

# YOUR MONEY \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ WORK



ISNA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
*2016 Year In Review Highlights*

# 2016 Year in Review

The Your Money at Work newsletter highlights some of ISNA's 2016 activities. Since the newsletter is just a summary, you can visit our website ([www.isna.net](http://www.isna.net)) to read more details about our mission and further accomplishments.

## JANUARY

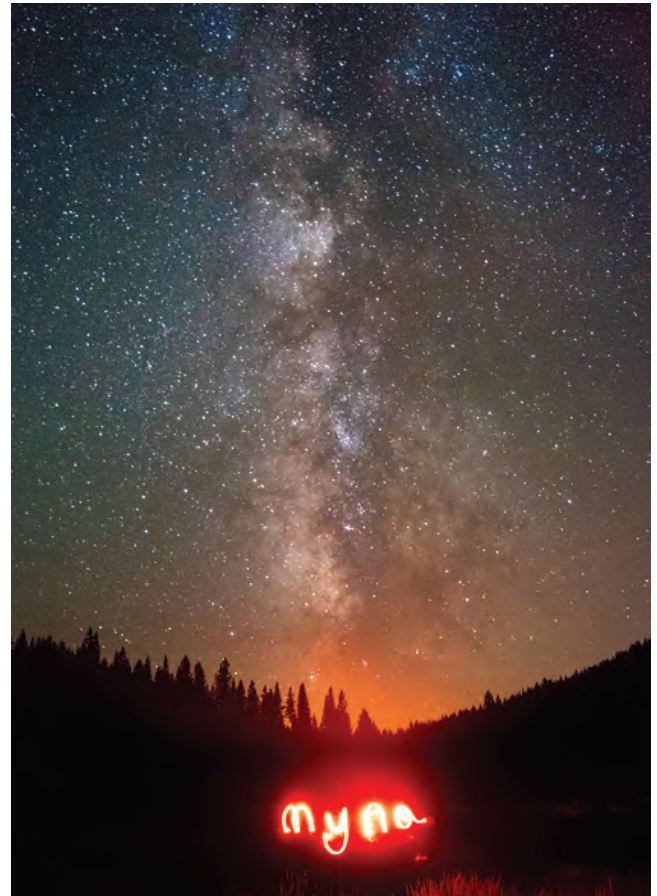
### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual West Coast ISNA Education Forum *"Envisioning Authentic Islamic Schools"*



***"Effective presentations, excellent experience and humble personalities. Great conference!"***

—West Coast Education Forum Attendee

CO-SPONSORED BY THE ALDEEN Foundation, this forum held in California focused on envisioning authentic Islamic schools that will nurture the innate nature (fitra) of students. Sessions emphasized that it is how educators lead, manage and teach with the latest educational trends, in accordance with the teaching methodology of the Prophet (pbuh), that make Islamic schools unique.



### MYNA Youth Committee (MYC) Retreat in Michigan

MYNA's NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, REGIONAL Executive Committee Chairs, Majlis Youth Committee, and ISNA's Youth Programming and Services Department (YPSD) worked together to form new visions that will coincide with an outlook for growth. Many policies were adjusted and aims for inclusivity and accessibility were among the main ideas the group discussed to help find solutions to.

**ISNA** TOOK PART IN THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE Ministry of Armed Forces (NCMAF) in Alexandria, VA with the theme "Transitions, Serving during a Time of Change." The event brought together endorsers from all faith groups and connected them with military and VA chaplaincies. ISNA continues to endorse several chaplains and lay leaders in various fields of chaplaincy.





### Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER CAMPAIGN, ISNA, AND THE other 31 national religious partners, pledged to preserve and defend religious freedom for all religions during a public meeting at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

## FEBRUARY

ISNA HOSTED AN INTERFAITH PRESS CONFERENCE IN response to vandalism done to ISNA's headquarters building in Plainfield, IN. This helped turn the incident into a positive message of understanding and hope, and generated much needed attention and support.



