

The Prophet MPBUH stated, "The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it."

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

#### ISWM General Body Meeting

**Time & Date: Maghrib time on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Where: Community hall**

**Food: Potluck dinner**

**All are welcome**

## Annual General Body Meeting of ISWM

**When: February 21<sup>st</sup> at Maghrib. Where: ISWM Community Hall**

*The annual General Body Meeting of our society shall take place on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6PM at the community hall. This is one of the most important annual meetings for all of us. Main features of the meeting are:*

*A: Review and presentation of the election results of the board of ISWM.*

*B: Presentation of results of the new Executive Body of ISWM.*

*C: Presentation of the name of a new Trustee of ISWM*

*As per our by-laws, these election results and nominations are only valid if approved by the General Body. The General Body of ISWM comprised of all the voting members.*

*D: Review of the society's income and expenses during the previous calendar year of 2014.*

*E: Introduction of new board members.*

*F: Brief overview of some of the initiatives we would be working on in coming months to years.*

*The meeting is open to everybody, brothers and sisters, members or non-members. This is the time to know some of the details you might want to know and to ask questions you might have in your mind.*

*This would be a potluck dinner. Come and bring a dish of your choice and share. Meeting will start right after Maghrib and end at Isha. Some voluntary work is needed for arrangement and management.*

## Some Issues We May not like to Talk About...

The other day, Brother Anas Coburn of the Project Sakinah visited our center and gave an informative and thought-provoking presentation about domestic and family violence and some related issues affecting our communities. He talked about the following issues in particular:

A: Women abuse

B: Children abuse

C: Adult abuse

D: Protocol of marriage at Islamic centers

E: Child trafficking

G: Internet and its affects on

children

H: Pornography

First and foremost information was to know and understand that Muslims are not immune to these problems.

As individuals, families and a society, we should take all the possible preventive measures to avoid these problems. On the society level, in the coming months, we will work on these and similar issues. As a first step, we need to create some means or tools to bring the appropriate information to the

families. The information should be concise and available in multiple languages. We also need to create a database of professionals who could help the individuals and families in these matters in a dignified and confidential manner.

We are looking for brothers and sisters who like to volunteer to help develop the baseline material. We specially request any professionals who are already involved in this type of work. Please contact any board member or the Imam to volunteer.

**Islamic Education at ISWM**  
**In-Charge: Imam Abdel**  
**Baki**

- 1: Tafseer Friday: 630 pm,
- 2: Sister Qur'an study: Sun :  
1.15- 215 pm
- 3: Arabic for adult, Sun  
and Tue 6.30 pm,  
Every other day
- 4: Fiqh: After Isha
- 5: Daily Tajweed: After Fajr
- 6: Arabic for beginners  
(KIDS) Sat. and Sun, 3.00  
p.m. (registration required)
- 7: Youth Islamic study: Tue  
and Thu

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

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

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

**Time:** Sundays 10:30 to 1:30.  
September to June.

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

## **How to Best Help the People in Need in Syria?**

Alhumdulillah, we have been collecting clothes and dry supplies to be shipped to our suffering brothers and sisters in Syria. People are bringing different items including full 40 pounds bags of sugar or rice. We like to thank all brothers and sisters who are donating these items and the ones who are making arrangements to deliver them to the people in need. May Allah SWT

accept their efforts.

While we are doing this, it is important to analyze this situation. If we donate a piece of clothing from our home or a pound or two of sugar and send it to the people in need, the tariff or the expense might be larger than the price of the items themselves. We suggest that you reconsider your approach and consider donating the money or cash. The

money or the cash collected by ISWM for any specific cause like this is completely and only spent on that cause. Even small amount of cash can help the families or the people helping those families buy more stuff from the local sources. Use the envelope at the donation boxes; write the nature of donation (Syria Relief) and deposit in the boxes. We will take care of the rest. InshaAllah.

## **Some Reminders**

### **Respect the Quran**

Copies of Quran are provided in the masjid and the hall area for everybody's convenience. They are placed in the appropriate shelves. While reading a Quran, it is important to put it on the wooden rails and never to put it down on the ground. It is important to teach children about the sanctity of this book, which is unlike any other. Put the Quran back in its proper place once you are done.

### **Respect the Masjid**

Chairs are provided in the masjid and the hall for people with disability. Though it is allowed to respectfully talk in the masjid, it is not appropriate to loudly talk or socialize when people are there for a salat especially Jumah. This is one of the series of reminders to the brothers and sisters who might sit in the back and chat loudly while others are praying. We request you

to maintain sanctity of the masjid and avoid any disturbance.

### **Parking the Big Vehicles**

If you drive a bigger than an average vehicle, do not park on the regular spots. Please come early and park at the end of the parking lot to avoid blocking driveway lanes. Also, as much as possible, do carpooling especially in the winter months when snow has limited the parking spaces.

## **State Department and the Refugee Affairs**

Representatives from the State department visited our area recently and met many individuals and agency representatives directly and indirectly involved in the settlement of refugees in this area. Large portion of refugees coming to this area are Muslim. ISWM was invited to convey concerns and issues related to the refugees. We are not directly involved or responsible for

the settlement program. In the meeting, we raised the following issues:

A: State department has a PR problem introducing these refugees to the areas they are settled. There is no organized effort to educate the community who exactly these refugees are and how critical their role might have been to help our government.

B: The funding available to

the refugees is not enough and not provided for enough duration for successful settlement.

C: More effort is needed to educate local educators and the law-enforcement community about the cultural sensitivities of refugees.

D: More effort is needed for ESL and job training.