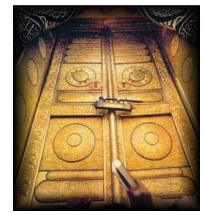




WAHDAT

A publication of the Islamic Education Center



September 2005 (EXPECTED Date of 1st Sha'ban is 5th September)

"One who knows but does not act is like an archer without a string to his bow."

Imam Ali (A.S.)



Adopt-a-Block

By Sr. Madiha Zaidi

On July 31st, 2005 the adopt-a-block program took place. The group of volunteers, dubbed Team Trash, showed up at 10 am to begin its duties. The usual rules were explained by the co-ordinator: Don't pick up needles, bottles, glass, etc. Each volunteer was required to wear gloves and a fashionably challenged vest, but safety was the number one priority. Because there were not many volunteers, the decision was made to work together instead of splitting up. They began from the IEC entrance going down towards Westheimer, and then headed back. Slowly a few more volunteers showed up and the work was then split. Around four volunteers on each side of the road went either toward Westheimer or Woodway and collected trash. Although it seemed to be a dull task, the volunteers enjoyed what they were doing because of the results: a clean road. The adopt-a-block program is done once every two or three months, so next time plan to join the team and help keep Houston and the streets of IEC beautiful!!

Volunteers are needed in many IEC activities including in the library and the bookstore. Please contact us at director.library@iec-houston.org to join the library or bookstore teams.

Unforgotten

By Sr. UmmZakariya

Two months before the atomic bombs wrought terror on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, school girl Moriwaki Yoko mused in her diary, "Classmates, we are fighting the enemy at every turn." (Liebowitz, 3) After enduring months of air raids and physical and mental hardship, 13 year old Yoko joined many of her peers, who, after "...being bombed into tiny pieces like cherry blossoms.." (ibid) were finally able to "...sleep peacefully under the ground."(ibid) 60 years after the infamous event, the world reflects on the heinous loss of life justified as the means to end a global war.

The world was unprepared for the ferocity of the attack that incinerated two heavily populated cities and forced the Emperor of Japan to surrender. While many celebrated the end of World War II and the Pacific Conflict, some were puzzled and horrified by the means by which it was accomplished. President Truman insisted that his decision to use the weaponry was justified in that it potentially saved the lives of thousands of Americans. (Japan 2) Brigadier General Carter Clarke, the military intelligence officer responsible for preparing intercepted Japanese cables, countered simply, "...we didn't need to do it..(and) we used them as an experiment for two atomic bombs. (Alperovitz, 359)

In addition to the more than 200,000 immediate fatalities, "survivors suffered agonizing deaths from burns and radiation poisoning (and) many who appeared unscathed later succumbed to cancer and other ailments." (Japan 1) While both sides in the conflict sought to curb the dissemination of information and manipulate public opinion to suit their agendas, details eventually emerged which forced the world to confront the destruction that is war and understand our collective vulnerability. The aggressors in World War II were wrong, and conflict needed to come to an end. But annihilating scores of innocent in a final flex of muscles was not the answer.

As we commemorate the lives of the innocent Japanese civilians extinguished in August, 1945, we connect them, symbolically, to all the innocent lives who have left this world as collateral damage. We pray for them, and are reminded of a verse from the Holy Book:

"If anyone slew an innocent person it would be as if he slew the whole mankind and if anyone saved a life it would be as if he saved the life of the whole mankind." [Al-Qur'an 5:32]

Alperovitz, Gar. The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb. 15 August 2005 <http://doug-long.com/quote.htm>

"Japan, US Wrestle with Hiroshima Decision 60 Years Later." The Iowa Channel.com. 15 August 2005 <http://www.theiowachannel.com/print/4816049/detail.htm>

Liebowitz, Adam. "Before the Bomb: A Young Girl's Diary." 2004. Asia Times Online Diary. 15 August 2005 <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Japan/FH07Dh02.html>

TexasNextStep

By Mohammad Virani

TexasNextStep is a program, first proposed by Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn in May 2002, that would offer all Texas high school graduates the opportunity to attend two years of college at any public community college, technical college, or two-year institution designated by the Legislature with the state picking up the tab for tuition, fees, and books.

Students would use these benefits to either obtain an associate's degree or a technical certificate. Once they have completed the program, students can their education to attain a higher degree.

In order to enroll in TexasNextStep, a high school graduate would apply to the public community or technical college.

For more information, please visit
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/comptrol/texasnextstep/qa.html>

Fatal Flaws

By Kumail Ali

More than two years after the Columbia accident, NASA has returned a shuttle to space. Despite the severe weather conditions, the Discovery was launched on July 26th.

However, the same thing that took the lives of the astronauts on Columbia, nearly did the same to Discovery. A large piece of foam from the large external fuel tank had clipped the wing and led to the eventual end of Columbia. During take off, the nose and wings reach temperatures of up to 3000 degrees Fahrenheit, which is why any gaps in the shuttle walls could allow superheated air to penetrate unprotected areas. This makes the shuttle as hot as a blow torch, the very thing that destroyed the Columbia.

