



The Bond

Keeping the Kingston Muslim Community Together

The Islamic Society
of Kingston (ISK)

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

January/February 2007

Muharram/Safar 1428_{A.H}

He it is Who gave the sun radiance and the moon light, and determined the stages (for the waxing and waning of the moon) that you may learn the calculation of years and the reckoning of time. Allah has created all this with a rightful purpose (rather than out of play). He expounds His signs for the people who know. (Sura Yunus 10:5)

President's Message

Our Past and Our Future

Muslims in Kingston have gone through a significant demographic change over the last few years. The community is relatively new: Queen's Islamic Society, the first organized group of Muslims in Kingston goes back to 1965.

In the sixties, the Muslims in Kingston consisted of foreign students, a few members of faculty at Queen's University and some Residents at the local hospitals. The need was only to organize prayers and occasional social get-togethers. This was accomplished using the facilities at the International Centre and the University Centre at Queen's University. In the seventies, although there were no significant changes in the demographics, some of the Muslims had children and they started the Weekend School for the children to teach Arabic and Islam.

In the eighties, there were some increase in the population, and the community started looking for a permanent place of worship and other activities. To that end, Islamic Society of Kingston was formally organized as a registered religious charity in 1982. Since then, it started fundraising and looking for a permanent place. The land at the present location was bought in the mid-eighties and the construction of the Centre started in 1995. We took possession of the ICK in February 1996. So, most of our efforts in the 80's and 90's were spent towards fundraising and construction of the Islamic Centre. Alhamdulillah, we now have a place of our own and we must focus our attention to real activities and think of future direction for our community. Currently, the Muslim community in Kingston consists of more permanent residents

(citizens, immigrants): many of them are born and raised in Canada. It is no longer a community of transients and of people born outside Canada only. Even those who have come recently, came here to stay. Whatever we do in the future, we must keep that in perspective. There is also another significant change. We have, recently, hired an Imam. We must make use of his presence and try to develop ourselves as a united community rooted in Kingston and Canada.

Last year, we were considering having a workshop to discuss the future direction of our community. Due to other factors, we could not organize it. I believe we should try to organize such a workshop this year after the AGM. I hope you will think about such a workshop and make any suggestions you may have about it. Some of the things that I think we should consider are: (i) educational and other activities we want to consider, (ii) any expansion of the physical facility, (iii) our relationship with each other and what we can do to bring us closer to each other, and (iv) how do we become more involved in the Kingston community in the civic and political arenas.

These are few of my thoughts. I am looking forward to hearing from you. May Allah help us and guide us to build a righteous community.

By Hafizur Rahman, President ISK

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Imam's Khutbah of the Month

The Virtues of Allah's Sacred Month of Muharram

Allah's sacred month of Muharram is a blessed and important month. It is the first month of the Hijri calendar and is one of the four sacred months concerning which Allah says, *"Verily, the number of months with Allah is twelve months (in a year), so it was ordained by Allah on the Day when He created the heavens and the earth; of them, four are sacred. That is the right religion, so wrong not yourselves therein..."* [al-Tawbah 9:36].

Abu Bakrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "The year is twelve months of which four are sacred, the three consecutive months of Dhu'l-Qa'dah, Dhu'l-Hijjah and Muharram, and Rajab Mudar which comes between Jumaada and Sha'baan." (Reported by al-Bukhaari, 2958).

Muharram is so called because it is a sacred (muharram) month and to confirm its sanctity. Allah's words: *"so wrong not yourselves therein..."* mean do not wrong yourselves in these sacred months, because sin in these months is worse than in other months.

It was reported that Ibn 'Abbaas said that this phrase (so wrong not yourselves therein...) referred to all the months, then these four were singled out and made sacred, so that sin in these months is more serious and good deeds bring a greater reward.

Qutaadah said concerning this phrase (so wrong not yourselves therein...) that wrongdoing during the sacred months is more serious and more sinful than wrongdoing at any other time. Wrongdoing at any time is a serious matter, but Allah gives more weight to whichever of His commands He will. Allah has chosen certain ones of His creation. He has chosen from among the angels Messengers and from among mankind Messengers. He chose from among speech the remembrance of Him (dhikr). He chose from among the earth the mosques, from among the months Ramadan

and the sacred months, from among the days Friday and from among the nights Laylat al-Qadr, so venerate that which Allah has told us to venerate. People of understanding and wisdom venerate the things that Allah has told us to venerate. (Summarized from the Tafseer of Ibn Katheer, (RA) Tafseer of Surat al-Tawbah, ayah 36).

