

Ottawa Muslim Association

Newsletter

Ottawa Muslim Association, 251 Northwestern Ave., Ottawa, ON K1Y 0M1
~ www.ottawamosque.ca

Fall Issue

November 2009

Update from the Board



Alhamdulillah, on May 3, 2009, we began the 2nd term of the Ottawa Muslim Association Board with the **OMA's 46th Annual Dinner**. Zarqa Nawaz, the executive producer and co-creator of the hit CBC television show, "Little

Mosque on the Prairie" was the keynote speaker. The Abraar school children also performed and both were a big hit.

Since then we have been actively working to serve you, our local Muslim community. Your continued generosity has enabled us to **install a heating/cooling system** which is more energy efficient and which will stabilize the temperature of the Mosque. This will ensure that no further damage to the dome occurs in the future, inshallah.

In addition, **extensive**

renovations to the Imam's residence have been completed. Volunteers are also in the process of updating the exterior appearance of the Mosque with the application of stucco and the interior was freshly painted just before the commencement of Ramadan. May Allah reward all of the volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

OMA Events

The **OMA BBQ** in July was even more successful than the previous year's. Several hundred community members were in attendance.

Ramadan in the mosque this year was extremely well organized. The daily iftars were a huge success and large numbers of people came to break their fast with us during the holy month. We are very thankful to the many volunteers that helped make this a success alhamdulillah. Imam Khaled El Sayed, along with the help of several qualified local Quran reciters, lead the taraweeh prayers.

We are happy to announce

that the new **OMA website**, www.ottawamosque.ca, was recently launched. We also have a new email address to accompany the new website, oma@ottawamosque.ca. The OMA is also launching its **Facebook profile**, which can be found under "Ottawa Muslim Association". Upcoming social events and accompanying photos will be posted on this profile. We encourage everyone to join.

The **Eid Ul Fitr** was held at the Ottawa Civic Centre in cooperation with MAC. The event was attended by thousands of Muslims and was one of the most unified Eids in

the history of our city. The **Eid Biodome trip**, sponsored in part by OMA, was also very popular. Inshallah, we hope to have more of these family social events in the future.

We have a new office staff member who is in the process membership lists. We expect to contact the Membership Audit committee in the near future so that they can begin the work of auditing and verifying membership lists before the upcoming election in April 2010.

From Abu Hurairah who said that I heard Allah's Messenger, (PBUH), say:

"There are seven whom Allaah will shade in His shade on the Day when there is no shade except His shade. A just ruler; a youth who grew up in the worship of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic; a man whose heart is attached to the mosques, two men who love each other for Allaah's sake, meeting for that and parting upon that; a man who is called by a woman of beauty and position, but he says: 'I fear Allaah'; a man who gives in charity and hides it, such that his left hand does not know what his right hand gives in charity; and a man who remembered Allaah in private so his eyes shed tears."(Al-Bukhari)

We are looking for newsletter ideas and volunteers. Do you have a story idea, event, announcement, service, poem or any other item you would like to see publicized in this newsletter? Please drop us a line at: oma@ottawamosque.ca

OMA Events Cont'd



Fundraising BBQs that we had after every Jumaa prayer were extremely popular and provided a sense of community after each Friday prayer.

The annual **OMA PEACE Golf Tournament** in memory of Hajj Ali Ghadban, raised \$30,000 for the masjid and \$14,000 for the cancer clinic at the

Ottawa Hospital. Alhamdulillah.

The **Ottawa Mosque's Sunday School** launched its 2009-2010 term and registration is now complete.

Imam Khaled's weekly lectures and Um Al Qura school have begun again. Attendance is free.

The **Ottawa Women's Auxiliary** successfully held a **Bazaar/Garage Sale** at the Mosque on October 10, 2009. All funds raised will go to the mosque. Special thanks to the volunteers that helped organize and donate goods that benefited the masjid.

Eid Al Adha will be held at the Ottawa Civic Centre tentatively on either November 28 or 29, 2009. Please continue to check our website for updates.

Please feel free to email us any suggestions or comments you may have regarding the Mosque. We are here to serve our community and to serve Allah (SWT). ~ The OMA Board of Directors

Service for Expecting Muslim Moms

Muna Bashir, founder of BLISbirth, provides a number of educational, health, and personal development services for women in the Muslim community.

She is a certified birth doula, childbirth educator and life coach. As a birth doula, she has supported numerous women, both across North America and other parts of the world, during their childbirth and postpartum experiences.

As an educator, she regularly offers private, customized classes and community workshops, to educate and prepare couples to achieve the best birth possible.

