

# WAH DAT

MARCH 2010 / RABI'AL AWAL 1431 AH



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 1-2

**SEERAT UN NABI CONFERENCE**

**ISLAM'S CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY** 3-4

**AL-ASR SHORT VACATION COURSE**

**SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION** 5

**IEC BOARD ELECTION NOMINEES**

## HADITH OF THE MONTH

*"Prefer to be one who is overcome while being just, rather than one who triumphs while being unjust"*

*-Imam Ali (as)*

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AsSalaamOAlikum Brothers and Sisters,

As the current board reaches the end of its term, we thought it timely to share progress made and plans implemented by us.

No doubt 2009 was one of the most difficult years with vagaries of the world and local economy, media bias towards Islamic community, roadblocks and misinformation spread by special interests group to undermine IEC and community unity as well as many other forces working behind the scene to further their agenda. With the blessings of Allah(swt) and the living Imam, the board with its resolve to be guided by the Islamic principles, having the spiritual leadership of the resident Alim, and most of all having the community's support has been able to work through these challenges and preserve the sanctity of the IEC.

The community has seen many firsts during the last two years, the first Arbaeen Julooos, the first combined prayers for Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha and upcoming seerat-un-Nabi conference. These events, despite opposition and actions of some, brought Houston community together. As far as the speakers at the IEC, our focus has been delivery of the right message, rather than wrong message delivered by people who might have the "gift of gab". We have had many ulamas with in-depth knowledge of Islam as speakers and long question answer sessions at the request of the community, especially many youth members, that followed the inspiring and thought provoking powerful lectures by these ulamas.

The board also formed a long term plan

committee for the future growth of IEC. The committee is working diligently and their progress will be shared with the community at the next general body meeting.

Of course, not many of us can forget Thursday, November 12, 2009 when media descended on the IEC amidst the reports that IEC building has been seized. While the board's immediate concern was the continuation of our religious activities and running the school, we also were looking at the long term effects and actions needed. We were assured by the US government (and we reported to the community on various occasions) that there were no allegations against the "tenants" of the Alavi foundation owned buildings but in order to ensure that our legal rights were protected, we retained legal counsel. Although due to legal considerations, we were not able to discuss everything with everyone in the community, we held meetings with the past members of the boards to seek their input.

A lot of work has been done since that day, we have filed with the government to protect our claim on the building, and our attorneys have been in touch with the Alavi foundation and the United States government attorneys. The board is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we continue to practice our Islamic activities at this location for a long time to come, InshaAllah.

In these times, leadership takes on a whole new meaning ...one with experience and recent successful models, but with new vision and ideas, to extrapolate to

serve as a lamp to light the way. The board has worked hard with integrity and honesty to serve Islam and IEC's long term benefit. We have had to make some decisions and take actions that may have appeared to a small number of community members as questionable, but Alhamdulillah, the implementation of those ideas established IEC as the leader in Islamic community. We knew that "There are costs and risks to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."

The board has begun the journey of fulfilling some of the initiatives and plans to charge forward to make a positive impact on the future of IEC and Muslim Um-mah; and members of the board stand committed and ready to continue to serve for the betterment of Islam and the vision for IEC.

In closing, we are grateful to all of our community, supporters and employees who have played such a major role in IEC's evolution in the past few years. . It is with unity among the community members and a shared vision of the values that IEC stands for that will inshallah makes us reach our goals. We pray to Allah SWT to accept our humble contributions and pray for the reappearance of our Living Imam.

On behalf of board of directors  
Faheem Kazimi, Chairman



## SEERAT UN-NABI CONFERENCE

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010 is gearing up for an historic occasion in Houston. For the first time the Houston Muslim community will come together in eid fashion to celebrate a united Milad un-Nabi (saww) event. This Seerat conference is organized to focus on the exemplary life of the Holy Prophet (saww). Various Islamic organizations from different schools of thought will congregate to celebrate this event annually to promote Islamic brotherhood within Houston and set a precedent for other communities as well. Renowned speakers and reciters of poetry in praise of the Mercy unto the world (saww) will address the audience. The occasion will afford Muslims from all masjid/centers an opportunity to meet each other during the week of unity (12-17th Rabi' al-awwal). The Seerat un-Nabi Organizing Committee urges all brothers and sisters to attend in large numbers to give the event the support that it deserves. Al-hamdulillah many organizations have endorsed this effort and have agreed to participate.

