SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Sat. January 25th, 2003 @ 7pm
Dinner, prizes, presentations, auction…
Details are on the programs page at end.
Please attend with family and friends!

Ideology

IMAM REZA (A.S.)

Imam Reza (A.S.) was born on Friday, the 11th of Ziqad in 148 Ah (765AD) in Medina. His father was our 7th Imam, Musa-Al-Kazim (A.S.) and mother was Lady Tak tum (Najma) who was of Berber origin from North Africa. His name was Ali and his “kunya” was Abul-Hasan and his most famous epithet was ‘Reza’- i.e. pleased (razi). Due to his great spiritual power and personality he was very popular with the people. Mamum s/o of Harun-e-Rashid in order to consolidate his shaky rule and to prevent the masses from swearing allegiance to Imam Reza (A.S.) in Medina as the rightful leader, nominated the Imam as his successor. In the year 200 AH (816 AD), Mamum forced the Imam to migrate to Khorasan, Iran. On his arrival in Nishapur, he narrated the famous Hadith Silsilat-az-Zahab or the Golden Chain of Authority- from the Prophet and all the Imams- said “the testimony La ilaha ill-Allah (there is no God except Allah) is highly recommended. It is related from the Holy Prophet himself: “a part of me will be buried in Khurasan and any momin who does ziyarat of the whole mausoleum evokes a spiritual aura. Visiting Mashad or Toos, Khorasan, is highly recommended. It is related from the Holy Prophet himself:” a part of me will be buried in Khurasan and any momin who does ziyarat of Khurasan will go to Heaven and his sins will be forgiven.”
Indeed, the recent events in the Islamic movement bear testimony to the important role Imam Reza (A.S.) played in bringing Islam to that region of the world.
General Body Meeting Review

The IEC General Body Meeting was held on Saturday, December 14th, 2002. Br. Hadi Elmi was the coordinator of the meeting. The following list provides a brief explanation of the various areas within the IEC Board (as presented to the community by each Board member).

Chairman
Br. Jafar Amir spoke about some proposals that have been presented to the Alavi Foundation, namely, Al-Hadi Financial Aid Proposal, Northwest Property Proposal and the Books Purchase Proposal. The services IEC is currently offering include the IEC Restaurant and Catering Service, and the Burial and Funeral Services. The goals listed by the Chairman for the future included increasing the IEC Restaurant Sales to generate revenue (make it a profitable entity), formation of the Ladies' Al Zahra Committee, coordinate with Board of Trustees to establish short and long-term goals, form a fund generating committee, and communicate with Alavi Foundation regarding Northwest Zone Proposal.

Secretary
Br. Shahid Chawla mentioned about the community's opportunity to participate in IEC meeting (the first board meeting of each month is reserved for the community). The IEC directory project is underway and is currently being compiled. He requested everyone to submit their latest address and contact information. The directory is tentatively scheduled to come out in the first quarter of 2003.

Finance
Br. Inam Naqvi presented the overall financial situation at IEC. He highlighted several areas within IEC and individually listed all Income generating and Expense incurring activities and projects. Notable among these was the financial situation related to IEC Operations and Maintenance, Ramadan funds, Bookstore, funds related to various schools such as the Sunday School and the Farsi school. Your financial contributions to the success of IEC are always greatly appreciated.

Programs
Br. Hasan Syed presented a synopsis of the weekly programs held at IEC throughout the week (daily salaat and weekly duas). Special programs for Sisters are held at specific times during the year. Other major programs held in the recent past included the Speaker of the Month Programs, Special Occasion programs and the Ramadan programs. The annual Tabarruk Sponsorship Schedule was announced for the major programs of IEC, you are requested to sign up to sponsor any program. Preparations are being made for programs during the month of Muharram and Safar.

Public Relations
Br. Shahid Chawla in the absence of Br. Qamber Jafri (Director Public Relations) highlighted the activities within the Public Relations area. Formation of sub-committees such as a Welcoming committee, Community Outreach, Media Relations, Social Action, Technology and Editorial Board for Wahdat (Newsletter). Media Relations activities have included IEC features in the Houston Chronicle during Ramadan. As part of Houston Coalition, helped in publication of editorial in Houston Chronicle against the irresponsible and unjustified comments of Christian evangelists. A team of activists was formed who would monitor and write letters to the editor. One letter got published regarding hijab and women's rights in Saudi Arabia. Participated and coordinated with the WMPJ to organize a successful Al Quds rally that received wide media coverage.

