

MWWWI Newsletter

Muslim Women Writers' Workshop-International Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7

The Nurturing Pen

Rabi II 25, 1429 / May 1, 2008

Assalaam Alaikum! *MWWWI* welcomes you our readers to the seventh issue of our newsletter and our third year as MWWWI!!

We have made much progress as writers and hope to continue to improve in the years to come.



IQRAA! READ IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD!

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD!

Alhamdulillah!



Welcome to MWWWI's Third Annual Get-to-Gether!

Emirati Women Writers Society Invites *MWWWI* to Their Meeting.

MWWWI members, Zakia and Nasrah visited The Emirati Women Writers Society and were warmly greeted by the Director Reem Aloissooui. She explained what her organization does and gave us some books written by members. Also, she invited us to their meetings; and to work with them to further both of our groups' goals. EWWS is a much larger organization with many established published members. *MWWWI* is honored to be asked to be 'Friends' of EWWS. Insh'Allah, it will be a beneficial endeavor. (More on p.2)

***MWWWI*'s Third Year Has Been an Alhamdulillah!!!**

Some of our members have left the country, hopeful of a return sometime in the future. Others have left and returned quickly. But we have survived even when it seems we wouldn't and couldn't. How and why?

One reason is we feel that we are doing something helpful and inspiring for ourselves and others. Meeting regularly, sharing ideas, learning new literary techniques, and encouraging one another to pursue our individual and group goals is a blessing.

This is no easy task when you live for the most part in a country with a largely transient community. Just when you feel you are making progress as a cohesive group, someone or some ones have to leave.

This is where faith comes in; you just have to believe that what you are doing is worthwhile continuing to pursue. And so we do and we survive. But in the future, insh'Allah, we want to flourish!

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TEST FOR THE BELIEVERS

A person's life in this world is not stable. One passes through alternating periods of happiness and dismay, strength and weakness, wealth and poverty, health and sickness etc. A true believer is one who maintains a clear level of Iman throughout the worldly fluctuations. He continues to remember Allah and ascribe the bounties to Him; and he turns to Him in submission, asking for relief from his affliction. This is described by the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) who said:

'Indeed amazing are the affairs of a believer!'

They are all for his benefit; *If he is granted ease of living he is thankful; and this is best for him. And if he is afflicted with a hardship, he perseveres; and this is best for him.* [Muslim]

And Allah (S) said (which means); 'Certainly, We shall test you with fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient - those who, when afflicted with calamity say, 'Truly to Allah we belong, and truly to Him shall we return.' it is those who will be awarded blessings and mercy from their Lord; and it is those who are the guided ones.' 2:155-157

Thus, a believer shows gratitude and thankfulness for all the wonderful blessings that Allah grants him. And he displays patience and submission during sickness and hardships, hunger, or other afflictions.

HARDSHIPS BENEFIT THE BELIEVER

Allah has decreed that, in this life, hardships and disasters strike both believers and non-believers. For a non-believer, they are inconveniences that hinder him from proceeding with his normal involvement in the worldly life. For a believer, on the other hand, they are instances of rest and remembrance, tests that promise great rewards, and indications of atonement and expiation of sins. Regardless of how little is the harm that strikes a believer, it carries with it good news of forgiveness and elevated rank. (in Jennah). The Righteous Predecessors used to be pleased when a hardship afflicted them, seeing it as a token of Allah's forgiveness and benevolence.

This year we lost Fatima who returned to the Philippines. It was sad for us but for her it was a joyous move; she got married and had a baby!

Aisha has good news: she is expecting a baby!

Nadia left to relocate, but unexpectedly, she is returning to live here again! We welcome her back this month!

During this time we have met several new sisters, who expressed interest but for one reason or another they did not return. We miss them too. But we were happy to be able to continue with a small dedicated group of sisters.

Our Achievements include:

- . Completion of our 2007-2008 *MWWWI* Schedule
- . The establishment of our website: www.mwwwi.com.
- . The launch of our *MWWWI* monthly newsletter.
- . Published our *MWWWI* **Second Literary Folio May, 2008!!**
- . A few of our members have been published in local magazines and newspapers.

Alhamdulillah! Also this year we have been offered the opportunity to work with **The Emirati Women Writers' Society**. This is an alliance that will work well, offering both parties the opportunity to learn and grow from each other's expertise, experiences, and resources. This organization is older and has a wealth of resources that will be a great benefit to *MWWWI* who in turn can offer different perspectives and a fresh energetic approach. 

Iman

Iman Haiku

What is this Iman?
It's the bridge that takes us from
This world to the next.

