



Islamic Center Newsletter™

ICNEF, St. John's Bluff Road South, Jacksonville, Florida 32246 • 904-646-3462

CALENDAR

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

July 28, 2007 @ 5:30 P.M.
August 25, 2007 @ 5:30 P.M.
September 29, 2007 @ 5:30 P.M.

CORPORATE BOARD MEETINGS

July 29, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.

ICJAX MEETINGS

July 29, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.
August 26, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.
September 30, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.

IJAX MEETINGS

July 19, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.
August 16, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.
September 21, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

September 28, 2007

READ US ONLINE

www.icnef.org

ISLAMIC CALENDAR 2007

Mosques Around the World

A calendar every Muslim will be proud to display at home, in the office, or to give as a gift for family and friends. Reserve your calendar at the Islamic Center Book Store for only \$10.

ICNEF BUILDING CURRENT STATUS AND PLANS

By M. Ashraf Shaikh

Twenty-five years ago, in 1982, current site for the Islamic Center was acquired. The initial Master Plan laid out a Center Building, a School Building, a House for the Imam, and a Storm Water Drainage Pond. This Plan had to be altered when the rear 1/3rd of the land was acquired by the Florida Dept. of Transportation for the FLA-9A.

The ICNEF Building as it sits today is the culmination of seven (7) phases of construction over a 25-year period.

1. Cleared land, prepared/got approval of the Engineering drawings, Constructed Storm Water Drainage Pond, Installed utility lines, JEA Transformer, Roughed-in plumbing/ Electrical/ communication lines, Constructed Building Slab, and the foundations for the single story part of the building.
2. Constructed walls and the roof for the single story structure.
3. Installed doors and windows in the single story structure. Installed plumbing fixtures, temporary lights, and fans. **Started offering Friday prayers on a regular basis.**
4. Installed HVAC, and finished inside of the single story structure.
5. Took Florida DOT to court, winning a fair settlement for the land taken over by the State; prepared construction documents for the two story structure; and erected walls and the steel for the two-story structure. Poured concrete parking lot.
6. Installed exterior doors and windows in the two story structure, erected inside partitions and finished some of them, installed temporary lights and fans in the Main Prayer Hall. **Started using the Main Prayer Hall.**
7. Completed the remaining inside partitions, finished the inside with new lights, and installed HVAC in the second story of the building.

Depending upon the resources available, some of the above mentioned phases were split in to multiple sub-phases. Work on each phase was started as soon as we had funds on hand to pay for about 2/3rd of the total cost. The mercy of Allah SWT, constant reminders to the community members, and their generosity, gave us the cash that was needed when the payments came due.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

In the early years, there was a lot of pressure and criticism from certain members of the community that “these guys are building a Taj Mahal. We should have bought an old house and remodeled it. It would have been a lot faster and cheaper.” (And I looked at a lot of old homes.)

Imagine that almost two hundred thousands dollars had been spent on the land acquisition, and completion of Phases 1 and 2, but we still did not have a place that we could lock. For almost two years, we used to pray on the concrete slab in the open. May Allah SWT reward those who had the patience and made sacrifices (and many of them have since left the city) so that the community today may have the building that we have.

8. Current Work-in-Progress: The overall scope of the work for the current Phase-8 was approved by the ICNEF Board of Directors more than a year ago. Since then, we have been working diligently, making drawing after drawing (and May Allah SWT build a

beautiful home in Jannah for Br. Mohammad Raoof for his patience and hard work), and making countless trips to the City Hall for securing the necessary approvals. Too many unique hurdles had to be overcome. Then there were bids and rebids. Al-Hamdo Lillahe, all such hurdles except one are behind us.

The current Phase, Insha Allah, will secure the entire ICNEF site (6 Acres) with an appropriate wooden and metal fence, brick pilasters, double gates for Entry and Exit on St. Johns Bluff Road as well as on Lost Pine Road, permanent lights in the gates as well as in the parking areas, an expanded entry area on St. Johns Bluff Road, a new lighted sign, and renovated/repared main entry as well as many other areas in the parking lot.

May Allah SWT Guide all of us, and make us worthy of the use of His house. Ameen.

ICNEF CONSTRUCTION PHASE-8 STATUS AS OF JUNE 28, 2007

By M. Ashraf Shaikh

Al-Hamdo-Lillahe, the construction work has been progressing very nicely. Given below is the status as of today:

1. Concrete Work: About 90 percent of the work has been completed. Depending upon the availability of the Survey and the Concrete Crew, the balance is scheduled for the week of July 9th. It should be completed by July 20th, Insha-Allah.
2. Masonry Work: About 90 percent of the work has been completed. The balance should be completed next week, i.e. by July 6th, Insha-Allah.
3. Electrical Work: About 60 percent of the work has been completed. The difficult part of changing JEA conduits and cables, underground laying of conduits for lights, etc. is complete. The light poles are expected to arrive next week. Some of the lighting fixtures have been received and the others should be

arriving any day. I expect all of the electrical work to be completed by July 20th, Insha-Allah.

