

# Winston-Salem Woman hears Farrakhan speech, opens Orthodox Islamic mosque

By MAURICE CROCKER  
Community News Reporter

Those residents who practice the Orthodox Islamic faith may soon have more places to worship, with the call for new mosques rising in the city.

During the Savior's Day convention, which was held earlier this year, Nation of Islam leader the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan called for Muslims to go back to their communities and teach the orthodox method of Islam.

One Winston-Salem woman answered that call and started the Nasr Mosque.

Sister Amatallah Albdus-Shakur, said once the orders were given, she returned to her home in Winston-Salem, where she began holding services.

"I knew I needed to find another place, even though I could have continued to hold services in my home," Shakur

said.

According to Shakur, she went to Rasheed Bey with her concerns and asked if he knew of any place available.

"Once the sister told me she was looking for a place, I knew I had a place she could

Shakur said she is serious about the teaching of Orthodox Islam, because she feels it is important to the community.

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— Sister Amatallah Albdus-Shakur

use," Bey said.

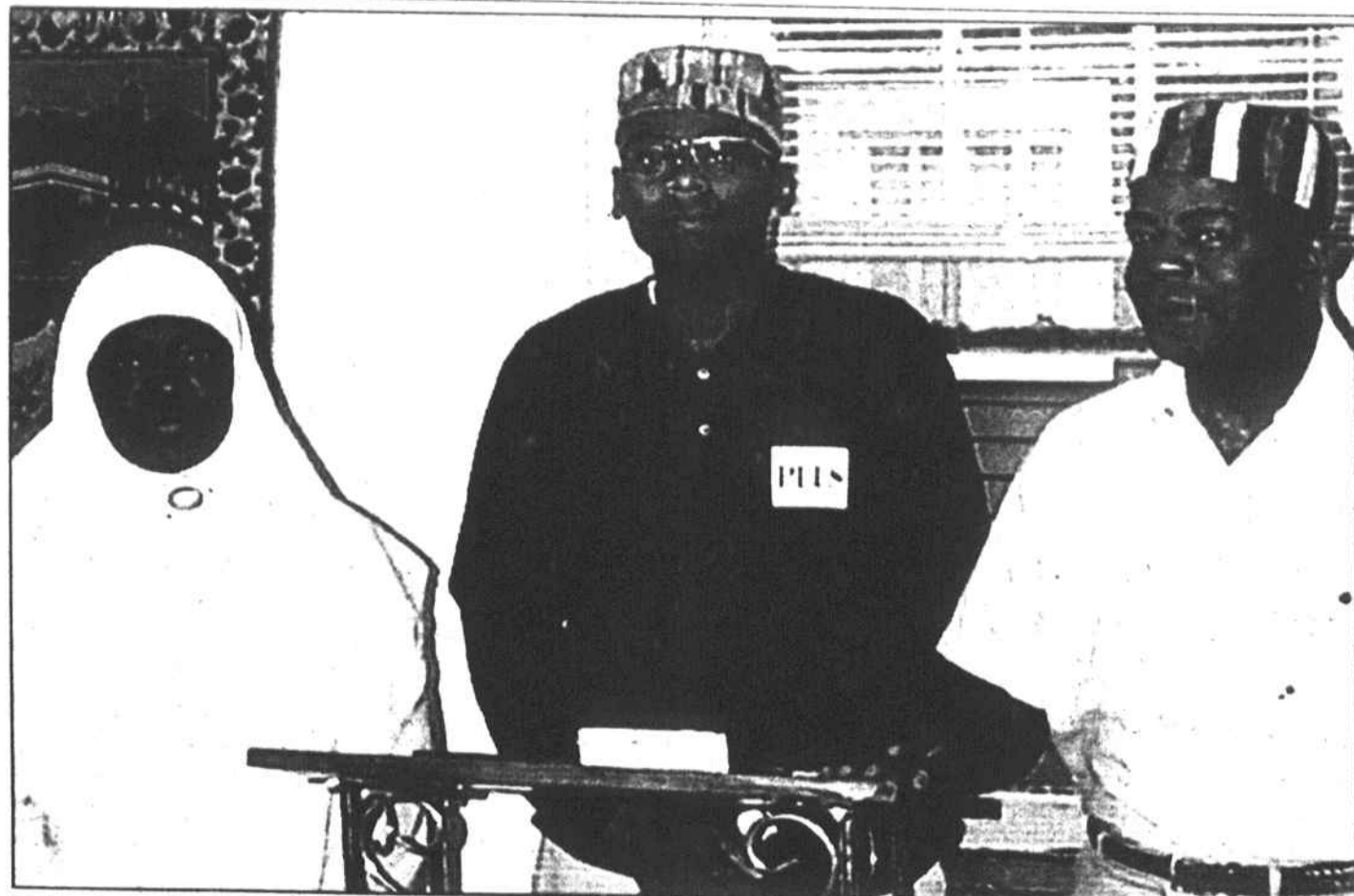
Bey and others went to work painting and carpeting a place where the services could be held.

