

# MINNESOTA SAMACHAR

Newsletter Published by Anjuman-e-Asghari for the Community

## Message from Our President ...



Assalamu alaykum.

As we begin the last year of the current EC's tenure, a truly important event coming up is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of our Jamaat.

This event not only epitomizes upon our day-to-day operations of the community but provides a fertile ground to put our thoughts and ideas in the short and long term strategy. We must ponder over where and how do we want to steer our community for the future. Everyone participating in the meeting is provided an opportunity to voice and provide their thoughts and ideas (of course this will done within the framework of the established protocol).

So, we highly encourage everyone to participate in this very valuable and important "rights" privilege accorded to you. See you all inshallah on Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>

## Shabbir Yusufali

### Anjuman-e-Asghari Impact outside of Minnesota

Our Jamaat Zakirs were invited to other Jamaats during Muharram and Safar. Our Maulana Rizwani was invited by the Houston Jamaat; Husseinbhai Walji was invited by the Madagascar Jamaat, and Batulbai Najfi was invited by the Allentown Jamaat.

Over Arbaeen, Husseinbahi was invited by the Paris, France Jamaat and Batulbai Najafi was invited by the Houston Jamaat.

We are very fortunate to have such Zakirs in our community and pray to Allah that their ibadaats are accepted by Allah (SWT) and they continue in their exercise in spreading the word of Islam and the message of Kerbala.



### MN JOY Kick Off

The first ever MN JOY (Just Older Youths) activity was held c... Saturday, Feb 6. There were 14 JOYERS at the event and everyone seemed to have a blast.

The program started at the Imam Hussein Center with Namaaz and a tour of the Center. Refreshments were served and then they all boarded the bus (provided and driven by Shabbir Walji) for the next stop which was lunch at Umbria Pizza where everyone enjoyed a wonderful pizza lunch. There was also a game that involved everyone where the JOYERS wrote something unique about themselves and the others guessed who that person was...it was so much fun!

The next stop was Ridgedale Shopping Center where everyone walked, shopped and had coffee. The program concluded at Imam Hussein Center with namaz.

Special thanks to the Shabbirbhai Walji for providing and driving a bus for the event as made it extra special. Thanks also to Br. Kazim Mehdi for providing refreshments and tour of the Imam Hussein Center.



### Kudos to the Kids...helping Haiti Victims

The kids of in Jamaat have big hearts and it showed when they raised over \$200 for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. When the Jamaat announced the opening of the Haiti fund, Atiqa Walji took it upon herself to make cookies and brownies at home and bring it to the mosque. She solicited help from other kids in the Jamaat to help sell and raise funds to help the earthquake victims. Hey Kids, keep up the GREAT WORK!!



## Muharram 1431 Successful



With the grace of Allah (SWT) our Jamaat was blessed with another successful Muharram and Safar months. The quality and spirituality of the programming was experienced by all and pray that the remembrance of the tragedy of Kerbala will be remembered for a long time to come.

Our guest reciter was Dr. Mustafabhai Mawjee of London who based the majlises on his research of "ISLAM IN THE 21ST CENTURY" and a special discussion on the journey of Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Thanks to Br. Sadiq and Sis. Shabneez Dattoo for hosting Dr. & Mrs. Mawjee.

This year we had two guest nawha and marshia reciters who are well known all over the world – "the Tejani Brothers" from England. Their voices and passion of recitation moved the community especially the kids. These kids have been inspired to recite the nawhas the Tejanis recited during the first nights they were here. While the Tejanis were here, they were invited to New Jersey and New York to recite as well. Thanks to Br. Shafik and Sr. Farzana for hosting Abbas and Shabbir Tejani.

Over Arbaeen, we were visited by Sayyed Haidar Bahar al-Aloom from Michigan who inspired us with his recitation of Quran and tafseer of Quran as well as the practical use of the verses of the Holy Quran in our lives. Thanks to the committee at the Imam Hussain Center for working with our Jamaat so we could share the services of Sayyed.

The Kerbala project was also very successful where it portrayed 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 Kerbala and beyond. Each of the four cities portrayed a particular theme that related to the history during that period of time. The four major cities were Medina, Kufa, Karbala, and Sham. The project also included a video that showed the events of the Iranian revolution and it's relation to Kerbala. This coincided with Dr. Mawjee's discussion on the topic and so was even more effective.

Last but certainly not least, thanks to all the volunteers who helped making these two busiest months of the year successful. It is the volunteers that ultimately make a program successful!! Thanks to all the donors who helped the Jamaat in achieving the donation goal.

The EC requests for Momineen to forgive the committee for any short comings during these busy times and if there are any suggestions to contact anyone of the EC who are always open to suggestions.



