith Conference since 2003. This year, among the awards that were presented, was an award to Judith Longdin who has worked with the Islamic Society and other Muslim organizations in her position as director of the Catholic Archdiocese's Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Concerns. She received the Frank Zeidler Award.

The keynote speaker, Lecia Brooks, outreach director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, spoke about the rise in hate crimes directed against various groups in the United States especially Muslims. The Southern Poverty Law Center has been at the forefront in exposing hate groups including Islamophobic hate groups.

Over 300 individuals from many faith groups and backgrounds attended the awards luncheon which was held at the Italian Community Center.

The Islamic Society of Milwaukee is a member of other interfaith groups, including the Southeast Covenant Community (15 churches and the ISM located on the South side of Milwaukee) and the Brookfield-Elm Grove Interfaith Network.

AMP Convention 2017



Programs at the ISM



- ♦ Hifth Program
- ♦ Sisters Halaqa
- ♦ Brothers Arabic Tafseer
 - ♦ Urdu Jalsa
- ♦ Fiqh of Everyday Class
 - ♦ Arabic Jalsa
- ♦ Qur'an and Arabic Institute
- ♦ Weekend School
- ♦ VIP Youth Program



Special Guest: Br. Abdelfattah Mourou



The Muslim American Society—Milwaukee Chapter hosted a lecture by Br. Abdelfattah Mourou at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee.



Br. Mourou is a Tunisian lawyer and politician. Br. Mourou holds a bachelors degree in law and another degree in Islamic Studies. He is the cofounder of the Tunisian Islamic Tendency Movement.

Dr. Mourou spoke about his experiences in Tunisia and he compared the situation in Tunisia with events in other countries in the Muslim world.



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Sheikh Yasir Qadhi & Br. Khalil Meek



On November 10th, **Shiekh Yasir Qadhi** along with Br. Khalil Meek visited the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. **Br. Khalil Meek** is the Executive Director of Muslim Legal Fund of America, which is the national charity leading the struggle against anti-Muslim injustice in American courtrooms. The Muslim Legal Fund of America's mission is to defend constitutional rights for Muslims in America.

Shiekh Yasir Qadhi, PhD, is the Dean of Academic Affairs at AlMaghrib Institute. Dr. Qadhi delivered the Friday khutbah at ISM Main on South 13th Street and he also delivered a lecture reviewing the history of immigration to the United States. Dr. Qadhi spoke about the experiences and prejudice that often faced new immigrants. Dr. Qadhi also spoke about the great opportunities that we have in this country and the need for our community to be involved in asserting our political and legal rights.



Shaykh Yahya Al-Ninowy

Shaykh Muhammad bin Yahya al-Ninowy led a lecture at the Islamic Center, 4707 S 13th Street, in which he discussed "Loving the Prophet (s). The lecture was held on Friday, November 3, 2017. He also spoke at ISM Brookfield on Saturday, November 4, 2017.

Shaykh Dr. Muhammad bin Yahya An-Ninowy was born and raised in Syria. He began his study under his father, Sayyed Yahya (Rahimahu Allah), and many of the senior scholars of Aleppo. He memorized the Qur'an and acquired knowledge in many of the Islamic disciplines, such as Tawheed, Hanafi/Shafi'i Fiqh, and Ihsaan. He is the founding director of "Planet Mercy" and the Madina Institute & Seminary in the UK, South Africa, Canada, and the USA. Shaykh Muhammad is the senior-in-residence scholar at Madina Masjid and institute in Atlanta, Georgia since 2000.



Islamic Center Blood Drive



On Monday, December 18, 2017, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee hosted its second blood drive of the year for the Milwaukee community. The ISM has been organizing blood drives for the Blood Center of Wisconsin for over ten years.

Alhamdulillah, during the four hour session, we had about thirty community members donate. Of those, nine were first time donors. These donors can potentially help save 63 patients!

The Blood Center of Wisconsin expressed its appreciation for this successful blood drive and they expressed thanks to all of those who were able to donate.

The ISM would also like to thank all donors. Insha'Allah, all those who donated with the intention of saving the lives of others will get their rewards and blessings from Allah (SWT).

"...if anyone saves a life, it would be as if he/she saves all mankind." Surah Al-Ma'idah, Verse 32.



