

# Quarterly Newsletter



## In the Spirit of Ramadan: IIT's Interfaith Iftar promotes Peace, Goodwill and Friendship

Ramadan, the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic lunar calendar is visiting us once again. For Muslims it is a transforming time- a month of spiritual regeneration and bodily cleansing. But the greatest aspect of Ramadan is the generosity displayed by believers, a time when we race for the blessings of helping others, and the Grace and Mercy of God. A poet beautifully expounds this in the following verse:

**Ramadan is like a rare flower  
That blossoms once a year  
And just when you begin to smell its fragrance  
It disappears for another year  
Make the most of it now  
While you still have the chance**

This coming together of people is a reminder of our collective conscious that drives us to gather to build bridges of understanding and friendship despite the events that occur in the world today. This is an important note for Muslims because it stems from an important tradition of the Prophet (PBUH) who declared:

**“O Lord! Lord of my life and of everything in the Universe! I affirm that all human beings are brothers unto one another.”** This declaration confirms the revelation of the Qur’an:

**“O mankind! Verily We have created you of a male and female and distributed you into tribes and families so that you may recognize one another (49:13). And so be mindful of God in whose name you seek relationship with one another, and respect this relationship. Verily God is watchful over you (4:1).**

Ramadan is a month of blessing and goodwill for Muslims, and the concept of inter-

faith Iftar revolves around this very notion of spreading understanding and friendship to faith communities; and beyond. From the White House to the Pentagon, the military to consulates, from mosques to community centers, Iftar dinners have become a worldwide phenomenon, having great political, social and spiritual impact everywhere.

For 9 years IIT has hosted it's Annual Interfaith Iftar, inviting civic and religious leaders, community heads and the interfaith community to join us and experience Iftar, the breaking of the fast. This creates a unique opportunity for the Muslim community to meet, greet and share food with faith communities and civic leaders in our area. Some of our Interfaith friends even braved fasting for the day and prayed Maghrib Salah with us.

This year our theme was “Friendship and Goodwill”, exploring the many bridges IIT has created with the community at large. This year Carson City Mayor Robles attended, as well as representations from LA Sheriff and Carson Sheriff, the Consul General of Angola, the Department of Children and Family Services Torrance Regional Office, and various faith communities. Imam delivered an important message (see Imam's message in the last page); Br. Yahya Jordan tied up his message with the achievements of Muhammad Ali and his goodwill and compassion as a Muslim to all people, and Pastor John Jefferson from Del Aire Baptist Church closed the program with a riveting prayer. Thank you all for your support of this event.



Imam, Mayor & Consul Gen Angola



## Battle of Badr : Battle of Destiny



### Verses 123-124 of Surah Al-Imran

إِذْ تَقُولُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ  
 أَلَنْ يَكْفُرْكُمْ أَنْ يُدْعَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ  
 بِتِلْكَ آيَاتِهِ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ  
 مُزَلِّينَ ﴿١٢٣﴾ بَلَىٰ إِنْ تَصْبِرُوا  
 وَتَتَّقُوا وَيَأْتُوكُم مِّنْ  
 فَوْرِهِمْ هَذَا يُمْدِدْكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ  
 بِخَمْسَةِ آلَافٍ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ  
 مُسَوِّمِينَ

"Allah had helped you at Badr, when you were a contemptible little force: Then fear Allah in order to Show your gratitude. When you did say to the believers: Does it not suffice you that your Creator should help you with three thousand angels sent down."



“O Allah, this is Quraish. It has come with all its arrogance and boasting, trying to discredit Your Apostle. Ya Allah! I ask You to humiliate them tomorrow. O Allah, if this Muslim band will perish today, You shall not be worshipped.”

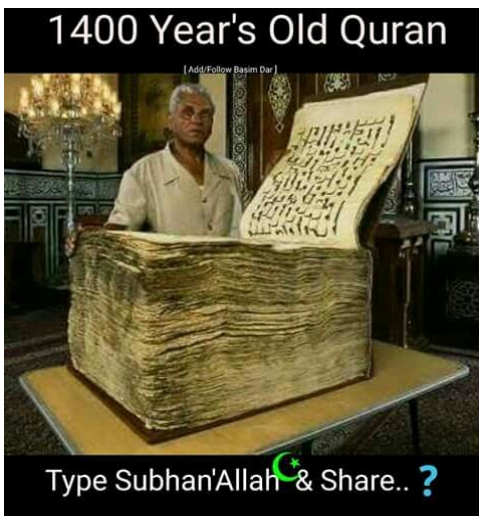
The Battle of Badr was the most important and defining moment among the Islamic battles of Destiny. No one was more aware of the importance of this battle than the Prophet (SAW) himself. This is tantamount in the depth of anxiety in his prayer (above) before battle.

