

# Kokni MUSLIM Jamaat CANADA

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2006

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## Message from the President

As-Salaam-Alaikum,

Eid Mubarak. I hope you all had a pleasant and rewarding Ramadhan, and had an opportunity to seek out Allah's blessings during this glorious month.

I would like to thank the committee for working so hard during the year to organize all the events that we have enjoyed. It is very encouraging to see our young, dedicated and talented committee members go the extra mile to ensure that events are well organized. It is truly an honour to work with such a dynamic team. We need everyone's support, input and assistance to ensure that we have a strong Jamaat to move forward.

We are soon approaching our tenth anniversary since the official registration of the Jamaat. To mark the occasion, we welcome your input to make this anniversary a memorable one. Please feel free to send your comments or suggestions to us at [kokni@rogers.com](mailto:kokni@rogers.com).

Thank you.  
Mushtaq Mukri



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# Announcements



## Marriage

*Congratulations to  
Hussein & Hawabi Mukri  
married on  
December 25th 2005.*

*Congratulations to  
Mukarram & Nisreen Mukri  
married on  
June 17th 2006.*

## Engaged!

*Faiza Hadadi of Mississauga, ON  
& Naveed Khamkar of Walthamstow, England.*

*Sabeena Mukri of Burlington, ON  
& Salim Mukadam of Cambridge, ON.*

*Simona Vuotto of Toronto, ON  
& Naif Mukri of Toronto, ON.*



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*Sameeha & Yaseen Karim  
are pleased to announce  
the birth of their son,  
Mikhail Aahil Karim  
born on May 31st 2006.*

# EVENTS 2006

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Kokni Muslim Jamaat (KMJ) held its AGM on March 12th 2006 at Concorde Place in North York. This was an election year and the following new Committee was elected:

President	Mushtaq Mukri	<b>Committee Members</b>
Vice President	Zahir Sangrar	Abdul Hakim Awadh
Treasurer	Salim Mukadam	Rizwan Mukadam
Assistant Treasurer	Faheem Sangrar	Shahin Mukadam
Secretary	Ambreen Bana	Mohamed Mukri
Assistant Secretary	Tehsin Sangrar	Munira Mukri
Webmaster	Mazaheer Bana	Omar Mukri

Trustees Abdul Rashid Bapoo, Zahur Hadadi & Abdul Rashid Sangrar

At this meeting, it was agreed upon that the membership subscription fees be increased to \$20.00 per annum. The future of the Jamaat was evaluated and proposals were put forward for burial, medical assistance and education assistance plans to be initiated. It was decided that the burial plan should top the list of priorities for the new committee.

Other recommendations included increasing member participation and attendance, urging new immigrants to attend KMJ events, increasing the number of social events held in the year and working towards a common goal of acquiring our own premises.

KMJ members were asked to continue to support the new committee as they have done with past committees. They were also asked to put forward any suggestions and ideas they might have on improving the future of the Jamaat and bringing us closer to realizing our goals.

## Milad

The KMJ held a Milad on May 6th 2006 at the Best Western Hotel in Mississauga. After the milad, committee members presented an overview of setting up a Burial Fund for the Jamaat. The idea was unanimously accepted and a Bereavement Committee was formed.

Members of the Bereavement Committee are as follows: Abdul Rashid Bapoo, Sayed Ali Kadri, Salim Mukadam, Mushtaq Mukri (Financial Trustee), Omar Mukri, Sayed Naziri, Shaukat Sangrar (Chairperson), Faheem Sangrar, Zahir Sangrar, Ahmed Suria (Financial Trustee), Umihani Kassam, Munira Mukri (Secretary), Rabiya Mukri, Amina Sangrar and Shirin Sangrar.

Rules of the Burial Fund are in the process of being formalized.

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## Summer Picnic

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the Kokni Muslim Jamaat of Canada held their annual picnic at Christie Park, in Hamilton. The day was filled with fun activities for both the adults and children. Members relaxed, and enjoyed the weather as they participated in the various activities available to them at the park.

Fishing was one of the highlights of the day, where the kids and parents enjoyed casting their hooks into the lake. The world cup was also being played at the time and we were fortunate enough to have a screen and satellite dish set up so that the game could be watched.

Canoes were also rented at the park for those who wished to have a leisurely row around the lake. The attraction of the day however, was the boat race that was organized as a tournament. Eighteen teams of two raced in nine heats. The task was to row a canoe across the lake, pick up a leaf and race back. All teams paddled to win with the fastest time. The winners of the tournament were Saima and Anisa Kassam.



