

What's INSIDE?

Meet Our Staff	2
Civil Rights Corner	2-3
Muslim Youth Leadership	3
Courses & Presentations	3
Banquet Contest	4
Support CAIR	4

AS SALAAM ALAIKUM (PEACE BE ON YOU)

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are pleased to announce that we are hosting our 4th Annual Dinner Fund Raising Banquet on April 3, 2010. It will be held at the same location as last year; the beautiful Springfield Country Club in Springfield, PA. We have organized an enjoyable, informative and entertaining night for the entire family!

SAVE THE DATE

Council on American-Islamic Relations PHILADELPHIA

Outreach Director
Rugiatu Conteh

Civil Rights Director
Moein Khawaja

Office Manager
Leena Jaffer

Executive Committee

Kareem Ali
Osama Al-Qasem
Iftekhhar Hussain
Monika Nagpal
Zuneera Masood
Sehr Rana
Carlin Saafir
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CAIR
Philadelphia Chapter

4TH
ANNUAL
BANQUET

Saturday, April 3rd, 2010

Registration & Reception: 4:30 pm
Dinner & Program: 5:45 - 9:45 PM

Springfield Country Club

400 West Sproul Road
Springfield, PA 19064
<http://www.springfieldcountryclub.net>

\$55.00 per person
\$35.00 Student and Young Adults (10-18 years)
\$10.00 Children (4-9 Years)
\$550.00 for a table of 10

SPEAKERS

- **DR. ROBERT D. CRANE**
Former advisor to President Nixon and former Deputy Director of Planning at the United States National Security Council.
- **IMAM JOHARI ABDUL-MALIK**
Director of Community Outreach, Dar Al-hijrah Islamic Center, Falls Church, VA

MASTER OF CEREMONY

- **SISTER SALIMA SUSWELL**
President of Council for the Advancement of Muslim Professionals' Philadelphia Chapter (CAMP-Philadelphia)

ENTERTAINMENT

- **PREACHER MOSS**
Founder, Allah Made Me Funny Comedy Tour

CHILDREN

- **KEN KAPLAN'S** amazing variety show, including:
Interactive story telling, music & comedy show.
- **OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Balloon twisting, Face painting, Clown



Reservations and to advertise & exhibit at the event
215-592-0509 or online at <http://pa.cair.com>

To advertise in our next news letter, contact our office at 215-592-0509

MEET OUR STAFF



Moein Khawaja
Civil Rights Director

Moein was born and raised in Springfield, IL and has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois. His extensive activism experience began during his undergraduate years. Along with substantial involvement with the Muslim Students Association (MSA), Moein developed the first CAIR chapter for a University.

Moein's experience has given him the opportunity to be interviewed by prominent media outlets, and his opinion pieces have been published by the Chicago Tribune and New York Times. In September 2009, he was hired as Civil Rights Director. Moein is committed to protecting the rights of Muslim Americans and promoting understanding and acceptance of Islam in America.



Rugiatu Conteh
Outreach Director

Rugiatu was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. A graduate from Temple University, she began her career working as Assistant Producer at a cable access station in Radnor, Pennsylvania. Subsequently, Rugiatu went on to receive her Masters degree in Film and Television Production from Royal Holloway -University of London.

In January 2009, Rugiatu joined the CAIR-PA team as a Communications Volunteer. She helped to coordinate several programs and events and has become a major contributor to the quarterly newsletter. Rugiatu is very interested in Muslim affairs. With her knowledge of the media, she plans to disseminate correct information on Islam and Muslims.

CIVIL RIGHTS CORNER

FROM MOEIN'S DESK

Civil Rights Cases:

The Civil Rights Department is working on two new cases. One involves a local Muslim man not allowed to leave for the Friday Jummah prayer, and the other is an employee complaint of a hostile working environment. The second case is particularly unique because the hostile environment was created by customers making anti-Muslim remarks to the employee. The Muslim employee was wrongfully suspended because he did not wish to serve the hostile customer. In this situation, CAIR-PA believes the customer does NOT come first and is advocating vigorously.

Pennsylvania Inter-Agency Task Force on Civil Tension:

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) asked CAIR to present information describing its outreach and civil rights activities to the Pennsylvania Inter-Agency Task Force on Civil Tension. The Task Force is a group that consist of various government agencies, law enforcement and civil rights organizations. Local police departments expressed interest in CAIR's sensitivity training for law enforcement officers and requested that workshops be conducted throughout the state in the near future. Moein described the struggles Muslims face in Pennsylvania and offered recommendations to each agency.

Meeting with Mayor Michael Nutter (Philadelphia):

Moein and CAIR's executive committee members (Iftekhar Hussain, Osama Al-Qasem and Carlin Saafir) along with other local Muslim leaders had a meeting with Mayor Michael Nutter. They offered to conduct CAIR workshops that are designed for government officials to familiarize themselves with Islamic beliefs and Muslim practices. Mayor Nutter wants to work with CAIR's Civil Rights Department in order to implement methods of preventing discrimination against Muslims in the workplace. Follow-up meetings are being scheduled.



Rugiatu, Doreen Winey-Director of Education and Community Services (PHRC), Moein and Daniel-Civil Rights

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QUARTERLY CASE FLOW:

Open Cases: 69
New Cases: 12
Closed Cases: 4

To address religious discrimination, Please contact our office 215-592-0509

Know Your Rights Workshops:

To request a workshop, please call 215-592-0509

CAIR-PA's Know Your Rights & Responsibilities workshops are engaging seminars in which attendees learn about what rights they have in everyday situations as well as what to do if they experience discrimination or encounter law enforcement. The workshop also includes a video demonstrating how to handle invasive airport searches and visits by the FBI, something that many Muslims have experienced. This workshop is led in part by John Yahya Vandenberg, one of the best immigration and general practice attorneys in the Delaware Valley. John adds tremendous value to the workshop through his experience and also offers attendees the opportunity to have their questions answered by an attorney. Topics covered include: Your rights as an employee, student, traveler, immigrant/non-citizen, encounters with law enforcement, your responsibilities as a Muslim American and much more. E-mail Moein Khawaja at mkhawaja@cair.com to request a workshop for your community.

