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- Mohamad Rajabally
- Nousheen Chaudry
- Waleed Rajabally
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- Haseeb Sadaat
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# ISNA West Zone Seerah Conference



Co-sponsored by MCA of Santa Clara

*“Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness”*

December 18 – 19, 2009  
Muslim Community Center  
3003 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054

**Friday, December 18, 2009**

**Registration begins at 11:00 AM**

TIME	SESSIONS/SPEAKERS	PLACE
<b>8:30 – 10:30 PM</b>	<p><b>OPENING MAIN SESSION</b> <b>Welcome Address:</b> <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Ahmed ElHattab, ISNA Acting Secretary General, Monem Salam, ISNA West Zone Officer, Mohammed Nadeem, MCA President</p>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
	<p><b>The Message that Changed the World</b> This session is geared towards what the Messenger of God (peace be upon him) accomplished in his lifetime for the spread of Islam. He affected societal change through his vision, planning, work ethic and determination. All of these qualities are essential for Muslims striving to better their communities in the USA. <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Zaid Shakir, Mohamed Magid <b>MODERATOR:</b> Mohammad Rajabally</p>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
<b>10:30 PM – 12:00 AM</b>	<p><b>MSA PROGRAM</b> <b>Actions Speak Louder than Words</b> Following the actions of Prophet Muhammad (S) and implementing it into our daily lives: “Discovering the purpose of listening to learn and not hearing to forget.” <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Kamran Riaz, Khalid Latif, Ali Ataei <b>MODERATOR:</b> Haseeb Sadat</p>	<b>Masjid Hall</b>

Saturday, December 19, 2009

Registration begins at 9:00 AM

TIME	SESSIONS/SPEAKERS	PLACE
10:30 – 12:00 PM	<p><b>MAIN SESSION</b></p> <p><b>The Man Who Came to Perfect Noble Character</b></p> <p>The Final Messenger of God (peace be upon him) said, "I have only come to perfect noble character." His character, as shown throughout his seerah and sunnah, is a guide for Muslims around the world in dealing with the trials and tribulations of modern society. This session will open the conference by having attendees connect with his life and times, showing his character and the importance of spreading his message through our actions, not just our sayings.</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS:</b> Altaf Husain, Alauddin El-Bakri, Louay Safi</p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Salman Khan</p>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
	<p><b>MSA SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Connecting with Allah: Nurturing the Prophetic Tradition in Our Daily Lives</b></p> <p><i>When someone asked the Mother of the Faithful, Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her), about the character of the Prophet, she answered, 'His character was the Qur'an.'</i></p> <p>The first Muslims were blessed with a constant connection to Allah through the companionship of our beloved Prophet Muhammad—a connection that was felt strongly in their daily lives. Although we live in a time long after the Prophet's death and in a land far away from where the message began, this connection is certainly attainable for us even today. In the Prophet (pbuh), we have the most beautiful example of how to live our lives worshipping Allah as if we see Him and how to develop a powerful connection to our Creator.</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS:</b> Mohamed Magid, Kamran Riaz</p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Bilal Asghar</p>	<b>Game Room</b>
	<p><b>MYNA SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Learning from a Legacy of Change: You Say You Want a Revolution...</b></p> <p>From the very moment we are born, our lives start a constant countdown to our death. Our time on this earth is truly transient—it is constantly moving forward, despite our efforts to stop it. Our lives are simply marked by the steady flow of sand through an hour glass; with every second that passes, another grain of sand falls...and it will never return. Our actions on this earth are represented by the dash between the date of our birth and our death, nothing more. Allah (swt) has given us this limited time on His Earth to make a difference. As Muslims, we should make the most of every second we are blessed to have; for certainly it is our duty to take hold of the fleeting moments granted to us by our Creator.</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS:</b> Khalid Latif, Monem Salam</p>	<b>Mothers Lounge</b>



TIME	SESSIONS/SPEAKERS	PLACE
12:30 – 1:30 PM	<b>Lunch/Zuhr Prayer</b>	
1:30 – 3:00 PM	<p><b>MAIN SESSION</b>  <b>Thinking Outside the Mosque:  The Prophetic Model for Community Service</b>  <i>“By Allah! Allah will never disgrace you. You keep good ties with relations, you help the poor and the destitute, you serve your guests generously and assist those who have been afflicted with calamities.” —said Khadijah, mother of the Faithful, about the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).</i>  As we have explored practicing the Sunnah in our individual, family, and community lives, we now explore how to bring the Sunnah to the outside world by serving the extended community outside our masjid walls. This session shows the importance of community service in the Qur’an and Sunnah, as well as the various means we can use to practice community service as Muslims in North America.</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS:</b> Suhail Khan, Altaf Husain, Ameena Jandali  <b>MODERATOR:</b> Asma Ghori</p>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
	<p><b>MSA SESSION</b>  <b>The “New” Companions:  Applying Past Lessons to Today’s World</b>  Where are Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman, and Ali? Who should we follow after they left us so long ago? Can we find role-models anywhere other than books of Seerah and history? Can we be these role-models—the new companions?</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS:</b> Basim Elkarra, Ali Ataie, Khalid Latif  <b>MODERATOR:</b> Mohammad Mojadidi</p>	<b>Game Room</b>
	<p><b>MYNA SESSION</b>  <b>Ingredients to Perfection: Sabr, Shukr, Dhikr</b>  We have been given the ultimate challenge: a life-long quest to better ourselves in the eyes of Allah (swt). One would assume that the pursuit of His pleasure is one of difficulty, but Allah, in His infinite wisdom, has given us the recipe for success. It’s as simple as 1, 2, 3. Patient perseverance, gratefulness, and constant remembrance of Allah are the main ingredients in this divine recipe. We must bring patience into our hearts to achieve the greater goals in life, be grateful for the things that we often overlook, and continually remember the blessings Allah has bestowed upon us. Take advantage of this divine cheat sheet and use Sabr, Shukr, Dhikr to raise your status in this life and the next.</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS:</b> Mohamed Magid, Kamran Riaz</p>	<b>Mothers Lounge</b>
3:00 – 3:30 PM	<b>Break/Asr Prayer</b>	
3:30 – 4:45 PM	<p><b>MAIN SESSION</b>  <b>Pursuing Freedom from Oppression in the Family:  The Right of Each Muslim</b></p>	<b>Main Prayer Hall</b>