There was also a fundraising bake sale held at the picnic, where members of the Jamaat contributed items for sale. We raised approximately \$ 300 for the Jamaat and we hope to continue this tradition in future. We hope that all the members who attended had a great time and we hope to see new members at the next annual picnic. We look forward to making next years picnic just as good if not better.

The Jamaat would like to give a very warm thank you to all those who came out, helped, and supported our event; we cannot do it without you!



## Iftar

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the Kokni Muslim Jamaat held its annual iftaar program for its members. It was held at the MFFC Hall in Markham. In addition to the iftaar program the Jamaat organized a Qur'an Khattam before we broke fast together. The event was a potluck where members brought in their signature dishes. The event was organized to bring the community together in this auspicious month to worship and break fast together.

## Eid Dinner

The Eid Dinner celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr will be held at Fuzion Banquet Hall in Mississauga on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2006. The evening will consist of dinner, entertainment, children's games, a fundraising raffle as well as the presentation of prizes to those children who have completed their first Ramadhan. This provides an opportunity for everyone to celebrate Eid together.

## Message from the past President, Abdul Rashid Bapoo

I have had the pleasure of serving on the KMJ committee since its inception in 1997. The journey getting here was an experience I will never forget. When I migrated to Canada in 1972, I did not know of any Kokni families living here. My parents, Abdul-Rashid Sangrar and Ashraf Mukri arrived soon after. My late father, Mr. Ibrahim Bapoo Mukri loved to meet with people and make new friends and consequently tried hard to meet Koknis wherever he went. Unfortunately, there were not many Kokni immigrants at that time.

As more families migrated to Canada we began to congregate at someone's house for Eid festivities. As people started moving out of Toronto Mrs. Sherbanu Mukri suggested we congregate together at a common place close to all. Our first 'Eid function' was held in the basement of Ashraf and Arica Mukri's home. This was a huge success. There were gifts for all the children and the cost was shared by all. As time went on, more Koknis migrated here and we started to hold the functions in the party room of my condominium, which was where we met Mr. Abdulkader Zalgaonker and Bashir Mukadam who had contributed generously to the event. We then began hosting the functions at the Peace Lutheran Church after a few years. Our community kept growing and we decided to form the official Kokni Muslim Jamaat of Canada (Toronto), held elections, and registered in 1997.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity of working with many wonderful individuals in our community. They have given way to the new young committee, which is full of new ideas, energy, dedication and a willingness to promote our Jamaat. Today, our children are following in the footsteps set by our late fathers and our grandchildren will confidently do the same.

The mission of our Jamaat is to build bridges, recruit new members, make us known to Koknis, and build a strong community. We should all play a constructive role and support ourselves for the better and for the bright future of this community. I pray for the success, prosperity, and achievements that we have yet to accomplish. Remember, WE ARE KOKNIS AND KOKNIS ARE WE!

Abdul-Rashid Bapoo

## Know your Committee Members

So, how well do you know members of your Managing Committee?

**President** - Mr. Mushtaq Mukri aka "El Presidente" – Our current Jamaat President was born in Mombasa, Kenya. He has a degree in Civil Engineering, from College of Engineering in Madras. He has lived in Uganda as well as in Kenya before moving to Canada in 1991.

**Vice President** – Mr. Zahir Sangrar aka "Heir to the 'Throne'" – Our Vice President was born in Tanga, Tanzania and later went on to grow up and live in Kenya. He moved to Canada in 2000. He works as an IT Manager.

**Secretary** – Mrs. Ambreen Bana – Ambreen is a relatively recent addition to the Jamaat in Canada. She was born in Nairobi, Kenya. She moved to London, England in 1996 where she completed a joint degree in Business Economics and Law. She moved to Canada in 2004.

**Treasurer** – Mr. Salim Mukadam aka "Jim Flaherty wannabe" & "Future President" – Salim was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He moved to Canada in 1996. He studied Business Administration specialising in Accounting at Sir Sandford Fleming College, in Peterborough, Ontario. He is now working as a Controller at a major hotel chain.

**Assistant Treasurer** – Mr. Faheem Sangrar aka "Man of all Seasons." Faheem was born in Nairobi, Kenya. He moved to Canada in 1995 where he studied Microbiology at Trent University in Peterborough.

