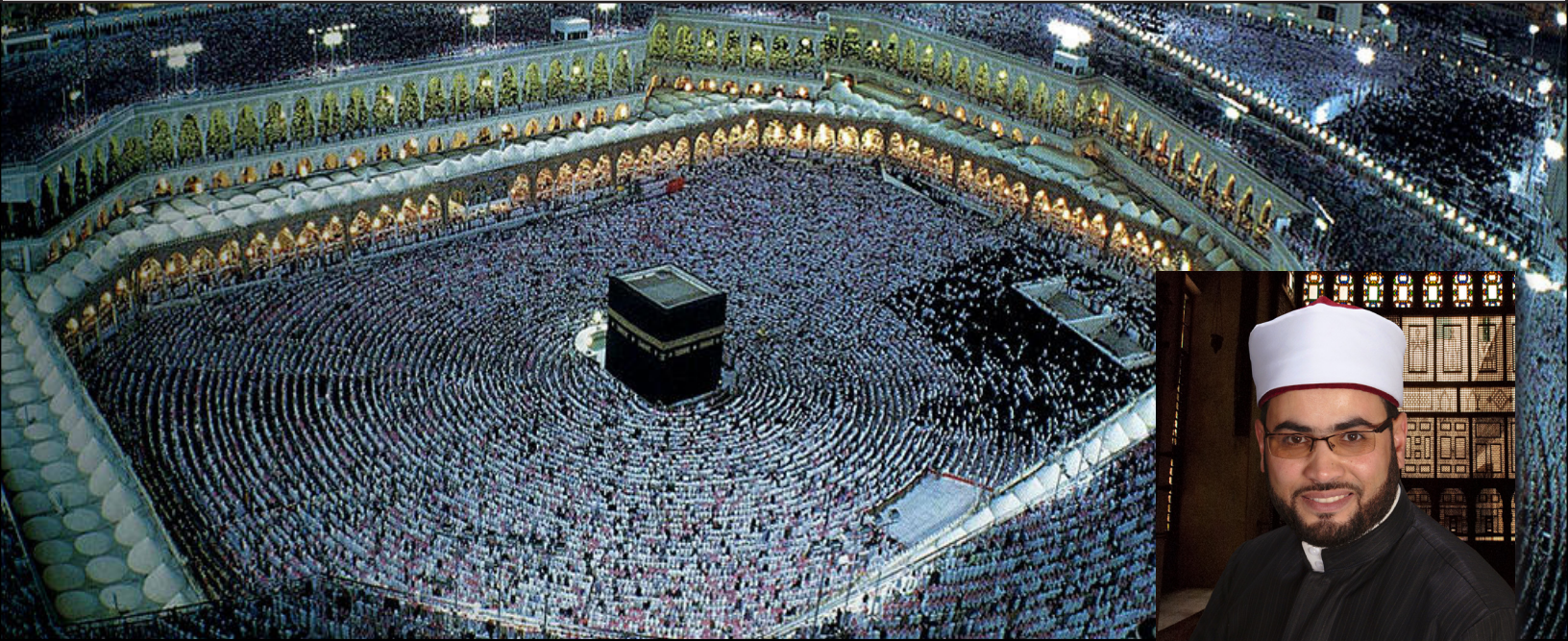




MECCA CENTER NEWSLETTER

April 2018 | Rajab 1439 - Shaban 1439 | Issue 32

www.meccacenter.org



Sh. Hassan Aly
Imam & Religious Director

Identity, Unity, & Submission: Lessons learned from changing the Qiblah

As-Salamu 'Alaikum Warahmatu Allah Wabarakatuh,

After the Migration of our beloved Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) from Mecca to Madina, he used to face Bayt al-Maqdis in his prayer, and that remained the case for sixteen or seventeen months, as in the hadeeth of al-Baraa' ibn 'Aazib, who said: "The Prophet (pbuh) prayed towards Bayt al-Maqdis for sixteen or seventeen months, and he was hoping that the Qiblah would be towards the House (i.e., the Ka'bah)..." Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

Later, in the month of Rajab or Sha'ban of the second year of the migration, Allah (swt) has commanded him to face the direction of the Ka'bah (the Sacred House at Mecca). Allah said: "... so turn your face in the direction of al-Masjid al-Haraam (at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction..." [Al-Baqarah 2:144]. Yet, there are many lessons we can learn from this unique occasion, like submission, unity, and identity.

When we Muslims hear of a command from Allah (swt), we must accept it and submit to it, even if the wisdom behind it is not clear to us, as this is the true meaning of Islam or submission. Allah (swt) says: "It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter, that they should have any option in their decision..." [Al-Ahzaab 33:36].

