



ISLAMIC SPEAKERS BUREAU  
OF ATLANTA

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**YEAR IN REVIEW**

NOVEMBER 2013 - SEPTEMBER 2014

## VISION

*The Islamic Speakers Bureau (ISB) of Atlanta envisions a world in which people of diverse backgrounds are understood and respected and their contributions valued, and in which American Muslim communities play a vital role in promoting values of inclusion and coexistence.*

## MISSION

Founded in August 2001, ISB achieves its mission through education and community engagement. We work through volunteers to provide hundreds of presentations, training seminars and workshops, and panel discussions annually in schools, colleges and universities, law enforcement agencies,

healthcare facilities, and community organizations as part of cultural diversity curricula and programs. Reaching hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals a year at the grassroots level, ISB is building bridges among Americans of all backgrounds.



***“I wished I had this training 4 years ago!”***

Fayette County Social Studies Teacher about the ISB's Teacher Training Seminar

## ISB LEADS WORKSHOP IN ANTI-BULLYING SUMMIT

The Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta conducted an Increased Bullying of Muslim Americans in a Post 9/11 Era workshop at the 4th annual summer Anti-Bullying Summit, sponsored by Auburn University. The content of the workshop was developed by Islamic Network Group (ING). The workshop discussed stereotypes of Muslims, Muslim reports



of bullying and their attitudes, and ended in suggested best practices. The summit addressed many topics including cyberbullying, mental health issues, school climate and how to assess it, and comprehensive district-wide solutions. The conference was attended by counselors, parents, school and district administrators, teachers, and even students.

## ISB TRAINS FAYETTE COUNTY SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS

The ISB presented “Understanding Muslim Students: Fostering an Inclusive environment” to all social studies teachers in Fayette County. Our seminar provided valuable information and resources for improving interaction with Muslim students and their families, while helping build an inclusive learning environment for all students.

*“I believe teacher training is one path for the ISB in the coming years - we look forward to engaging more teachers and counties. Training the Fayette County Social Studies teachers was a very positive experience and it was very well received.”*

Soumaya Khalifa, ISB Executive Director

Education is vital to building bridges. This year, the ISB has worked with a number of schools and organizations to help increase understanding of Islam and the Muslim communities. We have presented to a variety of organizations including:

- Muslim Girl Scouts: “Meaningful Conversations” workshop
- Dar-un-Noor Academy: “Getting to Know American Muslims and Their Faith”
- Al Falah Academy: “Meaningful Conversations” and “Muslim Women Beyond the Stereotypes”
- Marist School: “Muslim Women in the U.S. and Around the World,” and “Exploring Muslim Traditions and Practices”
- Oglethorpe University: “Exploring Muslim Traditions and Practices” - COEXIST interfaith series.
- Annual Diversity Day at Rabun Gap-Nachooche School: Interfaith panel
- Atlanta Muslim Youth Professional (AMYP) Development Conference: “Networking 101”
- Muslim Student Association at Georgia Perimeter College: “Getting to Know American Muslims and Their Faith”:
- Westminster Schools: Philanthropy panel
- Clarkston library: Ramadan Children’s Program
- Seniors for Enriched Living: “Dietary Laws with Recipes and Tastings”
- Imagine It! Children’s Museum of Atlanta: “Meet the Holidays: Eid” storytelling and crafts hour



The ISB in action at the Imagine It! Children’s Museum of Atlanta.

*“The kids were delighted with their unique creations. It was a fun event, and I admire the Imagine It! Children’s Museum for offering so many different religious and cultural expressions to the children of Atlanta.”*

ISB Speaker Jelena Naim who has been visiting the museum since 2007 to help children celebrate the Muslim holiday Eid.

*“Religion is a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division. The ISB is one organization in the community that makes a difference.”*

Eboo Patel, Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core

Understanding different religious faiths – the truth, not the myths – is essential to bringing people together. This year, the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta participated in a variety of events including:



- Young Harris College: Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration
- Temple Kol Emeth: 9th Ecumenical Thanksgiving Celebration
- American Jewish Committee and Atlanta Consular Corps: AJC Thanksgiving Diversity Luncheon
- Care and Counseling Center of Georgia: Interfaith Panel
- Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL): Centennial Anniversary Dinner
- 6th annual Weekend of Twinning, an international event where Muslims and Jews come to learn about each other.
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia: interfaith peace garden on the Atlanta campus of Mercer University.
- Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) panel discussion: Jews and Muslims – Intimate Strangers
- Roswell American Association of University Women (AAUW): “Being an Ally: Standing Up to Prejudice and Discrimination” workshop with Anti Defamation League (ADL).
- Recognized as an organization in the community that makes a difference by Eboo Patel at “Interfaith Leadership in a Time of Global Religious Conflict” keynote address at Georgia Tech.
- Hosted the first annual ISB Donor Appreciation Dinner with renowned Dr. Denise Spellberg, author of “The Thomas Jefferson’s Qur’an”.

