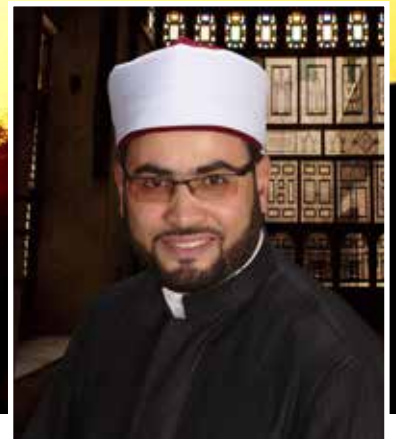




MECCA CENTER NEWSLETTER

September 2017 | Dhul-Hijjah 1438 - Muharram 1439 | Issue 25

www.meccacenter.org



Sh. Hassan Aly
Imam & Religious Director

Hijrah... Is All We Need

Many challenges face our Ummah today. Therefore the importance of remembering the Hijrah of our beloved Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his companions from Mecca to Madina is limited neither to Islamic history nor to Muslims.

After about thirteen years of struggling with the people of Mecca, Allah (SWT) had given the order to his Messenger Mohammad (PBUH) to migrate at the age of fifty-three during the darkness of the night in the harshest of circumstances with his companion Abu Bakr.

Our beloved Prophet (PBUH) devised an excellent plan. He gave permission to all Muslims in Mecca to migrate to Madina, while he specifically asked Abu Bakr and Ali (May Allah be pleased with them) to stay. When the time came for the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) to migrate, his companion Abu Bakr loaded up two camels for a long journey. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) hired a guide who happened not to be Muslim but knew the roads and shortcuts very well. The Prophet first ensured his trustworthiness and then they took the south road on the way to Madina to misguide his pursuers. Since the Quraish were very astute and would track them closely, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) decided to hide in the cave with his beloved companion Abu-Bakr for three days.

Also, it is very important to know the role played by Muslim youth in this unique journey of migration, which required much planning, secrecy, and courage. Abdullah Ibn Abu Bakr used to come during the night to tell them the news about the Quraish and then return to Mecca before dawn as though he had stayed there in during the night.

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THE MECCA CENTER

PRAYER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2017 PRAYER TIMES | DHU AL-HIJJAH 1438 - MUHARRAM 1439

Day اليوم	September سبتمبر	Dhul-Hijjah ذو الحجة	Fajr الفجر	Sunrise الشروق	Dhuhr الظهر	Asr العصر	Maghrib المغرب	Isha العشاء
Fri	1	10	4:59 AM	6:18 AM	12:52 PM	4:33 PM	7:25 PM	8:45 PM
Sat	2	11	5:01 AM	6:19 AM	12:52 PM	4:32 PM	7:23 PM	8:43 PM
Sun	3	12	5:02 AM	6:20 AM	12:51 PM	4:31 PM	7:21 PM	8:41 PM
Mon	4	13	5:03 AM	6:21 AM	12:51 PM	4:29 PM	7:20 PM	8:39 PM
Tue	5	14	5:04 AM	6:22 AM	12:51 PM	4:28 PM	7:18 PM	8:37 PM
Wed	6	15	5:06 AM	6:23 AM	12:50 PM	4:27 PM	7:16 PM	8:35 PM
Thu	7	16	5:07 AM	6:24 AM	12:50 PM	4:26 PM	7:15 PM	8:33 PM
Fri	8	17	5:08 AM	6:25 AM	12:50 PM	4:25 PM	7:13 PM	8:31 PM
Sat	9	18	5:08 AM	6:25 AM	12:50 PM	4:25 PM	7:13 PM	8:31 PM
Sun	10	19	5:09 AM	6:26 AM	12:49 PM	4:24 PM	7:11 PM	8:29 PM
Mon	11	20	5:12 AM	6:28 AM	12:49 PM	4:22 PM	7:08 PM	8:26 PM
Tue	12	21	5:13 AM	6:29 AM	12:48 PM	4:21 PM	7:06 PM	8:24 PM
Wed	13	22	5:14 AM	6:30 AM	12:48 PM	4:20 PM	7:04 PM	8:22 PM
Thu	14	23	5:15 AM	6:31 AM	12:48 PM	4:19 PM	7:03 PM	8:20 PM
Fri	15	24	5:16 AM	6:32 AM	12:47 PM	4:17 PM	7:01 PM	8:18 PM
Sat	16	25	5:18 AM	6:33 AM	12:47 PM	4:16 PM	6:59 PM	8:16 PM
Sun	17	26	5:19 AM	6:34 AM	12:47 PM	4:15 PM	6:57 PM	8:14 PM
Mon	18	27	5:20 AM	6:35 AM	12:46 PM	4:14 PM	6:56 PM	8:12 PM
Tue	19	28	5:21 AM	6:36 AM	12:46 PM	4:13 PM	6:54 PM	8:11 PM
Wed	20	29	5:22 AM	6:37 AM	12:45 PM	4:12 PM	6:52 PM	8:09 PM
Thu	21	Muharram	5:23 AM	6:38 AM	12:45 PM	4:10 PM	6:50 PM	8:07 PM
Fri	22	1	5:24 AM	6:39 AM	12:45 PM	4:09 PM	6:49 PM	8:05 PM
Sat	23	2	5:24 AM	6:39 AM	12:45 PM	4:09 PM	6:49 PM	8:05 PM
Sun	24	3	5:26 AM	6:40 AM	12:44 PM	4:08 PM	6:47 PM	8:03 PM
Mon	25	4	5:28 AM	6:42 AM	12:44 PM	4:05 PM	6:43 PM	8:00 PM
Tue	26	5	5:29 AM	6:43 AM	12:43 PM	4:04 PM	6:42 PM	7:58 PM
Wed	27	6	5:30 AM	6:44 AM	12:43 PM	4:03 PM	6:40 PM	7:56 PM
Thu	28	7	5:31 AM	6:46 AM	12:43 PM	4:02 PM	6:38 PM	7:54 PM
Fri	29	8	5:32 AM	6:47 AM	12:42 PM	4:01 PM	6:36 PM	7:53 PM
Sat	30	9	5:33 AM	6:48 AM	12:42 PM	3:59 PM	6:35 PM	7:51 PM