This is one of the fundamental qualities of the believer, which we can find it as a major theme repeated throughout the Qur'an: "Obey Allah and Obey the Messenger..." An unconditional and complete submission to their commands is the essence of being a Muslim. Changing the Qibla was also a test for the true believer, Allah (swt) has spoken of this in the Qur'an: "... And We made the Qiblah which you used to face, only to test those who followed the Messenger from those who would turn on their heels. Indeed it was great (heavy) except for those whom Allaah guided..." [al-Baqarah 2:143]

Continued on page 4



THE MECCA CENTER

PRAYER SCHEDULE

April 2018 Prayer Times | Rajab 1439 - Shaban 1439

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

Call to Prayer

Fajr
30 minutes after
Adhan

Dhuhr
1:15 PM

Asr
6:15 PM

Maghrib
5 minutes after
sunset

Isha
(1-7) 8:45 PM
(8-17) 9:00 PM
(18-30) 9:15 PM

Jummah
1:00 PM

The Mecca Center President's Message

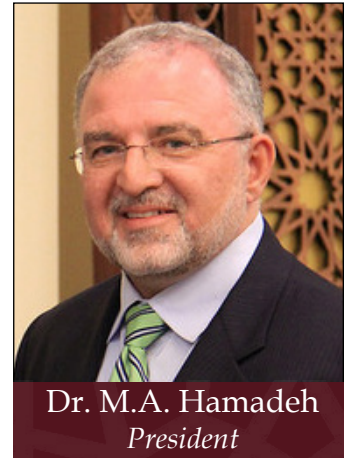
Serving the needs of our community

Asalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

I hope this message finds you and your family in the best of health and iman.

Spring is here and the Mecca Center is as active as it has ever been, alhamdulillah. In the past year, through the blessings of Allah (swt) and your continued support, our center has become a cornerstone in our community as a place worship but also a place to learn, grow, and raise our children for all members of our community.

Our goal is to serve the needs of our growing community and our recent Silver Certification from MUHSEN (Muslims Understanding and Helping Special Education Needs) is an example of our commitment to serving the needs our diverse membership. Alhamdulillah, we received the certification for our special needs accommodations, accessibility, and dedicated khutbahs to create awareness that is needed around special needs. However, we aim to do more and to achieve Gold Certification in the coming future, insha'Allah.



Dr. M.A. Hamadeh
President

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, "The best of men is the most beneficent of them to others," and we strive to follow in his example by serving the needs of our blessed community. If you or a family member requires special needs assistance or have questions about how the Mecca Center can accommodate your needs, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@meccacenter.org. We also encourage you to contact us with your general thoughts and suggestions about how the Mecca Center can best serve you.

As we get closer to our holy month of Ramadan, we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving current and future generations through nurturing programs and activities that bring us together and make the Mecca Center a cornerstone in our community's lives. We invite you to join us during this very special time as we prepare to celebrate the holy month with our growing community, insha'Allah. Thank you again for your continued support and Jazakum Allahu Khairan.

Wassalamu Alaikum,

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

Take our Special Needs Survey on our website and in our E-Newsletter
www.meccacenter.org



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

The Mecca Center Imam's Message

Continued from page 1

Allah (swt) does not give any command without there being great wisdom behind it – even if we do not understand it – as He says: “... That is the judgement of Allah. He judges between you. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.” [al-Mumtahinah 60:10]

The community of Madina was very new and unique community, people from different cultural backgrounds, different social classes and educational backgrounds, but despite all of this; they had one main cause to unite for: Allah (swt) and His beloved Prophet (pbuh). Allah says: “If you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have brought their hearts together; but Allah brought them together. Indeed, He is Exalted in Might and Wise.” [Al-Anfal 8: 63].

Coexistence instead of dependency and fusion should be the way of Muslims anywhere. We should avoid blind imitation of others, Muslims or non-Muslims. The Prophet (pbuh) said: “You will indeed follow the ways of those who came before you hand span by hand span, cubit by cubit, to the extent that if they entered the hole of a lizard, you will enter it too.” Allah (swt) says: “Thus We have made of you (true Muslims) a Wasat (just) (and the best) nation...” [al-Baqarah 2:143]. Some meanings of “Wasat” are justice and fairness with balance. So Allah (swt) has chosen for this us goodness in all things and the best commands and rules, and thus He chose for us the Qiblah of Ibraaheem (pbuh). And Allah knows best.

Sh. Hassan Aly
Imam & Religious Director

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The Mecca Center Sunday School *Springing Into Action*

Assalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

As the clocks moved forward and the spring season is upon us, the Mecca Center Sunday School students are springing into action in preparation for our annual Arabic Spelling Bee. The theme for this year's Arabic Spelling Bee list is the most common words used in the Quran, which is in conjunction with our Quran recitation curriculum, Al-Bidayah. Good luck to all participating students!

