

Jaffari Snap Shot

Your Monthly Activity Guide by the
Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Toronto

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The Snap Shot Quiz Imam Ali (a.s)

Fill in the blanks.

1. Poor is he, who has no _____?
2. Don't allow them to starve and they should not be ruined in your presence. _____?
3. A man can be valued through his _____?
4. Loving one another is half of the _____?
5. Wherever you wish, open the doors of His favor with _____?
6. Whoever takes the _____ to be safe, it will betray him.

Email your answers to
secretariat@jaffari.ca

Message From the Secretariat

'I am the city of knowledge
and 'Ali is its gate;
so whoever desires knowledge,
let him enter the gate.'
(Ana Madinatul ilm wa Ali Babuha)

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w)



Some important leadership lessons from Imam Ali's (a.s.) From the letter to Malik al-Ashtar

"We are all humans that make mistakes; be forgiving."

They are of two kinds of people, either your brother in religion or one like you in creation. They will commit slips and encounter mistakes. They may act wrongly, willfully or by neglect. So, extend to them your forgiveness and pardon, in the same way as you would like Allah to extend His forgiveness and pardon to you.

"Remove negative people from your circle."

The one among the people under you who is furthest from you and the worst of them in your view should be he who is the most inquisitive of the shortcomings of the people, because people do have shortcomings and the ruler is the most appropriate person to cover them.

"Remove the hatred."

Unfasten every knot of hatred in the people and cut away from yourself the cause of every enmity.

"Everyone is a small cog in a big machine."

Know that the people consist of classes who prosper only with the help of one another, and they are not independent of one another.

In The News

Working behind the Scenes - Let's Get to Know Our Volunteers



Sheila Hirji

A longstanding volunteer for over 30 years with an impressive record of serving the community.

She is a familiar face in the Niyaz team be it serving Out of Cold guests, in the kitchen or serving seniors. Her roles have varied over the years as she has taken on positions In the Ladies Social Team, assisted the Seniors secretary and also been ladies treasurer.

Sr. Sheila together with her late husband Marhum Ebrahim Hirji worked tirelessly to serve our community. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, Yoga classes and marsiya reciting. One of her favorite roles is being a mother in law to Dr. Selina Hirji and son in law who she thanks Allah SWT for having. She is also a proud Mother to Lieutenant Arif Hirji and Femina Mapp.

Those who have worked with Sr. Sheila can attest that she serves with passion and is an asset to JCC.



Sadiq Hassan Fazal

A very energetic volunteer and a leader in the making, dedicated, hardworking and polite.

Born: Dubai, UAE
 Education: Pharmaceutical Scientist.
 Family: 3 sisters married and mother in Tanzania.

Service: Followed foot steps of his father (president of Tanga Jamaat for many years)
 Volunteer since age of 8 in Tanga.

In Toronto:

- JVC Treasurer
- Head of logistics
- Head of youth volunteers
- Co-lead organizer of JCC projects like Eid picnic and Earth day
- Co-chair of out of the cold program
- Assisting Mukhi with projects.

Annual General Meeting - March 26th, 2017

ISIJ of Toronto held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 26th from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Jaffari Community Centre.

This year's attendance was 69 men and 27 women, we are hopeful that future meetings will garner more interest and support from members inshaAllah.

We encourage all members to become engaged in our community affairs and actively participate in meetings and decisions that affect us all!



Faith-based organizations form "Ring of Peace" around the JCC on March 3rd 2017

More than 150 people braved Toronto's cold temperatures to form a "Ring of Peace" around the Jaffari Community Centre during Friday prayers on March 3rd, 2017, one month after the fatal Quebec shooting. Chanting songs of peace, hand-in-hand, this symbolic action by members of the Neshamah Jewish community, Mosaic Interfaith, Bahai Community of Vaughan, Toronto Waldorf School and Hesperus Village demonstrated that strength, solidarity, goodwill and unity remain hallmarks of Canadian traditions and values.

"When you have a society that's like a fabric, if people try to create tension in that fabric, holes or tears, what endures is community – community engagement, community ties, community bonding," said Shabbir Jaffer, Vice President of the Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Toronto. "This is what today demonstrates: that no matter what happens, no matter who's in power or in office, communities will stick up for each other," he added.



As-Sadiq Islamic School students presented posters filled with messages of thank you, unity and peace to the visitors, and community members gave roses as a symbol of love among communities. The afternoon ended with both visitors and Jaffari Community Centre community members, including Resident Alim, Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi, enjoying warm refreshments indoors where words and hugs of thanks were exchanged, with a promise of continuing to build long-lasting relationships.

Neshamah's Rabbi Erin Polansky said "It shouldn't take a tragedy to bring people together, but bridges are being built and relationships are being forged." This event brought together diverse communities to send a strong message that hatred, violence, denigration or marginalization of any kind will not be tolerated, and that we can rely on one another to speak up for our shared values.



**It is your right to vote in the upcoming Jamaat elections.
In order to be able to vote, you must be a member in
good standing prior to April 16th, 2017.**



**If you have not renewed your membership, kindly do so at your earliest.
A message from the Secretariat.**

An Evening with Mehdi Hasan - March 2nd, 2017

It was a full house in the Marhaba Banquet Hall at Jaffari Community Centre when our community hosted Muslims from several communities in the GTA, as part of the "Renowned Speakers Series", organised by members of the Media, Communications & Outreach Board. Headlining the event were international broadcast journalist and writer Mehdi Hasan and journalist Ginella Massa of Citynews TV. Also in attendance were Willowdale's federal MP Ali Ehsassi, the Executive Committee of the ISIJ of Toronto and representatives from Islamic Relief Canada.

