

Instead of unity, Boston mosque becomes flashpoint for suspicion

BOSTON (AP) — The groundbreaking for a towering new mosque in this city's Roxbury neighborhood was like a sigh of relief for local Muslims.

After a decade of delays, Muslims who had worshipped in mosques who cramped some were forced to pray in parking lots looked forward to sharing the massive building. They also welcomed the community's pledges of unity — barely a year after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

"This center will defy the stereotype that 'Muslims don't build things. They just tear down things,'" said Zakiah Bilal, a local Muslim who attended the November 2002 ceremony.

Now, more than three years later, the Mosque and Cultural Center is unfinished and funding has dried up. Media reports linking the mosque's builder, the Islamic Society of Boston, to Muslim extremists have led to defamation suits. A project that was supposed to signal openness has become a symbol of chronic mistrust.

"What has happened... has been very public and very damaging," said Salma Kazmi, assistant director of the Islamic society.

Planning for the \$24 million mosque began in the early 1990s, then took a major step ahead in 2000 with a deal in which the Islamic Society, or ISB, acquired its project site from the city for \$175,000 and in-kind contributions. (Yet another lawsuit stemming from the project charges the price was so far below market value it amounts to an illegal government endorsement of a religion.)

About a year after the groundbreaking, the Boston Herald wrote the first reports connecting the Islamic society to extremists,

including Abdurahman Alamoudi, one of the society's founders. Alamoudi is serving 23 years in prison after a 2004 conviction for illegal financial dealings with Libya. After his guilty plea, the Department of Justice called Alamoudi "a major player in the financial support of terrorism."

The writings of society board member, Walid Ahmad Fitaishi, also came under scrutiny, including articles in which Fitaishi called the Jews "murderers of the prophets" and said they will be "scourged" because of their "oppression, murder, and rape of the worshippers of Allah."

The reports also explored a link to Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi, a Sunni cleric who was offered a position on the society board in 1993 and promoted the mosque in a 2002 fundraising video.

Al-Qaradawi has since issued a religious fatwa that unborn Jews should be killed because they'll grow up to join the Israeli army. He also supports suicide bombings in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and in Iraq.

Critics say the Islamic society never explained such ties or distanced itself from hateful rhetoric. Then, they allege, it punished private citizens who were asking legitimate questions about the ISB and the new mosque by including them in a defamation suit filed last year against media outlets.

"This is really an attempt, and not an unsuccessful attempt, to terrify people," said Jeffrey Robbins, an attorney for several defendants.

The ISB's attorney, Howard Cooper, said the society is acting in self-defense after a smear campaign designed to undermine the mosque project.

Cooper said the society has repeatedly condemned anti-

Semitism and that its alleged connections to extremists don't exist.

"My clients are victims of over-aggressive, intimidating intolerance, nothing less than that," he said.

According to the ISB's court filings, Alamoudi hasn't been associated with it for years. Between that time and his arrest, he was an invited guest of both the Clinton and first Bush White Houses, according to court papers.

An FBI spokeswoman also said that no one in the ISB leadership has ever been charged with a federal crime.

"It seems to me that, if the society is accused of being linked to Alamoudi, then Presidents Bush and Clinton must also be associated with him — which demon-

strates the absurdity of the claim," Kazmi said in an affidavit filed in court.

The Islamic society said it had nothing to do with Fitaishi's statements, and Kazmi said they led the ISB to adopt a values statement clearly condemning anti-Semitism.

In an affidavit filed by Jamal Badawi, a professor emeritus at St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Badawi said the statements, properly understood in the Arabic in which they were written, are criticisms of Israeli policies in the Palestinian conflict, not a condemnation of all Jews.

The ISB said it has no longer has a connection to al-Qaradawi, who was offered a place on the board before he became controversial.

Jewish author to speak in Brewster

Jewish speaker and author Avi Lipkin will speak on the compelling proof the fanaticism of Islam is the number one threat to world peace.

Lipkin will speak 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Brewster Community Church.

Lipkin studied at Israel's Conservative Jewish Seminary, a spokesman for the Israel Defense Force and is a former senior editor and translator for the Israeli government press office.

Lipkin grew up in the northeast United States. His experiences there, along with the Holocaust led him to believe that all gentiles hated the Jews. Wanting to escape the feeling of hatred and feeling that the future of the Jewish

Brewster Community Church 6:30 p.m. March 28-30

people lies in Israel, Lipkin decided to move to Israel.

While speaking to various congregations, Lipkin's perception of gentiles took a radical turn. He was surprised to discover many German-Americans with hands raised to God, praying for the peace of Jerusalem.

That had a tremendous impact on Lipkin and he came to realize he could not hate gentiles who had such a love for Israel. After many years, Lipkin has discovered he actually had much in common with true Bible believing Christians.

