

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH (GOD), MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.



CAIR
CONNECTICUT

EXPLORE THE
LIFE OF MUHAMMAD

MUSLIMS

EXPLORE THE QURAN

**AMERICAN
MUSLIMS**

The Council on American-Islamic Relations
Connecticut Chapter
Invites you to its 5th Anniversary Banquet

Partner in Peace & Justice

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009

Registration 5:00 | Dinner & Program 6:00

Crowne Plaza, Cromwell

100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416 | (860) 635-2000 TEL

Qu'ran Recitation

Translation of Al-Hujarat
(The Chambers)
Surah 49 Verses 10-13

10. The believers are but a single brotherhood: So make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers; and fear Allah, that you may receive mercy.
11. O Believers! Let not some men among you laugh at others; it may be that the (latter) are better than the (former): nor let some women laugh at others: it may be that the (latter) are better than the (former): neither defame nor be sarcastic to each other, nor call each other by (offensive) nicknames: it is an evil to use a name implying wickedness after one has believed: and those who do not desist are (indeed) doing wrong.
12. O Believers! Avoid suspicion as much (as possible): for suspicion in some cases is a sin: and spy not on each other behind their backs. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? No, you would hate it. But fear Allah. Allah is the Most Forgiving and Most Merciful.
13. O Mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may recognize each other (and not despise each other). Verily, the most honored among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).

Saying of Prophet Muhammad

"A Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands, people are safe."

"It is the generous (in character) who is good to women and it is the wicked who insults them."

"Shall I not inform you of a better act than fasting, alms, and prayers? Making peace between one another: enmity and malice tear up heavenly rewards by the roots."

"If the Hour (end of the world) is upon you, and one of you is holding a seedling, let him plant it."

"In relation to one other, believers are like a structure: each part strengthens the other parts. When the Prophet (pbuh) said this he clasped his fingers together. In commenting on this hadith, Al-Qurtubi said: A structure does not stand up and become habitable unless all its parts mutually support one another."

Welcome



(Peace and Blessings of Allah be on you)

On behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-CT), I am delighted to welcome you to our 5th Anniversary Banquet. We are honored that you have chosen to spend time with the CAIR family this evening. We hope to give you an overview of our accomplishments over the past year as well as share with you our goals for the upcoming year. The past year presented many challenges which brought out the best in American Muslims and we are working to build a better America and a better world.

The theme of this year's banquet is "American Muslims: Partners for Peace and Justice." The idea behind this theme is that American Muslims are part of the fabric of this society. We have just as much to gain or lose as any other American. We must pursue both peace and justice as one cannot exist without the other. In order to achieve peace and justice we must start with mutual understanding. This is why CAIR has embarked on a strategy to partner with other civil rights organizations and with the interfaith community. We are grateful that members of our partner organizations and interfaith community are with us this evening.

Thanks to your support we were able to bring on board Br. Mongi Dhaouadi as our Executive Director to help achieve our goals. Br. Mongi has applied his talents in this pivotal role to bring increased awareness of CAIR amongst Muslim communities across Connecticut in our relentless effort to fight Islamophobia and to safeguard our religious civil rights. We are delighted to have Sr. Tasmia Ahmed join our Organization as the CAIR-CT Office Manager. It is in large part to her tireless efforts that the immense organization required to successfully host this banquet was made possible. Br. Hamza Collins has been our fixture in Civil Rights. His passion and dedication to safeguarding and protecting civil rights of Muslims in Connecticut is unmatched. The CAIR-CT Board has dedicated itself to sustain this Organization financially in a difficult economic environment. Last but not the least our appreciation and thanks goes out to the many volunteers whose work is critical to the sustainability and effectiveness of CAIR-CT.

CAIR functions to serve the Muslim community and we encourage you to learn more about the Organization and its key people. We have many challenges ahead and we cannot achieve our goals without your help. We urge you to help the Muslim community thorough your generous contributions to CAIR-CT.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Dr. Imran Ahmed: Chairman, CAIR-CT Board of Director



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

November 12, 2009

Council on American Islamic Relations
c/o Dr. Imran Ahmed
32 Cardinal Road
East Lyme, Connecticut 06333

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the State of Connecticut, it is my pleasure to extend sincere greetings to all gathered together for the Council on American Islamic Relations Annual Banquet, held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell.

