

# TWELVERS

Issue 1 • August 2012 • SHAWAAL

FIRST WORD

**HIC LAUNCHES  
COMMUNITY  
MAGAZINE**

WOMEN

**MUSLIMS AT  
OLYMPICS**



EDUCATION

**HOW TO  
CHOOSE A CAREER**

## Eid Mubarak

May the Guidance and Blessings of Allah  
Be With You and Your Family...

plus

Business in Islam

Bibi Khadija (AS)

Role of Parents in Education

Kids Corner

15th Anniversary Games

SPOTLIGHT

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW  
RIYAAZ JIVRAJ**

HUSSEINI ISLAMIC CENTER OF ORLANDO PUBLICATION



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### Editor

Raza Dhanji

### Editorial Team

Fatema Dewji  
 Pareen Dhalla  
 Zaygamali Hemani  
 Fatema Jaffer  
 Husain Jaffer  
 Irfan Karim  
 Imran Rajwani

### Website

[twelvers.orlandocenter.org](http://twelvers.orlandocenter.org)

### Email

[twelvers@orlandocenter.org](mailto:twelvers@orlandocenter.org)

The Editorial Board of the Twelvers Magazine would like to send its Eid greetings to all. Ramadhan has been a time for families and communities to share the happiness of coming together in intense devotion, reflection and service.

On this auspicious day, yet another milestone is being engraved in the short but rich history of our community as we launch the community magazine, Twelvers.

We have the privilege of having seven dynamic youths of the community who have done most of the work. The idea of launching this magazine was first discussed on July 28th, 2012. That's right, the day of 8th Ramadhan this year. The community should be proud of these seven youths for being able to launch the inaugural issue in less than three weeks, on this blessed day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The Twelvers magazine will be published every quarterly with next issue slated for before Muharram. The aim of the magazine is to bring articles and newsworthy stories of importance to the community members of not only HIC but of other communities around the world. Among the subjects that we intend to cover include but no limited to religious, educational, medical, sports, youths, women and children. We also intend to have a special spotlight section where a special information or chat with various personalities will be covered.

Our aim is to also bring awareness of other communities around us and other Shia communities in North America and around the world. We would like this magazine to reach wider audience.

In this issue we have tried to cover variety of topics pertaining to religious, medical, educational and sports as well as women related articles, youths and kids. Additionally, it was our privilege to interview the President of HIC, Br. Riyaz Jivraj.

We would like to appeal to all to please send in your articles. Though due to space constraints, we do not guarantee that every article will appear, we will try our best to choose the best ones that we feel our readers will be interested.

We also would like to hear from you. We will publish your feedback. You can email us at [twelve@orlandocenter.org](mailto:twelve@orlandocenter.org).

As we leave you to enjoy reading this magazine, lets reflect the achievements of our community here in Orlando and elsewhere,



especially during these challenging times that we the Muslims face in this world.

In the year 1999, the then President of HIC, Marhum Mehbub Manji, had launched Vision 2000 to get our community in to taking that next step. Looking back twelve years later, our community has taken more than the next step. As a community we have made great strides. HIC has never been more united before and therein lies the biggest success of our community. And the best part is that the future is bright for our community.

However, during these twelve years, we have lost some of the pioneers who have paved the way for us. But though these leaders are not replaceable, our community has been blessed with the influx of youths who keep the ball rolling.

As you enjoy the day of Eid-ul-Fitr, lets us not forget those loved ones whom we have lost, including the past leaders, Marhum Mehbub Manji, Marhum Husseinali Yusufali, Marhum Liakatali Fazal and Marhum Maulana Baqri. Sura-e-Fateha.

*Raza Dhanji*

Dear Editor,  
I feel this Twelvers Magazine will really benefit the community at large. It will provide insight on all the latest topics and allow us to stay informed about the affairs of other Jamaats. In time this magazine will link us all together building new bonds of friendship and unity as a whole. The topics in magazine consist of adhere to all ages and inshallah will spark interest in the lives of many.

**F. Dewji**  
**Orlando, FL**

Dear Editor,  
Coming up with new ideas to keep communities involved plays a huge role in keeping communities active and interested. Seeing this new idea and being part of a publication brings a new spotlight to the HIC community of Orlando. How much difference or power, can one thing make you may ask. It can make more a difference then most are willing to admit because it provides a sense of the community being involved more with another project which is showcased to communities around the World. It shows a togetherness which can actually bring communities and youths closer and willing to do more for their own community to show their involvement. Not to mention a bigger objective of bringing communities around the World closer together.

**Imran Rajwani**  
**Orlando, FL**

Dear Editor,  
As the Twelvers magazine makes its debut, there is lots of excitement in store regarding future outcomes and expectations. While the first publications

may have a heavy focus on the Orlando Jamaat, the future goal is to have increased representation from every Jamaat in North America. This would enable us to realize our original goal of increasing awareness and unity between various communities. I hope these publications are received well and that future productions become a team effort with input from the public.

**Irfan Karim**  
**Orlando, FL**

Dear Editor,  
I fully expect Twelvers magazine to impact the minds of Shia Ithna-Asheri communities across the world. Covering a wide variety of subject matter, it is sure to enlighten the public on the progress of Muslims in the West. As we move further into the digital age, I anticipate Twelvers magazine to be a successful media outlet due to the continuous supply of fresh news-worthy content, willingness to adapt to media innovation, and the dedication of its editorial staff

**Husain Jaffer**  
**Orlando, FL**

Dear Editor  
The Twelvers magazine is something I'm really glad I had the opportunity to join since I've never personally been a part of any newsletter or writing and publishing committee and so far I have been able to work well with others on the team and have enjoyed being able to research on an idea and write about it, knowing others will want to read into it and hopefully be able to take something from it. I truly believe this magazine will have a positive outcome for the community as a whole because it can help us be on

the same page and be more interactive with sharing ideas and thoughts as there will be opportunities for members to give feedback and even take part in the magazine later on. I'm really happy we've started this at our mosque and look forward taking part and helping in the future.

**Fatema Jaffer**  
**Orlando, FL**

Dear Editor,  
In today's society it can be easy for our brothers and sisters to move away from the community. I know for a fact that the Twelvers magazine is going to provide community solidarity as well as a better insight to everyone, on what is going on inside and around the HIC. InshaAllah it's going to benefit everyone in a very large scale and I'm sure it will prove to be a very successful mode of getting more social with one another.

**Zaygamali Hemani**  
**Dubai, UAE**

Dear Editor,  
I am honored to be part of the creation of a great resource, Twelvers magazine. I imagine that this magazine will help inform not only our community, but people around the world of our faith, our history and our practices. This magazine will hopefully bring together different points of view, open a dialogue and create relationships with other communities.

**Pareen Dhalla**  
**Orlando, FL**

**Marhum Liakat Fazal: HIC Loses a Dedicated Volunteer**



A kind, gentle and humorous person. Marhum Liakat was a lifelong servant of Allah (SAW) who has served in various capacities in various Jamaats.

He was the Chairman of Union Sports Club of NY for many years and has been an instrumental in bringing the communities together while organizing the volleyball tournament.

He went on to become the President of NY Jamaat. Upon his migration to Orlando, he

served in the capacity of Vice President in two different terms. He was also a founding member of Union Sports Club of Orlando and a vivid supporter.

The community has indeed lost an effective volunteer, pioneer, leader and a friend who will dearly be missed by all. Mumineen are requested to remember the Marhum in their prayers with Sura Al Fateha.

**HIC Summer Camp 2012**

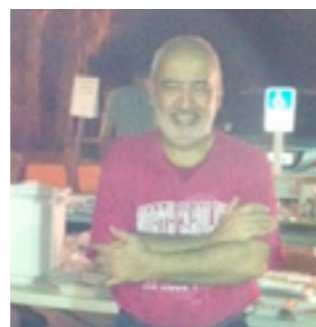
The HIC summer camp organizers would like to appreciate Maulana Baig and his assistant Br. Anwer, the 54 campers who attended, the 18 wonderful teachers and youth volunteers for their participation and endless work in making this summer camp successful.

We began the day with a half an hour session with Maulana Baig. The younger children branched off and played Islamic games while the older ones discussed various topics ranging from sharing to Sadqa. After that the children were put in four groups based on age. Half spent their time at arts and crafts and the other half played sports and vice versa. The arts and crafts coordinators Sr. Chandni Ladhu, Sr. Zainab Suleiman, and Sr. Sausan Juma, planned various arts and crafts designed for each age group. These included making an aquarium, rafts, clocks, and friendship bracelets.

Sr. Fatema Dewji and Br. Imran Rajwani organized the sport for the boys and girls. The kids enjoyed the sports that they played including basketball, soccer, and kickball with a hint of competition. Because of the heat, the younger kids preferred playing inside; therefore, those who favored indoor games were treated to bustling games of red-light green-light, indoor obstacle courses, and many others. June 19th, being the last day of camp, was designated fun day. The kids first played a game of Who Wants to be a Maulana and viewed a slide show of pictures from the previous days. They then went outside where they relished in a fun-filled day of sports, watermelon eating competitions, a water slide, an obstacle course, face painting, and snow cones. The children were also very surprised when an ice cream truck showed up on the mosque grounds. In all the children had a wonderful time.

**The tiny things that don't go unnoticed**

Our Holy Prophet was once asked what his religion was about. The answer, elegant in its simplicity: "Obeying the creator, and serving his creation." As another successful month of Ramadhan draws to a close at the Husseini Islamic Center, one must take a step back and appreciate what the Creator does to aid his creation while they are in His service. Having said this, this tribute goes out to all those who did whatever they were capable of, big or small, in order to make this month another success. Whether members of the Managing Committee, Youth Committee, Ladies' Committee, Media Team or the countless volunteers who always put others' needs first, we pray to the Almighty that our deeds be accepted by Him.



A special shout out goes to the mosque's local caretaker, Br. Jaffer Qureishi (pictured), and his son, Br. Ahmed Qureishi, who are very often seen spending the early hours of the morning keeping the mosque in a condition that people otherwise take for granted. While some of us may be able to shine under

the public spotlight, others can be assured that their efforts haven't been overlooked. As the once famous boxer Muhammad Ali was quoted as saying, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." Once again, a big thank you goes out to every single individual whose efforts have collectively brought our community to where we are.

**Upcoming NASIMCO Youth Retreat**

This upcoming Labor Day weekend, NASIMCO will be holding the 2012 Youth Leadership Retreat in Minnesota. The host location, the Dunrovin Retreat Center, has lots in store as far as workshops and other outdoor activities for participants between the ages of 18-25. The retreat's unique theme, "Thinking Outside the Box," will enable participants to improve on their skills and also uncover new talents with regards to daily life interactions and activities. A few of the workshops to be held will be entitled Emotional Intelligence, Giving and Receiving Feedback, and Qualities of a Leader. Two guest speakers, Br. Sajid Alimohammed and Sr. Fatema Ali, have been invited from Toronto to impart their valuable knowledge to participants. In addition to indoor workshops and seminars, the retreat will allow youth to showcase their leadership skills in outdoor sporting activities such as kayaking, canoeing, soccer, and volleyball. Based on the success of the success of NASIMCO's past youth retreats, this retreat is supposed to be nothing short, if not better than the preceding encounters. Inshallah, this retreat will enable our youth to enhance their capabilities, not only benefiting themselves, but the Muslim Ummah as a whole.

**Minnesota Jamaat's Water Giveaway Program**

The outreach committee of Anjuman-e-Asghari of Minnesota gave a free water giveaway in downtown Minneapolis on Wednesday August 1. It was very well received.

