

Islamic Center Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 5
May 15, 2003
Raby al-awal 13, 1424

ICNEF, St. John's Bluff Road S., Jacksonville, Florida 32246

CALENDAR

MONTHLY GATHERING

Saturday, May 24, 2003
5:30 pm

HOST FAMILIES

Muhammad Saeed & Naila Choudhry
Rahim & Alicia Shah

MONTH 2003 HOST FAMILIES

Shad & Noorulain Quraishi
Aslam F. & Karishma Khan

ICNEF MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, May 25, 2003
After Zuhr Prayer

TAFSEER CLASS

Fridays, 7:30pm

TAJWEED CLASS

Sundays, after Fajr

"Remember me and
I will remember you."
Surah Baqra:152

Articles News Announcements FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER

Please submit by
Friday, May 30, 2003

ICNEF WEBSITE
<http://www.ICNEF.org>

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The April monthly gathering was also the year's first "Town Hall Meeting." These town hall styled meetings will be held four (4) times a year, during our regular monthly gatherings for January, April, July, and October.

Br. Shakur Bolden, President of ICNEF, chaired the meeting and the office bearers of the ICNEF Managing Committee formed the panel which responded to the comments, concerns, and questions from the audience. Br. Khadim Hussain, Treasurer, with Br. Shah Faisal Sayed, Assistant Treasurer, briefly presented the financial status of ICNEF. Br. Rahim Shah, Secretary, shared the various activities that are presently available at the Islamic Center, and asked for involvement from the community.

After the presentations, the floor was open for comments, concerns, and/or questions from the community. To keep the meeting orderly, the audience was provided with note cards to write down their questions. Initially the meeting was planned to run a little over an hour, however, the community chose to extend the meeting another hour and delay dinner until after Maghrib. The community had great comments as well as solutions for the various questions raised. Hopefully the community will take advantage of these meetings to voice their concerns, and this will build confidence and trust between the managing personnel of ICNEF and them.

If you would like to get involved or would like more information, please contact Br. Shakur (shakur.bolden@bellsouth.com) or Br. Rahim (rshah@bellsouth.net).

Interfaith Council of Jacksonville
National Committee Coalition of Jacksonville
Understanding Islam: Sundays, 5pm, Channel 24/29
Faith to Faith: Sundays, 630pm, Channel 24/29
Adopt a Highway Program: section of Beach Blvd
Homeless Shelter Program
Hospital and Prison Visits
Women's Excellence Program
American Muslim Youth Association (AMYA)
ICNEF Newsletter
Sister's Class with the Imam
Al-Furqan Academy (AFA)
Sunday School

Halaqa-Study Circle: Sundays, between Maghrib and Isha
Tajweed: Sundays, after Fajr
Tafseer: Fridays, 730pm
Library Da'wa Program
CAIR Library Project

BROTHER ABDUL MALIK'S LECTURE

Homa Mojadidi

“We thank God for the opportunity to be Muslim, for all the prophets, and righteous men of God” thus Imam Abdul Malik of New York, began his speech to the Jacksonville community on April 18, 2003, at ICNEF. I thought I would share his inspirational words with those of you who could not be there. Imam Malik continued by saying that while it seems like one of the most difficult times to be a Muslim, there is no better time, in the history of America, than now, to be a Muslim. “We've never been challenged more as a community...if you say today that you are a Muslim, you'll be held accountable for that and you will be challenged” Malik said.

Imam Malik went on to ask the question “what is a Muslim?” His response was that every child is born in a state of fitra, or a natural state of consciousness, and if properly educated will worship God alone. Malik defined a Muslim as “a human being who strives to worship God alone and to serve humanity in all that is good.” However, Imam Malik said that due to the wicked media propaganda, whose objective is to dehumanize Muslims, that is not the image that a non-Muslim American has of a Muslim. “The power of an image can last for generations” therefore, Malik said, “God forbids people from trying to imagine His face.” Pictures of prophets are similarly forbidden because that's what leads to false images of prophets such as the blonde and blue-eyed image of Prophet Jesus (PBUH) and that is why “you cannot put an image on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)'s prophecy.” Malik quoted the saying of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH): “Do not elevate me like the Christians elevated Jesus. But remember I am God's servant and His Messenger”.

