

Islamic Society of North America  
 ISNA East Zone Conference  
 May 12 – 13, 2007  
 Hyatt Crystal City

## Respecting Diversity & Overcoming Barriers

*Registration Begins at 8:30AM*

**Saturday, May 12, 2007**

Room

10:00 – 11:30AM	Inauguration – Welcome Session Representatives from: ISNA, MSA, MYNA ICNA, CAIR, MAS, MANA, Mosque Cares, MPAC, CCMO	Independence Center A
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11:45 – 1:00PM	<p>ISNA Main Session 1</p> <p><b>Respecting Diversity &amp; Overcoming Barriers</b></p> <p><i>And among his wonders are the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors: for in this, behold, there are messages indeed for all who are possessed of [innate] knowledge! (30:22 Asad translation)</i></p> <p>Diversity is a sign of God’s wisdom, are we as a community reflective enough on this point? What are messages inherent in this sign of diversity? What role does disagreement play in our knowing one another and overcoming conflict? What is required of Muslims today to manifest transformative relationships through diversity and maintain healthy, pluralistic communities in America?</p> <p>Moderator: Bonita McGee          Speakers: Aameena Jandali, Muneer Fareed          Liakat Takim</p>	Independence Center A
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1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch/Prayer Dhuhr Prayer: 1:30PM	Independence Center B
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2:00 – 3:30 PM                      ISNA Parallel Sessions

Track	Session Title/Speakers	Room
ISNA	<p><b>Is there a Great Divide? Conflict &amp; Cooperation Amongst Shias &amp; Sunnis</b></p> <p>The great divide of Sunni vs. Shia in Islam has received a lot of media attention since the Iraq war. Has the current history of intense conflict between Sunnis and Shias in Iraq, Pakistan and other parts of the Mideast always been the case? Is the persistent voice of unity between Sunni and Shia glossing over legitimate differences in theology and practice? How do Muslims in America address these issues of policy, theological and collaboration while respecting the diversity between the sects?</p>	Independence Center A

	<p>Moderator: Speakers: Mohamed Magid, Muhammad Yahya Ninowy, Liakat Takim</p>	
Spiritual	<p><b>Daily Living: Raising our Taqwa with Regular Dhikr</b></p> <p>Ever feel spiritually drained or can't concentrate during your prayers? Have you been skipping prayers lately? Overloaded schedule? Everyone suffers from spiritual fatigue on occasion and every Muslim needs some tips and understanding when it comes to spiritual growth. This session will provide simple lessons and tips to spiritual nourishment for any lifestyle.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Sheikh Rashid Lamptey, Javed Bhaiyat</p>	Arlington/Fairfax
Family	<p><b>Familial Diversity – Benefits and stressors in maintaining healthy families:</b></p> <p>What is a healthy Muslim family? Many Muslim families are a rich mix of the faith, love, and culture. What are ways to build upon the foundation to maintain healthy families? What happens in Muslims families where religiosity, acculturation, intergenerational issues, and Muslim identity are a cause of conflict in the family? Where is the line between normal familial conflict and dysfunction? What are the tools to rebuild a family?</p> <p>Moderator: Fatima Mirza Speakers: Salma Abugideri, Sarah Yazback, Hakim Rasheed</p>	Kennedy/Jefferson
Community/Leadership	<p><b>Planning Leadership Transition</b></p> <p>Undoubtedly, the sustainability of any organization is dependent upon its transition in leadership. This is specifically true of Islamic organizations and institutions in America today. What are the challenges that are brought upon by such an attempt at transition and are the various Islamic entities meeting this challenge? Come hear the thoughts of young professionals who are examples of agents in this transition process. What are their assessments of this procedure? Moreover, what is the view of our current leadership about this important topic? Come participate in this discussion about what must be done as to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and the continuity of our institutions and organizations here in North American Muslim community.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Muneer Fareed, Milia Islam, Mazen Asbahi</p>	Lincoln/Roosevelt
MSA	<p><b>The Power to Change the Way You Love</b></p> <p><i>But those of Faith are overflowing in their love for Allah. 2:165</i></p> <p><i>Allah, the Mighty and Magnificent says: 'Those who have mutual love for the sake of My Glory will have pillars of light and will be envied by the Prophets and martyrs.'</i> -</p>	Regency Ballroom CD

