



WAHDAT

A publication of the Islamic Education Center



Expected date of 1st Safar is March 1st

IEC ELECTION NEWS

IEC Election for the Board of Directors for the term 2006/2008 is coming up in April, 2006. All the required information and forms have already been mailed out. Please take this matter as important and send the required forms duly completed as soon as possible.

Please note that the proposed amendment to ratify the constitution to include ladies in the board shall be presented in the next general body meeting as the previous result was nullified due to an incomplete quorum.

The Darkness before the Dawn -- A Reflection on the Martyrdom of Imam Husain (as)

By Sr. Amina Inloes

Imam Husain (as) teaches us many lessons, but the most enduring lesson I have learned from him is hope. Yes, the Imam (as) was brutally slaughtered. Yes, his women and children were taken prisoner and tortured. The skies wept and the earth rained blood on that day, the day of Ashura. And yet, the same blood of those martyrs continues to renew and revitalize the followers of the Imam (as) year after year. Miracles happen in his name. Revolutions happen in his name.

And although Ashura is a day of tragedy, every year, in every part of the world, something amazing happens during this time of mourning -- beginning first with the very year that the Imam (as) was killed, and continuing on until the end of time. For in the beginning, no one would have thought that the Imam (as) had been victorious, even though his very father, Amir Al-Mu'mineen (as), had greeted martyrdom with the famous words, "I have succeeded, by the Lord of the Ka'bah."

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Yet within a couple years, all traces of Bani Umayyah and those who had taken part in the killing of Imam Husain (as) had disappeared from the earth. As the Holy Qur'an states, "Truth has come, and falsehood has perished."

And as this continual victory of truth repeats itself again and again, year after year, more and more followers of the Imam (as) draw their inspiration from what happened at Karbala.

Indeed, as a lot of poetry states, the blood of the martyrs has nourished our strength in the same way that rainwater sustains budding plants. But beyond the tangible effects of the martyrdom at Karbala lies an even deeper hope -- the unquestioning hope in and love for Allah. For from the time of his birth, Imam Husain (as) knew the fate that was awaiting him. As a prophet, his grandfather the Messenger of Allah (saawaws) told him everything he could ever need to know about what would happen to him. In fact, it is even narrated that before he set out for his final journey, he told others, such as as Um Salamah, the widow of the Prophet (saawaws), exactly who would be killed with him on that day.

Yet the Imam (as) never complained to Allah about why He would allow such horrific events to happen. Instead, he always thanked Allah for His blessings, even when he was suffering the most intense grief. Fear was an emotion unknown to the Imams (as) because of their absolute trust in Allah. And although love of Allah -- not anticipation of reward -- was what motivated them, the Imam (as) and his companions knew what blessings awaited them once they left this world. They knew that they were about to meet their Creator at a level that would only be possible if they achieved martyrdom, and they were eager to meet Him with this high status and to be reunited with the rest of Ahl Al-Bayt -- as a fortunate few are still today.

Despite the darkness, the dawn was about to come. And this is why, no matter whatever small and insignificant difficulties befall us today, we can still

remember Imam Husain (as) and experience the beginnings of hope.

Message of the Leader on the Destruction of al-Askariya Masjid



In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate,
the Merciful

"Surely we are Allah's, and to Him we shall surely return."

The nefarious and blood-stained hands of wicked criminals gave rise to a great tragedy today and perpetrated another sin by violating the bounds of religious sanctities.

This criminal act, probably carried out by reactionary bigots and vile and ignorant mercenaries, has definitely been devised by some conspirers harboring evil intentions. This political crime should be traced to the intelligence organizations of the occupiers of Iraq and the Zionists. The hegemonic powers that consider the political and social situation in Iraq contrary to their domineering goals are nurturing sinister plots, including those aimed at escalating insecurity and fomenting religious conflicts in that country.

I deem it necessary to emphatically ask the mournful people in Iran and Iraq and other parts of the world to strictly avoid any action that is likely to foment conflict and hostility among Muslim brethren. Surely certain hands are at work trying to incite Shia Muslims. Any action in this direction will help to further the goals of the enemies of Islam and the enemies of Muslim nations and is religiously prohibited.