Imam Malik continued his speech by saying that “hidden political goals of world domination propagate these false images of Muslims so that even a Muslim is ashamed to say I am a Muslim.” The worst part of this propaganda, he said, is that “after being dehumanized you tend to develop the mindset of a defeatist mentality.” Malik's solution to this dilemma is: “If we depend on God alone we will survive, because it is written in the books—it's all written...everything we see is a script that you and I will play out according to what's already been written.” Malik conceded that “unfortunately Muslims have contributed to the false images of Muslims as we have become lovers of wealth at the expense of destruction of people.” “The greatest challenge to Muslims today are Muslims,” he said. He continued by saying: “It's easy to look for blame elsewhere but we are the problem because Muslims follow a people who should be following them. Muslim kids imitate rappers and other celebrities because they have no one in the Muslim world that they would like to emulate. They know the names of every rapper from Ja Rule to Eminem but they don't know who Khalid Bin Walid (RA) or Umar Ibn Khattab (RA) were. Even Muslim men are going for blonde and blue-eyed women because they want features that remind them of the colonial slave-masters and because to them that is a sign of excellence. We have lost the love and respect of who we are as Muslims. How can we expect others to respect us if we don't respect ourselves? The Holy Prophet (SW) and his companions dignified the Ummah. If anyone disrespected the Holy Prophet (SW), the companions were ready to tear them to shreds, but nowadays Muslims have become slaves to the material world and afraid. However, we must remember that while it's okay to be afraid it is a crime to be a coward...and the image of a Muslim is one we are responsible for dignifying.”

Imam Malik went on to speak about women and gave the community this advice: “Be proud of whatever Allah made you. If you are a woman, Allah made you better than a man—don't try to be like a man.” He went on to say that the first person to become Muslim was a woman, the first person to give their life for Islam was a woman, the Prophet (PBUH) took his last breath in the arms of a woman. He continued by saying that “We are guilty as a nation of oppressing women. Have we ever thought that as fathers it is our duty to raise children as well and not just send them to their mothers in the mosque, because their mothers want to learn and be inspired just as much as we do.” He went on to ask “how do we build a civilization in the absence of our women having an intellectual capability” or being educated, because “educated women can transform the image of Muslims in America—if they are like Ayesha (RA) or Khadija (RA).”

Imam Malik's parting words and advice to the community were: “Your best weapon is the truth—the question is can you deliver it against all this negative mass media propaganda directed at Muslims? The mouth's the place where we communicate what's in the heart, so if the media's the weapon of choice, then we have to conquer the weapon of choice.” He also said to “ask God to make you sincere. You don't have to prove anything to anyone, just prove to God that you believe in Him and everything else will fall into place.”

“And recite (and teach) that which has been revealed unto you in the Book of your Lord. No one can change His words. You shall find no refuge beside Him. Restrain yourself together with those who pray to their Lord, morning and evening, seeking His pleasure. Do not turn eyes away from them in quest of the good things of this life; nor obey any whose heart we have made heedless of Our remembrance, who follows his own lust and gives a loose rein to his desires.” (18:27-28)

**ICNEF FINANCIAL SUMMARY
JANUARY 2003 TO APRIL 30, 2003**

FUND NAME	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL OPERATING	\$4,301.26	\$37,973.21	\$46,341.43	-\$4,066.87
BUILDING	\$41,780.12	\$1,785.00	\$39,101.56	\$4,463.56
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$21,775.2	\$11,631.92	\$6,633.60	\$7,175.79
TOTAL ON HAND AS OF APRIL 30TH				\$7,572.48

NOTE: We are negative in the Operating Fund. Please come forward and donate more so we can operate this House of God. Now you have the option to pay by automatic deduction from your checking account or various credit cards. Please pick up a form from the Islamic Center or contact me (Khadim Hussain) for more information 904-374-2123..