For more information email us: [events@iec-houston.org](mailto:events@iec-houston.org) or call the Director of Public Relations, Dr Reza Ahmed 713-503-5032 or Syed Hyder 713-305-4370

**Title:** Seerat un-Nabi Conference

**Occasion:** Milad un-Nabi (saww)

**Date:** Sun., Feb. 28

**Time:** 2-5PM

**Orgnizer:** Seerat un-Nabi Organizing Committee

**Sponsor:** Islamic Education Center of Houston.

**Location:** Pakistani American Community Center

(Bissonnet/Dairy Ashford) - formerly PAGH

Snacks will be served during the program.

## ISLAM'S CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY

BLOG POST BY MOULANA HURR SHABBIRI

With the name of the All Merciful,

Everyone is aware of the fast paced life human beings are living nowadays. No one has time to think of anything beyond their daily work routines. Doing things fast, quick and in a hurry is the norm, since "fast" is considered better. For example, you have "fast food," "microwavable TV dinners," "EZ-Pass", and even fast entry and exit driving lanes; all of which illustrate the impetus put on doing things fast due to scarceness of time.

Consequently, it appears that we have no time to relax and ponder upon the beautiful nature all around us; therefore, Spirituality has little or no room in our everyday life. Everything is measured in a material or physical sense. Hence, when the question arises regarding what has a religion, like Islam, contributed towards the advancement of society, people tend to look for material or technological achievements. While adherents of Islam have indeed contributed significant material and technological advancements, the answer to this question could be best answered in two parts.

First, how has Islam, as a divine religion, contributed to the spiritual upliftment of Mankind, and how has Islam helped to advance the evolution of human civilization. To better understand this subject, we need to first define the purpose of all Godly religions. We can easily say that all religions were sent by Almighty God, through His Prophets to guide human beings towards submission to God and to form a cohesive, productive and beneficial society. Once people learn how to serve and obey God, they will develop the humility and the willingness to work for the welfare of their fellow human beings. These people will then begin to research and discover different ways to invent technologies and means of convenience. These inventions would then be considered part of the blessings of a divine plan to help develop mankind into better human beings.

Second, to discuss Islam's contribution to the evolution of human civilization, we will need to go back fourteen hundred years in history, to look at the social condition of the people of that time in and around the Arabian peninsula. At that time, corruption was widely prevalent and people were involved in all sorts of vices, including: oppression, robbery, adultery, slavery, bloodshed, burying daughters alive, to name a few. People had changed and altered the teachings of earlier Prophets to advance their own ideologies in order to suppress their societies.

Islam emerged at that time as a mercy upon mankind from the Creator of this universe. It stood against all the inhumane customs and practices of that time, giving people relief from the shackles of wrong doers and their oppression. Islam, through Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him), started a mission to revive the core values of earlier religions and to complete the prophetic message to mankind for eternal success.

Unfortunately, the limits of this blog does not allow us to discuss in more detail about other positive changes Islam has brought to human civilization. However, I would like to shed some light on four essential and everlasting achievements of Islam.

### Scientific Achievements

One, the Holy book of Islam is called "Al-Quran," which means "The Most Read," indicating the importance of education for human success. The first words revealed to Mankind in the Holy Qur'an utters the word "Read," which also signifies the importance of the acquisition of knowledge in Islam. The Holy Qur'an commands everyone to educate themselves and to increase their wisdom by pondering upon the universe they live in.

In Islam, acquiring knowledge is also considered an important part of worship. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) has stated that, "Education is obligatory on every man and woman. One must gain knowledge, even if he/she has to travel to the farthest land." As a result of this principle, we find numerous world renowned Muslim scholars in the fields of Philosophy, Astronomy, Numerology, Chemistry, Physics, Medicine and Theology. One can explore more about these scholars and scientists by going through the pages of history.

### Eradication of Racism

Two, Islam also introduced a comprehensive divine social system of Equality. This principle of equality is normally ignored or abandoned by rulers of the past and present in order to segregate people into different classes. These rulers promote class-systems that create different classes of people based on origin, ethnicity, color of skin, occupation or social status. In contrast to this, fourteen hundred years ago, Islam raised the slogan of equality for all human beings. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) clearly denounced inequality and discrimination by saying, "No Arab is superior to a non-Arab, No White is superior to a Dark

CONTINUED...