	<p>Sahih, Collected in Sunan at-Tirmidhee &amp; Musnad Ahmad (5/336-7).</p> <p>Love is viewed as a means to the Divine. It is important to build relationships with people who are pathways to loving Allah SWT. We as Muslims can change the way we view the one we love, by loving him/her for the sake of Allah SWT. Furthermore, forming your own spiritual capacities will enable you to find that love in others, including family, friends, and your spouse. This session will explore different approaches to attaining this spiritual connection many strive to realize.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Bahram Nahidian, Nureddin Durkee, Sulayman Hasan Invited: Saif Qargha</p>	
MYNA	<p><b>HALAL.COM</b></p> <p>With the creation of the Internet, a whole new world has been opened up to Muslim youth. This world can be fun, exciting, and useful, but it can also be addictive, wasteful, and we may find ourselves doing things we know we should not be. We as a youth frequently use sites such as Facebook, Myspace, Youtube, and Live Journal, but are we using them safely and in accordance to our religion? Is it okay to upload our pictures, music, videos, and contact information online? And could the time we spend online be used for better purposes? How can the internet be used in a way that is most beneficial to us? Maybe sometimes seeing "The page cannot be displayed" is all for the better.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Altaf Husain</p>	Regency Ballroom CD

3:45 – 5:00 PM

ISNA Main Session 2

Independence Center A

**Organizing Upon Diversity**

There is much talk of “unity” in Islam, but what are the issues that Muslim organizations in America are prioritizing? Is there a Muslim “Action Agenda” for our organizations? How much do various Muslim groups assist and benefit from one another? What are the models of effective Muslim coalitions? What are the best ways to form coalitions with non-Muslim entities in the West? Is there any real agenda for Muslims organizations aside from moon sighting? This session will attempt to answer these questions (and more) with representatives from major national organizations as well as provide a brief history of Muslim organizational activism and coalition building in the West.

Moderator: Shaker Elsyed (invited)  
Speakers: Liakat Takim, Ingrid Mattson, Nihad Awad  
Invited Speaker: Yusuf Saleem

5:15 – 6:15 PM

Parallel Sessions

Track	Sessions Title/Speakers	Room
Spiritual	<p><b>Deeper Understandings: The role of <i>fiqh</i> in the Islamic tradition</b></p> <p>Many of the arguments in Muslim discourse occur because of a lack of understanding of the history of Islamic law. This session will expound upon the role of <i>fiqh</i> in the development of Islamic law. The aim of the session will be to explain some of the sources of these differences in opinion and the ways in which we can overcome our differences in our every day lives.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Jamal Barzinji, Daoud Nassimi</p>	Independence Center A
Family	<p><b>Family Violence: The Communal Impact</b></p> <p>This session aims to address one of the most controversial issues in Muslim families today. However, many people seem apt to relegate domestic violence as a “domestic” issue. The session will explore the communal impacts of this societal plague and how to prevent and stop domestic violence. What does Islam have to say about domestic violence and its implications? Scholars and activists will speak of ways in which to address this issue in our communities.</p> <p>Moderator: Bonita McGee Speakers: Ambreen Ahmad, Mohamed Magid</p>	Arlington/Fairfax
ISNA	<p><b>The Gloves are Off: Indigenous vs. Immigrant Islam (Panel-led Discussion)</b></p> <p>The Muslim community dawah in America has two distinct forms: immigrant Islam as espoused by Muslims who migrated to America in the last half-century, and indigenous Islam as practiced by American-born Muslims. Yet, the two groups have not consistently seen eye-to-eye on Muslim-related issues. Where do the differences in mentality and approach come from and can the two groups work together to establish a “unified” dawah in America? This provocative session attempts to raise the issues and answer the questions that are prominent on the minds of many Muslims in the West. What is the path forward?</p> <p>Moderator: Zarinah Shakir Speakers: Sulayman Nyang, Aisha Aladawiya, Afeefa Syeed</p>	Kennedy/Jefferson
Community/Leadership	<p><b>Conflict Resolution, The Islamic Paradigm:</b></p> <p>This session will provide the basics of conflict resolution &amp; mediation. The Quranic and Prophetic paradigms of conflict resolution that will be explored. What are the tools for succeeding in resolving our issues? How do we get through our differences? The session is geared to be interactive and focused on ways in which Muslim</p>	Lincoln/Roosevelt

	<p>organizations can overcome their differences in constructive manners.</p> <p>Moderator: Patricia Anton Speakers: Abdul Karim Bangura, Khalid Iqbal</p>	
MSA	<p><b>Lost Without You: Seeking Guidance in the Face of Tragedy</b></p> <p>With the recent events at Virginia Tech, students at campuses around the country have been forced to deal with the concept of tragedy. Through understanding the concepts of <i>qadaa</i>, <i>qadr</i>, and <i>museeba</i>, Muslim students will be able to understand the necessary steps to take in the face of tragedy in order to move in a direction which brings us closer to Allah (SWT) rather than away. We should then look to our brothers and sisters in times of hardship for comfort and solidarity. We must also identify how to come together with people of diverse backgrounds and faiths and contemplate the role Islam plays to overcome barriers and bridge the gaps in our society.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Nihad Awad, Altaf Husain</p>	Regency Ballroom CD
MYNA	<p><b>Turning the Tables</b></p> <p>“You just don’t know what it’s like!” Sound like a familiar response to nearly everything your parents say these days? Parents: tired of trying to decipher every word that comes out your teen’s mouth, and feeling caught in a constant guessing game? At Turn the Tables, panels of teens and parents go head to head in a workshop setting, to frankly discuss the issues and challenges each face, and to attempt to reach some common ground.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Panel of Youth and Parents</p>	Regency Ballroom CD