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PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

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

VIP Program

HIGH SCHOOL

The VIP is starting a new program that will include hands on workshops and activities with the mission of uniting High School Muslim girls through leadership, strengthening iman, and an everlasting sisterhood in an open-minded, Islamic environment. Our vision is to create a community of connected, inspired, Muslim female leaders.

Some of the Topics include:

Domestic Violence
Influence of Social Media
Mental Health

High School Vip Program 2018



Girls Leadership Training
STARTING JANUARY 18TH!

EVERY THURSDAY 6-8PM
JANUARY 18 - APRIL 26
FEES: \$10 MONTHLY
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Girls Leadership Training
STARTING JANUARY 18TH!

EVERY THURSDAY 6-8PM
JANUARY 18 - APRIL 26
FEES: \$10 MONTHLY
ISM CENTER HALL

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VIP Program

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our program meetings consist of group discussions and activities, they are two hours long, and open to girls in 5th through 7th grade. The mission of this program is to inspire young Muslim girls. And the vision is to create a fun-filled program with young confident Muslim girls who love their deen.

Some of the Topics include:

The Muslimah Identity
The Importance of Sallah
Day of Judgment
Peacemaking Non-Violence

Salam School News

Alumni Basketball Tournament



Former Salam School students and current Salam School basketball players participated in a fun basketball tournament in November in the ISM gym. Alhamdulillah, graduates of Salam School continue to be involved as volunteers and leaders in our community. The game between the former and current students was highly contested. However, by the end, the current Salam School basketball players defeated the Alumni by just one point. All who participated and attended in this tournament had a great time.



Fall Sports Athletic Awards

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, Salam School held its annual Fall Sports Athletic Awards ceremony to recognize the students who participated in fall sports this year, including cross country, girls volleyball and soccer.

A number of awards and recognitions were provided to students who excelled in their sports.



Salam School News (continued)

RECENT SALAM SCHOOL ALUMNI



Ayesha Ali (2011)

I graduated from the University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin with a bachelors degree in Psychology . I am a second-year student in the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy Program at Nova Southeastern University in Tampa, Florida. I graduate in 2019 and plan to work with neurological disorders as well as traumatic brain injuries.

We are looking to feature more students in future editions of ISM Today.

If you are a former student, please drop us a note at: ismooffice@ismonline.org

Provide us with a short statement and a photo!



Humzah Abdullah (2014)

I graduated from Salam High School in 2014. After High School, I entered the Milwaukee Fire Department cadet program. While in the program I earned my Fire certifications and Paramedic license. I am currently pursuing a nursing degree, with the hopes of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Local Media Story: Salam School Alumni Graduates from UWM



Aameena Yusuf, who graduated from Salam School, celebrated after a long journey to graduation. A story about her was broadcasted on Fox 6 News. She graduated Sunday, December 17th alongside other University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee classmates during the commencement ceremony. Yusuf graduated with more than 2,000 UWM students.

Aameena Yusuf was one of three students recognized during the ceremony. She was recognized for earning a degree in global studies, and also, for overcoming a devastating loss early in her college career. During her sophomore year, her father, who had moved from Nigeria to Milwaukee was diagnosed with cancer and one year later passed away. Aameena Yusuf pushed through her education, while being supported by her mother, brother and sisters who live in Milwaukee.

There were a number of other former Salam School students who graduated this Fall semester. Congratulations to all the graduates and may Allah (swt) grant you all much success!

Rally for Jerusalem

On Saturday December 9th, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee hosted an indoor rally in response to President Trump's recent announcement declaring that the occupied city of Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel. Many community leaders from other organizations spoke to the community.



PHOTOS TAKEN BY: SHAMS STUDIO

RESPONSE TO THE JCRC STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM

On December 8, 2017, the Jewish Community Relations Council, a Program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation (JCRC), issued a “Statement on Jerusalem” in response to President Donald Trump’s decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel and to relocate the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Support and advocacy for Israel is a significant part of the mission and programming of the JCRC. Although President Trump’s decision was rejected by most of the world’s religious and political leaders, the JCRC joined other “Israel apologists” in supporting his decision.

The following is our response to a FEW of the misleading remarks in the JCRC statement:

STATEMENT: “Claims that there is no Jewish connection to Jerusalem and the refusal to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish people negates 3,000 of history. This deserves correcting.”

RESPONSE: We will correct you. No one denies that Jews had a historical connection with Jerusalem.