Iman Haiku-2

Truth is my pillow
of remembrance when lights dim
Faith brings me sound sleep

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Zakia Iman Shahbaz, 2008 

EXPIATION OF SINS

Abu Hurayrah (radiallaahu anhu) reported that the Prophet (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) said:
' *Hardships continue to befall a believing man and woman in their body, family, and property, until they meet Allah (S) burdened with no sins.* '
[Tirmithee]

SIGN OF ALLAH'S LOVE

Abu Hurayrah (radiallaahu anhu) reported that the Prophet (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) said:
' *Whenever Allah wills good for a person, He subjects him to adversity* ' [Bukharee and others]
Source Unknown



Jokes and Sayings

"Open a book and let the ideas flow." (09/2007)

"Why is it that every time I want to sleep, somebody wants me to wakeup?" (1/18/2007)

"Why is it that every time I pull up the blanket, my toes get cold?" (11/18/2007)

"Why is it that every time I say, "No," I hear a chorus of, "Why???" (11/18/2007)

"Today you are mud and tomorrow you'll be dust." (12/20/2007)

"Life begins and ends with you, so be good to you." (12/28/2007)

"A cascade of words in my mind has eluded me to my demise." (01/06/08)

"American by Birth, Muslim by Choice." (02/28/08)

J.O.Y.

UPGRADEABLE

Have you ever compared the soul to a computer in the aspect of seeing Allah? Prophet Musa (Moses, AS) asked Allah SWT, to allow him to see HIM, to strengthen his faith during his lifetime on earth. Instead Allah SWT, allowed the mountain to see him. What happened to that mountain? It crumbled to dust. Why? It crumbled because it wasn't upgraded. Silly notion, but let's examine it. Why didn't Allah allow his Prophet Musa (AS), to see HIM? Because, he was not yet upgraded and could not handle his presence, at that time.

What does this mean? It means that on the Day of Judgment, all the righteous believers will be upgraded and then allowed to see Allah SWT.

Have you ever tried to open a document on your computer and could not open it because your computer had become outdated or lacked the needed software? So what did you do? You upgraded your computer; that is, if you wanted to view the document in question.

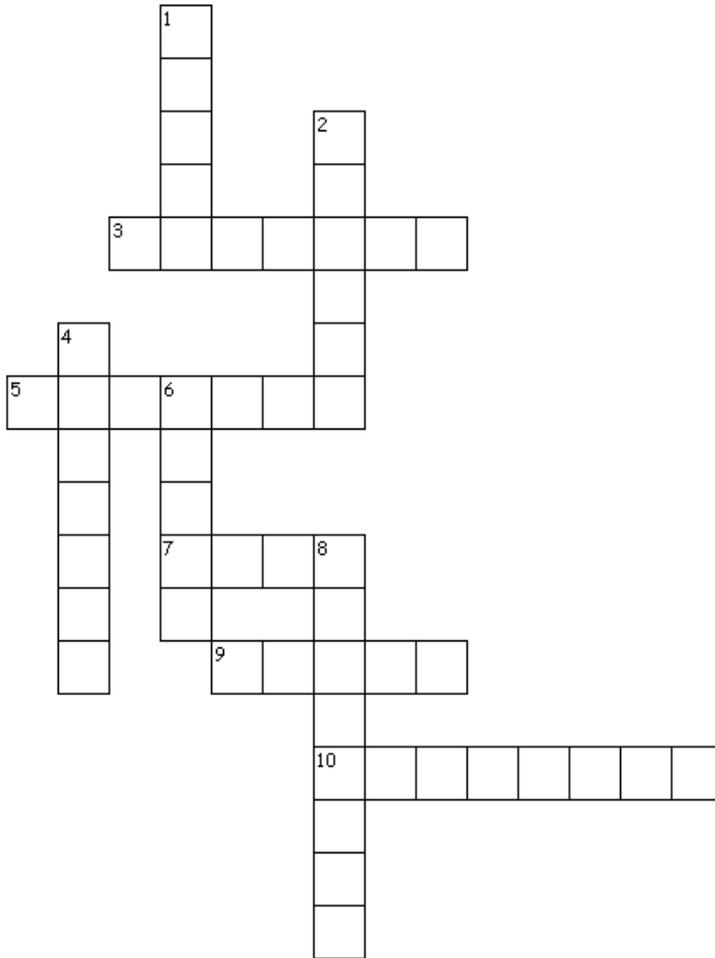
So everybody, purchase your free upgrade today, with delayed installment until The Day of Judgment, when we will all be upgraded together and stand in front of our Lord, Allah, SWT. Strings attached, guiding you to a life of happiness worshiping the one who created everything. Say: La illaha illallah Muhammadu rasullulah." (I testify that there is only one God, Allah and Muhammad is his Messenger.) Thanks for upgrading.

J.O.Y.

