

**ISNA South Central Conference
Westin Galleria Hotel, Houston, TX**

July 4-6, 2008

"Muslims in the Public Square" - Spiritual and Institutional Development

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Session Timing:

Friday, July 4	Conference Registration begins at 10:30 AM		
Time	Topic	Speakers	Room
1:30-2:30 PM	<i>Juma'a Prayer</i>	<i>Sheikh Abdalla Idris Ali</i>	Galleria 3
2:00-3:30 PM	Lunch		
4:00-5:30 PM	Plenary Session 1A Inauguration – Welcome Session This session will introduce attendees to the conference as well as to the Muslim organizations working to establish justice and peace through education and outreach programs at local and national level.	Speakers: Moien Butt, Muneer Fareed, Abdalla Idris Ali, Local, National and organizational Repts Moderator: Azhar Azeez	Galleria 1,2
5:45 PM	Asr Prayer		Galleria 3
6:00-7:30 PM	Parallel Sessions		
<i>ISNA 2A</i>	Prophet Muhammad (SAW): Mercy to Mankind The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is described in the Quran as "A mercy to the worlds". How does that mercy translate into our daily lives?	Muneer Fareed, Abdalla Idris Ali, Zoubir Bouchikhi Moderator: Hisham Obaid	Bellaire & Post Oak
<i>ISNA 2B</i>	Tackling Economic Development Issues with Spiritual Conviction As the Dot Com Era turned into the Dot-Downturn Era, many analysts were asking about the effectiveness of starting businesses from scratch. However, Islam has seen a rich tradition of business-minded Muslims from its inception (after all, the Prophet sall Allahu alayhi wasallam was a merchant). This session will explore the considerations that a Muslim should have when starting their own business enterprise in an ever-changing techno-centric society.	Yahia A. Rahman, Mahmood Elgamal, Monem Salam Moderator:	Tanglewood

ISNA 2C	<p>Healthcare Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifa Clinic - Azam Kundi, MD • Common Gastrointestinal Disorders - Sardar Daud Khan, MD • Role of Cholesterol in Coronary Artery Disease - Abdul Ali, MD • Questions and Answers with Physicians 		Westchester
ISNA 2D	<p>Dawah Overview by Various Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 Muslim Scholars attended the Makkah Conference on 'Dialogue of the Faiths' • ISNA, ICNA, Tablighi Jama'at, MAS, Local & Regional Islamic Organizations, Latinos Organizations involved in Dawah. <p>Panel Discussion on Dawah: Rodwan Saleh, Sheikh Moustafa Mahmoud Moderator: Rafique Janjua</p>	<p>Sayyid M. Syeed, Louay Safi</p> <p>Moderator: Rodwaan Saleh</p>	
MSA 2E	<p>Toward Tolerance: Embracing Diversity, Strengthening the Ummah</p> <p>Diversity of thought and practice are strengths of our community. Islam is a religion committed to pluralism, tolerance, and diversity of views. We must move beyond the ethnic, cultural, and ideological barriers preventing our American Muslim community from a brighter tomorrow. How can we, as Muslim students, help our community find middle ground by embracing our diverse backgrounds?</p> <p><i>"O mankind! Reverence your Guardian-Lord, who created you from a single person, created, of like nature, His mate, and from them twain scattered (like seeds) countless men and women; - reverence Allah, through whom ye demand your mutual (rights), and (reverence) the wombs (That bore you): for Allah ever watches over you." (4:1)</i></p>	<p><i>Speak: Rodwan Saleh, Safaa Zarzour</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Fariha Tayyab & Nawal Elnashar</i></p>	West Alabama
MYNA 2F	<p>Making your Hours Count: A Reward in the Dunya and Akhirah</p> <p>We have all heard that cliché lecture about intentions, but how much of it have you really absorbed? It is human nature to mold our actions to impress others and covet positions of power. So when you're doing good things, it's easy to get carried away by praise and become focused solely on recognition. If we find our focus straying from volunteering solely for the sake of our Creator, how can we purify our intentions? Being focused on volunteering for the sake of Allah may be difficult, but the rewards are twofold: benefits in this life and the next.</p>	<p>Mohamed El-Moctar El-Shinqiti, Ibrahim Dremali</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	Chevy Chase
7:30-8:45 PM	Maghrib Prayer & Dinner		Galleria 3
9:00-10:30 PM	<p>Plenary Session 3A Serving the Community: From Theory to Practice All too often, community service is oftentimes</p>	<p>Obaid Kazi, Muneer Fareed, Maha Elgenaidi,</p>	Galleria 1,2

