



Newsletter

www.meccacenter.org



MARCH 2017 – JUMADA II 1438 - ISSUE 21

Narrated Muawiya bin Suwaid:

I heard Al-Bara' bin `Azib saying, "The Prophet (ﷺ) orders us to do seven things and prohibited us from doing seven other things." Then Al-Bara' mentioned the following:-- (1) To pay a visit to the sick (inquiring about his health), (2) to follow funeral processions, (3) to say to a sneezer, "May Allah be merciful to you" (if he says, "Praise be to Allah!"), (4) to return greetings, (5) to help the oppressed, (6) to accept invitations, (7) to help others to fulfill their oaths. (See Hadith No. 753, Vol. 7)

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.

I can not emphasize enough the importance of building our Islamic institutions through which we prepare our children to spread the great message of Islam by being examples of outstanding citizen; spreading compassion, mercy, not only here in our country but throughout the world. Given the challenges we face as Muslims, they will face great adversity in life so it is up to us to establish solid foundations for their future.

Today, we ask you to support the future of our next generation by helping us complete the task of building the center that will nurture our children and help secure for them a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow. Our goal is to create a future full of hope in which they will carry the light of Islam across our land, through their shining examples of kindness, manners, through a successful professional life.

Insha'Allah, by completing the construction of our center we take one more step towards this goal. There is no greater reward than building the house of Allah (swt) and enabling our community to secure the proper place for our children in this society as responsible citizens. As Allah-fearing, civically engaged, active participants in the affairs of our country, and proponents of social justice, our future generation will inherit an everlasting reward, in this life and in the hereafter.

Alhamdulillah, the construction of our new center is complete except for few outstanding items. Additional funds are needed to complete the payment of \$600,000 to the contractor and to pay \$1.2 million of loans from individuals, may Allah (swt) reward them tremendously for their generosity. I am hoping that you will help us reach our goal to have a commitment of at least a million dollars in order for us to complete our new center.

We have asked you many times in the past to donate your hard-earned money and you have always responded, and now is no exception. I know it is not easy, but this is the true jihad with your wealth, to pay when you are in need and from what is dear to you. We hope that we all get the honor of contributing to the building of the house of Allah (swt) and hope that we renew our commitment.

Wassalamu Alaikum,

M.A. Hamadeh, MD
President, Mecca Center

Day	Mar	Hijri	Fajr	Sunrise	Zuhr	Asr-Shaf	Asr-Hanafi	Maghrib	Isha
اليوم	آذار	هجري	الفجر	الشروق	الظهر	العصر / شافعي	العصر / حنفي	المغرب	العشاء
WED	1	2	5:09	6:25	12:04	3:13	3:59	5:43	7:00
THU	2	3	5:07	6:24	12:04	3:13	4:00	5:45	7:01
FRI	3	4	5:06	6:22	12:04	3:14	4:01	5:46	7:02
SAT	4	5	5:04	6:21	12:04	3:15	4:02	5:47	7:03
SUN	5	6	5:03	6:19	12:04	3:16	4:03	5:48	7:05
MON	6	7	5:01	6:17	12:03	3:16	4:04	5:49	7:06
TUE	7	8	4:59	6:16	12:03	3:17	4:05	5:50	7:07
WED	8	9	4:58	6:14	12:03	3:18	4:06	5:52	7:08
THU	9	10	4:56	6:12	12:03	3:19	4:07	5:53	7:09
FRI	10	11	4:54	6:11	12:02	3:19	4:08	5:54	7:10
SAT	11	12	4:53	6:09	12:02	3:20	4:09	5:55	7:12
SUN	12	13	5:51	7:07	1:02	4:21	5:10	6:56	8:13
MON	13	14	5:49	7:06	1:02	4:21	5:11	6:57	8:14
TUE	14	15	5:47	7:04	1:01	4:22	5:12	6:58	8:15
WED	15	16	5:46	7:02	1:01	4:22	5:13	7:00	8:16
THU	16	17	5:46	7:02	1:01	4:22	5:13	7:00	8:16
FRI	17	18	5:44	7:01	1:01	4:23	5:13	7:01	8:18
SAT	18	19	5:40	6:57	1:00	4:24	5:15	7:03	8:20
SUN	19	20	5:39	6:55	1:00	4:25	5:16	7:04	8:21
MON	20	21	5:37	6:54	1:00	4:25	5:17	7:05	8:22
TUE	21	22	5:35	6:52	12:59	4:26	5:18	7:06	8:24
WED	22	23	5:33	6:50	12:59	4:26	5:18	7:07	8:25
THU	23	24	5:31	6:49	12:59	4:27	5:19	7:08	8:26
FRI	24	25	5:29	6:47	12:58	4:28	5:20	7:10	8:27
SAT	25	26	5:28	6:45	12:58	4:28	5:21	7:11	8:28
SUN	26	27	5:26	6:43	12:58	4:29	5:22	7:12	8:30
MON	27	28	5:24	6:42	12:57	4:29	5:23	7:13	8:31
TUE	28	29	5:22	6:40	12:57	4:30	5:23	7:14	8:32
WED	29	RAJAB	5:20	6:38	12:57	4:30	5:24	7:15	8:34
THU	30	2	5:18	6:37	12:57	4:30	5:25	7:16	8:35
FRI	31	3	5:18	6:37	12:57	4:30	5:25	7:16	8:35