The Mecca Center Sunday School recently held a Girl Scout Cookies sale, which was organized by several of our current students. The proceeds raised from the sale will support the Care for Real Pantry, an organization that distributes items to Muslims in need, in addition to contributing to the making Ramadan baskets (Ramadan staples) that will be distributed to the refugees.



Insha'Allah the Mecca Center Sunday School will continue to serve our community to the fullest potential and to be a cornerstone in our lives. Jazakum Allahu Khayran for your continued support of our children's academic successes and in providing them tools to instill a sense of activism and leadership in our future youth, preparing them to become actively involved in the Mecca Center community and in the society as a whole.

Regards,

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



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The Mecca Center Quran Institute

Highlights from The Mecca Quran Institute

- Classes increase from 12 to 20 classes for youth and adults, boys and girls during the week
- Enrollment increased from 170 to 210

Recent Accomplishments

- Teacher expertise training seminars with Sheikh Ahmad
- Promotional video, MQI Program Booklet, MQI Facebook launch, and launching of three Sahib al Quran Hafiz classes - including beginners, intermediate, and advanced



Mecca Quran Institute holds “Fun Day”

March 5 was not the typical day for the Mecca Quran Institute students. It was a “Fun Day” that many students were anticipating. The sound of laughter and happiness could be heard throughout the Mecca Center.

“We wanted to have the Fun Day because we think our students deserved it,” said Tourkiah Kholoki, a Mecca Quran Institute teacher and one of the organizers. Kholoki said, “this event will definitely motivate and encourage the students on doing better with their lessons and reading practices.”

During the “Fun Day,” the students played a friendly dodge-ball tournament in the gym. There were also game stations set up for the students. The game station games included: scooter board racing, sack race, jump roping, and a cornhole toss game. Along with the games, there was a photo booth with options of silly props and accessories.

“The goal of the “Fun Day” was to show students that hard work really pays off, and that learning the Quran can be fun,” Tourkiah Kholoki said. “We want the students to feel the need to come back and continue learning.” Based on the smiles and laughter students and teachers had experienced, the “Fun Day” was a true success motivating students to work harder for the following year.

Upcoming Quran Institute Events

- Urdu class launch (telawa Quran 101)
- Continue teacher training seminars by Sheikh Ahmad

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	سيمونك لحمة	\$ 1.25
Cheese Pie	قطاير جبنة	\$ 1.00
Spinach Pie	قطاير سبانخ	\$ 1.25
Safha	صفحة شامية أو مضمورة	\$ 1.75
Musakhan	مسخن دجاج	\$ 1.55
Za'tar Pie	قطيرة زعتر	\$ 1.00
Chicken Roll	رول دجاج	\$ 1.50
Hot Dogs Roll	رول نقاق	\$ 2.00
Muhamara Pie	قطيرة 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, Tahini sauce, parmigiano 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 ——— بيري
\$45.00 \$90.00
Stuffed grape leaves and zucchini with rice and lamb.

Stuffed Cabbage ——— ملفوف بطن
\$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 بالدجاج
\$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 ——— مقنونة فلسطينية
\$40.00 \$80.00
Potatoes, cauliflower and carrots with rice topped with roasted chicken legs.

Entrée

Half Tray

Full Tray

Damascus's Makloubah ——— مقنونة 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 بالصينية
\$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 بالصلحن
\$35.00 \$70.00
Oven cooked beef with garlic topped with green peppers and tomatoes.

Lasagna ——— لازانيا بالخضار أو اللحمة
\$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 ——— معقونة الالفريدو 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 ——— بيرياني 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 أرمني باللحم
\$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 ——— معقونة سباغيتي بكرات اللحم
\$30.00 \$60.00
Spaghetti noodles, Italian seasoning, and tomato sauce with meatballs.



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MQI QURAN BLOSSOMS

New program for kids 3-5!

at the Mecca Center

DESCRIPTION

The MQI Quran Blossoms program is for children 3-5 years old and focuses on:

- Quran memorization
- Basic Arabic
- Islamic principles and etiquette

The goal by the end of this program is for students to memorize Juz Amma, inshaAllah.

The Quran Blossoms program will accommodate 15 children and 2 teachers per classroom. The program is led by Sister Mai Khairallah who serves as its Principal.

SCHEDULE

Half Day morning: 8:30am – 11:30am
Half Day afternoon: 12:30pm – 3:30pm
Full Day: 8:30am – 3:30pm

Screenings will be held on April 9 (first day of registration) and classes begin September 4, 2018.

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 9

The registration fee for full-time students is \$550 plus the last month of tuition (\$750) which are both due upon registration. Monthly tuition for full-time students is \$750.

The registration fee for part-time students is \$450 plus the last month of tuition (\$400) which are both due upon registration. Monthly tuition for part-time students is \$400.

Registration is first come, first-serve and will be held April 9, 2018 at the Mecca Center along with a screening of your child(ren).

MECCACENTER.ORG