The final improvements were completed in August, and the Mosque immediately began operating.

Islam is a religion of unity, Shakur said.

According to Shakur, the only thing that is going to bring about peace is the power of Islam.

Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the United States, she said, and people are slowly



Sister Amatallah Albdus-Shakur, instructor; Nis Abdel 'Aziz, instructor; and Rasheed Bey pose for a picture at the Nasr Mosque, 2915 Patterson St.

responding to the call that is being sent out. Although the response is somewhat slow at the new mosque, Shakur said, she hopes word of mouth and

publicity will attract more people. "Living by example is the best way to bring people to Islam," she said.

The Nasr Mosque, is at

2915 Patterson St. and is open to the public.

For more information, contact Nis Abdel 'Aziz at 724-5856.

# Thanksgiving for a Great Lawyer

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oldest son, she said, "couldn't see, but he could hear, and he was exceptionally smart, and he could understand."

Doug is thankful that he was not "babied" or coddled. He was disciplined by her, especially for wanting to "feel people" when he was young. Not only did she put a quick stop to his yearn to feel his way through the world, but, Mrs. Fleming put him through a strict regimen. He also said, "(She) beat my butt like she did the rest." And to the extended family's dismay, she sent him to the Arkansas School for the Blind, 150 miles away, in Little Rock.

There he excelled academically and athletically for 12 years. He was in the band, a track star, and a champion wrestler. "That," he says "made all the difference. And had she not done it, I would not be here today. I'd be at home with her — a blind man — on SSI. Thank God for my mother!"

These days, Doug zips around the city — most of the time by bus — and almost hurriedly runs a steady stream of clients and visitors up the stairs to his fourth-floor office at 4th and Cherry in downtown Winston-Salem. This man, who supervises several law student interns, describes himself as "beyond words thankful to be a lawyer, to be in a position to empower people who lack social power and who've been discriminated against, and who lack power." He grew up that way himself.

"I am grateful that I can empower people by what I can do for them in terms of employment discrimination, landlord problems, consumer fraud, and when they face foreclosure on their home and property," he said.

One senses his sincerity when he says, "I feel good and thankful when I can give them the confidence to carry on." And he issues confidence the way a judge does orders. Behind his desk, there is a "mutual admiration society" photo of Doug and another of Arkansas' favored and assured sons: President Bill Clinton.

He talks almost with amusement of how he learned to read and write "the old-fashioned way" — with a slate and stylus. But now he is a high-tech aficionado, moving deftly through legal documents, having mastered the use of a speech synthesizer that translates paper documents to audio. Regretting that he's only lately begun to look into learning Spanish and other foreign languages, he uses his blazingly fast hands on a CD-ROM-equipped computer, com-

plete with a document scanner and braille printer, to meet the needs of his clients.

He chuckles about a woman who, when sent to see him, asked aloud, "Ain't he blind? How's he gon' see my papers?" After he helped her, the woman tried to put him on retainer and recommends Armstrong to all her friends. Doug is on the Program Committee of the Winston-Salem Bar Association — a network of black lawyers — and he is a member of the Forsyth Bar Association. He is also secretary of the Labor and Employment Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.

Doug said he is grateful for his good health. "I'm blind, sure," he said, "but I make adaptations to my limitations all the time, like everybody else."

He says that he is neither "visually-impaired nor visually-challenged, or whichever is the politically correct expression today." "I am an otherwise normal person," he said, "who happens to be blind — that's all."

Immediately after meeting James Douglas Armstrong, one is struck with all the reasons to be thankful. One comes away knowing full-well that one has been in the presence of a very special person, and one sees things a little bit clearer.

James Douglas Armstrong seems to know that too. He is inspiring. He relishes inspiring others. One is thankful, stimulated, and heartened for having met him. He has an intimate familiarity with some of life's drudgery that most of us will never know, but, he goes home to Arkansas for Thanksgiving a "happy man, looking forward to getting back next week, so he can continue his love for helping others who can't help themselves. We should all be thankful for people like James Douglas Armstrong.

# Christmas News Deadline Friday Dec. 24



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