



MECCA CENTER NEWSLETTER

November 2017 | Safar 1439 - Rabi Al-Awwal 1439 | Issue 27

www.meccacenter.org



Sh. Hassan Aly
Imam & Religious Director

Serving the greater good

Muslims believe in serving the greater good, and at the Mecca Center, its Imam and Religious Director serves as a great example. The Mecca Center's Imam and Religious Director, Sh. Hassan Aly, was recently appointed to the Hinsdale Community/Family Services (HCS) Board. As part of Aly's longstanding commitment to community service, he has collaborated with HCS on a variety of projects and served alongside a group of dedicated their community leaders in the past three years.

Sh. Hassan Aly along with members of the Mecca Center also recently exchanged visits with Lewis University and the Catholic Theological Union (CTU). Then in mid late October, Aly was invited to speak at the second annual Glen Ellyn Prayer Breakfast. These opportunities to engage are part of Aly's regular outreach efforts in building bonds and relationships with faith groups and institutions that serve the greater good.

HCS Family Services is a 501(c)(3) organization with a long history of helping neighbors in need in Hinsdale, Burr Ridge, Willowbrook, Darien, and surrounding communities. The organization was founded in 1937, near the end of the Great Depression, to help out-of-work neighbors secure necessities such as food and utilities. HCS operates two local food pantries: The Hinsdale Pantry (19 E. Chicago Avenue) is open three times/week and serves 100-120 families weekly. The pantry is a USDA TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) site.

The school-based pantry opened in November 2016 at the Anne M. Jeans Elementary School in Willowbrook, IL. The pantry is open once each week and serves 40-60 families weekly.

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THE MECCA CENTER

PRAYER SCHEDULE

November 2017 Prayer Times | Safar 1439 - Rabi Al-Awwal 1439

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

Call to Prayer

Fajr:
30 minutes after adhan

Dhuhr: 1:15 pm

Asr:
1-5: 4:30 pm
6-30: 3:15 pm

Maghrib:
2 Rak'as after Adhan

Isha:
8:00 pm

Jummah:
1:00 pm

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The Mecca Center President's Message

An Inclusive Space for Our Entire Community



Asalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

Insha'Allah this message finds you and your family in the best of health and iman.

I thank you sincerely for joining us at our Reimagining Muslim Spaces Town Hall in October. We also thank you for taking the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) survey to help us better serve you.

The three main themes for the Town Hall included creating a welcoming masjid, creating an inclusive masjid, and finally, creating a dynamic masjid. The town hall meeting was informative, as we listened to good ideas from members of the community.

The majority of attendees at the Town Hall praised the Mecca Center for its inclusivity and welcoming atmosphere. Many attendees requested programs that include the entire family such as programs for kids. Our community expressed a serious need for volunteers and creating a culture of volunteerism for the community. Attendees also shared that they would like to learn more about the Mecca Center leadership and be able to connect with them more regularly.

With your feedback, the Mecca Center will continue to address our community's needs and further become a more inclusive and welcoming space for all, insha'Allah.

As it was wonderful seeing you at the Town Hall, I hope to see you at upcoming Mecca Center events, including our Community Night with Ahmed Rehab on November 3, and our Foster Parents Workshop on December 2. We also have a number of great ongoing programs we encourage you to sign up for such as the Quran Institute, Friday Night Live and Mecca Meet Up youth programs, and our new Seekers of Truth convert program.

Thank you for your cooperation in making the Mecca Center a welcome and inclusive space for our entire community.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan,

Wassalamu Alaikum,

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

A new, expanded pantry is under construction at Anne M. Jeans and will be opened in early 2018. HCS also distributes Emergency rental/utility assistance through the Salvation Army service extension program.

DuPage County, IL has the second largest food insecure population in the State of Illinois (behind Cook County). The county's annual food shortfall is estimated at \$37MM. An estimated 1 in 6 children in Northern Illinois are food insecure. Importantly, hunger affects children's intellectual, physical, and emotional development. HCS expects to serve more than 30,000 individuals this year (22,000 at our Hinsdale pantry and an additional 8,000-10,000 at our Willowbrook pantry).

An estimated 84% of HCS guests live in DuPage County, IL. They live primarily in Hinsdale and the surrounding communities of Willowbrook, Westmont, Darien, Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Countryside and Burr Ridge. Based on self-reporting, our guests fall into the following HUD-defined income brackets: 82% extremely low income levels, 16% very low income levels, and 2% other low income levels.