Iqama time at the Masjid

Fajr:
30 minutes after adhan

Dhuhr: 1:15 pm **Asr:** 5:30 pm

Maghrib:
5 minutes after sunset

Isha:
1-10: 8:45 pm
11-17: 8:30 pm
18-24: 8:15 pm
25-30: 8:00 pm

Jummah:
1:00 pm

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THE MECCA CENTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In Sacrifice, There Are Many Rewards



Asalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

Insha'Allah this message finds you and your family in the best of health and iman.

Across the world, Muslims will be celebrating Eid al-Adha, or the festival of sacrifice, by commemorating the moment when Allah (swt) commanded the Prophet Ibrahim (a) to sacrifice his son Ismail (a) as an act of obedience to Him, and was instead rewarded with a ram.

The story of Ibrahim's sacrifice, presented in chapter 37 of the Holy Qur'an, carries an important lesson regarding our commitments and obedience to Allah. Although Ibrahim loved his son dearly, he remained obedient to Allah's command, as difficult as it was.

An exceptional child, Ismail's faith and commitment to Allah was also unwavering like his father's. So when Ibrahim explained to Ismail what Allah's command was, Ismail understood and accepted what needed to happen.

Ibrahim also overcame the coercion of Shaytan who tried to convince him to disobey Allah's command as the father and son passed Mina on their way to Mount Arafat. Despite Shaytan's efforts, Ibrahim turned his back and refused to listen. His faith did not allow for him to stray from his path or commitment to Allah.

When Ibrahim and Ismail made it to Mount Arafat, Ismail asked his father to tie his hands and legs so that he wouldn't struggle, but also to wear a blindfold so that he would not witness his son suffer. With a knife, Ibrahim complied with Allah's command. However, when he took his blindfold off and looked down, he saw that he had sacrificed a ram, rather than his son. Ismail was at Ibrahim's side.

The ram was Allah's reward to Ibrahim and Ismail for their faithful obedience to the Almighty creator.

For this reason, Eid al-Adha is also particularly significant as the day of sacrifice marks the climax of Hajj or Pilgrimage, which is the fifth pillar of Islam. We learn from this lesson that in faithful sacrifice comes bountiful rewards in this life, and the Hereafter. May we live up to our commitments of faith to Allah and follow in the great examples of the Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail. Ameen.

