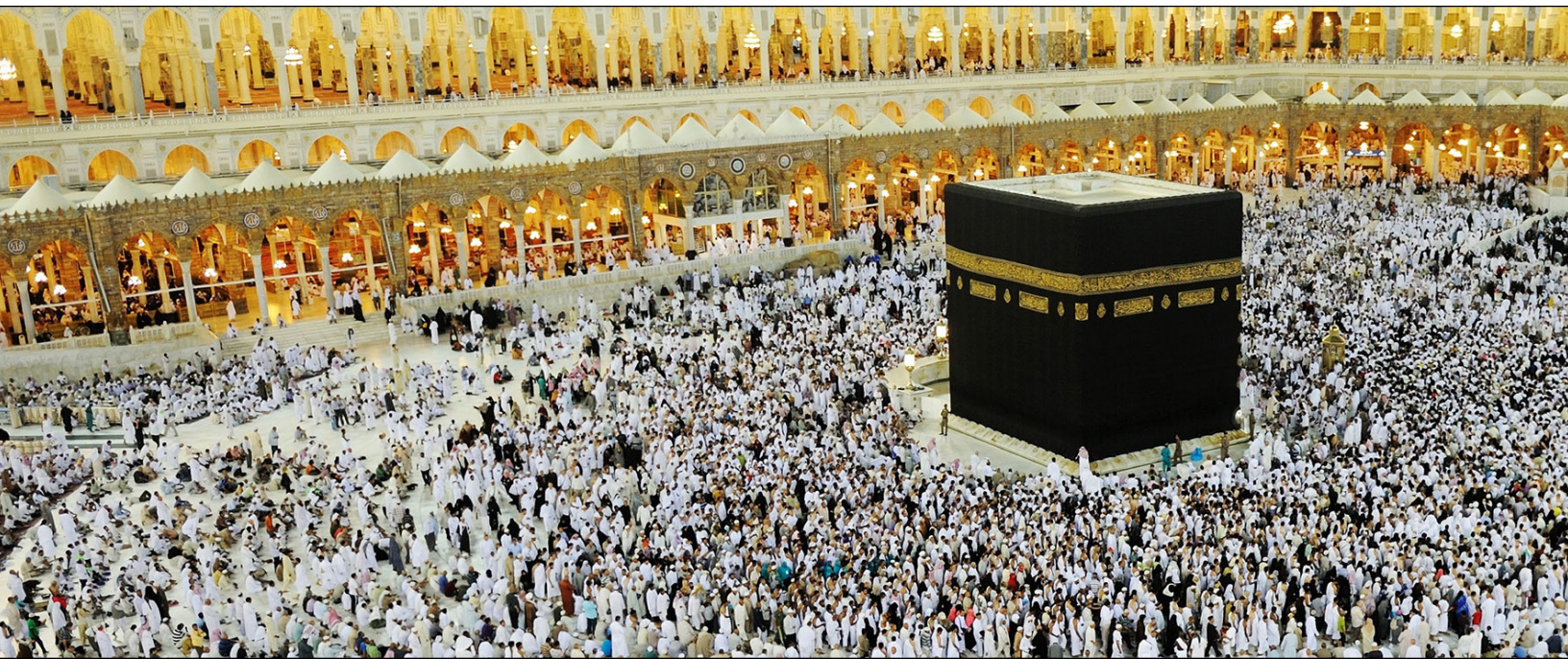




# MECCA CENTER NEWSLETTER

August 2019 | Dhul Qadah 1440 - Muharram 1441 | Issue 46

[www.meccacenter.org](http://www.meccacenter.org)



## *The First 10 Days of Dhul-Hijjah: Virtue, Righteous Deeds, and Joy*

*By Sheikh Hassan Aly, Imam & Religious Director, The Mecca Center*

All thanks and praise is due to Allah, I bear witness there is no God but Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His Messenger.

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said: “There is no deed that is better in the sight of Allah (swt) or more greatly rewarded than a good deed done in the (first) ten days of Al-Adha” Sahih Al-Bukhari. In surat Al-Fajr, Allah (swt) swears an oath by the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah: “By the dawn (1); By the ten nights (i.e. the first ten days of the month of Dhul-Hijjah) (2)”

The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah carry special status among the days of the year. Just like the last ten nights of Ramadan are the best ten nights out of the year, these first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are the best days of the year and the most beloved to Allah (swt) as they combine acts of worship in a way unlike any other time in the year. During these days, millions of Muslims from all over the world are performing the fifth pillar of Islam (Hajj). Hajj and its rites were first ordained by Allah (swt) in the time of the Prophet Ibraaheem [Abraham] (as) and he was the one who was entrusted by Allah to build the Ka’ba – the House of Allah – along with his son Ismaa’eel [Ishmael] at Makkah.