The concept was simple from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM volunteers were on both Nicollet and Marquette Ave and handed out bottles of water. The goal was to distribute 1000 bottles of water over 2 hours, which give the foot traffic on an average during the lunch hour should be attainable.

The following was be printed on the water bottles

Side 1:

Did you know? Every minute 12 children die from starvation Be part of the solution to world hunger - [www.kidsagainsthunger.org](http://www.kidsagainsthunger.org)

Side 2:

Ramadhan is a month of fasting for Muslims around the world. Fasting makes us deeply conscious of the pangs of hunger and discomfort suffered by the less fortunate in our communities. It kindles in us a spirit of sacrifice leading to change towards those suffering around the world. To learn more about Islam please go to [www.al-islam.org](http://www.al-islam.org) or for more information on a local mosque - [www.mnjamat.org](http://www.mnjamat.org).

**North American Madrasah Roundtable**

Day after the NASIMCO Conference last month, a roundtable discussion was held with participation from Madaris all over North America. The objectives of the roundtable were:

1. To provide an opportunity for dialogue between NASIMCO and Islamic Schools
2. To communicate ideas among the various Islamic Schools
3. To identify ways in which NASIMCO can assist with the advancement of our institutions

The discussions were moderated by Br Mujtaba Datoos who engaged various Madrasah representatives on each of the objectives. He teased out best practices, areas of betterment and ideas for improvement. Each represented Madrasah was given a voice as well as a chance to learn. The roundtable came to a conclusion with Br Naushad Mehrali, Head of MCE, elaborating on the Madrasah Center of Excellence workstreams and the way in which they tackle many of the issues raised during the discussion.

Overall, the Madrasah Roundtable was well-received and achieved its aims and goals. NASIMCO wishes to thank all participants and especially the IJA Miami Madrasah for hosting the session.

**Tahajjud Salat App for iPhone & iPad**

Academy of Learning Islam has produced Tahajjud Salat App for iPhone & iPad. This App is an extension of the published pocket size book that the Academy for Learning Islam published in 2009. Despite its brevity, the app teaches us how to prepare ourselves to be able to comprehend its time, how to establish the nightly intimate communication with Allah, and finally under the section "FAQs on the Late Night Prayers" clears the ambiguities that we may encounter with regard to this fundamentally important prayer. One of the questions answered in this section, for example, is about the permissibility of praying Qada' of Tahajjud prayer. This reminds us of a very beautiful tradition in this regard. Imam al-Sadiq (peace be upon him) is once asked by his companion about praying the Qada' of the night prayer before sunrise and after 'Asr, and he responds saying: "Yes, perform the Qada', for indeed that is among the secrets of Progeny of Muhammad (peace be upon him and his progeny)."

For more info visit <http://www.academyofislam.com/publications/ali-publications/tahajjudsalaatiphone.html>

# 32ND ANNUAL NASIMCO CONFERENCE



THEME: ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN A NEW ERA

The 32nd Annual NASIMCO Conference took place on Saturday, June 9th, 2012. It was hosted by the Islamic Jaffaria Center Inc. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Fort Lauderdale in Florida. The Conference was well-attended by member Jamaats, educators, delegates, invitees and guests.

#### Address by President of NASIMCO

The address by the President of NASIMCO, Al-Haj Gulamabbas Najafi, highlighted the achievements of NASIMCO during the past year, in particular, the success of relief and fundraising efforts, in particular, the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme in Haiti which has sponsored 60 children since its inception in January of this year. He elaborated on the development of the Capacity Building Programs, on current initiatives such as the e-Learning project and the Skills and Census Database. With this overview of NASIMCO's activities, the President thanked his Executive Council and staff for the support and hard work they had shown throughout the year. He then deliberated at some length about the theme that had been chosen for this year's Conference, emphasizing the need for attention to Islamic Education, especially among the youth of the community. He stated NASIMCO's commitment to the Madrasah Center of Excellence project being undertaken by The World Federation and hoped the deliberations of the conference would be a building block to moving forward on this initiative in North America.

#### Address by the President of The World Federation

Dr. Asgharali Moledina expressed his endorsement for the theme of the NASIMCO Conference and spoke at some length about the Madrasah Center of Excellence, which has taken on a formal

structure since its inception and is working towards making its objectives a reality. He then went on to detail aspects of the World Federation Foundation Fund, joined by Br Sadique Jaffer who emphasised the importance of the Foundation Fund and the benefits that its success would yield.

#### Presentation on Knowing Your Rights

Br Mohamed Sabur, from Muslim Advocates, made a presentation on interacting with law enforcement and protecting oneself at the border. After giving some background on Muslim Advocates and their work, Br Mohamed shed light on surveillance and intelligence gathering. He presented some statistics and details about the way in which surveillance has affected Muslim organizations. He emphasized that organizations should talk to an attorney before speaking with law enforcement. And finally, Br Mohamed gave tips for dealing with agents at the border and showed a short video clip to demonstrate the advice given, such as knowing what to expect, letting agents know if questions are inappropriate, asking for a supervisor if necessary and keeping a record of what happens.

#### Discussion Forums

##### Challenges in Educating Children in Islamic Teachings - Br Naushad Mehrali

Br Naushad Mehrali, Head of the Madrasah Center of Excellence with The World Federation, spoke about the current challenges in educating children in Islamic teachings by firstly defining what Islamic education is. Many scholars have agreed that the formation of moral character and behaviour (known as tarbiya) is central to Islamic education. This meant not merely acquiring knowledge, but being morally transformed by it. Br Naushad

then went on to talk about the different forms in which this type of education can or should be achieved. Among these were the home, the weekend Islamic schools and the pulpit, and the challenges faced in each of these forms of education. One of the key challenges he addressed was that of the perception of Islamic schools in the community, whether it be at the parent level, the Jamaat Executive level or among the youth themselves. And finally, Br Naushad Mehrali elaborated on some of the ways in which to address and meet these challenges, including the implementation of key standards, formal processes of evaluation, a global curriculum framework and the sharing of best practices.

Changing Times and Adapting to New Teaching Techniques - Dr. Hasnain Walji  
Dr. Hasnain Walji, past President of The World Federation, spoke about changing times and adapting to new teaching techniques. He began his speech with the important lesson that the challenges of today cannot be addressed with the solutions of yesterday. On this note, he went on to elaborate on the ways in which the challenges that come with changing times can be met. He gave an overview of the way in which technology has changed through the generations and the impact it has had on the youth of today. From this, it became immediately

evident that teaching techniques also had to be adapted. Teaching today has to be interesting, fun, inspiring and hold promise of a future desirable reward. The current generation consists of more self-directed learners and it should be our objective to create critical thinkers and change our mindsets about how Islam should be taught.

#### eLEARN: eLearning - Edification and Achievement in Religion by NASIMCO

Br Hasnain Karim addressed the conference and began with a brief update about the eLearning project so far. To date, the eLEARN team has come together to create the project charter, has completed the project plan document and published the Request for Proposals. Looking forward to the next stage, Br Hasnain Karim took the conference through sample elearning sites, webinars and actual multimedia content to replicate the way in which the eLEARN portal would operate. And finally, he addressed the question of where the material for the portal would come from. Available text material will be used, a team of scholars will be engaged, new material will be developed and there will be collaboration with existing weekend Islamic schools.

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erations.”

**Workshops**

After the keynote addresses, the Conference attendees were split into two groups for the workshops. The objective of the first workshop was to identify how Islamic schools can be given higher priority within the community and what resources are needed to achieve this. Among the factors identified here were: greater parental involvement, involving of learned scholars, relevant curriculum, additional learning time and upgraded facilities.

The objective of the second workshop was to identify what lessons can be learned from the experiences in Islamic Education thus far and how our learning practices can be moved to the next level. Among the factors identified here were: a unified curriculum, a full review of delivery methods to student-lead learning, discipline, scouts programs and a structured framework to get parents' 'buy-in'.

**Member Communication**

Each member Jamaat in attendance at the conference had a chance to share a best practice or put forward a recommendation or appeal to NASIMCO and its general membership. The following is a brief summary of presentations made:

**Allentown Jamaat (Shia Ithnasheri Jamaat of Pennsylvania)**

The Allentown Jamaat presented their proposal for a Burial Assistance Plan. They are looking to create their own plan, starting with money from lenders and donors for a reserve fund with benefits payable on a 5-year vesting schedule. They also have plans to begin an initiative for burial with the Life Insurance Policy where NASIMCO or the local Jamaat can be the beneficiary

**Buffalo Jamaat (Jaffarya Islamic Center of Niagara Frontier, Inc.)**

The Buffalo Jamaat gave a presentation about their newly built center and the various activities that they are organizing. Examples are camps, azadari, Sunday school, picnic, interfaith events, iftaars and sports. They expressed their needs with relation to a cemetery

**Kitchener Jamaat (Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Kitchener-Waterloo)**

The Kitchener Jamaat presented a report on their proposed center for religious and social activities. She gave a brief overview of the center's history, which is a growing one due in part to the

location of large companies in the Kitchener area. A site plan was shown to the conference along with various details about the center

**London Jamaat (Al Mahdi Al Muntadhar Union)**

The London Jamaat presented a report of their various activities and the multi cultural membership they serve.

**Maryland Jamaat (Imam Mehdi Education Center)**

The Maryland Jamaat gave an overview of their center and the various facilities incorporated therein such as a swimming pool, tennis courts and segregated halls. Photos of the center were shown to the conference

**Miami Jamaat (Islamic Jaffaria Association Inc.)**

The Miami Jamaat firstly expressed their pleasure at being able to host the 2012 NASIMCO Conference and welcomed the guests to their city and center. They went on to talk about their various activities and Madrasah

**New Jersey Jamaat (Muslim Foundation Inc.)**

The New Jersey Jamaat hosted the NASIMCO Annual Conference 2011 and since that time, their center has been completed with a ghusl room and they have taken on the services of a resident alim. The center has hosted interfaith meetings, organized blood drives and taken part in 'Muslims Against Hunger' campaigns. They have also launched a solar power initiative, the benefits, challenges and investment opportunities of which were presented to the conference

**Orlando Jamaat (Husseini Islamic Center)**

The Orlando Jamaat informed the conference about the various properties they have purchased and their future plans for them. Two of the properties have already been leased on a long-term

basis. The purchase of a fourth property is being finalised

**Ottawa Jamaat (Islamic Shia Ithnasheri Jamaat of Ottawa)**

The Ottawa Jamaat gave some background about their center and then presented some ways in which NASIMCO could help them. Among these were continuing the Resident Alim grant, assisting the center with the specific needs of

their youth, sharing success stories and best practices and synchronizing the madrasah system with others across North America

**Toronto Jamaat (Islamic Shia Ithnasheri Jamaat of Toronto)**

The Toronto Jamaat spoke about their multi-purpose center and the many facilities available. They made a plea for donations towards the paying of their outstanding debt and invited all Jamaats to visit their center



**Programs and Reports**

The reports session consisted of the Secretariat Report, the Capacity Building Report, the NASIMCO Census and Skills Database Report and the Women's Needs Assessment Report under WF. Sr. Saajida Rhemtulla briefly reported on the various initiatives undertaken by the NASIMCO Secretariat over the past year. This year had seen a rise in fundraising and relief efforts and the respective responses to NASIMCO appeals from over North America. In particular, emphasis had been placed on the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme in Haiti which provides education, room and board to children affected by the earthquake. Sr Saajida also spoke about the financial assistance being provided by NASIMCO for education scholarships, Resident Alim grants, camp assistance and economic hardship. And finally, she elaborated on the improved communication and transparency between NASIMCO and member Jamaats and NASIMCO and the wider community.