Thank you, Jazakum Allahu Khairan,

Wassalamu Alaikum,

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

Aamer Ibn Fohairah came to cover the path of footsteps by walking with his sheep, milking them, and providing this milk to the messenger and his companion. At the house of our beloved prophet (PBUH), Ali ibn Abi Talib was sleeping on his bed covering himself with the garments of the Prophet (PBUH) so that people would think it was actually the Prophet lying there. The sincere and patient Asma' Bint Abi Bakr presented the best examples of sacrificing but with wisdom. Asma' said: When Abu Bakr went with the Messenger of Allah for migration; he took all his money with him and left nothing to his family. Her grandfather was blind and asked her if Abu Bakr left any money for his family in the house. She brought a bag of small rocks and put them at the same place where Abu Bakr used to put his money and she asked her grandfather to feel the coins in order to give him peace of mind. She used to deliver food to her Father and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) during their stay in the cave. Also she was hit by Abu Jahl since she refused to reveal any news to him when he came asking about her father. Subhanallah she risked her life in a major way.

This is an example of meticulous planning with a high degree of caution. That is the true meaning of Tawakkul on Allah (swt). Nowadays the Muslim Ummah alleges the name of Tawakkul while everything is in chaos and confusion. The migration or Hijrah throughout the history of Islam was a turning point. As a Muslim community we are the people who are most in need of knowing Islam again. We must help our refugees as they are immigrants, and read again what Allah said in the Quran: "And (it is also for) those who, before them, had homes (in Al-Madina) and had adopted the Faith, love those who emigrate to them, and have no jealousy in their breasts for that which they have been given (from the booty of Banu An-Nadir), and give them (emigrants) preference over themselves, even though they were in need of that. And whosoever is saved from his own greediness, such are they who will be the successful." [59-9]

The Hijrah of our beloved Prophet and his companions is full of important lessons for the Muslim today in many aspects. First, the Hijrah migration has taught us to sacrifice for Allah in the same way the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his companions did during their migration from Mecca to Madina. It has also taught us the importance of maintaining the unity and strength of our community in order to overcome tremendous challenges. Finally, it teaches us to sacrifice for people in need, particularly refugees, who require our help and support as they make their journeys to new lands.

A Message from the Youth Director

Assalamu Alaikum Mecca Center Community!

I would like to begin by thanking each and every one of you for welcoming me into the community. Whether it be an email or phone call, introducing yourself in person or just a smile, everyone young and old, brothers and sisters have all been so warm and hospitable, and for that I am very grateful. I would like to especially thank Shaykh Hassan and the masjid leadership for making my adjustment smooth and facilitating ease each step of the way. Alhamdulillah since joining the center, things have been very busy. I've had the opportunity to meet with youth leadership across the Chicagoland area as well as those within our own center. Through these gatherings, we've had the opportunity to brainstorm ideas and began the creation of a vision for a revolutionary youth initiative we hope will bring spiritual, social, and educational growth to each of our homes and the community at large. Your support, in all its forms, will play an essential role in the success of our efforts. Please join me as we begin this journey of enlightenment and support us by spreading word of the programs and projects we have in the days to come.



We learn from our Prophetic tradition that the blessing of working together is one which is invaluable. For that reason, please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me to give suggestions or share any ideas or concerns you may have.

JazakumUllahu Khairan,

Sh. Tariq Musleh, The Mecca Center, Youth Director

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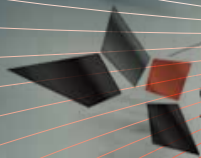
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Eid Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 10 from 2pm to 6pm

Mecca Center Parking Lot
BBQ • Games • Activities • Sports • Bouncing Castle
Fun for the entire family!
Suggested donation \$5 per person.



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APPETIZERS

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Hummus.....\$6
Chickpeas, yogurt, tahini and lemon juice

Baba Ghanoush.....\$6
Grilled eggplant, Tahini, garlic, yogurt and lemon juice

Falafel (6 pieces).....\$5
Chickpeas, parsley, garlic, onion, spices, deep fried and served with special sauce

French Fries.....\$4
Basket of fries

Lentil Soup.....\$5

Kebbeh (6 pieces).....\$7
A mixture of cracked wheat and beef shell stuffed with spiced ground beef, onion and walnuts

SALADS

Prepared upon order.

Fatoush.....\$7
Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, garlic, onions, lemon juice, spices and olive oil. Topped with deep fried pita pieces

Tabbouleh.....\$7
Parsley, tomatoes, onions, cracked wheat, lemon juice, olive oil and spices.

SANDWICHES

Made from fine meat.

