



Assalamualaikum,

The Muslim Community Center and MCCA Academy has been working closely with the Village of Skokie and Niles Township to consult and advise on activities that will be taking place for the upcoming, weeks long celebration of Muslim American Cultures during this year's annual Coming Together program. **We really hope that all of you, MCCA parents and community members, will make a every effort to attend the free kick-off event for Coming Together on Sunday, January 28, 2018, 12pm at Niles West High School, and the many events planned throughout the township from January through April.**

Please read the following message from the organizers about this unique and spectacular program and see the link below featuring all of the events and activities you could attend:

Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township is a unique project created eight years ago to present in depth the special cultural diversity of our community. It is supported by institutions throughout Skokie, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood and Niles. The goal is to study a different culture each year for six to eight weeks, with an emphasis on literacy.

This year Coming Together will celebrate Muslim American CultureS, and the Muslim residents in Niles Township who represent a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. In a series of events and programs from late January to the end of March, we will learn about Muslim contributions to the fields of science, literature, the arts, education and much more.

The Township libraries along with the chosen community identify books that help develop a deeper understanding of the featured culture. By reading and discussing these books together, we, as a community, are better able to understand each other. Whenever possible, the author of one of the books is invited to come and speak, both at a public event and at the High Schools.

Cultures are chosen based upon their active imprint in the Township. In past years, Coming Together has celebrated Asian-Indians, Filipinos, Greeks, Assyrians, Koreans, Chinese, "Voices of Race", and Latinos/Hispanics. A large committee that meets once a month, and smaller committees that address specific areas of interest, work diligently to put together a variety of programs. Some cultures have chosen to have as many as 50 different activities throughout the Township, in the high schools, elementary schools, area libraries, Oakton Community College, Village of Skokie, local restaurants, park districts, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, and the Holiday Inn North Shore in Skokie. Trips to places of interest such as the Oriental Institute and Greek Town have also been offered.

Please participate in this unique and educational program that has something to offer to everyone, and help make it a success. Learn while you have fun, meet new people and make new friends.

Mark your calendar: Coming Together celebrating Muslim American CultureS, opening event is Sunday, January 28, 2018, 1 p.m. at Niles West High School, 5701 W. Oakton Street in Skokie. Free and open to the public.

To learn more, feel free to contact Rosamin Bhanpuri at rosbha@d219.org

Visit the Coming Together website to view a calendar of events:www.comingtogether.in.