



MECCA CENTER NEWSLETTER

July 2018 | Shawwal 1439 - Dhul Qadah 1439 | Issue 34

www.meccacenter.org



Ramadan & Eid al-Fitr Reflections

Asalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

Eid Mubarak! I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your participation in the Mecca Center's prayers and activities during Ramadan and Eid. We are fortunate and blessed to have had so many of you join us during this special time. We also thank you for your generous donations to the Mecca Center during the holy month of Ramadan. May Allah (swt) reward you for giving back to your community and supporting our services, programs, and activities.

During Ramadan, our community came together to read and recite Quran and pray together for Taraweeh, Tahajud, and Jummah prayers. We shared a Ramadan interfaith iftar with the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago and the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC). The Mecca MVMT held youth Iftars and Qiyams as well as events to package gifts and create food baskets for families in need. And our Quran Institute featured a Quran recitation program for youth which encourages fluency in recitation of our Noble Qur'an.

On the morning of Eid al-Fitr, we gathered to express our love and devotion to Allah, the most merciful and beneficent, and celebrate the blessed day. Alhamdulillah, this year, we wanted to accommodate a larger congregation so we held a Eid al-Fitr prayers at the Hinsdale South football field. We hope it was a joyful experience for you and your families, insha'Allah.

Summer at the Mecca Center continues as we have youth programs being offered by the Mecca Quran Institute and Mecca MVMT. Sunday School registration for the 2018/2019 school year is also currently open and we encourage you to register early. Thank you for your support and Jazakum Allahu Khairan. May Allah (swt) bless you and your families.

Wassalamu Alaikum,

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



THE MECCA CENTER

PRAYER SCHEDULE

July 2018 Prayer Times | Shawwal 1439 - Dhul Qadah 1439

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

Iqama Times

Fajr
30 minutes after
Adhan

Dhuhr
1:15 PM

Asr
6:15 PM

Maghrib
5 minutes after
sunset

Isha
July 1-20: 10:15 PM
July 21-31: 10:00 PM

Jummah
Friday prayer
always at 1:00 PM

www.meccacenter.org

Eid al-Fitr Prayers

June 15, 2018 at Hinsdale South High School in Darien, Illinois



“Mecca and the board always raise the limit of joy and enjoyment. Great work everyone and thank you for great Eid Salat.” - Ismaail Faisal Ajouka

“Prayer was more than wonderful. We thank the efforts of everyone who was based on completing the Eid prayer.” - Amina Al Kassab

“It was a great success and nice idea!” - Anser Azim

“Mashallah the turnout to the prayer on Friday was overwhelmingly pleasant, everything was perfectly planned, even the weather cooperated with us, alhamdulillah.” - Dr. Bana Ahdab

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 Sunday School: Principal's Message

Assalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

Reflecting on the 2017-18 school year, we at the Mecca Center Sunday School are proud of all that we have accomplished together. We have seen much growth in our learners, from improved reading of Quran to the perfecting of our prayers, from spelling bees to field trips, from cupcake contests to culture day activities, all culminating with our Welcome Ramadan event.

I encourage you to think back on the work you have hung on the refrigerator this year, and the many stories you have heard about your child's Sunday School experience. It is important we pause at these moments, for those fond memories of the special projects, activities, field trips, and powerful learning they experienced will stay with them for a long time to come.

The Mecca Center Sunday School strives to prepare our students for the next steps in the journey each will take, as they discover more about whom they are, who they want to be, what they stand for as Muslim Americans, and how they will apply their knowledge in work and in life, in a manner that pleases Allah (swt), insha'Allah. Thank you for trusting us in providing a high quality educational and spiritual experience for your children. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff and volunteers that truly make the Mecca Center Sunday School a warm and nurturing environment.

We look forward to working with you and your children in the fall and pray to Allah (swt) that the upcoming school year will be a success, Insha'Allah. Registration is now open for the 2018-2019 school year! Please visit our website www.meccacenter.org in order to download the registration and authorization forms and register your children for the Mecca Center Sunday School. Don't forget to complete the registration either online, onsite, or by mail before July 1st, in order to receive a \$50 discount on tuition.

We look forward to welcoming back our students on the first day of school on Sunday, September 9th from 9:45am-2:15pm.

Warmest Regards,

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



Contribute to our "Voices of the Community" section in our monthly newsletter! We invite Mecca community members to share their opinions and questions on topics related to the Mecca Center or general subjects pertinent to the Muslim American community. Learn more about "Voices of the Community" and how you can send in your submissions!

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The Mecca Center Convert Support Group

