

PARADISE

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center Special Eid-ul-Fitr Issue October 2008

HIC SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2008

Annual Fund Raiser	Saturday, September 27, 2008 7:30 pm (after Iftar dinner)
Eid-ul-Fitr	Wednesday, October 1, 2008. Prayer Time: 8:30 AM The date for Eid-ul-Fitr is determined by following ISNA - based on Astronomical calculations.
Eid Party and Annual picnic	Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Joe Wheeler park Starts at 11:00 AM Tickets: \$25 per family, \$10 for singles
General Assembly Meeting	Saturday, October 25, 2008 During this meeting HIC Board members will be elected for next two years. Please update your membership dues now. Dinner after Maghrib Prayers at 6:15 PM Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Editorial

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalam-u-Alaikum!

PARADISE Newsletter is in your hands after a long break. In future, inshallah we will try to publish it on regular intervals.

Ramadan is about to be finished. May Allah accept our fasting, our prayers and all of our services we did for the entire community. Alhamdulillah we had a great Ramadan this year, as always at our Masjid, and we thank our brothers guests from Egypt, Shaikh Fauzi Abdul-Hai Saleem and Shaikh Muhammad Abul-Aziz Abdul-Nazir. They spent the whole Ramadan with us and the community received very informative lectures and reminders from them.

It is time to bid Ramadan farewell. Muslims all over the globe are looking forward to Eid-ul-Fitr and celebrate it in different ways. It is a day of thanking Allah (SWT), a day of unity and a day of brotherhood.

While you enjoy these moments and time of peace and prosperity here in America, please do not forget our brothers and sisters around the world who are going through some very difficult and testing times.

Finally, please make sure you pay your Zakatul-Fitr before Eid Prayers. I have included an article about Zakatul-Fitr in this newsletter. Please read it for more information.

Wassalam
The Editor

Book Review

Stories of the Prophets In The Quran

Illustrated by Shahada Sharelle Abdul Haqq

Written by Ruth Woodhall & Shahada Sharelle Abdul Haqq

This inspiring collection of illustrated stories offers an Islamic take on the lives and missions of familiar prophets. Through these Islamic renditions, children are made keenly aware of the importance of certain virtues - steadfastness, patience, and honesty - exhibited by religious role models in the Quran, including Abraham, Moses, Noah and Jesus, and the prophets' willingness to endure hardship as a means to an honest life.

To order call 1800-888-4741

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sisters' Halaqa: Sisters' Halaqa is at the Masjid in the new community hall every Wednesday from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM.

Potluck Dinner: First Saturday of every month is potluck dinner at the Masjid.

Sunday school: Sunday school for children is every Sunday from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Toastmasters: Become a better speaker. Become a leader. Build speaking and leadership skills with a friendly Toastmasters club. The Harry Jaffe Toastmasters Club Meets at the Huntsville Islamic Center at 6:00 PM on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month (not during Ramadan). Please be our Honored Guest at the next meeting. For more information visit <http://harryjaffe.freetoasthost.biz/>

How tos of Eid Day

The first day of the Islamic lunar month Shawwaal is the Eid ul-Fitr day marking a day of celebration and thanks for Allah, our Creator and Cherisher. Ramadan ends here. Here is what the Prophet used to do on the day of Eid (Sunnah) - May Allah's peace and blessings be upon him.

1. To rise early in the morning.
2. Take a full bath.
3. Clean the teeth.
4. Wear the best cloths that he had.
5. Wear perfume.
6. To eat something sweet like dates before leaving home.
7. Go to the Eid Prayers location very early. (The Prophet used to offer Eid Prayers in the central location, that is not to offer it in a Masjid of a locality without any legitimate excuse.)
8. The Prophet used to go to the Eid Prayers location by one route and will return through another route.
9. He used to go for Eid Prayers by walking to the Eid Prayers location.
10. He used to chant slowly on the way to the Eid Prayers location the following words: "Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Laailaaha Illallahu Wallahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Wa Lillahil Hamd." (Translation: Allah is The Greatest, He is The Greatest. There is no God except Allah. He is The Greatest. All praises and thanks are for Him.)
11. The Prophet used to give Zakatul Fitr before the Eid day. But if you have not done so far, please give now before the Eid Prayers.
12. This year in America Zakatul Fitr is calculated to be \$10 per person (\$10 for each adult and child in a family.)

