



Newsletter

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NOVEMBER 2016 – SAFAR 1437 - ISSUE 17

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Assalam Alaikum

We have two important elections coming soon . The general elections are November 8th, and our Mecca Center election are Nov 18th. I want to encourage all of the community members to participate in this extremely important general election that might shape the future of our nation and the Muslim community in particular , we need to have our voices heard. It is important for the Muslim community to be involved in the local politics of the community they live in as well as the national scene. If we do not speak, someone else may speak on our behalf and we don't like what they have to say.

I believe it is every Muslim's duty to try and make a difference in the society we live in. We should enjoin good and forbid evil whenever we can. And we are required to positively contribute in solving the problems of the society in line with Islamic teachings.

"Whoever of you witnesses an evil, let him change (redress) it with his hand. If he cannot do so, let him change it with his tongue (verbally), and if he still cannot do that let him change it with his heart (silently denounce it)". Here, changing evil with the tongue does not really mean redressing it with physical action, but it rather means denouncing the evil, and one of the most important means of forbidding evil is that a representative of the Ummah, whose words are normally acknowledged as true and are circulated by the media at every level, speaks against it.

We take this right we enjoy for granted, many people throughout the world struggle and fight for this right.

We also have upcoming election of 4 members of the Board of trustees of our beloved and Blessed Mecca center. If you are a current member, this is your chance to choose the trustees that you think will serve this center well and achieve the mission and goals set. You all received forms to nominate eligible members and the date for election is Nov 18th at the Mecca Center. I urge you to come participate and fulfill your duty as a member of the Mecca Center.

I urge all that are eligible to show up on election's day, let's make our voices heard and let's make a difference in the larger society.

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

Narrated `Abdullah bin `Amr:

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Whoever has (the following) four characters will be a hypocrite, and whoever has one of the following four characteristics will have one characteristic of hypocrisy until he gives it up. These are: (1) Whenever he talks, he tells a lie; (2) whenever he makes a promise, he breaks it; (3) whenever he makes a covenant he proves treacherous; (4) and whenever he quarrels, he behaves impudently in an evil insulting manner."

Day	Nov	Hijri	Fajr	Sunrise	Zuhr	Asr-Shaf	Asr-Hanafi	Maghrib	Isha
اليوم	تشرين الثاني	هجري	الفجر	الشروق	الظهر	العصر / شافعي	العصر / حنفي	المغرب	العشاء
TUE	1	1	6:07	7:23	12:36	3:23	4:04	5:47	7:05
WED	2	2	6:07	7:23	12:36	3:23	4:04	5:47	7:05
THU	3	3	6:09	7:26	12:36	3:21	4:02	5:44	7:02
FRI	4	4	6:10	7:27	12:36	3:20	4:01	5:43	7:01
SAT	5	5	6:11	7:28	12:36	3:19	4:00	5:42	7:00
SUN	6	6	5:13	6:29	11:36	2:18	2:59	4:41	5:59
MON	7	7	5:14	6:31	11:36	2:17	2:58	4:40	5:58
TUE	8	8	5:15	6:32	11:36	2:16	2:57	4:39	5:57
WED	9	9	5:16	6:33	11:36	2:15	2:56	4:38	5:57
THU	10	10	5:17	6:34	11:36	2:14	2:55	4:37	5:56
FRI	11	11	5:18	6:36	11:36	2:14	2:54	4:36	5:55
SAT	12	12	5:19	6:37	11:36	2:13	2:53	4:35	5:54
SUN	13	13	5:20	6:38	11:37	2:12	2:52	4:34	5:53
MON	14	14	5:21	6:39	11:37	2:11	2:51	4:33	5:52
TUE	15	15	5:22	6:40	11:37	2:11	2:50	4:32	5:52
WED	16	16	5:23	6:42	11:37	2:10	2:49	4:31	5:51
THU	17	17	5:23	6:42	11:37	2:10	2:49	4:31	5:51
FRI	18	18	5:25	6:44	11:37	2:09	2:48	4:29	5:50
SAT	19	19	5:26	6:45	11:38	2:08	2:47	4:29	5:49
SUN	20	20	5:27	6:46	11:38	2:08	2:46	4:28	5:49
MON	21	21	5:28	6:48	11:38	2:07	2:46	4:27	5:48
TUE	22	22	5:29	6:49	11:38	2:07	2:45	4:27	5:48
WED	23	23	5:30	6:50	11:39	2:06	2:44	4:26	5:47
THU	24	24	5:31	6:51	11:39	2:06	2:44	4:26	5:47
FRI	25	25	5:32	6:52	11:39	2:05	2:43	4:25	5:46
SAT	26	26	5:33	6:53	11:40	2:05	2:43	4:24	5:46
SUN	27	27	5:34	6:55	11:40	2:05	2:42	4:24	5:46
MON	28	28	5:35	6:56	11:40	2:04	2:42	4:24	5:45
TUE	29	29	5:36	6:57	11:41	2:04	2:42	4:23	5:45
WED	30	RABI I	5:37	6:58	11:41	2:04	2:41	4:23	5:45

Half hour after athan | Jumuah: 1:00 pm | Isha Iqama: 8:00

HIJRA LESSONS

By Sheikh Hassan Aly

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

Allah had given the order to his Messenger 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 to not be Muslim but knew the roads and shortcuts very well. The Prophet first ensured his trust-worthiness 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.