## INTERFAITH SPEAKERS BUREAU LAUNCHED!



Interfaith Speakers Bureau Launched!

In April, ISB speakers teamed up with leaders of the Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta (FAMA) to hold the first training in the process of establishing an Interfaith Speakers Bureau (IFSB) of Atlanta. This initiative will be America's second IFSB. The first IFSB was started in the Bay Area by Islamic Network Group (ING), and the wisdom from their

experience is being used to help the Atlanta IFSB.

Among the trainees, all five of the major world religions were represented - Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. The IFSB members are looking forward to making a difference in the Atlanta interfaith community with this new venture.

*“The IFSB looks to be an exciting venture, and I look forward to helping Atlanta’s interfaith community make history and to keep showing people that faith communities can do so much more than is typically imagined.”*

ISB Speaker Dr. Mansa Bilal King

In February, ISB Executive Director Soumaya Khalifa was invited to give a Keynote speech at Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville, Tennessee for a Family of Abraham interfaith event. The Family of Abraham is a group of Nashvillians, representing the three Abrahamic faiths. There was a full house to which Soumaya Khalifa spoke to about her interfaith Journey from Egypt to Atlanta via Texas.



Gave the keynote speech for the Family of Abraham in Nashville, TN.

*“The IFSB was definitely an eye opening experience seeing people from other faiths coming together for the same cause and hearing their perspectives. This effort can lead to a lot of positive energy in the Metro-Atlanta community.”*

ISB Speaker Faraz Iqbal

# MEDIA

## THIS YEAR THE ISB WAS FEATURED IN THE FOLLOWING:

- Prior to Ramadan, ISB Executive Director Soumaya Khalifa welcomed an Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters TV crew into her kitchen to share her family's delicious Ramadan recipes. AIB gathered lots of material and aired it on a special on Faith and Food!



- Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters (AIB): Life Cycle Series - the Islamic tradition for birth, childhood, marriage, and death.



*“The Center and its exhibits are refreshingly instructive, immersive and thought provoking. I was honored to represent the ISB during the grand opening events of the Center for Civil and Human Rights.”*

ISB Speaker Amin Tomeh who read two articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during the opening ceremonies.

- Involved in the opening celebrations of the Center for Civil and Human Rights. ISB Speaker Amin Tomeh read two articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during the opening ceremonies. Participated in the Center's Media Unveiling on June 17th when Tomeh spoke with local, national, and international media representatives that toured the Center.
- The “2013 ISB Building Bridges Awards Dinner”: The Georgia Bulletin, Saporta Report, and Reporter Newspapers.



The “2013 ISB Building Bridges Awards Dinner”  
Photo by Bidez Photography Featured  
in The Georgia Bulletin

# VOLUNTEER

There is a quiet buzz at Emory Presbyterian Church accompanied with the rustle of bags. Young and old alike have formed an assembly line and are packing meal bags for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) parents of children who cannot afford meals during their child's stay.

Volunteers from The ISB, Emory Presbyterian Church, the Istanbul Center, and North Decatur Presbyterian Church worked together to make over 900 meal bags for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) at an interfaith service project.

*“The CHOA staff were effusive in their expression of appreciation. I wish everyone who gave a donation, prayed, shopped, or packed a bag could have been present to feel the gratitude. We together have really made some important things possible.”*

Heather Baird, Emory's Office Administrator

## THE ISB IS GRATEFUL TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR, WE

- Assembled Thanksgiving Dinner packages for the Summer Lunch Program Families.
- Participated in the 30th anniversary of Hunger Walk/Run - taking steps together with our community in the fight against local hunger!
- Partnered with the Emory Presbyterian Church, the Istanbul Center, and North Decatur Presbyterian Church and made over 900 meal bags for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) at an interfaith service project at Emory Presbyterian Church.
- For the ninth year, the ISB, the Islamic Community Center of Atlanta (ICCA), and local churches in Fayette County provided free nutritious lunches for qualifying children in the community during the summer



ISB Speakers Huma Faruqi and Amani Elghoroury making CHOA bags



# COMMUNITY

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Metro Atlanta is truly an international community, and this year, the ISB had the opportunity to meet and work with representatives from around the world, as we

- Hosted several Yemeni guests of the State Department for dinner during their visit to Atlanta.
- Partnered with the Georgia Council for International Visitors (GCIV) for hosting.