To help women achieve their goals, whether it be in achieving natural child-

birth, desired marital dynamics, home schooling success, or any other area of their personal and professional lives, Muna also offers a number of coaching packages.

She seeks to educate, empower, and support women in the community about various topics pertaining to motherhood, through her monthly 'birthing circles'.

Muna holds a BSc. in Biology from the University of Texas at Dallas, and maintains active membership and certification through Doulas of North America (DONA) and the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association of Canada (CAPP Canada). She is certified as a life coach through DiscoverU. You may contact Sr. Muna via her website www.blisbirth.org.

A Doula is a woman experienced in childbirth who provides advice, information, and emotional support to a mother before, during, and just after childbirth.

Expressions of Muslim Women

"Expressions of Muslim Women" (EMW) is a local group of Muslim women dedicated to exhibiting the creative capacities of Muslim women. Last November 15, 2008, with the support of the Muslim community, EMW presented a wonderful event to a sold out audience that showcased the talents of Muslim women from across the National Capital region of all age groups, and cultural backgrounds. EMW would like to present another event this year.

"Expressions of Muslim Women" are currently looking for Muslim Women talented in spoken word, poetry, dramatic arts, vocal arts, or visual arts. InshaAllah, this women's only event will take place the evening of November 7, 2009 at the Chamber, Ben Franklin Place. Organizational meetings have already begun to connect with potential artists and performers. The event will set out to inspire women attendees of all faith and cultural backgrounds, by seeing Muslim women express themselves.



Sadaqa Food Bank

The Sadaqa Food Bank is the first of its kind in the nation's capital. It is a project of ICNA Relief Canada and is run by a committee of dedicated volunteers.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sadaqa Food Bank is to work towards alleviating hunger by providing supplemental food items to impoverished people in Ottawa once a month. We seek to accomplish this by judiciously distributing food and grocery items throughout our community. In addition, we aim to educate to raise public awareness about the plight of hunger in our community and provide those who are blessed an opportunity to share some wealth with those who are in need.

Sadaqa Food Bank Facts

The Sadaqa Food Bank serves over 270 families each month with a food assistance package once a month. The Sadaqa Food Bank is the first and only Muslim food bank in Ottawa for needy Muslim families. The Sadaqa Food Bank is run primarily on food and money donations from the Ottawa Muslim community and is currently operated by a committee of dedicated volunteers.

The Sadaqa Food Bank

Contact them at:

447 Catherine St
Ottawa, ON K1R 5T7 TEL: 613-680-5679

Email: sadaqafoodbank@yahoo.ca

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday - Thursday: 11:00am-1:00pm (for donation only)



Ask the Imam

Question:

Assalamu Alaikum,
My wife is 8 months pregnant and we don't know if it is boy or girl so we have to choose a boy's name and girl's name. We have chosen a girl's name but we are having difficulty with the boy's name.

Please help us find a boy's name. We pre-selected two, please make a comment on the spelling and meaning (as we don't speak Arabic). Please tell us if we need to make any correction to these names.

1. Syed Tahim Al Deen
2. Syed Mahad Al Deen



Imam Khaled El Sayed

Question:

Salam alaikum Imam Khalid. I have a question regarding Jumaa prayer. I am a student at the University of Ottawa and I have a biology lecture during the time of Jumaa prayer. What would be an appropriate way of dealing with this? Shukraa for your time.

Imam Khaled's Answer:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
Walaykum As-Salamu wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

Dear brother in Islam,

We would like to thank you for showing keenness on knowing the teachings of Islam. May Allah SWT return your grant you many righteous children, may Allah SWT reward you Ameen. There is a saheeh hadeeth about the virtue of being a slave of Allaah and giving the names '**Abd-Allaah and 'Abd al-Rahmaan**'. Muslim (2132) narrated that Ibn 'Umar said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "The most beloved of your names to Allaah are 'Abd-Allaah and 'Abd al-Rahmaan."

I prefer that you give your baby either **Abd-Allah or Abd al-Rahman** if he is a boy inshaAllah. Everytime someone calls his name you will receive reward because you enabled them to mention the name of ALLAH, however this is not Obligatory. And Allaah knows best. You can use this site to choose a baby name:

<http://www.islamicity.com/culture/Names/default.htm>

Imam Khaled's Answer:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Dear brother in Islam, I would like to thank you for showing keenness on knowing the teachings of Islam.

Juma'a prayer is obligatory and you cannot leave it as long as you can perform it. In your question, you didn't mention the length of time of your lecture. If you can pray with the second Juma'ah it's acceptable. If you can compensate this lecture you should leave it and pray Juma'ah.