4. Fence & Gates: These are being fabricated. Expected shipment date from the plant is the week of July 23rd. It should take about a week to install after they are received. I am pushing to have it installed by July 31st, but my target date is August 10th, i.e. before Al-Furqan opens, Insha Allah.
5. Sign: Sign planter and wall is ready. I expect to have an installation date from the sign maker next week. It should be completed by August 10th as well, Insha-Allah.

The current Phase-8 is one of the largest construction projects undertaken at the Islamic Center. With the Grace of Allah SWT, it should be completed soon.

If there are any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at my cell, 904.415.5799.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2006

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2006

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Handoush, Jim | 7. Mona, Mohammed |
| 2. Hussain, Khadim | 8. Rathore, Sumra |
| 3. Ilyas, Mohammad | 9. Shabazz, Najmah |
| 4. Karim, Shauib | 10. Shaikh, Ashraf |
| 5. Khan, G. Qadir | 11. Zahra, Atef |
| 6. Mojadidj, Asadullah | |

Office Holder - Corporate Unit

CHAIRMAN

Name: Atef Zahra
Phone: (904) 992-7182
E-mail: AtefZahra@gmail.com

VICE CHAIRMAN

Name: Ashraf Shaikh
Phone: (904) 565-1776
E-mail: shaikash@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Name: Shauib Karim
Phone: (904) 220-8320
E-mail: secretary@shauib.clearwire.net

TREASURER:

Name: Khadim Hussain
Phone: (904) 374-2123
E-mail: KhadimHussain@yahoo.com

COMPLETED READING QURAN: HIBAH AHSAN

By: Ayub Quraishi

By the grace of Allah Almighty, our beloved daughter Hibah Ahsan has finished her Quran Sharif. She started in January 2005 and finished May 2007 at the age of 6 years. Her teacher was Raza Ali. We are very thankful to uncle Raza for teaching our daughter with so much affection and hard work and helping us fulfill one of our greatest responsibilities. Thanks once again to Zahid & Farhana Ahsan.

SUMMARY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 05/20/2007

By Shauib Karim

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Chairman – Atef Zahra
Vice Chairman – Ashraf Shaikh
Secretary – Shauib Karim
Treasurer – Khadim Hussain

FUND RAISING

To complete the following projects, we have to raise approx \$80,000.

- Outside Lighting and Fence Project
- Security Camera – The BOT has approved \$16,000 to upgrade the existing security system, which includes wiring and new camera's. The committee of Atef Zahra, Ashraf Shaikh, Kamal Munawar, Tahir Shareef, Yahya Mahfooz, Shauib Karim and Khadim Hussain will finalize the details regarding the upgrade.

IMAM CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The Appendix-6 Imam Consultation Committee document was approved unanimously. The committee will have five members, two from BOT (Atef Zahra and Ashraf Shaikh), two from ICJAX (Abdunasser Nasser and Zafar Awan) and one from community (Mehrajuddin Khan).

ICNEF BOT COMMITTEES

Seven committees were identified:

- Fundraising
- Building
- Inter-faith Relations
- Sharing Islam
- Women's Excellence
- Strategic Planning

The names will be published as soon as the list is finalized.

UPDATE ON FENCE & OUTSIDE LIGHTING PROJECT

Inshaallah, the project should be completed by July 2007.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Shauib Karim, James Abur Rahman and Osama Elmelige will advice the BOT regarding the Facilities and what changes, if any, need to be made to keep the Islamic Center secure and clean.

TILING THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

It was decided not to tile the Multi-purpose Room.

THE SCENTED BREEZES OF MECCA AND MADINAH

By Sabeen Mansoori

The scented breezes of Mecca and Madinah, the Azan that sears the heart as it sears the sky and the pulsating multitudes of the believers. Ahh ... the heart yearns for these. Indeed the Hajj is an uplifting as well as an excruciating experience. It is a trip of physical as well as spiritual exertion.

