

Al-Huda Islamic Center Newsletter

Issue 2

THE ORIGINS OF ALHUDA ISLAMIC CENTER



By: Dr. M. Sher Ali

In 1981 Dr. M. Sher Ali, a biochemist joined the Eastern Laboratory of USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Office of Public Health Service (OPHS) located in Athens. At that time a group of foreign Muslim students of UGA performed their Friday prayers in a rented room on Rock Spring Road near Clarke Central High School. The students and about a dozen immigrant Muslims from Athens and surrounding counties performed their congressional EID prayers on the Baxter Street extension in front of the old UGA Book Store (now the open space in front of Tate Center).

In 1985 Dr. Ali proposed to build a permanent mosque in Athens. The students got excited and immediately initiated fund raising activities. Some of the spouses of the students donated their jewelry and many students even skipped their lunch to save money for the project. It was a vitalizing period for the Muslim student community in Athens. The local community was dead against the idea of having a mosque in Athens. However, with the help of a local influential Attorney, Mr. Bentley, and a sympathetic City Engineer, Mr. Ben Williams, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in

Bangladesh, the group succeeded in obtaining a permit to build a mosque.

A local benevolent businessman came forward to advance money for the project. The result was the construction of a mosque and the establishment of Alhuda Islamic Center, Inc. in 1987. May Allah grant Late Brother Abdul Jalil an abode in Jannah and bless his family.

Since 1987 the community has grown more than 3-fold with the influx of Muslim students and faculty at the University and other professionals in the Athens area.

From this project the Muslim community should realize that if Allah wills, nothing can stand in the way of any project, big or small, as long as the intention is good and the group is determined.

Community News

“To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.” [2/156]

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- Brother Avis Sujana passed away on March 14th. There will be a memorial service for him at the CCRC Auditorium on April 22nd at 4:30 pm by UGA.
- Brother Aman Khashegi passed away on March 11th.

Both brothers are buried in Lawrenceville Muslim Cemetery.

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ISLAMIC AWARENESS WEEK

Please come out and support the Muslim Student Association of UGA by attending the events of our first ever Islamic Awareness Week:

Monday 4/18: Tate Extravaganza 11-3pm – Qur'an recitation, Islamic facts, write your name in Arabic, etc.

Tuesday 4/19: Tea Talk at Tate at 7pm: The Importance of Actions/Deeds in Islam by: Shaykh Hisham Ahmed

Wednesday 4/20: The Message at 7 pm

Thursday 4/21: Interfaith Panel – Judaism, Islam, And Christianity: 6pm at the Chapel on North Campus.

On **Sunday April 24, 2005** inshaAllah we are having our second annual **Faces of Islam dinner**. Our guest speaker is Ms. Soumaya Khalifa of Atlanta's Islamic Speakers Bureau. She will be speaking about Interfaith Dialogue. This dinner is aimed at creating Islamic awareness at the university campus and the proceeds will benefit the tsunami and earthquake victims of Indonesia. Tickets are \$5 for UGA students and \$7 for non-UGA. They are on sale at the UGA box office at Tate and will also be sold at the door. Please come out and support us!

Hadith: Da'wah

Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Amr: The Prophet said, "Convey (my teachings) to the people even if it were a single sentence, and tell others the stories of Bani Israel (which have been taught to you), for it is not sinful to do so. And whoever tells a lie on me intentionally, will surely take his place in the (Hell) Fire." (Sahih Bukhari)

Youth Group Corner

By: Mohamed Elnour

Throughout history learning has been the key to learning about oneself and unlocking the mystery of life. At Alhuda we meet every Saturday afternoon to enhance our knowledge of this otherwise mysterious life. A typical day consists of: praying Dhuhr, learning Arabic (which sets the stage for the next activity), group discussions on selected verses of the Qur'an, and lastly a recitation of assigned surahs from the previous week. After achieving previously set goals for the content of Saturday school, students are rewarded with a monthly field trip or with organized activities. In Islamic studies, one should not take for granted any aspects of a day's work, because you never know which day's lessons will stick in the mind of a child for the rest of his/her life.

Weekend School Upcoming Events

Friday April 22: Lunch/Bake/Toy Sale after Jummah prayers on the Playground

Saturday April 23: Carwash in Alhuda parking lot after Asr prayer. Proceeds will go toward the school's community service project in conjunction with the Jubilee Partners refugee intake center. (Rain day for event: (4/24).

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Sunday May 1: The school will be taking a field trip from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm to the Fernbank Museum of Natural History and, if weather permits, to the Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta.