## IN OUR COMMUNITIES:

Building bridges between communities means working together to help others. The ISB partnered with numerous groups this year in a variety of projects and we

- Are launching the 100 Influential Muslims in Georgia which will honor Georgia leaders who happen to be Muslim for their extraordinary impact. These men and women are leaders who transform vision into action, surmount challenges, break down barriers, and spark innovation.
- Are Hosting the 100 Influential Georgia Muslims Gala!
- Are involved with Compassionate Atlanta, a grass roots movement that seeks to raise awareness about the benefits of compassionate action in the Greater Atlanta area.
- Recognized diverse leading Muslims for Asian-Pacific-Islander Heritage Month, Arab American Heritage Month, Women's History Month, and Black History Month.

## PRESENTED TO:

- Roswell Police Department: a tour of the Roswell Community Mosque, and an interactive ISB presentation about Islam
- St. Joseph's Hospital physicians: "Working with Muslim Patients and their Families: A Cultural Competency Training."
- Clairmont Lake Senior Citizens: "The Future of Islam"
- Points of Light Kick-off America's Sunday Supper: Soumaya Khalifa participated on panel



*"It takes special people to be able to balance the needs of our community versus the realities on the ground. The ISB represents our community tremendously well and we are collectively fortunate that they lead us in so many activities ranging from interfaith to building relationships with community stakeholders."*

ISB Sponsor

# PRESENTATIONS OFFERED BY THE ISB

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**GETTING TO KNOW AMERICAN MUSLIMS AND THEIR FAITH** | In addition to providing an overview of Muslim practices, this presentation examines the issues of moderation and women's rights, and the relation of Islam to other world religions, including Judaism and Christianity. (45, 60, or 90 minutes)

**EXPLORING MUSLIM TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES** | Ideal for the study of world history and geography, this presentation teaches about Muslim traditions and practices in relation to other major world religions. (45 minutes)

**A HISTORY OF MUSLIMS IN AMERICA** | Supplement U.S. History courses with this fascinating account of the lives and legacies of America's earliest Muslims, including enslaved West Africans, early converts to Islam, and Muslim immigrants. (45, 60 or 90 minutes)

**MUSLIM CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVILIZATION** | This presentation reviews various aspects of culture and knowledge which Muslims contributed to or passed down, including food; clothing; furniture; music; architecture; mathematics; medicine; astronomy; and more. (45, 60 or 90 minutes)

**MUSLIM WOMEN IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD** | Students learn about the role of women in Islam and important Muslim women in history and the modern world. Suitable for courses related to women studies, world religions and civil rights. (45 or 60 minutes)  
\*Ask about the all-women Multi-Faith Panel on Living the Faith

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (3-7 YEARS)** | An interactive session that includes story time followed by crafts that are related to Muslim prayers/holidays.

**CUSTOM PRESENTATION** | This presentation allows you to pick a specific focus that might not be included above. Once you order this presentation, we will contact you to discuss the details of your custom presentation.

## SEMINARS OFFERED BY ISB

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The seminars provide valuable information and resources for increasing awareness, enhancing cultural competency skills and developing relationships with the American Muslim communities.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** | Developing Cultural Competency: Working with American Muslim

**Communities** | Designed for police chiefs, sheriffs and other command-level personnel and senior administrators, this seminar provides valuable information and resources for increasing awareness, enhancing cultural competency skills and developing relationships with American Muslim communities.

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**HEALTHCARE** | Developing Cultural Competency: Healthcare for the Muslim Patient - Designed for hospital executives, administrators, medical department directors, physicians, nurses and other healthcare leaders, this seminar provides valuable information and resources for enhancing cultural competency skills that improve healthcare delivery for Muslim patients.

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**EDUCATION** | Understanding Muslim Students: Fostering an Inclusive Environment - Designed for K-12 district administrators and teachers as well as faculty in colleges and schools of education, department chairs, deans and pre-service teachers, this seminar provides valuable information and resources for improving interaction with Muslim students and their families, while helping build an

inclusive learning environment for all students. This seminar provides valuable information and resources for improving interaction with Muslim students and their families, while helping build an inclusive learning environment for all students.

**HR & CORPORATE MANAGERS** | Developing Cultural Competency: American Muslims in the Workplace - Designed for executive officers, human resources managers, diversity professionals and other corporate leaders, this seminar provides valuable information and resources for increasing employee performance by improving communications and teamwork among people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. This seminar provides valuable information and resources for increasing employee performance by improving communications and teamwork among people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

## WORKSHOPS

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**MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION (MC)** | ISB Atlanta created this unique workshop. MC workshop provides tools and proven techniques to empower people in engaging in meaningful interfaith dialogue. This workshop is both exciting and interactive, allowing its participants to practice techniques for fostering meaningful conversations. ISB Atlanta receives rave reviews from the participants of this workshop both in Atlanta as well as other US cities where we were invited to present it.





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ISB is an affiliate of the Islamic Networks Group

*The Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta is a registered  
501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We need your support.  
Donations are welcome.*

*P.O. Box 2608, Peachtree City, GA 30269  
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