

Upholding Faith, Serving Humanity
ISNA Program

Friday, August 31, 2007

1:00 – 2:00 PM Jummah Prayer Main Prayer Hall
Imam Mohamed Hagemagid Ali

3:00 – 4:30 PM Inaugural Session Hall A

Presidents:

Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) – Ingrid Mattson

Muslim Students Association (MSA) – Asma Mirza

Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA) – Zaki Barzinji

Association of Muslim Scientists and Engineers (AMSE) – Khurshid A. Qureshi

Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America (APPNA) – Nadeem Kazi

Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) – Ashraf Sufi

Council of Islamic Schools in North America (CISNA) – Safaa Zarzour

Chairs:

Convention Program – Azhar Azeez

Convention – Abdul Wahab

Steering Committee – Abdul Malik Mujahid

Moderator: Azhar Azeez

5:00 – 6:30 PM Session 1A: In the Footsteps of the Beloved: From Emulation to Internalization
Hall A

While undoubtedly loving the Prophet Muhammad (s) is a universal claim among Muslims, there is often a disproportionate correlation between this professed love and the actual implementation of his spiritual and moral example in our daily lives. Indeed he is the model of perfection to be followed in all aspects of life. However, this emulation should entail more than a rote mimicking his actions. True love means internalizing not only his Sunnah, but truly embodying his very character. It involves an emotional connection with him that should serve as the motivational factor in inculcating and nurturing faith in our daily life. This session will both explain the importance of loving the beloved Prophet (s) and illuminate ways in which we can truly exemplify this love in our daily life.

Speakers: Muhammad Nur Abdullah, Mokhtar Maghraoui, Zaid Shakir

Moderator: Mazen Asbahi

8:30 - 10:15 PM Session 2A: Righting the Wrongs: Faith and Social Justice Hall A

While one of the most basic teachings of Islam is the obligation of working for social justice in society, we are often too involved in our personal lives or too removed from the reality of injustices, to devote attention to this essential part of our faith. Professing faith alone and ignoring the broader social concerns through a notion of insulated protection, is not only impractical, but insincere to our Divine obligation. This session will elucidate Islamic principles relating to social justice, with the aim of awakening our social consciousness through a deepening of our faith. Speakers will identify commonalities with American concepts of justice and address some particular areas needing our focus, such as, racial and gender justice, civil liberties, and economic justice and equity.

Speakers: David Cole, Siraj Wahhaj, Ebrahim Moosa

Moderator: Syed Imtiaz Ahmad

Saturday, September 1, 2007

After Fajr Series

Azan – 5:15AM, Iqama – 5:30AM

5:40 -6:30 AM

Speaker: Umar F. Abd-Allah

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Session 3A: The Family Fortune: From Theory to Practice Hall A

Strong and harmonious families form the foundation of a healthy society. However, reality is often far from this ideal as families struggle to balance the needs between husbands and wives, and youth and elders, while trying to cope with the challenges of the contemporary world. Although Islam places important emphasis on kindness to and the rights of all family members, and while it clearly advocates the principle “the best of you is best to their family”, there is sometimes a disconnect between upholding faith and people’s behavior in their private family life. This session will highlight Islamic principles as well as offer concrete suggestions for addressing some of the major challenges confronting families today, including generation gap, general family discord, and the often hidden topic of domestic violence.

Speakers: Aisha Al-Adawiyya, Altaf Husain, Safaa Zarzour

Moderator: Ghulam Bakali

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Sesion 3B: Meet the Author Room 8

‘Meet the Author’ sessions present a platform to learn, share ideas, and provide literary contributions to the community. Participants receive an opportunity to meet with authors who have made contributions in the genre of Islam and Muslims in America and around the world.

As a minority religion in a predominantly Christian country, America's Muslims face many difficulties - lack of understanding of their cultural traditions by the majority of their fellow citizens, threats to their civil liberties based on their beliefs and ethnicity, and challenges to retaining a Muslim identity within their community. Come and join a discussion of these topics in *Muslims in the United States*.

Author: Ilyas Ba-Yunus, *Muslims in the United States (American Religious Experience)*

Discussant: Iqbal Unus

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m Session 4A: Serving the Community: From Theory to Practice Hall A

As announced by this year’s theme “Upholding Faith, Serving Community”, there is a clear connection between faith and service to others. While indeed one’s faith is a personal endeavor, an extension of that faith is one’s actions towards others, as elucidated by numerous verses and prophetic traditions. While many Muslims uphold this theory in principle, there is often a gap between theory and practice. This session will examine some of the Islamic precepts that emphasize the importance of community service, while also providing actual models and examples of such principles in action on the local, national, and global level. Emphasis will be placed on the methodology used to identify and effectively serve the needs of different communities.

Speakers: Sherman Abd al-Hakim Jackson, Muneer Fareed, Rami Nashishibi, Anwar Khan

Moderator: Parvez Ahmed

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4B: Ending U.S. Sponsored Torture: A Concern for All People of Faith
Room 14

The threat and reality of U.S. sponsored torture is still an issue today. The extensive news coverage by the U.S. and international media sources makes it all too clear that the grim abuses in Abu Gharib, Guantanamo Bay, and the sending of detainees to secret prisons around the world that are known to torture during interrogations, are not isolated incidents, but rather constitute policy of the U.S. government. ISNA,

Christian (including evangelical), Jewish and Sikh organizations have created the National Religious Campaign Against Torture to lead the faith-based efforts to end U.S. sponsored torture. This session will describe the nature of U.S. sponsored torture, the effects of torture on its victims, the efforts of the U.S. religious community, and what you can do to help end U.S. sponsored torture.