The topic for the event was "In an age of Trumpism, fake news and alternative facts how do Muslims have their voices heard?". Toronto Jamaat's VP and Chair of the Media/Comms team Shabbir Jaffer welcomed everybody to the centre and introduced the MC for the evening, JIY Chair Abbas Ali Okera. After introducing the evening's topic and inviting Mehdi and Ginella to join him on stage, a lively, fascinating and provocative discussion ensued. As the evening progressed a very attentive audience had their minds stimulated and fully engaged while appreciating humour and irony that only high quality speakers and masters of their professions can deliver.

The Q&A session which followed was similarly engaging and lively, with an equal number of men and women asking some excellent questions to Ginella and Mehdi, both of whom rose to the occasion to answer them. After thanking our renowned speakers and MC for their work, VP Shabbir Jaffer used the final minutes of the evening to appeal for monetary donations towards the construction of the new Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital in Maple. By the end of the evening we had collected just under \$18,000 and this was bolstered by another \$10,000 in donations the following day, for a grand total of \$28,000.



Ahlul Bait TV award of appreciation to Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto

On the blessed occasion of the birth anniversary of Lady Fatimah, Ahlulbait TV presented a token of appreciation to the President of ISIJ of Toronto, Al Hajj Shabbir Jeraj, for supporting the channel and providing a platform to continue promoting the message of the Holy Household across North America.



It is a great honour to present a token of appreciation to the ISIJ of Toronto on behalf of Ahlulbait TV. The community have shown tremendous support towards the channel and providing us with the platform and guidance to promote the message of the Holy Household across North America, said Hussein Sajjad Hussein.

A Snap Shot of Recent Events



The Seniors visit to the Razavi Islamic Centre for the Inauguration Ceremony.



Sheikh Abbas Jaffer presenting a historical perspective on Medina and Mecca.



Maulana Rizvi addressing our guests as well as volunteers and members of the Executive Committee on the final night at the JCC for this years Out of the Cold Program.

Khoja Spaces Exhibition at the Mulla Asghar Memorial Library and Islamic Resource Centre



The Khoja Shia Ithna Ashari Community, numbering no more than 150 000, is spread across almost forty countries on five continents. One of the remarkable characteristics of this community is to establish houses of worship wherever it settles. The Khoja Spaces Exhibition is a celebration of the efforts of Khoja leaders, from the pioneers of the late 1800s to those of the present day, who have collectively built over 350 mosques and Imambargahs in over a hundred cities around the world.

The buildings range from the small and simple 400 sq. ft. enclosure to the imposing and magnificent 100 000 sq. ft. community centre. Each building on display at MARC has a thousand stories to tell! Some of these stories were recounted by elders as members of the Toronto Jamaat enjoyed viewing images of the buildings over a traditional "bharazi ne mandazi" brunch to reminisce on the good old days.

These spaces allow a community that has been geographically displaced numerous times to have a place to call its own in each new location. It has helped the community to retain cultural bonds and keep alive its love of the Shia Ithna Ashari faith, this being especially poignant every Muharram in the commemoration of the sacrifices of Sayyid as Shuhada.

The exhibition is open until April 27, 2017 during MARC's opening hours. Visitors can buy the Khoja Journey of Faith DVD at a subsidized price of \$5.

Project Northstar - World Federation



Br. Altaf Daya and Br. Shuayb Ismail (Project Northstar, World Federation) who introduced the Global Grassroots Survey project last year were back this year to meet with members, the Executive Committee and NASIMCO officials to discuss the feedback they had received as well as discuss the next steps and strategies that could be implemented going forward as a community.

← Project Northstar Team with officials from NASIMCO and the ISIJ Executive Committee.

Last Snap Shot Quiz Answers

1. The adornment of her father.
2. She was seven years old.
3. Abdullah ibn Ja'far.
4. Aun and Muhammad.
5. 5th Jamadi ul Awwal

**FROM YOU WE LEARN PATIENCE
YA ZAINAB**



Certificate of Appreciation Presented to The Jaffari Community Centre By the House of Commons.

Upcoming Events

RICHVIEW MARGO'S STRIDES FOR STROKE
SUPPORTING MACKENZIE HEALTH




SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017
ON THE STREETS OF RICHMOND HILL & VAUGHAN

SUPPORT OUR TEAM!
Jaffari Community Centre



StridesForStroke.ca

Jaffari Community Centre & City of Vaughan

EARTH DAY

Do you care about keeping our environment clean?

Come and help clean-up
JCC's grounds and the neighbourhood
Let's keep our city of Vaughan beautiful



JOIN US ON

Sunday April 23rd 2017
2:15 - 3:15 PM

Bring your family members and friends

Register at jaffari.org/earthday

Any Questions, email: earthday@jaffari.ca




Al-Wahda Sports Festival
is **BACK**
at it again

EID EDITION

September
1st to 3rd
2017
[Labour Day Weekend]
Toronto, ON

Sports | Carnival | Food
A weekend of sports & entertainment

save the DATE

For more updates, follow us on   @alwahdafestival
info@alwahdafestival.com | www.alwahdafestival.com



Jaffari Education Board

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2017

For students in or entering post-secondary school

- Genuine financial need
- Academic excellence
- Community involvement

Application Deadline:

June 30th, 2017

www.jaffari.org/jeb | jeb@jaffari.org

Please do not forget to renew your memberships and update your information. Register online for access to the members portal.

Contact Secretariat Office for any assistance - (905) 695 9786
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm - Weekends 9.00am to 1.00pm