



Ayesha K. Mustafaa has been editor of the Muslim Journal weekly newspaper since January, 1989. She is a graduate of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Penn., with a BA Degree and Double Major in Psychology and Political Science. She has a Master's Degree in Journalism from Columbia College of Chicago, Ill. She is the third woman editor of the nearly 40-year-old newspaper and its longest tenured editor (25 years).

Ayesha is a Muslim convert and comes from a Mississippi family of Civil Rights activists of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. era. She joined the community in affiliation with Imam W. Deen Mohammed, the son of Elijah Muhammad and mentor to Malcolm X, in late 1974, through the Atlanta, Ga., Muslim Community. Since, mid 1975, she worked throughout the Muslim community offices in Chicago, Illinois, prior to becoming Editor of the Muslim Journal.

Most significant among those years was her work with the Prison Dawah or Islamic teachings to the incarcerated populations, prison services being part of her concentration as an undergraduate. She worked in the administrative offices of Muhammad Mosque No. 2 and the Sis. Clara Muhammad School and the Muslim Women Development Class and a brief period at the Muhammad Speaks plant on Federal Street. In 1978, she was named lead Instructress for the Muslim Sisters trained by Imam W. Deen Mohammed to teach Al-Islam. Her initial job in Chicago was as a major transcriber of Imam Mohammed's lectures that were used to create the Imams Kits that trained former Nation of Islam Ministers and Captains on the role of being an Imam, a time which she calls her "greatest learning experience."

Ayesha also has traveled as part of delegations led by Imam W. Deen Mohammed, several times going to Saudi Arabia, to Jerusalem and the West Bank, most notable during this trip was the meeting between Imam Mohammed and President Yasser Arafat. She was a presenter at the 3-day International Media Conference, hosted by the Focolare Movement's NetOne Media Group held in Rome, Italy, in 2004. She made Hajj to Mecca in 1977, a part of the first and then largest Muslim American group led on Hajj by Imam W. Deen Mohammed.

Ayesha was host of one of the seven daily one-hour talk radio shows – every Friday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. – for Radio Islam (live streamed at www.radioislam.com), produced by Sound Vision Foundation, on WCEV 1450 AM in the Chicago area until moving to Jackson, Mississippi, in 2011. She was an advisory member of the Lutheran College Christian – Muslim Peace Engagement and a frequent speaker at interfaith settings and to school/college audiences. Since moving to Jackson, she has become Editor of The Mississippi Link weekly newspaper and adjunct professor at Tougaloo College in its Mass Communications department, in addition to Editor of Muslim Journal.

Ayesha was named the Muslim Woman of the Year by the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed in 1994. A Street in New Medinah, Miss., was named in her honor at New Medinah's 25th Annual Retreat of 2011. She is the mother of 4, grandmother of 4 and an advocate for foster parenting.

In closing, Ayesha thinks of the role of publisher of a newspaper as a sacred trust to serve the public - be it Muslims or non Muslims, black or white, men and/or women. Some speak of the publishing profession as an addiction where the "ink gets into the blood." Others refer to it as "a calling," an insatiable desire to know the truth, speak the truth and promote the truth – wherever that truth takes one. Publisher is a 24/7 commitment as the cycle for news and changing events is never ending, where a moment of historical importance may not be sent out as a press release announcement – catching the world off guard.

The publisher and the work it embraces can never be "caught off guard."

Visit www.MuslimJournal.net; email ayesha4mj@comcast.net; cell 773-426-6063; fax 769-257-6863.