



Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2016 – RABI AWWAL 1437 - ISSUE 18

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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 for your continued generosity and support as we get closer to opening the new Mecca Center, insha'Allah. Alhamdulillah, we are very close to completing the construction process, but in order for us to move into the new by the end of 2016, we must raise additional funds to finish construction of our new center.

The new Mecca Center will offer our community spacious facilities for prayers, halaqas, classes, lectures, meetings, interfaith and social gatherings, and sports programs. By the grace of Allah Subhanahu wa tala and your loyal generosity and support, we have come a long way. Our community has grown greatly over the years and we continue to grow with you. Our intention is to have our new masjid be a great asset to the community, insha'Allah.

We are asking for your help again. Please give generously; \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$100 or any amount you can afford. This is the perfect time to fulfill pledges and make your end of the year donations. Please keep this beautiful hadith close to your heart and know that your generosity will provide certainty to your place in Paradise:

“Whoever builds a Mosque for Allah as small as a bird’s nest, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise.” - Prophet Muhammad, God’s blessings and peace be upon him

May Allah Subhanahu wa tala reward you all in this life and the hereafter for your generous donations and good deeds. May he continue to bless your families and our growing community.

Wassalamu Alaikum,

M.A. Hamadeh, MD

President

Narrated 'Uqba bin 'Amir:

The Prophet (ﷺ) went out and offered the funeral prayer for the martyrs of the (battle of) Uhud and then ascended the pulpit and said, "I am your predecessor and I am a witness against you. By Allah, I am now looking at my Tank-lake (Al-Kauthar) and I have been given the keys of the treasures of the earth (or the keys of the earth). By Allah! I am not afraid that after me you will worship others besides Allah, but I am afraid that you will start competing for (the pleasures of) this world." (Al-Bukhari)

Day	Dec	Hijri	Fajr	Sunrise	Zuhr	Asr-Shafi	Asr-Hanafi	Maghrib	Isha
اليوم	كانون الأول	هجري	الفجر	الشروق	الظهر	العصر / شافعي	العصر / حنفي	المغرب	العشاء
THU	1	2	5:38	6:59	11:41	2:04	2:41	4:23	5:45
FRI	2	3	5:39	7:00	11:42	2:03	2:41	4:22	5:45
SAT	3	4	5:40	7:01	11:42	2:03	2:41	4:22	5:44
SUN	4	5	5:41	7:02	11:42	2:03	2:40	4:22	5:44
MON	5	6	5:41	7:03	11:43	2:03	2:40	4:22	5:44
TUE	6	7	5:42	7:04	11:43	2:03	2:40	4:22	5:44
WED	7	8	5:43	7:05	11:44	2:03	2:40	4:21	5:44
THU	8	9	5:44	7:06	11:44	2:03	2:40	4:21	5:44
FRI	9	10	5:45	7:07	11:45	2:03	2:40	4:21	5:45
SAT	10	11	5:45	7:07	11:45	2:03	2:40	4:22	5:45
SUN	11	12	5:46	7:08	11:46	2:04	2:40	4:22	5:45
MON	12	13	5:47	7:09	11:46	2:04	2:40	4:22	5:45
TUE	13	14	5:48	7:10	11:46	2:04	2:41	4:22	5:45
WED	14	15	5:48	7:11	11:47	2:04	2:41	4:22	5:46
THU	15	16	5:49	7:11	11:47	2:05	2:41	4:22	5:46
FRI	16	17	5:49	7:11	11:47	2:05	2:41	4:22	5:46
SAT	17	18	5:50	7:13	11:48	2:05	2:42	4:23	5:47
SUN	18	19	5:51	7:13	11:49	2:06	2:42	4:23	5:47
MON	19	20	5:51	7:14	11:49	2:06	2:42	4:24	5:47
TUE	20	21	5:52	7:15	11:50	2:07	2:43	4:24	5:48
WED	21	22	5:52	7:15	11:50	2:07	2:43	4:25	5:48
THU	22	23	5:53	7:16	11:51	2:08	2:44	4:25	5:49
FRI	23	24	5:53	7:16	11:51	2:08	2:44	4:26	5:49
SAT	24	25	5:54	7:17	11:52	2:09	2:45	4:26	5:50
SUN	25	26	5:54	7:17	11:52	2:09	2:46	4:27	5:51
MON	26	27	5:55	7:17	11:53	2:10	2:46	4:27	5:51
TUE	27	28	5:55	7:18	11:53	2:11	2:47	4:28	5:52
WED	28	29	5:55	7:18	11:54	2:11	2:48	4:29	5:52
THU	29	30	5:55	7:18	11:54	2:12	2:48	4:30	5:53
FRI	30	1	5:56	7:18	11:55	2:13	2:49	4:30	5:54
SAT	31	2	5:56	7:18	11:55	2:13	2:49	4:30	5:54

