

“Keeping the Kingston Muslim Community Bonded”

The Bond



Islamic Society of Kingston

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“O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.”

Quran 2:183

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IMAM'S MESSAGE

The Significance of Ramadan

In the society where we live, instant gratification is the norm. Commercial advertising drills the message in our minds from a young age that we are entitled for the best products and services out there and that we deserve it NOW!! Yet, happiness or even self-contentment is so elusive in this materialistic culture as we are caught in the consumerist trap. As people realize that happiness attached to things is short lived and transitory, vanishing as if a snowflake on a scorching ground, a newer product is introduced in the market periodically to keep consumers in the spending cycle.

If inner peace is what grants lasting happiness, what is the way to it? For Muslims all over the world, Ramadan is that time when brings spiritual joy and contentment in the community. Children look forward to sighting the moon, preparation of special meals and getting together with family and friends. Adults see Ramadan as a time to purify themselves of shortcomings and sins and maximizing rewards. In short, what may be considered 'dreadful' 30 days by people outside the faith, is in fact a highly anticipated time of year for Muslims.

The name says it all; Ramadan is derived from the Arabic root word ra-mi-da which signifies a burning ground. Spiritually, our bad deeds burn away in this month as our hearts and souls undergo a change this month. This is the month when the Quran was revealed. It is also the month in which one particular night is better than a thousand months. The first ten days are of divine mercy; the second ten days are forgiveness; and the last ten days are acquittal from hellfire. Ideally, Ramadan is an opportunity to strengthen one's iman, purify one's heart, remove the ill-effects of sins and, consequently, re-establish one's relationship with the Creator. The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Anyone who fasts during this month with purity of belief and with expectation of a good reward (from his Creator), will have his previous sins forgiven," and "Anyone who stands in prayers during its nights with purity of belief and expectation of a reward, will have his previous sins forgiven." The rewards for good deeds are multiplied manifold during Ramadan to the extent that a nafl prayer is equal to a fard and an umrah is equal to a hajj in reward. Perhaps the greatest honor given to this month was that it was the month Allah SWT chose to reveal His Word for humanity.

"The month of Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'an was revealed as a guidance for humanity, as a clear proof of that guidance, and as a criterion for distinguishing between right and wrong" (2: 185).

Hence, Muslims engage themselves with the divine Word throughout this month. Not only is it read and heard in taraweeh, but Muslims engage in reading, memorizing and revising the Quran in Ramadan as was the practice of our pious predecessors. Furthermore, Muslims are more charitable in the month of Ramadan in accordance with the Sunnah of the beloved Prophet Muhammad. Beyond that, there is a feeling of love, mercy and compassion that pervades a community observing Ramadan with all its due.

We wish and pray that this Ramadan showers its blessings on Muslims all over the world and strengthens them as an ummah. May this Ramadan be a source of peace, tranquility, joy, and closeness to Allah SWT for all. Ameen.

by Imam Sheharyar Shaikh

COMMUNITY VOICE

As salaamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakatuh,

First and foremost, on behalf of the youth: a warm Ramadan Mubarak! Alhamdulillah we have reached this sacred month, and we pray for it to be a means of spiritual betterment.

Though the past few months have been busy with school, the youth have found time to gather. On Sunday, May 29th, we participated in a youth exchange with the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship, in which we met with Unitarian youth for an evening of activities, socialization, and reflection upon our faiths and spirituality.

It was a wonderful night and we extend our gratitude to the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship for their hospitality and graciousness. Insha'Allah this is a step in the right direction to meet with, teach and learn from youth of other traditions.

We will also be continuing our campfire tradition this Ramadan. On June 17th, we will be having a special Campfire Night from 6:30 - 10:15, where we will be hosting the Unitarian youth group. We plan on having activities, breaking our fast with dates and water and then having a potluck dinner around the campfire with s'mores for dessert. The youth are welcome to join us insha'Allah - it should be super fun! More information is to come in the coming weeks, and dates for the other campfires can be found posted in the masjid and online.

Alas; as the school year ends, some of our youth executives and youth members of the community will be graduating from high school insha'Allah. We extend our well-wishes and prayers to the following:

- Hafsa Haley
- Farah Hassouneh
- Lubnaa Hossenbaccus
- Sana Towheed
- Sana Shaban
- Yusuf Antar
- Yara Elsharkawy
- Ambreen Navid
- Samira Abdalla

May Allah bless them and allow them to make great contributions to the global community insha'Allah; and all good things are from Him.

