

AWSOM NEWS



Newsletter
Jan/Feb
2020

Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat O Momineen of North America, Inc

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As of January 2020, the Anjuman has loaned out approximately US\$ 2.14 million to 410 students pursuing undergraduate, graduate and post graduate degrees in educational institutions in the United States. We are neither able to thank Allah enough for His mercy nor you for the continued patronage. Thanks.

FELICITATIONS

We extend our felicitations to the community as we commemorate the birth anniversary of Shazadi e Kunan, Janab e Fatima Zehra S.A. The Lady of Paradise presents a role model for the women of the world and for humanity in general. Amongst the most prominent teachings of Bibi Fatima A.S. is to keep the interest and welfare of the neighbors and community paramount as she used to pray for her neighbors and the community before she would ask the Almighty for any favors for her family. May Allah enable us to follow the teachings and traditions of the Masoomeen A.S. and inculcate the noble values of the Infallibles in our daily lives and conduct.

OBITUARY

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of late **Syed Iftikhar Husain Zaidi**. After a protracted illness, one of the founding members of the Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat O Monineen of North America, Iftikhar Zaidi left this world for his final abode in January, 2020. Late Iftikhar Hussain was one of the first five directors of the Anjuman in North America who contributed the seed money for the launch of the Anjuman in North America. He had a deep desire to educate the youth of the community and let them excel in modern scientific disciplines and he strived hard throughout his life to facilitate higher education for the shia youth. He donated generously to the Anjuman through his life and dreamt of making the Anjuman the go-to source for educational funding for all the children in the community.

Mr. Hussain, an engineer by profession, was involved in many philanthropic projects and contributed generously to numerous community organizations and supported countless individuals in their time of need. In the death of Mr. Iftikhar Hussain, we have lost a role model for pragmatism, intelligence and community service. May Allah, with the intercession of the Masoomeen, forgive all his sins and grant him the highest place in Jannat.

We offer heartfelt condolences to Mr. Abbas Hasan of Jackson NJ, a member of the Anjuman, on the passing away of his mother recently. May Allah give family the strength to bear this loss and bless the soul of the marhooma with a place in Jannat under the wings of the Masoomeen.

We request the readers to recite a Sura-e-Fateha for the deceased.

LOANS GRANTED

For the Spring-2020 semester, the Anjuman disbursed \$43,774 in interest free loans to 14 successful candidates. These candidates include: Shuja Abbas (engineering), Fizzah Mirza (pharmacy), Syed Naqvi (undergraduate), Abbas Ali Khan (undergraduate), Areeb Rizvi (undergraduate), Sajida Bandali (health sciences), Munem Rizvi (engineering), Asad Raza (undergraduate), Sarah Shirazi (undergraduate), Hasan Fawwad (engineering), Komael Syed (undergraduate), Saher Zaidi (health sciences), Talib Haider (pharmacy) and Fatima Zaidi (pharmacy). We wish the borrowers the best of luck in their educational pursuits.

We estimate that in this cycle alone, the Anjuman has saved \$35,000 in interest expense associated with these loans that the borrowers would have paid over a period of time.

For the full year 2019, the Anjuman disbursed a total of **\$110,000** in interest free loans to the needy

Students in the community. The estimated interest on this amount of loan would have been \$88,000 over a period of time. ***The Anjuman has been in the community's service for 30 years and has saved millions of dollars of the community's money that would have been spent in interest on student loans and can be used for supporting countless other projects while uplifting the standard of living and the intellectual capacities of our community.***

KNOWLEDGE ('ILM) IN ISLAM

Islam is the path of knowledge ('ilm). The first teaching class for Adam started soon after his creation and he was taught 'All Names'. The Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali (a.s.) said, "One who realizes his own self, realizes his Lord." Knowledge ('ilm) in Qur'anic Ayahs is referred as light (nur) and Allah is also described as ultimate nur. It means that in general sense knowledge ('ilm) is synonymous with the light of Allah. In Islam, knowledge ('ilm) is not mere information, it requires the believers to act upon their believes. The Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali (a.s.) said, "The reward for piety in the other world would be bestowed upon a believer in proportion to the degree of his intellectual development and his knowledge."

Great emphasis has been placed on knowledge in the Glorious Qur'an and by the Noble Messenger (s.a.w.a.s.). The word "knowledge" and its derivatives has been used 854 times in the Glorious Qur'an. There is a tradition of the Noble Messenger (s.a.w.a.s.) encouraging Muslims to go out to far flung places even China to acquire knowledge as it is obligatory. Of course, at that time, Islam was still within the Arabian Peninsula. There is yet another tradition wherein he (s.a.w.a.s.) said, "Ana Madinatul Ilm wa Aliun Babuha" translated as, "I am the City of Knowledge and Ali is its Gateway."