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

ARE WE THANKFUL?

As Muslims, it is our foremost duty to do Shukr to Allah. We can read the word Shukr many times in Quran, which means the consideration of the favor and its acknowledgment. Ash-Shakur is one of Allah's beautiful names which mean according to imam Al Ghazali: "the one who expresses thankfulness by rewarding bounteously". Shukr could also be the quality of human beings which means the recognition and the appreciation of the favor. Shukr is used in the Qur'an sometimes as equivalent to faith. The faithful are thankful people and the unfaithful are ungrateful people. Allah has described His prophets and messengers among those who were thankful people. Prophet Noah was a grateful servant of Allah: "Verily, he was a grateful slave" (Al-Israa' 17:3). Prophet Abraham used to thank Allah for His many blessings: "He was thankful for Allâh's Favors" (Al-Nahl 16:121). Prophet David and his family were told to be grateful to Allah: "'Work you, O family of Dâwud (David), with thanks!" But few of My slaves are grateful" (Saba' 34:13). Allah told His Prophet Muhammad: (Nay, but worship Allah, and be of those who give thanks) (Az-Zumar 39:66). Allah also promised: "And swiftly shall We reward those that who are thankful" (Aal `Imran 3:145).

Thanksgiving in Islam, is not an act or service; it is the whole life. The first thing we say ones we wake up in the morning is "Praise be to Allah Who has brought us back to life after causing us to die, and unto Him is the resurrection)." (Al-Bukhaari). The last thing we say before we go to bed is: "All praise is for Allah, Who fed us and gave us to drink, and Who is sufficient for us and has sheltered us, for how many have none to suffice them or shelter them." (Muslim).

Whenever we put on any new garment, we say, "O Allah, thanks be to You; You gave us this to wear. We ask You to give us the good of this dress and the good for which it is made and we ask You to protect us from the evil of this dress and from the evil of that for which it is made" (At-Tirmidhi). Our daily Prayers, our fasting during Ramadan, our zakah and Hajj are all our acts of thanksgiving. We should remember that we all are constantly under Allah's favors and blessings. Allah has promised that He will increase the blessings that have already been given to us, only if we are thankful to him: "And remember when your Lord proclaimed, if you are grateful, I will add more (favors) unto you; but if ye show ingratitude, truly My torment is terrible indeed." (Ibrahim 14:7)

Ibn al-Qayyim said in Madarij al-Salikeen: "Gratitude is based on five foundations: Humility of the thankful one towards the One Who is thanked, his love for Him, his acknowledgement of His blessing, his praise of Him for that and not using it for anything that He hates. These five are the foundations of gratitude which is built on them. If one of them is missing, then one of the foundations of gratitude is missing."

We should also thank our parents, our spouses, our brothers and sisters, our neighbors....etc.

Our beloved prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "Those who do not thank people, they do not thank Allah" (At-Tirmidhi).

And Allah knows best,

Sheikh Hassan Aly

الشُّكْرُ





MECCA CENTER JOINS DUPAGE UNITED FALL ASSEMBLY FOR CIVIC ACTION



The Mecca Center recently participated in DuPage United's Fall Assembly: Solidarity in Action - Treatment, Not Incarceration on November 17 at the Islamic Center of Naperville. As part of the continuing DuPage United "We the People" Solidarity Campaign, the over 600-person strong assembly pressed for expanded mental health resources for law enforcement and families.

The event recognized law enforcement officials for their leadership in expanding Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) efforts while providing updates on funding for and the construction of crisis diversion centers in partnership with local businesses, hospitals and health agencies to serve as cost efficient, life-saving alternatives to incarceration. Organizers of the event also announced a new refugee organizing strategy with the entire group recommitting themselves to solidarity.