“And remember when We showed Ibraaheem the site of the [Sacred] House [saying]: Associate not anything [in worship with Me and purify My House for those who circumambulate it [i.e. perform

*Continued on page 7*



# THE MECCA CENTER

## PRAYER SCHEDULE

### August 2019 Prayer Times | Dhul Qadah 1440 - Muharram 1441

August	Dhul Qadah	Day	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
01	29	Thu	04:16 AM	05:45 AM	12:59 PM	06:02 PM	08:10 PM	09:41 PM
August	Dhul Hijjah	Day						
02	1	Fri	04:17 AM	05:46 AM	12:59 PM	06:01 PM	08:09 PM	09:40 PM
03	2	Sat	04:19 AM	05:47 AM	12:58 PM	06:00 PM	08:08 PM	09:38 PM
04	3	Sun	04:20 AM	05:48 AM	12:58 PM	05:59 PM	08:07 PM	09:36 PM
05	4	Mon	04:22 AM	05:49 AM	12:58 PM	05:59 PM	08:06 PM	09:35 PM
06	5	Tue	04:23 AM	05:50 AM	12:58 PM	05:58 PM	08:04 PM	09:33 PM
07	6	Wed	04:25 AM	05:51 AM	12:58 PM	05:57 PM	08:03 PM	09:32 PM
08	7	Thu	04:26 AM	05:52 AM	12:58 PM	05:56 PM	08:02 PM	09:30 PM
09	8	Fri	04:27 AM	05:53 AM	12:58 PM	05:55 PM	08:01 PM	09:28 PM
10	9	Sat	04:29 AM	05:54 AM	12:58 PM	05:55 PM	07:59 PM	09:26 PM
11	10	Sun	04:30 AM	05:55 AM	12:57 PM	05:54 PM	07:58 PM	09:25 PM
12	11	Mon	04:32 AM	05:56 AM	12:57 PM	05:53 PM	07:57 PM	09:23 PM
13	12	Tue	04:33 AM	05:57 AM	12:57 PM	05:52 PM	07:55 PM	09:21 PM
14	13	Wed	04:34 AM	05:58 AM	12:57 PM	05:51 PM	07:54 PM	09:19 PM
15	14	Thu	04:36 AM	05:59 AM	12:57 PM	05:50 PM	07:52 PM	09:18 PM
16	15	Fri	04:37 AM	06:00 AM	12:57 PM	05:49 PM	07:51 PM	09:16 PM
17	16	Sat	04:39 AM	06:01 AM	12:56 PM	05:48 PM	07:49 PM	09:14 PM
18	17	Sun	04:40 AM	06:03 AM	12:56 PM	05:47 PM	07:48 PM	09:12 PM
19	18	Mon	04:41 AM	06:04 AM	12:56 PM	05:46 PM	07:46 PM	09:10 PM
20	19	Tue	04:43 AM	06:05 AM	12:56 PM	05:45 PM	07:45 PM	09:09 PM
21	20	Wed	04:44 AM	06:06 AM	12:55 PM	05:44 PM	07:43 PM	09:07 PM
22	21	Thu	04:45 AM	06:07 AM	12:55 PM	05:42 PM	07:42 PM	09:05 PM
23	22	Fri	04:47 AM	06:08 AM	12:55 PM	05:41 PM	07:40 PM	09:03 PM
24	23	Sat	04:48 AM	06:09 AM	12:55 PM	05:40 PM	07:39 PM	09:01 PM
25	24	Sun	04:49 AM	06:10 AM	12:54 PM	05:39 PM	07:37 PM	08:59 PM
26	25	Mon	04:51 AM	06:11 AM	12:54 PM	05:38 PM	07:36 PM	08:57 PM
27	26	Tue	04:52 AM	06:12 AM	12:54 PM	05:37 PM	07:34 PM	08:55 PM
28	27	Wed	04:53 AM	06:13 AM	12:53 PM	05:35 PM	07:32 PM	08:54 PM
29	28	Thu	04:55 AM	06:14 AM	12:53 PM	05:34 PM	07:31 PM	08:52 PM
30	29	Fri	04:56 AM	06:15 AM	12:53 PM	05:33 PM	07:29 PM	08:50 PM
August	Muharram	Day						
31	1	Sat	04:57 AM	06:16 AM	12:53 PM	05:32 PM	07:28 PM	08:48 PM