Skinned, No Rich is superior to a Poor. The only person superior in the eyes of the Almighty is the one who obeys and fears God the most."

Consequently, one may witness this equality in practice in all the congregational prayers where everyone (rich, poor, light-skin, dark-skin) stands humbly side by side in front of the Creator of the universe. This equality is further enforced and can be seen on a larger scale when every year millions of Muslims perform the pilgrimage of Hajj. They all wear two (2) simple (same color, same style) covering sheets and offer their allegiance to the Most High, saying "look at us, we are all one and equal, and superiority is only for You."

#### Eradication of Slavery

Three, another unjust custom, which Islam slowly rooted out is slavery. Islam started to teach human rights to the slave masters, and encouraged them to free their slaves if they cannot treat them equitably. The freeing of slaves became a notion that Islam adopted in its justice system., and freeing slaves became a compensation for different crimes or sins. For example, if a person deliberately does not fast in the holy month of Ramadan, he/she is obliged to free a slave for every missed fast. Bilal, who was an Ethiopian slave, was freed and given the high rank of "Caller to Prayer" (Mu'adhin) by the Holy Prophet himself (SAW).

#### Raising Women's status

Four, another benefit Islam brought to civilization is the upliftment and equality of Women in society. Women, before Islam, were treated as second class citizens, and were subjected to gender discrimination. They were deprived of basic human rights, and were considered a symbol of shame. For this reason parents would bury their daughters alive. Islam not only condemned and stopped this cruel custom, but gave women a higher status. Islam recognized and ordered that women should be respected as mothers, wives, sisters and daughters in Islam. Fourteen hundred years ago, Islam gave women the right to: work, education, choose a spouse, cast a vote, act as a witness and receive inheritance, all of which are legal rights that were suppressed in society.

Furthermore, Islam refers to the Virgin Mary, mother of Prophet Jesus and Lady Fatima, daughter of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Almighty be upon them all) as the Chosen Ladies of the universe. Muslim women wear modest dress to preserve the very respect, honor and dignity that Islam has bestowed upon them.

These are just a few of the countless contributions Islam has made to the upliftment of human civilization, which proves the universal nature of this divine religion and captures the interest of every truth-seeking individual.

*Every month a blog such as the one above is published in the online section of the Houston Chronicle.*

[www.chron.com/channel/houstonbelief/commons/thehiddentruth](http://www.chron.com/channel/houstonbelief/commons/thehiddentruth)

*It is vital for the success of the blog that community members take an active role in participating in the blog. One can contribute to the blog by*

- 1. Writing comments or questions in the blog entry (Registration required)*
- 2. Click the "Recommend" link on some of the comments (No registration required)*
- 3. Give feedback to Moulana on the blog.*

## AL-ASR SHORT VACATION COURSE

A few of the community youth have been with Al-Asr as part of a youth ziyarat trip. This group and trip offers invaluable experiences to youth ages 15-25. If you are considering this ziyarat trip, start the application and visa process asap.

### 18th Short Vacation Course in Iran from Sun 11 July to Sun 08 August 2010.

Al-Asr offer a chance of a life time to visit holy mausoleums in cities across Iran and Iraq, including the shrines of Imam Ali, Imam Hussain, Imam Mohammad Baqir, Imam Musa Kadhim, Imam Ali Raza, Imam Ali Naqi and Imam Hassan Askari (A.S). The tour is rich in Islamic education and is designed to highlight the practical elements of Islam to the Muslim youth in Western countries.



For more information about the group and pictures visit

[www.imam-alsr.com](http://www.imam-alsr.com)

## Bismihi Ta'ala

### Hajera Begum And Syed Furrokh\_Meerza Memorial Scholarship

In coordination with IEC of Houston, the Shia Athna Ashari Association of Greater Houston, an annual, one-time scholarship is being announced. The purpose of this merit-based scholarship is to encourage hard work and a sprit of competition among the young adults of the community so that they may excel in academics, in a career, and in becoming a role model for their peers.

This \$2,500 scholarship is intended to help defray the costs of tuition, fees, textbooks, board, and academic-related expenses at any accredited college or university in the United States. The scholarship will be distributed directly to the academic institution for the benefit of the winning student. The *Hajera Begum and Syed Furrokh Meerza Memorial Scholarship* will be awarded to most outstanding applicant. A committee that is appointed by The Chairman of the IEC will make the award decision based on the sole criterion of academic achievement.