There are two facets to the entire experience of Hajj and Madinah. One is serene and beautiful and the other is violent and disturbing. The sight of the Kaaba carried on the flood of its believers is enough to move any eye to tears. Those that weep with the love of Allah are of varied hues, ages and garbs. Yet their Labbayk comes from the heart and pours forth in the never ending Tawaf. Mecca still reflects in its essence a sense of struggle. While there, one seems to be continuously on the move. The desire to pray closer to the Kaaba drives people to go earlier and earlier for the Salah. To pray Fajar in the Mataf, you must find your place by three in the morning. The stream of believers pours down the streets of Mecca 24 hours of the day, as if heading to the center of their souls in search of their Lord.

The great crowd of people drove us to the roof of the mosque. Nothing in the world compares to the experience of praying Fajar or Isha on that blessed roof. The wind blows gently as the muezzin's call reaches the crevices of the mountains of Mecca. All of creation seems to hold its breath and the very air resonates with the love of its Lord. Blessed indeed have we been to have lived through it. The memory of Muhammad (SAW), Abu Bakr, Umar, Bilal, Khadija; may Allah be pleased with them all, flashes before the eyes. The recitation of Sheikh Sudais is like a healing to the hearts, something to carry with you when you go back to the struggles of the outside world.

Madinah is like a balm to the soul. You are still going to the mosque five times, but the exertions of the Tawaf are taken away. The city still greets you as it greeted the Messenger of Allah (SA) and his companion—with open hearts. It encloses you in its breast, soothes the weary, and succors the soul. The voices are muted here, the steps are softer, and the people gentle and polite. The shutras (guards) reflect this amazing distinction. They are petite and young, in contrast to the older more stern ladies of Mecca. You feel a special love for the city that sheltered the Messenger, and its people still uphold the

tradition dearly, and acting like Ansari of Rasullallah (SAW). Madinah is also the city of the multi-lingual shopkeepers. They all speak at least six to seven languages and can effectively communicate with almost anyone.

Our trip took us to Mecca, then Madinah, and back to Mina for the Hajj. Whatever spiritual capital you have collected in the preceding days is truly going to be put to use now. May Allah take everyone on this blessed journey and may He accept all our ibadah. But when you purchase your package remember that Allah has also selected a package for you and it may not be the five-star, special one you paid for. It is He who decides whose company you shall keep in these crucial days, exactly which bed you will sleep in, and which bathrooms you will visit, how many hours will be in the bus, and how many on foot. The stress will build to a crescendo of complaints, arguments, delays and illnesses and the very caliber of your soul will be tested. I strongly suggest you write down the following verse from the Quran, memorize it and repeat it continuously:

.....“فَلَا رَفَثَ وَلَا فُسُوقَ وَلَا جِدَالَ فِي الْحَجِّ”.....”

“..... Let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the Hajj” (2:197)

It is sad to watch people complete the physical acts of Hajj while bankrupting its soul. Before anyone leaves for this trip, they should receive training in maintaining and perfecting Sabr. It is indeed the most essential item you can take with for the Hajj. I have watched with disbelief as Hajjis threaten to kill each other and women curse in a manner best left unsaid. May Allah be pleased with the Shaykh who came to our mosque to give a lecture on Hajj and spoke of nothing but Sabr for one and a half-hours.

The journey of Hajj never really ends—not with Arafat, not with the stoning of the Jamarat or the stay in Mina. Allah made the last fard act of the Hajj, the Tawaf of the Kaaba. As one goes around the Kaabah, it brings home the fact that this Tawaf also never ends. We may be thousands of miles from this sacred house and from our beloved Prophet, but our life should be an endless Tawaf, made in the love of Allah and on the footsteps of the Rasulallah (SAW).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ICJAX

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ICJAX

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Abd-U-Rehman, James | 6. Awan, Zafar |
| 2. Agha, Adeel | 7. Ghor, Basit |
| 3. Akbari, Mohammad Zahir | 8. Nassar, Abdelnaser |
| 4. Alnajar, Farahan | 9. Pirasteh, Hassan |
| 5. Assali, Hafiz | 10. Soliman, Ahmed |

Office Holder - Religious Unit

PRESIDENT

Name: Ahmed Soliman
Phone: (904) 292-2989
E-mail: halkamal_2000@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Name: Alnajar, Farahan
Phone: (904) 534-8506
E-mail: falnajar@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Name: James Abd-U-Rehman
Phone: (904) 739-3917
E-mail: abdur95@yahoo.com

TREASURER:

Name: Abdelnaser Nassar
Phone: (904) 646-2477
E-mail: anassar27@gmail.com

THIS YEAR'S AL-HAJJS

The Muslim community in the Greater Jacksonville area would like to congratulate all brothers and sisters from this area who performed Hajj this year. We pray that may Allah (SWT) accept all of their prayers and sacrifices. Ameen.

Given below are the names of these Hajjis. We apologize if we have failed to list anyone's name.

