

MINNESOTA SAMACHAR

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY ANJUMAN-E-ASGHARI FOR THE COMMUNITY

Message from Our President ...



Assalamu alaykum.

It is a coincidence that both the Islamic and the Georgian calendars are ending almost simultaneously this year. This gives us an excellent opportunity to reflect upon how this past year passed by. One should reflect sincerely upon what was accomplished and what were the challenges that were faced in order to prepare oneself for the upcoming year.

Upon such reflection some would find that the year zipped by so fast that they missed out on what they wanted to do. Others may reflect upon it as a drudgery of daily life where each day weighed upon the shoulder and one would eagerly wait for the passing of it just to get out of the tight grasp of misery.

However one looks at it, a new year is a refreshing opening for all of us, it is a miracle from Allah (SWA) that we can give ourselves a clean fresh start to anything that we want to accomplish. The new year should invigorate us like a breath of fresh clean air and we start taking stock of ourselves and establish what one should do in the next year. For us as a community, we welcome the new year with the remembrance of Imam Hussein (AS) and his mission. This by itself gives me a good boost in my moral and spiritual thinking of what we need to do as a community.

I personally see our Center as a magnet which would attract all to come and partake in developing the spiritual foundation in our lives. We must strive to increase in that endeavor by organizing more activities surrounding different groups' needs. Inshallah, Allah Ta'ala will fulfill all our needs and will make this coming year a successful one with lots of barakah and grace. Ameen..

Shabbir Fusufati

Ladies Majlis during Muharram

There will be ladies majlis during the 10 days of Muharram starting on Sunday, December 20. Please refer to the schedule for details.

The Program will start at 12 PM with namaaz followed by marshias, then majlis by Sister Parveen Syed in english & urdu. The topic of discussion will be "Quran and Ahlul Bayt the way of Salvation". After the 10 days of Muharram, there will be majlis every Sunday at the Center at 12:20PM.

Details regarding fatiya, please contact Sis. Sajida Saleemohamed and recitations of dua, marshia, matam, etc. please contact Sis. Zahra Sajjad

Muharram Fund OPEN!

The Muharram fund is open. This fund will cover the costs incurred during the month such as: niaz, utilities, costs related to guest reciters, etc.

Our goal this year is \$8,000. Please donate generously as every dollar you contribute counts!! Please see our treasurer, Br. Naushad Karim or our chairlady, Sis. Zehra Ahmed, on the ladies for details.

Karbala Project

The Karbala Project this year will portray the distinction between the past and the present of the four major cities that Imam Hussain (AS) and his family passed through on their journey from Medina to Karbela and beyond. Each of the four cities will portray a particular theme that will relate to what conspired during that period of time. The four major cities are Medina, Kufa, Karbala, and Sham.

This project will be divided into a 3 day event: Day 1: Guided tour through every city and discover of interesting facts about the journey of Imam Hussein AS. Day 2: Family interactive quiz with prizes. Day 3: Video to show the events of the Iranian revolution and Karbala. This will be a great model to better understand the events leading to the tragedy of Karbala.

Muharram 1431



Two of the most significant months of the year (Muharram & Safar) are here! Muharram 2009/1431 AH is expected to start December 17.

To help us understand and remind us as to "why" Imam Hussein sacrificed his life for the sake of Islam, we have a speaker, Dr. Mustafa Mawjee, who will be visiting us from London, England for the first 12 nights of Muharram. He will be accompanied by his wife and will be residing at Br. Sadiq Dato's residence.

As you know that the EC, with the help of all the volunteers, have worked hard to prepare for the twelve days to ensure that every program held at the Center is successful, i.e., people attending must feel that the program was worth their individual time. In order to achieve this please review the details tidbits below as these will ensure that the programs will run smoothly and effectively:

- Please note and maintain the time of the program on the schedule. It is critical that the programs start and end on time!!
- Parents – please make sure that your kids are disciplined and they take advantage of the programs that have been planned. This is key to everyone's development.
- Cooperate fully with the traffic controllers. They will have instructions on how to park the cars. They may request you to leave your keys in the car please honor and cooperate with them.
- Coordinate recitations of marshias and Nawhas through Br. Mohsin Kassam. Please let him know in ADVANCE your requests for recitation. He will be coordinating the program and maintaining the time. Recitations will be strictly adhered to the timing set in the schedule.
- The Tejani brothers from England will be visiting us on selected nights. They are known all over the world for creating nawhas.com. Please see special write-up about them in this publication. They will be residing at Br. Shafik Kassam's residence.

- Children between the ages 8 and 14 will have special lectures. This is a great opportunity for kids to listen to the lectures better understand the history of Karbala. More details to follow.