REACHING OUT

Tension Arises at Weekly Course:

To request a presentation, please call 215-592-0509

CAIR-PA's board member Iftekhar Hussain has been teaching a ten-part course, titled "Understanding Islam and Muslims" at Downingtown Friends Meeting in Downingtown, PA. Prior to the start of the course, a local tea party group (called the Valley Forge Patriots) planned to protest outside of the church where it was being held. There were many interruptions during the first two classes; including individuals shouting "go back to your country", and others interrogating Iftekhar.

Despite the negative attitudes of a few people, there are 40 committed attendees. As Iftekhar states in his interview with *The Philadelphia Tribune*, "When I do see actual resistance, I realize how much more actually needs to be done to really educate people."

The class is designed to introduce Muslim theology and address perceptions of Islam in American society to those who have no or little knowledge of Muslims and their beliefs.

Please go to our website to read the article in *The Philadelphia Tribune*: <http://pa.cair.com>

YOUTH OUTREACH

MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (MYLP):

The Muslim Youth Leadership Conference held in January focused on discussing the portrayal of Muslims in the Media. The students learned about traditional (television, radio, magazine) and non-traditional (social media) forms of communication, and explored careers in journalism and public relations.

The students were deeply concerned about the negative depictions of Muslims in television and film. Movies and TV shows continue to represent stereotypical characters such as, "the terrorist", "the billionaire" or "taxi driver". They expressed a deep desired to address these issues and brainstorm ways of displaying the diversity of Muslims in America.

We are now accepting applications for our next conference in April, *Community and Interfaith Relations*.



After the completion of this conference, the students are expected to understand the history of Muslims in the Delaware Valley, and learn how to interact with people of different religions while maintaining their faith. Also, they will be equipped to answer questions pertaining to Islam and Muslims. It will be held on the University of Pennsylvania's campus.

INTERESTING FACT:

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, children ages 8 to 18 spend on average per day: 4 hrs 30 mins watching television, 1 hr 13 mins playing video games and 1 hr 30 mins on the computer.

What is the Goal of the MYLP?

- To teach students the value & importance of advocacy and community involvement.
- Teach the steps required to have their voices heard
- Introduce CAIR to the youth and provide a more thorough understanding of the organization

Targeted Age Group:14-18 (High School)

To receive MYLP Information, Please e-mail rconteh@cair.com

BANQUET CONTEST

BANQUET CONTEST

Be one of the first three to correctly answer the following questions and receive 1/2 off your banquet ticket:

1. What year was CAIR-Philadelphia established?
2. Name 1 course that CAIR-PA has offered this year.
3. What is the mission of CAIR-PA?

Good Luck!

Email your answers to rconteh@cair.com
In order to receive your discount, you must pick up your ticket from our Philadelphia office.



CHAPTER SUPPORT

Support CAIR-Philadelphia!

Your financial support is invaluable in helping CAIR-Philadelphia continue operations in service of the Muslim Community.

You can donate through PayPal on our website, send a donation via check for any amount or send us a voided check so that your donation can be deducted out of your bank account on a monthly basis. We ask Allah (SWT) to accept your charity and multiply your rewards.

Contributions to CAIR-Philadelphia are tax-deductible and Zakat-eligible. Out tax ID number is 542174614. Numerous Muslim scholars have confirmed that Zakat is payable to organizations that exist to serve the Muslim community by protecting their rights. For More Information go to:

<http://www.cair.com/Zakat.aspx>

DONATION METHODS

1. Check/Money Order
2. Credit Card
3. Automatic Deduction

SPOTLIGHT: INTERFAITH

We're All Different, But We're All To Blame

Rabiya Khan

Interfaith sessions are held under the premise: "We're all different, but we're still the same." I have always known that the three largest monotheistic faiths in the world-Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (in that order) - share many beliefs and customs.

We also share a collective guilt for what is happening in the world. After speaking as a Muslim at several local interfaith sessions, it has become clear to me that my audience is misinformed or worse yet, uninformed. Allow me to set the "record" straight, and while I'm at it send a message to the radicals and Muslim leaders!

- Muslims believe in Jesus as a Prophet of God who will come back to earth. No matter how many times I conduct these sessions, this one is always the biggest shocker!
- After the five pillars of Islam are explained, most interfaith gatherings turn into a "What's going on in the Middle East?" debate.
- Muslims like me, like to talk about these "Middle Eastern issues."
- Muslims like me (with the ability to dig deep) are ready to point the finger within!

Why have the teachings of Islam become wrongly equated with the deplorable actions of hijacking-terrorists? How do mainstream Muslims contribute to the increasing tensions? By staying quiet about the truth, and pointing our fingers in the wrong direction, that's how. "We're all different, but we're all to blame" is the new premise of my interfaith sessions.

This excerpt was taken from the Sunday edition (1/31/10) of the *York Daily Record*. The author, Sister Rabiya Khan, was an active interfaith volunteer at the CAIR office in Harrisburg, PA. She has presented information on Islam and Muslims to community and religious groups, and she continues to encourage open discussions among faith-based congregations in the Harrisburg area. Sister Rabiya is currently working as a free lance writer.

To contribute content to the newsletter, email CAIR-PA at cairphilly@gmail.com