

February, March 2008 -Safar, Rabi Awal1429  
In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Dear brothers and sisters, Assalamu alaikum,

As you may know the Imam Search Committee, as sanctioned by the Board of Directors, has been trying to hire an Imam to lead our community. Recently we entertained a visiting Imam, Dr. Ahmad Nabhan who delivered the khutbah and spoke to our community on Saturday evening. As we have done in the past, we solicited evaluations from attendees on the prospective Imam. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and the Imam was very impressed with our community as well. Consequently, the Board made Imam Nabhan an offer and he accepted and has already arrived with his family on February 15th. Dr. Nabhan memorized the entire Qur'an by age 8 and is a graduate of Al Azhar University. He is married and has 3 children. Please support our new Imam by welcoming him to Cedar Rapids and being involved in upcoming ICCR events.

Our annual General Assembly meeting is coming upon us and a date is set - Sunday, April 27th . This is a very important meeting and your input and vote is extremely important to the future administration of the ICCR. Please reserve this date on your calendar and watch for details to come.

Finally, those of you who haven't paid your annual dues, please do so now. Paid membership dues to the ICCR allow members discounted rates for a number of services and helps pay for the operating expenses of the Center. If you are current member, you must pay your dues by March 27th to be able to vote at the General Assembly. If you are a new member, you must have paid 6 months prior to the General Assembly meeting and be in good standing. If you have any questions, please consult with the Treasurer or any Board member. Your support is much appreciated.

Your chairman,  
Hassan Igram

### IMAM'S OFFICE

#### Imam Nabhan's weekly schedule

**Sunday 12:45 PM – 1:30 PM**

(after Zuhr Prayer):  
Weekly community lecture

**Friday 6:15 PM – 7:00 PM**

(between Maghrib and Isha)  
Girls' youth Program

**Friday 7:45 PM – 8:30 PM**

(after Isha)  
Boys' youth Program

Khatira (short speech)  
**after each**

#### Fajr and Isha prayers

Once a week in the morning  
(day yet to be determined by sisters):

#### Women's lecture

#### Imam office hours

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and between Maghrib  
and Isha prayers daily except Monday, Call  
for any questions or fatwas any time.  
319-362-0857

*Please stay tuned for the Daylight time change on  
March 9th. 2008 since some of the above hours  
will change.*

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This newsletter is compiled by the Public Relations Committee (PRC) Mohamed Azkalany, Akif Shaikh, Sohail Hussaini, Timothy Hyatt, Ridwan Rashid, Sarah Tawil, Jordan Troka and Mohamed Soliman.

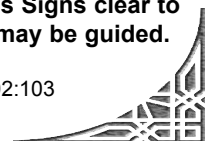
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In the name of Allah

**And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude favour on you; for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, ye became brethren; and ye were on the brink of the pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus doth Allah make His Signs clear to you: That ye may be guided.**

Family of Imran.002:103



# GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Brother Farooq Mailk** will be visiting us from Houston, Texas on Friday, February 29th and Saturday, March 1st. Brother Farooq will deliver the khutbah on Friday and hold a workshop Friday evening before a potluck dinner. Mr. Malik is the President of the Islamic Society of Houston which administers 8 masajids and heads the Institute for Islamic Knowledge in Houston. The workshop will be about how to create an Islamic will and discussions about zakah. Mr. Malik is an expert on these subjects and has also translated the Qur'an to English. The IIK has printed and distributed over 100,000 copies to date.

Please join us for a community potluck dinner event to host **Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain, a recent US Ambassador to Pakistan and US diplomat in the Middle East**, who will be visiting the Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids on Monday, March 3 at 6:00pm.

She looks forward to visiting our important and historic community. Ambassador Chamberlain will be discussing her perspectives on US engagement in the greater Middle East over the next few years. More information about Ambassador Chamberlain, the current president of the Middle East Institute in Washington, DC, can be found on the following website: [www.mideasti.org](http://www.mideasti.org). We look forward to your attendance at this event despite it being on a Monday evening. Thank you.

## Membership Dues:

We urge our Muslim brothers and sisters to pay their membership dues if they are current members of the ICCR or to register to be members if they have not done so.

It is one way to show support for our community and participation to the good up-keeping of the ICCR

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

AlhamduLillah, the Sunday School program is magnificent.

