

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Faith notes: News from the pulpit & pews

Imam W. Deen Mohammed, head of Muslim society, resigns

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"For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10 (King James Version)

Word of the reported resignation of American Society of Muslims spiritual leader Wallace Deen Mohammed has generated genuine concern within the Muslim community for his followers. According to an AP report, his announcement was made during the society's annual convention over this past weekend.

Mohammed is the son of the late Elijah Mohammed, who led the Nation of Islam until his death in 1975.

Since his father's death, Mohammed successfully moved thousands of followers toward orthodox Islam, winning the respect of Muslim leaders around the globe.

"I'm getting ready ... to do more, to be more productive and to contribute to the good life of the believers," said Mohammed in an AP report.

According to Imam Ibrahim, a

leader of prayers of the Mosque of Umar in Chicago not affiliated with Mohammed's ministry, Mohammed's announcement was quite unexpected, as there were no indicators, nor any prior incident, that would suggest his resignation. "We are a bit surprised by Imam Mohammed's announcement and we are prayerful that his shifting of gears will be of benefit to his followers and the Muslim community at large, and we anticipate that all will go well," said Ibrahim in a phone interview with the *AmNews*. Ibrahim also noted that the community is awaiting further details as to options made available to Mohammed's followers.

The women's ministry of Brown Memorial Baptist Church will present a series of empowerment workshops for parents to be successful at "the toughest job you'll ever have," raising children. Free classes begin Thursday, September 25, with Katherine Corbett, principal of JHS 113, who will discuss "Discovering and Developing the Genius in Every Child." Other topics to include "Raising Boys to Be Men" (Rev. Carl Callendar), "Recognizing and

Treating Emotional Stress in Children" (Professor Arthur Pressley, Drew Theological Seminary) and more. For further information, call (718) 638-6121.

As our youth head back to school, don't forget to support former Congressman Parren J. Mitchell and Rev. Medgar L. Reid's invitation to join them for the 10th annual "Seven Words to Save Our Cities" event, to be held Sunday, September 14, in Baltimore, Maryland. The purpose of the event is to have a worship service that highlights the need to overcome problems in our cities, such as unemployment, education, recreation, school facilities, public safety, health, housing, environment, zoning and infrastructure.

To learn how you can become more involved with this initiative, call (410) 578-1493.

Finally, the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, which operates a self-help program for the homeless, will sponsor its 10th annual Upper Broadway Autumn Festival on Saturday, September 20, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Over 200 craft per-

sons, antique dealers and artists; as well as food, entertainment and more are expected. The event is free and open to all. For further information, call (212) 764-6330.

We would like to know more about your special event(s) and

invite your requests for coverage. Mail or fax your bulletin and queries to us with a minimum lead time of 10 days. You may also phone the religious news desk at (212) 932-7466. Until next week, Godspeed!



Joyce McDonald and Radical Tots were among the spirited performers featured during a "Day of Inspiration" program at Marcus Garvey Park's Amphitheater. The event was co-presented by Mac Creations and Kingdom Come Enterprises Inc.

(Bill Moore photos)