

# Nevada Too

COLUMNIST  
JANE ANN MORRISON  
IS ON VACATION.



CONTACTING US  
CITY EDITOR MARY HYNES  
383-0264

HOLY MONTH

## Muslims learn empathy, control during Ramadan

*Faithful fast from sunup to sundown*

By RICHARD LAKE

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Khaliq Baig sits in a folding chair up near the front. A hundred men sit on the floor behind him. They bow their heads in prayer.

It's Friday afternoon. It is time for prayers and a sermon.

Anger is bad, preaches the man giving the sermon, Alauddin Alauddin. Charity is good. Love your neighbor. Love your god. Do what is right, and God will reward you.

Muslims, these people say, aren't that different from anybody else. They believe in God; they believe that God handed down commandments, and they believe they have no choice but to follow those commandments.

That's why none of them has eaten a bite of food today, since the sun rose, nor have they taken a drink of water. God has forbidden it during Ramadan. The Muslim holy month began Monday and runs through Aug. 29.

There are exceptions to the fasting for children and the infirm. For safety reasons, too.

"God blesses you with a lot of things, especially in this city," says Baig, a local family doctor who founded this place, the Islamic Information Center, in the months after the 9/11 attacks.

Baig came to the United States in 1971 after he graduated college and to Las Vegas in 1993. Ramadan requires fasting from sunup to sundown every day.

Fasting teaches empathy. It teaches sacrifice. It teaches discipline.

"Most of us don't know how it feels to be hungry, truly hungry," he says. "What does hunger do?"

Adam Shafi says he has been fasting during Ramadan for half his life. He's 19. He has been in Las Vegas since he was 3, when his family moved here from Detroit.

"It teaches you self-control," he says of the fasting. "It's not very hard anymore."

"God says you have to do it," says Yasser Moten, 30.

For him, it's that simple. It's like when your boss at work tells you to do something that you think might be too hard. You do it anyway because you have to.

He says there's a benefit. It's not just about pleasing God. It's about improving yourself, too.

"It gets us out of our comfort zone," he says. "For a person to grow in their careers, in their education, you have to step out of your comfort zone."

It is indeed uncomfortable inside the building with 100 men (the women pray in another part of the building) tightly



GARY THOMPSON/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Prayers at the Islamic Information Center in Las Vegas were led by Alauddin Alauddin on Friday, during the first week of Ramadan. The Muslim holy month requires fasting, which adherents say increases empathy and spirituality among the faithful.

packed. It's 100-plus degrees outside. The air conditioning can only do so much. The men sweat as they pray. They do not drink water. They are devoted.

As he gets older, Baig says, he starts to fear that the fasting Ramadan requires is getting too hard for him. But then he does it, and he discovers again that it was

not hard at all.

The sacrifice, he says, is always worth the benefit. It pulls you closer to God. It makes you realize your own strength.

It helps you understand people who aren't like you.

Contact reporter Richard Lake at rlake@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0307.

## 'Whitey' capture reward denied

*Las Vegas argues FBI fumbled tip on mobster*

By JESSICA FRYMAN

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

A Las Vegas man is gearing up to sue the FBI for denying him a \$2 million reward for his tip that he says led to the June capture of mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger.

Tipster Keith Messina learned this week that the FBI officially denied his claim for the reward in a statement that said the information he provided did not lead to Bulger's arrest. Messina said several tidbits surrounding the treatment of his tip just don't add up, including why the FBI's denial letter was delivered more than two weeks after its July 13 date or why his tip was ignored.

"It's kind of bogus," Messina said. "For three years, (the FBI) decided to go all over the world and spend taxpayers money. In 2008, they would have had him, but they ignored my tip."

Bulger, who led Boston's Irish mob for decades, is suspected in connection with 19 slayings, money laundering, extortion and drug dealing, according to his profile on the "America's Most Wanted" website. Bulger had been in hiding since 1995 and continuously had made the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List since 1999.

Messina said he saw Bulger on the Santa Monica, Calif., pier in June 2008 with a woman thought to be his longtime girlfriend, Catherine Greig. The couple were arrested at their residence a few blocks away three years later.

"Maybe someone just made a mistake," Messina said on why his tip went ignored. "It goes into a pile. Maybe someone just didn't realize it and tossed it somewhere else. Maybe they knew he was there and just ignored it."

The FBI's statement did not say why the information was not used for Bulger's arrest. An FBI spokeswoman wouldn't comment on the matter.

Reports show the reward money is for an unidentified woman in Iceland, a country of 320,000 where one newspaper editor said a secret that big would never stay quiet.

"If there is such a person that did the tip out there, split the reward at least," Messina said. "It's a very fishy story. ... They don't want to pay for it."

Messina attorney Michael Gowdey said he is checking into options on how to proceed this week.

Contact Jessica Fryman at jfryman@reviewjournal.com or 702-380-4535.

## LV man indicted over 27 million spam messages

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** — A federal grand jury has indicted a Las Vegas man on charges he sent more than 27 million spam messages to Facebook users.

Forty-year-old Sanford Wallace, the self-proclaimed "Spam King," turned himself in Thursday to face charges

outlined in last month's indictment filed in San Jose.

Prosecutors say Wallace compromised about 500,000 Facebook accounts between November 2008 and March 2009 by sending massive amounts of spam through the company's servers.

In March 2009, a judge banned Wallace from using the social networking

site, but the indictment alleges that he violated that order within a month.

Wallace is charged with six counts of electronic mail fraud, three counts of intentional damage to a protected computer and two counts of criminal contempt.

He posted \$100,000 bond after a court appearance Thursday.



**SAVE 50% OR MORE**  
FROM YOUR FAVORITE MERCHANTS

DISCLAIMER: Deal only valid with online voucher purchase. To get the DEAL, follow the instructions found on the left side of this ad. (Deal will not be honored without online voucher purchase.)



**THE MAPLE TREE CAFE**  
**Save 50%**  
**off Down-Home Cooking**  
**\$20 VOUCHER FOR \$10**

**SIGN UP IS EASY:**

1. Go to [DEALS.BESTofLASVEGAS.COM](http://DEALS.BESTofLASVEGAS.COM) or Click on DEALS link on [reviewjournal.com](http://reviewjournal.com)
2. FREE Registration using your e-mail or **facebook** account
3. Get your **DEAL of the DAY!** immediately and receive daily e-mail alerts!

**LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL**  
reviewjournal.com

**TODAYS DEAL of the DAY!**

Now here's a deal you can really sink your teeth into! Thanks to The Maple Tree Cafe you can enjoy \$20 of the best of down home-cooking for just \$10. This family-run restaurant is famous for their fabulous breakfast menu. Choose from such 'stick to your ribs' favorites as Red Velvet pancakes or a Reuben omelet (yum). If lunch is more your style, then try their famous Monte Cristo Sandwich or a juicy burger. Or if you have a sweet tooth, then bite into a fresh, homemade cinnamon roll or maple apple fritter. Is your mouth watering yet?

The Maple Tree Cafe is located at 6000 W. Spring Mountain Rd. #1, Las Vegas, NV 89146.