

WAH DAT

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HADITH OF THE MONTH

"He who acts solely according to his own opinions gets ruined, and he who consults other people shares in their understanding"

-Imam Ali (as)

Al-Zahra Committee Update

As you know, the IEC Board of Directors conducted a survey to gauge the interest amongst the sisters to restart the Al-Zahra Committee. Alhamdulillah, many sisters have shown interest in volunteering for the committee. The purpose of the committee is to involve sisters in various activities at the IEC, so sisters' interests are addressed in the activities. The purpose is not for the sisters, or individual groups, to conduct independent programs, but rather work with the directors (mainly Program, PR and Youth) to promote and organize activities at the IEC.

In addition to the sisters who have already indicated their interest and willingness to work for Al-Zahra Committee, we are asking all community members to help us build a database of volunteers for various areas.

We need your help to facilitate community connections, network, raise revenue and increase awareness about Islam and unity, while supporting the mission of our Islamic organization.

Please read the form carefully and fill it out completely; even if you already answered "Yes" to the survey regarding the Al-Zahra Committee. Once you've completed the form, please return the form to the IEC Board Office, or send it via email, to info@iec-houston.org.

Please visit the link below to open and download the form:
<http://www.iec-houston.org/docs/volunteers.pdf>

The deadline to submit this form is Friday April 9th, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact the director of the area you are interested in.

Your Newly Elected IEC Board of Directors

The new IEC Board of Directors for the term 2010- 2012 elected by the community includes:

Chairman: Faheem Kazmi
chairman@iec-houston.org

Secretary: Qambar Jafri
secretary@iec-houston.org

Treasurer: Mohammad Virani
treasurer@iec-houston.org

Education Director: Syed Hasan Mehdi
director.education@iec-houston.org

Property Director: Ali Mirab
director.property@iec-houston.org

Programs Director: Syed Faisal Ali Rizvi
director.programs@iec-houston.org

Publication Director: Mustafa Ebrahim
director.publications@iec-houston.org

Public Relations Director: Dawood Mirza
pr@iec-houston.org

Youth Director: Abdul- Rahim Muhammad
director.youth@iec-houston.org

May Allah give them the wisdom and patience to serve our community for the next two years, inshallah.

MESSAGE FROM ALIM TO NEW BOARD

In the Name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful

I would like to welcome the newly elected board members for upholding their responsibilities at the IEC, and also say farewell to the previous board members and appreciate their efforts and services; for they have left behind a great legacy of team work, brotherhood and trust. I pray for both teams, may Allah (swt) bless them and may Allah give opportunities to the new board that they may complete their ultimate mission in the best manner. Further, I would like to provide a few essential guidelines to the new board drawing guidance from the Ahlulbayt (as):

1. The foundation of our group has to be brotherhood as the Holy Qur'an has said "Believers are brothers to each other". The Holy Prophet (saww) is reported to have said, "The best amongst the believers are those who are friendly with other believers". Hence the basis of an Islamic society is the element of love, interaction and brotherhood.
2. Division is one of the worst elements that can damage the community. Thus our first Imam (as) in Nahjul Balagha cautions us to "beware of divisions". He cites an example of a group of travelers who wanted to rest. In order to keep them united the Imam tells everyone to halt and rest together. The implication of this is that whenever we need to finalize a decision, we should do it with consensus. Furthermore the Imam says, "when you like to depart you should depart in unison", implying that when we take an action then we should act as a united force. There is a clear distinction between differences of opinion and division. Differences of opinion is based upon evidence and proof, but division starts when there is no significant support for the opinion but a person continues to argue his views with a motive to win the 'battle'.
3. The board is requested to focus on the youth and include the youth in their committees and hence involve them in various activities. I advise the youth director in particular to make a plan for the entire year regarding youth activities. I also advise the board to focus on real issues as the IEC has a lot of potential and it can be a leading force in raising awareness about Islam in the United States. We need to work to invite others towards Islam and not highlight insignificant issues that can be a cause for divisions amongst us.
4. While we discuss issues within the board we must follow the akhlaq and Islamic codes. When the elders are kind to the youngsters and the young respect the seniors we can expect peace and harmony within the community. In addition all board members must try to be open-minded in listening to the views of others and train themselves to be humble, as the Prophets of Allah have asked Allah to give them an open mind (sharhe-sadr). To govern this community is one of the most important principles and a priority. The Holy Prophet (saww) has said "The best tool for a government is being open hearted". We must respect the general public and honor them and have the inspiration as a servant for the community. In this regard the Holy Prophet (saww) said, "One of the best ways to be humble is to greet everyone who passes through and sitting behind the honorable places"
5. Imam Ali (as) advises us to "leave all those who have gone extreme to the right or have gone extreme to the left". Then he says, "Surely the shepherd gathers his core (mainstream) sheep with little effort". The Imam continues, "beware of exposing secrets and seeking positions and being greedy about it because these wicked qualities will take you to destruction".