## Youth Committee Activities

The Jaffery Youths held an exciting and stimulating youth debate on January 16th. The event comprised of three different debates on topics such as predestination, gender roles and living in the west. Each debate had two girls debating against two boys and each participant was scored on their presentation as well as overall performance. The event was successful with engaging discussion and about 50 attendees to the event.



Some events from the Youths to look forward to include a Youth Halaqa in the month of February and the Annual Family Ski Trip in the month of March.



## Outreach Committee Activities:

### Interaction with Messiah Church

On Sunday, December 13th, 10 members from Anjuman-E-Asghari attended the service at the Messiah Church which was followed with an interfaith dialogue and delicious lunch hosted by the Church. Thanks to Mawlana Rizwani for his excellent presentation in Islam as well as all the members who took part in this Outreach event.

### Islamic Awareness at Bloomington School

On Tuesday, December 21st, 100 plus students from Valley View Middle School in Bloomington got an opportunity to learn about Islamic beliefs, traditions, holidays and culture. This was accomplished through 5 session of 25 minutes presentation to groups of 20 plus students at a time. The event concluded with lots of excitement and awareness on the students side about Islam. The Jamaat thanks Sis. Zahra Khorasani who to the time off from work and spent the day at the school doing the presentations for the children.

## New Arrivals

Haniya, daughter of Br. Salim and Sis. Shaista Yusufali was born 12/9/2009. Haniya was 7lbs 8oz at birth.



Mikael, son of Br. Kazim and Sis. Molly Karim was born 1/18/2010. Mikael was 8lbs 1oz. at birth.



Congrats to the New Parents!!

## Al Muntazar Foundation Established

Maashallah, there is a new Shia Center, Al-Muntazar Foundation has been established in Eagan. This organization is being led by Br. Salim Raza. They plan on holding regular events like the Thursday night programs (held Fridays) and madressah for the kids (held Sundays). They have a special Milad un nabi program that will be held on March 7 starting at 3PM where everyone is invited.

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Web: [almuntazarfoundation.org](http://almuntazarfoundation.org)  
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## New Faces with New Strategies at Jaffery Sports

Jaffery Sports held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday January 23 at the Madressah Center. The following is a list of new office bearers for the next two years: Chairman: Br. Mohamedraza Lakha, Secretary: Br. Sajjad Saleemohamed; Asst. Secretary: Sis. Batul Walji; Treasurer: Br. Ahmed Roowala; Asst. Treasurer: Sis. Mahdiya Walji.

The new JSM team thanks the outgoing sports committee for all their work during the past two years. Their selfless volunteering for the benefit of a community is a reward that will surely be beneficial in the hereafter. They also thanked the community at large for participating in all of the sports activities during the past years and count on the community's continued support.



The new team has some broad strategic objectives that will ensure growth and success of Jaffery Sports and the community at large as noted below:

- Developing Sporting Talent – Developing organized and highly competitive sporting activities for the members and the community, across all age groups in an all inclusive environment.
- Building a Partnership with the community – Frequently engaging the EC as well as leaders of organizations such a MN JOY, Youth Organization, Interfaith Outreach and other Organizations for any leveraging opportunities.
- Growth and Stability – Encourage growth in membership both annual as well as monthly through increased participation.

The success of implementing such objectives is highly reliant on the members as well as the community at large. The team encourages the community to fully participate in any capacity.



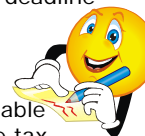
Any questions and suggestions are welcome so please contact any of the named committee members if you have questions or suggestions.

## Notice from Uncle Sam.

April 15th is the deadline for filling taxes for the year 2009. The deadline applies to the following whether filed electronically or by mail:

- 2009 Federal and State individual income tax returns
- Requests for an automatic six-month tax-filing extension

Did you know that Anjuman-e-Asghari is an IRS approved charitable organization and your generous donations to our center could be tax-deductible. Please see our Treasurer, Br. Naushaad Karim for details.



## 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.

Questions related to this school, please contact Sis. Sara Shasavand.



## Madressah Corner:

Parent-teacher conferences were held at Madressah on December 12th from 3:30-5:00. Parents had an opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss the progress and performance of their children's attendance at madressah. The event was successful with many parents coming to take part in the conferences.

Picture day was held on December 5th. Per tradition, Br. Zulfiqar Walji took professional pictures of each class. Unlike previous years, this year we took only whole class pictures. The pictures were available for sale during the Parent Teacher Conferences.

Qur'an memorization testing will be done on two Saturdays. Preschool through 5th grade will be tested on March 13th and 6th through 9th grade will be tested on March 20th.

April will be Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Month. Students will help raise money to support 2 children for the year. Each class competes to raise the most money for the cause. Help your children help other children by giving them money for this cause

