

PERSPECTIVES

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SPEAKERS MIDWEST

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FALL 2004

OIS takes part in the 31st Annual Indiana Human Rights Consortium

Upon invitation from the U.S. Department of Justice-Community Relations Service, Tabassum Haleem, Executive Director conducted a seminar



Lonnie Douglas, Anita Cochran and Tabassum Haleem

entitled "Developing Cultural Competency: Working with the Arab and Muslim American Communities" at the 31st Annual Indiana Human Rights Consortium held June 2-4, 2004. Mr. Lonnie Douglas, Executive Director of the South Bend, Indiana Human Rights Commission, noted that this was the first time in the 31 year history of the consortium that a Muslim participation had been considered. Ms. Anita Cochran, Federal Mediator from Region 5 (Midwest) has expressed DOJ's commitment to continue the

inclusion of OIS Midwest in all forums which further establish and maintain a relationship of trust and understanding with the various law enforcement agencies. Among the attendees was Honorable Stephen J. Luecke,

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We're an ING Accredited Affiliate

Since 2003, Islamic Network Group (ING) of San Jose, CA has been accrediting regional Islamic Speakers Bureaus around the country. Accredited Bureaus are ones, which base their educational programs on "ING content." ING content consist of certain principles and philosophy on which the work is based, certain marketing approach & methodology, speakers training &

certification, operational standards & procedures, and the utility of pre-designed presentations & programs to teach public institutions and community groups about Islam, Muslims and Arabs, as well as pre-developed answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

OIS is proud to share this designation with bureaus in Milwaukee, Omaha, Atlanta, New Jersey, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Ann Arbor/Toledo, Lexington, & Salt Lake City. The accreditation ensures consistency in standards & principles ING has established for the speakers & bureaus.

ISNA Convention 2004

ING Affiliates conducted the following sessions at the 41st Annual Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Convention held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL from September 3-7, 2004:

1. Developing Dialogues With Americans of Other Faiths - Answering Difficult Questions About Islam—Speakers: Salam Al-Marayati, Jamal Badawi, Ameena Jandali & Moderator: Maha ElGenaidi
2. Cultural Diversity Training About Islam & Muslims in Law Enforcement Agencies & Corporations —Speakers: Maha ElGenaidi, Soumaya Khalifa, Azra Husain & Moderator: Dr. Soraya Orady
3. Presenting Islam in Public Schools, Grades K-12: Introducing "Islamic Contributions to Civilization" and "Roots of Islam in America"—Speakers: Ameena Jandali, Fouzi Husaini, Tabassum Haleem, Maha El-Genaidi & Moderator: Gretchen Harms
4. Diversity Training About Islam & Muslims for Hospitals and Mental Health Agencies —Speakers: Dr. Hani Midani, Dr. Ahsan Shaikh, Ameena Jandali & Moderator: Maha ElGenaidi

OIS MIDWEST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR THE LEADERSHIP GREATER CHICAGO FELLOW PROGRAM

Tabassum Haleem, Executive Director of OIS Midwest, was selected in the class of 2005 Fellows Program of Leadership Greater Chicago. This trademark program originated in 1984 and has the following objectives:

Building relationships characterized by respect and trust among diverse leaders of the Chicago area.

Familiarizing these leaders with the multiple perspectives regarding Chicago's challenges and resources;

Actively encouraging and enabling these leaders to be involved in the community.

The Fellows Program is a year long commitment with a structured curriculum in an interactive process. Fellows continue their career while in the Program while attending between 30 to 35 meetings, field trips, etc. covering a wide range of topics.

Selection for the Program is competi-

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IT'S ALL ABOUT SHARING INFORMATION

Our mission is to share accurate information about Islam & Muslims through education. American Muslims who are trained speakers and from various professional backgrounds accomplish this through interaction with the audience. We utilize multimedia presentations to explain the basics about Islam and its role in the everyday life of a Muslim. Al-Hamdulillah, following are excerpts from some of the innumerable letters we have received.

“The presenter was excellent and very knowledgeable. Having a knowledge of the views surrounding death and dying and donation in the Muslim faith will enable me to approach Muslim families in a way which respects their concerns, and will help me to serve them better regardless of their decisions regarding donation. I feel I will be able to assist as an advocate for Muslim families when working with the doctors and nurses caring for the patient as well.”

—Member of Recovery Staff Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, Elmhurst, IL

“It (the presentation) was very interesting, and I now feel I have a lot better understanding of the Islamic faith. Has answered a lot of my questions.”

—Student, 9th Grade

(Continued on page 3)

Volunteers are our life blood!!

