

ISBN QUARTERLY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Speaker Training</i>	2
<i>Garage Sale</i>	2
<i>First Amendment</i>	3
<i>Presentation Statistics</i>	3
<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	4

Mark your calendars:

- What to become an ISBN speaker? Next speaker’s training, Saturday, July 19, 2004.
- National ISNA Convention (Chicago)-September 3-6, 2004.
- NCCJ: Walk as One-Sunday, October 10, 2004
- Ramadan: October 16- November 13, 2004.
- Eid ul-Fitr: November 14, 2004.
- Eid ul-Adha: January 21, 2005.
- Iowa’s Conference on Islam: March 18-20, 2005.
- Next year’s fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2005.

FUNDRAISING DINNER DIARY

Approximately 75 people attended the First Annual ISBN Fundraiser on Sunday, April 18th, 2004 at D.C. Centre (7117 Jones Cir). The fundraiser included dinner and two presentations: one by Gretchen Harms, president of ISBN and one by Maha El-Genaidi, president and CEO of Islamic Networks Group, Inc (ING).

College students from local Muslim Student Associations served as volunteers for the event. Volunteers’ duties included registering attendees, setting up before the event, cleaning up after the event and collecting and recording donations.

One time donations at the event tallied \$2000.00. Automatic monthly donations totaled \$500.00 per month, or \$6000.00 annualized. Ticket sales paid for the hall rental, food and beverages, equipment rental and printing costs.

Donations received prior to the event paid for incorporation legal fees, presentation



Attendees wait for program to start.

materials and helped to pay for other fundraiser expenses such as Maha’s traveling expenses.

ISBN extends its heart-felt appreciation to a donor who anonymously contributed funds to pay for all of the items on our wish list which included a laptop, LCD projec-

tor, digital camera and 8’ portable screen.

ISBN would also like to recognize everyone who contributed to the success of the event:

Maha El-Genaidi for her selfless commitment to the work of ING and ISBN.

(Continued on page 2)

ING AND ISBN: PARENT AND OFFSPRING

Founded in 1993, Islamic Networks Group (ING) is a non-profit, educational organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area. ING offers presentations to schools, community organizations, law enforcement, social services, health care providers, media

and corporations.

Working to eliminate stereotyping through education, ING began its national expansion in 1999. There are currently thirteen affiliate speakers bureaus throughout the United States. Using the ING

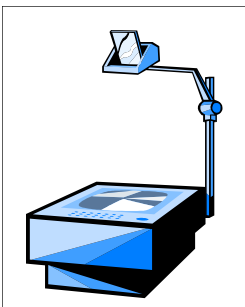
model allows ISBN to implement these programs in significantly less time then it would take us to develop them on our own. In addition, we gain the benefit of their experience and expertise.

(Continued on page 3)

ISBN'S "NEW SPEAKER" TRAINING

The ISBN "New Speaker" Training will be held Saturday, July 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The location is still undetermined. Trainees are required to arrive on time and pay a \$20.00 registration fee, which includes the price of the Speaker's Kit, breakfast and lunch and snacks. The Speaker's Kit is yours to keep upon completing the training class.

To attend this training, you must register



before July 15th by contacting Gretchen Harms (402-690-2056 or gm_harms@hotmail.com).

To become an ISBN speaker you must:

1. Attend the full-day training conducted by ISBN.
2. Take a written exam, with a grade of 85/100 or better.
3. Give the presentation in front of 2-3 veteran speakers, including Frequently Asked Questions, passing the evaluation with a grade of 90/100 or better.
4. Observe a veteran

speaker giving the presentation in a live environment.

5. Give the presentation in front of a veteran speaker in a live environment.

Criteria 1-3 must be completed by August 1st. Criteria 4-5 must be completed in order to complete your certification, and can be done at your convenience after completing criteria 1-3.

Certified speakers are required to follow all ISBN and ING policies. Maintaining certification requires attendance of at least 2 of 4 quarterly speakers' meetings.

FUNDRAISER

(Continued from page 1)

Tehmina Zeb for her tremendous efforts selling tickets.

Farhan Khan for collecting the initial funds have the fundraiser.

Shakil Ahmed for reserving and testing the technical equipment.

Fatima Ilahi for designing and assembling the name tags.

Zahra Cheema for arranging and managing the volunteers.

Dr. & Mrs. Liwaru for lending us their "nuclebuster" for the credit card donations and donating a gift for Maha.

Kael Sagheer for producing

the books of student evaluations for each table.

D.C. Centre staff for graciously accommodating our needs for a prayer area (and requesting the "rodeo" next door to turn down the music).

Everyone who attended and shared their positive comments and enthusiasm for the work for ING and ISBN.

*Registration deadline for
"New Speaker"
Training is July 15th.*

ISBN GARAGE SALE

On Saturday, June 19th, Mandy & Ayaz Khan hosted a garage sale at their home to raise funds for ISBN and Habitat for Humanity of Omaha. Donations were dropped off on Friday night and the sale held from 8:30 to 2:00 on Saturday. Proceeds totaled more than \$200.00.

All of the work and supplies were donated by volunteers, so there were no out-of-pocket expenses for this pro-

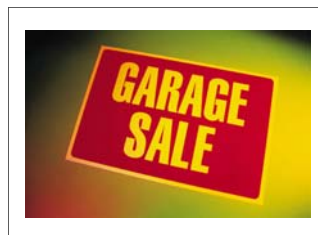
ject. Given the amount of time and effort it took to do the garage sale, in relationship to the amount of money that was raised, it is unlikely that this will become an annual event.