**TIME**

**SESSIONS/SPEAKERS**

**PLACE**

This session outlines the Islamic paradigm for peaceful families, healthy family dynamics, recognizing the signs of oppression, and identifying ways to deal with oppression and to liberate oneself through Islamic teachings in the event of oppression in the family.

**SPEAKERS:** Mohamed Magid, Mohammad Rajabally  
**MODERATOR:** Nizar Ahmad

**MSA SESSION**

**Game Room**

**Lost in Translation: Connecting with Our Parents**

*"Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. Whether one or both attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. And out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say, "my Lord! bestow on them Your Mercy, even as they cherished me in childhood."(Qur'an 17: 23, 24)*

It is no easy task to balance both your home and school life. Many parents don't realize the huge time commitment of going to college— between classes, Islamic meetings, and hanging out after jumma. Can they really expect us to be perfect daughters and sons? The real problem is that many of us don't realize that striving to achieve perfection in our relationship with our parents is a sacred responsibility and a divine decree. This session will explore how maintaining a relationship of love and mercy with your parents is a stepping stone to developing a strong family, and will pave a path for us straight to paradise.

**SPEAKERS:** Altaf Husain, Kamran Riaz, Alauddin El-Bakri

**PARENTING SESSION**

**Mothers Lounge**

**The Shield: Connecting with Our Youth**

*"Oh you who believe, shield yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones..." (Qur'an 66:6)*

Raising a child in the era of social networks, supersonic communication and global youth culture is certainly a different job than what it used to be in the days when we ourselves were youth. As one of the guided caliphates said "Don't raise your children the same way you were raised because they were created for a time that is different than yours." This session will shed light on the reality facing our youth, their developmental needs at different stages and the role that we as parents can play in their lives so that we can fulfill the responsibility with which we have been entrusted.

**SPEAKER:** Iyad Alnacheh, Khalid Latif

**LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

**Board Room**

**Leading with Compassion:**

**Awakening the Compassionate Leader in You**

This workshop introduces the concept of compassionate leadership and examines its essential components: character, competence, and compassion. The discussion draws on the examples of Prophet Muhammad (S) and the

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	<p>Qur’anic teachings to outline the qualities of compassionate leaders, and outline a strategy to develop those qualities. The workshop includes hands on exercises intended to help participants assess their current leadership capacity and develop a strategy to building future capacity.</p> <p><b>SPEAKER:</b> Louay Safi</p>	
<p><b>5:00 – 5:15 PM</b> <b>5:15 – 5:45 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Maghrib Prayer</b> <b>Khatirah (Short Spiritual Talk)</b></p>	
<p><b>5:45 – 7:45 PM</b></p>	<p><b>ISNA Banquet Program (Entry by Ticket only)</b>  <b>TOPIC:</b> Citizenship and Civic Engagement  <b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER:</b> Jamal Badawi</p>	<p><b>Banquet Hall</b></p>
<p><b>8:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Isha Prayer</b></p>	
<p><b>8:30 – 10:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>CONCLUDING SESSION</b>  <b>No Muslim Left Behind:</b>  <b>Mercy as a Tool for Uniting Communities</b>  <i>“And obey Allah and His messenger, and dispute not with one another lest you falter and your power depart from you; but be steadfast. Assuredly, Allah is with those who are steadfast.” (Qur’an 8:46)</i>                      There is much talk about how we must unite the Ummah. And yet within our own communities we still find a great deal of unfairness, stubbornness, cliquish behavior, and even prejudice. We must implement a true understanding of the Prophetic tradition of compassion, respect, and mercy towards one another in order to unite our own individual communities. This session focuses on the importance of exemplifying Prophetic tradition in our Islamic work and at the masjid, and will also explore practical ways to help us work through our differences.  <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Altaf Husain, Mohamed Magid  <b>MODERATOR:</b> Manzoor Ghori</p>	<p><b>Banquet Hall</b></p>
<p><b>10:00 PM — 12:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>MSA SESSION</b>  <b>Understanding the Love Triangle:</b>  <b>You, Your Spouse and Your Lord</b>  <i>“And among His signs is this that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your hearts. Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.” (Qur’an 30:21)</i>                      Should I go through a matrimonial service, follow the advice of a friend’s spouse, or have my parents find someone for me? As we are approaching a time in which we look to “complete our deen,” this session will explore some practical advice on how to go about finding your future spouse in light of the example set forth for us by the Prophet (pbuh).  <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Alaaedin El-Bakri, Bassim ElKarra</p>	<p><b>Banquet Hall</b></p>