OIS thrives and prospers because of its volunteers and supporters, especially our speakers: The following individuals are our certified speakers:

Azeem S. Haleem, MD
Tabassum A. Haleem, CPA
Hani Mansour
Sabah Akbar
Asma Akras

Board Members-Officers

Mohammed Z. Sahloul, MD
President
Asma Akras
Vice-President
Faisal Nawaz
Treasurer
Taranum Adil
Secretary

Board Members-Directors

Azeem S. Haleem, MD
Nusrat Ahmed
Amjad Quadri

Executive Director:

Tabassum A. Haleem, CPA

Becoming a certified speaker

At OIS, we are always looking for speakers. We believe that great speakers are made through practice, practice, practice.

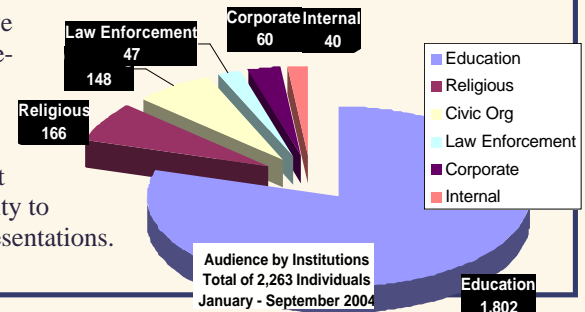
To become an OIS Certified Speaker, simply follow these steps:

1. Attend our full day workshop
2. Study the material and take the test. Minimum score should be 85%.

3. Practice delivering the slide presentation in front of the Certification Committee.
4. Volunteer to deliver presentations with an experienced speaker as your mentor.

When you become a certified speaker, your name is added to our database along with your preferences for days & times.

As we receive presentation requests, we contact our certified speakers about their availability to deliver the presentations.



As you become more experienced, you will be asked to become a trainer for potential speakers and the cycle begins again!

You will decide the minimum or maximum number of hours you want to dedicate to this opportunity to share information about Islam!

Letter to the educator

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- ◆ the schools offer students opportunities to study about religions but not practice religion, and
- ◆ the schools expose students to the diversity of religious views while not imposing particular views.

As a result of the environment of post 9-11, we are requesting that the school offer a service which recently became available. “Islam 101” is a 40-90 minute presentation with a question and answer session which can begin to address the negative stereo-

typing of Islam and its followers through education. The presenter will bring visual aides and artifacts to share with the students as we strive together with you to make the strange – familiar. We believe that all children are facing a serious crisis in their development of a balanced world perspective. It’s our responsibility to raise our children in a community where religious choice is an American value.

Thank in advance for your support.

<Parent’s Signature>



Bogan Computer Technical High School, Chicago, IL



St. Gregory High School Chicago, IL

THE OIS BOARD CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE 3RD ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

Our Guest Speaker, Doug Hostetter is an Adjunct Lecturer in Sociology at Northwestern University, a Peace Pastor at Evanston Mennonite Church, a photojournalist, and a peace activist. He has a distinguished record of service in the U.S. peace movement and in humanitarian work in Southeast Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Balkans.



In the fall of 1993, at the height of the war in Bosnia, Doug was instrumental in forming the Bosnian Student Project in cooperation with the Jerrahi Order of America, a Sufi Muslim relief and service organization. The Project challenged Jews, Christians and Muslims in the US to open their homes and schools to Muslim, mixed ethnic and other Bosnian students unable to continue their education due to "ethnic cleansing" or the war. By the end of the Bosnian and Kosovar wars, the BSP had helped more than 160 students escape from the war zone and continue their education in the US.

Following the Persian Gulf War in 1992, Doug participated in a peace and relief delegation to Iraq. From 1993 to 2001, he led numerous interfaith delegations and work camps to Iraq, Bosnia, and Israel/Palestine. In 2001, Doug was half of a two-person relief team that took 239 tons of food to displaced people in Northern Afghanistan after the U.S. bombing campaign.

Doug was based in Amman, Jordan, on assignment for the American Friends Service Committee during the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Working with his camera and observations based on his many years of experience, he presented a glimpse at the impact of this war on innocent civilians.

Doug lives with his family in Evanston, Illinois.

- **Date:** Saturday, October 23, 2004
- **Time:** 5:59pm Iftar/Dinner
- **Place:** Hyatt Regency — Oak Brook
1909 Spring Road
Oakbrook, IL 60523
- **Suggested Donation:** \$35

Continued from page 2)

"I think this was a good experience for me to learn about the Islamic culture. So that in the future I can respect Muslims"

-6th grade Student St. Francis Xavier School Wilmette, IL

"I was very pleased to see such a warm human side to a woman of Muslim faith. It changed my stereotypes of Muslims...."

—Student Argosy University—Illinois School of Professional Psychology

"I enjoyed hearing about the different cultures/religion. I have been curious about what Muslims believe in particular."

—Police Officer Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Indiana University Gary, Indiana

"I really learned a lot about Muslim heritage. I never would have learned all of that stuff if you did not come to tell us. Now if I look back and see all the times that I didn't like Muslims, but now I am changing my mind about that."

