

August/September 2007 -Shabaan/Ramadan 1428
In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Dear brothers and sisters,
Assalamu alaikum;

As I am sure all of you are aware, Ramadan is rapidly approaching and your Board is making efforts to insure that activities at the ICCR benefit the entire community during this blessed month. The following is an update on what the Board is working on.

Insha'Allah, by Labor Day, the construction in the prayer room and painting in the new addition should be finished and the facility in general should be ready for upcoming classes. Some of you have had questions on why we are doing the remodeling. Last Ramadan we had a fundraiser for several building improvements that needed to be done. One of which was insulating and sheet rocking the prayer hall. As we assessed the project, we thought it would be a good idea to add windows and ceiling fans. This will save us a lot on energy costs and keep us warm in the winter. Since the money was raised and allocated to do this, we felt it had to get done before winter. There are other improvements that have to be made, such as new HVAC units and painting the exterior of the building and these items will be dealt with soon. All in all, the building needs some more improvements done and we will get these things done as soon as is possible.

The Education Committee is planning a more structured program than ever before. The ICCR is recruiting teachers and will provide training for all teachers. Additionally, the curriculum for this year will be updated and be more comprehensive.

With the rapid growth of our community, we expect student enrollment to

increase from last year. If you are interested in teaching, please contact Hala Azmeh or Gamal Hegazi.

The Social Services Committee has met several times and will also work in improving events for the general membership. They have come up with many interesting ideas. Also, we have been trying to hire an Imam for the past year trying to find the best possible candidate. Although I have nothing to announce at this time, we have made an offer to someone. Insha'Allah we will have a full time Imam soon.

The Friday luncheon has been an outstanding service to those of us who attend Friday salah. It has generated much needed income for the Center and made it easy to grab lunch and go back to work or wherever after salah. I would like to remind you to make sure you donate, especially those of you who attend Friday. The lunch is for you, the donation is for the Center. Also, be sure to pay your membership dues for this year. You can approach Ovais Ahmed or any other board member with questions or Concerning Ramadan, we will have a visiting Qari to recite during Tarawih prayers and we plan to have him offer evening Qur'an and tajwid classes after Ramadan. Finally, I want to thank those brothers and sisters that selflessly serve on the Board, volunteered for committees, helped with the Friday lunches and showed up for clean up days. Special thanks for the brothers that have devoted their time to prepare and give the khutbahs on Friday.

Jazakum Allahu khairan,
Hassan

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This newsletter is compiled by the Public Relations Committee (PRC) members include Muhammad Hayat, Tim Hyatt, Ridwan Rashid, Sarah Tawil, Jordan Trcka and Mohamed Soliman.

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In the name of Allah, The
ompassionate, The erciful

(Fasting) for a fixed number of days, but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number (should be made up) from other days. And as for those who can fast with difficulty, (i.e. an old man, etc.), they have (a choice either to fast or) to feed a poor person (for every day). But whoever does good of his own accord, it is better for him. And that you fast, it is better for you if only you know."

2:183-84

RAMADAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fiqh Council Decision on Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr

Several years back the Board of Directors and Imam of the ICCR made the decision to follow ISNA and the Fiqh Council of North America concerning moon sightings and subsequent announcements for the beginning of Islamic months and in particular, Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. As was the procedure last year, please note the following announcement from the Fiqh Council of North America. Ramadan Mubarak to all.

Hassan K. Igram
President

Ramadan 1428 AH:

The astronomical New Moon is on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 12:44 Universal Time (i.e., 8:44 am EDT, and 5:44 am PDT). This moon is impossible to be seen anywhere on September 11. On September 12, the moon will be visible in Australia, South Africa, South America and North America (e.g., in San Diego, CA at sunset, the age is over 44 hours, and moon is setting 35 minutes after sunset). Therefore, first day of Ramadan (fasting) in North America, according to the criterion adopted by the Fiqh Council of North America, is on Thursday, September 13, insha'Allah.