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty..—Al-Quran

IEC is a community based organization. Our success is totally dependent on the dedication and support of our volunteers. Alhamdulillah, we have a lot of volunteers who selflessly help us with their time and effort but we need many more. We at IEC have many volunteer opportunities available in the following areas,:

Finance	Al-Hadi/Sunday/Farsi School	Youth & Sports Activities	Property & Parking
IEC Kitchen	IEC Programs	IEC Burial Committee	Library & Wahdat

To volunteer, please email info@iec-houston.org

IMAM SAJJAD CLINIC—OPEN SUNDAYS 11AM—1PM

SCHEDULE FOR APRIL AND MAY 2010

Apr 4 Dr. Reza Ahmed – Internal Medicine

Apr 11 Dr. Hasan Gokal – Emergency Room Physician

Apr 18 Dr. Naveed Zaidi – Family Medicine

Apr 25 Dr. Zeba Barlas – Family Medicine

May 2 Dr. Tanveer Syed – Internal Medicine

May 9 Dr. Farzana Sahi – Internal Medicine

May 16 Dr. Kaleem Kazmi - Pediatrics

May 23 Dr. Hassnain – Internal Medicine

May 30 Dr. Hasan Mehdi – Family Medicine

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

BY SR ZEHRA SHAHNARAD

There are a total of 13 Qur'an classes, ranging from level 1-5, plus two youth classes for the older boys. There are a total of 17 Diniyat classes ranging from grades 1-8, plus a youth girls class. In addition, there is a Pre-K and KG class.

There are a total of 26 teachers and co-teachers/teacher assistants, 7 office volunteers, 1 Qur'an coordinator, 1 Diniyat coordinator, 5 snack volunteers, as well as other volunteers who offer their assistance in various areas. There are a total of 175 students.

Some additional resources have been added for the students' benefit. These resources include: salaah book, salaah chart, handheld salaah poster, Qur'an translation and tafseer booklets, and a Teach Yourself to Read Qur'an book. Some of the extra-curricular activities that have been conducted so far are the Hajj poster contest, which had a total of 33 contestants, Hajj simulation, and the children's majlis, which had over 250 attendees and presentations from each grade.

One of the main focuses for Sunday school is to ensure that all of the students know how to pray salaah correctly. Therefore, in addition to students going over wudhu and salaah in their Diniyat class each week, there have also been group salaah classes which have been and are being offered.

Although we have an excellent, dedicated staff of volunteers, Alhamdulillah, there is always the need for more volunteers, especially to serve as substitutes and volunteers for special events. If you are interested in volunteering, or have any suggestions for IEC Sunday school, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Sunday school volunteers.

HAITI UPDATE & APPEAL

FUNDS NEEDED TO PURCHASE VEHICLE

We would like to thank you for your continued support to the Muslim community in Haiti. May Allah (swt) continue to reward you immensely.

On Friday April 2nd through Sunday Apr 4th, an IEC Relief team headed by Brother Hajji Saleem is returning to Haiti to provide more humanitarian support to a Muslim community.

Without a pickup truck in good condition, the Muslim Community in Haiti has not been able to provide adequate aid, Islamic teachings, and Dawah work to the Muslim communities scattered in the mountains and countryside of Haiti. There are still areas that have not received some of the tents donated by the IEC due to the lack of vehicles able to withstand the hazardous road conditions of the mountain areas

Furthermore, since there are no rental car companies currently operating in Haiti, and the only vehicles available in the Community are too poorly conditioned to transport the supplies being brought to Haiti, it is urgent that the requested vehicle be purchased prior to the team's arrival in Haiti next Saturday.

The cost for a used pickup truck in good condition is estimated at \$8,000 USD. Funds can be donated to the IEC Disaster Relief Fund via check, cash or Online at: Disaster Relief Fund (In the Memo, please write "Haiti")

Alhamdulillah, the Al Mahdi Islamic Center in Haiti has received additional aid from other organizations for their immediate needs (i.e., food for the coming months); however, without proper transportation, Muslims in the remote areas of Haiti will suffer due to the lack of access to the available relief and Dawah efforts. Your assistance in resolving this serious issue is most appreciated.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Wiladat of Hazrat Zainab (AS)

Saturday, April 24th Actual Date: 7th Jamadi Al Awwal*

Quran Recitation with English Translation	6:45 pm
Qaseedas	7:00 pm
Youth Presentation	7:20 pm
English Speech by Maulana Hurr Shabbiri	7:30 pm
Maghrib / Isha Prayers	8:11 pm
Dinner (Estimated Cost \$1200)	8:45 pm

Martyrdom of Hazrat Fatima (AS)

Monday, April 27th Actual Date: Night of 13th Jamadi Al Awwal*

Dua-e-Kumayl	7:30 pm
Maghrib / Isha Prayers	8:13 pm
Quran Recitation	8:40 pm
Souz / Salam / Mersiya	8:50 pm
English Speech by Maulana Hurr Shabbiri	9:00 pm
Noha / Matam	9:45 pm
Tabarruk (Estimated Cost \$1200)	10:00 pm

(*) Subject to moon sighting.

AL-HADI STUDENTS WIN 1st PLACE AT HOUSTON SCIENCE FAIR



Al-Hadi students won 1st PLACE at the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston on Friday, March 12th, 2010. Erum D. & Fatima R. competed in the 9th Gr. Life Science category with over 25 other projects. 16 other students from AHS also competed in this event. They will further compete at the state level in San Antonio on Friday, April 9th.

AHS TEACHER PRESENTS AT NATIONAL READING INITIATIVE CONF.

Sr. Nilofer Momin, the High School Biology, Chemistry and Health Teacher at Al-Hadi School, represented the Greater Houston Area Writing Project at the National Reading Initiative Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 5th & 6th, 2010.