The food is sourced from Northern Illinois Food Bank, The Direct Connect network of local grocery stores, food drives and donations from local organizations and individuals. HCS is fueled by a lean four-person staff, an active network of 500+ volunteers, grant funding, and generous corporate and individual donors. Learn more about HCS at www.hcsfamilyservices.org.

A Message from the Sunday School Principal

Assalamu Alaikum,

Mecca Center Sunday School is off to a great start to the 2017-2018 school year! Alhamdulillah, students are getting accustomed to the weekly routines and are feeling more at home every week. From weekly art projects to teach the Arabic letters to student Quran recitations on class WhatsApp groups, the Mecca Center Sunday School is offering our children an authentic Islamic learning experience in order to develop their values, beliefs, and practices in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran and traditions of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), while appreciating and understanding Islam's rich heritage, principles, values, and teachings.



With over 270 enrolled students, Mecca Center Sunday School is committed to broadening our children's understanding of Islam by inspiring a love for the learning of the Arabic language, the language of the Quran. Our Quran Recitation curriculum is aligned with the Mecca Center's Quran Institute (M.Q.I.) AlBidayah curriculum, and our teachers have attended numerous training workshops conducted by Sheikh Ahmed Alsheikhi, the developer of the curriculum and director of the M.Q.I., in preparation for the school year. Additionally, our qualified staff has received training in various capacities including attending a 30-hour Nourania Quran teaching training workshop, several online courses sponsored by Aldeen Foundation to promote Arabic teaching, tajweed and tarteel classes offered at the Mecca Center, and attending several sessions sponsored previously by CIOGC and the ISNA Educational Forum for weekend school staff. The Mecca Center Sunday School is devoted to using progressive teaching methodologies and promoting a culture of compassion and respect in order to accomplish these educational and spiritual goals for its students.

The greatest asset a society can cultivate is an educated, enlightened, and spiritually motivated group of individuals and Insha'Allah your children will be among those. With Allah's (SWT) guidance and your dedication, we will work together to see our children Insha'Allah become civically engaged citizens, community leaders, and future role models of our society.

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

طبيب اطفال

Mohamed N. Jabri, M.D FAAP
Board Certified Pediatrician



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THE MECCA CENTER COMMUNITY NIGHT



Friday, November 3, 2017

Mecca Center Community Night

The Islamic Etiquettes of Activism

6:30pm to 8pm at The Mecca Center

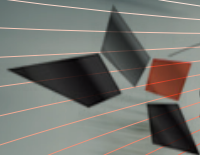
With special guest speaker

Ahmed Rehab

Executive Director of CAIR-Chicago



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Sandwiches



Wrap

Steak	\$ 5.00
Kifta Kabab	\$ 5.00
Beef Shawrma	\$ 5.00
Chicken Shawrma	\$ 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	سموسك لحمة	\$1.25
Cheese Pie	قطاير جبنة	\$1.00
Spinach Pie	قطاير سبانخ	\$1.25
Safiha	صفحة شامية أو مضفورة	\$1.75
Musakhan	مسخن دجاج	\$1.55
Za'tar Pie	قطيرة زعتر	\$1.00
Chicken Roll	رول دجاج	\$1.50
Hot Dogs Roll	رول نقائق	\$2.00
Muhamara Pie	قطيرة محمرة	\$1.00
Falafel	فلفل	\$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 مثل 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, Tahine sauce, pargaminate 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 مخلوف بفتة
\$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 مخلوبة فلسطينية
\$40.00 \$80.00
Potatoes, cauliflower and carrots with rice topped with roasted chicken legs.

Entrée

Half Tray | Full Tray

Damascus's Makloubah مخلوبة 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 بالصحن
\$35.00 \$70.00
Oven cooked beef with garlic topped with green peppers and tomatoes.

Lasagna لازانيا بالخضار أو اللحم
\$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 معقرونة الفريو 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 برياني 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 أردني بالتحم
\$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 معقرونة سباغيتي بريات اللحم
\$30.00 \$60.00
Spaghetti noodles, Italian seasoning, and tomato sauce with meatballs.



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APPETIZERS

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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.

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ICNA Relief and MECCA Center are committed to strengthening our communities and its families. We need your help to do it. Get your questions answered by DCFS and Imam Hassan. Learn of changes DCFS has made to speed up the licensing process.