Sana Towheed

Secretary, Kingston Muslim Youth

COMMUNITY VOICE

Masjid "Scents-itivity"

Through the years we have heard increasing reports of those who have developed sensitivity to their physical environment, more specifically, to fragrances within their environment. In our community, there is at least one known individual who has, on several occasions, succumbed to violent allergic reactions including coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing to the extent that the individual was forced to leave the *salah* (prayer). This is triggered by exposure to individuals wearing large doses of perfume/cologne (i.e. such that the scent is obvious to those around them). While not everyone may have reactions of this severity, there are those who have also complained of milder reactions such as headaches resulting from exposure to strong perfumes/colognes.

Insha'Allah, it is hoped that this note serves to raise awareness in our community of the issue of scent-sensitivity and the difficulties faced by those who are afflicted with it. Please keep this in mind out of courtesy for those Brothers and Sisters who are "scents-itive". More importantly, however, Abu Hurairah relates that the Prophet (SAW) said: **"Do not keep the female servants of Allah (i.e. Muslim women) from the mosques of Allah. And they are to go out unperfumed"** (related by Ahmad and Abu Dawud)

Also, we have to keep in mind that the Prophet SAAW advised us to avoid being the source of any bad smell at the mosque or any other gathering. As reported in Sahih Muslim, the Prophet SAAW said, **"He who has eaten garlic or onion or Kurrath (another bad smelling herb) should not approach our mosque, for angels also suffer from that which causes suffering to humans."** The Prophet also advised Muslims to attend gatherings, such as *Jumaa* and *Eid* prayers nicely groomed and well dressed. Abu-Dawood in his *Sunan* reported that the Prophet SAAW said, **"If you can afford it, it is befitting that for the Jumaa prayer you wear garments other than your working clothes."**

Mona Rahman

COMMUNITY VOICE



Ramadan Mubarak from the MC² Team. While our regular program is finished, we will still be having activities during Ramadan and will try to do some things in the summer, *Insha Allah*, with our regular session starting up again in the fall. During Ramadan, we will be having two overnight programs at the masjid. All overnight programs begin immediately after the 20 rakaat of Salat-ul-Taraweeh. Please do not leave your children without checking in with the supervisors. Supervision will NOT start until this time.

Our first Ramadan session is a **Parent and Child** program which will be held on **Friday, June 10**, *Insha Allah*. **All children must be accompanied by an adult guardian.** Please don't forget your parents!

Our second overnight program is just for kids, *Insha Allah*, on **Friday, June 24**. Send your parents home after Taraweeh but be sure to register first by **June 23**. We will be sending out a link to register as the date gets closer.

Please check out our Facebook page for cool Ramadan activities and useful articles. May Allah (SWT) accept your fasts, prayers and deeds, and make this month a source of immense blessing for everyone.

The Muslim Children's Circle is for children in grades 2-7.

For more information, please contact the MC² team through Sr. Mona Rahman at: education@kingstonmuslims.ca

Also, check out our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MuslimChildrensCircle/>

COMMUNITY VOICE

Request for Donations for ICK Extension Project

“Be among the first to donate and earn the rewards of all who follow”.

“The parable of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is that of a grain: it groweth seven ears, and each ear Hath a hundred grains. Allah giveth manifold increase to whom He pleaseth: And Allah careth for all and He knoweth all things.” -Surah Al-Baqara, 261

ISK is aiming to reach its goal of raising \$500,000 for the ICK Extension Project in 2016. Alhamdulillah, the month of Ramadan is now upon us and our need for this extension could not be more apparent. It is wonderful to see the mosque radiant with the spirit of Islam at this time and all year round. However, we need more space to accommodate everyone as our community continues to grow and engage in the activities which are provided. In order to start the first phase of the ICK Extension Project, we are requesting donations from the community. Ramadan is an excellent time to donate as it puts us in the best position to increase our good deeds. All good deeds increase in value and acts of charity are certainly included. Donation boxes for the ICK Extension Project will be made available at the mosque during community Iftars, Jummah and Traweeh prayers.