Fought on 17th of Ramadan, outnumbered 1-3, the Islamic defense was a combination of 3 decisive components: First, the leadership and command of the Prophet (SAW) became the foundation of the state and future rulers. Second, the sacrifice of the

the Hashemite, especially Ali whose military performance became the subject of caravan stories throughout the Arab peninsular. Third, the willingness of the companions for sacrifice became the model for the future. They became the army of Islam and its first line of defense.

Badr signals the first major test of faith, and its triumph signals the triumph of Islam itself. After this battle, the Prophet (SAW) became a force to be reckoned with, and a leader and legislator, founder of an empire. Although Badr was little more than a skirmish, it signaled the beginning of the Islamic expansion. Although by the time of the Prophet's (SAW) demise in 632 the entire peninsular subscribed to Islam, over the next 120 years the same occurred in lands from Spain to China, India to central Africa— and it all started at Badr. It is worthy of our gratitude.

## Lailatul Qadr : The Night of Power



“Verily! We have sent it (Quran) down in the Night of Decree (Lailatul-Qadr). And what will make you know what the Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Rook (i.e. Gabriel) by Allah's Permission with all Decrees, Peace! until the appearance of dawn.” (Al-Qadr 97: 1-5)

Lailatul Qadr is a night of great blessing and it commemorates the first revelation of the Holy Qur'an. Hence it is celebrated as not only the Night of Decree, but the Night in which the truth (Furqan) descended from the heavens to the earth, and into the hearts of believers. Once ignited with this Divine Light of Truth, the heart of the believer is forever transformed.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Seek it in the last ten nights [ of Ramadan], on the odd-numbered nights.” ( al-Bukhari, 1912, )  
 “Whoever establishes Salah on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, all his previous sins will be forgiven.” (Bukhari)

IIT will celebrate Lailatul Qadr on Friday 1st July . Program will include Khatmal Qur'an, Fundraising, Salatul Tasbeeh & Qiyamul Layl. Please join us.

IIT is having complete Qur'an recitation by visiting Hafez's and will make Khatmal Qur'an on the 27th Night of Ramadan? 1st July. As you are aware we are in the process of purchasing a property and we appeal to your generosity in this month to donate towards our Building Fund. Once we secure enough down payment we will be able to make an offer. **Place your brick to earn a room in Jannah!**

## IIT Updates

- Feed the Homeless Program: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday at LA Mission. Volunteers leave IIT at 8:00 am to prepare meal at LA Mission.
- IIT observed Lailatul Raghaib (1st Thurs night Rajab) & Qaderi Khatam on Fri. 8 April..
- IIT Monthly Ladies Meelad held on 3rd April & 1st May. The Mouloud program will be suspended until after Ramadan
- On Tues 3 May IIT celebrated Lailatul Mi'raj with program beginning at Asr.
- On Sat. 7 May Athia Carrim with guests attended Mother's Day Tea in Long Beach honoring mothers & their achievements.
- On 14 June Athia Carrim attended the "Peace Pole" ceremony at the Aetherius Society in Hollywood honoring all faiths.
- On Sat. 21st May IIT celebrated Nisfus Shaban with a capacity crowd of believers. The Program began at Asr, followed by Iftar, then recitation of 3 Yaseens, followed by a fundraiser for the purchase of a masjid. A special thanks to all who pledged their support for the Building Fund.
- On 12 June at the Annual Interfaith Iftar Athia Carrim was acknowledged & awarded for her work with children by the County of LA Dept. of Family and Children Services By Rosa Tang Asst. Regional Administrator.