Speakers: Ingrid Mattson, Jeanne Herrick-Stare, Rev. Richard Killmer, Tom Whittle
Moderator: Mohamed Elsanousi

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4C: Strengthening America: The Civic and Political Integration of Muslim Americans Room 12

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs' creation of a task force in February 2006 assembled 32 distinguished Muslim and non-Muslim leaders to examine the Muslim American experience and provide a roadmap to accelerate Muslim American engagement. The results were released on June 26, 2007. This session seeks to explore the results of this study and its suggestions for Muslim American civic and political engagement.

Speakers: Salam Al-Marayati, Eboo Patel, Representative of Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Moderator: Sayyid M. Syeed

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4D: Not in the Name of Islam – Addressing the Root Causes of Terrorism Room 10

This session will explore the history of terrorism, look at its causes and propose solutions.

Speakers: Parvez Ahmed, Robert Pape, Hatem Bazian
Moderator: Safaa Zarzour

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4E: The State of Human Rights of Indian Muslims Room 9

This session will present an update on the struggles of Muslims in India, focusing on the legal struggles of Muslims in Gujarat & The Sachar Committee report. A documentary video on "The Role of Ulama in the Independence Movement of India" will also be shown.

Speakers: Raja of Mahmoodabad, Harsh Mander, Mahmood Madani
Moderator: Manzoor Ghori

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4F: Re-Inventing the Mosque for Our Children Room 21

The session's objective is to provide communities and their mosques with the means and information on how to attract children and youth (up to young adulthood) to the mosque and have them involved with its activities. This session will focus on the importance of children and youth participating in mosque activities. It will identify and discuss common social problems which affect our children, present various solutions, explore how they may benefit the community, as well as explore unsuccessful ideas and why they failed.

Speakers: Mohamed Hagmagid Ali, Janaan Hashim, Amal Ali, Habeeb Quadri
Moderator: Tahera Ahmed

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4G: So You Want to Start a Free Clinic? Room 22

This session is intended to provide participants with the tools to understand the basic and preliminary steps necessary to start a community clinic in their area -- using UMMA Community Clinic and Compassionate Care Network as case studies. Principles of grant seeking and clinic management will also be discussed.

Speakers: Yasser Aman, Azher Quader, Rabea Chaudhary

Moderator: Arshia Wajid

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4H: Developing a Sound Heart: Combating Spiritual Maladies Room 9
This session will discuss the necessity of a sound heart, the major diseases of the heart, how the diseases effect the heart, how to identify them and how to use tools of correction.

Speakers: Hakim Archuletta, Yahya Ninowy, Yusuf Kavakci

Moderator: Sami Catovic

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4J: Beyond Voting: Effective Models for Community Based Political Lobbying and Mobilization Room 30

The Muslim American community has dedicated its attention to increasing voter turnout and voter registration. While these efforts are important, it is also time to increase Muslim American participation in the political system at the local, state and federal levels. Audience members will leave knowing how to organize their community in order for it to be involved in local, state, federal elections and the party system. Also they will learn how to create political action committees in a manner that not only supports candidates but provides a tangible return to the community. Participants will learn about organizing volunteers, using web based technology and how to best interact with potential candidates.

Speakers: Saif Ishaof, A.J. Durrani, Faisal Gill

Moderator: Khurram Wahid

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4K: Short Presentations I Room 34

Understanding the Qur'an from the Outside

Whitney Bodman

Bosnian Muslims Making It in America's Pluralistic Wilderness and Muslim American Community

Coming of Age

Saffet Abid Catovic

A Syllabus Design for Interfaith Experiences in Classrooms

Tasneema Ghazi

Muslims and the American Media

Ahmed Soliman

Moderator: Salman Azam

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4L: Leveraging Our Contacts: Networking and Career Development Amongst Young Muslim Professionals Room 31

The primary objective of this session will be to highlight the value of establishing professional networks in our community. It will concentrate on the following: demonstrate the value of networking towards career development, identify tangible actions, distinguish required steps in achieving the mission and communicate the long-term vision of MUPPIES. The vision includes building a large and respected constituency that will be catered to by career head hunters, executive search firms, as well as political candidates.

Speakers: Mohammad Fadel, Saquib Toor, Umbreen Bhatti

Moderator: Dalia Mahmood

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4M: Capacity Building Through Science and Technology Education in Developing Countries Room 32

This panel will focus on the growing disparity between the quality of science and technology education in the developed and developing countries, and possible ways to bridge this gap.

Speakers: M. A. Karim, M. I. Khan, A. Hussam
Moderator: M. A. G. Abushagur

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 4N: Meet The Author Room 8

‘Meet the Author’ sessions present a platform to learn, share ideas, and provide literary contributions to the community. Participants receive an opportunity to meet with authors who have made contributions in the genre of Islam and Muslims in America and around the world.

By most estimates, Islam is now the largest non-Christian religion in the United States. And yet some 60 percent of Americans claim never to have met a Muslim. No wonder, then, that so many wild misconceptions about Muslims endure in the United States. Paul M. Barrett's well wrought and engaging new book, *American Islam*, seeks to change perceptions by providing an intimate group portrait of Muslim Americans as they struggle to combat the threats, prejudices and stereotypes that have dogged them since 9/11. Barrett, a longtime Wall Street Journal reporter who's now at BusinessWeek, uses his journalistic skills to insinuate himself into the lives of seven American Muslims in *American Islam: The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion* and in doing so projects the reality of what it means to be Muslim in America today.

Author: Paul Barrett, *American Islam: The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion*
Discussant: Altaf Husain

12:15-2:30 p.m. Community Service Recognition Luncheon Grand Ballroom-Hyatt Regency

The *Mahboob Khan Community Service Award* will be presented to a prominent community leader for his/her outstanding service to the Muslim community in North America. Check at the ISNA booth in the bazaar for tickets. (Tickets are \$200, if seats are still available).

