





## Empowering the Diverse Community

A rally, walk, and community building event to welcome recent immigrants and long-term neighbors

**Sunday, January 29, 2017**

**1:45-4:00 pm**

Muslim Education Center Social Hall

8601 N. Menard

Morton Grove, IL 60053

Sponsored by the Muslim Community Center, Jewish Voice for Peace, and Open Communities

### Agenda:

1:45-2:15 - Sign Making and Entertainment

2:15 - Welcome

2:30 - Walk

2:50 - Warm Up in Social Hall

3:00 - Late Afternoon Prayer Asr-ALL welcome to attend or watch in prayer hall

3:15 - Reflections on Mobilizing our Community

3:45 - Interfaith Closing Prayer by Imam





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Chicago, IL 60641

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# The Message

A Publication of The Muslim Community Center, Chicago, IL

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### President's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalaam-o-Alaikum

I pray and hope that InshaAllah you and your families are in good health and Imaan. Welcome to the year 2017. I pray that year 2017 bring peace, health, happiness, prosperity and strength in Islamic faith for you and your loved ones.

I would like to congratulate the MCC Election Committee and Nomination Committee for successfully conducting the elections this year. Because of the threat of severe weather, the election committee had to make tough decision to delay the elections for two weeks. Congratulations to the community again by picking the best candidates that can lead the community towards further success. And congratulations to the board members who got elected and to those who participated but could not get elected. At the end, everyone wins, and no one loses. MCC lives to its principles.

Once again, I would like to reach out to all the participating candidates, board of directors, committee members, school parents and MCC members to work together for the benefit of the community. If any ill feelings were born, let's forget those feelings and work as a team by supporting each other. I will, inshaAllah, be reaching out to you individually and collectively to establish our agenda for the year 2017.

If you like to volunteer for a specific cause, please email me your interests in confidence at Msnasir53@gmail.com. As you can see the list below, MCC has several committees and councils to work as a volunteer. Please send me your name, email address, telephone and your areas of interest with a few lines about yourself. InshaAllah we will try to accommodate you. Committees: Bylaws, Nomination, Election, Seniors Program, Book and Computer Service, Building, MCC Building, MEC Building, Skokie Building, Counseling, Human Resources, Budget and Fundraising, Investment, Library, Membership, Neighborhood Study Circle, Planning, Public Relations, Publication, Rehabilitation and Welfare, Religious Affairs, Cemetery and Funeral Services, Interfaith and Outreach, Dawah, Recreation, Food & Fun  
(Continued on page 2)



MCCA Girls Basketball Team

### MCCA Girls Basketball Team in the Spotlight

MCC Academy Girls Varsity Basketball team captured the attention of Chicagoans when they were featured on two separate ABC7 News programs, Chicago's Daily Herald and in the Morton Grove Patch e-newsletter last month. As the first and only hijabi Muslim girls basketball team to play in the Illinois Elementary School Association, our girls made history. The story reached as far as the Women's National Basketball Association, who, after seeing the news coverage, called up MCCA Athletic Department Head Coach Azam Tai to congratulate the MCCA girls basketball players and invite them court-side to attend one of their games in Chicago. MashAllah, we are incredibly proud of the MCCA Girls Basketball players, Coaches Medina Skenderi, Sumaiyya Saleh,  
(Continued on page 2)

### MCC General Body Meeting on January 15

The MCC Annual General Body Meeting will be held at MCC, Elston Ave, Chicago on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 5:00pm (after Maghrib), inshaAllah! Please note that if the meeting is adjourned due to a lack of quorum, it will be held on the following Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 2:00pm at MCC, Elston Ave, InshaAllah! A flyer to that effect is being sent with this newsletter. Snacks will be served at the meeting.