—5th grader, Mill Street Elementary School, Naperville, December 2003

"The combination of the message and the presenter were a perfect fit for our world cultures courses. Our students seemed very comfortable interacting with both speakers. This is a credit to what and how you presented the information."

—Educator, Naperville Central High School, Naperville, IL

Indiana Human Rights Consortium



Anita Cochran,
Sandra Leek
and Tabassum Haleem

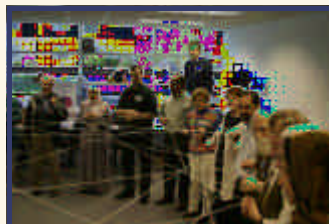
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The uniqueness of our society lies in "the ability of Americans to right our wrongs..."

One of the many prominent attendees at the consortium was Sandra D. Leek, Attorney at law, who has served as director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission since 1992. Ms. Leek has written several articles on Indiana civil rights laws and on the pro bono delivery of legal assistance to indigents. Ms. Leek is listed in Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who of Emerging

Leaders in America, Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who of African-Americans. She is the recipient of Indiana's highest honor of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the Indianapolis YWCA's Women of Achievement Award and the Ball State University Bernadette H. Perham Award.

OIS in Action



Muslim Christian conflict resolution workshop May 15, 2004



OIS meets with community leaders

**ORGANIZATION OF
ISLAMIC SPEAKERS
MIDWEST**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.OISMIDWEST.ORG

**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
THROUGH EDUCATION**

**NEXT ISSUE
WINTER 2005**

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tive. Each year 33-35 Fellows are selected from an average of 85 nominations. By design, the selected leaders represent diverse occupations, communities, and race and ethnic groups. Individuals are chosen on the basis of their leadership accomplishments in their career and their community and civic work, and their ability to function well in a diverse group.

At the conclusion of the 10 month program, the Fellows will have:

Developed an understanding of the Chicago area's challenges and resources particularly in the following agenda topics: Chicago area communities, Housing, Chicago area economy, Crime, Education, Healthcare Race and Ethnic Relations.

They will have met with over 70 business, government and civic leaders. Mayor Daley, Speaker Madigan, Cardinal George, Paul Vallas, William Osborn are just a few of the speakers meeting with the class in recent years.

The Fellows will have gained exposure, through their colleagues and speakers, of the unique demands of leadership in diverse settings; and

Fellows will have developed a respect and understanding for their colleagues in the class—which sets the groundwork for ongoing and lasting relationships.

**INDEPENDENT
AUDITORS' REPORT
OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SPEAKERS MIDWEST FIRMLY BELIEVES IN THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THIS ENTITY TOWARDS ITS SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND THE COMMUNITY.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE HAVE INSISTED ON THE TRANSPARENCY OF REPORTING OF OUR FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES.

FOR EACH AND EVERY YEAR SINCE INCEPTION IN 2001, OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN AUDITED BY ANSBURG & COMPANY, LTD, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND HAVE RECEIVED AN UNQUALIFIED OPINION REGARDING THE FAIRNESS OF PRESENTATION.

DETAILED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW.

**LETTER TO THE
EDUCATOR**

Dear Public School Administrator, Classroom Teacher or Social Studies Teacher

It is our hope, as parents of Muslim children attending your educational institution, that you will consider offering correct and meaningful information to the administrators, faculty, and students in our children's educational lives.

Our community is facing tremendous challenges in the midst of the negative stereotypes. We have begun to offer a service to assist concerned educators. The Global Perspectives Project is offering trained speakers to public schools in accordance with the First Amendment where all children have the constitutional right to learn correct information about religion.

As Americans, we realize that:

- ◆ the school's approach to religion should be academic and not devotional
- ◆ the school provides awareness of religions and not acceptance of any one religion

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Organization of Islamic Speakers Midwest
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

SUPPORT

Donations	\$35,644
Speaker Honorariums	825
Presentation Receipts	550
TOTAL SUPPORT	37,019

EXPENSES

Support Dinner	3,173
Printing & Postage	3,728
Occupancy	8,727
Stationary & Supplies	1,729
Website Development	466
Speaker Expenses	1,000
Conferences	2,026
Board Development	2,168
Office Expenses	618
Insurance & Telephone	3,244
Depreciation	2,152
Total Expenses	29,031

Excess of Support/Revenue over Expenses	7,988
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	18,774
Net Assets, End of Year	\$26,762

Organization of Islamic Speakers Midwest
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2003

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$18,473
Deposit	3,000
Total Current Assets	21,473

FIXED ASSETS, at cost

Furniture & Fixtures	3,636
Machinery & Equipment	4,819
Total Fixed Assets	8,455
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(3,166)
Net Fixed Assets	5,289

TOTAL ASSETS	\$26,762
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$0
Total Current Liabilities	0

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	26,762
Temporarily Restricted	0
Permanently Restricted	0
Total Net Assets	26,762

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$26,762
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