	<p>overlooked as a “volunteer” activity, instead a core central doctrine of the Islamic message, as understood by our beloved Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wasallam) and his followers. In the spirit of serving the community, this session will explore the ways in which the Muslim organizations (masajid, schools, political and civic organizations, etc.) can put together programs and resources for empowerment of the community at local, regional and national level in light of the examples set forth by our beloved Prophet SAW.</p>	<p>Abdalla Idris Ali</p> <p>Moderator: Eisa Galloway</p>	
	<p>MSA Session 3B Conflict Resolution (with Effective Communication)</p> <p>Disagreements and differences are an inevitable part of any dynamic organization. With the diverse and varied backgrounds, hopes and expectations of MSA members, disagreements can be challenging and can escalate into conflict. This workshop will introduce conflict resolution techniques that help you see conflict as an opportunity for growth and for creating win-win situations. The workshop is highly interactive and will require audience participation.</p> <p><i>This session will be conducted by COMPASS, the MSA National Training Program. The mission of COMPASS is to train Muslim students to manage highly effective campus organizations and to serve their campus community with dedication and excellence.</i></p>	<p><i>Speaker:</i> Mohamed Shilliwala</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Nawal Elnashar</p>	
	<p>Turning Up the Volume: An Insight from the Artists</p> <p>The beat, the lyrics, the songs—we listen to them all the time. Come and watch your favorite Islamic artists in an interactive ENTERTAINMENT session for everyone. Not only will you see these artists perform, but you will get a chance to see what really goes on in the making of all those songs. Ask questions, be entertained, meet the artists, and share your ideas.</p>	<p>Native Deen</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	
10:45-11:30	Qiyam Al-Lail		Galleria 3
Saturday, July 5, 2008	Registration Opens 8:30 AM		
5:30 AM	Fajr Prayer & Khatira	Mohamed El-Moctar El-Shinqiti	Galleria 3
10:00-11:15 AM	<p>Plenary Session 4A Strengthening America: The Civic and Political Integration of Muslim Americans</p> <p>The goal of this session is to define 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</p>	<p>Sayyid Syeed, Louay Safi, Safaa Zarzour, Masroor J Khan</p> <p>Moderator: Afaq Durrani</p>	Galleria 1,2

	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.		
10:00-11:15 AM	MYNA Session 4B Ph.D to Jannah With classes, homework, and teacher conferences, it is hard to extricate yourself from this black hole we call school. What if we could spend all of this time getting A's in the school system as well as with Allah? There <i>are</i> ways to use your secular education to your spiritual advantage.	Habeeb Quadri, Muneer Fareed Moderator:	
11:30-1:00 PM	Parallel Sessions		
ISNA 5A	Islamic Schools: Achieving excellence, Sustaining progress Educators are called upon to guide, and mentor the students to academic success but Muslim educators have the added responsibility of ensuring that our schools also imbue our students with the identity, the morals and the values that Islam espouses. Session will focus on such pedagogical theories and practical applications to promote these objectives.	Nisarul-Haq, Nabil Sadoun, Hamid Ghazali, Safaa Zarzour Moderator: Zoubir Bouchikhi	
ISNA 5B	General Political Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Legitimacy in the Holy Quran • My journey to Houston City Hall • Running Political Campaigns in a major America city 	Mohamed El-Moctar El-Shinqiti, Masroor J. Khan, Mustafa Tameez Moderator: Louay Safi	
ISNA 5C	Interfaith alliances towards the development of the faith community Building strategic alliances with various interfaith organizations is one of the most effective ways to gain visibility in one's local and national communities as well as sway public opinion on issues of importance to people of faith. This session will describe some of the best practices in establishing such alliances within the interfaith communities.	Maha Elgenaidi, Sam Dunning, Sayyid Syeed, Yahia A. Rahman, Moderator: Amjad Al Mohtasib	
ISNA 5D	Healthcare Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osteoporosis -Waseem Ali, MD • Fitness - Omer Ilahi, MD • Breast Cancer Screening - • Childhood Immunization - Syed Azeemuddin, MD • Questions and Answers 		
MSA 5E	Strengthening our Foundation: Awareness of Islamic Etiquette Healthy relationships are the foundation upon which strong Muslim communities are built. Good character, dealing justly with each other, and respectful manners should be the hallmark of the Muslim community. Although in today's society these important attributes	Ingrid Mattson, Moderator:	