The problem is that the supporters of Israel want us to ignore the existence of nearly 2,000 years of history FOLLOWING the Roman destruction of much of Jerusalem, including the Second Jewish Temple, in the year 70CE! Except for the short period of the crusades, the Muslim community had complete authority over Jerusalem from 638 -- the year when the Caliph Omar located the site of Prophet Muhammad’s night journey and erected a simple Mosque there -- until 1948, when Israel was established on occupied Palestinian lands. Throughout their control over Jerusalem, Muslims welcomed Jews and Christians to live and worship in Jerusalem.

Our issue is that Israel and its supporters, including the JCRC, promote the unjust and abhorrent idea that the ancient historical connection of Jews to Jerusalem supersedes the rights of all those who were living in Jerusalem and Palestine for the subsequent 2,000 years. The Jewish “historical connection” has been used by Israel’s advocates, including the JCRC, to justify the expulsion of Palestinian Muslims and Christians from their homes and villages, the theft and illegal occupation of their lands, the desecration of their houses of worship and the denial of their most basic human and civil rights.

Another facet of the problem is the JCRC’s contention that Jerusalem is the capital of “the Jewish people”, i.e. the capital of every Jew located anywhere in the world! So, whereas Jews located anywhere in the world can call Jerusalem their capital and home, the Muslims and Christians who lived in Jerusalem for many generations and who have deeds to lands and properties in Jerusalem are denied the right to return to their homes and lands.

STATEMENT: The path to peace is challenging. We have no crystal ball that tells us which steps complicate or smooth the way forward.

RESPONSE: This completely hypocritical statement confirms that the JCRC supports Donald Trump’s decision. Since the JCRC claims they do not know which steps complicate or smooth the way forward, we will enlighten you:

We can move forward when you condemn the decades long occupation of Palestinian lands. In the last 50 YEARS, has the JCRC and other pro-Israel groups spoken out against the occupation of Palestinian lands and people? Against the construction of Jewish-only settlements that are accessed by Jewish only roads? Against collective punishment, extrajudicial killings, the desecration of holy sites and the denial of basic Palestinian human rights? YOU HAVE HAD FIFTY YEARS TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE! This is not silence. This is complicity. It is also hypocrisy. Groups such as the JCRC cannot claim to be leaders in promoting civil rights in the United States while ADVOCATING for a country that denies even the most basic human rights to non-Jews living under Israeli rule.

STATEMENT: While we care deeply about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we are committed to not acting out the conflict here at home in Milwaukee.

RESPONSE: If the JCRC does not wish to face criticism for its support of an occupying repressive, racist regime, then the JCRC should take a principled stand or remove advocacy of Israel from its mission statement. We regard equal rights, freedom from occupation, human dignity and other such values to be universal. We will condemn those who violate such rights, whether they claim to be Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, of no religion or of any other background. We hope that the JCRC will learn to do the same.

Rally in Washington, D.C.



On Saturday, December 16, 2017, the US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO) held one of the largest rallies for Palestine in the nation's capital. The rally was organized in response to President Trump's illegal and globally rejected announcement declaring occupied Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel. Thousands of people from various states attended the rally, including groups from Florida, New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and other states.

The Milwaukee group, which filled one coach bus, left the Islamic Center of Milwaukee on Friday, December 15th. The group arrived in D.C. shortly before start of the noon rally and left D.C. shortly after the rally ended. Those who attended the rally expressed the importance of supporting Jerusalem.

The official rally began with speeches by leaders of several American Muslim organizations as well as guest speakers from Christian and Jewish groups. All the groups of all religious persuasions denounced the President's announcement. The protesters then marched peacefully down Pennsylvania Avenue towards Capitol Hill.




 U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations
Join the Rally for Jerusalem


JERUSALEM
 FOREVER CAPITAL OF PALESTINE
 Saturday December 16, 2017, 12:00 PM
 The Ellipse, South of The White House, Washington, D.C.
ANNOUNCE - MOBILIZE - PARTICIPATE
 For more info: www.love-jerusalem.com, www.ampalestine.org, www.uscmo.org
 or any of the sponsoring organizations

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:
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Our Deepest Condolences

INNA LILAHİ WA İNA İLAIHİ RAJİ'OUN.

TO ALLAH WE BELONG AND TO HIM WE SHALL RETURN.

The ISM would like to extend its condolences to the families who lost someone dear to their hearts over the past few months.

We ask Allah (swt) to forgive their sins and bless them with a home in Jannah.

Please make dua' for all of them.