ISNA, AS A STEERING COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION MEMBER of Shoulder to Shoulder, took part in the executive board meeting which discussed how interfaith partners can do more to counter anti-Muslim sentiment.



ISNA CO-SPONSORED A PANEL DISCUSSION TITLED "Deepening Inter-Religious Dialogue and Community Alliances" with the U.S. Conference of Bishops. To address growing public concern, the panel discussion revolved around the topics of violent extremism, terrorism, and transnational violent movements under a religious banner. Panelists shared their respective efforts, knowledge and experience on inter-religious dialogue, community resilience and public engagement as effective approaches to community and peace building.

## MARCH

ISNA HELD AN OPEN HOUSE AT HEADQUARTERS FOR THE public in response to overwhelming support from the community at-large. The open house featured ISNA's history gallery, informational materials, calligraphy, interfaith speakers and a food drive to benefit a local food pantry.





**17th Annual ISNA Education Forum**  
*"Reality Check—Refocusing on Mission & Vision"*



***"This was a blessing that I will take back to help my teachers and school. Thank you for having this."***

—Education Forum Attendee

THIS FORUM HELD IN ILLINOIS, IN collaboration with the Council of Islamic Schools of North America (CISNA), hosted over 700 attendees to help them expand their knowledge and skill sets. As Islamic schools forge ahead with using technology to enhance learning, partnering with parents, and addressing the needs of all learners, facilitators put forward the important task of discussing and revisiting the mission and vision of Islamic schools.



**MYNA Spring Camps**  
*"Repainting the Muslim Canvas"*

YPSD AND THE MUSLIM YOUTH OF NORTH AMERICA (MYNA) organized five spring camps nationwide in California, Florida, Texas, Illinois and Kentucky. Participants







delved into the differences between culture and religion, and how each plays a part in coming to terms with our true identity as American Muslims. Some camps included sessions about the rich history of Islamic contributions to society, while others had the youth go out into the city with signs saying “Meet a Muslim” to encourage positive interactions with local residents.



ISNA’s OFFICE OF INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY ALLIANCES (IOICA) along with several other religious leaders, gathered outside of the White House for a press conference for equal protection for all religions and to stop Islamophobia.

ISNA’s GREEN MASJID TASK FORCE HOSTED A THREE-PART webinar series highlighting various aspects of the movement to make masajid environmentally friendly. Topics included “Created You from Water,” “We Have Been Entrusted as the Caretakers and Stewards of Planet Earth” and “Green Ramadan.”







## APRIL

***“At MYNA we send the message that youth must be civically engaged as part of our Muslim and American identities, whether that’s through activism around causes, leadership in the Muslim community, working on Capitol Hill or simply being a model citizen.”***

—Sayeed Siddiqui  
(2015-16 MYNA President),  
ISNA Interfaith &  
Government Forum  
Participant

### ISNA’s Interfaith and Government Forum in Washington, D.C

THE TWO-DAY FORUM BEGAN WITH AN INTERFAITH PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS Club, which called upon the Republican and Democratic parties to take a forceful stand against anti-Muslim bigotry and discrimination against all religious minorities. ISNA leaders then met with several Senior White House Officials for a briefing to discuss religious freedom and pluralism, civil rights, national security and refugees, and humanitarian efforts. Senator Orrin G. Hatch also hosted a Congressional Reception at the Hart Senate Building.

During the forum, ISNA organized an intra-faith summit in which Sunni and Shi’ite leaders met to discuss community building within the Muslim community, and how the two communities can work together harmoniously in the United States and globally.

MYNA executive committee members also took part in the event to represent the voices of their fellow Muslim youth, interacting with both government officials and interfaith leaders to seek out avenues in which youth can be involved. The MYNA leaders emphasized the importance of youth engagement and involvement in highlighting the positive Muslim contributions to our society.