Two years later, with over one billion dollars spent in safety upgrades, how could things go so wrong again? The improved shuttle was to ensure that no debris over 0.03 pounds broke free. The piece that hit Discovery was nearly one pound, and the piece that took out Columbia was half of that.

Even though Discovery came off clean, how can NASA ensure future flights will not have the same results? How can a program that has taken the lives of 14 astronauts be safe? After 24 years, two lost shuttles, and a very close call, it may be time to ask whether another design is necessary.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Community Members,

September 2005

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt and sincere appreciation to you for your active participation in establishing Al-Hadi School of Accelerative Learning.

Your support and dedication on the establishment of Al-Hadi School was very much appreciated by many parents in the beginning and later. Before the school started, many worried parent had reached a crossroad in their life. They did not know what to do with their children's schooling. They were wondering if they should do home schooling, send their children to public school, or pack up and return to their native country. When Al-Hadi school started, many of these parents were relieved and thankful to Allah for this great blessing. After nine years in operation, the hard work is bearing fruit. Last May, Al-Hadi school administered a test specifically made for private schools (high achieving students). Seven subjects were tested in this examination. My child who has been attending Al-Hadi school for nine years (all her school life) did very well in these tests (99% in three of the subjects). With or without these test scores, I have had a full trust at Al-Hadi school but the test scores prove that Al-Hadi school is one of the best private schools in Houston.

I think Al-Hadi has the best teachers and principal. After all Our children's achievement would not have been possible without the hard work of dedicated principal and, wonderful caring teachers. No one else but Al-Hadi can take the credit for our children's great accomplishments. All these blessings tell us to be thankful to Allah. Al-Hadi principle and teachers deserve a lot of recognition for a great job they do but little they receive. We have a great school and a great community.

Some members of our community had wanted to see good results before committing to Al-Hadi. The time has come for these parents to examine Al-Hadi's record by talking to parents whose children have been attending this school.

I know there are obstacles such as transportation which needs our attention. Our community has done a lot for us and Al-Hadi school can not do everything. We, the parents, need to accept responsibility on behalf of our children's education and do overcome these problems. I am sure of one thing, if the will is there, the means to solve these problem will appear. We need to have trust in Allah, "Tavakalto Al-Allah". You are not alone; I had the same problems in the beginning. After nine years, I am sure I made the right decision.

Our children need to be in an Islamic school environment to grow otherwise we may lose them for ever. Please do not take a chance with the future of your children. Be thankful for the great blessings Allah has bestowed upon us. We all should register

our children in this great school. Al-Hadi school is about to reach its full capacity; if we hesitate any longer we may not have anyone else to blame but ourselves for not being able to take advantage of this great blessing.

At the end again I want to thank the community for making Al-Hadi possible and to thank Al-Hadi's principal and teachers for a great job they are doing.

Hadith of the month

Submitted By Madiha Zaidi

Imam Ali (AS) has said about the transience of the world:

Beware ! surely this world is a place from which protection cannot be sought except while one is in it. The action which is performed only for this world cannot secure salvation. People are tested in it through calamities. Those who have taken worldly pleasures here will be taken out from them (by death) and will be questioned about them. And whatever (good actions) they have achieved for the other world, they will get them there and stay in them. For the intelligent this world is like the shade - one moment it is spread out and extended but soon it shrinks and contracts.

-----Nahjul Balagha (Sermon 62)

Mashallah

Sabia Zehra Taqvi passed her qualifying examination and has submitted her dissertation proposal for a Ph.D. in Bio-Engineering at the University of Texas. She is expected to get her Ph.D. in the summer of 2006. Sabia graduated from Texas A&M with honors (Cum Laude) in Bio-Engineering in 2002 and is doing her research under a National Science Foundation Fellowship. She is a member of five honor societies.

Syed Nazer Hasnain Taqvi graduated (Cum Laude) in Management (minor Psychology) with University Honors and Foundation Honors. He has been admitted to the University of Houston Law College and will start his law courses this fall.

Sarah Zehra Taqvi won Pasadena ISD's Spelling Bee and represented district at the City of Houston Chronicle Spelling Bee Contest. She also won the coveted E.J.Ritchy Trophy for being the Top Reader in Thompson Middle School.

Sabia, Nazer, and Sarah are children of Dr. Syed Zafar Hasnain Taqvi, a past president of Anjuman-e-Haideri, and his wife, Nasim Fatima Taqvi, a former school teacher at the Sunday school run by Anjuman-e-Haideri before IEC was formed.

Announcements

New IEB Member

Due to departure of Br. Dr. Bhojani from the Houston area, a vacancy was created in the Islamic Education Board (IEB). IEC and IEB Boards conducted an election and elected Br. Dawood Mirza to the IEB Board. Br. Dawood Mirza has accepted the responsibility of becoming an IEB member for the next two years.