Keynote Speaker: U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5A: Faith in Practice: Understanding Basic Principles of Fiqh Hall A

It is not the first time Muslims have existed as a minority in a non-Muslim polity. Our predecessors who found themselves a religious minority navigated the social, political, cultural, and legal constructs of their hosts to engender a communal reality that was at once coherent with their own reality and sincere to their faith. These communities engaged the basic principles of fiqh as they proceeded to organically create their indigenous identity. This session will examine some of these basic principles that should equip us to make some of the decisions we are faced with daily on our own, while addressing some of the unique aspects of the Fiqh of Minorities, with an emphasis on Muslims in America.

Speakers: Yusuf Kavakci, Zainab Alwani, Muzammil Siddiqi
Moderator: Iqbal Unus

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5B: Be the Family that Raises Children Who Uphold Faith and Serve Humanity Room 14

This session will explore the importance of family atmosphere in shaping children's personality. Emphasis will be placed on the role of parents in providing a favorable atmosphere to help raise children who can uphold faith and serve humanity. Other qualities such as linking the child to Allah and having a vision for our children's future will also be discussed.

Speakers: Ekram Beshir, Mohamed Rida Beshir
Moderator: **Khadija Hafajee**

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5C: Kashmir: New Hopes, Aspirations or Illusion Room 12

It has been a characteristic of the Kashmir problem that, at one point in time hopeful signs emerge of its being solved and, at the next point these signs prove wholly deceptive. This is a recurrent feature of the dispute, looked at from either side. The long history of the problem should instruct all the parties concerned that the dispute cannot be resolved without the participation of the genuine leadership of the people of Kashmir.

Speakers: Lord Nazir Ahmed, Congressman Dan Burton (R – IN), Khalid J. Qazi, Ghulam N. Mir
Moderator: Ghulam-Nabi Fai

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5D: Loving the Beloved of Allah Room 10

This session will discuss the importance of loving the Prophet (saw) in spiritual development, how to increase one's love for the Prophet (saw), the obstacles in the way of loving him and why we don't love him as his companions did.

Speakers: Nabil Sadoun, Muhammad Yahya Ninowy, Mokhtar Maghraoui

Moderator: Tajuddin Ahmed

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5E: Bridging the Gap: Incorporating Young Muslim Professionals into Our Islamic Centers Room 9

This session will discuss how Islamic centers can effectively incorporate young professionals into their organizational structures. As active MSA members graduate from college and enter their professions, they struggle to maintain their level of Islamic commitment and community involvement. They find it challenging to attach themselves to their local Islamic centers and communities. One of the main challenges is the perceived generation gap between elders and youth. Many elders view the youth as still inexperienced to take responsibility within the community, while many youth feel that the Islamic centers and organizations does not represent their goals and aspirations.

Speakers: Rizwan Jaka, Louay Safi, Mohammad Sheibani
Moderator: Hind Makki

2:45 – 4:00 p.m. Session 5F In Pursuit of Quality Islamic Schools: Characteristics and Criteria Room 30

The single most important characteristic of a quality Islamic school is a harmonious partnership between administrators and the board. This session will discuss how an Islamic school can achieve such partnerships as well as discuss a good conflict resolution mechanism.

Speakers: Safaa Zarzour, Yasmeen Qadri, Hanan Abdulla

Moderator: Nisar-ul-Haq

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5G: Tackling Economic Development Issues with Spiritual Conviction, Innovation and Professionalism Room 22

The session will highlight the activities of the North American Bangladeshi Islamic Community (NABIC), a US-based non-profit organization in addressing some of the basic needs of the people of Bangladesh-the 3rd largest Muslim country in the World. Specifically, the speakers will address the issues of arsenic contamination of ground water, one of biggest health and socio-economic problems impacting millions of people in Bangladesh and the eastern part of India. A rural piped surface water supply project sponsored by NABIC will be presented as a complementary system to arsenic remediation of ground water. The session will also present a lecture by Prof. Abul Hussam, the inventor of SONO Filter - a low cost maintenance free

arsenic filter – and the winner of the 2007 National Academy of Engineering \$1 million Grainger Challenge Award.

Speakers: Mohammad A. Karim, Abu Bakar Ahmed, Abul Hussam
Moderator: Rashed Nizam

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5H: Living Within the Law: Muslim American's Expressing Opinions and Protecting Civil Rights Room 23

Getting stopped at the airport? Law Enforcement knocking on your door? Worried about what you say on the phone or via email? Concerned about how you or your children are allowed to express opinions about politics, the war, and terrorism? Want to support both security and civil liberties? This session will cover a discussion and skit amongst experienced attorneys who practice criminal, constitutional and civil rights law. Learn to become an advocate for yourself and other Americans while protecting your rights.

Speakers: Khurram Wahid, Asad Ba-Yunus, Farhana Khera and Umbreen Bhatti
Moderator: Naheed Qureshi

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5J: Bridging the Gap: Intra-Faith Dialogue Between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims Room 30

Historically, Sunni and Shi'a Muslims have not had much cooperation. Both groups have done important work for the benefit of the Muslim community. However, little of that work has been done cooperatively. While Inter-faith dialogue is important, intra-faith collaboration is even more important. It is imperative that the two groups work together in order to create a stronger community of Muslims, and be more successful in improving the lives of Muslims in the U.S. and globally. The barriers to greater communication and cooperation have often been misunderstandings and misconceptions of each other. This session will cover the history of relations between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims in the U.S., the challenges in working together, and how to unite Muslims locally. How better to uphold faith and serve humanity, than by having greater understanding among Muslims, and working together to build a stronger community.

