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Letters to the Editor

Need More Positive Stories on
Islam and Muslims

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading the story on Shiva Jafarzadeh and was moved by her experience. I was appalled at the way she was treated in Iran and glad that she has found a happy life here in Moraga.

As a Moraga resident myself for over 12 years, and also a devout Muslim, I had mixed feelings about some of the comments about Islam, as they only reinforce the negative stereotypes that are so prevalent, especially in the political arena. We have seen these stereotypes only further Islamophobic sentiments and even lead to hate crimes. I cringe to think that something like that could happen in our peaceful town of Moraga, where I feel very fortunate to live.

I would hope to see some more positive stories about Islam and Muslims in the Lamorinda Weekly in the future.

Sarah Alves-Hyde
Moraga

Article on Jafarzadeh Misleading

Dear Editor,

The story on Shiva Jafarzadeh was a compelling personal piece. However, I think it should have been made clear that this was her experience at that time and in that place.

For instance, the statement about the supposed 40 wives of Muhammad, which appeared early in the story, made it seem as if all Muslims believe that. They certainly do not! At this time many wrong ideas about Islam are circulating & it is harmful to those who practice the religion.

I am an adult convert to Islam; I was raised as a Lutheran. I am living in beautiful Moraga now and I belong to three Interfaith Groups. I have met many wonderful Christian and Jewish men and women from the Lamorinda area. We enjoy each other's company and have many meaningful conversations about our faiths. One of the major reasons for groups like this to exist is to help dispel the myths and stereotypes about religion.

I would appreciate the local newspaper helping us in our endeavors to promote understanding among people. We would like to offer some articles on interfaith activities in our local community.

Kathryn Santana
Moraga

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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