Applications are now being accepted from qualified students who wish to pursue higher education. To apply, please type a statement of no more than two pages in length on standard white 8 ½" x 11" paper 12Pt. font, single –sided, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, describing how you intended to use this scholarship to make a contribution to both the Islamic community and the community at large through your planned career. An official high school transcript as well as a copy of SAT scores must be submitted. If a student has taken multiple SAT exams, the scores will be averaged. The application statement, official transcript, and a copy of the SAT scores must reach the office of the Chairman of Islamic Education Center no latter than May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

An applicant must meet the following requirements in order to qualify for consideration:

Proven superior achievement in three out of four of the following subjects:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics

Must have a minimum SAT score of 1800

Must be associated with the Shia Athna Ashari Association of Greater Houston

Must be enrolled in the senior year at any high school in the greater Houston area

The names of the winners will be announced on or before June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 by a committee appointed by the Chairman of IEC.

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

### Election Date and Times

The IEC Board of Directors Elections will be held at the Islamic Education Center (IEC) on Saturday, March 6, 2010. The voting polls will be located at the IEC Boardroom and will be open from 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm on this day only.

### ACTIVE members

In addition to attending one (1) of the past two (2) General Body Meetings, an Active Member must also be a "Paid Member," who is current with their IEC General Membership dues. Therefore, your membership dues will need to be paid before you will be allowed to vote for an IEC Board Nominee on Election day. For absentee voting please contact the Election Committee.

### SPECIAL NOTE

Casting a vote for an IEC Board Nominee does not constitute, nor prove attendance at the General Body Meeting. You are still required to sign the General Body Meeting Attendance Sheet in order to get credit for attending the meeting, whether you voted or not.

Note: Pictures and Bios are provided in the next few pages

1. ALI, Shabbir
2. AMIR, Syed Sajjad
3. CHAWLA, Shahid Ali
4. EBRAHIM, Mustafa
5. GOWHER, Zulfiqar
6. HOUSHMAND, Yadollah
7. JAFRI, Qambar
8. KAZIMI, Faheem
9. MEHDI, Syed Hasan
10. MIRAB, Ali
11. MIRZA, Dawood
12. MITHANI, Mohammed Raza
13. MUHAMMAD, Abdul- Rahim
14. PANJWANI, Muhammad Sajjad
15. RASHID, Azhar
16. RAZA, Moosa Dhanji
17. RIZVI, Faissal
18. SALIM, Asim
19. SYED, Rehan
20. SYED, Tansir
21. VIRANI, Mohammad
22. ZAIDI, S. Raza



Anjuman-e-Haideri  
Istna Ashri Shia Muslim Association  
**Islamic Education Center**  
P.O. Box 572385  
Houston, TX 77257-2385

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Houston, TX  
Permit No. 1900

## General Body Meeting March 6, 2010

In accordance with the rule set forth in the IEC Constitution Article 6.1.1, the General Body Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

The agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

5:30 pm Registration  
6:40 pm Salat-e-Maghrib  
7:00 pm Dinner  
8:00 pm Salat-e-Isha  
8:15 pm Quran Recitation  
8:25 pm Directors Report  
8:45 pm Q/A Session  
10:00 pm H.I Hurr Shabbiri's Speech

A quorum is necessary to hold a valid meeting. Forty percent (40%) of the active members registering for the General Body Meeting shall establish a quorum for the meeting (Article 6.3.1).

Shahid Ali Chawla (Secretary)

Note: An active member of the Anjuman for at least six months shall be eligible to vote in accordance with the Articles of this Constitution. To be considered active, a member shall, among other duties, attend at least one of two regularly scheduled Anjuman's meetings in a year (Article 4.2.1.6) and pay the membership dues as prescribed by the Anjuman's Bylaws (Article 4.2.1.7).

To verify the status of your membership, your eligibility to vote, or to have your membership related questions answered, please email IEC's Secretary at [secretary@iec-houston.org](mailto:secretary@iec-houston.org).