Education
Br. Imran Dhanji presented the Education area at IEC. Areas with the Education group include Al-Hadi School, Sunday Schools at IEC and the Northwest, Farsi School and the Muslim Institute of Houston. Br Imran gave a summary of the goals, achievements and challenges in each of the above areas. Contact numbers were provided for individuals who are leading the efforts and he expressed gratitude to all for their help.
**Property**

Br. Ghulam Habib listed the following projects are planned for next year. These included Implementing security measures for the outside of the building, Renovation of the old IEC property at Timber Oaks, PE facility for Al-Hadi School, Paint job for the car parking garage ceilings, Improving ventilation in the first floor area connected to the ladies bathroom, Insulation of A/C pipes in the first floor to prevent water dripping, and Improvements in the traffic system (including parking).

**Library and Publications**

Br. Hyder Syed listed the goals, needs and progress in regards to the library. Community members were urged to give time and resources in order to get the standard of the library and the Audiovisual up to a level that meets the needs of the community at large.

**Youth Affairs**

Br. Ahsan (Kumail) Mirza talked about events and opportunities that were provided to the youth at IEC, such as the IEC Youth Camp at YMCA Cullen, a Seminar on Islamic Marriage, youth speeches and presentations during scheduled IEC programs and Ramadan, sports events, and an interactive discussion forum for the youth to exchange ideas and information on various subjects. The goal ahead is to build on such activities and provide further opportunities for growth and enhancement at different levels.

Finally, Br. Hasan Ali Khan presented an update on the Overseas Charity Project and the Anjuman-e-Haideri Endowment Fund. He provided a summary of the current situation and requested members to further participate and help out with these projects.

Following the above presentations, the floor was open for questions from the members of the community. Moulana Biria and each member of the Board answered questions related to specific areas. We thank all members for their participation in the meeting, and would like to remind that your suggestions for improvement are always welcome. We also request and look forward to your active participation in various projects at IEC.

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**Behold! We gave the site, to Ibrahim, of the (sacred) House, (Saying): “Associate not anything (in worship) with Me; And sanctify My House for those who compass it round, or stand up, or bow, or prostrate themselves (therein in prayer).**

*Holy Qur’an (Sura Hajj:26)*

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**2003 Hajj Group of Houston**

The Imam Ali Hajj Caravan led by our resident Alim, Mohammad Nasser Biria and Moulana Sartaj Zaidi will be leaving Houston on Jan 27th. Momineen who are part of this caravan include:

Faheem and Fatima Kazmi, Raziya Manekia, Yawer "Amin" Akhter, Annisa Hussain, Tanveer Syed, Firdosh and Shahin Contractor, Hasnain and Jamal Zahra Naqvi, Vaqar and Aliya Naqvi, Akbar and Qamrunnisah Bharmal, Hasan Syed, and Safeer and Batool Hasan. Joining this caravan are a number of momimeen from different cities in the US including Chicago, Detroit, Phoenix, Seattle and Albuquerque. May Allah (SWT) accept their efforts and make this journey an adornment for them in the Hereafter.

The Hajj caravan will arrive back in Houston on Feb. 19th.

For those who wish to see off the Hajj Caravan, the exact departure time will be finalized in a few days and will inshA.. be conveyed to the community via the IEC email list. For details, please contact Sheikh Nasser Biria at alim@iec-houston.org

January, 2003

Wahdat, Islamic Education Center Newsletter

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Jashne Wildat of Imam Ali ibn Musa (Al-Ridha)

Saturday, January 18th 2003

Maghrib Prayer 6:05pm
Dinner 6:30pm
Isha Prayer 7:30pm
Youth/Al-Hadi&Qaseedas* 8:00pm
Speech by Moulana 9:00pm

* Please encourage your children to attend ‘Islamic jeopardy’ which will be held during the Youth/Al-hadi sesson.


Saturday, January 25th 2003

Maghribain 6:10pm
Program 7:00-10:00pm

Dinner, door prizes, presentations by Al-Hadi students, and a fund raising auction. Tickets are $20 per adult and $5 for children 5-14. Children under 5 are free. Free child-care will be available for younger children.

Please invite your family members and friends to attend to help celebrate this occasion and support our community school!

COMMUNITY NEWS


Congratulations also to Br.Fayaz Merchant and his family for the marriage of his daughter Sr. Tanzeel Sarah Merchant with Br. Ebrahim Foud Farfoud (Dec. 25th, 2002).


We wish to express our condolences to Sr. Shanaz Rizvi on the recent death of her uncle Abbas Yar Jung of Hyderabad, India. He was also a cousin of Brs. Jaffar and Sajjad Amir. May his soul rest in peace and among the followers of the Holy Ahlulbayt.