

September 2014
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Community Newsletter
Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts (ISWM)
377 Amostown Rd, West Springfield, MA 01089
WWW.ISWMONLINE.COM
Tel: 413-788-7546

The Prophet MPBUH stated, "He who dies without associating anything with Allah (in worship) will enter Paradise, and he who dies associating partners with Allah (in worship) will enter the Fire."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Quran Lecture

**Time: Every Friday
Maghreb to Isha**

**Lecturer: Imam
Wissam Abdul Baki**

JUMAH

Time: 1pm

Interfaith Program with the Jewish Voices for Peace

When: Oct 8th, 6pm

Where: ISWM Hall

**Nature: Educational
interfaith program**

Pot-luck dinner

Hajj and Eid ul Adha: 2014

The Hajj days this year, 8th-12th of Zul Hijjah, will fall on Oct 1st to Oct 6th, InshaAllah. Eid ul Adha this year could be on Saturday Oct 4th or the Sunday Oct 5th. ISWM congratulates those brothers and sisters who would be blessed this year to make this sacred journey. We pray for their safety and acceptance of their Hajj, other prayers and duas. For rest of us, we hope that all of us are blessed to make this trip, if not made before, as soon as possible.

Eid salat will be at the masjid like Eid ul Fitr. We have plans for at least two salats. The first one at about 7:30am and the second at about 9:30pm. Please visit our site ISWMONLINE.COM for the more definitive announcements especially about the exact day of the Eid, about a week before the Eid. We would make the announcement as soon as the Zul Hijjah's moon sighting is confirmed.

As far as Qurbani is concerned, there are some local facilities to make arrangements. Some of them are as follows:

*A: El-Safi Halal Market,
Main St, W. Springfield.
Tel: 413-788-3616*

*B: Madni Mart, Main St,
W. Springfield. Tel: 413-
734-8841*

*C: SABA Farm,
Bloomfield, CT. Tel: 860-
242-3777*

The Town of West Springfield and ISWM

ISWM is located in the city of West Springfield. Because of ISWM's location and other factors, many Muslim families reside in this town. Many of them have their businesses and hopefully many more would start in coming years. It has been our policy to stay in contact with different offices and officials of the town. In a limited sense, we have been doing this on personal or societal level. Fostering cordial relations with the local offices including the

schools, police and the Mayor is in our interests. This would help us to tackle any potential problems but more importantly prevent them. To further strengthen these relations, we have taken some initiatives to formally meet these offices and find ways to set up programs or protocols, which could help us to achieve our goal and at the same time help the town officials to do their job.

It is important that the families living in West

Springfield are specially taking part in this effort. We request any brother or sister, living in the town, or any other local town to come forward and volunteer. Ongoing work would be needed especially to make any positive change in the local schools. For now, our aim is to eliminate all types of discrimination against the Muslim children in local schools. Please contact any board member for any further question or to volunteer.

IQRA ACADEMY K-12

Principal:

Nadeem Sikander M. Ed.

Current Enrollment: 60

Staff: 15 Teachers

Our Academy offers:

- ..Kindergarten to 12th 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

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

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: 10:30 AM Sharp.

Contact for further info: iswmsundayschool@gmail.com

Please Avoid and Prevent Wastage of Resources

Our average utility bill is more than \$2,000. It is partly due to the fact that we have a large facility that is used daily. Even then, this amount is too big and this expense needs to be controlled. A multi-prong approach is needed to achieve this goal. In this regard, we are looking at different options including motion detector light system, ceiling fans in the masjid and the Community Hall, window treatment and keeping thermostat at a

fixed lower point in winter. We also have considered alternate power sources including solar. The last two options have either not matured or were considered too expensive. It is also important for each and every member to not waste electric or gas power. When turning them on, minimum number of lights should be used. Turn the lights off when leaving. We have also decided to turn the heating/cooling system off for at least 4 to 6 months

of the year in the masjid area and the Community Hall. This policy would stay effective from Sep 15 to Nov 15 and probably from Mar 15 to May 15. Please wear an extra layer that you could put on if cold or off if warm. Our goal is to bring down the utility cost to \$1,000 a month. It is an achievable goal if everybody understands his/her responsibility and with many of these alterations and fixes.

Sister's Youth Groups

Sister's Youth Group is fully active with about 50 members. It is open to all sisters ages 11-22. There is no membership fee. Under the indirect supervision of Imam and the board, it is organized and managed by a group of sisters

(Sister Zarina and Hafsa Abdul Rahim, Fikreta , Koljenovic Miriam Farid and Tiara Wright). They meet every week or every other week on Fridays from 5-7pm. Their activities have multiple dimensions: it is part education, part entertainment and part social

event. Contact any of these sisters, the Imam or any board members to be a part of this group. Bring new ideas, new friends and your energies to share, learn or just be part of this group.

Do You Know?

We are reaching the election time in our society. This process starts in September when an election committee is established. All regular members of the society can compete for a position on the board and/or vote in this process. The

requirements to become a regular member include that annual dues have to be paid before the end of September. Please pay your dues, \$200, ASAP and not lose this opportunity. Beside the money, ISWM needs your input and opinion. Also, feel free to nominate any brother or

sister that you believe might be a better candidate to be on the board. The election committee would compile the list of members in October and ask for nominations in November. The members who are finishing their terms this year are Brs. Rehan Peerzada, Kamal Ali and Salim Ibrahim.