Speakers: Muneer Fareed, Saeed Khan, Hamid Mavani, Rima Meroueh
Moderator: Ghulam Haider Aasi

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5K: Medical Aspects of Fasting Room 34

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is a requirement for Muslims, except for those who are exempted for various reasons. Many patients who are taking medication for different illnesses can fast, but care must be taken to minimize, or eliminate the risks of adverse health consequences. The speakers will discuss exemptions from fasting because of illness and also steps that can be taken to adjust medications during fasting.

Speakers: Sheik N. Hassan, Shahid Athar, Mohamad Hagmagid Ali
Moderator: Hossam Fadel

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5L: Planned Charitable Giving: Estate Planning for the Muslim Room 31

Although Estate planning is a concept deeply rooted in Islamic tradition, Hadith and Qur'an, it continues to be a practice ignored and misunderstood by many Muslims. This session will shed light on various techniques to reduce your estate taxes and planning for the future of your estate. Experienced attorney's and estate planners will be on hand to answer your questions.

Speakers: Salman Azam, Nizam Arain, Mir Ali
Moderator: Abdul Alim Khandekar

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5M: Applications of Information Technology Toward Improving the Economic Conditions in Developing Countries Room 32

Information technology is an emerging field with a variety of applications in everyday life. This panel will focus on issues pertaining to the current development and applications of information technology toward improving the economic conditions in developing countries.

Speakers: M. A. G. Abushagur, Anwar Ahmad

Moderator: M.I. Khan

2:45- 4:00 p.m. Session 5N: Meet the Author Room 8

'Meet the Author' sessions present a platform to learn, share ideas, and provide literary contributions to the community. Participants receive an opportunity to meet with authors who have made contributions in the genre of Islam and Muslims in America and around the world.

Eboo Patel in *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation* relates how he suffered the racist taunts of fellow youth, and, in response, alternately rebelled against and absorbed the religion of his parents—Islam—but in his own way. This autobiography of a young activist captures how an angry youth can be transformed—by faith, by the community and, most of all, by himself—into a profound leader for the cause of peace.

Greg Mortenson, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time*.

Some failures lead to phenomenal successes, and this American nurse's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is one of them. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Greg Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe. In return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. Captivating and suspenseful, with engrossing accounts of both hostilities and unlikely friendships, this book will win the hearts of readers throughout the world.

Authors: Eboo Patel, *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*; Greg Mortenson, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time*.

Discussant: Milia Islam

4:30 – 6:00 p.m Session 6A: From the Margins to the Mainstream: Effective Outreach Hall A

Misrepresentations and bias about Islam and Muslims has never been more pervasive, today with Islamophobia on the rise across the world. Both detractors of Islam, and Muslims misappropriating the religion create false impressions daily. There has never been a greater need for understanding and dialogue than today, but there are major and serious challenges from both sides. The opportunities for creating this understanding are numerous, whether through interfaith, education, dialogue, personal relations, or the media, but the urgency of this obligation requires the participation of more than a few groups or individuals. This session emphasizes the need for this critical work, the importance of understanding and addressing one's audience, and practical steps and that can be taken by each one of us.

Speakers: Ibrahim Hooper, Sayyid M. Syeed, Kareem Irfan, Salam Al-Marayati
Moderator: Wafa Unus

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6B: Muslims 2008: Chicago Muslims Rally Room 14
Successful Congresspersons and leading grassroots activists will share the secrets of community empowerment. Learn how to empower your community by sparing a few hours a week. Organized by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago.

Speakers: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D – OH), Christine Cegelis, Abdul Malik Mujahid

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6C: The Islamic Jurisprudence for Minorities: ‘Fiqh al Aqaliyyat’
Room 12
The general goal of the session to provide the average American Muslim with a basic understanding of Fiqh al Aqaliyyat as a framework for addressing the challenges and issues that an average American Muslim faces in everyday life.

Speakers: Muzammil Siddiqi, Jamal Barzinji, Mohammed Al-Hanooti, Khaled Troudi

Moderator: Talal Sunbuli

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6D: “Garments of One Another ...” – The Nature of a Husband- Wife
Relationship Room 10
This session will discuss the nature of the relationship between spouses in regards to consultation, protection and equality. This session will recognize that there are cultural traditions that result in the belittling of women in a relationship.

Speakers: Abdullah Adhami, Salma Abugideri, Edmundo Arroyo

Moderator: Abdul Rauf Mir

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6E: The Struggle of Al-Aqsa and the Holy Land Room 9
This session will discuss the recent threats to the stability of the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, which serves as a microcosm of the ongoing Palestinian struggle.

Speakers: Hatem Bazian, Agha Saeed, Jamal Dajani, Jess Ghannam, Khalil Bendib
Moderator: Munjed A. Ahmad

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 6F: Election 2008: Understanding Changing Political Landscape and
Participating in National Agenda Room 12
A multiperspective analysis of possible shifts during midterm elections and articulation of a multidimensional strategy to enable American Muslim voters to play a meaningful role in the coalitional politics of peace, civil liberties, human rights and immigration rights.

Speakers: Mahdi Bray, Ahmed Al-Akhras, Agha Saeed
Moderator: Shabbir Safdar

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6G: Interfaith Interactions in the New Millennium – Building Inclusive
Communities Across America Room 22
As interfaith work becomes more common in our communities, the goals and benefits of engaging in this arena is sometimes remain intangible. How can we create more meaningful and productive interfaith

coalitions and models? How can we move beyond rhetoric to real relationships and resultant actions? Panelists will share their expertise and their experiences.

Speakers: Maha Elgenaidi, Ghalib Begg, Steve Sprietzer, Brenda Rosenburg
Moderator: Yasmine Khan

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6H: Upholding Faith and Serving Families of Domestic Violence Room 23
Violence within Muslim American families continues to grow. Various Muslim American communities, nonprofits and volunteers are coming forth to try to deal with the problem of domestic violence. This session will focus on the Islamic perspective on domestic violence, outline the problem of domestic violence, outline different ways to deal with the problem as well as provide specific immigration remedies for victims of domestic violence.