Imam Meets Carson Sheriff heads



## Save the Date .....

- Sunday 12 June : IIT's 9th Annual Interfaith Iftaar beginning 7:00 pm.
- Saturday 11th & 25th June : Feed the Homeless in LA Mission @ 8:00 am
- Monday 20th June : Dua-e-Jameelah Program begins at 6:30 pm with Asr
- Tuesday 21st June: Commemoration of Battle of Badr
- Saturday 25th June : Commemoration of Life of Hazrat Ali (RA)
- Friday 1st July: Lailatul Qadr Whole Night Program



## IIT Services

IIT offers a variety of programs, religious, educational, and social, to advance the well-being of our community. These programs include Jumah Salah/ Friday Khutbah, daily congregational prayers, Taraweeh, observance of all Big Nights, Nazira classes, **Saturday Islamic classes**, Adult Qur'an reading classes, Professional Counseling, and fortnightly Qadri Khatam and Zikr. , Funeral rites and arrangement, performance of Marriage, Darud Nariya every Thursday night after Isha prayer, Spiritual nights, and participation by invitation of the community to various events. **Professional Tajweed classes offered Mon/Tues/Wed.**

## Community Billboard

- DO not forget to Contribute to IIT's Building Fund . Earn your Castle in Jannah & become part of the Masjid Program.
- For all your Tax contact Mohamed Jalloh at E-Tax Resolutions at (310) 502-2174
- For all Real Estate needs please contact Ameena Haseeb at 310-972-0387.
- For Commercial & Domestic cleaning needs contact Nadeem Mughal at (310) 634-7670



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
**FITRANA \$15 per person**  
**per household including**  
**children in your care.**  
**ZAKAH 2.5% of savings &**  
**gold over 3 ounces**



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*The International Institute of Tolerance was founded on the principle of Justice and Equity. Its services are religious and charitable, and grounded in the Islamic faith. One of the principle aims of the Institute is to integrate Muslim Americans into our pluralistic American society. The Institution is focused on working in harmony with other faith groups and civic organizations to enhance our collective futures. The Institute provides religious, educational, and social services to advance justice and promote compassion. Outside its religious services, the Institute's charitable intent can be found in its outreach program. This is the essence of the Islamic value system which drives the Institute's role and functions.*



#### RAMADAN RECIPE

A Glass of Care  
A Plate of Love  
A Spoon of Peace  
A Fork of Truth &  
A Bowl of Duas.  
Mix with spices of QURAAAN.  
Enjoy This Meal.  
RAMADAN MUBARAK

*“Certainly We have created man in the best form. Then We let him go down to the lowest depth, except those who choose to believe in Allah and do what is right. For such there shall be a reward unfailing.”  
Holy Quran (95:4-6)*



*“Shall I tell you what type of charity is most pleasing to Allah? It is to restore Peace where Peace is disturbed”. Prophet Muhammad (SAW)*

## Message from the Imam

### 2016 Interfaith Iftar IIT: 12 June 12, 2016 Imam Ashraf Carrim: Address

Honorable Mayor, distinguished guests, my brothers and sisters in humanity. Peace be upon you with the Mercy & Blessings of Allah

I address you tonight with a very heavy heart. Today is a dark day of pain and disbelief for the victims and families of the Orlando Massacre and for Islam and Muslims. I do not have words to express my feelings, I am overwhelmed. As we Muslims bask in the light of Muhammad Ali's heroic achievements as a Muslim, this act of senseless violence and terror overshadows all the goodness and goodwill that overcame us these past few days. From pride we are reduced to perplexed disbelief and outrage. How could this happen? In this holy month of Ramadan when the intention and goal of every Muslim around the world is one of peace, reflection, goodwill and God consciousness!

The Holy Quran explicitly warns regarding the right to life: [5:32]

**“..he who kills anyone unless it be a person guilty of manslaughter, or of spreading disorder in the land; it will be as though he has killed all mankind; but he who saves a life; it shall be as though he has saved all mankind..”**

**The decree/ law is so clear as though carved in stone- killing an innocent person is akin to killing all mankind- this is the integrity and right to life protected by Islamic Law- we condemn this horrific act because it has no relation to Islam nor does it reflect the essence of this religion of peace.**

We express our heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families, and our thoughts and prayers are with those left behind and the survivors and their families. In the spirit of peace, goodwill and friendship, I call for a minute of silence in solidarity and remembrance .