Final IEC Board of Directors Nominees

**ALI, Shabbir (Panjwani)**

Bismé T'aala

"What can my enemies do to me? My Paradise is in my heart. It is with me wherever I go. To imprison me is to provide me seclusion to Worship Him (swt). To send me into exile is to send me away in the path of Allah (swt). And to kill me, is to make me a Martyr" Imam Ali (as)



Born to serve the Community

Always on the lookout to give the best to I.E.C, our second home in U.S.A.

So far I have been blessed several times to volunteer in the programs that are aimed at promoting Unity and brotherhood within the Community such as the United Eid Prayers , the 40th Procession (Juloos) and Eid Miladun Nabi (s.a.w.s) .

Moved to Houston 3 years ago to be a part of the I.E.C family that extends support to the oppressed and rises against the oppressors of the World.

Strongly believe in making the slogan Labbayk Ya Hussain (a.s) live in our future generations and provide the grounds for applying it in our daily lives.

Earnestly desire to work, to make the Shia Community more proactive in its approach.

Wassalam, Shabbir Ali (Sales Manager)

**AMIR, Syed Sajjad**

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Since the beginning of IEC I have been an active community member. Through the years I have served the community relentlessly in various official and voluntary positions.



The success of IEC depends on the trust and commitment between the members and the management. Morality and accountability are the key factors for progress and prosperity of any organization.

The complex integration of our community has real challenges. For us to be in concert, it is essential to have a deeper understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity at IEC. We must be willing to forgo our desires for the bigger pleasure of Islam, as demonstrated by Imam Hussain (as) and his companions in Kerbala.

It is vital for the Board of Directors to perform their duties for which they are elected, while serving the community with the integrity and respect it deserves.

If elected to undertake this massive task, I will serve to the best of my ability with the help of Allah (swt).

As Muslim's we are the best, just short of actions. We need to become better practicing Muslims, Inshallah.

Iltemas-e-dua, Khuda Hafiz. S. Sajjad Amir

**CHAWLA, Shahid Ali**

Shahid Chawla is a member of IEC since its inception. He has served as a secretary of IEC from 2002 to 2006 for two consecutive terms and is now serving on the current Board in the same capacity.



He attends all IEC major programs on a regular basis. His previous experience as a secretary of IEC includes, but is not limited to, scheduling and facilitating board meetings, scheduling general body meetings, writing minutes, publishing IEC directory, reviewing and signing contracts on behalf of IEC.

Currently he holds an economic interest in an insurance agency of a major insurance company and is running his business successfully for the past 21 years. In his current position his responsibilities relate to developing a business plan, sales, and day-to-day operation. He has received many awards during his career with his company. He also has extensive experience in investing in the financial markets.

**EBRAHIM, Mustafa**

I have been a part of the IEC community for 18 years. While we have come a long way in that time, I believe that there are many opportunities to improve. We must understand the needs of our community and how to best serve them. We can achieve this if all our actions meet the following criteria - we are doing what is best for Islam, we are completely transparent in conducting the business of the community, and we are accountable to the community that elects us. I pledge to follow the constitution and these principles if elected.



On a personal note, I am married with two children. We live near Voss and Westheimer, and I run a medical uniform business. I have an undergraduate degree from Rice University and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. I plan to live in Houston for the foreseeable future.

**GOWHER, Zulfiqar**

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful,

I have grown up and been an active member of the community and contributed to various projects in the IEC. I graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in Accounting and currently work as an auditor. I am running for the Board and would like to volunteer my time and effort to help the IEC in any way possible.



Zulfiqar Gowher

**HOOSHMAND, Yadollah**

As a member of IEC for the past 9 years, it has been a privilege to attend activities and functions with the members of one of the best Muslim communities in America.



Our community has achieved many of its goals in the past, and I would like have the opportunity to serve such a dedicated group of people once again. I hope to see IEC gain recognition as a valuable contributor of service to the city of Houston and its citizens.

I am a software architect and reside in Katy. My wife, Salma, and I have two children Habeeb and Layla ages 12 and 10.



### Final IEC Board of Directors Nominees

**JAFRI, Qambar**

Br. Qambar Jafri has been an active member of the IEC Community for the past decade.

The family recently moved to Memorial area to be close to the center and for his children to attend the AHS. He would like to continue to seek the community's support to preserve the unique qualities of the center and for its future growth. He will strive for Islamic Unity and pray for Allah's guidance and the blessings of the 14 Masoomeen to serve the community with integrity and taqwa.