1. Imam Enrique Rasheed and Sr. Theresa
2. Br. Shauib Karim and Sr. Rakshinda Fiaz
3. Br. Frank and Sr. Najma Shahbazz
4. Br. Anisur Rahman
5. Br. Faheem
6. Br. Isa
7. Dr. Obaidullah Ahmed and Sr. Seema
8. Br. Khaled Bouhlal
9. Br. Asif Arab and his wife
10. Br. Fawad Mansoori and Sr. Sabeen Mansoori
11. Br. Aslam Khan and Sr. Karishma
12. Br. Salem and Sr. Laila
13. Dr. Ajmal Khan and Sr. Nadia
14. Br. Zahid and Sr. Farhana
15. Br. Ali Osman
16. Br. Tahir Shareef and Sr. Nabeela
17. Dr. Sania Shuja
18. Dr. Fauzia Rana and her husband
19. Dr. Rasheed Awan and Sr. Uzma

UNF GAME NIGHT / FAST-A-THON

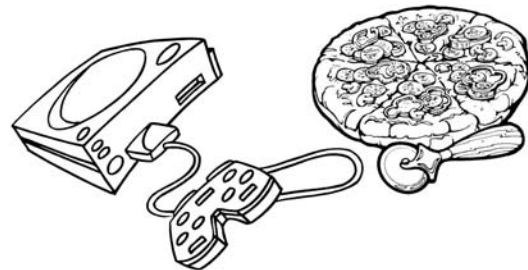
By Fatima Hussein

While there has been no foreseeable end to the conflict raging in the Middle East between Muslims, Christians, and Jews, a different type of religious violence commenced just weeks ago in a crowded UNF meeting room. The instant combat began, the Jews equipped themselves with bazookas, mallets, and boxing gloves; as the Muslims chose to fight with handguns, tennis rackets, and the occasional magic wand. This event was referred to as the UNF/FCCJ Muslim Student Association's (MSA) first annual "Game Night," Thursday, November 30th 2006.

The idea behind "Game Night" involved inviting the varying religious groups around UNF, particularly the MSA and Jewish Student Union, for a more personal encounter, in order to initiate friendly dialogue, utilizing one of the best known unification tools: the video game.

The night began with pizza, baklava, and awkward introductions, and ended with the UNF security practically dragging each participant out of the gaming room, as no one wished to leave.

"Game Night" was one of many first-annual events hosted by the UNF/FCCJ MSA. Previously, during the month of Ramadan, the Muslim Student Association held a Ramadan Fast-A-Thon in the lobby of the UNF Fine Arts Centre, Thursday, October 19th 2006. With over 100 participants, and conversations still circulating about the event, it is clear that these programs were very successful.



AL-FURQAN ACADEMY

AFA Kids Win Statewide Qur'an Hifz Competition

Congratulations to the two students from Al-Furqan Academy who took part in the annual statewide Qur'an Hifz competition held in Orlando on November 11, 2006, and the winners were:

- Ibrahim Islam of 3rd Grade: Second place, age group 8 - 11
- Imaan Agha of Kindergarten: Third place, age group 7 and under



AL FURQAN™
ACADEMY

AFA Qur'an Competition Winners

Al-Furqan Academy Annual Qur'an competition was held on Monday, December 18, 2006. The winners were:

- Kindergarten** – 1st: Mahmoud Almashni, 2nd: Walid Abdurazik, 3rd: Sara Ramadan
- 1st Grade** – 1st: El-Zahraa Hassan - Ramez Tolaymat, 2nd: Jamila Muslat, 3rd: Nora Tawfik
- 2nd Grade** – 1st: Ikrom Alajoulin, 2nd: Muamer Bosnic, 3rd: Heba Ababseh
- 3rd Grade** – 1st: Ibrahim Islam, 2nd: Rayana Zein El-Abdin, 3rd: Nour Bashiti
- 4th Grade** – 1st: Abdul Rahman Tayarah, 2nd Kamil Nour, 3rd: Sumaiyah Sharif and Salko Odzakovic
- 5th Grade** – 1st: Jalal Alajoulin, 2nd: Asif Sheikh, 3rd: Irma Bosnic - Catrena Cates