**AL-FURQAN ACADEMY FINANCIAL SUMMARY
AUGUST 01, 2002 TO MARCH 31, 2003**

FUND NAME	BEGINNING	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	END. BALANCE
BEGINNING	\$12,456.05			
TUITION		\$125,065.25		
REGISTRATION		\$670.00		
BOOKS		\$2,204.50	\$5,675.09	
AFTER CARE		\$3,729.00		
DONATIONS		\$6,805.00		
OTHER IN-		\$945.27		
MPTA FUND		\$1,519.63	\$240.69	
TEACHER'S DE-		\$1,100.00	\$1,113.55	
LUNCH PRO-		\$13.50	\$1,422.34	
ACCOUNT AD-		\$0.06		
ICNEF		\$37,835.45	\$42,813.60	
SALARIES			\$79,738.24	
PAYROLL			\$16,144.88	
ACCOUNTING			\$1,125.00	
SCHOOL SUP-			\$1,808.59	
MISC. SUPPLIES			\$4,344.51	
TELEPHONE			\$770.71	
MARSHAL ART			\$100.00	
DUES & SUB-			\$300.00	
INSURANCE			\$1,571.28	
TOTALS	\$12,456.05	\$179,887.66	\$157,168.48	\$35,175.23

2003 ISLAMIC CALENDAR NOW ONLY \$5

If you still have not been able to purchase your own 2003 Islamic Calendar, it's not too late! They only cost \$5 and all the money raised will benefit the Islamic Center and AFA. With Eid ul-Adha being around the corner, this would make a great gift for your Muslim and non-Muslim friends. Please drop by the Imam's office to purchase yours.

ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER

Do you have a business? Would you like to advertise your business to over 800 homes? If you are interested, please contact ICNEF Newsletter, icnef-news@yahoo.com.

ETIQUETTES OF RESPECT FOR MOSQUE

The best portion of the earth in the sight of God Almighty is that upon which a mosque is raised. The distinctive feature of the devotee of God Almighty is that he loves the mosque also. On the terrific day of doom when there will be no shade anywhere, God Almighty will keep that person under the shade of His Heaven whose heart is devoted to the mosque. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) has observed: "The man whose heart is devoted to the mosque will be under the shade of Heaven." (Bukhari)

Keep the mosque clean and tidy. Sweep the place and clean out all dust or filth. Burn incense, especially on Fridays so that the whole mosque becomes fragrant with the aroma of incense. The Prophet (PBUH) observed: "To sweep the mosque; to keep it tidy and clean; to cast out all dust and filth from the mosque; to burn incense in the mosque, especially to make the place fragrant with the aroma of the incense on Fridays—all these are acts which lead to Paradise." (Ibn Majah)



LANGUAGE TRIVIA

Have you ever gone to a party where the other people seem to know so much more than you? Try these on the people at the next party, and you'll see the difference in your "cool" quotient in seconds!

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

Los Angeles' full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula"

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

The combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."

"I am," is the shortest complete sentence in the English language, alternately: "Go" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

The longest word in the English language is 1909 letters long and it refers to a distinct part of DNA.

The verb "cleave" is the only English word with two synonyms which are antonyms of each other: adhere and separate.

The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat," which means "the king is dead".

The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language.

The names of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.

The most common name in the world is Muhammad.

"Typewriter," is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.

China has more English speakers than the United States!



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Al-Furqan Academy

The students and staff of Al-Furqan Academy wish everyone a wonderful summer. If you're traveling far away or if you're just staying local, may God Almighty protect you and keep you safe and sound. We had a productive, fun and exciting school year and Inshallah, we'll have an even better one for the 2003-2004 year.

The school office will remain partially open during the summer. For information regarding registration please contact:

Al-Furqan Academy
2333 St. Johns Bluff Rd., S
Jacksonville, Florida 32246
904-645-0810
alfurqan1@yahoo.com

TEACHERS WANTED 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR

Al-Furqan Academy
2333 St. Johns Bluff Rd S
Jacksonville, Florida 32246

Minimum qualifications: a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and teaching experience. Individual must be dependable, patient, team oriented, committed to the educational needs of children, and have the ability to work in a diverse environment. Please mail your resume to the above address or fax to 904-645-0810.

SINS ARE FROM IGNORANCE AND A SINNER ISN'T A DISBELIEVER UNLESS HE WORSHIPS OTHERS ALONG WITH ALLAH

Zan Shareef

Narrated Abu Dhar: I abused a man by calling his mother bad names. The Prophet (PBUH) said to me, "O Abu Dhar! Did you abuse him by calling his mother bad names? You still have ignorance. Your slaves are your brothers and Allah has put them under your command. So whoever has a brother under his command should feed him of that which he eats and dress him of that which he wears. Don't ask them to do things beyond their capacity and if you do so, then help them."