Sh. Hassan greets neighbors as they visit the new Mecca Center.

MESSAGE FROM THE IMAM

Islam & Religious Tolerance – Part II

By Sheikh Hassan Aly

One of the misconceptions about Islam is that Muslims are prohibited from making friends with people from other religions, while the truth is, this relates only to the people who were at war with the Muslims, which is actually the case in the modern laws of many countries. This is clearly stated in the Quran:

“Allah does not forbid you as regards those who do not fight you for religion, nor drive you forth from your homes, that you show them kindness and deal with them justly.” (60:8, 9)

“لَا يَنْهَىٰ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُم مِّن دِيَارِكُمْ أَنْ تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ”

This fact didn't change whether Muslims were the minority or majority, as we can see in the tolerance of Prophet Muḥammad (peace be upon him) and his companions at all times. Before Hijra when they were minority, after Hijra where they continued to be a minority for many years, and even when they got all the power on the conquest of Makka (faṭḥ Makkah) on the 8th year of Hijra.

In Makkah, and in spite of all the opposition and even physical torture that Muslims faced, they always approached the unbelievers with tolerance. In Sūrat al-Kāfirūn: “O you who do not believe! I worship not what you worship, and you are not worshipping what I worship.”

After the Hijra to Medina, Muslims found a large Jewish community in that city besides those who accepted Islam, but this did not bother them at all, instead, Prophet Muḥammad (peace be upon him) made a peace agreement with them and called them the people of the Scripture (ahlul kitab) and he was prepared to live

in peace with the followers of other religions, such as Judaism and Christianity.

In one of Prophet Muḥammad's letters to the leaders of other countries, he said: "I have conveyed the message and now it is up to you to accept it. Once again, peace be upon him who follows the true guidance."

وَقَدْ بَلَّغْتُ وَنُصِحتُ فَأَقْبَلُوا نُصِيحتِي وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ الْهُدَى

In the Treaty of 'Umar ibn Al-Khattāb to the people of Jerusalem he said:

“This is the assurance of safety which the servant of God, Umar, the Commander of the Faithful, has given to the people of Jerusalem. He has given them an assurance of safety for themselves for their property, their churches, their crosses, the sick and healthy of the city and for all the rituals which belong to their religion. Their churches will not be inhabited by Muslims and will not be destroyed. Neither they, nor the land, on which they stand, nor their cross, nor their property will be damaged.”


Roderic H. Davison, a prominent Western historian of the Ottoman Empire who taught at George Washington University from 1947 to 1993, writes:

"It might in fact have been argued that the Turks were less unjust of their subject people than were Prussians of the Poles, the English of the Irish, or the Americans of the Africans - There is evidence to show that in this period {late 19th century}, there was emigration from independent Greece into the Ottoman Empire, since some Greeks found the Ottoman government more tolerant master {than their own Greek government}.



