

January 2015
Volume 2, Issue 1

Community Newsletter
Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts (ISWM)
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The Prophet
MPBUH stated,
"Beware of
suspicion, for
suspicion is the
worst of false
tales."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**ISWM General Body
Meeting**

**Time & Date: Maghrib
time on Feb 21st**

**Where: Community
hall**

Food: Potluck dinner

All are welcome

ISWM BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Results Need Ratification in the General Body Meeting on February 21st.

This year, there were 110 voting members. 55 of them returned their ballots. Votes were tallied and the following three new board members were elected.

A: Sr. Saadia Ahmad. A pharmacist by profession, her family has been a member of this community for many years. She and her husband have been generously supporting the center with their time and resources. She has lived in Saudi Arabia before coming to US.

B: Br. Mohammad Dastgir. Presently a manager in Pro-Mutual Insurance. He has Portuguese and Indian parents and Saudi Arabian roots. He and his family also have been a long time member and generous supporter of the society.

C: Br. Zulfiqar Ali Durrani. Originally from Peshawar Pakistan, he is a dentist with an office in Chicopee. He and his wife are generous supporter of the society with their time and resources and

Remembering the Prophet (May peace be upon him)

Alhumdulillah, the community event on January 10th was successful and well attended. The event brought large number of brothers, sisters and families to the masjid. Sister Kaneez Bajwa did an exceptional job of background coordination including the potluck dinner. The event started with recitation of Quran by two young men. Imam's speech reminded us that mercy and hope are the main elements of the prophet's message. He coaxed us to implement the prophet's message in our day-to-day life, instead of just an occasional reflection. Sister Mary Johnson

touched multiple aspects of the prophet's life. She especially emphasized upon his tolerant and forgiving nature. She reminded us that we needed to pay attention to this part of the prophet's message while dealing with other people, including the one new to us as individuals, families or the community.

Many children from Iqra Academy and the Sunday school took part in the event. They presented speeches, poems, and nasheeds to remember the prophet, his life and his message. Their teacher(s) and parents deserve special thanks. It was clear that children, in spite

of their hesitancy, were willing to take part if appropriately coaxed, trained and given opportunities. We also heard a few more formal nasheeds at the end.

Due to limited space, instead of naming everybody, on behalf of the community, our thanks are to the people in-charge, the speakers, the children, their teachers and their families. May Allah SWT guide all of us to the path described by the prophet (May peace be upon him). May He bless everybody to take and stay on this path until we all take the last breath. Ameen.

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

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

Friday Lunch Program
In-Charge: Srs. Zeb-un-
Nissa Zahoor & Kaneez
Bajwa

The lunch program on Fridays is one of the major sources of income for our masjid. A host family sponsors every lunch. The family either prepares the lunch or pays \$350 for preparation. The masjid collects the money by selling lunches. It works well only if we have the sponsoring families and enough people to buy lunches. We request that you consider sponsoring

General Body Meeting

The annual General Body Meeting of ISWM is planned on February 21 (Saturday evening). This is the meeting when we share yearlong expenses and income with the community. This is also the time when the new board members and the executive committee get approval from the community. Please mark your calendar and come to this important meeting.

Become a Member and Make the Real Difference

The Muslim population in this area has grown tremendously during the last 5 years. Looking at our Jumah gathering or during Ramadan, it is clear that the community has become quite diverse in multiple aspects. This change in Muslim demographics is not reflected when we look at membership

at least one lunch every year. We are always looking for better and practical ideas to improve this program and more volunteers to help in catering or serving.

Syrian Clothes
Collection

In-Charge: Sr. Huda
Kelly

We have been and continue to collect appropriate clothes for our suffering brothers in Syria. Many people bring clothes that we cannot use and leave them in plastic or

Br. Nadir Khalid Passed
Away (Inna lillahay wa
inna alaihay raajayoon)

May Allah SWT raise his ranks and forgive him for any minor and major sins, Amen.

Br. Nadir was a gentle and kind man. He was a longtime member of the community and was routinely visible at community gatherings and Eids. Many remember him for volunteering to stand guard for the masjid.

trash bags at different places in the masjid. Please follow guidelines if you like to help:

A: Bring new or almost new looking clothes

B: Blankets, sweaters and jackets are preferred

C: Wash clothes, fold them and pack them in a medium sized cardboard box (not sealed)

D: Clearly write "Clothes for Syria" on the box and leave it inside the masjid entrance next to the library. You may also write your name on the box.

Hidden behind his humble appearance were many talents and accomplishments. He was co-founder of Tomorrow's Youth Advocates Organization and vice-president of Samihah TV. He helped youth with the first initiative and his work through media provided Dawah for the larger New England. He was instrumental to raise awareness about many issues related to Muslims in this country and beyond.

of our masjid or society. Last year, there were only 110 individual members (husband and wife counting separately.) For viability, sustainability and development of this masjid and the center, it is extremely important that we increase the membership pool. This is the time when

the members pay their annual dues, \$200. It should also be clear, that the membership money alone only covers about 1/6th of our annual expenses, it is just the start. Please become member and help sustain and build your Islamic center.