Donation Options

Cheques payable to the “Islamic Society of Kingston”. Please specify **at the bottom the purpose – ICK Extension** and mail to:

PO Box 61, Centennial P.O. Box 100, 2437 Princess Street, Kingston, ON. K7M 3G1

Online payment: www.kingstonmuslims.ca

ANFIQ (crowd online funding)

PayPal

Pre-authorized Monthly Deduction <http://kingstonmuslims.ca/Forms/authorize.pdf>

Credit/debit cards machine (available at the ICK)

Islamic Society of Kingston is a registered tax exempted charitable organization (Charitable # 11807-1860-RT0001) with CRA. Your contribution is 100% tax deductible.

JAK

May Allah SWT reward you all for your efforts.

ISK Fundraising Committee

COMMUNITY VOICE

Few days ago ISK sent out a request for Volunteers to help with Syrian families settlement arriving in Kingston. The response has been not as strong as we would like to see as this is an area all Muslims should get involved as we are helping a family in need and also sending a Dawah message to all other groups involved in this area. I take this opportunity, to repeat this message again to encourage all to step forward to help with a very worthy cause.

The ISK has taken the responsibility of settling three Syrian refugee families once they arrive to Kingston. Moreover, the ISK is committed to serving the families already arrived and meet their needs from Islamic, educational and social aspects. The City of Kingston is expecting around 125 new families arriving in the next few weeks.

- Do you want to volunteer for an awesome cause?
- Do you want to make a positive impact?
- Do you want to make a difference in someone's life?
- Do you have an interest in interfaith encounters?

If so, the ISK is seeking dedicated men and women who are motivated to gain a unique experience helping refugees.
Available Positions

- Member of the Syrian Family Support Committee (helping families already arrived).
- Member of the Syrian Settlement Committee (meet the settlement needs for the families to arrive for the first year).

Volunteer Description

The main responsibilities of the Family Support Committee are:

- Organize events and activities for the families already arrived, especially the youth.
- Get the families involved at the ISK (i.e. spring cleanup, Friday bake-sale etc...).
- Organize a pool of volunteers for the families that include:
 - Transportation
 - Translation
 - Other needs

The main responsibility for the Syrian Settlement Committee is:

- Help the newcomers to settle in Canada. This includes:
 - Accommodation and Housing
 - Health
 - Education
 - Language and Employment

What do I get?

- Reward from Allah
- Gain great experience
- A deep sense of accomplishment

Volunteer Requirements: Police check (depends on the role)

I am in, where do I go next? Please [sign up here](#) (each volunteer should sign up individually).

As soon as volunteers are finalized, we will invite everyone for an orientation/workshop where responsibilities are divided.

Deadline to sign up was: June 12 at 6pm.

If you have any questions, please [contact me](mailto:nkharrat@gmail.com) (nkharrat@gmail.com).

Noor Kharrat, Syrian Refugee Coordinator

COMMUNITY VOICE

Sharing the Blessings of Ramadan with our Neighbours.

On the Friday before Ramadan, a group of volunteers got together to assemble pre-Ramadan gifts for the neighbours of the Islamic Centre of Kingston. A total of 20 plates of cookies and cupcakes were made and distributed to 16 houses. Alhamdulillah, our neighbours were very appreciative of the gesture. JazakumAllahu khairan to our volunteer crew: Imam Sheharyar, Katelynn, Dina, Mona, Mohammad and Sulayman! It was a great experience connecting with our neighbours, Alhamdulillah. May Allah (SWT) strengthen our ties with our community and help us to fulfill our duties towards our neighbours.



COMMUNITY VOICE

Spiritual Health Study

We are recruiting young people to participate in a 2-hour focus group with approximately 5 other young people, ages 11-15 years, and/or an individual interview (lasting 45-60 minutes) with a researcher from our team. During both interviews and focus groups, participants will be asked to share their thoughts and opinions about spiritual health. An example of a question we will ask is: "What does a person with positive spiritual health look like to you?" As part of this study, we will also be asking female focus group participants about their experiences regarding the hijab.

If you would like more information, or to sign up for either of these studies (individual interview or multi person focus group), please contact Mona Rahman (email: education@kingstonmuslims.ca, phone: 613-331-4148). Focus groups will be held during the afternoon of July 9, 2016 at the Islamic Centre.

Information is also available on our project website: www.childhealth2.com (please follow the spiritual health tab). All participants will be given a \$25.00 gift card as a thank you for participating and a Halal snack will be served.