The Virtue of observing more naafil fasts during Muharram: Abu Hurayrah (RA) said: "The Messenger of Allah (SAS) said: 'The best of fasting after Ramadan is fasting Allah's month of Muharram.'" (reported by Muslim, 1982).

The phrase "Allah's month", connecting the name of the month to the name of Allah in a genitive grammatical structure, signifies the importance of the month. Al-Qaari said: "The apparent meaning is all of the month of Muharram." But it was proven that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) never fasted any whole month apart from Ramadan, so this hadeeth is probably meant to encourage increasing one's fasting during Muharram, without meaning that one should fast for the entire month.

It was reported that the Prophet (SA) used to fast more in Sha'baan. It is likely that the virtue of Muharram was not revealed to him until the end of his life, before he was able to fast during this month. (Sharh al-Nawawi 'ala Saheeh Muslim).

Allah chooses whatever times and places He wills. Al-'Izz ibn 'Abd al-Salaam (SAS) said: "Times and places may be given preferred status in two ways, either temporal or religious/spiritual. With regard to the latter, this is because Allah bestows His generosity on His slaves at those times or in those places, by giving a greater reward for deeds done, such as giving a greater reward for fasting in Ramadaan than for fasting at all other times, and also on the day of 'Aashooraa', the virtue of which is due to Allaah's generosity and kindness towards His slaves on that day..." (Qawaa'id al-Ahkaam, 1/38).

**By Abu Noman Mohammad Tarek, Imam ICK,
Phone: 613-344-0024, Email:
imam@kingstonmuslims.net**

Membership and Annual General Meeting

Membership

ISK membership year is the same as the calendar year. Your membership expires on December 31 and must be renewed in the new year. To participate in any meeting, you must have paid your membership at least 4 weeks before the meeting. Current membership fees are as follows:

Family	\$75.00
Individual	\$35.00
QUMSA member	\$5.00
Students	\$10.00

Membership forms are available on the web site as well as in the ICK.

Annual General Meeting:

Annual General Meeting of ISK will be held, Insha Allah, on 25 March 2007, after zuhr prayer. Membership fee must be paid by February 25 to be eligible to participate at the AGM.

Next Community Halaqa

The Education Committee's next "Fountain of Knowledge: Community Halaqa" will be on **Sunday February 25th**, Insha Allah, after Zuhr Prayers. Topic and Speaker to be announced.

Library Corner

BOOK SALE

Multivisions Inc. is planning to organize a Book Sale in the Islamic Centre of Kingston **during February 9 – 11, 2007**. They offer the latest Islamic Products (Books, Audiovisuals, Gifts, etc...)

STORY HOUR:

New time: 6:30 – 7:30pm

We started an Islamic Culture and Story Hour on February 6th, 2006, to run for one hour every other Monday. This Story Hour program was paused temporarily during the Summer Camp, and it was resumed Monday January 8th, 2007. This program has already proven successful, since the average number of children attending is increasing and the children are noticed to be enjoying it.

ICK Imam Br. Tarek approached Library Committee to coordinate the "Story Hour" (which is a separate program run exclusively by the Library Committee), with the Evening School, to which we agreed. Accordingly all students of the second session of the School will be attending the Story Hour from 6:30 to 7:30pm, together with the regular children age 5 – 9 already attending the program. The story teller will be Sr. Nermeen Yahia.

To keep the Library up-to-date, we purchased some new books for Adults, and Children, written by different Authors. (e.g. Tariq Ramadan, Yahia Emerick, Robert Fisk, Tariq Suwaidan, Asna Chaudhry and Saniyasnain Khan). The book list is below:

Adult Books:

- 1- In the footsteps of the Prophet By Tariq Ramadan
- 2- What Islam is all about By Yahia Emerick
- 3- The great war for civilization By Robert Fisk
- 4- Being Muslim By Haroon Siddiqui
- 5- Palestine: yesterday, today and tomorrow By Tariq Suwaidan.

Children Books:

- 1-Hamza's first fast By Asna Chaudhry.
- 2-Hamza learns wudu By Asna Chaudhry.
- 3-Maariyah's Day By Shaila Kibria
- 4-A prayer at bedtime By Zaynab Dawood
- 5-Quran Stories for kids By Saniyasnain Khan.
- 6- More Quran stories By Saniyasnain Khan.
- 7-Stories from the Muslim World By Huda Khat-tab.