## MAY

**ISNA** PARTNERED WITH THE KHALIL CENTER TO PRESENT weekly webinars in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. Topics included “Normal Highs and Lows vs. Serious Mental Illness,” “Common Family Issues Affecting Our Well-Being,” “Role of Islam and Spirituality in Creating Psychological Resilience” and “What is Therapy and How Can It Help Us?”

**ISNA** JOINED CONGRESSMAN DON BEYER FOR THE RELEASE of the Freedom of Religion (FOR) Act. ISNA is one of the co-supporters and creators of the FOR Act which is a bipartisan bill in support of religious freedom.

## JUNE

### **MYNA Jam in Ohio**

*“Evolution of the American Muslim”*

YPSD HELD AN EVENT FILLED WITH LECTURES, WORKSHOPS and entertainment. Participants discussed and expanded upon how Islam in America is ingrained into our everyday culture, woven tightly throughout the ages. This experience helped youth explore and investigate the multiple paradigms of Muslims living in the United States.



### **MYNA Milwaukee: The Newest Chapter**

MYNA OPENED THE NEWEST REGIONAL CHAPTER AND hosted their first event. New chapters reflect the impact, growth and demand of youth development, while helping them to create their own spaces in their communities.



### **MYNA Summer Leadership Summit in Indiana**

MYNA'S ENTIRE OUTGOING AND INCOMING LEADERSHIP and ISNA's Youth and Programming Services staff came together to work on future plans and vision. The group also discussed the upcoming year's activities, planned the camp themes and locations, trained incoming leaders, and worked on new events, initiatives and programming.







ISNA's OFFICE OF INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY ALLIANCES (IOICA) joined several American Muslim leaders at a press conference on the March for America: Americans Against Terrorism, Hate and Gun Violence.



ISNA LEADERSHIP AND STAFF ORGANIZED NATIONWIDE community outreach visits to numerous cities during the month of Ramadan. ISNA hosted some events, presented spiritual talks, and discussed how ISNA can collaborate with local communities to achieve shared goals and objectives.

## JULY

ISNA CONDUCTED A MEETING WITH DEMOCRATIC National Committee and Republican National Committee Faith Leadership for changing the hateful rhetoric taking place against Muslims on the campaign trail.

ISNA LEADERSHIP JOINED NATIONAL LEADERS AT THE Eid reception hosted by President Barack Obama. While the White House has recognized Muslims by having an annual



iftar dinner, this event marked a change in history by the Administration by holding an Eid party at the White House, just as they do for Christmas.

ISNA PARTNERED WITH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL POLICY and Understanding (ISPU) for two webinar discussions on how to increase civic engagement in American Muslim communities and to review a recent comprehensive American Muslim poll, which surveyed various American faith groups on their views about politics, religion, policy, priorities and more.

## AUGUST

IOICA GAVE THE KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE LUTHERAN Convention to address their initiative of "Getting to Know Your Muslim Neighbor."

## ISNA Matrimonial Banquets

- ❖ Nine matrimonial events were hosted throughout the year; cities included Newport Beach, Chicago, Memphis, Dallas, New Jersey, Dublin and Santa Clara.
- ❖ ISNA co-sponsored a matrimonial event at the NABIC convention in Dallas.

***"Best matrimonial experience."***

***"It is a nice platform to meet new Muslim people."***





# ISNA Conference Tour

## *"Striving for Justice – The Prophetic Way of Life"*

*We sent our Messengers with the clear signs and sent down the book and the balance with them so that mankind might establish justice. [Qur'an 57:25]*

ISNA's 2016 conference tour visited various major cities around the nation throughout the year. The events provided inspiring and spiritually nourishing discussions that explored the concept of justice in Islam and taught participants how to practically apply it in their daily lives and in their communities.



