

# THE CIMIC REPORT

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2009

## A growing and prospering community, Alhamdulillah!

Alhamdulillah, it is by the grace of Allah that the Muslim community of Central Illinois has grown and prospered. It is also due to the dedication of people like you.

The local masjid, located at 106 S. Lincoln, Urbana, is run by the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center (“CIMIC”). CIMIC is run by a board of directors, and the specific activities of the mosque are delegated to committees, such as the Education Committee, the Dawa Committee, and the new Expansion Project Committee. All of this work is done by volunteers like you.

CIMIC holds several regular events throughout the year. These include the daily prayers, the weekly Friday congregational prayer, the Sunday School, taekwon do classes, weekly youth group meetings, the Friday seminar, Dawa booths at the Urbana farmer’s market in the summer, Arabic classes for adults and children, and more.

CIMIC also holds several larger events throughout the year. These include several masjid open houses, Ramadan activities including nightly iftars and taraweeh, Eid prayers, breakfast and parties, an annual general body meeting, picnics and potlucks, and more.

Services that CIMIC offers the local Muslims include space for halaqas and events, space for local Muslim organizations, cemetery and burial services, wedding services, educational activities, social activities, and many opportunities to increase our iman and Islam through acts of worship.

These events and opportunities are available because of the hard work and contributions of our community.

Please see the list of committee heads on the following page to become more involved in masjid activities.

And please remember the masjid regularly in your prayers, in your charity, and in your time.

May Allah reward all those who serve who contribute to the success of our masjid. Ameen.

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# Calendar

Schools: Sundays, 10 – 10:30 a.m. for Arabic Program, 10:30-1:15 for Weekend Islamic School

Tae Kwon Do: Thursdays 5-6 p.m., Saturdays 8-11 a.m.

April 4: MYG Interfaith Day of Service, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at DCL (UIUC campus)

April 9: Masjid Clean-up at 8:30 p.m.

April 10-12: MSA Spring Camp with special family rate of \$100 and youth rate of \$20.

April 17: Friday Seminar by Br. Jonathan Cragoe on fallacies in the media

April 18: MYG Halaqa by Prof. Mohammad Khalil at CIMIC at 7 p.m.

April 25: MYG Bowling at Illini Union at 7 p.m.

May 2: MYG Halaqa by Br. Abdulkafi Albrini at CIMIC at 7 p.m.

May 10: Last day of CIMIC Arabic School

May 10: Last day of CIMIC Weekend School

June-August: CIMIC Summer Camp

## Become a member of a CIMIC Committee

The following individuals have agreed to serve as chairs of the following committees. To join any committee, please contact this person. Your contributions to these committees and to CIMIC are greatly appreciated:

Executive Committee:	Muhammad al-Faruque
Ibadat Committee:	Rizwan Uddin
Dawa Committee:	Irfan Ahmed
Finance Committee:	Faruq Nelson
Seminar Committee:	Stephanie Yousef
Membership Committee:	Waleed Jassim
Cemetery Committee:	Mohammad Al-Heeti
Project Development:	Mohammad Al-Heeti
Education Committee:	Emad Jassim
Internet Committee:	Naeem Sheikh
Muslim Youth Group:	Hanady Sharabash
Property Management:	Faruq Nelson
Sports Committee:	Nasser Manasra
Fundraising Committee:	(Vacant)
Health and Wellness:	(Vacant)
Social Committee:	(Vacant)

The committees for whom a chair has not yet been appointed will likely have chairs appointed at the March 2009 meeting of the CIMIC Board of Directors.

To get in touch with any of these individuals, or to volunteer for a committee that does not have a chair yet, please e-mail [CIMIC@cimic.org](mailto:CIMIC@cimic.org).

May Allah reward them and all of the many volunteers who serve the masjid!

## Seminar Committee activity update

By Naeem Sheikh

On behalf of seminar committee, I would like to update you on various happenings in the last few months. First of all a big welcome to Sr. Stephanie Yousef who has been selected as the new coordinator of the Seminar Committee. The Seminar Committee is now comprised of Sr. Stephanie, Br. Irfan Ahmad, Br. Ghasan Ibrahim and myself. Also, Br. Jonathan Cragoe and Br. Imran Ikram help out with setting up the place, computer and A/V equipment and other duties. May Allah reward them all.