AL-FURQAN ACADEMY 2007/2008 REGISTRATION

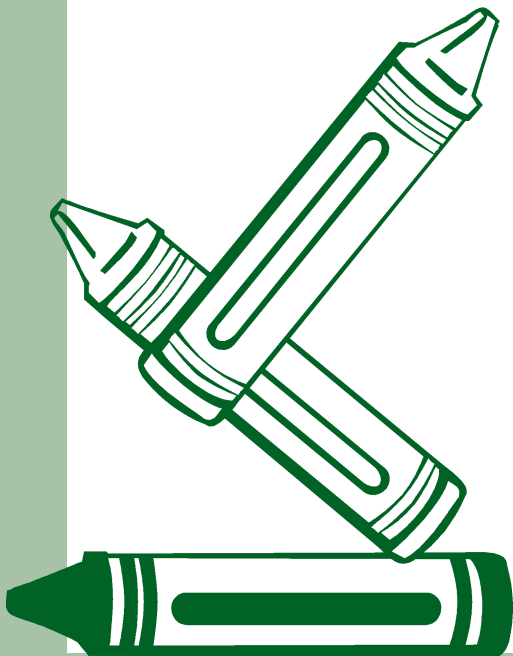
Discount for the 2nd & 3rd Child

ALL RETURNING AND NEW STUDENTS
MUST HAVE A NEW APPLICATION ON FILE

Please stop by ICNEF office for an application and other information pertaining to your child's enrollment. Please call the office at 645-0810 if you need further information.

Sincere Thanks To The **ST. JOE COMPANY!**

The Board of Directors of the Islamic Institute of Jacksonville (IIJAX), and The Al-Furqan Academy teachers and students would like to express their sincere gratitude and thanks to The St. Joe Company for their generous donation of 14 personal computers and 16 monitors. This is another great example of helping out our community's children and being a good corporate citizen. More of our children now have access and hands-on experience on personal computers during their school year. In addition, we thank Mr. Saad Saeed, and Mr. Aslam Raza for all of their efforts, and for making these computers available to the Academy.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS IIJAX

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IIJAX

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Agha, Rizwana | 6. Jawhar, Manzer |
| 2. Elfayoumy, Sherif | 7. Qureshi, Ayub |
| 3. Elmelige, Ossama | 8. Rahman, Anisur |
| 4. Farah, Mohammed | 9. Ramadan, Dina |
| 5. Islam, Moinul | 10. Sayed, Shah Faisal |

Office Holder - Education Unit

PRESIDENT

Name: Ossama Elmelige
Phone: (904) 223-8866
E-mail: ote117@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Name: Rizwana Agha
Phone: (904) 997-9490
E-mail: mwalonidepo@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Name: Dina Ramadan
Phone: (904) 735-8430
E-mail: dnramadan@yahoo.com

TREASURER:

Name: Anisur Rahman
Phone: (904) 854-3202
E-mail: shahadur@yahoo.com

AL-FURQAN ACADEMY 2007-08 CALENDAR

August 8	.....First Day of School
August 29	.....Early Dismissal
September 3	.....Holiday (Labor Day)
September 12 & 26	.....Early Dismissal
October 10 to 12	.....Holiday (Eid-ul-Fitr)
October 16 & 17	.....1st Qtr Ends & 2nd Qtr Starts
October 24	.....Early Dismissal
October 26	.....Teachers' Planning Day – No School
November 7 & 28	.....Early Dismissal
November 12	.....Holiday (Veterans Day)
November 22 & 23	.....Holiday (Thanksgiving)
December 12	.....Early Dismissal
December 19-28	.....Holiday (Eid-ul-Adha & Winter Break)
January 1	.....Holiday (New Year)
January 21	.....Holiday (MLK Day)
January 9 & 23	.....Early Dismissal
January 18	.....Teachers' Planning Day (No School)
January 10 & 11	.....2nd Qtr Ends & 3rd Qtr Starts
February 6 & 20	.....Early Dismissal
February 18	.....Holiday (Presidents Day)
March 5 & 26	.....Early Dismissal
March 14 & 17	.....3rd Qtr Ends and 4th Qtr Starts
March 28	.....Teachers' Planning Day (No School)
March 31	.....Spring Break Begins
April 1-4	.....Spring Break
April 16 & 30	.....Early Dismissal
April 10 & 11	.....Science Fair Judging /Display
April 28	.....SAT 10 Test Begins
May 2	.....SAT 10 Test Ends
May 24	.....Graduation Ceremony
May 7 & 21	.....Early Dismissal
May 26	.....Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 6	.....Last Day of School

SUNDAY SCHOOL FALL 2007 CALENDAR

Open House / Registration	.....August 4, 2007
First Day of School (Last Day of Registration)	.....August 19, 2007
Labor Day Holiday	.....September 2, 2007
Test #1	.....September 16, 2007
Ramadan Break	.....September 30, 2007
Ramadan Break	.....October 7, 2007
Eid-ul-Fitr Break	.....October 14, 2007
Test #2	.....November 4, 2007
Thanksgiving Break	.....November 25, 2007
Test #3 / Final Exam	.....December 2, 2007
Graduation and Award Ceremony	.....December 9, 2007

For additional information please contact:
Br. Manjer (563.2458), Br. Anis (512.577.0634) or
Br. Moin (465.4347)

AFA ANNOUNCEMENT



For admission, scholarship and financial aid, please contact the Al-Furqan office number, **904-645-0810**.