TUNE IN TO "UNDERSTANDING ISLAM"

Every Sunday, Media One, Channel 24 or 29
5:00pm (Check Local Listings)

TUNE IN TO "FAITH TO FAITH"

Every Sunday, Media One, Channel 24 or 29
6:30pm (Check Local Listings)

MATH SUPERSTAR DISTRICT LEVEL WINNERS

Rana Shaban

3rd Grade: Reem Aboushaar from Beauclerc Elementary
5th Grade: Ousama Aboushaar from Beauclerc Elementary

A LITTLE BIRD STORY

From the Essential Rumi, Coleman Barks translation

A certain man caught a bird in a trap. The bird says, "Sir, you have eaten many cows and sheep in your life, and you're still hungry. The little bit of meat on my bones won't satisfy you either. If you let me go, I'll give you three pieces of wisdom. One I'll say standing on your hand. One on your roof. And one I'll speak from the lib of that tree."

The man was interested. He freed the bird and let it stand on his hand.

"Number One: Do not believe an absurdity, no matter who says it."

The bird flew and lit on the man's roof. "Number Two: Do not grieve over what is past. It's over. Never regret what has happened."

"By the way," the bird continued, "in my body there's a huge pearl weighing as much as ten copper coins. It was meant to be the inheritance of you and your children, but now you've lost it. You could have owned the largest pearl in existence, but evidently it was not meant to be."

The man started wailing like a woman in childbirth. The bird "Didn't I just say, *Don't grieve for what's in the past?* And also, *Don't believe an absurdity?* My entire body doesn't weigh as much as ten copper coins. How could I have a pearl that heavy inside me?"

The man came to his senses. "All right. Tell me Number Three."

"Yes. You've made such good use of the first two!"

IMAM'S DIARY

Imam Muhammad Zaid Malik

In the month of April, I was not as busy. It went smoothly.

April 2nd: I was invited to a Baptist Church to give a talk on Islam. It went well. They asked good questions. Among the issues discussed were women's issues: the rights of women in Islam and how a Muslim woman in a Muslim country looks at the woman in the West.

April 7th: I tried to take some copies of the Holy Quran and some other Islamic material to the Clay County Jail for a brother who accepted Islam there. However, the Deputy did not allow me to drop them for him. So, I had to come back and later I decided to meet with the chaplain. After a few days, the chaplain himself called me and asked for some material on Islam. I thanked Allah for this help and we agreed to see each other on April 30th.

April 8th: I was invited by Habi-Jax to attend a meeting at the Southside Baptist Church. The meeting was about improving the participation of faith-based groups in building houses. This was the first time a Muslim represented his faith group in such a meeting. About seven (7) community leaders attended the meeting.

April 16th: I taped my weekly interfaith TV program: Faith to Faith. The topic was: "Who is Jesus for you? Have you ever experienced the mystery of God?" I explained the standpoint of Islam on Jesus (PBUH). The Rabbi could not make it to the taping. I missed him badly.

April 22nd: I was invited by the Sierra Club of Northeast Florida to celebrate Earth Day and say a few words on the sacredness and protection of the Natural World. The program was held in St. Johns Cathedral. A variety of faith-based leaders were invited. Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Christians and Native Americans, all expressed their feelings about the topic according to their own tenets. The Imam's presentation was considered the best (by his nephew, Abdullah).

April 23rd: Br. Ashraf Shaikh and Br. Pervez Ahmad taped our weekly TV program: Understanding Islam. The topic was: "Muslims' Contribution to Human Civilization." Br. Pervez did a wonderful job.

April 30th: This was the busiest day of the month. From 7:30am-12:00pm, I lectured three (3) classes at Wolfson High School; an American Government class and two World History classes. Later I taught at FCCJ as well as in Pakistan. I was shocked by the difference in behavior between the high school students and the FCCJ students. It was greater than the difference between the Heavens and the earth. Frankly speaking, the high school students were frankly very ill mannered. When I got home I shared my observation with my wife. She gave a good reason for the difference, "at FCCJ students pay," and I agreed with her. At 1:30pm, I had an appointment with, Chaplain Doug Matty, at the Clay County Jail in Green Cove Springs. We discussed the issue of supplying Qurans and other books to the inmates and he agreed that this was within their rights. He promised to mail me a form, the completion of which will provide me with a badge and enable me to visit any Muslim brother there at any time. I also visited the Muslim brother who accepted Islam in that jail. Between 7:00-9:00 pm, we had our regular program at the Southeast Public Library. We showed "Muhammad the Legacy of a Prophet" for 40 minutes then opened the floor for questions. It is a good program, however, we need more participation from the community. If interested, please contact me. At the end we served refreshments.

