



# Islamic Center VOICE

Ramadan 2013 Edition | In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Assalaam Alaikum Wa Rahmatu Allah Wa Barakatu

Ramadan is a month in which families become closer, communities strengthen their foundations and individuals reaffirm their spiritual roots. It is a time to learn taqwa, piety, self-discipline and patience. It is a time to seek Allah's forgiveness and to forgive each other.

This is a season for virtues which leads to worshipping and obedience of Allah, fasting and abstinence from bad deeds, recitation of the Quran, night prayer to catch the night which is better than 1000 months and performing other good deeds. Among many others, one very important virtue of Ramadan is that it generates the spirit of giving and sacrifice. Deprivation of food and water brings us to the realization of what it means to be without things that are taken for granted in our lives. There are many sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) encouraging us to help the poor and needy and spending money for the sake of Allah during this month. Ibn Abbas has narrated that The Prophet (PBUH) was the most generous amongst the people, and he used to be more so in the month of Ramadan. We must follow the tradition of the Prophet (PBUH) and be generous. The mosque needs your support to continue with its operation and carry out the current and future projects. Please donate generously and do not lose this opportunity to multiply your rewards for good deeds in the month of Ramadan.

As announced previously, Dr Nabhan's contract with the ICCR had ended in March. We have been actively searching for an Imam. A town hall meeting was organized to establish the needs of this community and setup the search criteria. We have advertised the position and mailed and emailed flyers to Islamic Centers all over the USA. Several candidates have applied for the position to date and we are in the process of initial screening.

In the interim we have hired Hassan Salem to serve as a part time "Site Supervisor" for performing various administrative and religious duties at the ICCR. He has studied Sharia and Fiqh at Al Azhar University. He is also a Hafiz.

We have also hired Shaikh Ahmed Hemaya to lead the Taraweh prayers and Qiyam-ul -Lail during Ramadan. Shaikh Ahmed is a graduate of Al Azhar University with Bachelor's degree in Islamic law (Sharia). He memorized the Quran at the age of 12 and MashaAllah has a very beautiful voice. Shaikh Ahmed has 22 years of experience as an Imam and a religious worker. Please welcome Hassan and Ahmed and support them in fulfilling their duties.

May Allah help us to benefit from this season of virtues and blessings and may He grant us His love, mercy and forgiveness now and forever, Ameen.

Ovais Ahmed – ICCR Board of Directors

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) told his followers: "God said: 'Every action of the son of Adam is for him except fasting, for that is solely for Me. I give the reward for it.' The fast is a shield. If one is fasting, he should not use foul language, raise his voice (in anger), or behave foolishly. If someone reviles him or fights with him he should say, 'I am fasting' (instead of responding in kind).

Fiqh-us-Sunnah,

Volume 3, Number 107A

Join us on Facebook , sign up for the email list  or visit [crmogque.com](http://crmogque.com) for the latest announcements and salat times. The website is mobile browser friendly .

## RAMADAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Ramadan begins Monday night July 8 at Maghreb with the first day of fasting Tuesday July 9, 2013.
  - The first Taraweh prayers begin after Isha prayer on Monday July 8 and after Isha prayer every night thereafter and last for 45 minutes. Isha will be at 10:15pm until the last 10 days of Ramadan when it will be at 10:00pm.
- Iftar will be held every night at the ICCR except on the very last night of Ramadan
  - Sign up to host or sponsor an Iftar by signing up outside the Imam's office
  - The ICCR Board will host a community Iftar on Lailat Al Qadr, August 3
    - Eid Ul Fitr is expected to be Thursday August 8, 2013 with Takbir at 8:30am and Salat Al Eid and Khutba at 9:00am  
A breakfast will follow the Khutba.  
Breakfast food or beverage item donations will be appreciated.
- Wonderful Children's Eid Outdoor Activities will be available as in years past!
  - There will be a catered community Eid celebration dinner Saturday August 10 at 6:00pm  
Children \$5.00 and Adults \$10.00
  - There will be a community picnic on Saturday August 24 – venue TBD