### Iqama Times

#### Fajr

30 minutes after Adhan

#### Dhuhr

1:15 PM

#### Asr

Aug. 1-3: 6:15 PM  
Aug. 4-22: 6:00 PM  
Aug. 23-31: 5:45 PM

#### Maghrib

2 Rak'as after Adhan

#### Isha

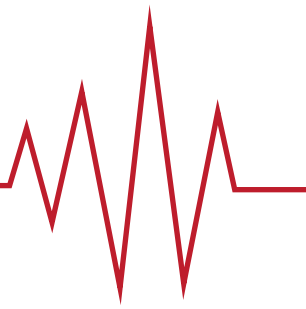
5 minutes after Adhan

#### Jummah

Friday prayer  
always at 1:00 PM

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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: AMRO KUDSSI

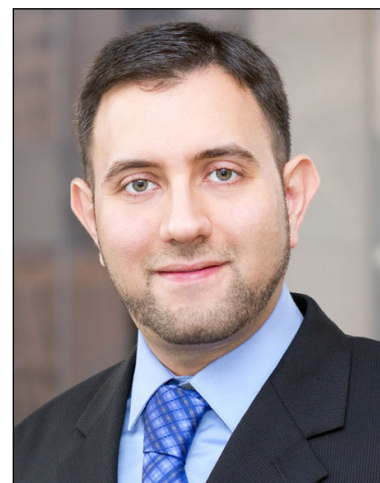
The Mecca Center is recognizing volunteers in the Mecca Center community with a Volunteer Spotlight for those who are making a difference. Volunteers featured in the Spotlight are individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in giving their time, efforts, and dedication to Mecca Center community. This month, we recognize Br. Amro Kudssi.

Amro Kudssi is the IT manager for all Mecca Center software based platforms including the meccacenter.org website, internal Mecca Center business management software platforms, in addition to The Mecca Center mobile app and its backend.

Amro was part of our community since he moved to Chicago in 2003. He has volunteered for various masjid IT activities for over 5 years now.

Professionally, Amro has a BS in Computer engineering from Aleppo University, Syria and MSc. in Software Engineering from DePaul University in Chicago. He works as a VP lead engineer at JPMorgan Chase Merchant Services where he leads the development of major payment processing platforms. Throughout his career, Amro has designed, built, and operated several releases including five major software platforms. Amro has 2 pending US utility patents, was selected to be an Expert Engineer at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., and is also the current president of the Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects (AAAEA), Illinois chapter.

Amro enjoys swimming, gardening, and traveling. Most importantly he loves the community and Allah SWT. Amro resides in Westmont, Illinois with his wife Juman and three children, Naya, Nour, and Rashad.



## Want to nominate a community member for Volunteer Spotlight?

Please e-mail [info@meccacenter.org](mailto:info@meccacenter.org) with the name and contact of the community member being nominated as well as a short description of their volunteer efforts for The Mecca Center. We welcome all submissions!



## Mecca Quran Institute: Sahib Al Quran

The Mecca Quran Institute (MQI) Sahib Al Quran program recently began its first productive week as students worked on memorizing Quran and attended spiritual lectures about Quran. They also had their first competition where boys and girls went head to head to make the best fruit platter. While the girls won the fruit platter competition, the boys can't wait for their next challenge of "cake war" to show their talent.

The MQI Sahib Al Quran program aims to help create a generation of Huffadh of the Holy Quran (individuals who have memorized the entire Quran by heart) who will be role models for their peers and carry the responsibility and the honor of passing on the Quran to coming generations. Learn more at [meccacenter.org/sahib-al-quran](http://meccacenter.org/sahib-al-quran).

# Register for The Mecca Center Sunday School

The Mecca Center Sunday School 2019-2020 school year will begin on Sunday, September 8, 2019. All registration is online and will run until August 31, 2019 (or until capacity is reached). Space is limited. The tuition, which includes textbooks, is \$600 for the first child, \$550 for the second child, \$500 for the third child, etc.

Learn more and register for The Mecca Center Sunday School at [meccacenter.org/sundayschool](http://meccacenter.org/sundayschool).



## *Complete our Special Needs Weekend School Program Interest Form*

Alhamdulillah, The Mecca Center is committed to supporting and partnering with MUHSEN in their efforts to help families with Special Needs. MUHSEN, Muslims Understanding and Helping Special Education Needs, certifies Masajid which work towards accommodating special needs community members.

