



Islamic Center VOICE

Spring 2010 Edition | In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Assalamu alaikum Brothers and Sisters,

Are you tired of winter yet? Unless you are from Siberia, you probably are. It seems like the last few winters have been unusually harsh. For those who are new to this community, believe me when I tell you that when I was growing up in Cedar Rapids, winters didn't seem this long, cold or snowy.

But now the days are getting longer and the ICCR board and community leaders are planning a series of activities to take us into spring and beyond as you will see in this newsletter. Potluck and Learn events are scheduled for each month. We held a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on February 20th that was very successful. The Education Committee is planning a Youth Conference the second weekend of March. We will host a guest speaker, Dr. Main Al-Qudah, who will speak on Interest Bearing Transactions on Friday evening, March 19. Dr. Main will also deliver the khutbah that day. On April 17th, we will hold our annual Mosque Assembly Meeting, this time on a Saturday evening at 5:30 PM with pizza and refreshments served. We will again host a Middle Eastern Dinner for the Cedar Rapids community which is a crucial fundraising event for our Center. The planned date for this event is Sunday, April 25th and we are looking for volunteers to help on that day and with preparations in the weeks leading up to it. Of course, selling tickets is crucial as well and we need all of you to do your part. Please contact Sister Fatima Smejkal if you can help.

Lastly, we are now holding Youth Group Halaqas every Saturday night for the boys starting immediately after salat ul 'Isha. Dr. Hisham Wagdy is the moderator along with other parents. There will be a girls halaqa, the details of which will be announced soon, Insha-Allah.

Concerning the Mosque Assembly Meeting, I can't emphasize enough how important it is that all members eligible to vote attend this once a year meeting. Last year, because we didn't have a quorum, we had to reschedule the meeting with less than optimal attendance. This meeting is open to all community members whether they are paid members or not. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. As a reminder, 2009/2010 Membership Dues will need to be paid by March 17 for members to be eligible to vote. Membership forms with dues amounts are available at the ICCR and on our website. Please indicate "Membership Dues" on your check or payment.

Now back to winter. Now that the days are getting a little longer, I pray that we will see more people attend salah in the masjid. Many times there are only 2 or 3 attending salat ul Fajr and Isha'. Please try to make a habit of attending at least one of these salahs every day. As a reminder, the following is a hadith of the Prophet SAW: 'Uthman bin 'Affan reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah saying: "One who performed prayer in congregation, is as if he has performed Salah for half of the night. And one who performs Fajr prayer in congregation, is as if he has performed Salah the whole night."

Finally, I would like to welcome Imam Ahmad Nabhan back from visiting his family in Egypt. We look forward toward his schedule of activities for and leadership for the community.

Sincerely,
Hassan Igram, Chairman

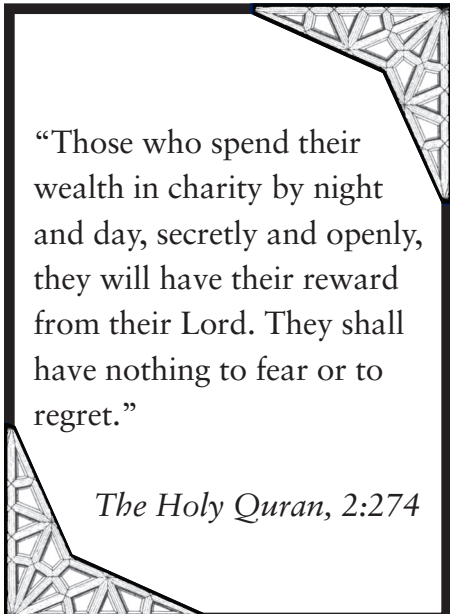
CONTACT

Public Relations Committee Members

Timothy Hyatt, Chairman
Ahsan Ahmad
Mohamed Azkalan
Akif Shaikh

www.crmosque.com
info@crmogque.com

Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids
2999 1st Ave SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
319.362.0857



“Those who spend their wealth in charity by night and day, secretly and openly, they will have their reward from their Lord. They shall have nothing to fear or to regret.”

The Holy Quran, 2:274

IMAM'S MESSAGE

I would like to encourage everyone to come back to the Islamic Center. We are having a difficult time because of the weather. But Alhumdullah we are still in good shape and would like to resume our activities. Please see the lecture schedule below that I will conduct and lead. We have to remind everyone about our duties to Allah swt. Allah swt says in the Holy Qur'an "And remind (by preaching the Qur'an oh Mohamed) for verily the reminding profits the believers." Alhumdullah we have a good community with a nice group of youth. MahshAllah Sunday School

is excellent, our Qur'an school has good teachers, we have activities for youth boys and girls, and adults. I would like to remind our sisters to be focused for the women's lectures that will be every Friday between Maghrib and Isha.