Special thanks to the following families for their donations: Diane and

Ahmad Ghosheh, Dr. Liwaru and Maisha Liwaru, Kael and Omer Sagheer, Rana and Zahra Cheema, Arjmand and Ehsan Siddiqui, Jahan and Tehmina Zeb.

ISBN is always looking for fundraising ideas. If you have an idea,

please email it to: gm_harms@hotmail.com.



ISBN & THE FIRST AMENDMENT

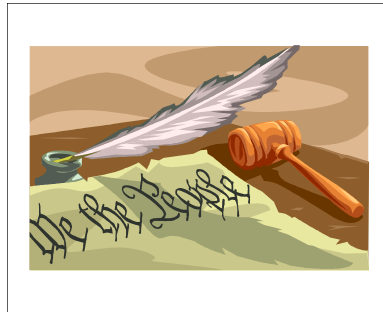
Editorial by Gretchen Harms

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” — The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

A few years ago, while developing a framework for the mission of ING and its affiliates, the significance of the First Amendment was not only recognized, but institutionalized. The first Amendment not only protects our right to

do the work that we do, but it protects the rights of those who listen to our presentations. It doesn't take an expert in Constitutional law to recognize that many of the freedoms we enjoy as Muslims in this country are due to this sentence in the Bill of Rights. But what of the rights of our non-Muslim, fellow citizens?

In public schools, particularly, we must and do respect the rights of teachers, administrators and students, by presenting information about Islam and Muslims in an educational, non-proselytizing way.



An artist's depiction of the final draft of the U.S. Constitution.

This philosophy is critical to the success of our organization.; and this is the same way we Muslims expect Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism to be taught to our children in public schools.

ING AND ISBN

(Continued from page 1)

ISBN speakers are currently marketing and presenting some of ING's school and community presentations, and are actively working to obtain certification on the rest of the school and community presentations as well as the two presentations for corpora-

tions: employers and employees.

ING and its affiliates participate in an annual conference that brings together the directors and other key members from each bureau. This three-day conference is a time for networking, idea-sharing, education and policy formation. 2005 will mark the

fourth year of these affiliate conferences.

Gretchen Harms, president of ISBN, currently assists ING and its affiliates by serving on the Marketing committee. She will also be the moderator for one of ING's workshops at the National ISNA Convention in Chicago this September.

“These speakers delivered presentations to 81 groups for a total of 1,718 people.”

PRESENTATION STATISTICS FOR 2003-2004

For the 2003-2004 school year, ISBN had ten speakers: Ahmad Ghosheh, Tehmina Zeb, Dr. Naser Al-Sharif, Masha Liwaru, Dr. Saidi Liwaru, Zahra Cheema, Sharif Liwaru, Shakil Ahmed, Fatima Ilahi, Gretchen Harms. These speakers delivered presentations to 81 groups for a total of 1,718 people.

To market the ISBN presentation to schools, over 500 letters were sent to Sec-

dary School Social Studies teachers in the Omaha Metro Area and the Lincoln Metro Area. Some of the letters went to smaller, nearby communities like Fremont, West Point and Plattsmouth.

The majority of presentations were given in high



school World History and World Religion classes. Two presentations were given to health care providers and a handful of presentations were

given to other community organizations.

An annual letter to 173 Principals and Superintendents was mailed in January 2004.

Islamic Speakers Bureau of
Nebraska, Inc

1305 S 172nd St
Omaha NE 68130

Phone: 402-690-2056
Email: gmharms@islamicsbn.org

We're on the Web!
www.islamicsbn.org

*Educating Nebraskans about Islam and
Muslims*

MULTI-FAITH: BUILD IT

It was a cool and foggy Sunday morning, when the ISBN speakers, board members & volunteers picked up their hammers and pounded away on the first ever Multi-Faith house for Habitat for Humanity.

Since 1984, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha has been opening doors for low-income families with an opportunity to become homeowners. In addition to a small down payment, select families must invest 350 hours of "sweat equity" into building their homes and the homes of others. They then repay the full cost of the house through an affordable, interest-free loan.

For this house, Tehmina Zeb and Shakil Ahmed served on the Habitat for Humanity: Multi-Faith Build committee, representing ISBN. Tehmina was in charge of publicity for the project. In addition to



ISBN speakers, board members & volunteers join other Habitat volunteers for a morning of house-building.

issuing press releases, Tehmina was interviewed on the KM3TV Habitat for Humanity Telethon event that aired Monday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m. Tehmina also helped to get the Omaha World Herald to publish an article about this Multi-Faith house.

The "Kick-Off" party on May 6th was a chance for people from the different sponsoring organizations to meet one another and to meet the family whose house would be

built by them. The other sponsors were: Countryside Community Church, First United Methodist Church, Hindu Temple of Nebraska, Islamic Center of Omaha, and Temple Israel.

Most participants purchased t-shirts commemorating the project. The t-shirt was designed, in part, by one of ISBN's veteran speakers, Ahmad Ghosheh.

Zahra Cheema had this to say about her experience: "I had a lot of fun participating in the build, working with fellow Muslims and with other community members, and I hope to do this again." Sharif Liwaru said, "The build was a great opportunity to work with a group of people from the community in such a productive and rewarding way."