We will profile some of our other committee members in future newsletters.

# Halaal - Zabihah - Haraam

Halal – Zabiha – Haram

Confused? Wondering what the difference is between the three? Apparently it is not as simple as just halal and haram. There are a few schools of thought on this one!

After much research it is evident that there is in fact a distinction between these words and schools of thought. Halal, the word, is used to describe anything permissible under Islamic law, in contrast to haram, that which is forbidden. For example, this could include behaviour, speech, manner and conduct and of course dietary laws.

## Dhabiĥa (method used to slaughter animals)

The conventional method of slaughtering all animals excluding fish and most sea-life is known as dhabiĥa (ذبيحة), often pronounced by non-Arabs as zabiha. It involves severing the major arteries in the neck of the animal, as well as the esophagus and trachea with one swipe of a non-serrated blade.

Interestingly enough Muslims vary on what is necessary for food to be considered "halal".

## Zabiha Halal

Adherents to this philosophy maintain that in order for food to be considered halal, it must not be a forbidden substance and any meat must have been slaughtered according to traditional guidelines set forth by the Sunnah, known as zabiha. This is the strictest definition of halal.

## First type of "Bismillah" Halal

Some believe that the guidelines of zabiha do not necessarily need to be followed and reciting "Bismillah Al Rahman Al Rahim" (In the name of God the Beneficent the Merciful) immediately preceding consumption renders the meat permissible. People who adhere to this type of halal generally do not partake in the consumption of forbidden substances. Defenders of this method declare that the Qur'an does not dictate that Allah's (s.w.t) name must be taken prior to slaughtering the animal, it merely says in multiple places. They also narrate a hadith in which Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) states "Mention Allah's name on it and eat..." upon being questioned on how to deal with food that is not verifiably zabiha.

Critics of this method claim that the text of the Qur'an and the hadith needs to be taken in perspective, and accuse defenders of this method of misinterpreting them.

## Second type of "Bismillah" Halal

Adherents to this type of "Bismillah Halal" generally believe that any food, not including forbidden food, becomes halal once "Bismillah al Rahman Al Rahim" (In the name of God the Beneficent the Merciful) is recited over the food. Generally, this phrase is recited immediately prior to consumption. It is believed by many that this method of making food halal does not adhere to Islamic guidelines, largely because it contradicts the Qur'anic verses on forbidden substances

## Criticisms of Zabiha Halal

Some object to zabiha halal and believe that it causes needless suffering to the animal that is not stunned before slaughter.

Advocates for zabiha halal contend that this method of slaughter is actually more humane than the modern method of stunning before slaughter.

Clarified? You decide!

## Amazing Adhaan

Amazing as it sounds, but fortunately for the Muslims of the world, it is an established fact. Have a look at a map of the world and you will find Indonesia on the eastern side of the earth. The major cities of Indonesia are Java, Sumatra, Borneo and Saibil.

As soon as dawn breaks on the eastern side of Saibil, at approximately 5:30 am local time, Fajr Adhaan begins. Thousands of Muezzins in Indonesia begin reciting the Adhaan. The process advances towards West Indonesia. One and a half hours after the Adhaan has been completed in Saibil, it echoes in Jakarta. Sumatra then follows suit and before this auspicious process of calling Adhaan ends in Indonesia, it has already begun in Malaysia.

Burma is next in line, and within an hour of its beginning in Jakarta, it reaches Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. After Bangladesh, it has already prevailed in western India, from Calcutta to Srinagar. It then advances towards Mumbai and the environment of entire India resounds with this proclamation. Srinagar and Sialkot (a city in north Pakistan) have the same timing for Adhaan.

The time difference between Sialkot, Quetta, and Karachi is forty minutes, and within this time, Fajr Adhaan is heard throughout Pakistan. Before it ends there, it has already begun in Afghanistan and Muscat. The time difference between Muscat and Baghdad is one hour. Adhaan resounds during this one hour in the environments of Hijaz-e-Muqaddas (Holy cities of Makkah and Madinah), Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq.

The time difference between Baghdad and Alexandria in Egypt is again one hour. Adhaan continues to resound in Syria, Egypt, Somalia and Sudan during this hour. The time difference between eastern and western Turkey is one and a half hours, and during this time it is echoed with the call to prayer.