Early registration of students at the Al-Furqan Academy began on March 1, 2007. Please register your children early to take advantage of lower tuition fees.

Al-Furqan Academy is looking for qualified teachers and assistant teachers for the next school year (2007-2008). If interested, please contact Al-Furqan office.

AL-FURQAN ACADEMY – TEACHERS AND STAFF PROFILE

• Rola El Qirem – Acting Principal •

Sr. Rola Elqirem has a B.S. in Microbiology from North Carolina State University. She worked two years with the Dow Chemical Company in Cary, North Carolina. She has two years experience as a volunteer assistant in various capacities with AL Iman Islamic School in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is serving Al-Furqan Academy as an acting principal and we hope she will be a part of the Al-Furqan family in the future.

• Islamic Studies Teachers •

Shaikh Mabrouk Hassan

Br. Shaikh Mabrouk is a graduate of the renowned Al-Azhar University in Egypt with a Bachelor's degree in Qur'an recitation and Qur'an Science. He spent six years as a Qur'an teacher with the Sharia Council in Egypt, and had about 600 of his students graduate after learning to recite the Holy Qur'an. The Jacksonville community is blessed to have a scholar like him. He is the Qur'an teacher for the Al-Furqan students.

Sr. Seham Mona

Sr. Seham teaches Qur'an, Islamic Studies, and Arabic. She has been teaching at AFA for the last seven years. Prior to coming to Jacksonville in 1995, she taught physics at a university in Syria for over nine years. She also taught high school algebra, Qur'an, Islamic Studies, and Arabic in an Islamic school for seven years. We are indeed fortunate to have Sr. Seham as a member of our wonderful faculty.

• Lead Teachers •

Jahan Ara Shukoor

Sr. Jahan Ara has just started with us as the 4th and 5th grade teacher. She received her B.S. degree in India, and has completed two-year teacher training. She taught in India for 13 years, and received the "Best Teacher Award" from the Education Ministry, Government of India.

Jamillah Martin

Sr. Jamillah moved to Jacksonville in June 2006. We are most pleased that she has accepted the first grade lead teacher position. She has worked in the Islamic school system for the past 20 years, with five years as the first grade teacher at Al-Ikhlās Training Academy in Detroit, MI.

Nighat Hussain

Sr. Nighat is the lead teacher for the 2nd/3rd grade. She holds a B.S. degree in Health Administration from UNF, and a B.A. degrees in Economics and English Literature from a university in Pakistan. She has passed the Florida Teacher's Certification Exam, and has been certified by the Board of Education to teach science for grades K-12. She is currently working on her Professional Certification. She has taught Kindergarten through fourth grade at AFA for the last six years. She is the recipient of AFA's "Best Teacher Award" for the 2004/2005 school year.

Mai Tolymat

Sr. Mai is the kindergarten teacher and the kids love her! This is her seventh year at AFA. She attended university in Syria with a major in English Literature.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

• Jamila Salih-Fillmore •

Sr. Jamila is currently the lead teacher in VPK. She attended the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been an instructor since 1980, teaching in the Philadelphia public school system, and in the private Islamic schools. She has also taught culinary arts to adults as well as children. She has been with AFA since 2005. The VPK parents can't say enough about her!

• Assistant Teachers •

Roba Assali

Sr. Roba has been with us for four years; two years as a volunteer and two years as an assistant teacher. She is currently assisting in the 4th/5th grade class.

Sladana Bosnic

Sr. Sladana has been the VPK teacher's aide since the 2005/2006 school year. She has been in Jacksonville for ten years and has six years of day care experience.

• Administrative Assistant •

Lateefah Siddiq

Sr. Lateefah is a valuable asset to the AFA administrative team. This is her first year at AFA. She is a native of Jacksonville and has 13 years experience as an administrative assistant.

For admission, scholarship and financial aid, please contact Sr. Lateefah at the Al-Furqan office number, 904-645-0810

• After Care Administrator •

Najwan Edelbi

Sr. Najwan takes care of the children in the After Care program. She is from Syria and has been in the U.S. for the last four years. We have programs for After Care kids from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and extended hours up to 5:30 p.m. For additional information and fee schedules, please contact Sr. Lateefah Siddiq.