- * **Br. Sarrie Muhammad Assaf**, the brother of Rawhi Assaf and Osama Assaf.
- * **Br. Mohammad Mahmoud AbdelJaber (Abu Ismail)**, the uncle of Mahmoud, Iyman, Rami, Mamoun, Amal, Ibrahim, Mohammad, Salam, Ghada, Ghadeer, and Shahnaz Jaber.
- * **Br. Chedli Boussoufi**, the son of Mohamed Boussoufi. He is also the brother of Salem Boussoufi.
- * **Sr. Safiyah Al-Issa**, the mother of our community members, Suhair Abdallah Azzam (Um Kareem) (the mother-in-law of Abdulhakim Azzam-Abu Kareem) and the mother of Sumayah Abdallah (Um Imad). Sr. Safiya is also the cousin of our community member Mohammad Bassar (Abu Mahmoud).
- * **Br. Fahmi Yaghnem (Abu Mohammed)**, the beloved husband of Fatima Yaghnem and the father of Mohammed (father-in-law of Fatin and grandfather of Yasmin and Nisreen), father of Yaghnem (father-in-law of Kim and grandfather of Fahmi, Mohammed, Wesam, Fatima, Mariah and Savana), father of Wesam (father-in-law of Fedaa and grandfather of Emma and Ella), father of Waselah (grandfather of Bilal, Ammen and Iman), father of Sania (father-in-law of Munir Latif and grandfather of Salah, Sofia and Selma). He is also the brother of Rebhi, Fahmia, Khadejah (Salam Elementary School Arabic teacher) and Waheaba.
- * **Sr. Halima Abdilrazak Qetairi**, the mother of our community members, Samer Atari, Nihad Atari (mother-in-law of Basem Taleb) and Suhad Atari (mother-in-law of Talib Abdulmajid Atari).
- * **Sr. Haja Nabilah**, the mother of community member Dr. Eman Gabr and the the mother-in-law of community member Dr. Marwan Metwally.
- * **Br. Basim Najim**, was the brother of Br. Qasim Najim and also the cousin of Br. Khalid Najim.
- * **Br. Ala Tayseer Yousef Mahmoud** is the nephew of community members Br. Eyad Almughrabi and the cousin of Br. Mohammed Almughrabi.

We ask Allah (SWT) to forgive their sins and bless them with a home in Jannah. We ask Allah (SWT) to shower them with His Mercy and Compassion. We also ask Allah (SWT) to provide their family members with strength, patience and perseverance in dealing with their loss.

Please make dua for their maghfirah (forgiveness) and dua for their families.

Community News

ISM Community Outreach

2:213 And mankind is naught but a single nation

Visitors to the Islamic Society of Milwaukee (October –December)

- * Students from Carthage College
- * League of Women Orders Voters
- * Students from UW-Madison
- * Visitors from the International Institute
 - * Urban Immersion group
- * Members from United Methodist Church
 - * Students from Wisconsin Academy
 - * Students from Hayes Bilingual School
 - * Students from Greenfield High School

Hayes Bilingual School 2nd Grade Students



Congratulations



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

- * Osayd Assad & Tasneem J Amro
- * Mohammad Hamdan & Nethaum Mizyed
- * Osamah Mahmoud Arikat & Anna Fahim Mahmoud

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

- * Majd Asmar & Dunia Assad

Schedule a Visit

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.

ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAILS FROM THE ISM?

If you would like to be added to the ISM email list, please contact us at ismooffice@isonline.org. Please let us know if you want to receive all emails (Friday Khutba schedules, condolence announcements, program announcements, Eid announcements, regular programs, etc.) or if you are only interested in receiving emails about lectures and other special programs.

Iqama Schedule - 13th & Layton

December/January

Day	Fajr	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
December					
1-10	6:15	1:10	2:30	+5 min	8:00
11-20	6:15	1:10	2:30	+5 min	8:00
21-31	6:30	1:10	2:30	+5 min	8:00
January					
1-10	6:30	1:10	2:30	+5 min	8:00
11-20	6:15	1:10	2:45	+5 min	8:00
21-31	6:15	1:10	3:00	+5 min	8:00



- Use sunlight to brighten the indoors.
- Switch on solar energy!
- Explore the Solar Group Buy Model
- Learn about the clean renewable solar power for your home or facility.

How solar energy can bring people of faith together to care for Earth -our common home- and save money to reinvest in their missions.