	<p>are often ignored, it is important for Muslim students to understand, internalize, and adopt proper standards of Islamic etiquette in order to move beyond our differences and unite upon our shared values.</p> <p><i>"The believers are but brethren, therefore make peace between your brethren and be careful of (your duty to) Allah that mercy may be had on you." (49:10)</i></p>		
MYNA 5F	<p>American Muslim: Where to Draw the Line Part of everyday life as an American youth is interacting with different people and facing tough challenges that make us question our roles and duties as Muslims. How far can we go to adapt ourselves to society while maintaining our Islamic values? Whenever we are socializing with our peers, it is important to know where to draw the line between adapting and assimilating.</p>	<p>Habeeb Quadri, Maha Elgenaidi</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	
2:30-4:00 PM	Parallel Sessions		
ISNA 6A	<p>Re-inventing the Mosque for our Children The Masjid is the pulse of every community. In recent times that pulse has become weaker. This session will examine how we can kick start our Masajid and take them to the next level to accommodate the needs and expectations of our future generations.</p>	<p>Ingrid Mattson, Habeeb Quadri</p> <p>Moderator: Rodwaan Saleh</p>	
ISNA 6B	<p>Faith in Practice: Role of Fiqh in our everyday Life Every day Muslims encounter situations in which Fiqh applies. Most of the time we don't know what the proper rulings are and we act in accordance to what we "THINK" is right. This session will examine the importance of knowing Fiqh. Open question and answer session.</p>	<p>Muneer Fareed, Moustafa Mahmoud, Muzammil Siddiqi</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	
ISNA 6C	<p>Focused Political & Civic Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact and influence of Islamic blogs and websites on political and civic engagement of Muslims in the USA • Muslim Integration in Holland - Comparison to USA • Political grassroots work on behalf of Muslims in South Florida 	<p>Shahed Amanullah, AJ Durrani, Suhail Nanji</p> <p>Moderator: Safaa Zarzour</p>	
MSA 6D	<p>Transcending Differences, Celebrating Diversity One of the greatest achievements during the life of the Prophet (PBUH) was the establishment of a single unified Muslim community. As American Muslims representing ethnic backgrounds from every corner of the globe, we must learn from trials of the early Muslims in how they were able to transcend beyond family, clan, tribal, and ethnic boundaries for the sake of God. How can we turn the diversity within our communities into a strength we can use to benefit our communities and ourselves?</p> <p><i>"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and</i></p>	<p>Mohamaed Moctar al- Shinqiti, Maha ElGenaidi</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	