We would like to know the requirements of Special Needs Families in our community. If you have a family member with Special Needs, or if you know of a family in our community who has a family member with special needs, please share this publication or the survey link with them. All responses are confidential.

Please complete the Special Needs Weekend School Program Interest Form by visiting our website at [meccacenter.org/special-needs](http://meccacenter.org/special-needs).

**Advertise in the Mecca Center Monthly Newsletter • Contact [info@meccacenter.org](mailto:info@meccacenter.org)**



The Mecca Center has received **Silver Certification** from MUHSEN (Muslims Understanding and Helping Special Education Needs) for our commitment to serving the needs of our diverse membership.

tawaaf] and those who stand up for prayer and those who bow down and make prostration [in prayer etc.].” [Surah Al-Hajj 22:26]. Then Allah Almighty ordered them to invite people to Hajj: “And proclaim to mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (to perform Hajj).” [Surah Al-Hajj 22:27]

My dear respected brothers and sisters, this is a great season of blessings and Barakat, a great season of seeking Allah’s forgiveness and mercy. In surat Al-Imran, Allah (swt) said: “March forth in the way (which leads to) forgiveness from your Lord, and for Paradise as wide as are the heavens and the earth, prepared for Al-Muttaqûn (the pious). (133) Those who spend [in Allah’s Cause] in prosperity and in adversity, who repress anger, and who pardon men; verily, Allah loves Al-Muhsinûn (the good-doers). (134) And those who, when they have committed Fahishah (illegal sexual intercourse) or wronged themselves with evil, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins; and none can forgive sins but Allah – and do not persist in what (wrong) they have done, while they know. (135) For such, the reward is forgiveness from their Lord, and Gardens with rivers flowing underneath (Paradise), wherein they shall abide forever. How excellent is this reward for the doers (who do righteous deeds according to Allah’s Orders). (136)”

Now, what deeds can we perform to attain the pleasure of Allah (swt) in the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah?

**Renew your Tawbah with sincere heart:** In surat Al-Qasas, Allah (swt) says: “But as for him who repented, believed, and did righteous deeds, then he will be among those who are successful.” **Fast the first nine days and especially the ninth ‘The Day of ‘Arafah’:** The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said in sahih Al-Bukhari and Muslim: “Anyone who fasts for one day for Allah’s pleasure, Allah will keep his face away from the (Hell) fire for (a distance covered by a journey of) seventy years.” Also he (saw) said in Sahih Muslim: “Fasting the Day of ‘Arafah (ninth of Dhul-Hijjah) is an expiation for (all the sins of) the previous year and expiation for (all the sins of) the coming year.”

**Offer Du’aa on the Day of ‘Arafah:** It was narrated from ‘Abd-Allaah ibn ‘Amr ibn al-‘Aas that the Prophet (saw) said: “The best of du’aa is du’aa on the day of ‘Arafah, and the best that I and the Prophets before me said is ‘Laa ilaaha ill-Allaah wahdahu la shareeka lah, lahu’l-mulk wa lahu’l-hamd wa huwa ‘ala kulli shay’ in qadeer (There is no god but Allah alone, with no partner or associate; His is the dominion, to Him be praise, and He has power over all things).” Narrated by al-Tirmidhi. **Qiyam at night:** Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) said: “You should pray qiyaam al-layl, for it is the custom of the righteous who came before you and it brings you closer to your Lord, and expiates sins and prevents misdeeds.” **Perform Takbeer and remember Allah:** Al-Bukhari narrated that Ibn ‘Umar and Abu Hurayrah used to go out in the marketplace during the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, reciting Takbeer, and the people would recite Takbeer when they heard them.

**Sacrifice an animal and distribute the meat:** It was narrated in Saheeh al-Bukhaari and Muslim that Anas ibn Maalik said: “The Prophet (saw) sacrificed two white rams speckled with black. He slaughtered them with his own hand, said ‘Allahu Akbar’ and put his foot on their necks.” Also, Ahmed narrated that Ibn Umar said: “The Prophet lived in Madina for ten years and every year he slaughtered an animal.” My dear brothers and sisters, let us hasten to make the most of these great days. I ask Allah (SWT) to accept our prayers, our fasts, our du’aa, and our acts of good and to keep this momentum of Ibadah going throughout our lives. May Allah bring joy, peace, and happiness to all of us. Oh Allah, to you only we ask for help and guidance as you have power over all things.

*Eid Mubarak!*



A group of smiling children, mostly of African descent, are holding clear plastic bags filled with fresh, raw meat. The children are dressed in colorful, patterned clothing. The background is slightly blurred, showing more children and a blue and white striped pattern.

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