As the largest non-profit Islamic civil rights and advocacy organization, the Council on American Islamic Relations, Connecticut Chapter works to promote a greater understanding of Islam, conversation among different Connecticut constituencies, and mutual understanding. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Muslim community of Connecticut to come together and discuss some of the most pressing issues of today and the future. I would like to take this time to commend all who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this annual banquet, whose theme for this year is "A New Dawn in America."

It is a privilege to extend my words of tribute to all. Please know that you have my best wishes for an enjoyable and successful banquet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Jodi Rell".

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

MJR/cg

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Program For The Evening

- 5:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION AND VENDOR DISPLAYS IN THE FOYER**
- 6:00 p.m. **INTRODUCTORY SESSION**
- Welcome Address
Colleen Keyes: Dean of Academic Affairs at Tunxis Community College
- Qur'an Recitation
Imam Mahmoud Mansour: Islamic Center of New London
- Opening Remarks and Dignitary Recognition
- CAIR-National Address
Corey Saylor: Governmental Affairs Director, CAIR National
Razi Hashmi: Executive Director, CAIR-OK
- CAIR-Connecticut Chapter Address
Mongi Dhaouadi- Executive Director, CAIR-CT
- Islamic Relief Video
- Awards and Recognitions
- 7:30 p.m. **PLENARY PRESENTATION SESSION**
- Shaikh Yasir Qadhi
- Author & Dean Academic Affairs at Al-Maghrib Institute
- Imam Mahdi Bray
- Executive Director of the MAS Freedom, Washington, D.C.
- Imam Johari Abdul-Malik
- Director of Outreach at the Dar Al Hijra Islamic Center
- 8:45 p.m. **ALLAH MADE ME FUNNY COMEDY PERFORMANCE**
- Azhar Usman: Founder of the Allah Made Me Funny Tour
- 9:45 p.m. **UMRAH TICKET RAFFLE DRAWING**
- 9:50 P.M. **DU'A & CLOSING REMARKS**

Speakers



Abu Ammaar Yasir Qadhi was born in Houston, TX. He completed his primary and secondary education in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He finished his Hifdh of the Quran at an early age. He completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of Houston in Chemical Engineering. After completing his studies at the University of Houston, he was accepted into the Islamic University of Medina.

At the Islamic University of Madinah, he pursued a Bachelors of Arts degree in Hadeeth from the College of Hadeeth and Islamic Sciences, and followed it up with a Masters in Islamic Theology (Aqeedah) from the College of Dawah. He is currently a Doctoral candidate at Yale University and is residing in New Haven, Connecticut.

Currently Yasir Qadhi is an instructor at the AlMaghrib Institute, which provides double weekend intensive seminars across the US and Canada. Shaykh Yasir Qadhi's curriculum is primarily composed of seminars in the topic of Islamic Theology (Aqeedah) with the AlMahrib Institute.



Johari Abdul-Malik was born in Brooklyn, New York. Imam Johari is the outreach director for the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Northern Virginia. He also serves as the chair of government relations of the Muslim Alliance in North America.

Imam Johari served as the former head of the National Association of Muslim Chaplains in Higher Education and as the President of the Muslim Society of Washington. He is also the former President of the Coordinating Council of Muslim Organizations and a founding member of the Muslim Advocacy Commission of Washington, D.C. He served as Muslim Chaplain of Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Imam Mahdi Bray is a long time civil and human rights activist currently serving as the Executive Director of MAS Freedom (MASF), the Washington, D.C.-based civic and human rights advocacy entity of the Muslim American Society (MAS). Bray also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice and is a national board member of Religions for Peace – USA. He has formerly served as both President of the Coordinating Council of Muslim Organizations (CCMO) and as a board member of the Interfaith Alliance, America’s largest interfaith organization with over 150,000 members.

Additionally, Bray previously served as a consultant and political advisor to Bonner & Associates, Washington D.C.’s largest grassroots lobbying firm; served with the National Center for Housing Management; the Alexandria City Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Community Relations Department; the City of Norfolk, and Virginia’s Department of Community Improvement; with the Independent Voter League, and as Political Advisor and Strategist to several national, state, and local political campaigns.

In service of his community Bray has also served as an organizer of the “No War on Iraq” movement, and as a liaison between the Bush administration’s White House Faith-Based Initiative Program (which he subsequently opposed), and as a congressional affairs representative on behalf of the Muslim community. He has also led peace missions in Bosnia, East Africa, Darfur, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and throughout Europe.

Bray is also author of The Masjid Voter’s Guide and The Political Guide for Masjid Activists.