	<i>tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)."</i> (49:13)		
MYNA 6E	<p>Footprints in the Sand: Learning from our Prophet</p> <p>He couldn't fly. He didn't have super strength. He didn't even have his own TV show. With only Allah's help, the Prophet (saw) was able to become the greatest leader of all time. He handled problems with care, he guided his followers with love, and he faced opposition with firmness. He led his followers from oppression to glory while earning their love and trust. It was his ability to deal with any type of challenge gracefully that made him such a remarkable leader. In this session, we will learn how we can strive for righteousness, endure struggle, and serve our faith from his example.</p>	Louay Safi, Moderator:	
4:15-5:45 PM	Parallel Sessions		
ISNA 7A	<p>Political & Civic Outreach in Texas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilizing Muslim participation in political involvement in Houston • How to Mobilize our Community in a "small" city - San Antoni • Coalition building in grassroots politics in Houston 	<p>Arif Gafur Sarwat Hussein CONAC Representative</p> <p>Moderator: Mustafa Tameez</p>	
ISNA 7B	<p>The Contemporary View and Role of Muslim Women in the Mosque and Islamic Center</p> <p>Our faith is of utmost importance, but how does one effectively balance the often competing roles that Islam encourages us to have, from being a devoted servant of Allah, to a caring and involved parent or family member, and a contributing and engaged member of the community? Moreover, while the participation of women, specifically, at all levels is vital to a healthy community, this need is often not realized due to a woman's greater family responsibilities, restricted views of women's participation and other factors. Indeed, the Qur'anic imperative and Prophetic example provides us with guiding principals and injunctions, but it is often practical experience that helps brings into practice.</p>	<p>Louay Safi, Maha Elgenaidi, Muneer Fareed, Farha Ahmed</p> <p>Moderator :</p>	
ISNA 7C	<p>Media as Dawah Tool: Presentation & Panel Discussion</p> <p>How to use Radio, TV, Internet, Pamphlets, Videos, DVD's, Well-stocked Dawah Rooms in various mosques.</p>	<p>Ala Sallam, Mamdouh Rezeika</p> <p>Moderator: Ilyas Choudry</p>	
MSA 7D	Succession Planning	<i>Atifa Chiragh</i>	

	<p>MSA's across the country experience tumultuous changes in leadership because of the nature of college life. Find out how to create an organization that can withstand these changes and continue to grow after the transfer of responsibilities. COMPASS trainers will help you come up with strategies and techniques that will keep your MSA successful.</p> <p><i>This session will be conducted by COMPASS, the MSA National Training Program. The mission of COMPASS is to train Muslim students to manage highly effective campus organizations and to serve their campus community with dedication and excellence.</i></p>		
MYNA 7E	<p>MYNASPACE: a place for friends You have secrets. Everybody does. But would you ever share them? That time you were offered a drink by a friend, but didn't know what to do. Or when your parents caught you talking to someone of the opposite gender, and you had no good explanation. 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 listened to the lectures, heard the speakers, now it's time for YOU to get YOUR SAY. Speak whatever is on your mind and express yourself in a free and comfortable atmosphere. 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. This is your space.</p>	<p>Speakers: You!</p> <p>Moderators: Shad Siddiqi, Aisha Noor</p>	
6:00 PM	Asr Prayer		
6:00-8:30 PM	<p>ISNA Celebration Banquet (Admission by Ticket only) Muslims in the Public Square - Spiritual and Institutional Development</p>	<p>Abd al Hakim Jackson, Muneer Fareed, Mayor White, Ingrid Mattson</p>	
8:45 PM	Maghrib Prayer		
9:00-10:30 PM	<p>Plenary Session 8A Building our Communities, Brick by Brick There is much wisdom in the old adage "It takes a village to raise a child." However, the question inevitably arises – how do you build that village? This session will explore some of the best practices in building effective community organizations and close-knit societies.</p>	<p>Sayyid Syeed, Ibrahim Dremali, Safaa Zarzour, Muzammil Siddiqi</p> <p>Moderator: Obaid Kazi</p>	
9:00-10:30 PM	<p>MYNA Session 8B Muslims for president: Our Voice in the Nation As youth, we have a strong voice that needs to be heard, especially in the political arena. If we look back at the time of Prophet (saw), many youth took on important roles in passing Islam down to later</p>	<p>Ingrid Mattson, Shad Siddiqi</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	