6:15	Salatul Asr	Independence Center B
6:30 – 8:30 PM	<p>Banquet Dinner</p> <p><b>Respecting Diversity &amp; Overcoming Barriers</b></p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Saqib Ali, Delegate, District 39, Maryland</p> <p>With Special Entertainment by singer Kareem Salama and guitarist Aristotle</p>	Regency Ballroom AB
8:30 PM	Salatul Maghrib	Independence Center B
7:00 – 9:00 PM	<p>MYNA / MSA Session</p> <p><b>OPEN SPACES</b></p> <p>You have secrets. Everybody does. But would you ever share them? That time you were offered a drink at a party and you couldn't resist. Or the time your parents caught you on the phone with your significant other and they don't know you're still together. Or how about that time you thought you might share your secrets with a Muslim friend of yours, but ended up being judged and looked down upon. You've</p>	Regency Ballroom CD

listened to the lectures, heard the speakers, now it's time for YOU to get YOUR SAY. Speak whatever's on your mind. Come to the MYNA booth to make your own topic, or simply show up to the session and see what everyone else is talking about. Express yourself in a free and comfortable atmosphere. This is your space.

9:00 – 10: 30 PM

**Muslims Making a Difference in Western Societies**

Guest Renowned Speaker: Amr Khaled

Introduction by Nihad Awad, CAIR

& Entertainment by Native Deen

Independence Center A

10:30 PM

Salatul Isha

Independence Center B

5:30 AM                      Salatul Fajr    Independence Center B  
 Khatira by Shaykh Muhammad Nur Abdullah

10:15 – 11:30 AM        ISNA Main Session 3                                      Independence Center A  
***The Boundaries of Interpretation in Islam***

As we move farther and farther from the time of the Prophet (SAW), new issues and challenges continue to face the Muslim community. Should time and circumstance influence how we study and apply Islam in our daily lives? A growing number of people feel that Islam should be reinterpreted to fit into today's world. Are their arguments valid? Listen to a dialogue of different approaches being championed today by Muslims from around the United States.

Moderator: Daoud Nassimi  
 Speakers: Muqtedar Khan, Muneer Fareed, Jamal Badawi

10:30 – 1:00 PM        ISNA Matrimonial Session  
 Speakers: Altaf Husain

11:45 – 1:00 PM  
**Track**

Parallel Sessions  
**Sessions Title/Speakers**

**Room**

ISNA	<p><b>Contemporary <i>fiqh</i> issues: Q &amp; A with Scholars from different Islamic educations and backgrounds</b></p> <p>Take an opportunity to ask some of our scholars the things that concern you most about practicing Islam in America.</p> <p>Moderator:                      Speakers: Zainab Alwani, Muzammil Siddiqi, Rafiq Naqvi, Muhammad Al-Hanooti, Javed Bhaiyat</p>	Independence Center A
Spiritual	<p><b>Overcoming Our Differences through Good Character</b></p> <p>Learn how good character can contribute to enhancing the image of Muslims in America? By instilling the values of Islam and the Prophetic character in ourselves, we can be good neighbors, co-workers, and citizens of this country. How did early Muslims deal with non-Muslims? We will look at the Constitution of Madinah in how he guided relationships with Muslims and the people that lived with them in their society.</p> <p>Moderator: Owais Balti                      Speakers: Sheikh Rashid Lamptey, Bahram Nahidian                      Invited Speakers: Safi Khan</p>	Arlington/Fairfax
Family	<p><b>Islamic Education: Standardization of Arabic and Islamic Education (Curriculum Development)</b></p> <p>A proven process to implement standard Arabic and Islamic education in our Islamic schools.</p>	Lincoln/Roosevelt

