



MECCA CENTER NEWSLETTER

March 2018 | Jumada Al-Akhirah 1439 - Rajab 1439 | Issue 31

www.meccacenter.org



Thank you for helping us Build A Bright Future

Dear Mecca Center Community, Asalamu Alaikum,

I hope this message finds you and your family in the best of health and iman. We thank you tremendously for helping make our Annual Fundraiser “Building A Bright Future” on February 11 a great success. We were honored to have you join us during a very special time as we celebrated one year since opening the doors of our new center. In the past one year alone, we have seen tremendous growth in our services, programs, and activities. It is firstly due to the grace of Allah (swt), followed by your generous contributions and commitment to making the Mecca Center a premier Islamic institution in the United States.

Alhamdulillah, the past year has been very prosperous as we launched our Quran Institute and Mecca MVMT programs for youth, increased our number of Sunday School students, and continue to regularly serve as a thriving center for community events. In just one year, alhamdulillah, the Mecca Center has become a central hub for enriching minds and spirits through our wide offering of programs and activities for all members of our community as well as the public. We realize this is just the beginning as we continue to build on the Mecca Center’s mission of serving the needs of our community and society in general.

Your support for the Mecca Center will receive great reward from Allah (swt) in this life and the hereafter as the Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, Allah will build for him likewise in Paradise.” We understand that one of the most important parts of building a bright future is laying the foundation for the prosperity of future generations. Through your support and participation, we can ensure that we can build a bright future in which our youth can carry the light of Islam across our land as spiritually-guided, civically-minded, responsible citizens and contributors to our society and humanity in general. Jazakum Allahu Khairan and thank you for your support. This is just the beginning, insha’Allah.