Welcome Back to Minnesota

Welcome Maythum Somji who just returned from the sunny equator in Tanzania to the frozen tundra of beautiful Minnesota. Maythum is the son of Br. Shabbir and Sis. Fatim Somji who lived here and played an important role in the Jamaat. Maythum will be attending North Hennepin Community College



Welcome to Hajji's

Welcome Back Hajjis: Congratulations to Br. Ali Raza Nayani & Br. Haseen Meghjee who completed their respective Hajj this year. May Allah accept their ibadaats and we pray that Allah extends an invitation to all our brothers and sisters to make the trip next year. Ameen



Interaction with Beth El Synagogue

On Friday, November 13th, the Minnesota Jamaat and Beth El Synagogue, one of the largest Jewish communities in Minneapolis, came together in an effort to foster understanding between them. Beth El Synagogue hosted the members of the Anjuman-e-Ashari community at their weekly service. Following the service, they held a discussion between the members of both faiths over dinner.

This event was a part of the "Weekend of Twinning", a campaign aimed at strengthening Muslim-Jewish relations in the United States and Canada. This year, more than 100 Mosques and Synagogues across North America linked up for a Weekend of Twinning



New Arrival

Aasiya, daughter of Br. Shafik and Sr. Farzana Kassam was born 11/19/2009. Aasiya was 6lbs 1oz at birth. Congrats to the new parents!!



New of Death

Marhoom Mulla Akberali Ebrahim, passed away on Sunday, December 13, in Peterborough, England. Marhoom was the father of Sis. Zillehumma Hudda. Sure fateha is requested.

Congratulations Chandni & Ali Ebrahim!

On Oct 29, 2009, the engagement of Chandni Parmar, daughter of Munirabai Parmar and Marhoom Shabbirbhai Parmar to Ali, son of Ebrahimbhai and Aasifiabai Ladhu of Orlando was announced at the Center. Congratulations on to both families.



Ahlulbait Learning Institute

A group of concerned parents and professionals from our community have come together to work on opening a full-time Shia Ithna Ashari school in the Twin Cities projected to open Sept. 2010.

There will be a survey that will be distributed during the nights of the Muharram program. Questions related to this school, please contact Sis. Sara Shasavand.



NEW - MN Joy Kick-off

Yes, the Jamaat kicked off the new "seniors" program called MN JOY (Minnesota Jamaat's Just Older Youths). This will offer a variety of events for everyone 50 years and older. Please contact Sis. Mahdiya Walji or Br. Imran Lakha for details.

Dr. Mustafa Mawjee Visiting for Muharram

This year, the first 12 nights of Muharram Majlis will be recited by Dr. Mustafa Mawjee of London who considers himself a small student of Islam. Based on this research, his topic of discussion will be "ISLAM IN THE 21ST CENTURY - OUR DUTIES, RIGHTS AND THE WAY FORWARD". His topic will include:

- Two of the greatest revolutions which have changed the course of history -
 - Karbala 61AH (past)
 - Iran 1979 (present)
- Wahabism and its impact on the Muslim Ummah today
- Human Rights - as shown by Imam Ali a.s. and Imam Hussein a.s.
- Our Ibadats with special emphasis on our Ruh/soul - i.e. spiritual journey to eternity
- Concept of Imamate in Shi'a Islam.

This is a great opportunity to learn from Dr. Mawjee by listening about his research in today's world.

Nawha Reciters in MN - The Tejani Brothers

Two young adults, Shabbir and Abbas, will be visiting our Jamaat during some of the Muharram nights. They both reside in Peterborough, England and are known for the creation of the website nawhas.com

The brothers are regularly invited by many communities around the world to present eulogies in the remembrance of Hussain (as) and his companions. Producing nawha volumes on a yearly basis, they compose, write, recite and direct their own volumes which are recorded in London, UK.

nawhas.com was the idea of Abbas. As a 10 year old, he noticed that his mother's old nawha books were in poor condition, so he decided to type up all the kalaams in the book onto the computer. Later on, he thought it would be a good idea to put these nawhas onto the internet for the world to access.

Outside of nawhakhuani, both Shabbir and Abbas are students at Medical School and are currently in the 4th year. InshAllah they both hope to qualify next year as doctors.

Madressah Message:

Masha'allah, this academic year, there are 205 students enrolled from Preschool through 12th Grade (up 20%). Parents please note the following administrative notes:

- Parents- check your child's planner for homework or comments from the teacher.
- Read the Madressah Weather Policy in the Handbook for closures
- At the end of Madressah, parents of KG and Preschoolers please pick up your children from their classrooms.

Dates to Remember

Dec 26 - Dec Jan 2 - Winter Break
Jan 9th - Madressah Re-Opens



Jaffery Sports (JSM) Corner

The JSM Committee wishes to inform members and give notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Madressa Center. The program will start at 6:00 PM with dinner followed by the AGM which will begin at 7:00 PM. This year is an election year and all the positions up for elections. For details on these positions and nominations, please contact the election committee lead by Br. Shabir Karim .



Recap of Activities

The last three months of the year were packed with a variety of fun activities. In addition to the regular weekly activities, Jaffery Sports organized a ladies only event at the Grand Rios Indoor Water Park, ladies aerobics, ladies badminton tournament, men's volleyball tournament, men's badminton tournament and a men's Wally ball event.