**KAZIMI, Faheem**

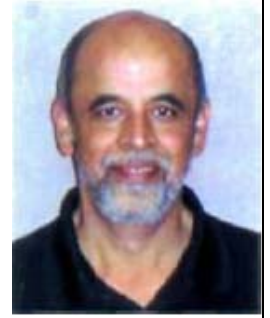
As Salaamu Alikum,

I have been an active member of the community since 1992 when I and my family moved to Houston. I have served the community as a volunteer for numerous activities and on various committees and am currently serving as the chairman of the board of Directors of IEC. My family (wife Fatima, daughters Zainab and Batool and son Raza) has also been involved with activities and committees at the IEC.

I hold a Masters of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. I have taught at schools in junior achievement program as well as have been on the teaching staff of Tulane University and University of New Orleans. I am currently working as the Director of Health, Safety, Environmental, Security and Emergency Response for a local refinery.

Recently I was asked by a member of the community the reason for wanting to be on the board. I believe that it is an excellent question that the community should ask about each person expressing a desire to be on the board; the question should be whether someone is running for the purpose of pleasing Allah (swt) by serving Islam or is the reason to pursue a personal agenda? My reason to want to continue to be on the board is purely to please Allah (swt) and lead an Islamic way of life according to the Maraj'-e-Taqleed under the guidance of the resident A'lim.

IEC needs a strong team and a team leader who, working under the religious guidance of the resident Alim, can serve Islam and the community's needs. I have worked to the best of my ability to do both and look forward to a chance to continue to serve Islam purely for the pleasure of Allah (swt) WaSalaam



**MEHDI, Syed Hasan**

I was born in 1968 in a religious family in Pakistan. I moved to this country in 1993.

I am married with four children and have been in Houston since 2006. We live 2 miles from IEC.

As we say in Dua-e-Kumail "my good deeds have diminished", I really do not have much to say about myself. I have been a member of Imamia Medics International since 1993, an international organization of Shia physicians, and have served on Board of Directors and Board of Regents. Prior to moving to Houston, I was an active member of Jafria Center in Connecticut and was able to establish Sunday Islamic School with the help of community.

We moved to Houston in search of a better Islamic Community and with our intention to send our children to Islamic School.

I am honored to be a part of this community, and while here, I have been a volunteer teacher at AHS and have been serving the community with Imam Sajjad Clinic. I have also been part of Long term planning committee. My areas of interest are AHS, and Imam Sajjad Clinic.



**MIRAB, Ali**

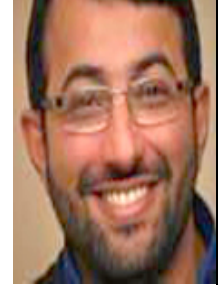
IEC has been my 2nd home and Al-Hadi School's growth and projects have been my priority.

Some of the projects that I have accomplished with the help of our community in Al-Hadi School include the construction of the second floor as well as the construction of the playground, kitchen, Prayer halls, Mehrabs Tiles, and basketball court. I have also been active in the Farsi program for a long time and have also been a member of the construction committee. My goal is to make IEC a better place for all the members of the community as well as our future generation



**MIRZA, Dawood**

Salam-a-laikum my name is Dawood Mirza. I am honored and privileged to be part of the IEC family in Houston. On a personal note I have been living in Houston for six years and have three children that attend Al-Hadi school. I have been a past board member of IEB and currently serving my second term as the vice president of Al-Hadi PTO. On a professional note I am founder and president of Shop Texas Electricity. Prior to founding Shop Texas Electricity I was director of sales/marketing at Reliant Energy prior to my role at Reliant. I held several leadership positions with AT&T for eleven years in channel development and ATT.com. I have an MBA from Baker University, KS.





Final IEC Board of Directors Nominees

**MITHANI, Mohammed Raza**

**Age** - 33 Yrs

**Project Committee** - Parking, PTO, etc

**Bio**-Have volunteered at Imamia & Jafaria centers in California, MFI & Astana-e-Zehra in New Jersey.



I taught at the Imamia Sunday School and MFI Sunday school. Have scheduled and managed a lot of sports events in Karahi and US. Was the vice captain of the volunteer corp at Mehfil-e-Murtaza in Karachi, Pakistan.