### MCC Election Chooses New Board Members

On December 25th, MCC held its annual elections at the Chicago and Morton Grove buildings. A total number of 176 ballots were cast; 100 at Morton Grove, 54 at Chicago and 22 Absentee ballots. The winners were: Afsar Ali, Ateeq Ansari, Mohammad Basheeruddin, Omar Khan and Tariq Malhance for the General Category; Kulsum Sadiq for the Women's, and Anas Gandhi for the Youth. Congratulations to the winners; and to those who did not get the chance to serve on the Board this time around, we hope you continue to serve MCC and will run again, InshaAllah. The original date of the elections was Sunday, December 11th and was postponed due to weather conditions. As per the Bylaws, 10 days notification must be posted before rescheduling, and therefore, the election was pushed to the 25th. Also, per the Bylaws, the Elections must take place within the month of December. This has been my first year heading this committee and I noticed some areas of needed change to improve publicity, voter participation and candidate outreach to members. I will be working diligently to push for these changes for the 2017 Elections and I ask the MCC Board, Bylaws committee and the General Body to support these changes. I encourage those who aren't members to become members, and support the institution through their membership and participation in its governing process. If you have difficulty remembering to renew your membership, consider being a lifetime member! There are also special rates for seniors and students.

Election details are on next page.

Samina Hussain, MCC Election Chairperson

### Ayah of the Month

"Tell My servants that they should speak that which is best. Surely, Satan creates discord among them. Indeed, Satan is an open enemy to mankind." [17:53]

### Hadith of the Month

Some people asked Allah's Messenger (S), "Whose Islam is the best?" He replied, "One who avoids harming the Muslims with his tongue and hands." [Bukhari]

(Continued from "President's Report")

Fair), Special Events at MCC, Special Events at MEC, Tarbiah Program, Women Programs at MCC, Women Programs at MEC, Friday Committee at MCC, Friday Committee at MEC, MCC Academy Council, MCC Part Time School Council, MCC Part Time School Teachers, Youth Council, Educational Development Council, and more. In addition, if you have any other idea, come to us and we can discuss to form another committee for the benefit of community.

We will have our General Body Meeting at MEC on **Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 5:00 PM** (after Maghrib). In case of a lack of quorum, the meeting will be re-held the following Sunday, January 22, at MEC at 2:00 PM. InshaAllah!

We have also scheduled the **"2017-Meet & Greet Strategic Session" at MEC on Sunday, February 5, 2017 after Maghrib in banquet hall.** In case of inclement weather, the session will be held following Sunday. Lastly, make sure you pay your 2016 MCC membership dues. And keep volunteering and donating for your Centers.

Mohammad Sarwar Nasir  
President, MCC  
847-927-0919, Msnasir53@gmail.com

(Continued from "MCCA Varsity Girls' Basketball") Amareh Alkhatib, and Athletic Department Coaches Azam Tai and Kadir Oz, for their hard work and dedication to building this phenomenal team. The girls won their initial regional game against Riverdale Patton, then went on to play in the regional finals against Cottage Grove Middle School. They played with incredible steal and focus but ultimately lost this game by a mere 5 points. The girls still accomplished a great task, making it to regional finals is a true testament to their hard work. Moreover, by being the first hijabi girls to play in the IESA, the MCCA girls basketball team not only showcased their talent on the court but they were stomping out stereotypes about Muslim women in the process. In their hijabs, full sleeves, and long pants, the girls held their heads high and played just as hard as their competitors. These girls represent what it means to be all-American icons, individuals who are strong, focused and have a true love of sport. In today's climate where there is much mistrust and maligning of Muslims, the MCCA girls basketball team is truly helping to forge a new image of Muslims that rings familiar and relatable to the average person. They are a force of unification in our country that has seen too much divisiveness in recent times. If you'd like to watch the ABC7 News segment, you can find it at <http://abc7chicago.com/.../muslim-girls-basketball-1-1637890/>. The Daily Herald article can be found at <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20161212/news/161219811/>

Jill Alali, MCCA Marketing

## Election Voting Details

The details of total votes received by all candidates (in parentheses) and also the write-in candidates are as follows; winning candidates are shown in bold below:

**Youth Category: Anas Ghandi (92), Asrar Ahmed (79)** - (Write-in Candidates: None)

**Women Category: Kulsum Sadiq (86), Najiba Miraki (83)** - (Write-in Candidates: Urooj Ibrahim 1, Fatima Hai 1)

**General Category: Afsar Ali (99), Mohammad Basheeruddin (97), Ateeq Ansari (90), Omar Khan (90), Tariq Malhance (89), Sarwar Naweed (78), Amjad Quadri (77), Ejaz Rahim (76),** (Write-in Candidates: Javed Bhatti 46, Azam Hashmi 1, Moon Khan 1).