INNA LILLAHE WA INNA ILAHIAYE RAJAYOON

Al Hamdo Lillahe, we are a fairly large community, and many of us have family members living in different parts of the world. When any of those family members pass away, it is helpful if we are able to inform the community through this newsletter about their passing. This provides another opportunity to the friends to offer Du'a for their salvation. It is therefore requested that you inform us of all such happenings via E-mail to: ICNEFnews@yahoo.com.

Br. Rahim Shah's father, Mr. Feroz Shah passed away in Pakistan on February 14, 2007. Immediately after receiving the sad news, Br. Rahim left for Pakistan. Upon his return to Jacksonville, many of the friends joined Br. Rahim and his family for Fateha prayers at the Islamic Center.

Mother of Br. Awais Imam, and Dr. Hussain Imam passed away on March 12, 2007 at the St. Luke's Hospital, in Jacksonville. Next day, she was laid to rest in the Islamic Garden located in the Chapel Hills Memory Gardens on St. Johns Bluff Road.

Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return.
(Verse 156, SURAH AL-BAQARAH, AL- QURAN)

We, the Imam Family, wish to express our deepest gratitude for the tremendous support shown to us by

the entire Jacksonville Muslim Community, our non-Muslim friends and others for their kindness in this very sorrowful time, a great loss of our very beloved mother. This support came in a very needed time and will never be forgotten. May Allah reward all, especially those who take extra time and effort to help and support of their fellow brethren in hard times. We pray that such communal concern and sincerity continues and grows in our community. Ameen.

Dr. Asadullah Mojadidi's wife, Dr. Razia Mojadidi, passed away on March 19, 2007 at their home in Jacksonville. Next day, she was laid to rest in the Islamic Garden located in the Jacksonville Memory Gardens on Blanding Blvd., Orange Park. Many of the friends and family members from all over the country joined Br. Asad for Fateha prayers at the Islamic Center. Sr. Razia was one of the Founding Members of the Islamic Center and served this community in many ways for more than three decades. Several friends who had lived in Jacksonville over the years came to bid farewell to Sr. Razia and had an opportunity to visit the Islamic Center again.

May Allah SWT grant the recently departed as well as all others who have returned to their Creator a special place in the Janat-ul-Firdouse. Ameen.

ELECTIONS 2007

By the Election Committee (Khadim Hussain, Atef Zahra, Ashraf Shaikh and Shauib Karim)

ICNEF Board of Trustees – There were three vacancies being created by the term expiration and/or resignation of the following:

- Br. Ahmed, Pervez
- Br. Ilyas, Mohammad
- Br. Rathore, Mobeen

In order to fill the vacancies, the following were nominated/elected to serve on this Board:

- Br. Ilyas, Mohammad
- Br. Khan, G. Qadir
- Sr. Rathore, Sumra

ICJAX Board of Directors – There were five vacancies being created by the term expiration and/or resignation of the following:

- Br. Akbari, Mohammad Zahir
- Br. Alnajar, Farhan
- Br. Barakzoy, Mohammad Ali
- Br. Nabhan, Makram
- Br. Kamal, Khaled

In order to fill the vacancies, the following were nominated/elected to serve on this Board:

- Br. Akbari, Mohammad Zahir
- Br. Assali, Hafiz
- Br. Ghorri, Basit
- Br. Alnajar, Farahan

We still need one more volunteer to serve this Board to fill Br. Khaled Kamal's position.

IJAX Board of Directors – Elected by the ICNEF Members: There was one vacancy being created by the term expiration and/or resignation of the following:

- Sr. Aboudan, Lisa

In order to fill this vacancy, the following was nominated and elected to serve on this Board:

- Quraishi, Ayub

IJAX Board of Directors, elected by the Weekend School Parents – There were two vacancies being created by the term expiration and/or resignation of the following:

- Br. Assali, Hafez
- Br. Jawhar, Monzer

In order to fill the vacancies, the following were nominated/elected to serve on this Board:

- Br. Jawhar, Manzer
- Sr. Agha, Rizwana

IJAX Board of Directors, elected by the Al-Furqan Parents – There were three vacancies being created by the term expiration and/or resignation of the following:

- Sr. Ramadan, Dina
- Br. Elfayoumy, Sherif
- Br. Al-Amad, Marzoug

In order to fill the vacancies, the following were nominated/elected to serve on this Board:

- Sr. Ramadan, Dina
- Br. Elfayoumy, Sherif
- Br. Mohammed Farah

IJAX Board of Directors, elected by the Qur'an School Parents – There was one vacancy being created by the term expiration and/or resignation of the following:

- Br. Khan, Merajuddin

In order to fill this vacancy, the following was nominated and elected to serve on this Board:

- Br. Sayed, Shah Faisal

CLASSIFIEDS

Coral Shores
Realty



MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE
MLS™

Hameed Siddiq

Realtor - Broker Associate • Buying & Selling Businesses
Residential & Commercial/ Investment

Questions about Real Estate? We have the answers.