Councilor Siddika Jessa began her report with the hadith of Imam Ali (AS) "You humans think you are insignificant when there is a whole universe contained within you". She spoke about how the Capacity Building programs bring out the potential of each participant and called upon two participants of the Minnesota Leadership Development Program to share their experiences and testimonials. The two participants, namely Br Aliredha Walji and Sr Fatema Walji gave their perspectives on the various parts of the programs that had impacted them and how they had used the experience in their everyday lives. Sr Siddika encouraged Jamaats to get in touch with NASIMCO to give their members the chance to benefit from these programs.

Councilor Raza Dhanji delivered a report about the progress of the Census and Skills Database form over the past year. He began by launching the published

directory that each participant of the conference had received. The directory was put together from the forms submitted and included data from 438 families in total. He spoke about the challenges that had been encountered along the way, such as poor collection despite continuous reminders, the importance of the forms not being conveyed to the Jamaats and missing information on many forms. Br Raza Dhanji pointed out that while the current directory was a huge achievement, there was a lot that could be done to improve it. He made recommendations for a second phase of the project.

*“The Orlando Jamaat informed the conference about the various properties they have purchased and their future plans for them.”*

Councilor Shyrose Jaffer Dhalla spoke about the Women's Needs Assessment under WF. She reported on the action plans in place for key areas, which included marriage, divorce, widows, education, health, social and jamaat issues and focussed particularly on the latter. Sr Shyrose made the case that women should enjoy voting rights in the Jamaat, participation, representation and leadership within our communities. She elaborated on some of the strategies that the team is putting in place to achieve their goals and an action plan for the entire

community, which included an outreach program, meaningful opportunities being created and the ensuring of multiple avenues of participation.

**Elections**

The Election Chairperson elected at the conference was Dr. Hasnain Walji of Los Angeles and assistant was Br Sabi Ahsan of Toronto. The Election results are as follows:

President - Br Gulamabbas Najafi (Toronto)

Vice President - Br Shabir Karim (Minnesota)

Treasurer - Br Syed Imtiaz Naqvi (Toronto)  
Councilor from Tier 5 - Sr Shyrose Jaffer Dhalla (Toronto)

Councilor from Tier 3 - Sr Siddika Jessa (Vancouver)

Councilor from Tier 2 - Br Sadique Jaffer (New York)

**At-Large Councilors:**

Br Hussein Ismail (New York)

Dr. Mohsin Jaffer (Miami)

Br Mustafa Karim (New Jersey)

Br Mazahir Ali (Miami)

Note: The President elect, Br Gulamabbas Najafi later nominated Habib M Habib of Seattle to the position of Secretary General who was confirmed at the 1st Executive Council meeting..

**Note of Appreciation**

NASIMCO would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere thanks to the Islamic Jaffaria Association Inc. for the tremendous effort put into hosting the 32nd Annual NASIMCO Conference in Miami. NASIMCO would also like to appreciate all the volunteers and behind-the-scenes workers for their time and commitment to making the Conference a success.

## Business in Islam

By Husain Jaffer

When a human being truly calls him or herself a Muslim, the religion becomes a true sense on how to approach life. From the point of one's inception into the transient world to one's exit for the hereafter, Islam provides key doctrines to follow in order to lead an exemplary life. Fast-forwarding from one's childhood, adolescence, and undergraduate/post-graduate educational life, a Muslim then enters one of the most critical tests in life: earning a halal livelihood in a world where temptation is rampant. Naysayers may find it hard to fathom how the words "Islam" and "business" can coexist. Rest assured it is attainable by means of guidance provided by Allah through the Ahul-Bayt.

Let us first examine how and why seeking wealth of this world is indeed an Islamic act: Abdullah bin AbiYa'fur narrates that a person came to Imam as-Sadiq (a.s) and said, "By Allah, I like to seek the world (i.e., wealth) and love to be given of it." Imam replied: "What would you like to do with it?" The answer was "[I would like] to maintain myself and my family; to help my relatives and to give in charity; to do hajj and 'Umra." Imam then replied, "Then what you are doing is not seeking of the world; instead, it is seeking the hereafter." Hence, when a believer seeks *risqué* (sustenance) for legitimate needs, it is a form of *Ibadat* (worship) that will benefit him not only in this world, but the next world as well.

Next, let us explore methods of seeking a livelihood. Islam encourages Muslims to be financially independent. Human beings yearn for instant gratification; we want results quickly and effectively. If this is truly what we seek, the best examples can be seen than through our Ahul-Bayt. Prophet Muhammad (A.S) himself engaged in trade for Lady Khadija's caravan, resulting in wealth which was later used to build the Muslim ummah. Similarly, Imam Ali (A.S) emancipated a thousand slaves through the fruits of his own labor. Despite their short lives on earth, the Ahul-Bayt were very successful in attaining wealth, despite their vast responsibilities of leading the Muslim Ummah.

So what can we learn as Muslims living in the 21st century? As stated by Ayatullah Baqir al-Sadr, "This temporary life is a prelude to an eternal life, whose form and character depend on the purity and moderation exercised in this life. It is but natural that man should organize his transient life in a manner consistent with both the material and moral values." Bottom

line: one should effectively utilize time on earth in amassing wealth, be conscious on how it is obtained (legitimate means), and then utilize it as a resource to build one's eternal life. To conclude on this point, let us note a piece of advice Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi learnt from his noble late father Syed Akhtar Rizvi: "Son, if you want to be a fly, be a fly which sits on sugar but for God's sake, don't be a fly which sits on honey. Because a fly sitting on sugar leaves it the moment it wants; but a fly which sits on honey becomes imprisoned in it, unable to leave and dies miserably."

*At-Tusi, Tahdhibu 'l-Ahkam, vol. 6 (Tehran: Daru 'l-kutub al-Islamiyya, 1365 AH [SOLAR]) p.327-8*

*Also narrated by Imam Jafar as-Sadiq (a.s)-See Al-Furu, vol. 5, p.74 ISLAM and Schools of Economics, AyatullahBaqir al-Sadr S.S. AkhtarRizvi, Inner Voice (Dar-es-salaam: BMM, 1989) p. 58 via BUSINESS ETHICS IN ISLAM, Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi*

## The Beginning of Revelation of Quran Nahjul Balagha Khutba #192

**Amir al-mu'minin's high position and wonderful deeds in Islam**

By Mohamedraza Janmohamed

Beware! Surely Allah has commanded me to fight those who revolt, or who break the pledge, or create trouble on the earth. As regards pledge-breakers, I have fought them, as regards deviators from truth, I have waged holy war against them, and as regards those who have gone out of the faith, I have put them in (serious) disgrace [5]. As for Satan of the pit, [6] he too has been dealt with by me through the loud cry with which the scream of his heart and shaking of his chest was also heard. Only a small portion of the rebels has remained. If Allah allows me one more chance over them I will annihilate them except a few remnants that may remain scattered in the suburb of the cities.

Even in my boyhood I had lowered the chest of (the famous men) of Arabia, and broken the horn points (i.e., defeated the chiefs) of the tribes of Rabi'ah and Mudar. Certainly, you know my position of close kinship and special relationship with the Prophet of Allah - peace and blessing of Allah be upon him and his descendants. When I was only a child he took charge of me. He used to press me to his chest and lay me beside him in his bed, bring his body close to mine and make me smell his smell. He used to chew something and then feed me with it. He found no lie in my speaking, nor weakness in any act.

From the time of his weaning, Allah had put a mighty angel

with him to take him along the path of high character and good behavior through day and night, while I used to follow him like a young camel following in the footprints of its mother. Every day he would show me in the form of a banner some of his high traits and commanded me to follow it. Every year he used to go in seclusion to the hill of Hira', where I saw him but no one else saw him. In those days Islam did not exist in any house except that of the Prophet of Allah - peace and blessing of Allah be upon him and his descendants - and Khadijah, while I was the third after these two. I used to see and watch the effulgence of divine revelation and message, and breathed the scent of Prophethood.

When the revelation descended on the Prophet of Allah - peace and blessing of Allah be upon him and his descendants - I heard the moan of Satan. I said, "O' Prophet of Allah, what is this moan?" and he replied, "This is Satan who has lost all hope of being worshipped. O' `Ali, you see all that I see and you hear all that I hear, except that you are not a Prophet, but you are a vicegerent and you are surely on (the path of) virtue."

I was with him when a party of the Quraysh came to him and said to him, "O' Muhammad, you have made a big claim which none of your fore-fathers or those of your family have made. We ask you one thing; if you give us an answer to it and show it to us, we will believe that you are a prophet and a messenger, but if you cannot do it, we will know that you are a sorcerer and a liar."

The Messenger of Allah said: "What do you ask for?" They said: "Ask this tree to move for us, even with its roots, and stop before you." The Prophet said, "Verily, Allah has power over everything. If Allah does it for you, will you then believe and stand witness to the truth?" They said "Yes". Then he said, "I shall show you whatever you want, but I know that you won't bend towards virtue, and there are among you those who will be thrown into the pit, and those who will form parties (against me)." Then the Holy Prophet said: "O' tree, if you do believe in Allah and the Day of Judgment, and know that I am the Prophet of Allah, come up with your roots and stand before me with the permission of Allah." By Him who deputed the Prophet with truth, the tree did remove itself with its root and came with a great humming sound and a flapping like the flapping of the wings of birds, till it stopped before the Messenger of Allah while some of its twigs came down onto my shoulders, and I was on the right side of the Holy Prophet.

When the people saw this they said by way of pride and vanity. "Now you order half of it to come to you and the other half of it remain (in its place)." The Holy Prophet ordered the tree to do the same. Then half of the tree advanced towards him in an amazing manner and with greater humming. It was about to touch the

Prophet of Allah. Then they said, disbelieving and revolting, "Ask this half to get back to its other half and be as it was." The Prophet ordered it and it returned. Then I said, "O' Prophet of Allah, I am the first to believe in you and to acknowledge that the tree did what it did just now with the command of Allah, the Sublime, in testimony to your Prophethood and to heighten your word. Upon this all the people shouted, "Rather a sorcerer, a liar; it is wonderful sorcery, he is very adept in it. Only a man like this (pointing to me) can stand testimony to you in your affairs."

Certainly, I belong to the group of people who care not for the reproach of anybody in matters concerning Allah. Their countenance is the countenance of the truthful and their speech is the speech of the virtuous. They are wakeful during the nights (in devotion to Allah), and over beacons (of guidance) in the day. They hold fast to the rope of the Qur'an. Revive the traditions of Allah and of His Prophet. They do not boast nor indulge in self conceit, nor misappropriate, nor create mischief. Their hearts are in Paradise while their bodies are busy in (good) acts.

## Fiqh Corner

Courtesy of www.sistani.org

Question : How can Zakat be paid?

Answer : Zakat can be just paid in properties specified by divine law.

Question : Why there is no zakat on bank accounts and monetary bills?

Answer : There are certain specific things which have obligatory Zakat. As for Mustahab Zakat, it includes everything. Money deposited in bank does not have obligatory zakat. Rather, khums is payable on it, if it is not spent for expenses in a complete lunar year.

Question : What is the difference between Khums and Zakat?

Answer : Both are obligatory, but Khums is on gains after exception of expenses of the year and Zakat is on cattle, crops, gold and silver.

Question : If I save an amount of money throughout the whole year I know that I have to pay Khums from it. What about Zakat? Should I give Zakat from the amount also?