Some notable seminars that have happened since 2009 began are:

Jan. 23: Palestine FAQ; activists from American Muslims for Palestine presented on the history and development of Palestine problem, connecting events that precipitated the assault on Gaza Strip in December/January.

Jan. 30: Showing of "Life + Debt," a documentary that shows the progression of economic prob-

lems in one country (Jamaica) as it obtains IMF loans. The film highlights the true predatory nature of such loans and the high social and economic costs of getting these loans. A vibrant discussion followed among the attendees.

Feb. 27: Imam Johari Abdulmalek was invited by Urbana-Champaign MAS chapter to talk about "Islam: The change that we can believe in." In this very inspirational talk, Imam Johari conveyed the idea that as Muslims, we have a role to play in reforming society for the better and we shouldn't shirk from this responsibility.

Mar. 13: Jeffrey Lehmann, a local financial advisor, presented the ABCs of financial investment with thoughts and discussion about the current financial crisis and its causes.

Mar. 27: Sister Shamim Sadiq, from our local community, talked about her book "Aiming Vertically, Not Horizontally." This book has her thoughts as she evaluates the world around her and progresses from a realm of basic survival to enlightenment -- enlightenment being content with Allah's plan and looking at the big picture and not getting caught up in the material surroundings. Also, Br. Ahmed Taha has been present-

Plan to attend the...

## CIMIC General Body Meeting

### Sunday, April 19, 2009

### 2 p.m.

## In the CIMIC Multi-Purpose Room

This event is open to all.  
Members of CIMIC are highly encouraged to come.

This meeting will offer an opportunity to learn about what is happening at CIMIC, as well as to discuss issues important to the masjid.

### Literature Distribution Policy

*Any literature, including handouts and announcements, may not be distributed on CIMIC premises without prior approval from the CIMIC Board. Please contact the CIMIC Secretary, Br. Waleed Jassim, for approval of any literature to be distributed at CIMIC.*

### Policy of the Month

### Hadith of the Month

On the authority of Abu Malik Al-Harith bin Asim Al-Ashari said that the messenger of Allah said:

"Purity is half of faith. *alhamdu-lillah* [Praise be to Allah] fills the scales, and *subhana-Allah* [How far is Allah from every imperfection] and *alhamdu-lillah* [Praise be to Allah] fill that which is between heaven and earth. Prayer is light; charity is a proof; patience is illumination; and the Quran is an argument for or against you. Everyone starts his day and is a vendor of his soul, either freeing it or bringing about its ruin."

Related by Muslim.

## Muslim Youth Group offers wonderful opportunities for area youth

The growth and success of the Muslim Youth Group ("MYG") has been a blessing to the community.

MYG Coordinator Hanady Sharabash has brought energy, dedication and commitment to this committee.

This year's events began with a trip to watch the Harlem Globetrotters play basketball at the Assembly Hall. This trip was affordable, enjoyable, and included a fun pizza dinner before the game for the youth and their families. About 60 people signed up for this event.

MYG events have also focused on hunger and poverty in Islam, in our community, and around the world. Br. Abdulkafi Albrini held a talk for the MYG on what Islam says about hunger and poverty, and how Muslims should respond and help. MYG took this discussion one step further by joining several area youth groups to hold a Hunger Banquet, where the youth were randomly divided into wealth categories, and fed accordingly. Most of the youth received sticky rice and water, while they watched a select few enjoy rice, water and vegetables. An even smaller number of youth were high class (defined by world standards as making \$9,000 or more a year), and they enjoyed rice, chicken, side dishes, dessert, bread and juice. The participants saw for themselves that relatively few people enjoy full, healthy meals. This event also includes films and games that taught additional information about world hunger. MYG plans to meet with the other youth groups at least once more to discuss how our different religions address hunger and poverty.

Other activities held by MYG this year include a halaqa on "The Seven Habits of Successful Youth," a halaqa on "Planning Your Life As a Muslim," a movie screening of "Allah Made Me Funny" on the University of Illinois campus, ice skating, bowling, a ping-pong tournament with awards for the winners, and more.