Wassalamu Alaikum,

M.A. Hamadeh, MD
President, The Mecca Center

See photos from our Annual Fundraiser on page 3



THE MECCA CENTER

PRAYER SCHEDULE

March 2018 Prayer Times | Jumada Al-Akhirah 1439 - Rajab 1439

Day اليوم	March مارس	Jumada Al-Akhirah جمادى الآخر	Fajr الفجر	Sunrise الشروق	Dhuhr الظهر	Asr العصر	Maghrib المغرب	Isha العشاء
Thu	1	13	5:09 AM	6:25 AM	12:04 PM	3:13 PM	5:43 PM	7:00 PM
Fri	2	14	5:07 AM	6:24 AM	12:04 PM	3:13 PM	5:45 PM	7:01 PM
Sat	3	15	5:06 AM	6:22 AM	12:04 PM	3:14 PM	5:46 PM	7:02 PM
Sun	4	16	5:04 AM	6:21 AM	12:04 PM	3:15 PM	5:47 PM	7:03 PM
Mon	5	17	5:03 AM	6:19 AM	12:04 PM	3:16 PM	5:48 PM	7:05 PM
Tues	6	18	5:01 AM	6:17 AM	12:03 PM	3:16 PM	5:49 PM	7:06 PM
Wed	7	19	4:59 AM	6:16 AM	12:03 PM	3:17 PM	5:50 PM	7:07 PM
Thu	8	20	4:58 AM	6:14 AM	12:03 PM	3:18 PM	5:52 PM	7:08 PM
Fri	9	21	4:56 AM	6:12 AM	12:03 PM	3:19 PM	5:53 PM	7:09 PM
Sat	10	22	4:54 AM	6:11 AM	12:02 PM	3:19 PM	5:54 PM	7:10 PM
Sun	11	23	4:53 AM	6:09 AM	12:02 PM	3:20 PM	5:55 PM	7:12 PM
Mon	12	24	5:52 AM	7:08 AM	1:02 PM	5:09 PM	6:55 PM	8:12 PM
Tue	13	25	5:50 AM	7:06 AM	1:02 PM	5:10 PM	6:57 PM	8:13 PM
Wed	14	26	5:48 AM	7:05 AM	1:01 PM	5:11 PM	6:58 PM	8:14 PM
Thu	15	27	5:47 AM	7:03 AM	1:01 PM	5:12 PM	6:59 PM	8:16 PM
Fri	16	28	5:45 AM	7:01 AM	1:01 PM	5:13 PM	7:00 PM	8:17 PM
Sat	17	29	5:43 AM	7:00 AM	1:01 PM	5:14 PM	7:01 PM	8:18 PM
Sun	18	Rajab	5:41 AM	6:58 AM	1:00 PM	5:15 PM	7:02 PM	8:19 PM
Mon	19	2	5:39 AM	6:56 AM	1:00 PM	5:16 PM	7:03 PM	8:20 PM
Tue	20	3	5:38 AM	6:55 AM	1:00 PM	5:16 PM	7:05 PM	8:22 PM
Wed	21	4	5:36 AM	6:53 AM	12:59 PM	5:17 PM	7:06 PM	8:23 PM
Thu	22	5	5:34 AM	6:51 AM	12:59 PM	5:18 PM	7:07 PM	8:24 PM
Fri	23	6	5:32 AM	6:49 AM	12:59 PM	5:19 PM	7:08 PM	8:25 PM
Sat	24	7	5:30 AM	6:48 AM	12:58 PM	5:20 PM	7:09 PM	8:27 PM
Sun	25	8	5:29 AM	6:46 AM	12:58 PM	5:20 PM	7:10 PM	8:28 PM
Mon	26	9	5:27 AM	6:44 AM	12:58 PM	5:21 PM	7:11 PM	8:29 PM
Tue	27	10	5:25 AM	6:43 AM	12:58 PM	5:22 PM	7:12 PM	8:30 PM
Wed	28	11	5:23 AM	6:41 AM	12:57 PM	5:23 PM	7:13 PM	8:32 PM
Thu	29	12	5:21 AM	6:39 AM	12:57 PM	5:24 PM	7:14 PM	8:33 PM
Fri	30	13	5:19 AM	6:37 AM	12:57 PM	5:24 PM	7:16 PM	8:34 PM
Sat	31	14	5:17 AM	6:36 AM	12:56 PM	5:25 PM	7:17 PM	8:35 PM

Call to Prayer

Fajr: 30 minutes after Adhan	Dhuhr: 1:15 pm	Asr: 4:00 pm	Maghrib: 2 Rak'as after Adhan	Isha: 8:00 pm	Jummah: 1:00 pm
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www.meccacenter.org

Follow the Mecca Center on Facebook and Twitter!

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The Mecca Center • 2018 Annual Fundraiser

“Building A Bright Future” February 11, 2018 at Drury Lane



The Mecca Center Imam's Message

All praise is due to Allah, and Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon His Final Messenger, his pure family, his noble Companions, and all those who follow them with righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

Asalamu Alaikum, Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

We have been blessed, Alhamdulillah, to have has much growth in the past year since opening our new center. It has been like watching a dream unfold into reality. We have already started to see the positive effects our new Masjid is having on our growing congregation and our neighbors. Our community now has big, beautiful prayer spaces to pray in and our children have full classrooms for their schooling and a gym for their activities.

Allah has a purpose and plan for everything. He wants each of us to run our race in line with His plan. In Surat Al-Mutaffifeen Allah said: {and for this let (all) those strive who want to strive} [83:26]. This is the kind of praiseworthy competition that is encouraged many times in the Quran and the Sunnah. Our beloved prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has given us this important advice when he said: "Make the most of five things before five (other things happen): your life before you die, your good health before you become sick; your free time before you become busy; your youth before you grow old; and your wealth before you become poor." Saheeh by Al-Albaani.