This study is being led by researchers from the Department of Public Health Sciences at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. This study has been reviewed for ethical compliance by the Queen's University Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board at Queen's University and is funded by an operating grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

If you have any questions, would like more details on this study, parents are invite to contact Dr. Valerie Michaelson at valerie.michaelson@queensu.ca or phone at 613-533-6000 ext. 74244. If you have any concerns about your child's rights as a research participant, please contact Dr. Albert Clark – Chair of the Queen's University Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board at (613) 533-6081.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Fight Hunger this Ramadan

GIVE

30

give30.ca

Join the Fight Against Hunger

Make a commitment to help the Give 30 Campaign Food Banks in cities across Canada make a difference in the lives of those who don't have enough to eat.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVERTISE WITH US



Advertise Your Business Free at ISK Display

Special Limited Time Offer

Only few slots are available for the advertisement and it will be on "first come first served" basis

Send your advertisement in Power Point Format (single slide) to Islamic Society of Kingston

Halaqaat / Educational Classes in the ISK

Halaqa	Language	Day	Time	Place	Contact	
New Muslim Class	English	Thursdays	6 p.m.	ICK	Imam Shehryar Shaikh	imam@kingstonmuslims.ca
Sisters' Qur'an Tafseer	English	Alternate Tuesdays	7 p.m.	Bayoumi Residence	Hoda Bayoumi	613-389-7613
Brothers' Qur'an Tafseer	English	Thursdays	7 p.m.	ICK	Imam Sheharyar Shaikh	imam@kingstonmuslims.ca 613-530-3655 / 613-530-3732
Sisters Qur'an & Tafseer	Urdu	Alternate Thursdays	8 p.m. - 9 p.m.	ICK Library	Chand Saleem & Lamia Bokhari	https://www.facebook.com/groups/guranurdutafseer+J8:K8
Youth Qur'an Class	English	Wednesday	5:30p.m. — 7:30 p.m.	ICK Musallah	Imam Sheharyar Shaikh	imam@kingstonmuslims.ca

ISK INFORMATION

PRAYER TIMES AT THE ICK

ISK CONTACT INFO
PRESIDENT Salahuddin Jalaluddin Tel: 613-531-8340 Email: president@kingstonmuslims.ca
SECRETARY ATIF RAHMAN Tel: 613-572-2843 Email: secretary@kingstonmuslims.ca
TREASURER SHAHIZA HOSSENACCUS Tel: 613-389-0921 Email: treasurer@kingstonmuslims.ca
SOCIAL COORDINATOR JAMSHED HASSAN Tel: 613-548-4102 Email: social@kingstonmuslims.ca
WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MAHA OTHMAN Tel: 613-547-3779 Email: womensrep@kingstonmuslims.ca
ICK MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR MOHAMMED BABIKIR Tel: 613-547-4551 Email: centre@kingstonmuslims.ca
EDUCATION COORDINATOR MONA RAHMAN Tel: 613-331-4148 Email: education@kingstonmuslims.ca
OTHER CONTACT INFO
IMAM OF ISK SHEHARYAR SHAIKH Tel: 613-484-0174 Email: imam@kingstonmuslims.ca
DAWA COMMITTEE COORDINATOR MOHAMED BAYOUMI Tel: 613-389-7613 Email: Daawa@kingstonmuslims.ca
LIBRARY COMMITTEE RAAFIA MONEM, HODA BAYOUMI, MOHAMMAD SALEEM Email: library@kingstonmuslims.ca
NEW MUSLIM SUPPORT Email: newmuslims@kingstonmuslims.ca

DATE	FAJR	ZUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
June 13 - 19	4:40	1:25	6:40	Sunset + 5	10:55
June 20-26	4:40	1:25	6:40	Sunset + 5	10:55
June 27- July 3	4:55	1:25	6:40	Sunset + 5	10:55
July 4-10	4:50	1:25	6:40	Sunset + 5	10:50
July 11-17	4:55	1:25	6:40	Sunset + 5	10:45
July 18-24	5:00	1:35	6:35	Sunset + 5	10:40

Prayer Notes:

- Times shown are for Iqamah, Adhan will be called 10 minutes earlier.
- During community events, Asr may be prayed earlier



WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE BOND?

Next Submission Due Date:

Friday July 1, 2016

The Bond will accept articles from individuals on any given topic if the editors consider them useful information for the whole community. Please consider submitting 1 or 2 column article for consideration

Submit to: thebond@kingstonmuslims.ca

Next Publication Date (Inshallah):

Friday July 8, 2016

Disclaimer

The views and/or assertions expressed in THE BOND are the sole responsibility of their author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the newsletter committee, nor of the Islamic Society of Kingston and its officer.