Speakers: Mohamed Hagmagid Ali, Shariq Siddiqui, Robina Naz, Bonita McGee
Moderator: Rafia Zakaria

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 6J: The Art of Integration: British Muslim Communities Challenges and Opportunities Room 30

Nearly two million British Muslims contribute significantly to life in Britain. They have substantial representation in government, the professions, media, sport and art. Nonetheless, the communities face a number of important challenges, including combating extremism and tackling the misperceptions of others about their lives. This session brings together leaders of British Muslim organizations to discuss various aspects of life as a British Muslim and how British Muslims can work in partnership with American Muslims.

Speakers: Mohammed Imran, Yayya Brit, Zahoor Qureshi, Zareen Roohi Ahmed
Moderator: Noreen Ahmed-Ullah

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6K: Education through Technology and Technology Education Room 34

This session will deal with some of the new trends and tools available for Islamic Schools in North America. Some of the experts will talk about tips to enhance the education with use of technology. Also, speakers will highlight the trends in technical education. You'll leave the session with a 'roadmap' for assessing and addressing your particular education needs.

Speakers: Habeeb Quadri, Arif Jourdar, Syed Imtiaz Ahmed
Moderator: Arif Ghafoor

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. **Session 6L: Islamic Finance: What's the Difference?** Room 31

As the Islamic finance industry continues to grow at an impressive rate, questions from the Muslim and non-Muslim community about what distinguishes it from conventional finance are also growing. Such yearning for knowledge and understanding may be exactly what has fueled the growth of the U.S. Sharia-compliant home financing industry which has now provided over a billion dollars in financing.

Speakers: Hussam Qutub
Moderator: Mohamed Elsanousi

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Session 6M: Muslim Nonprofits: Towards Protecting and Building Our Communities' Institutions Room 32

Muslim nonprofits of all types face a variety of serious challenges. Whether legal, financial or operational challenges, leaders of Muslim nonprofits need the know-how to face these challenges directly so as to protect and build our communities' institutions. Be they mosques, Islamic schools or Muslim educational, social service or charitable organizations, Muslim nonprofits are under increased scrutiny from internal and

external forces – not the least from donors who have become rightfully more cautious as to where their charitable dollars will be spent. With an eye towards constructive guidance, this session will explore issues of board governance by a nonprofit's board of trustees or directors, the individual fiduciary duties of a trustee or director, financial stewardship, management, accountability, transparency and nonprofit best practices.

Speakers: Mazen Asbahi, Ali Hassan, LaDale George, Farhana Khera
Moderator: M. Saleem Bajwa

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Session 6N: Meet the Author Room 8

'Meet the Author' sessions present a platform to learn, share ideas, and provide literary contributions to the community. Participants receive an opportunity to meet with authors who have made contributions in the genre of Islam and Muslims in America and around the world.

At home and abroad, the current administration has cut corners on fundamental commitments of the rule of law in the name of preventing future attacks. In this brilliantly conceived critique, Dr. David Cole, one of the country's preeminent constitutional scholars argue that the great irony is that these sacrifices in the rule of law, adopted in the name of prevention, have in fact made us more susceptible to future terrorist attacks. *Less Safe, Less Free: Why America is Losing the War on Terror* conclusively debunk the administration's claim that it is winning the war on terror and offer an alternative strategy in which the rule of law is an asset, not an obstacle, in the struggle to keep us both safe and free.

Author: David Cole, *Less Safe, Less Free: Why America is Losing the War on Terror*
Discussant: Farid Senzai

8:15 – 10:30 p.m. Session 7A: Upholding Faith, Serving Humanity Hall A

This session aims to address the main theme of the convention. Our duty as Muslims is to represent the true meaning of Islam while. By reaching out to the broader community we serve not only the underprivileged and underrepresented but also revitalize our souls through action. As tensions continue to increase throughout the world, we as North American Muslims have a unique opportunity rarely found elsewhere to serve our community with assurances of security and freedom. Using the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) as our shining example, this session aims –through diverse, informed, and unique speakers - to motivate, inspire, and move us beyond mere words and rhetoric, to truly living a way of life dedicated to serving God by serving humanity.

Speakers: Ingrid Mattson, Siraj Wahhaj, Zaid Shakir, Hamza Yusuf, Keith Ellison , Abdalla Idris Ali,
Asma Mirza, Zaki Barzinji
Moderator: Altaf Husain

Sunday, September 2, 2007

After Fajr Series

Azan – 5:15AM, Iqama – 5:30AM

5:40 -6:30 AM

Speaker: Syed Moustafa Al-Qazwini

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Session 8A: Connecting to God: Finding Our Spiritual Compass Hall A
One of the greatest challenges for people of faith today is finding the time and means to nourish their faith, while cultivating their relationship with God in the face of numerous diversions and distractions that preoccupy an increasing part of our lives. Additionally challenging is the trend towards limiting the influence of religion in the public square and navigating the often conflicting aspects of our lives. As Muslims who attempt to find balance between the terrestrial and the celestial, these realities can not be ignored. At the core of our collective concern is how to keep God front and center in both public and private, intra- and inter-communal, and personal and professional realities. This session will aim to understand what Muslims believe about God as well as how that belief relates to some of the mundane, philosophical, and epistemological concerns of our times.

