

MINNESOTA SAMACHAR

Newsletter Published by Anjuman-e-Asghari for the Community

Message from Our President ...

Assalamu alaykum.

Preparations are under way in getting ready for the Holy month of Ramadhan. It is very exciting to see that these are taking place ahead of the events.

In fact the holy months of Rajab and Sha'ban are designated for these preparations. It is said that the coming of Holy month of Ramadhan is like coming of a guest to our homes. We do all sorts of things to welcome our guest because we want to treat him/her with utmost respect with full attention. Let us all use this example in getting ready for the month with utmost devotion.

The best thing we can do is to give in the way of Allah, whatever we can. This can be even giving a smile to a person you meet or provide iftar for the needy families. Our providing of this gift will enhance our devotion and will elevate our ibadat to a higher level. Let us be prepared and be ready for this excellent opportunity to gain the most from one of the best resource to rejuvenate our spiritual life.

Ramadhan Kareem. Ramadhan Mubarak.

Shabbir Qusufati

Ramadhan Dua Classes for the Kids

As always, there will be dua classes for the kids during the Holy month where kids will get a chance to learn and practice the duas of the Holy month and then recite during the last 10 days of the month. Since we have been blessed in having a lady reciter as well for the last two weeks of the month, there will be special classes for the girls as well. All these classes will be conducted at the Madressah center. The classes are divided as follows:

Class 1: ages 4-6 years boys and girls

Class 2: ages 7-10 years boys and girls

Class 3: ages 11 & up (dua classes separate for boys and girls)

Special classes for girls ages 16-23 with Sis. Sabeeha last two weeks of the month.

These classes will be conducted half way through the Quran khani and will continue through the first dua. For additional details, please contact Kaniz Bai Walji.

Introduction to Our Guest Speakers

Br. Jaffer and Sis. Sabiha Jaffer are currently students at the Islamic Institute of Post-Graduate Studies in Syria.

Before they left for Syria, they resided in Los Angeles, California where they have completed three years of Hawza studies and have one more year remaining before they graduate.

Along side the Hawza studies, they are also pursuing their Masters Degree in Islamic Education from the University of Winchester.

The Jamaat looks forward to hosting our guest the last two weeks of the Holy Month.

Ramadhan Expected to Start Aug.12

Yes, it is that time of the year again, of course, it depends on the moon, however the Holy month of Ramadhan night is expected to be on Wednesday August 11, 2010.

As usual, we have planned many activities for the holy month at the Center. The schedule attached describes these activities however, here are some highlights:

- The programs this year will vary due to the maghrib time, however, Iftaar will be served EVERYDAY of the week. The niaz committee has recommended that the Jamaat cater three nights a week for main dish. Therefore there will be a combination of catered and potluck (please check with Zehra Bai Ahmed, our chairlady for details).

- There will be Ramadhan duas and lectures everyday. Everyone, especially the youngsters are highly recommended to sit and participate in the duas and lectures. Parents: please see that your children participate in the duas.

- Niaz or tabaruk will be distributed every night, PLEASE contact the head volunteers, Amu Khimji and Waheeda Bai Shivji to coordinate what you would like to bring as there has been excessive waste in the past and we would like to minimize the wastage of food.

- If you would like to sponsor niaz, please contact Waheeda Bai Shivji for details.

- We will be hosting Sheikh Jaffer H. Jaffer and his wife, Sis. Sabiha Karim. They are currently studying in Qum and will be graduating soon. They will be here for the last two weeks of the Holy month. This is a great opportunity for our community to learn from such scholars.

The Youth Organization and Jaffery Sports will have many activities scheduled on the weekends – more to come on specific activities.

Please Note: Iftaar will be served in the time allocated on the schedule. Please respect the times as this enables the volunteers to participate in the programs.

Ramadhan Fund is "NOW OPEN"

This fund is critical and allows the Jamaat to run programs that are rich and educational. The fund helps pay for all the activities, Iftaars, Eid activities, and gifts.

The goal is to raise \$13,500 during the Holy month. This is a slight increase from the original budget. The EC had approved the increase due to the addition of the catering of the Iftaar/Niaz during the Holy Month and also to accommodate the busy mothers who cannot participate in the cooking due to their overwhelming and hectic schedules. We encourage all members to kindly donate generously towards this fund. Please see our Treasurer, Br. Naushad Karim with your donation. Also keep in mind that you can also charge your donation on your visa or MasterCard.

Welcome to Minnesota

Swaleha Karim: Sis. Swaleha is from Orlando and has moved to MN after her wedding with Salmaan Somji. She will be pursuing her further her career studies.

Munira Parmar: Sis. Munira is from Dar es Salaam and has moved to MN after her wedding with Shabbir Yusufali



Outreach Activities for the Holy Month:

M&M - Help Pack Food for Haiti - We will be collaborating with Methodist Church in Brooklyn Park and will participate in a food packing event on Saturday, August 21 from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Kids against Hunger, 5401 Boone Ave N, New Hope, MN 55428.

• Welcome our Interfaith Partners – We will be hosting the guests from the following Organizations:

-CAIR MN – Friday Aug 13

-Beth El Synagogue – Sunday Aug 15

-Neighboring Churches – Saturday Sept 4

Please give our guest a warm welcome during their visit.