<https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/FaithSolar/>

Contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / Text: 262-365-4532

Wisconsin Green Muslims

An environmental justice group formed in 2005. Connecting Faith, Environmental Justice and Sustainability through Education and Service.

Facebook and Twitter: @WlgreenMuslims

Signs in a Brookfield yard told people to 'Read the Quran' and to 'Make war until Allah reigns supreme'

Karen Pilarski, Now News Group Published 11:21 a.m. CT Nov. 20, 2017 | Updated 4:00 p.m. CT Nov. 20, 2017



(Photo: Karen Pilarski/Now News Group)

Political and religious signs on a residential property in Brookfield have raised questions about the intentions behind the messages, and whether they prey upon fears about Muslims. One sign recently said, "Make war until Allah reigns supreme," and "Read the Quran." The sign has recently been changed to read "Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech are our Most Important Freedoms" and "Read the U.S. Constitution."

Noman Hussain, resident scholar at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee-Brookfield, is among those wondering about the sign, posted near Pilgrim Road and Burleigh Place.

"There have been messages put on the board at times that had verses from the Quran (the holy book of Islam) or statements of the prophet that were taken out of context," Hussain said.

He said many people at a nearby mosque were uncomfortable with the signs.

"In their perspective, hate was being spewed in the community," he said.

The homeowner, reached over the phone on Nov. 17, indicated the signs are not meant to incite anger or negative reactions, but to inspire curiosity and encourage people to research different religions.

The homeowner, who didn't want to be identified, explained he has been posting signs for five years and only two have caused some controversy. The homeowner said he tries to change out the signs every 10 days. The homeowner explained he and his wife have been to the Brookfield mosque a few times and found the people to be nice. "They really dislike what is going on in the Middle East. If people read the Quran, they would know this," the homeowner said. Despite the uproar, the homeowner will keep posting signs. He and his wife have lived in Brookfield for 35 years and said the area is "nice and peaceful."

Brookfield-Elm Grove Interfaith Network has also weighed in on the signs.

In its statement, BEGIN said the group respects and believes in the freedom of speech.

"We appreciate the homeowner's understanding that Islam is a peaceful religion, for we share that understanding," the statement read.

The group believes individual religious communities do the best job of presenting their views.

Complaints have been made

BEGIN said the most recent sign is not the first post of controversial Quran verses that have been displayed on the Brookfield homeowner's sign.

Several people have reported the sign to law enforcement. Callers were told police are aware of the sign and are treating it as a freedom-of-speech right.

Back in September, a person reported a sign on Grandview Drive and Pilgrim Road. The police report said a caller's friend sent a picture of the sign, which talks about beating women, and uses a verse from the Quran that allegedly condones abuse of women.

Hussain said the sign is visible and school buses pass by it. He said it was not only the Muslim community voicing concern, but other community members as well.

The police report said there have been prior complaints, but it was found not to be in violation of any city ordinance.

Embrace diversity not hate

Hussain said the Muslim community is under intense scrutiny in the media and members are stereotyped due to the heinous acts of fringe groups and individuals claiming to follow the religion of Islam.

Hussain commented on these groups, such as ISIS, which tend to get the spotlight and spread their message more than the rest of the Muslims in the world.

"They misrepresent Islam and the understanding and meaning of Islam," he said.

BEGIN's statement said a sign like this can lead to more hatred against local Muslims than they have already been experiencing. Displaying verses of scripture of any religion, out of context, can elicit the opposite response from the public than what was intended.

Hussain said that after news media picked up the story, a person posted it on Facebook. The now-deleted post implied that the person in Brookfield is exposing Muslims. Hussain said it was implying, incorrectly, that they were revealing a truth about the Muslim community.

"I personally received an anonymous letter asking me to publicly respond to certain questions and if I didn't, it would be a matter they would escalate," he said.

Hussain said there are barriers BEGIN strives to take down.

"We are trying to bring people together and talk to people about the diversity that exists in the Brookfield community and also learn about each of the faith groups and what they represent," he said.

BEGIN encourages interfaith dialogue and working together as communities of faith.

"We believe that religious diversity enriches our communities," BEGIN's statement said. "We urge all those who have seen the sign to reach out to the Muslim community members of ISM Brookfield (a branch of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee) to learn more about this religion and its beliefs."



Imam Noman Hussain gives a presentation on Islam during the Open Mosque Day event at Masjid Al-Noor. (Photo: Submitted)





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