



The Bond

Keeping the Kingston Muslim Community Together

The Islamic Society
of Kingston (ISK)

P.O. Box 2021, Kingston,
Ontario K7L 5J8

February/March 2009

Safar/Rabi I 1430_{A.H}

One Day We shall remove the mountains, and thou wilt see the earth as a level stretch, and We shall gather them, all together, nor shall We leave out any one of them(48) And they will be marshaled before thy Lord in ranks, (with the announcement), "Now have ye come to Us (bare) as We created you first: aye, ye thought We shall not fulfill the appointment made to you to meet (Us)!". And the Book (of Deeds) will be placed (before you); and thou wilt see the sinful in great terror because of what is (recorded) therein; they will say, "Ah! woe to us! what a Book is this! It leaves out nothing small or great, but takes account thereof!" They will find all that they did, placed before them: And not one will thy Lord treat with injustice. (Quran 18:47-49)

President's Message

My fellow Muslim Kingstonians,

The Islamic Society of Kingston is calling on you to help and participate in its operations and functions. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held 11am, March 29th 2009. Please come to the meeting, express your views and visions for the future of the ISK, hear from the different committee coordinators, and interact with other members of the community. The Executive Committee, which runs the affairs of the Muslim community in Kingston, gets its mandate from the general body (all of you). Your participation in this meeting is very important. Your involvement at different levels is needed as well.

The Islamic Center of Kingston (ICK) day-to-day affairs are run by the ISK committees. As it stands now some committees are overwhelmed with the work they have to take care of. In particular, I would like to point out the work of the center management committee which takes care of the maintenance of all functions at the ICK. This includes septic tank, air conditioning and heating systems, sound system, alarm and security systems, and arranging for plumbing work, cleaning, shoveling, salting, lawn care, etc. They are also responsible for all the construction that has been and will continue to take place at the ICK. Over this past year these include

the fence, playground, parking extension, extra meeting room, electrical work, roof repair, etc. Such work entails dealing with city officials and contract workers for extended periods; and continuous monitoring and overseeing of all ongoing activities. The ICK center management committee, and while receiving the odd volunteer participation, has been operating with mostly 4 active members. Of course if we do not help them out we run the risk of burning them out.

Another domain is the running and operation of the Evening School, which is for the most part run by a single person (the Imam). While the Imam is expected to run the educational and religious side of the school, there are many logistic and organizational issues that require your help. I am encouraged to see the parents' council of the Evening School becoming actively involved in the overall organization. However, the day-to-day running of the school requires more volunteers.

-- *cont'd on the next page*

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There are many other volunteer opportunities and needs – da'wa, social events, educational activities, community involvement, etc. The ISK needs your help and support. Please come forward. May Allah accept from all of us.

Hossam Hassanein, President, ISK

Khutbah of the Month

Volunteering in Islam

Volunteering is the lifeblood of any community. It is because of volunteers that communities are able to run organizations, social services, conferences, playgroups, drop-in centers, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, open libraries, run schools, set up blood banks, and the list goes on. Without volunteers such activities would come to a standstill.

As Muslims, our role isn't just to make our salat and fast and pay zakat. We are encouraged to take on a broader role by working to improve the communities we live in; we should be visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, teaching people to read, helping people who have no one to turn to. It is by translating our love of Allah into good actions that we strengthen our imaan. Islam is a faith of action and we need to demonstrate our faith by working to make the world a better place.

In Islam there is a strong ethic of volunteerism. Our prophet Muhammad (May Allah shower His mercy upon him) was a great volunteer. In Islam, doing voluntary acts is not restricted to a certain race or religion but it encompasses all human beings and even all creatures. As Muslims, we see our role as world citizens. Therefore, the idea of working for a better society or community shouldn't be limited to the Muslim community but should extend to the broader non-Muslim community as well. Because we live in that community too, whatever weaknesses are present affect us also.

Volunteering has many benefits. It is a great way of doing Da'wah, inviting others to Islam. It gives individuals a broader sense of community; and people also feel a greater connection to one another when they are involved in volunteer activities. We understand that our primary motivation for helping others

should be our love for Allah but that doesn't mean we can't benefit from our volunteer activities. Many volunteers have learned invaluable skills and have made personal contacts that have helped them in securing employment later on. Also, for students, volunteering is an excellent way to build up a resume and gain a wide range of experience that can certainly help when it comes time to apply to college and university.

To render one's services, one has to realize that such activities are to be conducted on a regular basis. There is no rest for a Muslim until he meets with Allah (swt). One may increase or decrease his services, but he will never stop them all. To render our talents, our time, our money, and our knowledge is a continuous service to mankind, irrespective of colour, nationality, ethnic background, or religion. A volunteer is to continue to render his service even if he does not agree with the leadership of the society. We should remember that in every community there are a core group of volunteers and we are not different. We all know the some Muslim brothers or sisters who help out at all the events and are always working at breakneck speed. This is not fair. It is of no help to leave all the work to a few people while the rest sit back and enjoy the fruits of their labour. The core group eventually burns out. They have other obligations -- family, work, social activities. When they are worn out and drop out, the whole community feels their absence.