SHARE the FAITH

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

Schedule of church services

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05

p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Dave Geldmacher, 846-7740; Calvin Haverfield, 1st counselor, 672-4165; Matt Christensen, 2nd counselor, 460-0146. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/>

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Apostle W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Center (Bible School), 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Mr. Bob Leach, Director, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

Rexford church holding mission conference

Rexford Community Church is holding a mission conference March 31-April 2.

The event will kickoff at 6:30 p.m. at the church Friday with a sandwich and salad social affair.

At 8 a.m. April 1, there will be a family breakfast with Betty Nichols of Second Chance Counseling giving a presentation.

The event will wrap up April 2 with Sunday school and church services beginning at 9:30 a.m. It will be followed by a carry-in dinner with Doug and Patty Bastian of OC International.

Doug is director of church communications and resources for OC International. He works on developing working partnerships between the organization and its sending churches.



Patty and Doug Bastian

Patty is the benefits coordinator for the organization.

For information, call Pastor Lane Purcell at 687-3333.

Farm AUCTION

Saturday, April 1st • 10:30 a.m. CST

LOCATION: From Palisade, NE on Hwy 6 go 9 miles East, 1/8 mile South OR 3 miles West of Culbertson to Hwy 6 & 34 Junction, 6 miles West, 1/8 mile South or 1/2 mile East of Beverly Elevator, 1/8 mile South Lunch will be served. Storm Date: Saturday, April 8th. Tractors will sell at 1:00 p.m.

TRACTORS - COMBINES

1992 Belarus 925, diesel, FWA, Cab, 3 pt., 2 hyd., SN 340162, 712 hours, one owner • 1973 Oliver 1855 D, hydro shift, SN 243487685 • 1958 JD 620, propane, F11 loader, 3 pt, live power, SN62193544 • 1954 Ford 860, 3 pt., live power, propane, SN79625 • 1946 9N, gas, 3 pt., 3 sp. overdrive, SN 2089F28 • 1948 Allis Chalmers 45 G (Power Unit) • MF 510 Combine, diesel, SN 31536 • MF #35 Self-Propelled Combine, SN 915054654 • MF 410 Combine for parts • MF 18' header, MF 44 Corn Head

CAR-TRUCKS-3 WHEELER-MOTORCYCLE

1967 Ford 2 Ton Truck, 13 1/2' Box, 6 Cyl., 4 Sp. • 1952 GMC Truck • 1950 GMC Truck • 1980 Honda 110 3-wheeler • Honda 125 Street Bike • 1974 Plymouth Valiant • 1975 Chevy Van 30 Diamond 19' Motor Home, 43,700 miles

FARM EQUIPMENT

Owatonna 265 Windrower, Hydrostat • JD 7100 4-row planter • Flex King 25' Rod Weeder • Miller 12' disk, w/ Noble harrows • NH 275 Square Baler • NH 55 Rake • NH Square Bale Wagon • JD #5-7' Mower • JD Cultivator-ditcher • MM 10' One Way • 3 Bottom Plow • Eversman 12' Land Plane • Kelly Ryan Feed Wagon • F-11 Loader, Hay Head, 5' & 8' Buckets • MM Manure Spreader • Miller/Drum Disk • IH 4-row Weeder • JD 21' Straight Disk • 14' Drag Disk • JD Sickle Mower • (2) Augers • 6 Row Beet Planter • JD 12 Enslage Chopper

• BMB 5'Mower • 300 Gal. Fuel Tank/Stand • 500 Gal. Fuel Tank/Stand • JD Tool Bar Ditcher • Clipper Seed Cleaner • Slow's 185 Stationary Disk Sharpener • Hay Turner

SHOP & OUTDOOR

Wisconsin 4 Cyl. Engine • Steel Shelving • Hayes Pump Jack • Car Ramps • Gambles Mower • Toro Push Mower • Car Stands • Creeper • Log Chains • Come-a-longs • Grain Sweep • Picks • Block & Tackle • Used Plywood • Jacks • Scoops • Battery Charger • Aluminum Ladder • Pipe Vice • Bolt Bin • Pitch Forks • Floor Jack • Chain Saw • Bolt Cutters • Threaders • Air Compressor • Steel Bench

3 POINT EQUIPMENT

Harrow • Dempster 2 Row Lister • 2 Bot-GMC Tractor • 1980 Honda • Blade • 5' Disk • Tumble Bug • Post Hole Digger

ANTIQUES

Horse Driven Cultivator • Combine Steel Wheels • One Man Saw • Wood Folding Chairs • Buck Saw • (3) Wringer Washers • Old Wrenches • Oak Dresser • Tonka Trucks • Orange Crates • High Chair • Endless Belt • Trunk • Oak Wash Basin • Single Trees

Double Trees • Horsc Collar • Fairbury Pitcher Pump • Wood Chairs • Cast Iron Seat • Yokes • Bugg Yokes • Single Harness • Horse Shoes • Old Steel Bed • Steel Bushel Basket • Wood Wagon Wheels • Hot Irons • Steel Trunk

Many More Items Too Numerous To Mention

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