April 20, 2008



THE Puzzle CORNER



MWWWI Word Search Game

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

- AGENDA
- ANNUALFOLIO
- CONTACTS
- LEILAABOULELA
- MARYAMBEHNAM
- MEMBERS
- MINUTES
- MONTHLYMEETINGS
- MWWWIUS
- NEWSLETTER
- PICNIC
- POEMS
- THREEYEARS
- TIMEOUT
- WORKSHOP

MWWWI MAZE

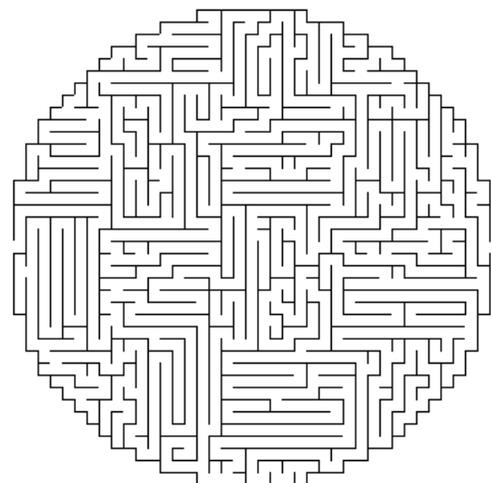
MWWWI History Puzzle

Across

3. Where MWWWI had its first annual party
5. How often MWWWI meets
7. Where MWWWI meets now
9. It is in the center of MWWWI's logo
10. Restaurant where MWWWI met for some meetings

Down

1. What MWWWI publishes once a year
2. The cost of dues for MWWWI membership for half a year
4. What MWWWI used to do for food at their meetings
6. The number of years MWWWI has been meeting
8. The day MWWWI meets



MY JOURNEY TO ISLAM



I was born in the heartland of the America, in Larned, Kansas on May 28th 1965. I was given the name Christy Dawn. Both my parents were Christian; my father being Catholic. But for other then a brief period of my life growing up, we never attended church. We always knew there was a god, Jesus but my family was not religious. My father was what you would call a modern day gypsy. He would move us so often. I attended so many elementary schools that I can not begin to recall the actual number.

After high school I went away to college and met my first husband. He was more religious then my family and would often quote scriptures to me. My marriage was short but I did get a beautiful daughter from the union. Later, I married a man and it lasted a lot longer but was not the best of marriages. During the 16 years of marriage I was a victim of extreme physical abuse. I still do not think he is a bad man, but a very troubled one with many problems. I never called the police on him during the years of abuse until one night instead of beating me he grabbed my daughter and began abusing her. I begged him to stop and said I would call the police but he did not believe me. I called and that was the end of my marriage.

The divorce was very long and painful and I ended up the loser in more then one way. They gave our son to my ex husband, I tried to cope the best I could but it was hard and I made many wrong choices and I regret most of what I did during that time.

I found myself having moral guilt late at night and I knew that something needed to change and just waking in the morning and saying today I would be better person was not going to work. I needed something that would bring order and control in my life. I went to local churches and felt they did not care about my problems. I did not feel that going on Sunday mornings to sing hymns was going to fix my life

One day a girl that worked for me asked me to go

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to a women's meeting with her. She was a Muslim girl from Turkey. I agreed because I did not know much about Islam and felt I had tried everything else. I went and was amazed how all the women accepted me so well. They gave me some things to read and a copy of the Quran in English. I returned again the next week and the following week.

I did not even realize the changes in me until my mother mentioned how she liked the way I was dressing and not showing all my skin. I had started doing my prayers and memorizing surahs. After a few months I woke one morning and realized: I AM MUSLIM! That day I went and made the shahadah and started covering fully after that. I have never once regretted that choice.

Now two years later I have been to Malaysia, Singapore and now UAE. I have seen many degrees of Islam in my travels. In some areas I have been the Muslim sister that appears to be a bit extreme and then at other times I am the sister that is still learning and not yet a strong Muslim. I know I still need to learn more and that everyday is a learning experience. But I know I have made the right choice and Allah is guiding me along the path he has chosen for me.

Nasima Bair 

*Iqra News is looking for writers:

<http://www.iqranews paper.com/ Muslimwriters. html>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sat.: 12:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Dates: May 3 Rehearsal at Zakia's bayt. June 7; July 4; Summer break!

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1. Annual party on the beach at Sharjah Ladies Club, May 12. All day.

2. *MWWWI* May Third Annual Party in the auditorium at the Supreme Council of Family Affairs Building. Sunday May 18; 6:00 to 10:00 P.M.

MWWWI Annual Folio, Cornucopia of Delights 1429, is done!!! Thanks to all the sisters who contributed to our second annual folio.

MWWWI Newsletter Contributions:

Submit; ummfaiza@yahoo.com or call:

Editor: Zakia: 050 285 3808