Surah ar-Ra'd Ayah 43 says, "And those who disbelieve say: 'You are not a Messenger'. Say: Allah is sufficient as a witness between me and you and he with whom is the knowledge of the Book." Abu Saeed Khidary said that the Noble Messenger (s.a.w.a.s.) said the person referred in the Ayah is "my brother Ali ibn Abu Talib" (Tafsir al-Mizan)

Surah Ale-Imran Ayah 7, says, "He it is Who has sent down to you the Book, in it are decisive Ayahs which are the basis of the Book, while others are allegorical. But for those in whose hearts there is perversity, they follow the part of it which is allegorical, seeking (to cause) dissension by seeking it (their own) interpretation, while none knows its (hidden)

interpretation except Allah and those firmly rooted in knowledge." Anas bin Malik asked the Noble Messenger (s.a.w.a.s.) as to who are the "firmly rooted" persons. He (s.a.w.a.s.) replied, "They are those who perform good deeds, they are truthful, their hearts are straight, avoid prohibited food, protect their private parts." Naturally, these qualities were possessed by the Noble Messenger (s.a.w.a.s.) and his Progeny.

Prophet Sulayman asked his companions as to who can bring the throne of Sheba quickly, Asif Barqiya (his vicegerent) said that he will bring before an eye twinkling. The Glorious Qur'an says in Surah al-Niml Ayah 40, "One with whom was some knowledge (of the part) of the (Divine) Book said: "I will bring it to you before your eye twinkles."

Hence, we can imagine the great status of the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali (a.s.) who had the complete knowledge of the Book (the Glorious Qur'an). The place of scholars in Islam is that the light of knowledge and learning has encompassed their entire existence and has radiated allowing them to see the light of Allah, faith and piety. They are dedicated people practicing what they preach!

Sources: The Glorious Qur'an, Islamic concept of knowledge by Sayyid Wahid Akhtar, The Status of knowledge in Islam by Mohammad Hossein Faryab, al-Islam.org. Written by Mr. Tahawwur Mirza, Chicago.

YADGAR FUNDS

For the conveyance of swab e jaria, Mr. Bisharat Ali Khan and family of NY initiated a Yadgar Fund in the memory of his mother, Kaisara Ijaz Khan in the amount of \$600. We are grateful for Mr. Khan for his generous participation and request the readers to offer a sure a fateha for marhooma Kaisara Ijaz Khan.

Help Needed

Anjuman is seeking the community's help in locating the following borrowers as we are unable to get in touch with them. We will be grateful if you can provide us their current contact information if you know their whereabouts:

1. Masooma Hydari
2. Meraj Hydari
3. Shariqa Hydari
4. Akbar Ali Mirza
5. Zaheer Merchant
6. Nosheen Hasan
7. Sabeen Hasan

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Membership Form

(Tax Exempt under IRS 13-3588100)

Dear Sir,

I wish to become a member of the Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat o Momineen and enclose herewith my check/cash/online payment for US\$_____being the subscription for the year _____ or for Life time Membeship. I hereby undertake to abide by the Anjuman's Constitution, Rules and Regulations as approved by the Board of Directors.

Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Telephone No. _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Introduced By: _____

I am donating a sum of US\$ _____

to support educational programs of the Anjuman.

I am contributing US\$__ from my Khums money. *(Anjuman has obtained 'Ijaza' from Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Al- Seestani)*

I am donating a sum of US\$_____to establish an "Endowment Fund" in the memory of my late _____, the income from which will be utilized by the Anjuman for supporting its aims and objectives.

Name and contact information of person(s) who may be interested in Anjuman's membership:

Name _____

Address and Tel #: _____

Name _____

Address and Tel #: _____

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CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

CARDHOLDER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____

E Mail Address : _____

Telephone Number: _____

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Credit Card Type MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Expiration Month: _____ Expiration Year: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Date: _____

DONATION INFORMATION

I authorize a one- time charge on my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

I authorize a recurring charge on my credit card in the amount of \$ _____
once every _____ (month/year) beginning on _____
and ending on _____ or indefinitely.

The Purpose of my contribution is:

- Annual Membership Dues
- Lifetime Membership Dues
- Khums
- Contribution to Yadgar Fund in the memory of _____
- Donation
- Repayment of my student loan from the Anjuman