Therefore, each and every one of us should share the responsibilities. We should get involved in various volunteer services for the sake of Allah and for the sake of the community's betterment.

A recent study by The Canadian Council on Learning has rated Kingston number 2 behind Guelph in percentage of the population who volunteer. As an active member of the Islamic Society of Kingston we all can play a significant role to keep Kingston at the top of the caring cities of Canada list. I hope we all take this opportunity seriously and sincerely. For information on volunteering in Kingston, Please take a look at <http://www.volunteerkingston.ca/>

Tarek, Abu Noman Mohammad
Imam, Islamic Society of Kingston

Poem: dying and abandoned ...

-Confusion

I don't understand this world.
 I don't understand why
 We live so calmly
 While others die.
 And how do
 the mouths of 'leaders' move
 with such slyness
 as though their words were
 actually true.
 while they offer lie after lie
 The souls of children fly.
 And the people who listen
 Start to believe
 That there will eventually be a reprieve.
 But fail to understand
 that while they waste time
 the truth is twisted into a crime.
 And
 Hands, faces and arms are scattered
 And people's property and homes are shattered
 And blood is mistaken for success
 And failure is never confessed
 And they still ask: "Why don't they stop...
 firing missiles...?"
 I will tell you why:
 Because the father witnessed his son
 Perish before his eyes.
 And upon seeing her hero beneath rubble
 the mother tried to relieve
 her daughter's cries.
 And amidst this hell
 a child bade farewell
 to his innocence.

Did you expect them to lie down and accept their fate?

Did you want them to sit there and wait?
 Have you actually seen their plight?
 And still you try to persuade us it's right?

Raising their hands to the One
 They know He never turns away.
 He hears their pleas so rest assured
 There will come a day
 when justice will rain down and
 Vindicate those whose lives were stolen while
 Dormant despots stood by...
 shaking their head and drinking their coffee.

Fun night at Cloverleaf Bowling Centre

On Saturday, January 24th, the children from the ISK Evening School had a fun night at Cloverleaf Bowling Centre. This was a great opportunity to get together with all our Muslim friends. Believe it or not, our parents bowled as well! In total, there were 36 bowlers and 11 families. We were divided into 8 lanes and there were about 4 to 5 people in each lane. Sister Sabena and Imam Tarek did a great job in organizing this wonderful event! All of us had a chance to choose our groups and we were so involved in the game that we never thought of leaving. This was a great way to get together. Everything was awesome! THANK YOU ISK and I hope we have another opportunity to do it some other time!

By: Nuria Mahmud



ICK News and Activities

New ISK Committees

New ISK Committees

The ISK Executive Committee (EC) formed the following three new committees after the Annual General Meeting 2008 to serve the community in a most efficient and progressive manner. These are:

1. Community Information Committee (CIC)

The CIC will

- Provide information to the Community
- Publishing the BOND
- Maintaining and updating ISK Website and mailing lists.

2. Future Projects Planning Committee (FPPC)

The FPPC will assess the need for an extension to the ICK building, due to the increased size of the Muslim Community of Kingston. According to the 2001 Census, we had 850 Muslims in Kingston. Presently, the figure is over 2000. The FPPC will also seek advice/help/info from other Islamic centers/Mosques in Canada who might have had similar concerns in the past and found appropriate solutions.

3. Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)

The SPC will conduct a thorough due diligence review on the existing processes and practices across the ISK and recommend an action plan for improvement. The SPC will help the ISK organize its affairs and make better future planning ISA.

Office for the Imam and the Executive

You may be wondering about the construction underway at the ICK...

The new room being added will be an office for the Imam and the Executive Insha Allah. The office will allow the ISK members to talk to the

Imam in a private location when required and will also be a dedicated work space for the Imam. The Executive will use the office for their meetings and as a location for record keeping. This new office will also be an area where the Imam and Executive Members can receive outside guests and visitors.

The old office will continue to be the Library and a Meeting room for any ISK Member. The Meeting room can be reserved through the Centre Coordinator for any Committee or Group meetings such as Education Committee, Social Committee, Youth Group, etc. The Library Committee will be responsible for the room itself.

ISK Executive

Executive Committee Meeting

The next ISK Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m

Things for Youth and their Parents to Check out...