Answer : Zakat is not obligatory in that. Zakat should be given from the following items: Wheat, Barley, Dates, Raisins, Coined Gold & Silver, Camel, Cow, Sheep (including goat)

# CAREER CHOICE

Courtesy of Tim Tyler-Smith

As U.S. News unveils its Best Careers of 2011, it makes sense to think about whether one of the jobs on the list is a good fit for you.

Of course, since we all have different skills, interests, experiences and expectations, there's no one career that's best for everyone. So how do you choose the career that's best for you?

Whether you're trying to decide where to look for your first job or pondering a possible career change, here's what you should consider when thinking through this important decision:

## What are your natural talents?

We all have natural talents, certain tasks that come easy to us. When we use our natural talents, time moves fast and we tend to receive compliments for our abilities. Knowing where your natural talents lie is key to choosing the right career. Of course we're capable of doing other things, but those other tasks usually feel more like work. What do you always enjoy doing, and how can those skills be applied to a job?

## What's your work style?

Each of us has a preferred work style, even if we don't realize it. That style can sometime conflict with a career choice. For example, a flexible work environment might allow you to deliver projects on various dates, while a structured environ-



ment would require specific deadlines and strict guidelines. What works better for you? In which environment do you tend to thrive?

## Where do you like to work?

What's your preferred work location? Your preference could vary from a small regional office to corporate headquarters to a home office, an airport hotel in Buffalo or a beach suite in South Florida. How often do you like to work away from home? Do you mind traveling for your job? If living out of a suitcase makes you cringe and you need a consistency in your

## HOW TO CHOOSE A CAREER THAT'S BEST FOR YOU

workplace, avoid careers that require a lot of moving around.

## Do you enjoy social interaction?

Do you like working with others or as part of a team? Are you motivated by the needs of others and your ability to provide a solution? This is critical because some people shy away from that connection and would rather deliver value behind the scenes—without the complications of interacting with colleagues and clients. Know your social needs so you can choose a career that matches them.

## How important to you is work-life balance?

Do you value a short commute and a home-cooked meal every night? Do you live for weekends out at the soccer field watching your kids play? If you need those creature comforts on a regular basis, pick a career that will give you the time to enjoy them. Look for jobs with regular hours and little to no requirements to work overtime or on weekends.

## Are you looking to give back?

Some careers have a component of giving back, where the beneficiary of your hard work is not a corporation's bottom line but rather a sick child, an endangered species or the planet's air quality.

If it's important to know that your hard work makes a difference in the world, this could be a significant driver in your career choice.

## Are you comfortable in the public eye?

Certain careers encourage or even require employees to have a public persona. You may become known in your local community. If you're a spokesperson, that recognition could extend to a nation level. Or if you serve as your company's representative at trade shows or special events, you may become known in that niche community. How does this strike you—as an opportunity or an obligation? If you thrive on recognition and the chance to build a personal brand while promoting your company's work, look for careers that allow you to stand out front.

## Do you deal well with stress?

Some of us thrive on big deadlines, or

being on the hook for important projects. We like being the glue that holds everything together. In this role, people trust you and expect that you'll suck it up and deal well with the pressure. Of course, we all have different stress thresholds. If you thrive under the gun, you may do well in a high-stress career. But if stress makes you want to run the other way, look for jobs that are more laid-back.

## How much money do you want to make?

As you look forward in life, what are your expectations for money? You might be single now, but maybe you hope to become your future family's breadwinner. Or maybe you're part of a successful two-income family and need to decide whether you're comfortable living on less or compromising on other career aspects, like work-life balance, to earn a better income. If money is the reward you seek, there are careers to match.

If choosing a career feels like too much pressure, here's another option: Pick a path that feels right today by making the best decision you can, and know that you can change your mind in the future. In today's workplace, choosing a career doesn't necessarily mean you have to stick with that line of work for your entire life. Make a smart decision, and plan to re-evaluate down the line based on your long-term objectives.

Recognize that you'll change as time rolls on. Your needs for money, freedom, balance, and recognition will change with you. But for now, think through each of these ideas, and you'll be well on your way to choosing a career that's best for you.

# BEST JOBS OF 2012

## 10. Occupational Therapist - \$48,920 - \$105,520

Patients with mental, physical, developmental, and emotional disabilities might see an occupational therapist to learn to function independently.

## 9. Computer Programmer - \$40,820 - \$114,180

Unlike some of the others on the list, computer programmers might be able to enter the field with a two-year degree instead of a four-year bachelor's.

## 8. Physical Therapist - \$53,620 - \$107,920

This is another healthcare job that requires a minimum of a master's degree to begin practicing.

## 7. Computer Systems Analyst - \$48,360 - \$119,070

Computer systems analysts determine the technological needs of their clients and then help configure a system to fulfill those needs.

## 6. Web Developer - \$43,190 - \$119,940

Web developers use their knowledge of applications and HTML code and couple that with an understanding of Web users' preferred browsing experience to create visually appealing, intuitive, and organized Web content.

## 5. Database Administrator - \$41,570 - \$115,660

Competent database administrators (DBAs) are needed to build and maintain the systems used to house that information.

## 4. Medical Assistant - \$20,810 - \$40,190

Medical assistant to receive certification in particular specialties, such as podiatry or optometry.

## 3. Pharmacist - \$82,090 - \$138,620

There are some obvious perks to this profession. The compensation is one. However, like many healthcare practitioners, pharmacist frequently work evening shifts, weekends and some holidays.

## 2. Software Developer - \$54,360 - 87,790

Software developers should have one hand writing code and the other on the pulse of the evolving IT world.

## 1. Registered Nurse - \$44,190 - \$95,130

For a better chance at landing a nursing job, you'll want to determine your niche early, consider using virtual networking tools, and look for employment outside a hospital setting.



# ROLE OF PARENTS IN EDUCATION

Courtesy of PlayLearnParent

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT HELPS SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE CHILD

It's pretty clear that the education system as a whole in the United States is struggling to provide youth with an adequate, let alone quality, education. For decades, the US government has enacted policies and programs with the goal of "fixing" our education system by creating new rules and procedures for schools and teachers. Recently, after decades of failing schools, a new bill was introduced to the House of Representatives that recognizes the crucial role that families, and particularly parents, have on children's academic achievement. The goal of the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2011 is to provide incentives for schools and districts to engage parents in children's education with the hopes of closing the achievement gap. This bill is clearly only in its infancy, but the message is clear: parents and families are crucial factors in the academic success of children.

The teachers and school systems clearly can't do it all on their own. Government funding and regulation are attempting to "not leave any children behind", but unfortunately, kids are getting left behind and no one is coming to pick them up. Recent reports from the Annie E. Casey Foundation indicate that 67% of all 4th grade students are not proficient readers and these numbers are even higher for African American and Hispanic children. Literacy

isn't the only issue. Students are also performing poorly in Science and Math, especially compared to children in other countries according to US Department of Education reports.

The US school system undoubtedly needs considerable work and there is no quick-fix answer to the problem. But, parents can help, and even when children in are highly competitive, wonderful academic institutions, parents have a responsibility to be involved and help their children academically. No one expects that parental involvement will fix the achievement gap or the failures of our education system as a whole, but their involvement is crucial.

Research demonstrates that parent involvement does help -- significantly! When parents are involved in their children's education, their children perform better academically and socially (Henderson, 1987; Jenyes, 2003). This doesn't mean that parents have to volunteer at every school function or become the president of the PTA in order for their child to reap the benefits of education. There are thousands of fun, creative, and easy ways to get involved in your children's educational success. Here are just a few:

- **Parent-teacher Conferences.** Parents can take the lead and work directly with their children's schoolteachers to determine ways that they can enhance their child's education at home. Parents can take advantage of the one-on-one time that is provided during parent-teacher conferences to determine what concepts will be taught in class that year and how to can expand upon these concepts at home.
- **Get Creative.** The technological advances of the past decade have provided many new ways for children to

learn. Take advantage of quality websites that offer educational worksheets or activities related to a particular topic your child is studying at school. Search for videos (either online or at your local library) related to the concepts your child is learning in school; maybe having the information presented in a new way will help your child learn. Take learning outside the classroom by bringing your child to the library to find related books on topics covered in class, to a museum to see a related exhibit, or even to a park where you can find real world examples of the science concepts being taught in class.

- **Combine subject areas and interests.** If your child is learning multiplication tables in school but really loves to write, work with your child to write a story about multiplication problems. Similarly, if your child loves baseball encourage her to keep scores and calculate batting averages while you watch a game or ask her to write a newspaper article about the game you watched together using some of the new vocabulary words from class.

Teachers will educate and work with children at school, but parents need to help; to expand upon the learning that is occurring in school and help your children prosper and succeed both academically and socially. It would be ideal if teachers and school administrators facilitated and encourage parent involvement with or without incentives provided by the potential Family Involvement in Education of 2011 bill. However, until this bill passes or other action is taken to encourage schools to include and incorporate parents, parents should take the lead and find ways to get involved.



The teachers and school systems can't do it all on their own.



*When parents are involved in their children's education, children perform better academically and socially."*

# CELEBRATING THE EID-UL-FITR

**O**Allah! I ask you by the sacredness of this day which You have made as a day of celebration for the entire Muslim Ummah that on this day, you send Your prayers upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad...

After a month of worship of Allah through the acts of fasting, Duas, prayers and other devotional acts, we reach to the final stage of the Month of Ramadhan which manifests itself on the first day of Shawwal – that of celebrating the Eid.

Along with the prayers of Eid, which are recommended to be performed during the period of Occultation of our 12th Imam, we also have the WAJIB tax of Zakatul Fitr which must be paid before offering the prayers (the rules of which have been mentioned in detail in the Islamic Laws of our Marja' and as conveyed by the World Federation in a recent mailing). The hadith clearly tell us that the person who fasts the entire month but does not give the Zakatul Fitr has actually rendered his fast "invalid" as the Zakat is the last block of the fasting which must be fulfilled.

When we refer to the scholars of Islam on what "Eid" means, they tell us that the true meaning is to "return back" and it does not mean "celebration". This means that through the 30 day training period of the soul, we should have reached to a stage of self-purification that we can now spiritually return back to Him –

before our physical return.

However, although the day of Eid is a happy day for us which we mark with spending time with our family and friends, we must keep in mind that our "celebrations" must not be like those of the people who follow other traditions and faiths.

As we know, other faiths indulge in partying, drinking, illicit acts and other such Satanic workings on their days of celebration. However we Muslim make our way to the Dhikr Store – the Masjid – and not the Liquor Store on this day of return back to Allah. The Muslims make their way to the Masjid in droves to remember the bounties of Allah and to fulfill their rights to other human beings.

The end of the supplication which we read in the Salat of Eid should be our true wish and desire for this month rather than merely asking for the material blessings and bounties.

In this Dua we ask Allah for the greatest gift which is that we are included in all of the goodness which was granted to Muhammad and the family of Muhammad and that we are kept away from all vices which Muhammad and the family of Muhammad were kept away from in their lives.

May Allah accept all of our prayers and supplications during this month and may we have been blessed to tread upon the path of Taqwa and piety.

WE SEEK TO PLEASE  
THE ALMIGHTY  
AND ATTAIN  
NEARNESS TO HIM

Eid ul Fitr marks the end of the month of Ramadhan. We say farewell to the blessed month, its beautiful days and its fragrant nights. We leave the month of seeking nearness to Ar Rahman, the school of Imaan and an opportunity to recharge our spiritual





# PRESIDENT SPEAKS

The Editor sat with the President of HIC, Alhaji Riyaz Jivraj. In the interview the HIC President reaches out to the community with answers to the broad range of questions.