Speakers: Umar F. Abd-Allah, Abdullah Adhami, Maha Hamoui

Moderator: **Ghulam Nabi Mir**

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Session 8B: How to Safeguard American Muslim Charitable Organizations and Compete for U.S. Government Grants Room 10

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the principal U.S. Government Agency that extends assistance to countries that are recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and are engaging

in democratic reforms. Among the beneficiaries of this assistance are Muslims living in regions of the world where USAID utilizes various contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and purchase orders to implement its activities. Faith-based and community groups have been valuable USAID partners in implementing assistance programs. For these reasons, we seek to identify and help strong, effective, and efficient groups to compete for foreign assistance funds. Protecting these groups and other charities from terrorist abuse is a critical component of the global fight against terrorism. In response, U.S. Treasury's Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes works with the other federal agencies, foreign governments, the U.S. charitable sector and Muslim-American charities to both improve the transparency and governance of charities, as well develop best practices to combat terrorist financing. In light of the upcoming Ramadan season, we will highlight the materials that are already available to assist American Muslim charities in safeguarding and improving operations, including explanations on how charity organizations can compete for U.S. Government grants.

Speakers: Mark S. Ward, Michael Rosen

Moderator: Kareem Irfan

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Meet the Author Room 8

'Meet the Author' sessions present a platform to learn, share ideas, and provide literary contributions to the community. Participants receive an opportunity to meet with authors who have made contributions in the genre of Islam and Muslims in America and around the world.

While some Americans associate Islam with terrorism and strife in the Middle East, author Michael Morgan counters with a resounding "no" – by showing how much we all owe to forgotten Muslim thinkers and inventors in his new book *Lost History: the Enduring Legacy of Muslim Scientists, Thinkers and Artists*. The book tells the story of a brilliant civilization built on pure genius and innovation - with a heavy dose of tolerance thrown in. The book shows how early Muslim breakthroughs in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, science, culture and leadership not only laid the cornerstones of the European Renaissance – but how they reverberate even today -- in computation, digital appliances, surgery and pharmaceuticals, film and books, modern universities and global commerce.

Author: Michael Morgan, *Lost History: the Enduring Legacy of Muslim Scientists, Thinkers and Artists*

Discussant: Muneer Fareed

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9A: Finding Unity within Our Diversity Hall A

Diversity of opinion has been the cornerstone of our rich intellectual discourse in Islam. However, divergent opinions have sometimes resulted in major divisions within the community. Achieving unity beyond mere rhetoric requires open and honest conversations on the reasons behind the division. Moreover, this discussion must focus on similarities from which an understanding of the other can be achieved. Although this discussion is vital to have between specific groups such as the Shi'a and Sunni communities in America, this is an important conversation that can benefit various diverse groups in the Muslim American community.

Speakers: Ihsan Bagby, Hamid Mavani, Mohamed Hagmagid Ali, Abdul Malik Mujahid (CIOGC Presentation)

Moderator: Louay Safi

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9B: Answering Difficult Frequently Asked Questions Room 14

Muslims today are bombarded with stereotypes and misconceptions about Islam which often puts them in a position to not address or clarify. This session provides answers to contemporary frequently asked questions, as well as general tips for responding to questions.

Speakers: Ameena Jandali, Salam Al-Marayati, Jamal Badawi

Moderator: Maha Elgenaidi

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9C: Justice in Darfur: Filling a Void in American Muslim Activism
Room 12

Muslims are killing Muslims in huge numbers. Yet, Muslim community activism and public discourse on Darfur has been lacking, in spite of the continuing crisis. The purpose of the session is to raise the salience of the humanitarian aspect of the crisis, and to begin discussion of possible solutions. What can Muslims in America do differently to help ameliorate this conflict and/or to address the relief needs of Muslims in Darfur? How can we as a community be more effective despite widespread mistrust of mainstream narratives of suffering and oppression?

Speakers: Abdalla Idris Ali, Aisha Al-Adawiyya, Blanche Foster

Moderator: Amir Al Islam

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9D: Serving Humanity Through Inter-Religious Partnership
Room 10

Religions united against fear, war, exploitation and injustices have earned recognition and credibility for their cooperation and mutual respect. The compassion and selfless dedication that religions bring to the ongoing struggle for equity and justice make their partnership the greatest asset of America. We have leaders of different religions and different denominations who have been working closely with ISNA on important projects to educate, inform and inspire the audience about different projects that they are involved in.

Speakers: Shanta Premawardhany, Jay Rock, Rabbi Arthur Waskow

Moderator: Sayyid M. Syeed

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9E: Learning The Ropes of Political Campaigning Room 9

This session presents a great opportunity to learn from the people in the political trenches. This is designed to learn about the ins and outs of political campaigning at local and national level. Experienced insiders are invited from local district hopefuls to national campaigning advisors to share a wide spectrum of experience and insights with ISNA members. It is a follow up to the last year's session of, "Meeting the Elected Leaders." Interactive discussion will be encouraged among the audience and the presenters.

Speakers: Mohammed Ali Chaudry, Mona Munasser, Zaif Bilal, Shahid Ahmed Khan, Nasim Ansari

Moderator: Faizan Haq

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9F: Muslim Chaplains as Catalyst for Integrating Islam to the North American Society Room 21

What are the challenges faced by Muslim chaplains today? What kind of support do they need from the larger Muslim community and how can chaplains better serve as agents of integration of Islam into the American society? Come listen to experts in the field share their perspective on this important aspect on the American Muslim society.

Speakers: Bilal Ansari, Yahya Hinde, Omar Shahin

Moderator: Abdul Rasheed Muhammad

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9G: Muslim Refugee Resettlement in America Room 22

The growing number of global conflicts are reflected in the number of refugees that come into the United States. The number of Muslim refugees is especially on the rise. This session will outline how the Muslim community can deal with this community issue.

Speakers: John Tuskan, Abdul Basit, Altaf Husain

Moderator: Ghulam Bakali

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9H: Contributions of Muslim Executives in the West: Next Steps to Progress Room 23

Muslim contributions in the Western world have often been under-estimated and in many cases remain unknown. With almost 45% of North America's Muslims who are professionals versus 35% the average American, CAMP International highlights how Muslims represent a growing population of executives who are contributing to the growing economy of the Western world and where we are heading in the years ahead.