My dear sisters and brothers, since the beginning of the Mecca center on 2004, the goal of our community was to have not just a Masjid or a place solely for worship, but a place for raising our children and youth, a place of hope and delivering the message of peace and justice to everyone - a holistic community center. Having Mecca in our area benefits not only Muslims, but the community at large. The Mecca Center will be a home where our neighbors are welcome, where our children will see that community service is not exclusive but inclusive of all our neighbors. Through our center we will strive to fulfill our duty as Muslims, and to communicate Islam's true ideals of serving all of our community as in the hadith of our beloved prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings be upon him): "The best of people are those that bring most benefit to the rest of mankind." Saheeh by al-Albaani.

Building a Masjid and contributing toward the building is one of the greatest acts of worship before Allah. Participating with others in building these Masājid is the kind of cooperation in righteousness and piety that is prescribed in Islam. Ibn Majaah narrated from Jaabir ibn 'Abd-Allah, that the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said: "Whoever builds a Masjid for the sake of Allah like a sparrow's nest or even smaller, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise." A house in Paradise? Is there anything else we need?

Sh. Hassan Aly
Imam & Religious Director



Sh. Hassan Aly
Imam & Religious Director



We're here to help.
Take our
Special Needs Survey

A Message from the Sunday School Principal

Assalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

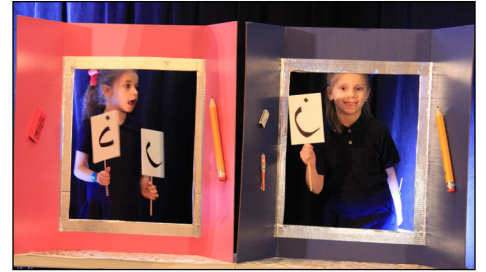
The Mecca Center Sunday School staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping us make our Mecca Center Annual Fundraising Dinner "Building a Bright Future" a great success – alhamdulillah! Our lovely kindergarten class performed a song on stage which highlighted their learning of the Arabic alphabet. Please be sure to visit meccacenter.org to see pictures of the event.

Masha'Allah, three of our teachers were awarded on stage during the fundraising dinner for their commitment and dedication of ten years of teaching in our Mecca Center Sunday School. Congratulations to sisters Meha AlBashiti, Rawan Abusaman, and Lamis Riyal on their well-deserved reward!

Insha'Allah the Mecca Center Sunday School will continue to serve our community to the fullest potential and be a cornerstone in your lives. Jazakum Allahu Khayran for joining us in building a bright future and for your continued support of our children, the future of our ummah.

Regards,

Linda Hamadeh, M.Ed., Ed.D.
Mecca Center Sunday School Principal



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A Message from the Youth Director

Salaamu Alaikum Dear Mecca Family,

February is always an interesting month, for young people especially. Online videos, ads, school activities, and social media all sharing this hype surrounding this concept of consumeristic “love.” This often times leads many of us battling loneliness, lust, and social expectations all at the same time.

I remember often during this time, the need to promote awareness of two things: self love and divine love. One must invest in these two things in order to truly embark on a journey of loving others. When we talk about relationship goals, have we asked ourselves about what our goals are with regards to our relationship with ourselves and that with Allah?

Some of us may fear that the concept of self love is one that embraces our inclinations of desires and self gratification. Rather self love encourages us to love ourselves enough to abandon the sins, habits, and lifestyles that we’ve found ourselves captive to while liberating ourselves to a life of healthy habits and choices.

As for divine love, Allah asks us in the Quran, “Oh Human, what is it that has distracted you from your lord, the most generous?” Often times we feel a gaping hole in our hearts we try so desperately to fill with many of the temporary pleasures of this world. Alas, nothing can fill that gaping hole but love of the Divine (swt).

So as we begin March, I remind my self to invest in these two relationships, the relationship we have with ourselves as well as that which we have with our Lord (swt). The Scholars of spirituality mention a handful of things that help promote this: 1. Worship {seclusion with Allah in remembrance of Him} 2. Knowledge {getting to know Allah through studying his names and attributes} 3. Company {being with the people of Allah whos presence connects us to Him swt} 4. Action {practically working on actions individually and collectively that serve the creator through service to His creation} 5. Hope {constantly being hopeful and serving as ambassadors of hope to all those who are around us}.