1427 / 2006 ASHRA-E-ARBAEEN MAJALIS (11TH THRU 20TH SAFAR)

Urdu: Moulana Syed Abbas Abidi (London)

Sisters' Morning Urdu Majlis: Sr. Batool Najafi (Minnesota)

English: Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri /

Moulana Jaffar Muhibullah (N.Carolina)

Farsi: Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri

Children English Program:

8-12 Year Old : Br. Sami Hejazi

4-7 Year Old : Sr. Zainab Busaleh



Safar 10th thru 16th March 10th thru 16th*

Maghrib/Isha Prayers6:48 pm

Simultaneous Sessions:

Urdu Majlis (Main Hall)7:30 pm

Speaker: Moulana Syed Abbas Abidi

Eng. Majlis (Ladies' Din.Hall)7:30 pm

Speaker: Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri

Safar 17th thru 19th March 17th thru 19th*

Maghrib/Isha Prayers6:50 pm

Simultaneous Sessions:

Urdu Majlis (Main Hall)7:30 pm

Speaker: Moulana Syed Abbas Abidi

Farsi Majlis (Men's Din. Hall)7:30 pm

Speaker: Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri

Eng. Majlis (Ladies' Din. Hall)7:30 pm

Speaker: Moulana Jaffar Muhibullah

Safar 16th thru 20th March 16th thru 20th*

Salam/Marsia10:30 am

Majlis11:00 am

Speaker: Sr. Batool Najafi

Matam11:45 pm

*Subject to the sighting of moon

G U I D E L I N E S

- Majalis will start from Friday night, 10th of March (10th Safar) and will continue till 19th of March (Night of 20th Safar).
- Please donate generously in **Moharram Fund**. Please contact Br. Talib Dhanji @ (281) 844-8222 or any board member if you like to sponsor Tabarruk on a particular night.
- Please sign up in advance, if you wish to recite Salam / Noha. For Urdu Br. Hasan Syed @ (832) 419-2019, for English Br. Hyder Khan @ (713) 240-1507, for Farsi Br. Yadollah Hooshmand @ (28)935-6924.
- Sisters may contact Sr. Sarwat Naqvi @ (832) 419-0786 or any Sisters' Committee member for details of Srs. Majlis and Tabarruk Fund.
- Dua-e-Tawassul and Dua-e-Kumail will be recited during simultaneous sessions subject to the availability of time.
- Please park your vehicles properly in the designated areas and cooperate with volunteers.
- Use of zanjeer, blades, and/or any other instrument which causes bleeding is prohibited for Matam at IEC.



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1427 / 2006 WEEKEND MAJALIS

Moharram/Safar/Rabi-I, 1427
March/April, 2006

FRI	Safar 3 / March 3	Maghrib: 6:41 pm Isha: 7:00 pm Majlis: 7:15 pm	Urdu: Moulana Syed Sartaj Zaidi (Detroit) Friday: Farsi Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri Friday: English Majlis by Br.Mahdi Domitrovich Sat. & Sun: English Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri
SAT	Safar 4 / March 4		
SUN	Safar 5 / March 5		

1427 / 2006 ASHRA-E-ARBAEEN MAJALIS

URDU: Safar 10 - 19; March 10 - 19	Moulana Syed Abbas Abidi (London)
LADIES URDU: Safar 16 - 20; March 16 - 20	Sister Batool Najafi (Minnesota)
ENGLISH: Safar 10 - 16; March 10 - 16	Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri
ENGLISH: Safar 17 - 19; March 17 - 19 (Fri-Sun)	Moulana Jaffar Muhibullah (North Carolina)
FARSI: Safar 17 - 19; March 17 - 19 (Fri-Sun)	Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri

Shahadat of Hazrat Sakina binte Imam Hussain (AS): Sisters' Urdu Majlis

MON	Safar 13 / March 13	10:30 am	Speaker: Sr. Shaheen Rizvi
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FRI	Safar 24/ March 24	Maghrib / Isha 6:54 pm Majlis: 7:30 pm	Urdu: TBD Friday: Farsi Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri Friday: English Majlis by Br. Mahdi Domitrovich Sat. & Sun: English Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri
SAT	Safar 25/ March 25		
SUN	Safar 26/ March 26		