• Invite a Friend Day - Do you have friends, neighbors or co-workers that you would like to invite for Iftaar at our center? On Friday, August 27th, members have an opportunity to impact how your friends, neighbors or co-workers think about them and their faith.

For any questions on any of the above events, please contact Sameer Parmar at 763-221-9581 or e-mail him at: sameers7@gmail.com



Jaffery Sports Message:

We just wanted to provide all community members with a brief summary of our activities and a glimpse of things to come. We have been keeping busy over the past 6 months, hosting and participating in several tournaments, starting new activities and several outdoor events for the community. So far we have hosted five internal tournaments this year: Men's Indoor Cricket, Men's Volleyball, Ladies Badminton, Men's Indoor Soccer, and Men's Golf.

We have also participated in the following external tournaments: 2010 Haider Cup Golf Tournament, Union Sports of New York Volleyball Tournament, and the Minnesota Youth Athletic Services Boys Basketball Tournament. We have also embarked on some new activities such as boys basketball training, ladies and girls kickball, ladies tennis and men's cricket. During the month of Ramadhan we are planning on several activities for our community members such as volleyball, badminton, table tennis tournaments, field hockey, family bowling night and so forth.

Going forward we have plans underway of holding the first ever US Volleyball championship and Women's US & Canada Badminton tournament during the 2011 Memorial weekend.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for their continued support and participation. In particular, we would like to recognize all the grounds captains for all their hard work and time. If you have any ideas or suggestions to make things better please feel free to contact any of the committee members either personally or by email. Remember you are Jaffery Sports and your involvement is necessary for our success as a community.

Madressah Column

Az Zahra Madressah (AZM) celebrated the last day of Madressah on June 5th with graduation celebrations. Anjuman-e-Asghari community members, parents and family members joined the AZM students and staff members to honor the graduating students. The following graduations took place: Preschoolers to Kindergarten, Ninth Graders to Academy, Quran Graduates and AZM Academy Graduates

A fun filled carnival was held at the GYM that included games and jumping castles along with a BBQ lunch of hamburgers, hot-dogs and snacks.

The departing principal Sr Sara Shahsavand thanked the parents, teachers and the administration staff for their assistance and support during her tenure as the AZM principal for the past few years. She also welcomed Sr Batul Mehdi, the new AZM principal, for the 2010-2011 school year.

Pre-registration for AZM year 2010-2011 School year: Parents who are interesting in enrolling the children to the Madressah and the Academy are requested to send an email to Sr Zahra Sajad - zahras@aol.com; . This will help planning and for logistics for the next AZM school year.

WF Ramadhan Relief Fund:

1.02 billion people are hungry. That means one in nearly 6 people do not get enough food to be healthy and lead active lives. Hunger and malnutrition are the number one risk to health worldwide — greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. WF in conjunction with NASIMCO and African Federation have opened up this relief fund. Members of our community are highly encouraged to donate generously towards this fund. Please see our Treasurer for more information.

Engagements:

•Qasim son of Amirali and Naseem Haji of Minnesota to Sumana daughter of Mohamed and Batul Akber Ali Fazal Jetha of Dubai.

• Maliha daughter of Mohamed and Razia Remtula to Turab son of Zulfikar and Mansura Kermaly of Toronto.



New Arrivals

•Muhammad John, son of Ali and Asma Virani was born on 03/01/10.

•Aasiya Kazim Lalji, daughter of Kazim and Mehtab Lalji was born on 06/10/10, she was 7lbs 9oz at birth.

•Safiya Amir Khimji, daughter of Amir and Maryam Khimji was born on 06/03/10, she was 6lb 15oz at birth.

•Isa Ali Karim, son of Salim and Umme-Abeeha was born on 06/20/10, he was 7lb 2oz at birth.

•Rahil Abbas, son of Mahmood and Salma Jaffer of Vancouver was born on 07/21/10.

Congrats to the New Parents!!



Jaffery Youth of Minnesota

The youths have put together several fun events in the past couple months. They held the first ever Iron chef cooking competition in May. The event was a success with more than 30 people coming out to partake in the event, to try different dishes prepared by various members of the community. The secret ingredient for the event was mango, which was deliciously used in a variety of dishes. Judges concluded that the winner of the event was Nargisbai Karim with her tasty mango chutneys, and Sakina Mulla with her refreshing Mango Cream Pie. Everyone then had an opportunity to vote for their favorite dishes which gave Batul Walji a prize for her Mango Stir Fry, and Mitra Monzavi for her mango fruit Pie.

The youths also put on the Annual Jamaat picnic which was a huge success on June 27th. Many people from the community came and took part in the event that featured delicious barbecue, food prepared by members of the community and lots of fun activities for the whole community. Many people participated in the event and had a great time.

The youths are excited for the month of Ramadhan and are planning on holding a lot of great events, including the traditional quiz night for the whole community, youth discussions and halaqas with the guest speakers, a fun ladies program and more. The youths are planning on working together to put together events for the month of Ramadan so look forward to an exciting month!!