1.

**Editor:** Welcome to the Twelvers Magazine, a publication of Husseini Islamic Center. What is your opinion on the launch of this magazine and how can it benefit the community?

**Riyaz:** Using such mediums of communication and sharing information is absolutely necessary in today's world. The Orlando Community and others throughout the world who receive this publication will appreciate the efforts by our community youths who put this together. Keep up the great work.

2.

**Editor:** Have you as a child always wished to be the president of a Jamaat someday?

**Riyaz:** As a child my mother always made me run errands around

3.

**Editor:** In a typical Zanzibari tradition, everyone has a nickname and generations pass by but the name continues to tag along. What is the origin of your family's nickname Marhumbha and how did it come about?

**Riyaz:** That's a great question! If I knew I would share it, but I never got the opportunity to ask my grandfather why he was called Marhumbha. When I ask my dad, he tells me that my grandfather loved his brother so much that he used to cry in his memory and say MARHUM BHA. Not sure how authentic that is though.

4.

**Editor:** Everybody has a starting point where they being doing community service. When was that point for you?

**Riyaz:** In Dubai, when I was 9 years old, I was part of the youth volunteering team that served juice and water during Mahe Ramadhan and Muharram.

5.

**Editor:** You are currently serving your second term as the President of our community, what would you describe has been some of the biggest achievements of your team?

6.

**Riyaz:** Achieving Unity in the community.

**Editor:** And what would you say were your team's biggest challenges?

**Riyaz:** keeping the Unity in the community.

7.

**Editor:** HIC has made some great strides as a community with projects such as BAP, Investment Program, etc. What other projects do you see important for our community that you would like to see it be undertaken in near future?

**Riyaz:** Alhamdulillah, Allah SWT has blessed us by removing any and all blocks in trying to achieve the above. As the community grows, we have emphasized on working on enhancing the education in our community in all facets. This is a challenging task, but I am sure with the help of Allah SWT, we will achieve.

8.

**Editor:** The Managing Committee has launched the great idea of establishing the education system for our community. Describe briefly what this system will entail and how will it benefit the community?

**Riyaz:** This system InshAllah will enhance education in our community from the child who goes to day care up to the seniors who yearn to always learn about new technology and how to use it. The Madressa will cater to the 4-14 year olds whilst the Academy will cater to those special subjects that effect all

9.

**Editor:** One of the subjects during the launching of the education system that was talked about a lot was having Madressa under the auspices of HIC. Is this still the plan and what would your message be to the parents of students to ensure this will only impact positively?

**Riyaz:** The Madressa is an integral part of any community. This is where all our youths build their base when it comes to Islamic Education. The education plan includes the Madressa as one of the 4 major parts. The aim is to strengthen the Madressa by availing them with any and all tools necessary to enhance education and to integrate with the community by spotlighting their achievements. Which parent will not be proud of seeing their child standing in front of the community every week and reciting.

10.

**Editor:** Speaking of educating the community, some of the youths of the community are facing the social challenges, which are, sadly, becoming the norm in various communities. What is the leadership's perspective to combat this issue?

**Riyaz:** With the help of Allah SWT, we are diligently trying to put a social services team together to help these youths who

are facing these challenges. As the community grows, problems such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse, child/spousal abuse increase. InshAllah through seminars and programs that we are planning with the social services team, we will be able to nip these problems at the bud InshAllah.

**11.** *Editor:* What advice would you give to the young generation today?  
*Riyaaz:* Education is key. We live in a country that offers us the opportunity to become anything we want to be. Take advantage of these opportunities whilst you have the time and energy. Also, don't forget to support and lend a hand whenever you can in your community as service for Allah SWT builds your Aakherat.

**12.** *Editor:* With the new Center on the horizon, how do you think will it change us and how will it benefit us?

*Riyaaz:* Allah SWT is the master planner. A bigger place will mean more space, more functions, more of everything. We as a community will have to discover the benefits and the changes together as this is a new challenge for me as it is to everyone in the community.

**13.** *Editor:* How important would you say a community like ours is in someone's daily life?

*Riyaaz:* We are truly blessed to have a community that meets everyday for Maghribain Salaat. We are also blessed to have 95% of the community living

within 15 minutes of the mosque. This community grows on you, and you have no choice but to make it a part of your life once you move here. It's a blessing from Allah SWT.

**14.** *Editor:* How do you think is Islam's image in the eye of the American public and what, as a community, can we do to improve?

*Riyaaz:* Islam means Peace. The image of Islam has been tarnished after events such as 9/11 took place and individuals such as Osama Bin Laden claimed they were Muslims. This country and its people have accepted us with open arms and it is our responsibility to make sure that as a community we must educate our neighbors and our fellow Americans that Islam is a religion of Peace and that we are peace loving people.

**15.** *Editor:* The constitution prevents you from standing for the third consecutive term as the President. Before you end your term, any unfinished business?

*Riyaaz:* Lots!

**16.** *Editor:* Do you find difficult to manage time between family, work and the community?

*Riyaaz:* Yes, Yes, and Yes!

**17.** *Editor:* Though you cannot stand for the position of the President, would you stand for any other position in the next elections should

your community need you to?

*Riyaaz:* I have served the community for 4 years at the helm and would like to see other individuals in our community take up the challenge. My help to the community is always there even without a position.

**18.** *Editor:* How does the future of this community look to you? How do you envision to be in 20 years?

*Riyaaz:* 6500 people, complete school system from VPK to 12th grade, 20 students from the community's Madressa being practicing Zaakirs and Aalims and serving other communities throughout the world.

**19.** *Editor:* Its Eid and time to share. Any embarrassing moments as the President that you care to share?

*Riyaaz:* I'll let the Vice President, Br Raza Dhanji, have the pleasure in answering that question in his interview in the next publication.

**20.** *Editor:* Any final comments or message to the readers?

*Riyaaz:* Al Amalu bin Niyah. If your intentions are clean, there is no stopping you!

*Editor:* Thank you Mr. President.

HIC PRESIDENT

BR. RIYAAZ JIVRAJ'S

EID-UL-FITR

MESSAGE EXCERPTS

TO THE COMMUNITY

All praise is due to the Mighty Lord of the Universe, Allah SWT, and may his choicest blessings be on Muhammed and A'ale Muhammed.

I take this opportunity of wishing all of you and your families a very happy and blessed Eid Mubarak.

May Allah SWT accept our Ibadat during this month, and give us ample of opportunities to serve Him.

Most of the entire Muslim Ummah today are celebrating this auspicious day of Eid ul Fitr and our community is proud to be part of those celebrations. 30 days of Ramadhan have passed and it seems as though it was just yesterday when we were preparing for our first night programs at the Center. We all witnessed Families and individuals gathering here at the Center day in and day out for Majlis and Salaat and sharing their delicious food with each other and everyone. Alhamdulillah, the turnout this year was even better than last year and this is a testament of the unity that the month of Ramadhan brings in us as individuals and eventually as a community.

Eid celebrations are one reason for us to meet our fellow brothers and wish them Eid Mubarak and hug each other. As we do so, we need to be able to forgive one another for any past mistakes and shortcomings and promise ourselves that as we move forward into the future, we

shall leave behind our differences and work towards the betterment of all.

Eid is also a time to thank one another for the support and kindness that has been shown to us as individuals and to our collective families. On behalf of the MC, I wish to thank and express our gratitude to all of you for your kindness, support and encouragement that has been forthcoming from all of you. We are ever thankful for the strength and support that you have shown in allowing us to introduce new things to the community.

The preparation for this month of Ramadhan requires a lot of behind the scene work, and therefore I take this opportunity to thank all the cooks and the volunteers in the ladies and gents as well as the workshop teachers who took time off their busy schedule to come to the Center and prepare for our programs. I would also like to thank the IEC Madressah team that put the Quran competition together for our young boys and girls.

Alhamdulillah, the lectures at the Center were both interesting and informative and I would like to thank Shaikh Ayub Rashid and Dr. Akber Mithani for coming here and sharing their knowledge with us. May Allah SWT continue to shower them with HIS blessings and we look forward to seeing them again soon Inshallah.

# EID-UL-FITR MESSAGE

On this special day of EID, lets pray to Allah SWT for shafa for the elders and seniors who are the guiding light of this community. We miss them here and we pray to Allah SWT to make them better so they can join us again on days such as this. Please lets recite Dua e shafa e marrez for these elderly and seniors here and all those that are suffering from ailments throughout the world.

This year, many of us will be celebrating Eid without our loved ones who have left us for the better world. In particular, I would like to mention and remember Marhum Br Liykat Fazal who was with us last year. Br Liakat was a compassionate leader to the community, and a great friend to all. His dedication to this community at all levels will be missed and I pray to Allah SWT to grant him a place in jannat with HIS infallibles. Br Liykat, we miss your smile and sense of humor and more importantly, your famous Afghani Tawa and Butter Chicken. Although you are not physically present here today, I know you are spiritually with your family and us on this joyous day. Please let us recite one surah e fateha for the ishale Thawaab Marhum Liykat Fazal and all marhumeen.

Wa Salamu alaikum Wa rahmatullahi Wa barakatu

# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

By Imran Rajwani, Shazia Mulla,  
Fatema Jaffer & Fatema Dewji

## ORLANDO UNION'S HISTORIC TOURNEY

15TH ANNIVERSARY

GAMES

Games conclude with the elusive championship in volleyball

One of the things, among many, that Orlando is known for is its sports festival. After the exodus of bunch of families from up north in to Orlando in 1997, it was matter of time before introducing Orlando as the newest city to compete in Khoja sports tournaments in North America.

A local team, Union Sports Club, was formed within a month of these families' relocation and in three months Orlando hosted a volleyball tournament in December of 1997 thus inviting others to Central Florida.

A striking destination and favorable weather made Orlando a favorite destination for all. Due to requests of many from up north, who wanted to getaway from severe cold weathers, another volleyball tournament was hosted in December of 1998.





In 2001, while attending a sports tournament in Dubai, five members of Union Sports Club, casually chatting about the remarkable success of the Supreme Council Sports Tournament hosted by Dubai, put forward a question that none of them had answer for – why don't we have such multi sport tournaments in North America?

Well, hello Orlando Sports Festival

If there was any destination that could handle the demands and requirements of such event, Orlando would be on top of the list and so the famous Orlando Games were born.

The first sports festival was held the very following year in 2002 and was dubbed 5th Anniversary Games, celebrating the 5th anniversary of the formation of the Union Sports Club.

It was decided by then management of the club that in order to maintain the charm and demands of such games, Orlando would host only once every five years.

In 2007, the members of Union Sports Club made a bold step and hosted the first-ever event comprising of men, women and children – The 10th Anniversary Games. Record number of participants, over 500, descended in the city beautiful to compete in 13 different sporting events, namely, men's volleyball, men's basketball, men's soccer, men's golf, men's tennis, men's table tennis, women's basketball, women's badminton, women's table tennis, boys' soccer, boys' table tennis, girls' soccer and girls' basketball. The tournament was held over five days during Christmas holidays. Even today, Orlando Union's 10th Anniversary Games are considered the biggest sporting event of communities worldwide.

Of all the sporting events that take place, the most popular one is always volleyball. Despite the burden of hosting these

mega events, Union's volleyball teams fared pretty competitive during these tournaments. In 2002, Union reached semi finals. In 2007, it reached finals. So the expectation for the 2012 tournament was, of course, championship. Anything short would be disappointment.