Special Acknowledgements

- Islamic Center of New London
- Islamic Association of Greater Hartford
- Bridgeport Islamic Society
- Farmington Masjid
- Masjid Muhammad
- Masjid Al-Islam
- University of Bridgeport Masjid
- Islamic Relief
- Amana Developing World Funds
- Muslim Students Association
- Bangladeshi American Association of Connecticut
- First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
- Dr. Ghani and Bela Chowdhury
- Dr. Reza Mansour
- Ali and Fatma Antar
- Tanzeen Rahman
- Dr. Nauman Chaudhry
- Edible Arrangements
- Muslim Coalition of Connecticut

Award Recognition

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Council on American Islamic Relations- Connecticut Chapter (CAIR-CT)
Enterprise Award

Presented to

Matiniah Yahya
Co founder of Al-Ameen Associates

In recognition of your pioneering efforts to promote education, sense of community and civic responsibility amongst Muslim sisters across Connecticut

November 21, 2009

Leadership Award

Presented to

Imam Abdul Karim Hassan

In recognition of your extraordinary leadership to the establishment and propagation of Islam in America

November 21, 2009

Community Development Award

Presented to

Medina Academy

In recognition of your initiative and commitment to the establishment of Schools for Muslim Children wherein they can learn Islamic values in an Islamic environment from Muslim role models

November 21, 2009

Community Development Award

Presented to

Al-Yaqeen Academy

In recognition of your initiative and commitment to the establishment of Schools for Muslim Children wherein they can learn Islamic values in an Islamic environment from Muslim role models

November 21, 2009

Community Development Award

Presented to

Salma Farid Academy

In recognition of your initiative and commitment to the establishment of Schools for Muslim Children wherein they can learn Islamic values in an Islamic environment from Muslim role models

November 21, 2009

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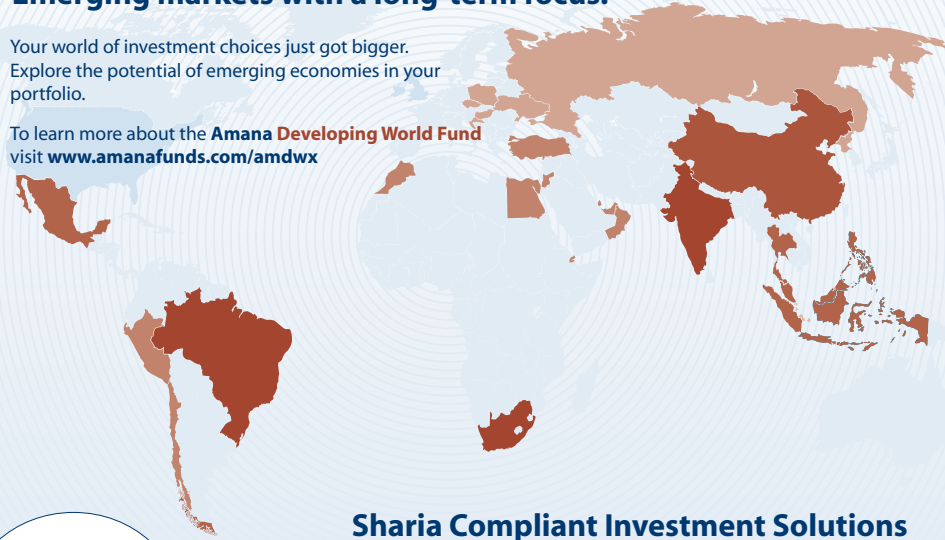
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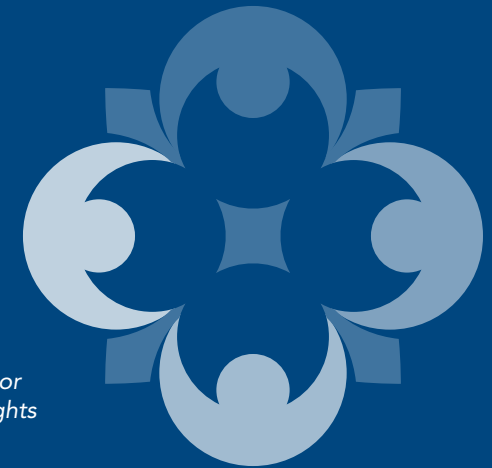
Partner in Peace and Justice
5th Anniversary Banquet
Saturday, November 21, 2009
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT 06416

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