➡ **February –  
St. Louis, MO**

➡ **April –  
Memphis, TN**

➡ **May –  
Dallas, TX**

➡ **June –  
Edison, NJ**

➡ **November –  
Columbus, OH**

➡ **December –  
Santa Clara, CA**





**ISNA** AND THE FOUNDATION FOR ETHNIC UNDERSTANDING (FFEU) jointly launched the campaign “Muslims Are Speaking Out.”

**ISNA** PARTICIPATED IN A DISCUSSION ON THE SOCIAL Security Administration’s faith outreach.

### MYNA Summer Camps

“Stop, Submit, Serve”



YPSD AND MYNA ORGANIZED FOUR SUMMER CAMPS IN Kansas, Indiana, Maryland and Nevada. Youth were taken through a week-long venture of submitting to God and improving themselves in order to serve the community. Alongside a full program of spiritual and leadership education, youth were shown the need of being agents of change within their wider spheres.

## ISNA Headquarters

**ISNA headquarters** hosts hundreds of visitors each year, as well as giving presentations in various settings around the metropolitan area, thereby reaching thousands of friends and neighbors. Visiting and hosting groups include churches, schools and universities, seminaries, chaplaincy programs, civic organizations, interfaith events and public forums.



## ISNA Scholarships

This year, ISNA awarded 34 student scholarships totaling \$107,500. Subject majors vary from journalism, political science, medical technology, computer science, finance, business administration and more.

★ **Aziz Jamaluddin** – 10 students were awarded \$4,000 each; this is a recurring scholarship.

★ **Dr. Abdulmunim A. Shakir** – 20 freshman students were awarded \$1,000 each; this is a one-time scholarship.

★ **AMANA Mutual Funds Scholarship** – One award of \$2,500 This scholarship through ISNA allows AMANA Mutual Funds to continue to build upon its Islamic principles and provide further support for the American Muslim community.

★ **IDB Scholarship** – Each year five scholarships of \$15,000 each are awarded an interest free loan (qard hasan) as part of this scholarship. The objective is to help students achieve and succeed by receiving financial aid, and then have them pay back the funds to benefit other future students.



*“Since I was a child, ISNA has provided me with a strong foundation in both faith and civic engagement. I am grateful to ISNA for this scholarship, which will help me further my education in public policy and pursue a career as a journalist in service of the public interest.”*

—Hafsa Razi, Scholarship Recipient





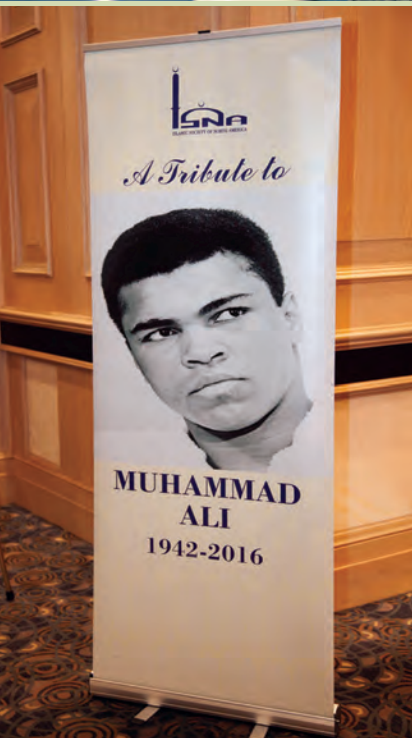
# ISNA's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention in Illinois

*"Turning Points: Navigating Challenges, Seizing Opportunities"*

## SEPTEMBER

THIS YEAR'S THEME ALLOWED SCHOLARLY DELIBERATIONS AND ENGAGING conversations in the main sessions, parallel sessions and roundtable discussions. The broad goal was to look at how we can navigate through challenges and respond effectively. Sessions explored how to organize and empower our communities by seizing the opportunities to strengthen our faith, to impart its teachings and to address socially complex issues facing Muslims and society at large.