You would think attending the 15th Anniversary Games, held during Memorial Weekend, was like coming to watch a Super Bowl match-up of the ages. And it's very simple to understand why because the atmosphere throughout the tournament was astounding with loud cheers and proud chants! Volleyball in men's side and badminton and basketball in the women's side were the events to compete for.

The men's volleyball matches were what everyone was anticipating to bring the hype and bring the energy and excitement into all those that attended locally, around the Nation, and Internationally. Teams from Minnesota, New York, Allentown, Toronto, Orlando, and more were involved bringing in many teams for this Memorial Day tournament special.

Orlando itself was represented by Team Jafferys A, Team Jafferys B, Team Union A, and Team Union B who played their hearts out. To see the competitiveness of these teams was very inspiring especially for the youth and future prospects for their respective Jamaats. But not only was it competitive but it was also a means of getting a break and enjoying yourself whether you were playing or just a spectator.

Teams were going at it through the round robin stage including the youngest team of Minnesota aka Minnesota Highlighters led by team manager Mohamedraza Lakha; which consisted of teenagers but won the heart of the communities participating. They played with heart and with major skill despite their youngness. Their teamwork and love of the game showed as they shocked everyone and even took most improved player as

a whole team. I definitely see this team giving the experienced teams much more trouble in years to come.

But our own Orlando Union A tournament playing like never before was insisting they take the medal this year. And believe me they played with passion and force which lead them not only to the gold but also leaving their legacy as undefeated through the round robin and playoff stages. Team Captain Hilaal Virjee was guiding his team to play with pose and with heart; since those two combined will do wonders for a team.

Orlando Union A played a heated game against New York only to keep them undefeated by receiving the service back on a tied game with time running out. Intensity carried on from that match into the semi finals where Orlando Union A needed to win to advance to the finals to achieve their first ever championship. Talking about semis to Orlando Jaffrey player and spectator was Abbas Remtulla, who described this semis match up between Orlando Union A and Toronto Jafferys, "Watching the rivalry match between Orlando A vs. Toronto Jafferys, was the most epic game I ever got to witness. Making noise for the home team and losing my voice was totally worth it after Orlando A came out victorious in the end."

Now with Orlando Union A heading into the finals against Toronto led by Turab; this wasn't going to be an easy task nor was it going to be handed to them. It was going to be earned and fought for by either team if they wanted the championship. All that can be said about this match was the crowd was so into it, all that could be heard for 15 miles were the sounds of fans showing support and cheering to the climax. Orlando Union officially took the championship for the first time in the 15th Annual Tournament with their heads up and by playing two perfect games where flaws could not be found even by inviting scientists to explore tournament style volleyball.

Expectations were met, Orlando finally had its volleyball championship that had eluded it. After bowing out in semi finals and finals in the last to Orlando Games, it was only logical to take the next coveted step. 15 years since the formation of the club, Orlando Union won in a hammering fashion. They beat every team that it faced. Oh yeah, they played every team too. Undefeated!

What topped this tournament besides special congratulations to the 2012 Champions was the amazing food they served during the tournament. This is always the highlight of any gathering without a doubt and people came hungry and were sure to leave satisfied. And to

end this tournament, you could probably ask any player what their favorite part of the tournament was and they would say, "BOOM."

## LADIES TOURNAMENT

### BASKETBALL

When it comes to the court, guys aren't the only ones that know how to play. For the ladies basketball team, the Khojaminators (UKJ), hustling practices and determination were factors to a team that shocked the crowd despite their defeat. The Union sports ladies basketball team started practicing once a week months before the tournament. From the results of practice, it may have not seemed as if they were the team that gave the Minnesota girls a difficult win.

The team consisted of two players per position required: point guard, shooting guard, small forward, power forward and center. Each player began to realize their strengths and skills, making their roles in the game more diversified and creating a great challenge for the opposing team. The two teams played best two out of three to determine the winner of this tournament. Both games were very close with the Minnesota girls winning by only two points in the first game and one point in the second game. It was this close game score that gave the UKJ girls the acceptance of their loss but also understanding, along with the rest of the viewers of how surprisingly well they played and what challenge they gave to the other team.

Many of the team members agreed with one of the basketball coordinators, Fatema Fazal that winning the game didn't bother them as much because playing as well as they did against Minnesota truly showed their capability of being undefeated in the future.





The finals for singles badminton had come down between two of the most competitive players: Fatima Tarbhai Hudda of Toronto and Mahdiyah Walji of Minnesota. They played best of three where Mahdiyah won the first round leaving Fatima in the hunt for the next game. Fatima brought it back in the second game and left the audience speechless with her competitive score. However, in the last round Mahdiyah took it home and claimed her title as first place in the ladies singles badminton games.

Furthermore, the finals for doubles badminton came down to one state: Minnesota. On one end of the court we had Maliha Remtulla & Sepeedeh Niknam and on the other end was Mahdiyah Walji with her mom Sabira Walji. They also played the best of three where the mother-daughter duo took home the trophy after the second game.

Both singles and doubles badminton games ended on a very tough scale. As the players brought out the best of them, we knew we'd only have one set of winners. With all the support encouragement and motivation from others this tournament was a huge success; it not only allowed the ladies to have a sport to call their own but new and old friends who they were able to reconnect with. Ladies were able to rekindle the fire for some competition and new fond memories that will last with them for a lifetime.



## BADMINTON

As I stand on the court the world outside freezes off. All the training once a week every day for the past 6 months has all led up to this. As I stand here ready to give my first shot I can feel the adrenaline pumping through my veins. My opponent grabs the birdie and smash here it goes...this is what ran through the mind of all the badminton players as they got up to represent their city.

The tournament in May brought many people together. From far and wide, we all came together for one sole purpose: to have fun & you know... Win. There were a total of 27 doubles and 18 single badminton teams from various places: Orlando, Allentown, Toronto, Vancouver Chicago and Minnesota. Ladies of all ages came out to show what they are made of and trust me age is not a factor in this game because those aunties got mad skill!

Day one began bright and early in the morning. We started out as a game of rounds robin and the points that each player or team made ranked them in order of their placement within the tournament. Day two was when it came down to eliminations. Some players and teams had called it a loss with smiles on their faces but were ready to enjoy the rest of the games through laughs and cheers. Although they had played tough games themselves, they were not ready to give up on their home teams and continued cheering on those players who were still going.

## Curry Control

By Fatema Jaffer

Ramadan days leave our stomachs growling and mouths watering over of deep-fried appetizers, sugar loaded sweets, and oil loaded dishes. At the end of the day, we can't stop ourselves from filling our stomachs with these delicious foods, especially during this month, but there are ways to work around them and still maintain our healthiness.

To begin with, eating before dawn, Sehri, is an important factor in minimizing dizziness and mood swings and stomach grumbling which should contain sugar, protein, carbohydrates and some fats. This will wake the body up and allow it to begin to function normally, so that much weight will not be gained and the brain has the energy it needs to function throughout the day. Drinking plenty of water with this meal is also vital to prevent the body from becoming dehydrated is good and eating wholesome foods that digest slowly and give more energy during the day such as cereal, toast, and even salad. Eating Sehri is necessary to staying healthy during Ramadan.

Our culture contains a variety of very tasty dishes that are not the healthiest and with Ramadan, we tend to devour into them because of not eating for a whole day. Though there are better ways of going about and eating our iftaar. Because we're giving our body a full days' worth of nutrients we not only have a tendency to eat as much as possible but we also eat very fast making us feel lethargic and tired after. The amount of servings for iftaar should actually be like your normal serving size for dinner on any other day but since it usually isn't, you should try to incorporate more fruits to help with the digestion and eating slowly, allowing the nutrients to process and not give you the heavy feeling you feel after getting up from the Sufro. Other factors that'll make your Ramadan healthier is trying to do a little exercise such as going for a walk around the neighborhood or even doing some stretches to maintain your energy level and using the calories you've just gained, and avoid them from turning into fat. One more thing you should do to have a healthier Ramadan is drinking hot water at the end of the day. Yes, drinking water helps your body in many ways, but hot water does a great deal in helping as well, especially when it comes to clearing out your digestive system especially after eating fried spring rolls, samosas and kachoris. Hopefully, we these few tips, we'll be able to control our curry intake and maintain a healthier body in our future fasting months to come.

## Body Posture is Important

Courtesy: Articles Factory

Before engaging in any physical activity, especially doing lawn work or gardening, but even if it involves playing with small active children or wrestling with playful puppies, it's a good idea to take some adult precautions. Many Floridians show up at the office of a chiropractor in Naples, FL complaining of lower back pains after a weekend spent pulling weeds and tending to a garden because they failed to follow some simple procedures that can help prevent injuring the spine.

A chiropractor in Naples, FL will point out to anyone who asks that he or she isn't surprised by injuries people sustain in busy spring and summer months. Most of us tend to ignore the central function of the lumbar muscles in our backs, which support most of the body as well as the spine. When was the last time you thought about it? We ignore it until it begins to complain and it speaks the language of back pain.

Before engaging in any kind of physical activity, including gardening, any chiropractor in Naples, FL will probably tell you that it is necessary to warm up your lumbar muscles in order to prevent spraining, tensing or other injuries. A ten minute walk is usually sufficient, followed by a few chiropractor approved stretches. A Naples, FL chiropractor who evaluates your condition can provides more specific instructions, but the following is to give you a general idea.

- \* Knees to chest. On your back, bring your knees up to your chest and wrap your arms around your lower legs while your back is flatly pressed against the floor and hold for a minute or so. Take a moment to refrain, and then repeat a couple more times. Don't overdo it.
- \* Chair stretch. Seat yourself on a chair's edge, then curve your back forward until your hands touch the floor. Relax while still forward and hold until you feel tension.

Think about your body positioning while engaging in activity outside. If you are pulling weeds, kneel and keep your back straight. Don't bend over to pull weeds, or hunch over your garden. Move your body forward in order to access the weeds.

Your chiropractor in Naples, FL can give you specific advice on body posture for the kinds of specific activities you engage in that are extremely useful in preventing injury and as therapies for pain.

# KIDS CORNER

Once again we are given the blessing of witnessing another Holy month of Ramadhan. It is important that we do not forget the lessons we learned in this month. The TWELVERS top things not to forget are:

1. Never waste food
2. Read the Holy Qur'an

While we are fasting we felt the hunger and thirst others who are not as lucky as us feel every day. The least we can do is not waste food. Remember to only put what you can finish :)

As Eid comes around you know what that means? It's time for a feast! Did you ever wonder why that Biryani taste so good? How can you taste that cold Kulfi running down your mouth? Well your tongue is quite remarkable. Here's a little insight on how we can taste and if you don't believe it you can test it out!

## Your Tongue

Want to find out just how much you use your tongue? Try eating an ice-cream cone or reciting your favorite Nasheed without it. You need your tongue to chew, swallow, and recite. And don't forget talking and tasting!

## Tongue Twister

Has anyone ever told you that the tongue is a muscle? Well, that's only partly true: The tongue is really made up of many groups of muscles. These muscles run in different directions to carry out all the tongue's jobs.

The front part of the tongue is very flexible and can move around a lot, working with the teeth to create different types of words. This part also helps you eat by helping to move food around your mouth while you chew. Your tongue pushes the food to your back teeth so the teeth can grind it up.

The muscles in the back of your tongue help you make certain sounds, like the letters "k" and hard "g" (like in the word "go"). Try saying these letters slowly, and you'll feel how the back of your tongue moves against the top of your mouth to create the sounds.

The back of your tongue is important for eating as well. Once the food is all ground up and mixed with saliva (say: suh-lye-vuh), or spit, the back muscles start to work. They move and push a small bit of food along with saliva into your esophagus (say: ih-sah-fuh-gus), which is a food pipe that leads from your throat to your stomach.