Wafat of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) & Shahadat of Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS): English Majlis

MONDAY	Night of Safar 27 / March 27	Maghrib/Isha: 6:55 pm Majlis: 7:30	Speaker Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri
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Wafat of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) & Shahadat of Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS): Sisters' Urdu Majlis

TUE	Safar 28 / March 28	10:30 am	Speaker: Sr. Farees Khan
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FRI	1 st Rabi-I/March 31	Maghrib / Isha 6:58 pm Majlis: 7:30 pm	Urdu: Moulana Maroofi (London) Friday: Farsi Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri Friday: English Majlis by Br.Mahdi Domitrovich Sat. & Sun: English Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri
SAT	2 nd Rabi-I/April 1		
SUN	3 rd Rabi-I/April 2 (Time Changed)	Maghrib/Isha: 7:59 Majlis: 8:30 pm	

THUR	7 th Rabi-I / April 6	Maghrib/Isha: 8:01 Majlis: 8:30	English Majlis by Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri
FRI	8 th Rabi-I / April 7	Maghrib: 8:02 pm Dinner: 8:15 pm Isha: 9:00 pm Qaseedah: 9:15 pm Speech: 9:30 pm	Celebration for the Beginning of Imamah of Al-Qaim Al-Muntazar Hazrat Imam Mahdi (AS) English Speech by Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri

IEC News

Al-Zehra Library

The Al-Zehra Islamic Library of Houston at the IEC is looking to hire a person who will be working in the library.

Selected Duties:

- Catalog books
- Manage the circulation of books
- Maintain the library
- Provide supervision during library hours

Applicants are required to have these abilities:

- (The minimum age required is 18 years)
- Provide own transportation to and from the IEC
- Available during the evenings for 2 hours after the Maghribain prayers on Tue, Thu, Fri and Sat. and 10-2 pm on Sunday.
- Comfortable with the use of basic computer skills (use of the internet, email and basic word processing)
- Be able to communicate in English

If you are interested or know someone who may be qualified for this paid position, please contact Br Hyder Syed at 713-305-4370 or email hydersyed@myway.com

IEC Summer School

IEC Board has decided to establish an Islamic Summer School which will operate during June and possibly July of each year. The Summer School will be independent from the other schools operated by IEC. The main focus of the Summer School will be Islamic studies and related subjects. Remedial academic courses will also be provided based on the community needs. We are looking for an IEC community member to fill the position of the principal of the Summer School.

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This is a paid position. Interested persons should contact Br. Masood Irani, education director at 713-787-5000 ext. 54 or by email at director.education@iec-houston.org.

IEC Youth Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Community,
Assalamun-Alaikum.

I would like to formally announce that a newly elected committee of youth brothers and sisters has been formed, hereby known as the IEC Youth Council of 1427. The members who were elected by the general youth body are:

- ◇ Br. S. Raza Zaidi – *President*
- ◇ Sr. Butool Jafri – *Secretary*
- ◇ Br. Ali Reza Iranpour
- ◇ Br. S. Raza Jaffar
- ◇ Sr. Sukaina Jafri
- ◇ Sr. Zainab Kazimi
- ◇ Br. Mohammad Virani

We are working hard to begin getting active within the community very soon, InshAllah. Our goal, as the IEC Youth Council, is to plan and conduct activities for both the youth and the entire community in general.

We also hope to implement programs that are just as informative, as entertaining, and to attract and unite the youth of our community. Your suggestions and feedback are very necessary. Think of us as your own personal representatives, and please remember that we are here working for you. To make those suggestions, please email director.youth@iec-houston.org, or contact any of the aforementioned members.

We hope that every effort we put forth is something appreciated and pleases Allah (SWT) and Imam-e-Zaman (AS) first and foremost. Please forgive us for any shortcomings, and InshAllah, we can make this a very successful and long-term council for the youth of tomorrow.

Thank your for your time, Wasalaam,
S. Raza Zaidi, IEC Youth Council President