Speakers: Rushdi Siddiqui, Mohammed Gaber, S. Jafer Hasnain, Rafi-uddin Shikoh
Moderator: Urz Heer

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9J: Working for the Federal Government Room 30

The objective of this panel is to highlight the many employment and internship opportunities that are available with the federal government.

Speakers: Brian Flora, Mark Ward, Hesham ElGamiel, Sana Hussain
Moderator: George Selim

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9K: Career Trends and Job Fair Technology Room 34

Learn more about the latest trends and opportunities in the ever-changing world of information technology. Are you looking for a job? Are you recently graduated from a university or college with a degree in IT? Are you looking at options of moving/changing your current job? If you said yes to any of these questions, then this session is for you. Bring your resume and meet employers who will be hiring on the spot. Learn about the importance of professional networking within the Muslim community along with the impact of certifications and training in your career path. (Refreshments will be provided at this session – Courtesy of Ventech Solutions)

Speakers: Moqheet Syed, Ravi Kunduru
Moderator: Ashfaq Lodhi

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9L: Leaving A Legacy: A Primer on Charitable Giving Room 31

Islam's emphasis on charitable giving, whether through the *zakat* or general *sadaqa*, is a critical component of one's short existence on earth. God's promise is all too real, as is the ability to leave a legacy by making a lasting impact on society and on our communities' institutions through charitable and planned giving. As Americans we set a record for the third-straight year contributing over \$295.02 billion in 2006. However, as Muslims, many believe that charitable contributions have decreased to Muslim organizations in recent years due to a number of factors, especially the closure of a number of high-profile Muslim charities. Muslim donors need to be intelligent about how they spend their charitable dollars. This session will focus on both the basics and a number of high-level tax efficient means of charitable giving, including charitable gift annuities, donating unique assets, naming a Muslim organization as a beneficiary of non-probate property and use of charitable remainder trusts.

Speakers: Tom Abendroth, Mazen Asbahi
Moderator: Farooq Selod

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9M: Knowledge Based Economic Development Room 32

The prospects and challenges associated with the development of knowledge based economy in developing countries will be discussed in this session.

Speakers: S. Al-Malik, K. A. Qureshi, F. Khan

Moderator: M. S. Alam

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 9N: Meet the Author Room 8

'Meet the Author' sessions present a platform to learn, share ideas, and provide literary contributions to the community. Participants receive an opportunity to meet with authors who have made contributions in the genre of Islam and Muslims in America and around the world.

Abu Hamid al-Ghazali is a Muslim jurist-theologian best known for his work in philosophy, ethics, law, and mysticism. In an engaged re-reading of the ideas of this preeminent Muslim thinker, Ebrahim Moosa argues that Ghazali's work has lasting relevance today as a model for a critical encounter with the Muslim intellectual tradition in a modern and postmodern context. Dr. Moosa argues that by incorporating elements of Islamic theology, neoplatonic mysticism, and Aristotelian philosophy, Ghazali's work epitomizes the idea that the answers to life's complex realities do not reside in a single culture or intellectual tradition. Ghazali's emphasis on creativity, imagination, and freedom of thought provides a sorely needed model for a cosmopolitan intellectual renewal among Muslims. Such a creative and critical inheritance, he concludes, ought to be heeded by those who seek to cultivate Muslim intellectual traditions in today's tumultuous world.

Author: Ebrahim Moosa, *Ghazali and the Poetics of Imagination*

Discussant: Omer Mozaffar

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Session 10A: ISNA Business Session Hall A

ISNA leaders discuss the working of the organization, offer their ideas for advancing Islamic work through the ISNA mission, and receive feedback from members.

Speakers: ISNA President, ISNA Secretary General, Majlis Ash-Shura, Executive Council

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11A: Stewards Over the Earth: Faith and the Environment Hall A

Today the earth is faced with one of the most catastrophic threats in its history: global warming. This phenomenon has the potential to wreak havoc on every aspect of our lives if steps are not taken to curb greenhouse gases. Added to this are numerous other devastating affects of unchecked modernity, such as water and air pollution, deforestation, diminishing resources, extinction of species, and a plethora of other environmental problems. The Qur'an contains hundreds of references to nature and creation as signs of God and a bounty for humankind and humans' role as stewards over this earth. This session will examine numerous environmental principals illustrated in Islam, explain the concepts of stewardship and ecology, and identify concrete steps we can take collectively to address this serious crisis.

Speakers: Ameena Jandali, Jamal Badawi, Hakim Archuletta

Moderator: Sami Catovic

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11B: Promoting Civic Engagement Room 14

The goal of this session is to define and describe civic engagement, and to explain its importance in a post 9/11 environment. Speakers will explain the many ways American Muslims can participate in civic life and will highlight the benefits of such participation. Chief among these are positive contributions not only to our own communities, but to the larger American society in which we live and of which we are an integral part. This panel will explore ways to combine the energy and talent of the Muslim American community and actively put them to use in making the world a better place.

Speakers: al-Husein Madhany, Eboo Patel, Rami Nashashibi, Maha Elgenaidi, Shahed Amanullah

Moderator: Shaarik Zafar

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11D: American Muslims for Constructive Engagement: A New Initiative

Room 10

The general objective of this session is to explain and encourage constructive engagement by Muslim community members and groups with US government agencies and activities domestically and internationally. The specific objectives of the session are: one, to explain the idea of constructive engagement from an Islamic perspective and its benefits to the American Muslim community; two, to present the initiative undertaken by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD) and the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) for building a more constructive and cooperative relationship between the U.S. government and the American Muslim community; and three, to encourage Islamic organizations, community groups and Muslim individuals to get involved with this Initiative in the areas or projects relevant to their interests.