"My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels" -Michael H. Hart



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PHONE

904-646-3462

*also members of Managing Committee

INTERVIEW WITH SISTER NAJMAH SHABAZZ

Board Member, Islamic Center of Northeast Florida

Sr. Najmah Shabazz was born in Jacksonville, Florida. She is married to Islam Shabazz, has five children, eight (8) grandchildren, and three (3) great grandchildren. She went to Mathew W. Gilbert High School. She has a Bachelors from Edward Waters College, and a Masters from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her concentration was in early childhood education and leadership. She has been working for the Duval County School Board since 1966. Sr. Najmah has taught in the Exceptional Student Education Program and currently works as an Intervention Specialist under the same program. She will be retiring on June 30, 2003, after 37 years on the job.

Newsletter Team: How did you get involved with the Islamic Center?

Sr. Najmah: Well, it was around 1976. I went to the hospital and my doctor was not there and I had to see another doctor. That other doctor happened to be Dr. Qudratullah Mojadidi, whom I did not know at the time. He saw that I had a Quran with me and invited me to monthly gatherings.

Newsletter Team: There were monthly gatherings back then!

Sr. Najmah: Yes! We used to meet in each other's houses. As the community grew, we started to have our meetings at two of the Women's Clubs around town. One of the brothers would recite the Quran in Arabic, and then one would recite the translation in English, Farsi, and Urdu. Our first Sunday/Islamic School was at the Hendricks Methodist Church.

Newsletter Team: How did you come to Islam?

Sr. Najmah: I've always been interested in religion. When I was growing up, there was a lady in our neighborhood who used to hold Bible Study for children, and I used to go. When I was working for the School Board, I went to Illinois on academic leave. My husband and my children came with me. Everyone happened to be a Muslim where we lived. I remember a Russian Muslim family living across the hall. The call to prayer could be heard constantly. Brother Ibrahim used to visit our family and talk to us about Islam. One day we took shahadah with him.

Newsletter Team: How long have you been on the Board?

Sr. Najmah: I think it's been about 10 years. I have been involved with the Islamic Center for so long, that it feels like family to me. I'm also on the Al-Furqan Academy Board, where I am a part of a team of 10 other members, who have been elected by various components of the ICNEF community.

Newsletter Team: What is your vision for the ICNEF community?

Sr. Najmah: Alhumdulillah we have come a long way from monthly gatherings at people's houses, but there is still "a lot of work to be done." I would like to see Al-Furqan have a school of its own on the newly purchased land next door. I would also like to see the Sunday School expanded into a Weekend School. Inshallah it would be nice to have other ICNEF masjid throughout the city of Jacksonville. May Allah (SWT) continue to shower His blessings on the entire Islamic community and all believing people. Ameen

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor

Sameen Piracha

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Reporters/Contributors

Khadim Hussain

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To

In This Issue

Town Hall Mtgs., Little Bird, Math Superstars, Lecture....

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IMAM

Hafiz Muhammad Zaid Malik

PUBLISHER

Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad

WEBPAGES

Khadim Hussain

The opinions expressed in the articles and other editorial material are those of the authors and are not to be construed as opinions and/or recommendations of the Islamic Center.

*
Send your articles, questions, comments and community news to:

*
ICNEFnews@yahoo.com

Fax: 904-783-0784

sameenpiracha@hotmail.com
khadimhussain@yahoo.com

CONGRATULATIONS

2003 High School Graduates 2003

Dania Al-Deen (Paxon)

Hasan Hussain (Bolles)

Yousef Hussain (Sandalwood)

Tariq Khan (Bartram Trail)

Kiren A Moiz (Paxon)

Saman Quraeshi (Clay High)

2003 College Graduates 2003

Sarah Hussein (University of North Florida)

Asad Subedar (University of Florida)

“Lead a simple life, adopt moderate habits and keep yourself cheerful.”

(Mishkat)