I would like to share with you a dua of the Prophet that truly exemplifies the power and beauty of love is expressed so beautifully in the words of the Prophet, peace and blessings upon him. I pray we take the time to make this supplication a part of our daily lives. “Oh Allah I ask you for your love, and the love of those whom you love, and the love of all actions that draw me nearer to your love.” Ameen.

JazakumUllahu Khairan,

Sh. Tariq Musleh
Youth Director



Sh. Tariq Musleh
Youth Director

THROUGH THE FIRE
THE JOURNEY OF SALMAN THE PERSIAN
with **Shaykh Omar Suleiman**

Friday, March 2
The Mecca Center
7-10pm

REGISTER TODAY
almaghrib.org/chicago

Sandwiches

Wrap

Steak	\$ 5.00
Kifta Kabab	\$ 5.00
Beef Shawarma	\$ 5.00
Chicken Shawarma	\$ 5.00
Chicken Tender	\$ 4.00
Falafel	\$ 4.00

Taiyba Meza's



Price

Fried Kebbeh	كبة مقوية	\$1.50
Labanyeh Kebbeh	كبة لبنية	\$2.00
Grilled Kebbeh	كبة مشوية	\$3.00
Syrian Ouzi wraps	أوزي باللحمة	\$2.50
Beef Sambusek	سيموسك لحمة	\$1.25
Cheese Pie	فطائر جبنة	\$1.00
Spinach Pie	فطائر سبانخ	\$1.25
Saffiha	صفحة شامية أو مضمورة	\$1.75
Musakhan	مسخن دجاج	\$1.55
Za'tar Pie	فطيرة زعتر	\$1.00
Chicken Roll	رول دجاج	\$1.50
Hot Dogs Roll	رول نقاق	\$2.00
Muhamara Pie	فطيرة محمرة	\$1.00
Falafel	فلافل	\$4.00/Dozen

Appetizers

Half Tray

Full Tray

Hummus ——— حمص
\$18.00 \$35.00
A blend of chickpeas mixed with tahini, topped with olive oil and spices, served as a cold dip with pita bread.

Baba Ghanoush/Mutabal ——— متبل ا باب غنوج
\$20.00 \$35.00
Char-broiled eggplant, mashed and blended with tahini, yogurt and parsley, topped with olive oil and spices, served as a cold dip with pita bread.

Salad ——— سلطة
\$15.00 \$30.00
Freshly diced tomatoes, cucumbers and parsley, and the dressing is tahini sauce.

Tabbouleh Salad ——— تبولة
\$20.00 \$40.00
Freshly diced tomatoes, onions, parsley, green peppers and cracked wheat tossed in olive oil and lemon juice.

Fattoush Salad ——— فتوش
\$15.00 \$30.00
Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers onions, parsley, and green peppers are tossed in our house vinaigrette and topped with our homemade pita croutons.

Muhamara Dip ——— محمرة
\$20.00 \$40.00
Walnut, red pepper, hot sauce, onions, Tahine sauce, parmiganate concentrate and breadstick crumbs.

Entrée

Half Tray

Full Tray

Kebab Hindi ——— كباب هندي
\$40.00 \$80.00
Oven baked ground beef kebab with diced tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, and green pepper.

Stuffed Vegetables ——— محاشي مشكلة
\$40.00 \$80.00
Zucchini, eggplant and green pepper stuffed with rice and lamb.

Grape Vine and Zucchini ——— برقي
\$45.00 \$90.00
Stuffed grape leaves and zucchini with rice and lamb.

Stuffed Cabbage ——— ملفوف بطنه
\$40.00 \$80.00
Cabbage leaves stuffed with rice and beef, and cooked in authentic cumin and pomegranate sauce.