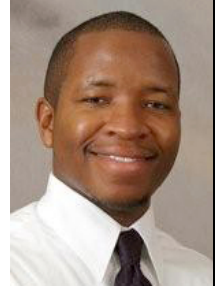
**MUHAMMAD, Abdul- Rahim**

In October 1999, Abdul-Rahim accepted the Shia School of Thought after being convinced of the Wilayat of Imam Ali (AS) and Ahlul-Bayt (AS). Since that time, he attended the programs at Al-Khoel Foundation, Queens, NY. He performed his first Hajj in March 2000 with the Islamic Guidance Center (a.k.a. Ahlul Bayt Mosque) in Brooklyn, NY.

In the Fall of 2000, Abdul-Rahim became involved in the development of the Islamic Guidance Center by assisting the Resident Alim with coordinating various programs throughout the years. He was an active member and very instrumental in participating in various Committees, serving as the Youth Director. In the Spring of 2003, he helped establish the Islamic Guidance Center's (IGC) Sunday School Program, becoming its first Principal. At the IGC, he taught Usool-ud-deen and Furoo-ud-deen to young children. He was also asked by the Resident Alim on numerous occasions to speak on various topics during the commemorations of the death/birth of our Prophet (SAWA) and Imams (AS). Hujjatul- Islam, Maulana Mohammad Kadhim, the Resident Alim of Ahlul Bayt Mosque, requested Abdul-Rahim to serve as Imam for Jum'u'ah (deliver the Khutba) during many of his absences.

In 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, Abdul-Rahim participated in the Hajj pilgrimage for the 2nd and 3rd time. In the summer of 2007, Abdul-Rahim and his wife decided to move to Houston, Texas because they were concerned about where to raise their family. New Jersey and New York were expensive cities to live and the quality of the Islamic community was not at the level he desired for his family.

It was in Houston, that Allah (SWT) blessed Abdul-Rahim with his first child. Houston provided him with the Islamic Education Center (IEC), in which Abdul-Rahim and his family became members. He has been an active member since the Fall of 2007, and continues to renew his membership with the IEC every year. He was a teacher of Qur'an at Sunday School during the 2007-2008 term. Abdul-Rahim is also the current Vice-President of the IEC-MAHDI group. He has been a part of this group since April 2008, and continues to function in that role. Recently, he returned from an IEC-MAHDI relief effort in Haiti to assist the Shia community. Abdul-Rahim continues to participate in the IEC programs and events, and wants unity to be the basis of the IEC's progress under the guidance of the Resident Alim and Wilayatul Faqih. He has made many friends in Houston, and he believes the IEC is the sole organization which can bring about unity for the Shia in the Houston area, as well as the Sunni community. Abdul-Rahim is running for a director position on the Board of Directors of the Islamic Education Center of Houston. If elected, he is interested in the Public Relations Director position. In this role, he hopes to restart the IEC Open House committee and work to establish regular Open House and Dawaah programs.



**PANJWANI, Muhammad Sajjad**, 33, resident of Greater Houston Area and active member of IEC for over two years

**Personal:** Married, with a 9 year old son

**Education:**

Bachelors in Business Administration

Associate of Applied Science in Computer Drafting and Designing (CAD) from ITT Technical Institute

**Occupation:**

Mechanical Designer, in a Multi National Engineering and Procurement Corporation

**Experience:** Sales, Customer Relations, HR and Corporate Training, Architectural, Civil and Mechanical Engineering and Project Management.

**Why am I seeking to be in the Board of IEC?**

Since two years, when my family moved to Houston and became members of the IEC, we have been grateful to all the community members for extending such a warm welcome and for all that we have learned both religiously and socially, from such a wonderful group of brothers and sisters. I believe that it is my turn to give back to my community in a way that will make a difference in the quality of both, the Islamic education and other services we provide here at IEC. I believe that the current Board has done exceptional job in serving the community, but I also believe there is always room for improvement and progress.

**Skills.** I bring with me for the service of our community:

Having studied in Islamic School since childhood, I bring in-depth understanding of the need and quality of Islamic Education System. As a member of the IEC for past two years, and working with the Al-Hadi PTO, I bring in perspective of both a member of the community and a parent of a student of Al-Hadi School and I have managed to understand day to day challenges faced by our community, our school and our Islamic center and the need of growth and success.

**My goals as a IEC Board member:**

To work with the entire Board as a team under the guidance of our resident Alim, to help improve and find new and innovative ways to provide better education, services and facilities to cater such a diverse group of members.