The symbol of life of the Prophet Mohamed pbuh is the month of Rubai-Awal. We should benefit from his history and his life to prepare ourselves and to dedicate ourselves towards Allah swt, towards Prophet Mohamed pbuh and our Islamic responsibility. Also I found the winter at-

tendance for Friday prayer is not like the summer months. I would like to encourage everyone to once again start attending Friday prayer to listen to the remembrance of Allah. This is a good time for the Muslim to benefit himself and his family and to ask Allah for forgiveness. May Allah swt accept you all and may Allah swt protect our community from evil.

Dr. Ahmad Nabhan
Imam of the Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids

CALENDAR

Regular Monthly Events(Sunday School, Lectures, Halaqa, Tafseer)

Please see our completely remodeled website under the Programs category Upcoming Events, Monthly Events, Sunday School and Weekly Lectures.

Sunday School

Sundays from 9:45am to 2:30pm.

Lecture Programs

- Sunday After Fajr Prayer: The Prophet Mohammed's History - 10 minutes
- Sunday After Isha Prayer: Tafseer with Surit Al-Tahreem -10 minutes
- Monday and Friday between Maghrib & Isha Qur'an School for kids
- Tuesday After Isha Prayer: Fiqh – The Book of Divorce

- Wednesday After Isha Prayer: Hadith - 10 minutes
- Friday After Isha Prayer: Women's Lecture - 10 minutes
- Saturday After Fajr Prayer: El Sera The Islamic History - 10 minutes
- Saturday after Isha Prayer: Weekly Lecture - 30 minutes and Q&A - 15 minutes
- Saturday after Weekly Lecture (after Isha) - Halaqa for Boys with Dr. Wagdy

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION/SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce the following high school seniors for the graduating class of 2010.

Anab Abdi - Washington High School
Samira Ajram - Washington High School
Alia Amer - Washington High School
Shayma El-Sheikh - Washington High School
Abdullah Azkalany - Kennedy High School
Veton Dragidella - Jefferson High School
Noor Amr - LinnMar High School
Irfan Bhatti - Iowa City School

If you know of any graduating high school seniors not listed above, please contact Fatima Smejkal at 319-329-8432. The scholarship applications will be mailed to the seniors and the senior recognition program will be held at the ICCR Sunday, May 23, at 6:00pm.

MOSQUE ASSEMBLY

The Annual Mosque Assembly Meeting will start at 5:30pm on Saturday April 17 with pizza and refreshments for all in attendance. Everyone is strongly encouraged to hear the summary of our past year's accomplishments and plans for the next year. You need not be a paid member to attend but you must be a paid member to vote for the nominees in the election of new members to the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees.

POTLUCK DINNER

The March 12 (Friday) potluck and lecture, which are part of the Youth Program (see related item), will be at 6:00pm and is open to the entire community as is the Saturday evening dinner for which there will be a nominal charge for both paid program attendees and non attendees.

The April 10 (Saturday) family potluck will be at 6:30pm and feature Dr. Imane Bentaar from Cedar Rapids who will discuss "How to Improve Our Health". The May 8 (Saturday) family potluck may feature a program on "Diet, Nutrition and Fitness".

Please bring enough food items (main dish, side dish, salad and/or dessert) to share with others.

STATEWIDE YOUTH PROGRAM

The Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids is hosting a State Wide Youth Conference on March 12th and 13th. The conference titled W.A.K.E. Up!! will offer lectures as well as workshops for youth ages 13 and above. There will be a special workshop held just for the parents. For more information please contact the ICCR or email faith1627@msn.com.

Warning. Allah. Knows. Everything. UP!!

Today's Youth... Tomorrow's Leaders?

Who: All Youth ages 13 and above and their Parents

What: State Wide Conference to Strengthen Youth. The program will offer lectures (by Guest Speakers from Michigan and Chicago) for families, separate workshops for boys, girls and parents as well as a Father/Son and Mother/Daughter workshop.

Why: The Muslim Youth of today are faced with many struggles at school, work, on the internet and even at home. This Conference is meant to strengthen their iman and allow the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Where: The Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids
2999 1st Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Cost: \$20 per person \$60 per family of 3 or more.

Friday night Potluck Dinner with Lecture – Free and Open to the Community
Lectures and workshops will be held on Saturday
Saturday lunch and dinner will be available for a nominal charge.
Babysitting will be available.

ANNUAL MIDDLE EASTERN DINNER

The Middle Eastern dinner originated in 1978 in the month of April. This tradition has been carried on each April for the last seven years. The beauty of this event is that our community, young and not so young, works together in welcoming Muslim and Non-Muslim friends and neighbors into our Islamic Center. This tradition offers a delicious meal, and our hospitality which is looked forward to year after year in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding areas. Our community is invited and encouraged to attend this annual event and to inform and invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and the general public to enjoy a wonderful meal at the ICCR.