Method of Eid prayers

Eid Salat (prayers) consists of two Raka'ats in congregation of Muslims followed by the Khutba of Eid.

- Follow the Imam by raising both hands up to the ears, saying Allahu Akbar, this is the first Takbeer to enter in the Salat. After this, there will be seven more Takbeers, following the Imam by saying Allahu Akbar each time.
- After the seventh takbeer the hands should be folded in front and listen to the Imam reciting Surah Fatiha and some other short Surah and complete the first Raka'at as usual.
- In the second Raka'at, the Imam will first say Takbeer five times by saying Allahu Akbar and then recite Surah Fatiha and some other short Surah, after which the second Raka'at is completed in a usual way.
- Listening to Khutbah after the Eid Salat is Wajib and is considered part of the Salat Eidul Fitr.



In the Name of Allah, The Benevolent, The Merciful

"... and establish regular prayers and give regular charity; and loan to Allah a beautiful loan. And whatever good ye send forth for your souls, ye shall find it in Allah's presence, Yea, better and greater in reward and seek ye the grace of Allah: for Allah is oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."

Al-Qura'n Chapter 73 Al-Muzammil Verse 20

HIC Needs Your Generous Support

HIC is once again asking for your generous support. Kindly participate in the **Annual Fundraiser** and give a beautiful loan to Allah (SWT.)

Ramadan's Special Charity - Zakat-al-Fitr

By Magda Azzam

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "You see the believers as regards their being merciful among themselves and showing love among themselves and being kind, resembling one body, so that, if any part of the body is not well, then the whole body shares the sleeplessness (insomnia) and fever with it." (Reported by Al-Bukhari)

The word "zakah" in Arabic means purification. The giving of zakah (obligatory charity) is the third pillar of Islam. There are two types of zakah: zakat *al-mal* (charity paid on one's wealth) and zakat *al-fitr* (charity paid before breaking the fast of Ramadan).

Every free Muslim who owns a *saa`* (2.176 kilograms or 4.797 pounds) of dates or barley that is not needed as a basic food for himself or his family is required to pay zakat *al-fitr* at the end of Ramadan and before the `Eid Prayers. Every free Muslim must pay zakat *al-fitr* for himself, his wife, children and servants.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) enjoined zakah on those who fast to purify them from any indecent act or deeds. It is a sort of purification of the soul on the individual level, a cure against miserliness, and a social safety net. The rich are obliged to come in contact with the poor and the poor with the even less fortunate.

This contact between the various levels of society helps to create a real bond of brotherhood in the Muslim community. Zakah provides for the poor and spares them the humiliation of asking for charity. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Fulfill their need on this day" (that is, on the day of `Eid.)

Zakat *al-fitr* is obligatory on every Muslim, rich or poor alike, young and old, because every Muslim needs this purification. The head of the household must pay for every member of the family, even for the newborn.

This concept of charity and generosity is central to the message of Islam. In the Qur'an, the believers are described as what means [...those who spend (of that which Allah hath given them) in ease and in adversity] (Aal `Imran3:134)

Talk it out with everyone

Make a specific Eid plan TODAY. Sit with the family and discuss what you will do on Eid day. Plan things step-by-step. Where will you go to perform Eid prayers? Where will you go afterwards? Will you first go to the local farm to sacrifice an animal (Eidul Adha)? Get everyone involved and listen to all suggestions.

Dress for success

In most Muslim countries Eid is a time for buying new clothing. Since winter is coming up, it's time to exchange lighter clothing with heavy winter clothing. Shop for Eid clothes and some new items as well.

"Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar...."

Involve the kids, especially the younger ones, in loud Takbirat while going and returning from the Eid Prayers.

Cool gift ideas

Give gifts on this day. You can write an Eid card to your parents and friends. Check out this page for more Eid gift ideas.

For the family's study circle

For the collective family study circle, get a good book about the life of the Prophet and find out how the Muslims of his time celebrated Eid.

Share Eid with the family and neighbors

Have two Eid dinners: one for the family on Eid day and one with friends. Or maybe you just want to share some dishes on Eid with your friends.

Take the car out for a...

Take a family trip to some place of enjoyment. Eat and stop in between for prayers. Make this the family's first long drive after summer.

Make your Eid one with real entertainment

Please avoid TV or movies on Eid break. Eid is family and fun time, and you don't necessarily need films or television to have a good time. Check out our unTV guide for some interesting information on television, in specific.

Sixteen ideas for simple Pre-Eid planning

© 2002 Sound Vision Foundation, Inc.
<http://www.soundvision.com>

Get everyone involved in a school presentation on aspects of Eid

The whole family can get involved in preparing a school presentation about Eid, especially since Christmas is coming up. Kids can see their Muslim classmates celebrating too.

Give gifts generously-give an Eidee

In some parts of the Muslim world a small amount of money is given to children as Eidee. You can do that or give a small present. Please avoid the commercialism (and please check out one perspective on why Eid gifts are better than Eidees.)

Decorate the home for Eid

There's nothing wrong with decorating the home for Eid. It will help liven up the atmosphere. Use balloons, banners, streamers, lights, and more.

Start a family project

Why not mark Eid-ul-Fitr with a new family project? For example, start of a family library. Discuss the issue practically: how many books, which kinds, budget, where will the library be set up in the home, etc.

Share with needy kids

During Eid-ul-Fitr, children in need must be remembered by sharing something with them. Encourage a family donation from each member for needy children in a specific part of the world.

Encourage the kids to make handmade gifts

Why not help children make gifts for one another? Not only is this inexpensive, handmade gifts tend to come from the heart, more than the wallet.

Discuss the Eid day menu

If you are the family member responsible for preparing the food on Eid day, consult other members of the family. Consultation may help you involve them in preparation and cleanup as well.

Hug your brother, hug your sister

At the place where Eid prayer is held, a lot of hugging goes. You will find some Muslims standing alone. They are either new Muslims or new immigrants without relatives and friends. Do hug them and greet them. If possible invite them to your home for a meal. Also inform them of any planned Eid celebrations at any community center.

Have a great Eid everyone. May Allah bless you with more and the best of this world and the real best in the everlasting life.

HIC ---PARTNERING IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION



The Islamic Academy of Huntsville (IAH) is a non-profit, private, full-time Islamic school for children Pre-K through 6th grade located at the Huntsville Islamic Center, 1645 Sparkman Drive. IAH offers a comprehensive educational program geared towards academic excellence, teaching Islamic values, and leading an Islamic way of life.

IAH follows the Course of Study established by the State of Alabama based on national education standards and uses the Common Test of Basic Skills (CTBS), a nationally-recognized standardized testing instrument, to measure the academic achievement of students, grades 1-12, in Language Arts, Spelling, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reference Skills. IAH students earned an overall score in the 80th percentile in Reading, Language, and Math in 2008.

Currently, there are 57 students at IAH and 11 highly qualified and experienced teachers. IAH believes that all children should have an opportunity to mature to their fullest potential in an Islamic environment that promotes high academic achievement, multicultural respect, and moral excellence based upon the guidance of the Quran and Sunnah. IAH is currently enrolling Pre-K through 6th grade students, Monday through Friday, 7:50 am – 3:00 pm. For more information, to take a tour of the school, or to register, please contact the principal, Khowla Seljuki, at (256) 722-9838.



IAH 5th Graders Celebrate Ramadan in Poetry

Ramadan is now here.
Now it is time to fast.
We break our fast late at night
And Allah forgives our sins of the past.
by Daniel Salehinasab

Allah gave us Ramadan, the blessed month
Because he is Kareem.
We fast and pray, and Allah forgives us,
Because he is Raheem.
by Hiba Najjar

The month of Ramadan is finally here.
Muslims read Quran and pray.
And get good deeds for the things they do
Each and every day.
by Tamara Zaza

Ramadan is the time to fast.
Now Allah will forgive our sins.
At iftar, we will eat with our friends
Every day 'til Ramadan ends.
by Nour Sheta

The wonderful month of Ramadan is here.
To pass your fast, you must pray
And seek forgiveness from Allah
Each and every day.
by Sabrina Mahdi

Ramadan is the month
When Muslims pray and fast,
And seek forgiveness from Allah
Every day it lasts.
by Idrees Miran

HUNTSVILLE ISLAMIC CENTER

1645 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, AL 35816
Phone: (256) 721-1712

Comments and articles or announcements for future Paradise Newsletters can be forwarded to The Editor at hic.paradise@yahoo.com.