Call Today!

Phone: 904-962-3187 Fax: 904-212-2900

Email: hameedsiddiq@realtyweb.net

10151 Deerwood Park Blvd., Bldg. 200, Ste. 250
Jacksonville, FL 32256



Baymeadows Primary Care, Inc.

No Appointment Necessary • Walk Ins Welcome
Talat Imam, MD • Board Certified in Family Medicine
Hussain S. Imam • Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Quality Healthcare for the Entire Family

M-F: 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

904-636-5400 • 9551 Baymeadows Road



Apna Bazaar

JACKSONVILLE, FL

HOME OF HALAL MEAT & ASIAN GROCERIES
PAKISTANI, INDIAN, BANGLADESHI, AND MIDDLE EAST GROCERY

Hallal Meats • Sweets • Fresh Vegetables • Fresh Fish • All Spices

Open 7 days a week, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

10769-12 Beach Blvd. • Jacksonville, FL 32246
(across from Sam's Club)

(904) 996-8780

SSS

CONSTRUCTIONS, INC.

(LICENSED & INSURED)

New Construction • Renovations
Residential & Commercial

For Free Estimate & Consultation, Please Call
904-497-8905 or 904-497-8904

JOB POSTING

Join Our Team

Guidance Financial Group, LLC is an international financial services company dedicated to addressing the unmet needs in the Islamic finance market. Guidance's dynamic team includes accomplished professionals from the financial industry and experts from the field of Islamic finance. Through our intensive research and development, key strategic partnerships and solid operational support for our products, we are breaking new ground.

Our financial services operation in the U.S. has quickly become the leading provider of Sharia-compliant home financing. The rapid growth and success of our home financing program has prompted nationwide employment opportunities in the following states: New York, California, Florida, Michigan, Washington, Indiana, Ohio and North Carolina. Proactive, self motivated, and results oriented individuals are encouraged to apply.

Guidance invests in you by providing:

- Paid training & continued education program
- Paid individual licensing
- Competitive compensation package
- Performance / annual incentives
- 401(k), health, dental

Our Unique Career Opportunities

Available Positions:

Relationship Manager and Sales Consultant

Qualified individuals
can email their resumes to
careers@guidancefinancial.com



MODERN FINANCE
TIMELESS VALUES

For more information
visit us at:
guidancefinancial.com/careers

Providing Quality Publications for
Jacksonville, Gainesville & Orlando
For Over 12 Years!



HERITAGE
PUBLISHING INC.

904.296.1304 Fax: 904.296.8522

7563 Phillips Highway, Bldg. 100, Suite 208 • Jacksonville, Florida 32256
www.heritagepublishinginc.com

NEWSLETTER TEAM**Coordinator**
Khadim Hussain**Editor**
Wyndi Shabazz**Associate Editor**
Afsha Muneer (AMYA)
Fatima Hussein**Contributors**
Bro. M. Ashraf Shaikh
Sis. Fatima Hussein
Sis. Sabeen Mansoori**Web Pages**
Khadim HussainNon Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 1156**To:**

All original works contained in this newsletter are copyrighted and owned by the authors unless otherwise stated. Articles may not be used or reproduced without prior consent of the editor, authors, publishers or their representatives. Any reproduction must acknowledge this newsletter and the author and must not be edited or changed in any way.

© 2007 ICNEFnews

Published byHeritage Publishing, Inc.
7563 Phillips Highway
Bldg. 100, Ste. 208
Jacksonville, FL 32256**Graphic Designer**

Richie Plude

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
Phone: (904) 646-3462

IN THIS ISSUE:**ISLAMIC CENTER BUILDING UPDATE, SCHOOL BUILDING, AL-FURQAN ACADEMY EARLY REGISTRATION AND MUCH MORE.**

The *ICNEF Newsletter* is available online every 15th of every quarter (January, April, July & October) and mailed in the last week of each quarter. Our newsletter goes to more than 1,000 households in greater Jacksonville and the surrounding areas.

Please support this publication by helping to pay for its publishing and distribution. Advertise your business in the *ICNEF Newsletter* for a nominal donation of \$80 per quarter or \$300 per year for a business card-size advertisement.

Please contact the *ICNEF Newsletter* staff by e-mail (icnefNews@yahoo.com) to learn what kind of businesses can be advertised in our widely read publication.