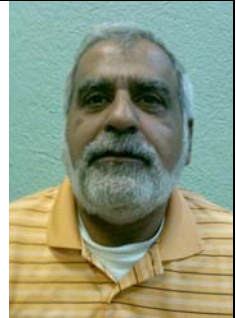


**RASHID, Azhar**

Born in India,

Living in Houston since 2001

Been an active member since 2002 in IEC





Final IEC Board of Directors Nominees

**RAZA, Moosa Dhanji**

Came to Houston in 1999 with a BS in Civil Engineering. Went to the University of Houston for a BBA in information system. Served in various IEC committee since 2003. Looking forward to serve again.



**RIZVI, Faisal**

**Personal Background:**

I completed my preliminary education in Karachi, Pakistan and then I moved to Houston for my higher education.

I received my bachelors of science degree from University of Houston in Electrical Engineering.

Currently I am working as an Electrical and Computer Engineer in the Houston area.

**IEC Experience:**

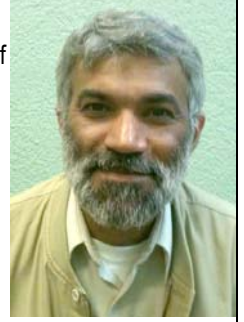
I have been associated with Islamic Education Center at Voss since 1990. Alhamd ALLAH, as the program director, I have been working with our Resident Aalim and the board in organizing different programs keeping in mind the needs of our community for the last 2 years.



**SALIM, Asim**

I have been a member of IEC Houston community since 1989.

I am a software developer by profession. I have been involved in activities in Al-Hadi and IEC.



**SYED, Rehan**

My name is Rehan Syed.

I completed my high school from Karachi & Hyderabad Pakistan. I have a bachelor's in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from North Cyprus and MBA degree from Institute of Business Management Karachi. I have worked in AREVA T&D Inc in Karachi, Pakistan for about 10 years in Technical Sales and Project Management. I am working in same field with the same company (AREVA T&D Inc) in USA for 5 years now, out of which first two years were spent in Pittsburgh, PA after that I moved to Houston, TX. I have been a member of the IEC library committee, AL-MAHDI and other groups of the IEC, and have been regularly attending programs at IEC. I want to utilize my experience and wish to volunteer for IEC for the upcoming 2 year term.



**SYED, Tansir**

**Education:** Bachelors in Commerce, Bachelors in Pharmacy

**Community Services:** since childhood, 20 years in US, for past 3 years in Houston

Had the honor of working with Mawlana and 2 boards.

Assistance to Mawlana and each director, increased my insight of IEC operations and understanding of Houston community needs and concerns. I volunteered in Dawa, MAHDI, Al-Hadi, Al-Qasim, to name few.

**Ambition:** To serve Imam e Zaman (afs), through serving the followers of Ahlul Bayt(as), to achieve eternal success.



**VIRANI, Mohammad Ali**

As-Salam Aalikum,

I am very grateful to Allah (swt) for presenting me this opportunity to serve the Houston community. I have been brought up in this community after emigrating with my family from Pakistan and am extremely appreciative of its members for providing me with an environment instilled with the values and teachings of the Quran and the Ahlul-Bayt (as). By being a member of the Board, I will inshAllah do my best to develop and strengthen the foundation that was laid out for our community.

I completed my graduate studies from the University of Houston and have been working for a professional services organization as an accountant for the past three plus years. I have been part of several initiatives at IEC and am also part of various academic and charitable organizations. I am thankful to my parents and sister who have been supportive of me in my endeavors and would welcome the opportunity to serve the community as a Board member.



**ZAIDI, S. Raza**

**Education:**

B.S., Management Information Systems – Technology; Business Administration

**Bio:** Assalaamun-Alaikum. My name is Raza Zaidi, and I'm the current IEC Treasurer on the Board of Directors. Last term, I was voted into being a treasurer, however for this term, I'd like to try my hand at the Director of Youth position. As a former 2-time Al-Qasim Youth Group president, and founder of Al-Qasim, I feel a very strong connection to the youth and area of youth affairs. Also, as a young adult of 27 years, I feel like I have the ability to connect with our current and past youth at a level that not many others can connect. I know what it takes to rally the youth and bring the youth to the level where they will, inshAllah, be the young leaders of our community in the future.