You Are the Masjid

By Ricardo Pena

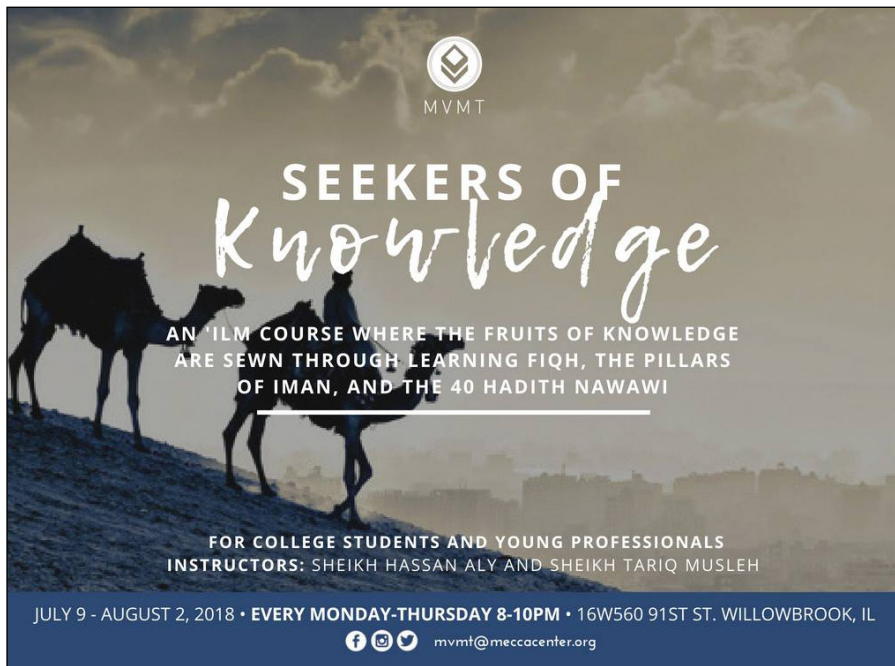
Many years ago I had an interesting experience going through the McDonald's drive-thru with my wife. We had pulled up to the window to pay when the young Mexican attendant took my money for payment, then before proceeding to process my payment he exclaimed in a comfortably loud tone of voice saying to his coworkers, "Te digo que esta gente nunca sonríe. Así son." My wife, who wore hijab, led him to believe that I was Arab or something. He definitely didn't suspect that I was a Mexican Muslim Convert and he certainly didn't know that I understood exactly what he said, which was "I'm telling you, those people never smile. That's how they are." Upon getting our food, he was visibly shocked and presumably embarrassed when I smiled and said, "Hasta luego. Nos vemos" ... (see you later) and drove off.

As Muslim Converts we have interesting experiences that could leave us feeling unwelcome in the communities we left and unwelcome in the communities we've embraced. A frequent topic of discussion in our Convert Support Group here at the Mecca Center masjid in Willowbrook, Illinois is how to make our masjid more welcoming to Converts. To their credit, it has also been a great concern for members of our board and our Imam. They don't want to neglect our Convert brothers and sisters, so they created the Convert Support Group in November 2017 to address our challenges. They, too, wonder what it takes to make the masjid a warm and welcoming place. Also, in general, our beloved brothers and sisters who were born into Muslim families wonder about the Convert experience and are wonderfully curious, eager, and open-minded about learning how to make things better for us. Alhamdulillah, this is a blessing. So if you'd like some feedback in this respect then here's what I'd like to say.

How many times have you gone to a masjid and walked away with an impression that led you to conclude that this masjid is like this and that masjid is like that? Whether the experience was good or bad I bet you could say a lot about this or that particular masjid. We are walking Yelp reviews with a long list of stars and comments about this or that masjid in our heads. We think and talk about the masjid like it is a place, a building, a structure of brick and mortar and we label the masjid by the general community that frequents it. This is the Desi masjid and that is the Syrian masjid and so on. But really, the masjid doesn't fit any label at all. The fact is that when you are at the masjid, you ARE the masjid. What do I mean by that? Allow me to explain.

Whenever you have a feeling or experience about a masjid it is always because of some interaction you had with the people. It is never about the wudu facilities or the softness of the carpet in the musalla. If a person had a good experience it is because they had a good interaction with someone. If a person had a bad experience it is because they had a difficult interaction with someone. It is always a "someone" that defines the impression a person has about the masjid and you should realize that that "someone" just might be you.

Read the full article at www.meccacenter.org.



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The Mecca Center Quran Institute: Youth Summer Camps

By Lujayn Kholoki

As summer break continues for the students in our community, the Mecca Quran Institute (MQI) is offering new programs for the summer and after Ramadan. MQI has organized two different summer camps, one for children (boys and girls), and another for young boys only. The goal of these programs is to remind students of the Quran and allow them to enjoy the Quran while spending time with their friends.

The MQI Summer Camp for Children (boys 6-10 years old and girls 6-12 years old) will be held between July 9 and August 2 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm. This group will read and learn Quran during the day and the importance of Islamic morals and ethics, participate in daily activities and arts and crafts, and go on an educational field trip. Lunch and snacks are provided with the program.

The MQI Youth Summer Camp for boys ages 11-15 will be held between July 9 and August 2 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. The camp will include Salat and Wudu workshops, stories of the Sahabah, the names of Allah (swt), sports activities, and snacks. The camp is led by Sh. Tariq Musleh, Sh. Abdullah Damra, and Sh. Sabry Elmansoury.



These summer camps are a perfect way to allow children to enjoy summer and have fun while learning Islamic lessons and the Quran. We are looking forward to our first Mecca Quran Institute summer camps! For more information, or to register, please e-mail mqi@meccacenter.org.

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	سيموسك لحمة	\$1.25
Cheese Pie	فطائر جبنة	\$1.00
Spinach Pie	فطائر سبانخ	\$1.25
Saffiha	صفحة شامية أو مضمورة	\$1.75
Musakhan	مسخن دجاج	\$1.55
Za'tar Pie	فطيرة زعتر	\$1.00
Chicken Roll	رول دجاج	\$1.50
Hot Dogs Roll	رول نقاق	\$2.00
Muhamara Pie	فطيرة 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, Tahine sauce, parmiganate 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 ——— برقي
\$45.00 \$90.00
Stuffed grape leaves and zucchini with rice and lamb.

Stuffed Cabbage ——— ملفوف بطنه
\$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 بالندجان
\$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 بالصنينة
\$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 ——— معرونة 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 ——— معرونة سباغيتي بكرات اللحم
\$30.00 \$60.00
Spaghetti noodles, Italian seasoning, and tomato sauce with meatballs.



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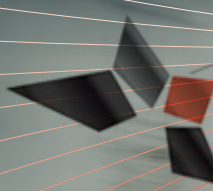
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