Allah burdens not a person beyond his scope. He gets reward for that (good) which he has earned, and he is punished for that (evil) which he has earned. "Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget or fall into error, our Lord! Lay not on us a burden like that which You did lay on those before us (Jews and Christians); our Lord! Put not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Pardon us and grant us Forgiveness. Have mercy on us. You are our Maula (Patron, Supporter and Protector, etc.) and give us victory over the disbelieving people." (Chapter #2, Verse #286)

PROFILE: SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By: Dr. Mahbub Islam

Islam is a faith of action and we need to demonstrate our faith by working to make the world a better place.

One of the first standing committees, as stipulated by Section 6.01 of the Bylaws of Al-Huda Islamic Center, formed by the newly elected Board of Trustees was the Ramadan and Eid committee. On October 17, 2004 Board member Br. Dr. Mahbub Islam (dr_mahbub@hotmail.com), who served as the Principal of the Al-Huda Weekend Islamic School from 1994 to 1999, was asked to coordinate the formation of this committee. Within days, an experienced committee was formed, the members of which include Br. Hisham Ahmed, Br. Dr. Samir Hamwy, Br. Dr. Sher Ali, all of whom are serving the community for more than 10 years, and Br. Muneer Awad (mawad@uga.edu), who also serves as a liaison with the UGA Muslim Student Association (MSA). The committee aimed at involving as many people as possible in the programs and services offered at the masjid.

So far, the following activities were held under the auspices of this committee. (1) Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr celebration, including daily and community Iftars (October-November, 2004); (2) Welcome Meeting for new members (Jan 16, 2005); (3) Day of Arafah Iftar (Jan 20, 2005); (4) Eid-ul-Adha celebration (Jan 21 & 23, 2005); (5) Acquisition of a Public Address (PA) system (Jan 25, 2005); (6) Day of Ashura Iftar (Feb 19 & 20, 2005); (7) General Meeting Dinner (Feb 27, 2005). The committee also involved in organizing funerals, visiting sick brothers/sisters, raising private donations in cash and kind to help out needy brothers. Besides, the committee regularly arranges pot-luck Iftar on every Monday celebrating the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH).

Success in coordinating those activities led the Board to expand the role of the Eid and Ramadan committee to other social affairs, and hence the name-

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addition of Social Affairs Committee. Presently, the responsibilities of this committee include: (1) Organize two Eid prayers and celebrations; (2) Organize Ramadan programs including If tars; (3) Organize other social gatherings (picnics, potlucks, trips, sports and recreational activities); (4) Announcements regarding new comers, marriage, newborns, graduations, departures, deaths and funerals in the community; (5) Accept cash donations for social affairs related activities processed through the treasurer of the Board. Donations in kind can be accepted only if the committee requests for them. Absolutely no unsolicited donations in kind are accepted and, if left at the Masjid premises, are treated as disposable trash.

Our projected activities for coming days, in addition to the above activities, include Monthly social gathering and lecture (12 months); Youth group trip; Children's trip; Sport and Recreational Activities; and Creation of a charity fund HELP (Hardship ELimination Project). Most of the funding needs are projected to be met by personal fund-raising efforts without hampering other activities and expenses of the Center. A special fund-raising ticketed Dinner can be organized towards this end. The committee also invites inputs from the community to improve our activities by sending suggestions to the provided e-mail address of Br. Mahbub. Many brothers and sisters have actively helped us in arranging these activities. We thank them all for their sincere efforts. May Allah reward them all.

Farewell and Welcome

We will greatly miss the following families:
 Osman AlManiei: leaving at end of May
 Majid AlHarbi: Leaving in early June
 We are glad to welcome brother:
 Ibrahim AlJuffali and his family

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CHiLdRen'S CoRnEr

WORDSEARCH

a b o b i s m i l l a h n v c c s
 q u p y r o b c v x z m q w e a
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Word Bank:

- Quran
- Bismillah
- Salaam
- Prophet
- Eid

Invitation to New Classes

Beginning Friday 04/15/2005, AlHuda is pleased to offer new classes in Arabic (meets on Tuesday and Thursdays 6:45 – 8:15 P.M.); and Introduction to Islam and Arabic (meets on Fridays 8:00 – 9:15 P.M.), both classes will be taught by Imam Hisham.

Troubled by the recent theft incident at our Masjid, the Executive Committee urges everyone to exercise diligence. Lock doors and make sure outside lights are on at night. Other measures are being taken.

Want to write a piece for the next issue? Please email: nkamdar@uga.edu