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Youth Programs Every Friday Night  
Before and After Ramadan**

**Watch for regular Youth Program events  
announced via the ICCR email, web page and Facebook page**

**The next Children of Abraham Dialogue will be Sunday September 29, 2013  
on the topic of Holy Spaces – Yesterday and Today  
At Coe College 2-4pm in Hickok Hall**

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### Summer Camp News

Summer Camp was held from June 10<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Campers enjoyed memorizing Quran, strengthening their Arabic skills as well as learning and strengthening their understanding of Ramadan in Islamic Studies. Campers also enjoyed field trips and activities! Visit the Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids website and facebook to get a first hand view of all the fun!!!

### Sunday School Hours

Sundays from  
9:45 am to 2:30 pm

Sunday School will, inshaAllah, begin registration on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Children ages 4 (by September 15<sup>th</sup>) and above are encouraged to register. Quran, Arabic, Islamic Studies and activities are taught during the four hour program.

A dedicated and qualified staff works closely with the students and parents to ensure the students growth and enrichment in their classes. All students are assessed and placed according to their abilities in Quran and Arabic. There are seven levels of Quran where students are taught Quran memorization using tajweed. There are six levels of Arabic classes. The beginning Arabic curriculum is based upon the phonetic approach where the objective is to get the students to learn how to read the Quran. The advanced Arabic curriculum is centered on strengthening the students reading and vocabulary in order for them to begin comprehending the Quran. The Islamic Studies curriculum focuses on the needs of the students based upon their age, developmental and

social needs. Students also get to participate in activities where they are given time to have fun and socialize with their peers.

If you have any questions or need any further clarification please contact us at  
iccrsundayschool@gmail.com

### My Iman Montessori Preschool and Academy

Alhamdulillah, My Iman Montessori (MIM), Eastern Iowa's First Full Time Islamic School, will be moving on to its 5<sup>th</sup> school year! Financially, 2012/13 was quite a challenging year. We are currently planning for 2013/14 to be a financially viable and even more enriching experience for our children. Details will be announced during Ramadan. Meanwhile, enrollment is open for all grades. For more information about the school visit us at [www.myimanmontessori.org](http://www.myimanmontessori.org).

MIM is the gateway to positive social integration for our younger generation, a beautifully crafted middle path between the extremes of assimilation and isolation. To ensure quality education for our children, MIM employs state certified teachers. We take pride in our low teacher-student ratio and individualized learning. MIM uses Montessori instruction and curriculum in Pre/K and traditional in Elementary classrooms. Our entire curriculum meets or exceeds Common Core Standards. Arabic-Quran-Islamic Studies program receives special focus in assuring that as our children are prepared for positive social integration, they do so with

a high sense of moral values and Islamic identity.

Our foremost thanks to Allah for His countless favors and then to the staff, the parents, and the community who values the notion of a full-time Islamic school. We look forward to your generous support. May Allah continue to bless our school.




MIM Board of Directors

For enrollment information please contact Surriah Igram at:  
319-329-9214  
[myimanmontessori@gmail.com](mailto:myimanmontessori@gmail.com)

For more information visit  
[www.myimanmontessori.org](http://www.myimanmontessori.org)

### Children's Evening Program

The Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids would like to announce the beginning of a new program to strengthen your child's Quran and Arabic skills. Beginning October 2013, there will be a new program offered two evenings a week that focuses on Quran and Arabic. It is without a doubt that a child (or an adult) can NOT learn a foreign language in two hours a week. With this in mind, the goal is to provide services to help strengthen your child's skills in Quran memorization and Arabic. This program will work closely with the Sunday School staff so that your child is not duplicating lessons and is advancing and expanding their skills. More information will be emailed and posted on the ICCR website.

Join us on Facebook , sign up for the email list  or visit [crmogque.com](http://crmogque.com) for the latest announcements and salat times. The website is mobile browser friendly .

**Office Hours**  
Magrheb to Isha Daily

**Public Relations**

Please visit the ICCR website for news, events, prayer times and other updates.  
And join us on Facebook for updates on new events- search for "Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids"