

August 2014  
Volume 1, Issue 7

**Community Newsletter**  
**Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts (ISWM)**  
377 Amostown Rd, West Springfield, MA 01089  
[www.masjidma.com](http://www.masjidma.com)  
Tel: 413-788-7546

The Prophet  
MPBUH  
stated, "Shall  
I tell you the  
expression  
that is most  
loved by  
Allah? It is  
Subhan  
Allah wa  
bihamdihi  
(Glory be to  
Allah and  
His is the  
praise)"

### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Weekly Quran Lecture**

**Time: Every Friday 8-9  
PM**

**Lecturer: Imam  
Wissam Abdul Baki**

#### **JUMAH**

**Time: 1pm**

#### **Friday Lunch Program**

**Every Friday after  
Jumah**

**Price: \$7**

## **Khatamul Quran & Eid-ul-Fitr**

*Hafiz Talha Yameen, 19, and Hafiz Tazim Khan, 16, finished the beautiful daily recitation of Quran for Taraweeh on the 29<sup>th</sup> evening of Ramadan. They represented Darul Uloom New York and their teachers and mentors were present for the auspicious event. We also learned a little bit about these two young men. They both were born in Bangladesh. Talha was in college majoring in criminal justice and government and planned to go to a law*

*school. Tazim was finishing Alim course and his secular high school education at Darul Uloom. His other favorite subject was Math and he was undecided about his future educational goals. May Allah SWT bless them with success in their education, career paths and life in general. Ameen.*

*We planned to have Eid-ul-Fitr at the Stanley Park in Westfield that had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. There were two Eid salat at the masjid. The*

*first one was led by Dr. M. Salim Bajwa and the second by Imam Abdul Baki. Alhumdulillah, both sessions were well attended. Audio issue and lack of video input was the main problem for the brothers in the basement. Similar to the ones in the masjid, we are looking for donation of video screens for the basement and funds to improve audio output to avoid a similar problem in future.*

### **The Gaza Tragedy**

women and men of Gaza, and its ongoing approval and support by our own government.

This tragic situation requires multiple types of actions and responses. We recommend channeling our individual and collective energies and resources in a way to obtain maximum benefit for the plight of our brothers and sisters in Gaza. In short-term, we need to speak up and advocate for them, collect funds to provide

them material support and pray to Allah SWT to ease their sufferings. In the longer run, we need to find ways to influence our politicians and the political system. This would require a sustained targeted effort. We have to be involved or create activities and programs that may bring our communities to a level where their views and wishes may be respected. Allah SWT may not change this situation unless we start and keep on working.

About 300 people, at least half of them from ISWM, attended a demonstration in front of the city hall in Northampton on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. The group included women, men and children of different religions. There were many speeches denouncing the long-term policies and conduct of the state of Israel. People specially protested against the ongoing atrocities, injustice and collective punishment being inflicted upon the innocent children,

## IQRA ACADEMY K-12

### **Principal:**

Nadeem Sikander M. Ed.

**Current Enrollment:** 60

**Staff:** 15 Teachers

### **Our Academy offers:**

- ..Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- ..Quality secular education
- ..Islamic environment
- ..Islamic studies, Quran and Arabic language
- ..Superior atmosphere of learning
- ..Physical education classes

**Registration:** Open for 2014-15 school year

Please call to setup appointment for a visit at 413-642-4499 or send an email at [principal@iqra-academy.org](mailto:principal@iqra-academy.org)

We look forward to meeting with you and discuss the plans for your child's education.

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**In-charge:** Br. Marwan Al-Masri and Sister

**Staff:** Many dedicated and hardworking brothers and sisters.

**Students:** Children of ages 5 and up.

**Time:** Off for summer.

**Contact** for further info: [iswmsundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:iswmsundayschool@gmail.com)

## **Pioneer Valley Project: An Opportunity to Make A Positive Change**

Pioneer Valley Project is a community organization bringing religious organizations (like churches, synagogues and Islamic centers) and civil organizations like trade unions together to work for a common social cause. Every institution brings 2-3 issues that they think are important and present them to the group. At the end, everybody votes to select 2-3 issues. Once they are selected, all groups work together to solve these issues. From

our side, a group of brothers and sisters, led by Br. Zulfiqar Durrani, have been working with the group. We had a key meeting to present and decide about the issues. Our agreed upon two issues were: a. Muslim children discrimination in schools and b. Academic underperformance of schools in the city of Springfield. The first issue was specific to us and working on the second issue would help large part of our own community

that lives in Springfield besides helping everybody else. It is our pleasure to announce that, in a way, both of our issues were selected. Other selected issues were public safety and housing. Dear brothers and sisters please come forward and join the group to help make real positive changes. Contact: Committee chair: Zulfiqar Durrani for any further questions. For contact or any further info, email him at [zulfiqar73@aol.com](mailto:zulfiqar73@aol.com).

## **Please Follow the Rules of the Masjid**

Our facilities including the masjid and the community hall are managed and maintained by the board. Any change in the physical structure such as new carpet, wall decoration, information posters, religious symbols or decoration, or window treatment or curtains require a clear and prior approval of the board. There are multiple reasons for this policy to be in effect. We

understand that we may need renovation or additions but these activities have to be done properly and with the board's approval. We routinely remove unnecessary or un-approved posters, pictures, information, decoration pieces, clocks, carpets or curtains. Please contact any board member to find the best way to take part in this sacred duty to preserve and maintain the

masjid facilities.

In this regard, we are actively looking for a donor to help improve audio & video equipment in the basement area. We are also looking for donation to install a large notice board at the masjid entrance. If you plan to donate, do not buy the material. Please contact the board beforehand to avoid any misunderstanding or wastage of money and effort. Thank you.

## **House to Rent**

The newly bought house next to the Imam's house is ready for rental. In next 1-2 weeks, we are expecting families to complete the application process. The rent per month is \$1,700 plus utilities. The rental process would be fair with

standard restrictions and rules. Please contact Dr. Salim Bajwa to obtain the application. All applications would be screened and processed by a licensed realtor. Once the initial process is complete, a committee in the board would make the final decision to pick up one lucky family. Rental may start on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Volunteers Needed**

A: Somali, Iraqi and Syrian native English as second language teachers to teach English to newly arriving refugees.

B: Many needed to work in the community projects. These projects are to improve school education, law & order and housing in Springfield, and some particularly for refugees. To volunteer, pl. contact any Board Member