## Tongue Held Down

Have you ever wondered what keeps you from swallowing your tongue? Look in the mirror at what's under your tongue and you'll see your frenulum (say: fren-yuh-lum). This is a membrane (a thin layer of tissue) that connects your tongue to the bottom of your mouth. In fact, the whole base of your tongue is firmly anchored to the bottom of your mouth, so you could never swallow your tongue even if you tried!

## Tongue Held Down

No Flavor without Saliva!

### WHAT THIS EXPERIMENT SHOWS:

Why you need saliva to taste foods. In order for food to have taste, chemicals from the food must first dissolve in saliva. Once dissolved, the chemicals can be detected by receptors on taste buds.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- A friend or two
- Paper towels
- Foods to taste (cookies, crackers, pretzels, or other dry food)
- Drinking water for everyone
- Use a clean paper towel to dry off your tongue.

### WHAT TO DO:

- Taste each food, one by one. How does it taste?
- Have a drink of water.
- Taste each food again, letting your saliva do its magic!

*kidshealth.org*

## Story Time

Why do we read Qur'an when we can't even understand?

An old American Muslim lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading his Qur'an. His grandson wanted to be just like him and tried to imitate him in every way he could. One day the grandson asked, "Grandpa, I try to read the Qur'an just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Qur'an do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and replied, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring me back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, but all the water leaked out before he got back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You'll have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home.

Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was impossible to carry water in a basket, and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water.

You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again. At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could. The water would leak out before he got back to the house.

The boy again dipped the basket into the river and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty.

Out of breathe, he said, "See Grandpa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time realized that the basket was different. It had been transformed from a dirty old coal basket and was now clean, inside and out.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Qur'an. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, you will be changed, inside and out. That is the work of Allah in our lives."

## HOW THE BODY WORKS

### Tongue Word Find

Directions: Print out the word find. See how many words you can find from the list below.



FRENULUM	SALIVA	TASTE
MICROVILLI	SALTY	TASTEBUDS
MUSCLES	SWEET	TEETH
PAPILLAE	TALK	TONGUE

## HOW THE BODY WORKS

### Taste Tracker

Directions: What are your favorite flavors? Answer these questions about which tastes you like and which you don't.

If I could invent an ice cream flavor it would be: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite sweet food: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite salty food: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite sour food: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite holiday food: \_\_\_\_\_

Food I like, but other kids don't: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite fruit: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_

Food everyone likes, but I don't: \_\_\_\_\_

Food I'd like to try someday: \_\_\_\_\_

Food I don't like now, but think I will when I'm older: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite food as a baby (ask your mom or dad!): \_\_\_\_\_

## WORD SHAKE - EID MUBARAK

How many words can you make from Eid Mubarak? Words have to be 3 letters long or more you have 5 mins go!

Let us know how many you were able to come up with winner will be previewed in the next issue. (:

## REFLECTION

Talk to us! Tell us how you will keep the spirit of Ramadhan alive now that the Holy month has passed. Responses will be shown in our next issue.



# BIBI KHADIJA MOTHER OF ALL BELIEVERS

ONE OF THE GREATEST ROLE MODELS

Courtesy of Kawthar Magazine

**B**ibi Khadija (as): Mother of the Believers Khadija was the first and most beloved wife of the Holy Prophet and she literally lived and died for Islam. Thus, it may come as a surprise to some to hear that the Holy Prophet had said "Islam did not rise except through the sword of Ali and the wealth of Khadija." Before Islam, Khadija was known as the Princess of Makkah, but when the sun of Islam rose above the horizon, Allah was pleased to honor her as the Princess of Islam. In a period where the Arabs used to look down upon women, Khadija had earned the title of al-Tahira, the Pure One.

This was due to her impeccable personality and virtuous character as well as her honorable descent. Not only did she used to feed and clothe the poor but she also assisted her relatives financially. One particular quality in Khadija which surpassed all her other qualities was that she, unlike the people of the time, never believed in nor worshipped idols and I always believed in the oneness of God. However, the only quality we seem to remember of her is her wealth. Indeed she was very wealthy and it has been narrated that when Banu Quraish's trade caravans gathered to embark upon their lengthy and strenuous journey to either Syria or Yemen, Khadija's caravan would equal the caravans of all the other traders of Quraish put together.

In the year 595 AD Prophet Muhammad (saw), at the age of 25, and Bibi Khadija (as) 40 at the time, married. Abu Talib (as) read the Nikah on behalf of the Prophet whilst Khadija's cousin Waqara bin Noufal read it on her behalf. Hazrat Abu Talib (as) paid the mehr for his nephew and fed the people of Mecca for 3 days in celebration, whilst Khadija (as) fed the people too.

However it was Abu Talib, the uncle of the Prophet and father of Imam Ali (as), who delivered the marriage sermon saying:

"All praise is due to Allah Who has made us the progeny of Ibrahim and Who made us the custodians of His House and the servants of its sacred precincts, making for us a House sought for pilgrimage and a shrine of security, and He also gave us authority over the people. This nephew of mine Muhammad cannot be compared with any other man: if you compare his wealth with that of others, you will not find him a man of wealth, for wealth is a vanishing shadow and a fickle thing. Muhammad is a man whose lineage you all know, and he has sought Khadijah Bint Khuwaylid for marriage, offering her such-and-such of the dower of my own wealth."

During their marriage, when the Prophet used to meditate in the cave of Hira on Jabel Noor, it was Bibi Khadija (as) who would climb up there to give him his food and necessaries. And it was none other than Khadija who became the first women to accept Islam as taught by the Holy Prophet (saw). After the Prophet narrated his experience to Khadija, she said, "By Allah, Allah shall never subject you to any indignity, for you always maintain your ties with those of your kin, and you are always generous in giving; you are diligent, and you seek what others regard as unattainable; you cool the eyes of your guest, and you lend your support to those who seek justice and redress. Stay firm, O cousin, for by Allah I know that He will not deal with you except most beautifully, and I testify that you are the awaited Prophet in this nation, and your time, if Allah wills, has come."

Hence Khadija did not hesitate to embrace Islam at all and after

## //

*O Allah's Messenger, Khadija is coming to you with a vessel of seasoned food or drink. When she comes to you, offer her greetings from her Lord, the Exalted and Glorious, and on my behalf and give her glad tidings of a palace of pipes of gold and jewels in Paradise wherein there is no noise and no toil."*

her acceptance of the Prophethood she remained at his side and supported him throughout his mission to spread Islam.

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Bibi Khadija (A.S) were married for 24 years and it was a marriage full of love, compassion, and virtue. This was so evident even after the death of Khadija that Aisha, the youngest wife of the Prophet, had said "I never felt jealous of any of the wives of the Prophet (PBUH) as I did of Khadija, although she died before he married me, because of what I heard him say about her and I felt extremely jealous and said to him: But she was only an old woman with red eyes, and Allah has compensated you with a better and younger wife." This caused the Prophet (PBUH) to be very angry, and he said, "No, indeed; He has not compensated me with someone better than her. She believed in me when all others disbelieved; she held me truthful when others called me a liar; she sheltered me when others abandoned me; she comforted me when others shunned me; and Allah granted me children by her while depriving me of children by other women."

Among Khadija's merits was the fact Allah (SWT) ordered Jibraeel to convey His regards to her. Jibraeel came to the Prophet (saw) and said: "O Allah's Messenger, Khadija is coming to you with a vessel of seasoned food or drink. When she comes to you, offer her greetings from her Lord, the Exalted and Glorious, and on my behalf and give her glad tidings of a palace of pipes of gold and jewels in Paradise wherein there is no noise and no toil." Khadija replied, "Allah is the Peace, and He is the source of all peace, and upon Gabriel be peace."

Abu Muhammad Ordoni mentions in his book "Fatima the Gracious": "As for Lady Khadijah, she was a beautiful, tall, light skinned woman, considered noble among her people; she was wise in decision making, enjoyed a great deal of intelligence and sharp discernment. She bestowed her brilliant insight of economical principles, especially in the export and import field, on the trade market. This was Khadijah the human, the woman, and the wife; on the other hand, she granted thousands of dinars to her husband to use as he saw fit. Thus, Khadijah's financial support had a great role in strengthening Islam during its prime days, when it was still in the formation stage and critically needed material aid. Allah foreordained Khadijah's property to help Islam and fulfill its goals."

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said regarding Khadija, "No property has ever been so useful to me as Khadijah's." Whilst this property was used none other than to free slaves, help the needy, support the poor and rescue his financially afflicted companions. He also paved the way for those who wished to immigrate; all this through Khadija's wealth. Furthermore, Khadija fed the poor Muslims, day after day, so that no one among them ever went hungry, and she provided shelter to them. For her, charity was nothing new but the size and scope of the commitment were; she spent money prodigiously on the poor and the homeless Muslims of Mecca. The support that Khadija gave to the Muslim community in Makka, was indispensable for the survival of Islam. Her support to the Muslim community guaranteed its survival when it was in a state of blockade. In this sense, she was a maker of history the history of Islam.

Khadija, on the other hand, never asked her husband for anything. Far from asking him to bring anything for her, she made her own purse a public treasury for the Muslims. In Makkah there was no Public Treasury, and it was the boundless generosity and the unlimited wealth of Khadija that saved the community of the faithful from starving. She was so considerate of the welfare of the followers of her husband that she didn't withhold even the last coin that was in her possession, and spent it on them. It is reported that by the time she died, her entire wealth had already been spent to promote Islam; she left not a single gold dinar nor a single silver dirham, nor anything more or less.

Therefore, in conclusion it is no surprise that Bibi Khadija (A.S) is of one of the four women promised paradise and amongst the four perfect women who could measure up to the high standards of true greatness and perfection set by Islam.

# LONDON OLYMPICS OPEN WITH HISTORIC FIRSTS FOR MUSLIM WOMEN

MUSLIMS MAKE HISTORY AT OLYMPICS

*Courtesy of AltMuslimah*

The London Olympics already holds a series of historic firsts, especially for Muslims and women around the world. To begin with, the organizers aim to make the London Olympics the first “green games,” developed with the goal of environmentally friendly and sustainable construction. Muslim women have held pivotal roles in bringing this goal to fruition. Of note are Zaha Hadid and Saphina Sharif.

Sharif, a civil engineer, was an on-site director ensuring that the clearance of the Park site pre-construction met the ‘zero-waste games’ goal.

Hadid, the first British Muslim and woman architect to win the prestigious Pritzker—the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in architecture—is the designer of the acclaimed London Aquatics Center for the games—a ‘Pringles chip’ looking building, by far

the most beautiful building in the Park.

The London games are also the first, since the Moscow games in 1980, to coincide with Ramadan, the Muslim holy month where the faithful abstain from food and drink daily from dawn until dusk, which in London’s humid summer this year means a fast of approximately seventeen hours a day for each of the games seventeen days.

Despite the spiritual and physical challenges presented with the timing, this

year marks the highest participation of Muslims athletes. With the over 3000 Muslim athletes, a third of all participating Olympians are of the Islamic faith. And Muslim representation at the Olympics will not be limited to Muslim nations; for example, at least two Muslim athletes will be representing the United Kingdom as firsts in their respective sports.



And the news that has media abuzz is that this will be the first time Saudi Arabia has permitted female athletes to participate and will thus, include two women on their team. Perhaps lesser known is that Brunei and Qatar will also send a combined five female athletes for the first time. Thus, making the London games the first time women are included on the teams of all the countries participating.