MYG regularly meets Saturdays at 7 p.m. The volunteers of this committee include Hanady Sharabash, Rizwan Uddin, Abdulkafi Albirini, Imad Rahman, Mohammad Khalil, Emad Jassim, Roaa Al-Heeti, volunteers from the Muslim Students Association, and the energetic and thoughtful members of MYG. For more information, contact [hanadysharabash@gmail.com](mailto:hanadysharabash@gmail.com).

### SEMINAR, cont.

ing on alternate Fridays segments from his series "Fix Your Heart" where he talks about overcoming such things as jealousy, backbiting, slander, etc.

We in the Seminar Committee recognize that everybody has skill, insight, experience or knowledge to share. So, we encourage all members of community to think what they can present to their fellow community members, just as Sister Shamim did in her seminar. Keep an eye out for seminars by our community members down the road: Br. Jonathan Cragoe will present on April 17, categorizing common logical fallacies found in discussions and media. Then, Br. Youness Ktiri, who only recently left Urbana-Champaign, will (date to be determined) present on his recent trip to Sierra Leone, where he helped organize an orphanage for those orphans who lost their family to the brutal civil war in that country.

While we welcome all kinds of help for Seminar Committee, the biggest help is when people come, attend, listen and learn. Once upon a time, the Friday seminar used to be a cornerstone event for everybody in our community, where entire families used to come and exchange ideas. Let's try to revive that tradition.

Email us at [seminar@cimic.org](mailto:seminar@cimic.org).

Would you like to help plan a potluck dinner at CIMIC?

Please contact  
[CIMIC@cimic.org](mailto:CIMIC@cimic.org)  
to volunteer!

## Dawah Planning Committee Activity Report

Compiled by various members of the Dawa Committee

The CIMIC Dawah Planning Committee (DPC) has been engaged in a number of activities since the last activity report at the 2008 General Body meeting. There have been an increasing number of visits to CIMIC by classes at UIUC and other institutions. We list some of the recent visits below. During each of these visits, the class is given a presentation on the daily life of a Muslim, the place of the mosque in the life of a Muslim, or the basic tenets of Islam, followed by a tour of the facility and ending with a question and answer session and one-on-one interactions and discussions.

Feb. 9 and 11: A total of 200 students (100 on each of the two days) from Professor Kenneth Cuno's "Introduction to the World of Islam" class visited CIMIC.

March 8: 50 members of the adult Bible study class at the local Lutheran Church visited CIMIC. Their instructor, Michael Chrzastowski, took an Islamic Studies class at UIUC taught by Professor Mohammad Khalil.

March 18: 88 students from Professor Khalil's Religious Studies 214 "Intro to Islam" visited CIMIC.

Also, on Feb. 20, there was a special presentation to 22 nursing students in the "Transcultural Nursing" class along with their Professor Nancy Endress on religious sensitivity issues when dealing with Muslim patients. The presentation was made and given by Sr. Fatima Ahmed. This presentation was requested by Professor Endress. The request came when Prf. Endress was at the Urbana Farmers' Market last summer and saw the DPC booth there and asked the volunteers manning the booth that day about doing something like this. This is yet another example of the positive outreach that is happening through having the CIMIC booth at the Farmers' Market, alhamdulillah.

Speaking of the Farmers' Market booth, the coming season will be the fourth season that CIMIC DPC has undertaken this activity. Last season, the booth activity was led by Br. Omar El-Anwar and, masha'allah, he and his team revamped the booth by making new topical posters, brochures, and quizzes. This summer, we intend to continue with that momentum so that the booth continues to be an interesting place to visit for both first-time visitors and repeat visitors.

On April 26, DPC is planning a special Open House at CIMIC for Spanish-speaking visitors (Latin American immigrants, for example). The main theme will be to convey information about the message of Islam to such an audience. If you want to help with this activity, especially if you have some fluency in Spanish, please contact us at [dpc@cimic.org](mailto:dpc@cimic.org).

### Donate to CIMIC!

To make a donation to CIMIC, please fill out this form and send it along with your donation to: CIMIC, 106 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana, IL 61820.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation: \_\_\_\_\_

And to donate by credit card:

Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How often would you like your card to be charged the amount above?:

Once  Twice  Once every month

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_