Speakers: Jamal Barzinji, Iqbal Unus, Nihad Awad, Esam Omeish, Abubaker Al-Shingieti

Moderator: Hisham Al-Talib

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11F: Muslims in America: What the Studies Show Room 21

The panelists will present findings from the newly released Pew study on American Muslims. The speakers will address the overall implications of the findings, both negative and positive, comment on the methodology, and discuss future projects. Finally, the speakers will tie in with the Pew Study recommendations from The Chicago Council Task Force on Muslim American Civic and Political Engagement.

Speakers: Ingrid Mattson, Saeed A. Khan, Muqtedar Khan

Moderator: Farid Senzai

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11G: The Art of Being Interviewed: How to be an Effective Spokesperson Room 22

Being interviewed by reporters can often be an uneasy experience, but it doesn't have to be with proper preparation. There are some basic steps all spokespeople should follow before going on the air. Seasoned professionals will share tips and techniques for preparing the messenger and the message.

Speakers: Ibrahim Hooper, Rabiah Ahmed

Moderator: Ahmed Bedier

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11H: Community Planning for a Pandemic Room 23

It is likely that an influenza pandemic could occur in the near future. A pandemic could literally result in millions of deaths and have major negative economic impact. The infrastructure would be inadequate to manage the anticipated number of patients and the economic impact, should a pandemic occur, unless appropriate plans are in place to minimize the spread of the virus. Such plans must involve individuals and groups from all segments of the community. Planning for such a pandemic is a long term process that began sometime ago at the federal and state levels. The speakers plan to discuss the role of the Muslim community and their leaders in planning for a potential pandemic.

Speakers: Shahul Ebrahim, Walter L. Holt, Sheik N. Hassan

Moderator: Ashraf Sufi

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11J: American Muslims and Jews Together: Building a Hopeful Future Room 30

American Muslims and Jews are the most resourceful, talented minorities committed to the betterment of America. By promoting dialogue and cooperation, we can fight the ignorance that leads to intolerance, fear and strife. By working together as friends and neighbors, we can direct our combined energies for building a better future here as well as on a global level.

Speakers: Ari Alexander, Gulrukh Rahman, Elie Stern
Moderator: Sayyid M. Syeed

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11K: **Islam Amongst Latino Americans** **Room 34**

The number of Spanish speaking Muslim converts continues to grow everyday. This session will discuss this phenomenon as well as outline the kinds of Daw'ah activities that are taking place in this area. Finally, the panelists will discuss the challenges that these converts face.

Speakers: Edmundo Arroyo, Khadija Marta Galedry, Ricardo Pena

Moderator: Diego Salcedo

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11L: Short Presentations II **Room 31**

Understanding Hijab within the Muslim Community

Speaker: Heather Laird-Jackson

Findings of the Muslim Marriage Survey – Project Sakinah

Speaker: Abdur-Rahim Syed

The *Beating Verse* and Other Misinterpretations: Ending Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities

Speaker: Keilani Abdullah

Counseling and Service Delivery to Muslims

Speaker: Shabana Anees

Beautiful Manners: An Avenue to the Heart

Speaker: Bishr Aldabagh

Moderator: Rashed Nizam

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11M: Networking and AMSE Business Meeting **Room 32**

The importance of networking in the job market will be discussed followed by the annual AMSE Business Meeting and election for the new AMSE executive committee

Speakers: K. A. Qureshi, I. J. Unus

Moderator: K. A. Qureshi

4:30-6:00 p.m. Session 11P: Meet the Author **Room 8**

'Meet the Author' sessions present a platform to learn, share ideas, and provide literary contributions to the community. Participants receive an opportunity to meet with authors who have made contributions in the genre of Islam and Muslims in America and around the world.

While much has been written about contemporary American Islam and pioneering studies have appeared on Muslim slaves in the antebellum period, comparatively little is known about Islam in Victorian America. This biography of Alexander Russell Webb, one of the earliest American Muslims to achieve public renown, seeks to fill this gap. Webb was a central figure of American Islam during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A native of the Hudson Valley, he was a journalist, editor, and civil servant. Raised a Presbyterian, Webb early on began to cultivate an interest in other religions and became particularly fascinated by Islam. While serving as U.S. consul to the Philippines in 1887, he took a greater interest in the faith and embraced it in 1888, one of the first Americans known to have done so. This biography examines Webb's life and uses it as a window through which to explore the early history of Islam in America. As America's Muslim community grows and becomes more visible, Webb's life and the virtues he championed - pluralism, liberalism, universal humanity, and a sense of civic and political responsibility - exemplify what it means to be an American Muslim.

Author: Umar Faruq Abd-Allah, *A Muslim in Victorian America: The Life of Alexander Russell Webb*

Discussant: Ebrahim Moosa

10:00 – 11:00 p.m. Mushaira Room 10

10:15 – 11:30 p.m. Entertainment Session Hall A

Muslim artists share their faith and passion of Islam through poems, prose, lyrics, comedy and more.

Monday, September 3, 2007

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Session 13A: Executive Summary Room 14

Join us for this year's executive summary session of the 44th Annual ISNA Convention. Articulate Muslim professionals will offer a synopsis of core concepts, highlights and essential 'take away' action points from key convention speeches and sessions during the past three days. Watch 'on the spot' opinions from your fellow attendees in post lecture interviews taken throughout the meeting--you may even see yourself or someone you know. This informative presentation will enlighten the many convention attendees, leaders, guests, volunteers, speakers/moderators, and vendors who were unable to attend all of the convention sessions. This is also a great opportunity for the media to get a snapshot of the ISNA Convention.