Amongst other Muslim nations, the UAE and Iran will also send women athletes to participate in weight-lifting and table tennis, respectively. Pakistan will send a female swimmer and a runner. With women’s boxing being held for the first time the Olympics, Afghanistan will send its first female boxer, Sadaf Rahimi. Algeria and Turkey will both send women’s indoor volleyball teams, making two out of the twelve national indoor volleyball teams qualify from Muslim majority nations. Egypt, despite its political instability, will send thirty-four female athletes, the largest delegation it has ever sent, and it seems, the largest any Muslim nation has sent, yet. Even Palestine, with its five-member team, boasts two women athletes.

In all likeliness Malaysia’s shooter, Nur Suryani Mohamed Taibi, will stand out not just as a woman from a Muslim nation, but as possibly the most pregnant athlete to compete, as she is expected to give birth any day now.

Some are dubbing these developments as ‘the rise of the Arab female athlete,’ or even, ‘the rise of the Muslim female athlete.’ Earlier this month Vanity Fair featured stunning highlights from “Hey’Ya: Arab Women in Sport,” an exhibit by the magazine’s photographer Brigette Lacmobe and her sister, Marian, a documentary filmmaker. The breathtaking photographs offer a glimpse at women in the Middle East in stark contrast to how we usually see them depicted in the media—active, athletic and glamorous, with no signs of the ominous burqa.

Nevertheless, with stories such as the Saudi Arabia flip-flop on its female athlete ban dominating the news it is easy to see how shocking such visuals of Arab women can be and why it seems this is ‘the ‘rise of the Arab and Muslim female athlete’ rather than this is ‘the rise of the recognition of the Arab and Muslim female athlete.’

In recent years we have seen gradual recognition not only by governments succumbing to political pressure and pop culture expanding its collective imagination but also officially, by athletic organizations such as IOC and FIFA, both of which started to accept athletic hijabs. Though there are specific Olympic competition chairs who still claim the hijab is a hindrance to athletes. Currently, one of Saudi’s two female athletes, Judo competitor Wojdan Ali Seraj Abdulrahim Shakhani, is being told

she cannot fight while wearing a headscarf.

The challenge remains for women to go from token recognition in their fields to bona fide acceptance.

Many of the Muslim female athletes who made it this year, did so without official sponsorship and trained in subpar facilities. Some are not considered valuable to their country’s athletic programs or are not allowed to compete within their home nation’s borders because of restrictions on gender mixing and the politicization of the concept of modest attire. Both women representing Saudi Arabia, for example, train outside of the Kingdom’s borders – Sarah Attar, who will compete in the 800-meters is actually an American who holds dual citizenship because her father is Saudi Arabian. Some, like Rahimi, represent defiance to decades of strictly interpreted religious tradition and gender stereotypes.



*With over 3000  
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Beyond athletes in conservative Muslim nations, even 62-year-old Iraqi born Hadid is still viewed as an outsider in the British architect community. Despite her ground breaking designs and worldwide recognition, she says neither she nor her members of team received an invite to any of the events at the London Aquatic Center.

One can only wonder, though, despite the ongoing challenges, what all these firsts will mean for the generations of young Muslim girls watching the games—the ones who will, for the first time, hear music and see dance previously reserved only for family occasions; see women athletes with names and faces like theirs, some in hijab, some without; and hear the names of the Park’s prominent designers—and will be inspired to achieve even more.



# TENDERS WE UNITE

By Imran Rajwani

HIC, IEC & JIC  
YOUTHS HOST A  
JOINT IFTAR  
DINNER TO UNITE  
ORLANDO YOUTHS

When you think Tenders of UCF (University of Central Florida), the thing that comes to mind is halal food! Tender's which is located right across from UCF is a great outing place for Muslim students who are craving food and to catch up with friends outside of the studying environment. But luckily three inner communities of Orlando have found another use for it the last couple of years.

Last year the teams of IEC, JIC, and our own HIC put their heads together to host an Iftar Dinner at Tenders Restaurant

which created quite a bit of success. So why not try for a second annual Ramadhan Iftar Dinner? Well that is exactly what the three organizations decided to do again this year in their continuance to unite Shia communities around the Orlando area.

The beauty of this specific Iftar Dinner whether or not it was hosted at Tenders is to unite and continue to unite with the help of all three communities. With the help of some of youth officials from the mentioned communities such as Batul Merchant, Fatema Dewji, Mohsin Hussain, Shabir Kirmani, Zohaad Merchant, and

Abid Ali Virani just to name a few; they all got down to work to get this planned out and well executed.

The communities were not exactly sure how many would show up but they knew they would receive a good crowd like last year especially with the secret advertisements through Facebook. To keep up with current social media was the key into creating this event while discussions were on going. "Let's create a Facebook event page," as someone mentioned which was a great idea and got a lot of people to confirm their attendance. But it doesn't stop their because friends

and families of those in attendance would join in and create a larger more active crowd where others were able to see newer faces from other communities.

This was my first of the annual Iftar Events hosted by the three communities and it was nice to see some of these youth leaders and officials in various communities. What was also great besides the popcorn chicken and chicken tenders baskets is how well these individuals worked together to make sure everything went as smoothly as possible. Not only did it go smoothly but everyone in attendance enjoyed the event and had great things to say.

By talking to some of these youth leaders of their corresponding Mosques; it was really only a few specific things that come into mind when creating an event like this. By creating this event among the different Shia Orlando communities they not only get to work together but get to understand each other personally and community wise. By establishing this it creates a comfortable level to be able to work together for possible future events and also create new friendships.

Another objective was to create that same environment for those in attendance. To allow these communities to realize there are other communities around Orlando and to get to know one another. Yes we can eat food at the same time but keeping that one goal that allows communities to mend as one community of the Greater Orlando area is of most importance. Knowing other Shia Muslims around Orlando is a great thing to avoid any dividing amongst fellow brothers and sisters that are nearby.

Lastly, it allows for more open mindedness as we start moving towards outer knowledge and influence. But this outer knowledge and influence is good as each community is able to gather ideas and knowledge from another party to get an understanding through different views. By this we all can continue especially the youth, to seek more religious knowledge and upbringings and continue to do so. Any positive influence whether in our own community or coming from the outside is something more than we can ask for and take in when we can as individuals.

It did start off with Namaaz at IEC or if you were looking forward to UCF their prayer room was available to those that wanted a closer location. Once the Iftar event got underway the youth officials started off with hard work making sure all participants and guests were well taken care of. By providing personal food handling and delivering skills no one was left hungry; well at least they were hoping not! These organizers were amazing to watch as they were looking out for everyone else first while fasting.

But that was not all; these organizers of these three communities had another special surprise for their guests. How about being honored with Sheikh Sayyid Baqir Imrani of IEC to sit down and have a discussion session with the youth? This is exactly what makes an event like this meaningful by having a purpose served to today's youngsters. Sheikh Sayyid Baqir Imrani not only answered the questions of the youths that they are struggling with in current times, but also provided enlightenment on their level so they felt comfortable and we were able to walk away with something positive for our future and lives.



*By creating this event among the different Shia Orlando communities they not only get to work together but get to understand each other personally and community wise."*

As successful as this Tenders event was there are always some complications. Tenders is known to be small which did not allow for much sitting room space. This caused seating issues and many having to sit either outside or leave a bit earlier than expected. Rumors are going around about continuing this annual Iftar Event which some adjustments to accommodate more individuals. Yes, these are just rumors but I am sure with these three communities hosting these rumors will hold true and more surprises will be in store. All I will say at this point is just keep a look out towards the beginning of next year's Holy Month of Ramadhan for announcements regarding the third annual Iftar Dinner!

# EID-UL-FITR - 2001

Address by the President of HIC  
Marhum Husseinali Yusufali - Dec 16, 2001



Alhamdulillah. We have finished the holy month of Ramadhan with all its blessings and nemat from Allah (S.W.T) on a very pleasant note. I'm glad and pleased that the month passed very smoothly without any problems and at the same time it makes me sad that it had to pass so fast, for we have tried our best to get our sins pardoned with supplications and amaals in this short period of time. But who knows, if what little we did was enough? Who knows if we will be alive next year to benefit the divine nemat that this Holy month brings for us. Whether the opportunities missed for forgiveness and repentance will ever be available to us again?



So let us all pray to the Almighty Allah to forgive us, if we have slacked in our prayers, supplications and for having sinned. And to give us another opportunity in the years to come to enjoy the showering of his nemats and rehmat as He usually does in His holy month of Ramadan - Amen.

As I had mentioned earlier, we are considering to convert the annex into a large hall to accommodate our ever-growing jamaat. We are all aware that in any growing Jamaat, the initial requirements of laying a strong foundation are very important. It is in this view that we are looking at establishing a youth body and would like to call upon all the youths to come forward and serve this community in the name of Imam Husayn (A.S).



On this happy occasion of Eid, my managing committee and I take this opportunity to thank Maulana Sheikh Mussharaf Hussayni (of U.K), Seyyid Jawed Jaffery, Br. Reezwan Jaffer, Br. Ashiq Kermali, Br. Mohamed Kermali and Br. Hussein Walji (of Minnesota), for their excellent majlises. They were really enlightening and we all hope that we can truly thank you by putting all that knowledge to practice in our everyday life.

Tonight we would like to recognize a few members who have continuously supported our Committee. Our sincere appreciation to Br. Zulfikar Ladak, Br. Zuhair Ebrahim, Br. Raza Dhanji and Br. Kazim Jessa for all their efforts. May the Almighty reward them all. Ameen. We would also like to thank Union Sports Club for their selfless volunteering, organizing social events and tasty Bar-B-Ques which made many wives happy since they didn't have to prepare sehri. Union Sports Club of Orlando will be leaving for Dubai shortly to attend the supreme council sports festival. We wish them all the very best in sportsmanship and may they come back home victorious. Union Sports Club, you are representing each and every member of HIC and all our support and prayers are with you. Good Luck!



A word of thanks also goes to Mohammed Kassam and his group for taking care of the parking and making it easy for us to enter and exit the compound freely. A special thanks to the Ladies Committee for handling all the events in the Ladies Section, the volunteering and organizing of functions regularly to keep the ladies busy and happy. A bravo goes to the Madressa as well for making sure that the Quran Khani ran smoothly and for holding our annual events of the Quran Competition and Blockbusters.

Shukran to all the recitors for doing a brilliant job. Praise be to Allah for bestowing us with such fluent and energetic recitors and I hope more of you will come forward and continue to gladden our hearts with those sweet Quranic verses and duas. As you will have also noticed the expanded features at our web site and the ease of use together with abundant and knowledgeable links pertaining to our religious needs. For that we say Ahsant to Br. Raza Dhanji and urge him to keep up with the good work.



This year, for the first time, you all will have seen the very informative way the Quran and Dua translations were being displayed on our TV screens, together with a well managed Audio Visual Communication that helped us all not only to hear and read the supplications, but also understand what we were reciting. For that I express my heartiest thanks to Br. Hasnain Karim, Br. Raza Dhanji, Br. Mazahir Janmohammed and Br. Irfan Janmohammed. I hope and pray that you continue with this great task and may Allah bless you for making us all understand His message.

Let us all pray to Allah (SWT) to grant us all with His choicest blessings and to give us the strength to serve this community and Islam for as long as we shall live - Amen



# HUSSEINI ISLAMIC CENTER

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ORLANDO FLORIDA

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5211 Hester Avenue, Sanford, FL  
[hic@orlandocenter.org](mailto:hic@orlandocenter.org)  
[www.orlandocenter.org](http://www.orlandocenter.org)