Library Committee

Islamic Teachings at The Islamic Centre of Kingston

Evening School New Year's Program

By Sabena Islam

1. **Men's Qu'ran Halaqa:**
Every Thursday after Isha
Contact Br. Hafizur Rahman 634-0149,
Imam Tarek 344-0024 or
Br. Moustafa Fahmy 546-5018
2. **Children's Story Telling Hour:**
Alternate Mondays at 6:30 PM
Contact Sis. Raafia Monem 384-4136
3. **Women's Tafseer Halaqa:**
Alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
Contact Sis. Hoda Bayoumi 389-7613
4. **Sisters Quran Translation & Tafseer Halaqa In Urdu:**
every Thursday after Isha prayer in the Islamic Centre. For further information please contact: Sr. Chand Saleem at 530-3655 or Sr. Amina Ilias at 384-7547
5. **Daily Hadith Halaqa:**
Every Morning after Fajr Prayer.
6. **Weekly Girls Halaqah:** Every Monday at 6:30-7:45 PM. Please call in advance to check location (home or ICK). Contact Sis. Amal at 384-8008.
7. **Weekend Program:**
Saturday and Sunday from Asr to Maghrib for Brothers, Sisters and New Muslim, ICK. The program consists of: Learn Qur'an the easy way, every day Fiqh, Sirah of the prophet, understanding Qur'an the easy way, Question and answer session and much more. Contact the Imam: imam@kingstonmuslims.net
8. **Hadith study:** Every day after Fajr, ICK. Contact the Imam: imam@kingstonmuslims.net
9. **Qur'an with Tajweed:** Every day after Fajr, ICK. Contact the Imam: imam@kingstonmuslims.net

For an up-to-date schedule, please visit:

<http://www.kingstonmuslims.net/halaqas.htm>

On Saturday, January 20th, the Islamic Society of Kingston's Evening School put on an Islamic New Year Presentation. The children performed Islamic Songs, sang a Naat, recited everyday duas that they are memorizing, presented posters on the "Social Motivation Program Series", reviewed the rules of Gunnah, and showed slide shows of Miracles of Islam. Some students of Imam Tarek's Weekend School class presented some Hadith that they have been learning and a slide show on the Prophet Muhammad (SAS). (The Social Motivation Program Posters will soon be available for viewing at the Masjid, Insha Allah.)

The children did a wonderful job, Masha Allah! Furthermore, the turnout by parents, family members, and members of the community at large was amazing, Masha Allah! The children put a lot of time and effort into preparing for the program so it was great to see so much community support.

Over the next few issues of The Bond, Insha Allah, we will publish information from the program.

The first Installment of this is an introduction to the Social Motivation Program.

The "Social Motivation Program" is a new program developed by Imam Tarek.

The main goal of this program is to socially and morally motivate our community members, as well as our children and youth, towards Islam.

The objectives of this Program include:

- To motivate Muslims to perform their duty of being witnesses unto mankind by their words and deeds
- To take some common phrases from society, rather than strictly religious terms, and relate them to our Deen
- To invoke thought and religious responsibility among our community
- To teach and familiarize Muslims with various aspects of their religion
- To build a peaceful society by removing misconceptions about Islam and Muslims
- To assist in solving the social and personal problems of Muslims in an Islamic context

- To offer educational and training opportunities to increase Islamic knowledge and to enhance character
- To cooperate with other organizations for the implementation of this program and unity in the Ummah.

Posters in this series include:

- Which Night is Friday Night
- Never Say "I Don't Care"
- Are You There While You Are Praying?
- Say Alhumdulillah, Thank You to Allah
- Be a Muslim by Heart, Not by Birth
- Say Sorry to Allah
- Are You Sure That You Are a Muslim?
- Do You Really Mean It?
- Make Your Home an Islamic School
- Behave As Allah Teaches

Executive Board

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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.

Prayer Times at the Centre

Dates	Fajr	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Jan. 29-Feb. 4	6:05	12:30	3:40	5:20	7:30
Feb. 5-11	6:00	12:30	3:45	5:29	7:30
Feb. 12-18	5:50	12:30	3:55	5:39	7:30
Feb. 19-25	5:40	12:30	4:05	5:48	7:30
Feb. 26-Mar. 4	5:30	12:30	4:10	5:58	7:30

Notes:

- Dates shown are Monday- Sunday for that week.
- Times are for the *Adhan* (call) - Prayer will be about 10 minutes later.
- *Maghrib* will be prayed at prayer time - times shown are the latest possible for that week.
- *Jumu'ah* starts at 12:30 p.m. (*Khutba* starts 10 minutes later).

Important Dates

The Bond's next submission deadline:

Friday, 16 February, 2007

The Bond's next publication date:

Friday, 23 February, 2007

Please send any submissions to:

thebond@kingstonmuslims.net

Newsletter Committee

Sabena Islam