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Come join us

When? Saturdays 5-7 PM Session 5-6:15 PM Open Gym 6:15-7 PM	Who? High School & College Ladies	Where? The Mecca Center 16W560 91st St, Willowbrook, IL Women's Prayer Area Upstairs	How? Register Here https://tinyurl.com/meccareflections to receive meeting updates.
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MECCA CENTER HOSTS #WeAreAllAmerica SOLIDARITY GATHERING FOR NEIGHBORS AND FAITH COMMUNITY

The Mecca Center hosted a #WeAreAllAmerica solidarity event on Sunday, February 19 to celebrate the great diversity of the United States. Mecca Center invited neighbors and interfaith partners to come together for a gathering to say that Chicagoland faith communities resist President Donald Trump's "Muslim Ban" and harmful immigration policies.

In response to Trump's executive order banning Muslims and refugees from seven countries, Chicagoland Muslim community organizations in recent weeks including the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC), Downtown Islamic Center, Dar-us-Sunnah in Evanston, and Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview participated solidarity actions with neighbors and the faith community.

A WELCOME VISIT

By Shereen Hussain

It has been a difficult couple of weeks for many minority groups who have been dealing with the challenges that the new immigration regulations pose. However, in the midst of this, the Mecca Center received a most welcome surprise: resounding messages of solidarity from various faith partners and community members. Local friends have expressed astonishment at bigotry and pledged to stand by anyone in the Muslim community affected by prejudice.

One cold evening in February, local congregations and other neighbors (including an immigration attorney)

visited the masjid, all offering help and support. Sh. Hassan Aly, the Imam of the Mecca Center, led a discussion about the current situation. Pastor Kirk Moore of St. Paul's Church and Pastor Scott Oberle of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Downers Grove addressed Mecca attendees after Isha prayer. They expressed their wishes for increased tolerance and understanding. Later in the week, Mecca Center hosted Pastor Mike Solberg from the Union Church of Hinsdale and members of the nearby Unitarian Church.





FALAFEL — HUMMUS — SHAWARMA — KABOB

We offer delivery and catering

APPETIZERS

Made and fresh daily.

- 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.

31 N Cass Ave., Westmont | www.mauraswestmont.com | (630) 512-0010



DOWNERS GROVE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD APRIL 4

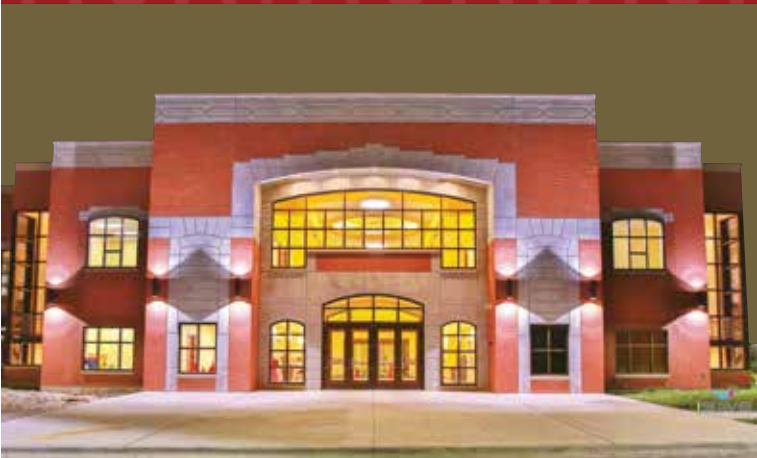
Many Mecca Center community members reside in Downers Grove Township which includes Burr Ridge, Willowbrook, Hinsdale, Darien, and parts of Downers Grove, Clarendon Hills, Woodridge, and Westmont. For this reason, it is important that eligible Mecca Center community members vote in the Downers Grove Municipal Township Elections on April 4, 2017

This election has 17 times as many seats up at local elections than in the November presidential election. Candidates are running for positions at city, library, park, school, community college, highway, fire district, and township levels. The Muslim community is growing in Downers Grove Township and are a significant voting bloc in DuPage County and the smaller township. The Mecca Center urges you to make your voice heard and vote in this election.

For more information, please visit <http://www.dgtownship.com/>

Source: https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Candidates_and_Campaigns/37053/

SAVE THE DATE



GRAND OPENING

OF OUR NEW MECCA CENTER!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

Friday

FIQH

Lecture

Sheikh Hassan Aly

**Every Friday
12:20pm - 12:50pm**



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The Mecca Center
16w560 91st Street, Willowbrook, IL
www.meccacenter.org



The Mecca Center will hold its Annual Fundraiser on Sunday, March 5, 2017 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. Please save the date and join us for this important community event!

SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

Drury Lane • Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

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