	generations. These youth were brilliant examples and we can emulate them by getting more involved and showing that our opinion as Muslim youth <i>does</i> matter. In following the Khulafaa of yesterday we can become the leaders of today.		
10:30-11:30 PM	Entertainment Program	Performances from 786 and other prominent comedians	
	<i>Mushaira</i>	Poets	
Sunday July 5, 2008			
5:30 AM	Fajr Prayer and Khatra	Rodwaan Saleh	
10:00-11:30 AM	Parallel Sessions		
ISNA 9A	Strengthening our Marriages Due to our hectic lifestyles, it is all-too-often that days and perhaps weeks go and there is no serious conversation taking place between spouses. Unfortunately, as a result, nearly 1/3 of Muslim marriages fail in the West. How can Muslim couples strengthen the most important bond of all – the bond between themselves – to solidify the foundations for healthy, productive families? This session will explore some of the practical steps that Muslims can take to ensure healthy, long-lasting marriages.	Nisar-ul-Haq, Ibrahim Dremali Moderator:	
ISNA 9B	Planned Charitable Giving Estate Planning: Securing Your Future. Estate Planning is deeply rooted in the traditions of Islam. This panel discussion will bring together legal aspects of estate planning as well as the Shariah component. Experts in both the fields, Estate Planning and law, will be on hand to answer your questions.	Abdul Hafiz Khatri, Ahmad Shaikh, Safaa Zarzour Moderator: Leslie Belfguira	
ISNA 9C	Political Workshop Strategic Analysis of Services to Muslim in Houston	Obaid Kazi Moderator: Afaq Durrani	
	Discussion & Workshops on Prison Dawah: 1. Prison Volunteers: Team Leader: Zafar Kureshi , Farid Fleming, Omar Bouderdaben, Harun Alacatag, Rafique Janjua, Others. 2. Aftercare of Released Ex-offenders: Team Leader: Basil Abdullah , Eugene Farooq, Dr Mazhar Kazi, Rosie Khan, Tanwir Badar, L. Khan.	Laeq Khan & Mazhar Kazi Moderator: Tanwir Badar	
MSA 9D	Time Management Is your GPA suffering because of MSA work? Are you having to cut back on your MSA work to maintain your GPA? This workshop will introduce	<i>Speaker: Atifa Chiragh</i> <i>Moderator:</i>	

	<p>you to time management concepts and skills by asking you to examine your roles in life. You will learn the value of time, time saving and time wasting habits, and how to consider your roles in life, your physical and spiritual well being in tackling your multiple commitments.</p> <p><i>This workshop will be conducted by COMPASS, the MSA National Training Program. The mission of COMPASS is to train Muslim students to manage highly effective campus organizations and to serve their campus community with dedication and excellence.</i></p>		
MYNA 9E	<p>Activism: stepping off the benches and getting on the field</p> <p>It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, or how much experience you have, you can get involved and do anything. Even the littlest things in your community, no matter how small, can help you make a difference. Taking the first step to getting active is the most difficult, but small steps lead to substantial results. Being an activist can be a rollercoaster ride of disappointment from lack of involvement to euphoria after a successful event, but everyone agrees that it's worth it.</p>	<p>Iyad Alnachef</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	
11:45-1:00 PM	<p>Plenary Session 10A (Concluding Session) Road Ahead: American Muslim Leadership - Challenges, opportunities, and prospects</p>	<p>Louay Safi, Maha Elgenaidi, Moien Butt, Azhar Azeez</p> <p>Moderator: Rodwan Saleh</p>	
11:45-1:00 PM	<p>MYNA Session 10B Staying sane 101: for Activists</p> <p>Getting active isn't the hard part. Maintaining our sanity while being an activist is. It is easy to get wrapped up in the excitement of helping others, but the real struggle is in managing our commitments: practicing our religion, doing schoolwork 24/7, and spending time with family. Not to mention activities like hanging out with friends and spending time on facebook and AIM. How did the greatest activist, our Prophet (saw) maintain a balance between worldly duties, family, and devotion to Allah?</p>	<p>Shad Siddiqi, Aisha Noor</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	
11:45-1:00 PM	<p>MSA 10C Creating Community: Unity Beyond the University</p> <p>Muslim students have been able to create vibrant communities on college campuses across North America. Unfortunately, often times the close-knit community relations on university campuses are not extended beyond college life. Many Muslim students struggle with the transition from MSA to their larger Muslim communities. Why does this disconnect occur and how can we apply past lessons learned in building successful communities beyond university life?</p>	<p>Speaker:</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	

	<i>"The Believers, men and women, are protectors one of another: they enjoin what is just, and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them will Allah pour His mercy: for Allah is Exalted in power, Wise." (9:71)</i>		
1:30-2:00 PM	Zuhr Prayer and Du'a		
	E N D		