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. 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 Abu 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-Madinah) 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-Nadîr), 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 Mecca Center Community Night: Lessons from the Hijra Presented by Sh. Hassan Aly

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MILLENNIALS: WHY YOUR VOTE COUNTS

This Muslim has some stuff to report. Muslim Millennials (or “M&Ms of many colors”): Your. Vote. Is. Impactful. Muslim-American voters, between the ages of 18 to 34-ish make up about 35 percent of Muslim-American potential voters, according to the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding #ISPUpoll. This is larger than our other Abrahamic faith-based groups in the U.S. You are part of one of the fastest growing voter bases in this country:

By 2050, according to Pew, the Muslim share of the population should more than double, surpassing the number of Jewish Americans (who are estimated to decline to 1.4 percent from 1.8 percent now) and double the number of Hindus. ~Five Thirty-Eight Polling on Muslim Americans on October 11, 2016

Organizers like, Linda Sarsour of [MPower Change](#) recognize this, which is one of the reasons the [#MyMuslimVote](#) campaign will continue to grow every election cycle.

[#MyMuslimVote Mobilizing Before Voting Signals Power](#)

On October 1st, [The Mecca Center](#) organized a [Candidates' Forum](#) we discussed hate crimes legislation and expanding the use of body cameras for Dupage County police. Our packed assembly listened to the candidates, which signaled that our community organizes, listens, and then JUDGES by voting. Later, the organizers asked each candidate how he or she will protect [#muslim-american](#) civil liberties in our county, district, and state.

- [PITACustomer](#) [@PITACustomer](#) Oct 10 [#myMuslimVote](#) will hold politicians accountable for perpetuating Islamophobia.
- [ajbara](#) [@ajbara](#) Oct 1 Will Mr. Hose lead efforts to increase funding for Immigrant & Refugee immigrant integration services in the IL State budget? [#MyMuslimVote](#)

As Ahlam Jbara's tweets demonstrate: voting holds incumbents accountable if newer candidates offer better ways to manage state resources.

[#MyMuslimVote Means #MuslimsReportStuff](#)

Some argue that unless you live in a swing-state, your single vote does not count. But they dismiss the power of voting in local and state officials—down ballot candidates—and holding them accountable, like this disenfranchised voter:

- [@ZikrZico](#) 9h9 hours ago None of the fools in this election deserve [#MyMuslimVote](#)

And for every frustrated or cynical reason to avoid voting, there are two more reasons to vote, as tweeted by civil rights activist, Zahra Billo:

- I pledge to vote. I pledge to **raise my voice**. I pledge to **be part of the solution**. #cair2vote #mymuslimvote
- @lenakasi31: Showing **we care about the issues** - listening to congressional candidates #meccacenter #mymuslimvot

So let's discuss why yours and #MyMuslimVote are impactful on down ballot candidates.

1. Voting in the RIGHT county official means that you position yourself against poor zoning decisions that challenge your community institution, school, shelter, and/or mosque. Remember Murfeesboro, Tennessee?

HuffPost Religion Verified account (@HuffPostRelig) 30 Nov 2012 The long journey of confronting anti-Muslim sentiment and building a mosque in Murfeesboro, TN <http://huff.to/115WUuX>

2. Voting in the RIGHT circuit court judge means that you control how many uninformed, or Islamophobic, officials rule unfairly in small claims and traffic court. "Driving While Black"?

3. Voting in the RIGHT state legislator means that you protect you and your neighbors from gerrymandering: redistricting communities, which tend to misrepresent the exact political, social, and ethnic makeup in a voting district. Look at a map of Illinois and visit District 5 or District 6.

Millennials contribute so much of their time and money toward noteworthy causes. Why not close the loop on your contributions and elect candidates that reflect your values and work towards your causes?

Early voting begins October 24th at early polling locations, like Downers Grove Village Hall. But if you can't take off work until November 8th, then look up your polling location here. If you missed the voter registration deadline, Illinois ruled that same day registration is permitted. If you miss both of these chances to voice your vote, then I do not want to hear you voice your complaint about whomever wins.

Mehrunisa Qayyum
International Development & Policy Consultant; Founder of PITAPOLICY Consulting
DuPage County Election Judge





Mecca

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**JOB
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The Mecca Center is Hiring a Youth Coordinator

The responsibility of the Youth Coordinator is to provide development, coordination and oversight of youth services, and to build a positive youth program. He or she must integrate recreational and artistic activities with educational and spiritual components and provide leadership to youth, including but not limited to tutoring and mentorship programs, community service, education and cultural programs.

For more details about the responsibilities and job requirements please visit our website: <http://meccacenter.org/jobs/>
Please Submit resumes to Haniatassi68@gmail.com



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MECCA BOARD ELECTIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

TIME: 6PM - 8 PM

PLACE: MECCA CENTER (720 PLAINFIELD RD)

FOUR (4) BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED

NO PROXY ALLOWED

*Mecca members are urged to attend the
general meeting and VOTE*

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 312-771-6551