On behalf of all IEB and IEC Board members, we would like to thank Br. Dr. Bhojani for his invaluable contributions to the IEB and Al-Hadi school in the past years. We all wish him the best in his new position overseas and would like to see him and his family back in the Houston area soon.

Message from Br. Dawood Mirza

Brothers and Sisters Salamalaikum,

I am honored and privileged to have an opportunity to serve our community in Houston, Texas. I have been married for eight years and have three wonderful children. I am thankful to Allah that my daughter Laila and my son Kazim both are students at Al-Hadi. For the past nine years, I have been working with SBC Communications. I am an associate director for online marketing. I direct and coordinate strategic marketing initiatives, promotions and online advertising initiatives for SBC.com. I have also worked as an area manager for call centers in MO, KS, CA, and AR. I also teach management, marketing and organizational behavior courses at University of Phoenix. I have a B.S in Human Resources Management and received my M.B.A from Baker University in Baldwin, KS. I look forward to my association with IEB, and Inshallah I will do everything possible to make Al-Hadi and IEC the beacon of hope for our future.

Sunday School

Sunday school started on Sunday, August 22nd. Classes are on Sundays at 10 a.m. Curriculum includes Quran, Arabic, and Islamic ethics.

Farsi School

Farsi School classes are conducted every Friday evening from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the Al-Hadi area of IEC. Please register your children.

Al-Hadi's PTO Election

Elections for Al-Hadi's new PTO will be conducted at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 17th, in the IEC auditorium. Parents of Al-Hadi school students are encouraged to actively participate in the election and PTO activities. A representative of PTO serves as a voting member of IEB.

Special Programs for September, 2005 Rajab / Shaban 1426

Besat-e-Rasool (saww) and Meraj Thursday, September 1 {27th Rajab}

Maghrib prayer	8:02 pm
Dinner	8:15 pm
Isha prayer	9:00 pm
Qaseeda/Youth presentation	9:15 pm
Speech by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri	9:30 pm
Short A'mal of 27 th Rajab	10:00 pm
Dua-e-Kumail	10:30 pm

Start of Imam Hussain's (AS) Journey to Karbala Saturday, September 3 {28th Rajab}

Maghrib/Isha prayers	8:00 pm
Salam/Marsia	8:30 pm
Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri	8:45 pm
Tabaruk	9:30 pm

Celebrations!!!

Wiladat of Imam Hussain ibn Ali (AS) {Shaban 3}

Wiladat of Hazrat Abbas ibn Ali (AS) {Shaban 4}

Wiladat of Imam Ali ibn Hussain al-Sajjad (AS)

{Shaban 5}

Saturday, September 10

Maghrib prayers	7:52 pm
Dinner	8:00 pm
Isha prayer	8:45 pm
Qaseedah/Youth Presentation	9:00 pm
Speech by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri	9:30 pm

Note: We will have short programs on Tues, Wed, Thurs/
September 6, 7, 8 (nights of Shaban 3*, 4*, 5*) after
Maghrib/Isha prayers.

A Community Visit to the Cemetery Sunday, September 11

Arrival at the Paradise Cemetery	3:00 pm
Surah Yaseen	3:30 pm
Update of burial project	4:00 pm
Salam/Marsia	4:15 pm
Speech by Hujatul Islam Hurr Shabbiri	4:30 pm
Prayers for the deceased souls at gravesite	5:00 pm
Tabaruk	5:15 pm

Celebrations!!!

**Wiladat of Hujjat ibn Hasan, Al-Qaim, Al-Muntazar,
Imam Mahdi (AS) {Shaban 15*}**

**Sunday or Monday, September 18 or 19 (subject to the
sighting of Shaban moon)**

Maghrib prayers	7:40 pm
Dinner	8:00 pm
Isha prayer	8:45 pm
Qaseedah/Youth Presentation	9:00 pm
Speech by Hujatul Islam Hurr Shabbiri	9:30 pm

15th Shab'an A'mal Program

Short A'mal	10:30 pm
Snack/Tea Break	11:30 pm
All Night A'mal	11:45 pm
Snack/Tea Break	1:15 am
A'mal Continue	1:30 am
Snack/Tea Break	3:00 am
A'mal Continue	3:15 am
Suhur	4:45 am
Namaz-e-Shab	5:30 am
Fajr prayer	6:00 am

Wahdat Editor-in-Chief: Samira Irani

Editor: Syed Imran Akhter

IEC CAMP 2005 – Camp AL-WILAYAT September 23 - 25, 2005

Activities: Archery, Riflery, Canoeing, Swimming, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Nature Trails, Camp fire, Q&A session with Maulana and Presentations, Special Activities for Children under the age of 7, and a whole lot more....

Register by Friday, Sep. 16th.

Br. Syed Jaffar (jaffar0@hotmail.com / (832) 875 3800) or Sr. Madiha Zaidi (madz786@yahoo.com)