Kofta Kebabs.....\$8
A skewer of fine marinated ground beef, tomatoes, pickles, hot sauce, lettuce, a mixture of parsley, onion and pomegranate sauce

Lamb/beef Mix Shawarma Sandwich.....\$9
Prime cut beef rib eye and lamb shoulder, pickles, tomatoes, onion, and pomegranate / tahini sauce

Chicken Shawarma Sandwich.....\$8
Sliced leg/thigh chicken, pickles, tomatoes and garlic sauce

Chicken Tawook Sandwich.....\$9
A skewer of chicken breast cubes, tomatoes, pickles, garlic sauce, and fried potatoes

Falafel Sandwich.....\$6
Four pieces of Falafel, tomatoes, pickles, cucumber, parsley, mint leaves, hummus and special sauce



SHAWARMA PLATES

Beef/lamb Shawarma Plate.....\$12
Fine cut of rib eye and lamb shoulder served with rice or fries, garlic sauce, pickles and tomatoes

Chicken Shawarma Plate.....\$11
Thin sliced leg and thigh of chicken, served with rice or fries, garlic sauce, pickles and tomatoes

GRILLED MEALS

All Grilled Meals served with choices of (Rice or Fries), (Hummus or Baba-Ghanouj) and Lentil Soup.

Maura's Mixed Grill.....\$18
Three skewers: Kofta Kabob (ground beef mixed with onion, parsley and spices), Chicken Tawook (chicken breast cubes marinated with Maura's special seasoning), and Shish Kabob (seasoned lamb cubes)

Lamb Shish Kababs.....\$14
Fine cut of leg of lamb grilled to your preference.
2 skewer (8-10oz)

Chicken Taouk.....\$13
Two skewers of chicken breast cubes marinated with Maura's special seasoning and grilled

Kofta Kababs.....\$13
Two skewers of ground beef mixed with parsley, onion, and special spices, and grilled

Mix and Match.....\$14
Your choice of two skewers of Shish Kabob, Kofta Kabob, or Chicken Tawook

Grilled Platter.....\$90
Group platter for 5-6 people. Appetizers: Soup, Salad, Hummus, Baba-Ghanouj, Falafel & Pickles. Meats: Kofta Kabob, Chicken Tawook, Shish Kabob

KIDS MEALS

100% real meat

Chicken Tenders.....\$6
3 pieces of chicken tenders served with fries

Chicken Nuggets.....\$6
6 pieces of chicken nuggets served with fries

BEVERAGES

Coffee or Tea.....\$2.50
American or Turkish

Soda.....\$1.50
Coke product

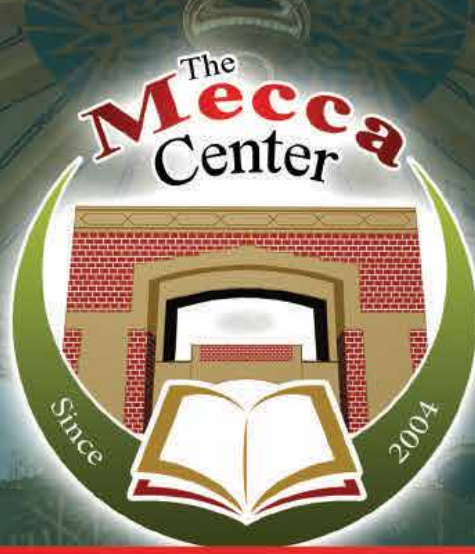
Lemonade.....\$3

Tea.....\$2.50
cold or hot - ask staff for flavor selection

Bottled Water.....\$1

11a-8pm daily, closed Monday, see website for updated hours as they may change.

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فِي كُلِّ سَنَبِلَةٍ مِئَّةٌ حَبَّةٌ وَاللَّهُ يُضَاعِفُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ .
الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ لَا يُتْبِعُونَ مَا أَنْفَقُوا مَنًّا وَلَا أَذًى
لَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ
البقرة/ ٢٦١، ٢٦٢ .

"The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah, is as the likeness of a grain (of corn); it grows seven ears, and each ear has a hundred grains. Allah gives manifold increase to whom He wills. And Allah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knower. Those who spend their wealth in the Cause of Allah, and do not follow up their gifts with reminders of their generosity or with injury, their reward is with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve"
[Al-Baqarah 2:261-262]

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال : " ما من يوم يصبح
العباد فيه إلا ملكان ينزلان فيقول أحدهما : اللهم أعط منفقاً خلفاً ، ويقول الآخر :
اللهم أعط ممسكاً تلفاً " .

رواه البخاري ومسلم

It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "There is no day on which the people get up but two angels come down and one of them says, 'O Allah, give in compensation to the one who spends (in charity),' and the other says, 'O Allaah, destroy the one who withholds.'" Narrated by al-Bukhaari and Muslim

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