If you can donate \$5, \$10, \$20 or more to help reduce our dinner expenses it would be greatly appreciated. Your time with the preparation is needed on the following dates:

- Saturday, April 10th - meat and spinach Fatiyer preparation will begin at 8:00am
- Thursday, April 22nd - boiling of the cabbage beginning at 3:00pm
- Friday, April 23rd - rolling of the cabbage beginning at 8:00am
- Saturday, April 24th - Food preparation beginning at 8:00am
- Sunday, April 25th - Annual Middle Eastern Dinner served from 11:00am - 2:00pm and 4:00pm - 7:00pm

The menu will consist of:

Fatiyer
Rice/Green Beans
Cabbage Rolls
Salad
Hummus/Bread
Baklava
Beverage

Carry out dinners will be available.

The adult tickets are \$12 / Children under 10 years of age are \$6

The tickets will be distributed for you to sell on April 1st and 2nd. Safaa Ajram (319) 390-8729 will be in charge of the distribution and collection.

Thank you for your participation with this community event.

Respectfully,
Shadia Igram (319) 573-7676
Fatima Smejkal (319) 329-8432

NEW COMMUNITY MEMBER PROFILE

Name: Othman Alrrachidi

Education or Occupation: I am studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Iowa

Residence: Cedar Rapids, IA

Family Status: Married with three children - Rida 8 years, Akram 6 years and Bilal 4 years old

Languages Spoken: English, French, Arabic

Where did you live before Cedar Rapids: I am from Morocco. In the US, I lived in Boston and now in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area

What do you like best about our community: Sunday School - very organized, good effort Mashallah.

What would you like to see improved: More people should come to prayers in the mosque. Especially Fajr, Maghrib and Isha. At the Iowa City Mosque there is usually a lot more people regularly attending all daily prayers.

An Ayah that you remember and think about: Surat Hud – 11:117

“In truth, thy Lord would not destroy the townships tyrannously while their folk were doing right.”

ICCR GYM SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ladies Workout Group 10:15 - 11:30am Amina & Uthala Abdullah		FC United Soccer Club Practice 6:30 - 8:30pm Bill Ajram		FC United Soccer Club Practice 5:30 - 8:30pm Bill Ajram		Skateboarding 3:00 - 9:00pm Trevor Hyatt

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise your local business in the ICCR newsletter or the website, please submit your business info (company name, type of service, address and phone/fax/website/email) which we can insert in a business card size.

Contact Brother Tim at info@crm Mosque.com with your info and/or questions. Prices are \$25 per newsletter issue (approximately a minimum of 4 seasonal issues per year) and \$100 per year for the website.



588 Boyson RD NE Suite #124
Telephone: (319) 393-4161
Hours: Sun-Thur 11am-9pm
Fri & Sat 11am-10pm

*Leo's offers Halal pizza toppings, pasta and gyros
Dine in, carry out and delivery.
See our full menu at www.leospizzaandpasta.com*

America's Favorite Halal Brand

www.midamarhalal.com
319-362-3711

1105 60th Ave. SW · Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

AMERICAN CLASS TAXI

CALL 363-TAXI (363-8294)

Get a Safe & Clean Taxi Ride with
Female Drivers available for our Sisters!
Low Out of Town Rates

Driver Wanted... Good Income!

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Please see the ICCR website for Committee descriptions

Membership Committee - Earn \$25 to Sign Up a New Member!

Please be sure to pay your annual membership dues for 2009-2010 in full or in installments. Mark your check(s) to state that the payment(s) is specifically for 2009/2010 membership dues. If you pay by cash, please also indicate your intention on paper and deliver them directly to Ovais Ahmed in person.

The Board is offering a \$25 monetary gift to any community member who signs up a new paid member. You can print the membership form from the ICCR website www.crmosque.com or pick one up from the Imam, Brother Ovais or Brother Ayman. The community needs your help and active involvement – so get involved today!

Social Services - Family Potlucks!

The Social Services committee continues to work hard behind the scenes to support the family potluck dinners and arrange for featured speakers. Al Hemdullilah for

these wonderful sisters and brothers. We strongly ask everyone to help them with our events whether you are a formal committee member or not. It's our duty to help support all aspects of our Masjid.

Public Relations - New Website!

Please visit the entirely remodeled ICCR website. We're also pleased to continue bringing you this newly formatted newsletter on a quarterly/seasonal basis and to include as much important and relevant news to our community here, by email and on the website. Please offer your feedback and future articles or other submissions to us via info@crmogque.com.