Fava Beans and Rice ——— رز بالفلول الأخضر بالتحم
\$40.00 \$80.00
Fava beans with rice topped with lamb shanks.

Freekeh ——— فريكة باللحمة أو بالدجاج
\$45.00 \$90.00
Freekeh cooked with lamb or chicken.

Mnazaleh ——— منزلة بالندجان
\$40.00 \$80.00
Oven baked stuffed eggplant with minced meat, onions and tomato sauce.

Stuffed fried zucchini ——— شيخ المحشي
\$40.00 \$80.00
Fried zucchini stuffed with minced meat and onions then oven baked in yogurt.

Makloubah ——— مقلوبة فلسطينية
\$40.00 \$80.00
Potatoes, cauliflower and carrots with rice topped with roasted chicken legs.

Entrée

Half Tray

Full Tray

Damascus's Makloubah ——— مقلوبة شامية
\$40.00 \$80.00
Fried eggplant and lamb over specially spiced rice.

Damascus's Mulokhia w/ Chicken ——— ملوخية بالدجاج
\$40.00 \$80.00
Molokhia whole leaves, garlic, and fresh cilantro topped with chicken.

Lamb Shank ——— لحم موزات بالعظم
\$50.00 \$100.00
Lamb shank (leg) with cooked vegetables and tomato sauce.

Layerd Kebbeh ——— كبة بالصنينة
\$20.00 \$40.00
Kebbeh(burghul, beef) layerd with beef and nuts.

Palestinian Ouzi w/Chicken ——— أوزي فلسطينية بالدجاج
\$40.00 \$80.00
Mixed Vegetables cooked with rice topped with chicken legs.

Meatloaf ——— لحمة بالصحن
\$35.00 \$70.00
Oven cooked beef with garlic topped with green peppers and tomatoes.

Lasagna ——— لازانيا بالخضار أو اللحم
\$35.00 \$70.00
Layered lasagna with ground beef, onions, green peppers, tomato sauce, olive oil and Italian seasoning, topped with mozzarella cheese.

Chicken Alfredo ——— معرودة الفريو بالدجاج
\$30.00 \$60.00
Chicken and Fettuccine pasta cooked in Alfredo sauce.

Entrée

Half Tray

Full Tray

Okra ——— بامية
\$30.00 \$60.00
Okra cooked with beef in tomato sauce, topped with green cilantro.

Mandi Yemeni ——— مندي يمني بالدجاج
\$35.00 \$70.00
Whole roasted chicken cooked with rice and dried raisins and special spices.

Biryani ——— برياني بالدجاج
\$35.00 \$70.00
Rice cooked in special sauce topped with chicken.

Shishburak ——— شيشبرك
\$40.00 \$80.00
Lebanese version of Italian tortellini stuffed with beef cooked with yogurt.

Kabsah w/Chicken ——— كبسة بالدجاج
\$35.00 \$70.00
Rice, onions, tomatoes, green peppers and our special spices, topped with lamb or chicken.

Mansaf ——— منسف أردني بالتحم
\$40.00 \$80.00
Lamb Shank boiled in dry yogurt with special spices served with rice.

Yalanji ——— يالانجي
\$40.00 \$80.00
Steamed grape leaves stuffed with vegetables, and seasoned rice, served cold.

Spaghetti and Meatballs ——— معرودة سباغيتي بكرات اللحم
\$30.00 \$60.00
Spaghetti noodles, Italian seasoning, and tomato sauce with meatballs.