Alexandria and Tripoli (capital of Libya) are located at one hour's difference. The process of calling Adhaan thus continues throughout the whole of Africa. Therefore, the proclamation of the Tawheed and Risaalat that had begun in Indonesia reaches the Eastern Shore of the Atlantic Ocean after nine and half hours. Prior to the Adhaan reaching the shores of the Atlantic, the process of Zuhr Adhaan has already started in east Indonesia, and before it reaches Dhaka, Asr Adhaan has started. This has hardly reached Jakarta one and half hours later, the time of Maghrib becomes due, and no sooner has Maghrib time reached Sumatra, the time for calling Isha Adhaan has commenced in Saibil!

When the Muezzins of Indonesia are calling out Fajr Adhaan, the African Muezzins are calling the Adhaan for Isha. If we were to ponder over this phenomenon thoughtfully, we would conclude the amazing fact that there is not even a single moment when hundreds of thousands of Muezzins around the world are not reciting the Adhaan on the surface of this earth. Even as you read this article right now, you can be sure there are at least thousands of people who are hearing and reciting the Adhaan!!!



*“We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles, rather than by the quality of our service relationship to humanity”*

## Hadith

The messenger of Allah (saws) reported in a hadith al-Qudsi that Allah (SWT) said: "All acts done by the sons of Adam are meant for him, except fasting. It is exclusively meant for Me, and I (alone) will reward him for it" (Bukhari and Muslim)

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri (raa) the Messenger of Allah (saas) said, "Sahuur is a blessed meal, do not neglect it even if it is a mouthful of drink. For Allah and the Angels bless those who observe it." (Ahmed)

## Word Search - Surah of the Holy Quran

I B R A H I M C U W C A B D U D M O B Z F Q A C Y E  
 A R R A H M A N J M N V O I T C A L M U M I N H W D  
 P G U E N C B V K N Q W M T D C H T S R W D A H A W  
 B M A Y R A M F A S U J F M F A E M X V V N I L B H  
 I C Y U N U S H S L H R C Z M S A G O Y N V M H A S  
 A L H U J R A T A U K X I U B H Y B K A B U W H T L  
 T A H C T U H N N D H A J F S U A M S R Z S A X Z U  
 U D X C F R A X Z A I L U H A L J S U Z X R Z N L V  
 B M Z F G R M M R L A A S S Q K F H A I A A A H H K  
 H O D Y J H A H S A O A M A A T L M B Q U P L J F N  
 U G I H X Z Y A P H D C M L I R M A A S M J M I A H  
 P A B T A E I D A Z I A I Z A I G B N S U C U S E S  
 A L K A H F Q Y L A R M Q P L F L P I A H K N C X I  
 Q Y V M E H L Z J B R X P L A A X D I L A F A M Y E  
 J C S A T N A W I A F A G V A V W O S H M M F W Y R  
 W S G L A X E S N B P W J Y L W T M R K M L I T N O  
 G Y W A F J V Q N Y T U B A K N A L A I A N Q Z E Q  
 X L F Q B T W U R G B R O Z V R R Q E L D Z U T O L  
 I T I L R S N A U V M J R P C Z S W L A K T N K J A  
 Y R M A J L W Q A L A T T A V M O Q N B J U S K I H

**Here is a list of some  
 Surahs of  
 The Holy Quran.  
 See how many  
 you can find.  
 Words can be found  
 horizontally, verti-  
 cally, diagonally,  
 backwards  
 or forwards.**

ALAHZAB	ALMAIDAH	ASHSHAMS
ALANKABUT	ALMUMIN	ATTALAQ
ALBAQARAH	ALMUNAFIQUN	BANIISRAEL
ALIMRAN	ALMUZZAMMIL	FATEHA
ALHUJRAT	ALQADAR	IBRAHIM
ALIKHLAS	ALQALAM	MARYAM
ALJINN	ALQAMAR	MUHAMMAD
ALJUMAH	ALQIYAMAH	NUH
ALKAFIRUN	ALQOREISH	YUNUS
ALKAHF	ANNAS	
ALKAUSAR	ARRAHMAN	



## Where did the Qur'an come from?

The Qur'an was given by Allah to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The book wasn't given all at once. Allah revealed, or gave, the book to him a little at a time over the period of 23 years. The first part of the Qur'an was given to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) when he was fourty years old. At that time, Muhammad (SAW) didn't know about Allah. But because he hated the idols and statues which his people bowed down to and prayed to, Muhammad (SAW) tried to find his Creator in his own way.