The diverse group of DuPage County residents also expressed a commitment to each other, or rather a pledge, to stand, act and protect each other. They firmly stood against hate towards minorities and Muslims and promised to act promptly when and if an incident occurs.

Without collective power, exercised democratically and non-partisanly, we cannot protect the life and liberties of all our families. The Mecca Center and the leaders of DuPage United urge you to attend these important events and act now to ensure all DuPage families are heard, seen and protected. The more people that can be there to make moments like these happen, the more powerful our collective voices can be.



DONALD TRUMP WILL BE OUR PRESIDENT

A response from Mona Hagmagid, student at University of Pennsylvania:

I love my father for many reasons, but one of them is that he always has and continues to guide me through moments that are really hard to process. Tonight, I called him needing healing and comfort. He reminded me of the story of the Prophet (saw) and Abu Bakr (ra) in the cave of Thawr together, and Abu Bakr (ra) was so scared because the enemy was right outside. The Prophet (saw) told him that though they were two, Allah (swt) was their third. Our Prophet Muhammad (saw) went through extreme suffering, far greater than what many of us can imagine, and he is now the beloved leader of one of the largest, most diverse faiths on the planet. He was taken to heaven and promised his place in it because he worked tirelessly to make the world a better place, and to promote justice to everyone. All the while Allah (swt) was by his side. Change has never happened in this country simply by submitting a ballot and hoping it all works out for the better. Systematic and meaningful change requires work, and resources.

Change is strategic and purposeful, change occurs when people decide to take a chance and sacrifice their time and energy for the sake of Allah (swt). Change begins in our masajid, our schools, in our MSAs and in our households. Change takes to the streets and to the microphones and to the publishing houses. Change is continuous and it is tiring. Sometimes change doesn't even show herself until years after the tears and sweat have dried, and bodies have decomposed. We do not live our lives for The Change. It is the process and the purity in struggling for it that brings us closer to Allah (swt). The ballots we cast today only decided what battles we will be fighting for the next four years, not who wins them. Let's move.



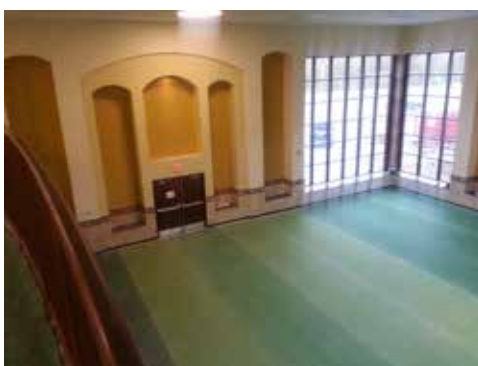
JOB OPENINGS

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

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Mecca Center construction is in its final phase with all areas near completion.

Landscaping is projected to be complete by November 19.

Final touches to the building are being completed, as the carpet for the Prayer Hall is enroute from Turkey and the chandelier, light fixtures and basement columns are under production in Egypt.

Both floors of the new Mecca Center are complete with only minor work to be done.

The banquet hall in the basement is nearly complete with carpets, lights and columns coming from Egypt and monitors to be installed.

The kitchen is nearly complete and all equipment is being tested and commissioned.

All bathrooms are complete with only fixtures needing to be installed.

The gym's wood flooring is being installed and still needs to be grinded, polished and stained and gym equipment is being delivered.

LED monitor screens are being ordered for the entire building, and wifi system is being installed, tested and commissioned soon.

Construction and the certificate of occupancy will likely be complete by the end of the year for the grand opening of the new Mecca Center, insha'Allah.

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MECCA BOARD 2016 ELECTION RESULTS



Alhamdulillah, the Mecca Center Board Election was held on November 18 at the Mecca Center. The needed quorum was fifty-seven (57) members; seventy-eight (78) Mecca members attended and casted their votes. Four candidates, out of six, were elected:

- Omar Dweydari
- Amer Sassila
- Shakir Moiduddin
- Anwar Choudhry

The counting of votes was done in the open, more than 8 people were involved in the counting and many others were watching. It was a very open and transparent process. Please help us welcome our new Mecca Center board members.