	Speakers: Alameddine Kaddoura	
Community/Leadership	<p><b>Impact of Women Leadership and Activism in Society</b></p> <p>Come and learn about the historical significance of women in Islamic societies and how those examples can help women establish themselves as leaders in not only the Muslim community, but in the American society at large. Female involvement is not just recommended, but of vital necessity, to ensure the nourishment of a successful society. How do our men, feminists and other faith advocates hinder or support the idea the Muslim female identity?</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Aisha Al-Adawiyya, Ingrid Mattson, Afeefa Syeed Invited Speakers: Precious Rasheeda Muhammad</p>	Kennedy/Jefferson
MSA	<p><b>Fighting Pride and Prejudice: The Adab of Interaction</b></p> <p><i>"Lisaan al haal, afsahu min lisaan al maqaal."</i> "The language of the inner state is more eloquent than the language of the tongue."</p> <p>One of the beauties of Islam is its inherent tolerance and respect for diversity. As Muslim students from various backgrounds and approaches come together for our <i>deen</i>, how do we champion for mutual understanding and maintain <i>adab</i> (proper etiquette and manners) in interaction in order to promote productivity? This session will focus on the necessity of self-reflecting and purifying our intentions individually when interacting with one another and how this leads to a better control of the <i>nafs</i>, all while taking from the example of our beloved Prophet (saaws).</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Muhammad Yahya Ninowy, Muhammad Nur Abdullah Invited Speakers: Qari Zia</p>	Regency Ballroom CD
MYNA	<p><b>Tuning in and Speaking Out</b></p> <p>"We fly high, no lie, you know this, BALLIN'!"...[static]... "Caller number 786, you just won free tickets to the AAR concert!"... [static]... "21 people were killed this morning in Iraq, 56 are injured. This is the fifth suicide bombing in the past month caused by Sunni extremists." There is so much going on in the world today, so much we hear on the news about Islam nowadays, news that not only brings awareness but also misconceptions about Islam. Simple buzzwords and catchphrases spark misjudgment, whether we realize it or not. We must make an effort to not only erase misconceptions about Islam but also to spread the correct teachings.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Altaf Husain</p>	Regency Ballroom CD

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Lunch/Prayer  
Dhuhr Iqama: 1:30PM

Independence Center B  
Prayer Hall

2:00 – 3:30 PM

ISNA Main Session 4  
**Inter-Faith**

Independence Center A

**Building wider agendas and Interfaith Alliances**

Muslims are commanded to enjoin good and avoid harmful. This is not limited only for their own good but necessitates going beyond the Ummah and being concerned for the good of all. Muslims can be effective in fulfilling their religious command of standing for justice and fairness by cooperating with people of other faiths and developing common agendas. This session will help us to find how we develop these common agendas and how we discover our common allies

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Clark Lobenstine,  
Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, Dr. Jamal Badawi  
Rabbi

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Track	Sessions Title/Speakers	Room
ISNA	<p><b>Estate Planning: Your Family, Your Community</b></p> <p>Estate Planning is vital to the financial security of both your family and your community. This presentation will cover Estate Planning instruments such as Wills and Trusts, and the legal, financial, and Islamic importance of such documents. The presentation will highlight the impact of not having these documents in place, as well as the tax implications involved.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers:</p>	Arlington/Fairfax
Community	<p><b>Muslim Profiling: The Case of the Imams</b></p> <p>The issue of racial, ethnic and religious profiling has become of paramount importance in the modern post-9/11 era.</p> <p>Moderator: Khalid Iqbal Speakers:</p>	Lincoln/Roosevelt
MSA	<p><b>Metamorphosis of a Culture: The Stepping Stone of Our Foundation</b></p> <p>What does it mean to be Muslim American? What differentiates us, as the first generation Muslims from other immigrant Muslims in other countries, or from our parents' experiences as immigrants to this country? Do we take our blessings for granted? Are we losing our Islamic heritage, or are we creating one of our own? What responsibilities and duties come along with this and why is it so important for us to be proactive and involved with society at large? Time seems as if it is running out to discover our Muslim American culture. What will our children's children turn to as a model for life in America, How do we prepare ourselves for this? By taking from indigenous American Muslims' past</p>	Regency Ballroom CD

	<p>experiences and struggles as well as the ones we are currently encountering we can create the stepping-stone for our future and realize our potential in America.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers: Ingrid Mattson, Muzammil Siddiqi, Sulayman Nyang</p>	
MYNA	<p><b>ME, MYSELF, AND I(SLAM)</b></p> <p>One reason Islam is such a beautiful religion is because it gives you boundaries. Stay within, and you're on the straight path, but if you cross the line, and you're straying. What we often forget is that there is some space in that boundary; to be the kind of Muslim you want to be. Society also affects who we are, as we find ourselves trying to fit in, and forgetting the beauty of being different. We should learn to embrace the Islamic identity while keeping our individuality. Mix it up, but keep it real.</p> <p>Moderator: Speakers:</p>	Regency Ballroom CD

3:45 – 4:30 PM

**Town Hall Format Closing Session**  
ISNA Leadership

Main Hall