- ❖ Over 200 speakers, 6 Plenary Sessions, 15 Main Sessions, 62 Parallel Sessions, 5 Workshops & 9 Roundtables
- ❖ Bazaar with 538 booths
- ❖ Special Tribute to Muhammad Ali
- ❖ Community Service Recognition Luncheon banquet keynote speaker was Fmr. Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, guest speakers were Khizr and Ghazala Khan. Dr. Syed Imtiaz Ahmad received the community service award for his decades of service to the Muslim community in Canada and the U.S. from his early involvement with MSA and ongoing contributions to ISNA.
- ❖ ISNA's Government Breakfast was attended by representatives of all three branches of the U.S. government.
- ❖ ISNA hosted Senator Richard Durbin, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, and Archbishop Blaise Cupich, Cardinal of Chicago and the representative from the Vatican to the Muslim community
- ❖ ISNA's Interfaith Unity Banquet welcomed people from all faiths and backgrounds.
- ❖ MYNA's program track "If Not You, Then Who?" focused on the empowerment of youth in today's time and stressed the importance of their involvement in local communities and society at large. Session topics covered mental health, reproductive health, Islamophobia, conversations on drugs, LGBTQ, engaging with elders, dealing with doubt and spiritual numbness, following the legacy of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)





and honoring Muslim heroes in America. The program also incorporated non-lecture elements for youth to speak together without judgment about various topics like peer pressure, family relations, the effect of social media and more.

- ❖ Health Fair
- ❖ National Qira'at Competition
- ❖ Meet the Author
- ❖ Young Professionals Luncheon
- ❖ ISNA's Entrepreneurial Competition showcased mid-level businesses from across North America. Teams were given 5 minutes to pitch their business in front of 4 business investors, in which they questioned the entrepreneurial teams, provided feedback and extended investment offers. The winner was Bey Designs, a design company focusing on all-natural, recyclable novelty items.
- ❖ MSA Program
- ❖ Stop Hunger Now, Food Packaging Project
- ❖ American Muslim Lifestyle Event
- ❖ Matrimonial Banquets
- ❖ Film Festival
- ❖ Art & Photography Exhibit
- ❖ Entertainment
- ❖ Carnival for Children
- ❖ Fashion Show for Women
- ❖ Association of Muslim Scientist, Engineers and Technology Professionals (AMSET)
- ❖ Career Guidance and Business Development Workshops
- ❖ Basketball Tournaments (Boys & Girls)





ISNA'S ELECTION COMMITTEE CONDUCTED THE ISNA general (biennial) election over the summer with newly elected officers taking their positions in September 2016. ISNA members voted to re-elect the president and two vice presidents, along with five new members-at-large positions on the Majlis Ash-Shura.

## SEPTEMBER

ISNA LED THE SESSION TITLED "ENGAGING RELIGIOUS Actors to Promote Human Rights: The Marrakesh Declaration" at the U.S. Department of State's Religion and Diplomacy Conference in Washington, D.C. The Marrakesh Declaration provides a legal framework and call to action to protect the rights of religious minorities in predominantly Muslim countries.

## OCTOBER



### ISNA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Masjid Forum

*"Strengthening Masjid through Practical Knowledge and Insightful Discussion"*

HELD IN MICHIGAN AND CO-SPONSORED with ISPU and Michigan Muslim Community Council (MMCC), this forum of leaders, imams, board members and community members focused on developing concrete recommendations for strengthening and growing mosques in North America by means of shared experiences, expert

advice and open discussions.

ISNA PARTNERED WITH A LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH TO present a three-part program of Catholic/Muslim dialogue



in which the two communities learned more about each other and came to appreciate our common values. The inspiration for this initiative was taken from the encounter between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malek al-Kamil in the year 1220 CE.

ISNA HELD THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF STRATEGIC PLANNING meetings in Washington D.C. to thoroughly analyze, assess and evaluate how ISNA can improve and best serve the Muslim community and society at large. A third party professional company is helping to lead these ongoing efforts, along with key stakeholders, to ensure ISNA's viability, relevancy and sustainability into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## DECEMBER

### MYNA Winter Camps

*"Mission Possible: Pursuit of Excellence"*



THESE WEEK LONG CAMPS HELD IN TEXAS, MARYLAND, Indiana and California, ventured on increasing spirituality and perfecting adab (manners).





Educate. Empower. Engage.







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