Dr. Munir El-Kassem, who visited us last August, escorts a group of Youth for Umrah each summer. If you are interested in this experience, please contact him through the Islamic Institute for Interfaith Dialogue - info@iiid.ca. Parents, this would be a wonderful bonding trip with your child and perhaps a great High School or University Graduation present! There is a Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST) that our Youth can get involved in. MIST is famous for being a fun, educational, interactive program of competitions and workshops geared towards bringing high school students together from around the nation to develop leadership, communication, and other creative skills, all while gaining a deeper understanding of Islam and Muslims." MIST Toronto just happens to cover the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton regions of the Muslim Interscholastic Tournament. The mission is to bring high school students from all over the region under one roof to foster their creativity, promote communication and motivate them to become leaders in their respective communities. This is done by the Annual Tournament. Just so you know, this tournament is completely awesome.

If you're an active high school student, you'll probably become an active university student as well. If you're an active university student you'll probably be an active person in your community too.

We are dedicated to empowering high school students to be motivated and active within their community. By giving high school students a venue to excel in the arts, sciences, and humanities, they grow up knowing not only that they can be important

members of their various communities, but important contributors (taken from the MIST website).

For further information check out www.misttoronto.ca or contact Sr. Safiah Chowdhury external@QUMSA.net

By: Sabena

The Islamic Society of Kingston

ISK Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2009

at

Islamic Center of Kingston

1477 Sydenham Rd.

One Half Km North of Hwy 401 - Exit 613

Sunday March 29, 2009

11:00 a.m

The Executive Committee of ISK is pleased to announce that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society will be on March 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at the ICK Inshah Allah.

The meeting is intended for reporting to members on Executive and committees activities over the past year, plan for the coming year, hold elections for the vacant positions, approve by-law # 9 and to consider members suggestions motions. The meeting is open to ISK members only.

Please note that the position of *Women's representative, Centre Coordinator and Secretary* are open for election. All Paid Members are encouraged to consider running for the above positions. It is a way to become more involved in the development of ISK.

An Election Committee consisting of three members has been appointed. The Chair of the Election Committee shall conduct the election.

Br. Qazi Islam, Chair

Br. Mustafa Hafnawi, Member

Sis. Raafia Monem, Member

The role of the Election Committee is to seek nominations for vacant positions, from ISK members. Only members who are eligible to vote, may nominate others or be nominated for a vacant position.

Please be advised that ISK new membership year starts on January 1 each year. As per ISK Constitution, membership fees must be paid 4 weeks prior to any meeting to qualify to vote in the meeting. Since AGM 2009 will be held on March 29, membership fees must be paid by March 1 to qualify to participate in the meeting and elections. The Membership forms are available at the ICK and can be downloaded from ISK website:

<http://www.kingstonmuslims.net/Forms/MembershipForm.PDF>

Prayer Times at ICK

Dates	Fajr	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Feb 16-22	6:15	12:30	4:10	Sunset + 5	7:30
Feb 23- Mar 1	6:00	12:30	4:20		7:30
Mar 2-7	5:50	12:30	4:25		7:35
Mar 8-15	6:35	1:25	5:35		8:45
Mar 16-22	6:25	1:25	5:40		8:55
Mar 23-29	6:10	1:25	5:50		9:05
Mar 30- Apr 5	6:00	1:25	5:55		9:15

Notes:

- **Jum'a khutba starts at 12:40 (1:25 during DST)**
- Dates shown are Monday- Sunday for that week.
- Times shown are for **Iqamah**.
- *Adhan will be called 10 minutes earlier.*
- During community events, Asr may be prayed earlier according to the time published on the Monthly calendar.

Important Dates

The Bond's next submission deadline:
Friday, March 20, 2009

The Bond's next publication date (Insha Allah):
Friday, March 27, 2009

Please send any submissions to:
thebond@kingstonmuslims.net

Disclaimer

The views and/or assertions expressed in THE BOND are the sole responsibility of their author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the newsletter committee, nor of the Islamic Society of Kingston and its officers.

ISK Executive

President: president@kingstonmuslims.net	Hossam Hassanein 613 384-5081
Secretary: secretary@kingstonmuslims.net	Ulfat Jalaluddin 613 531 8340
Treasurer: treasurer@kingstonmuslims.net	Ali Raza Khan 613 541 0300
Social Co-ordinator: social@kingstonmuslims.net	Mohammad Yahia 613-547-7849
Women's Representative: womensrep@kingstonmuslims.net	Raafia Monem 613 384 4136
ICK Management Co-ordinator (acting): centre@kingstonmuslims.net	Nafe Marai 613.44
Education Co-ordinator: education@kingstonmuslims.net	Sabena Islam 613 384 8314

Other useful contacts:

Imam of ISK:
ANM Tarek, imam@kingstonmuslims.net
613-767-9946

Coordinator of Da'wa Committee:
Dr Moustafa Fahmy, fahmym@queensu.ca

Library Committee:
Srs. Raafia Monem, Hoda Bayoumi,
and Br. Mohamed Saleem
library@kingstonmuslims.net

Moms and Tots:
Sis Mona Rahman,
mnahman@tricolour.queensu.ca

Coordinator for Elder Circle:
Br Murray Hogben,
hogben@kingston.net