The students, as well as parents, are quite sincere as they tackle the slippery roads, cold temperatures and mountains of snow to ensure their children's attendance in the program. May Allah (swt) reward everyone for their hard work and efforts, ameen. Amazing growth is all that can be said when explaining the Quran program. With the awesome staff we have, and the bright children, the students' progress in memorization has been phenomenal.

Arabic classes are succeeding at every level. With eleven classes, the ratio of students to teacher is low which is proving to be quite successful.

A new addition to the Sunday School program this year was the **"Hajj Project"**. All the Islamic studies classes took part in

researching, studying, practicing and presenting a re-enactment of Hajj. The high school classes took the initiative of building a replica of the Kabaa and the oral presentation of the facts, while the remaining classes took part in the re-enactment.

The presentation was held in the spacious gym. The highlight of the presentation included students wearing ihram, reciting the talbiya and even stoning at jamarat. The program was breathtaking as the students engaged themselves in their parts. May Allah (swt) grant Hajj and Umrah to all those who wish it, ameen.

## Upcoming Event:

The Sunday School program is proud to announce that the Annual Quran Competition will be in April. This year the competition will be inclusive of all the Masajid in Iowa. More information will be available soon.

## Important Dates:

Due to the numerous cancellation of Sunday School for hazardous weather, we will not be taking spring break off. The following is the schedule for the remainder of the school year:

April 27th

May 10th

May 11th

May 18th

No School General Assembly

Olympics

Last Day of Sunday

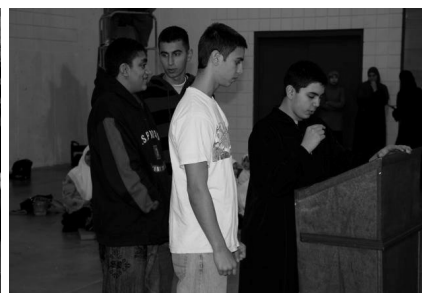
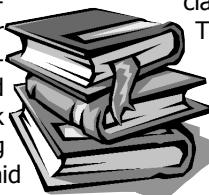
School Classes

Sunday School

Graduation

More information will be sent in advance in clarifying upcoming events.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.



**This is an extremely important subject for all Muslims!**

**Islamic Will Workshop  
& Potluck Dinner**

By: Muhammad Farooq - i - Azam Malik

On: Friday, February 29th, 2008

At: 6:00 PM

with a Potluck Dinner

starting at 7:00 PM

Pick up your "Will Package"  
from the Imam's office and study in advance.



**"What Holds Us Together"  
March 7th & 8th**

Featuring Guest Speaker  
Ameena Jandali  
ING Motivational Speaker

**Friday 6:30 pm**

**Community Potluck**

**Saturday 1pm**

**Community Open Forum**

**Saturday 5:30 pm**

**Ladies Only Dinner**

**\*Dinner Complements of  
Social Services Committee**



**RSVP for Saturday dinner with Uthala Igram at:  
319-294-1543 (home) or 319-651-9847 (cell)**



## Empowering Our Women



Truth can not be aborted; truth will always prevail. This case holds true in our faith, whenever an aspect of our faith is repressed due to political, economical, social, or other factors, it comes back vibrant and strong.

The seed of faith is an eternal one and can only cultivate in the hearts of those who are devoted to Allah. For instance, our sisters in Turkey, at the beginning of this century, were ruled by a sectarian ruler who tried to alter the seed of their faith.

On May 3, 1924, Mustafa Kamal Ataturk abolished the Islamic Shari'ah, and a host of different interdiction among which was banning Muslim women from wearing their head covers in public. The propelling

factor here is that he relied on Western ideologies in regard of women issues to reinforce these policies throughout the previous decades. Owing to feminists, Ataturk was able to plant the seed of destruction to subdue Islamic laws.



On February 9th, 2008, the truth prevailed and Turkey's Islamic Government changed their Constitution by voting to lift the decades-old ban against headscarves on women. Muslim women are reclaiming their rights and gaining their expanded religious authority at

last. "Fain would they extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the Unbelievers may detest (it). (9.032).



On a local note, our community women have always been the hidden soldiers in keeping up with the mosque's needs and functions. It is about time that their efforts and hard work be celebrated in a formal evening.

On March 7-8th, the Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids is hosting Ameena Al Jandali to speak, entertain questions, and clarify any confusion on issues that are important to us. This is our opportunity in progressing and using the expertise and skills of the older community and passing them to the new generation which will be inspired to step in and carry the torch of light for generations to come. It is imperative that all of us show our solidarity and utmost support to this cause.