Muhammad (SAW) used to go to a mountain called *Jabal an-Nur* (Mountain of Light) outside of his home town of Makkah to think and look for answers to all his questions. Everyone in town thought Muhammad (SAW) was nice, honest and friendly. They used to give him different nick-names like *Al-Amin* ('the trustworthy one'), but Muhammad (SAW) wanted more than just to be a nice guy. He wanted to know what was true and what was false. Soon his wish was going to be answered because Allah was going to choose him to be His Last Messenger to the people of the earth.

On that lonely mountain, in a small cave, called Cave Hira, Muhammad (SAW) was resting after a lot of heavy thinking. Suddenly a bright Angel appeared in front of him and said the word, "READ." Muhammad (SAW) was born in a place where there were no schools, so he never learnt to read or write. He was so scared of the bright creature that all he could say was, "I..I can't read." The angel took hold of him and squeezed him tightly and repeated the word he said before, "Read." Muhammad (SAW) cried, "I can't read!"

The Angel grabbed him again and squeezed the breath out of his chest and repeated, "Read." To save himself from any further pain, Muhammad (SAW) answered quickly, "What should I read?" Then the angel gave the new Prophet his new message from Allah. He said, "Read in the Name of your Lord Who created humans from a clot of blood. Read for your Generous Lord. He is the One Who taught people with the pen what they didn't know before." Muhammad (SAW) ran home to his wife, Khadijah, who comforted him from his strange vision. But from then on, the angel, whose name was Jibra'il, came back to him often and taught him more and more of the Qur'an and about Islam. The Last Messenger of Allah began his mission and the Qur'an was completed 23 years later.



*"How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving"*

## A Poem for Ramadhan

The holy month of Ramadhan for Muslims has begun,  
Praising God through the day, from dawn to dusk we fast and pray,  
We pay Zakat for those in need, trying our best to do good deeds,  
When the sun has set and day is done, I'll break this chain but only one,  
By the end of Ramadhan this whole chain will be all gone.

## The Islamic Calendar

The Islamic calendar is lunar. Each month must begin with the evening when the moon is sighted by the unaided naked eye. Muslims are obligated to sight the crescent in every country. Therefore, different countries may begin the year at different days. The calendar is called the Hijri calendar. The first month in the Hijri calendar is MUHARRAM.

Listed below are the other 11 months of the Hijri calendar. See if you can put them in order.

JUMADI-UL-AWWAL, DHUL-QADAH, RABI-UL-THANI, JUMADI-UL-THANI, SHA'BAN, DHUL-HIJJAH, SHAWWAL, SAFAR, RABI-UL-AWWAL, RAMADHAN, RAJAB.

Answers: Muharram, Safar, Rabi-ul-Awwal, Rabi-ul-Thani, Jumadi-ul-Awwal, Jumadi-ul-Thani, Sha'ban, Rajab, Ramadhan, Shawwal, Dhul-Qadah, Dhul-Hijjah

## Remember Allah at all times

When starting to do something	say	Bis-Millah
When meeting a Muslim	say	Assalamu-alaikum
When intending to do something	say	Insha-Allah
When something is being praised	say	Subhaan-Allah
When in pain and distress	say	Ya-Allah
When expressing appreciation	say	Masha-Allah
When thanking someone	say	Jazak-Allah
When waking up from sleep	say	La-ilaha-illallah
When taking oath	say	Wallah-Billah
When sneezing	say	Alhamdu-Lillah
When someone else sneezes	say	Yar-Hamok-Allah
When repenting of a sin	say	Astagh-Firullah
When giving to charity	say	Fi-Sabi-Lillah
When a problem appears	say	Tawak-Kalto-AI-Allah
When unpleasantness occurs	say	Na-Uzo-Billah
When pleasantness appears	say	Fata-Barak-Allah
When a death message is received	say	Inna-Lillahi-Wa-Inna-Ilahi-Raji- Un



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## Editors' Note

Thank you for flipping through the Fall 2006 Newsletter of the Kokni Muslim Jamaat of Canada. We hope you enjoyed its contents. If you have any feedback, comments or suggestions please let us know. If you would like to have your say and contribute to the next newsletter, or have an article or tip you would like to share, please contact us at [kokni@rogers.com](mailto:kokni@rogers.com). We also welcome advertisements so, please place your ad in the next newsletter and support the Jamaat.

Editorial Committee: Munira Mukri, Tehsin Sangrar & Ambreen Bana.