

Union Women Sports Association



Salaams to all. I hope, by the grace of God, you all are well, and enjoying your summer. I would like to wish all of you Khushali Mubarak on the auspicious occasion of the birth of our 12th Imam of the time: Hazrat Mehdi A.S. (wa-ajil farajahum). May he intercede and help our dua's and wishes be accepted by the Almighty.

Ar-Raad, means thunder/lightning in Arabic. It was the name our youth girls voted on as being our team name right before New York decided to send for the first time, its very own Basketball team to Orlando, for the Union Ladies Tournament held in December 2005. The team comprised of our own youth girls and ladies who practiced diligently twice a week, at the Sportime in Syosset and at a school gym for several months. The hard work paid off, when Ar-Raad was able to win 3 out of 5 games against Orlando to finally win the tournament!

As you all may know, the Union Women Sports Association held their very first election on the 29th of June, at the Sportime in Syosset. I would like to thank everyone from the previous committee for all their support, during the election and thereafter. I would also like to give a special thank you to Nishi Aunty, the founder of the Union Women Sports Association, who saw the dream, never gave up, and put us on the map as one of the recognized ladies sports organization in North America! The experience she has acquired, serving SIJNY, looking out for the elderly, and looking out for the youth, with sports being one of them, takes years of perseverance and dedication. Nishi Aunty is my mentor, and I will always look to reach out to her during my two year term. And finally, I would like to thank all the members of Ar-Raad for showing me their support and their vote of confidence.

At this time, it gives me great pleasure to inform all of you of the new committee of the **Union Women Sports Association!**

Chairperson - Fahmida Aziz - femy@serengeti-design.com

Assistant Chairperson - Shaaina Remtulla - shaaina_115@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Fatemah Jamal - sensible82@msn.com

Basketball Coordinator - Jabeen Shaikh - mahek00@gmail.com

Basketball Captain - Sana Jaffer - SanaJcool@aol.com

Badminton Coordinator - Sabira Khalfan - fifthavelady786@hotmail.com

Badminton Captain - Ayman Khalfan - fashiongirl821@hotmail.com

We have an eager and vibrant committee, who are willing to work hard to get the job done. We have many goals, none of which can happen without all of your support. Please know that each and everyone of you can make a difference in the success and future of Women Sports in New York. Your active participation and membership is critical to the development of this young organization. We have a lot of 'catching' up to do when we compare ourselves to the many other communities in North America that have organized Women Sports for many years. This leads me to several of our key goals:

1) to provide a convenient venue for organized sports.

2) to increase our level of play within each sport, so as to reach that level of competition we need during tournaments.

- 3) to expand our membership base by including practices for sports such as Badminton and Volleyball, and not only Basketball and Tennis.
- 4) to maintain affordability, so that every youth can participate in practices and events.
- 5) to increase the unity and bond amongst our women and our youth.

All of the committee members contact information and regularly schedule practices will be made available thru the **Women's Tab** on the Union website: www.unionsportsny.com. If you would like to receive our weekly email of latest information on practices and upcoming events, please join our email mailing list by adding your email thru the website mentioned above.

Thanks again to all. If anyone has any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other committee members via the email addresses mentioned above.

K/H

Fahmida Aziz, Chairperson

Union Women Sports Association, New York