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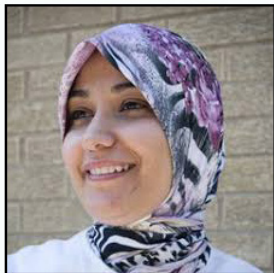
COMMUNITY NIGHT

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

6:30PM-8PM | DINNER WILL BE SERVED

WITH GUEST SPEAKER

LENA TLEIB



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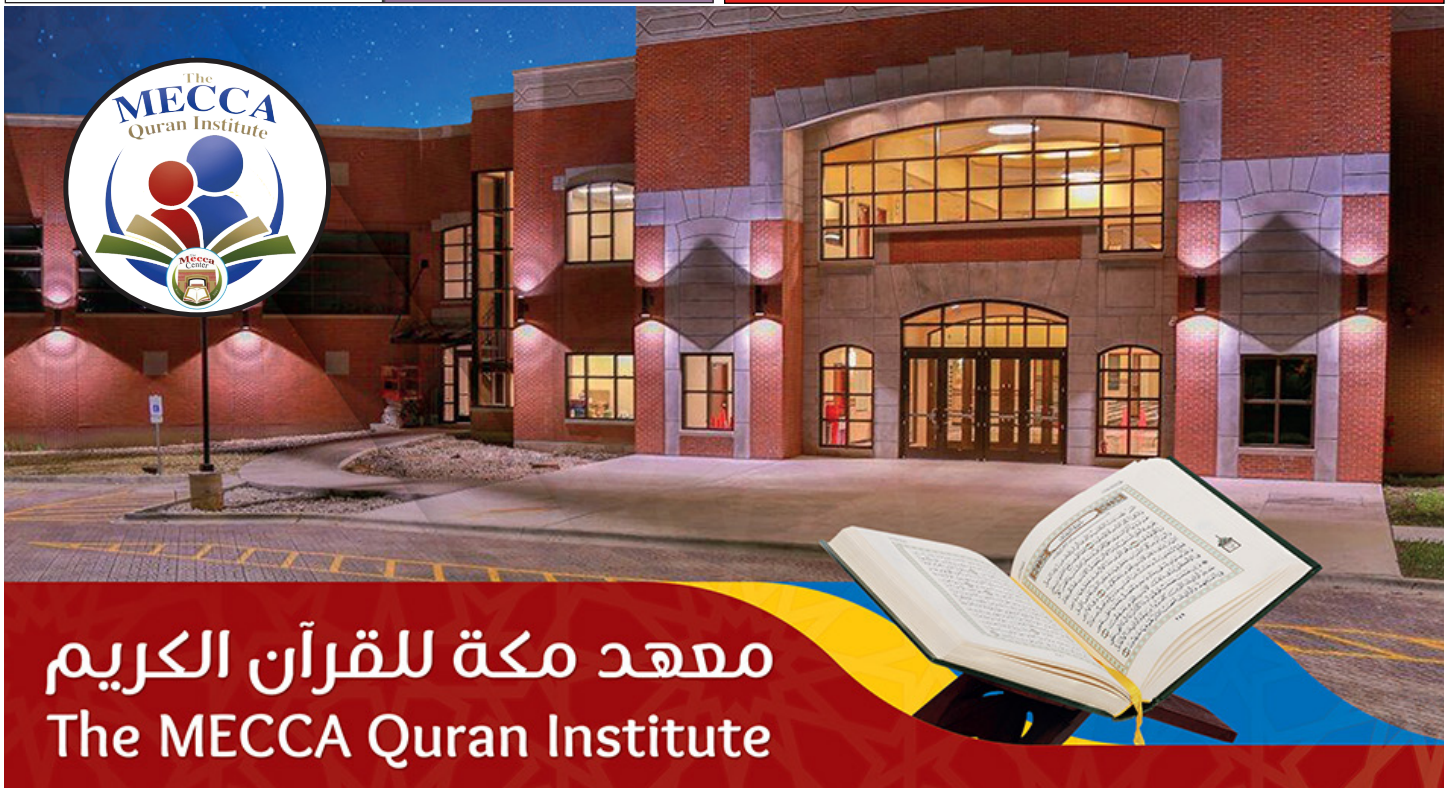
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