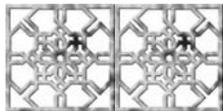
Eid ul-Fitr 1428 AH:

The astronomical New Moon is on Thursday, October 11, 2007, at 5:00 Universal Time (i.e., 1:00 am EDT - or October 10, 10:00 pm PDT). On October 11, the moon is visible on the southwest coast of South America, which is east of North America. (e.g., in Santiago, Chile at sunset, the age is about 18 hours, and moon is setting 40 minutes after sunset).

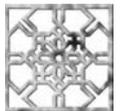
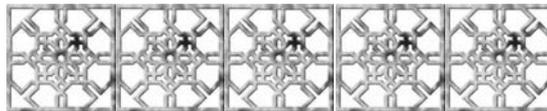
According to visibility anywhere in the world, the criterion adopted by the Fiqh Council of North America, Eid ul-Fitr in North America is on Saturday, October 13, insha'Allah.

Visiting Imam in Ramadan:

A visiting Imam will spend the blessed month of Ramadan with our community to lead us in the TARAWEEH Prayer. The visiting Imam is a HAFETH (Memorizing the Quran) and we hope that he will be inspiring to us during the month of Ramadan



RAMADAN
MUBARAK



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Education Committee Report - Sunday School News

It's that time of the year again. Sunday School begins on September 16th. But wait a minute, where did the summer go??!! Well, Insha'Allah, it passed with lots of family time, out door fun, and lots of both spiritual as well as physical growth for our children.

The staff is excited to announce that the registration for the Sunday School program will be on September 9th, 11

am till 12 pm. All students ages four (by September 30th) and above are encouraged to register and attend the four hour program.

The Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids is in search for teachers for the Sunday School Program. The need is for Quran, Arabic, and Islamic Studies teachers. Strong memorization and understanding of the Quran and Arabic are required for the Quran and Arabic

position. Teachers who are interested for the Islamic Studies teaching position need to have a firm understanding of Islam as well as our American Society. Teaching degrees are not required, but are highly preferred.

If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Sr. Hala Azmeh at faith1627@msn.com or (319) 533-9312.

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Fajr Halaqah
2	3	4	5	6	7 01:15 pm Jumma Prayer	8 Fajr Halaqah
9  Sunday School Registration Date 11am-12pm	10	11	12	13  1st. of RAMADAN	14 01:15 pm Jumma Prayer	15 Fajr Halaqah
16	17	18	19	20	21 01:15 pm Jumma Prayer	22 Fajr Halaqah
23/30  7:30 pm Potluck Iftar guest speaker, Jim Zoghby	24	25	26	27	28 01:15 pm Jumma Prayer	29 Fajr Halaqah



Ramadan has started, Alhamdulillah! If you're finding yourself feeling suddenly overwhelmed because you haven't prepared yourself properly or not enough... then don't panic! Take everything one step at a time. Here are some tips:

- Make a list every day of things that you can do. This way you will feel more organized and it will help you to have a little more control over the situation and as you go along, you can scratch things off your list which give you a sense of accomplishment.

- Try to read more Qur'an. Take your time and try to fully absorb the

Ramadan has started

text, if it means that you'll only read a bit every time you pick up the Qur'an to understand the text, then that's what it takes. Don't feel like you should be reading lots in order to have accomplished more good deeds. It's better to try your best to understand what you're reading in order to get closer to Allah.

- Try to increase your prayers. Again, take your time and do what you can. It's better to concentrate during one extra prayer than to perform in a series of prayers when you don't have the concentration for it because your mind is wandering off to someplace else.

- Make du'a and lots of it. This is an easy one and you'll find yourself feeling relieved and cleansed.

- Help out others where you can,

Insha'Allah this will make you feel good and will want to perform more good deeds such as the ones listed above.

- Try not to annoy other people during Ramadan. You know we all know people with certain habits that will just make you lose your patience? Remember that you might be one of those people to others and

think off your behavior around other people, remember fasting is not easy for everyone!

- Spend less time entertaining yourself for the sake of entertainment, but focus on your inner-self this month, close your eyes and leave the

TV for a bit and think of the year gone by and the things you need to seek forgiveness for, turn to Allah for forgiveness, He loves people that seek forgiveness.

May you all have a blessed Ramadan!