The successful candidates will inshaAllah assume responsibilities as directors of the MCC Board during the first Board Meeting after the General Body Meeting.

Taken from data prepared, 2016 MCC Election Committee

## Membership Renewal

Unless renewed specifically for 2017, the membership of MCC members for calendar year 2016 expired on December 31 (except Life Members). Please use the membership form accompanying this newsletter to renew your membership. Thank you for your support, without which we cannot offer the services we do, Jazakallah Khair. Please note that even with above noted expiration, all 2016 voting members have the voting rights at the Annual General Body Meeting scheduled on January 15, 2017.

Ali Quadri, Secretary MCC

## Native Deen Concerts

Native Deen will be performing two concerts on:  
**Friday, January 27, 7pm**  
**Saturday, January 28, 11am**  
MCC Academy - Skokie Campus  
(9301 Gross Point Rd., Skokie, IL 60076)  
Space is Limited! Purchase Tickets online via [www.mccacademy.org](http://www.mccacademy.org)

### MCC Publications Committee

Chairperson	Layout Editor
Asea Qidwai	Najah Bhatti
Co-Chair	Editorial Advisor
Shabnam Mahmood	Javed Bhatti

*The Message* is a monthly publication of the Muslim Community Center that provides a forum for members to engage with the administration, organization, and activities of MCC/MEC and with each other. Submit your questions and comments [MCCpublication@gmail.com](mailto:MCCpublication@gmail.com). The opinions expressed in *The Message* do not necessarily represent those of MCC. The editors reserve the right to edit all material.

## Welcoming New Students from Syria, Burma, and Afghanistan

MCC Academy is pleased to welcome seven new students in grades preschool - 8th who recently arrived to the States from Syria, Burma, and Afghanistan. Through the generosity of our community in choosing MCC Academy to give their Zakat donations, MCC Academy is able to sponsor these students for the duration of their studies with us. We are most appreciative of Islamic Oasis for helping to facilitate this process. Our students have been making these children feel welcome by pairing up with them as class buddies and making special efforts to help get them acclimated to the school and meet friends. Every student who attends MCCA helps to make the school a special and unique environment, so we look forward to the wonderful contributions these seven new students will certainly bring to MCC Academy.

Jill Alali, MCCA Marketing

## Dr. Irfan Khan Honored

The Association of Quranic Understanding (AQU) honored one of community's stalwarts, Dr. Irfan Khan, with a prestigious Moral Excellence Award of 2016. The recognition was made for his lifetime contributions in articulating the objective concept of Quran. Renowned community individuals like Dr. Ashraf Toor, Br. Mohammad Basheeruddin, Br. Habeeb Abbasi, and Br. Saleem Akhter paid glowing tributes to Dr. Irfan Khan's tireless commitments over the past several decades. The event took place at MEC on the Sunday of December 18, 2016 after Zuhr in which more than 200 people attended.

## MCC Seerah Event

On Saturday, December 24, at MCC-Elston, more than 200 people attended a program titled "Seerah of Prophets Muhammed (S) and Isa (A)" which was organized by MCC Education Committee and MCC-Elston Women Committee. After MCC President Nasir's remarks, (Imam) Hisham AlQaisi of Islamic Foundation-Villa Park, eloquently discussed various aspects of the life of our beloved Prophet Muhammed (S). Then our Imam, (Mufti) Nazim Mangera, shared five aspects of the miraculous life of Prophet Isa (A). Attendees enjoyed delicious food prepared from the potluck dinner. The participants enjoyed the event for its intellectual offerings as well as for the spiritual experience. Jazakumullahu Khairun to the volunteers for improvising with extra food since we did not expect so many people to attend.

## Update from MCC Youth & Seniors Coordinator

Alhamdulillah it has been about two months since I began serving as the MCC Youth and Seniors Coordinator. I'd like to begin by thanking Allah (SWT) for giving me this opportunity to be of service to the community. Upon starting my work, my vision for the youth and seniors programs has been to establish the masjid as a safe zone for youth where they can feel comfortable to approach myself and other community members with any ideas, issues, and feedback. Our seniors should also have access to the masjid, and different programs should be administered according to need. The selection committee made it clear during the interview period that both youth and seniors population need to feel a sense of inclusion at the masjid, and this has been a guiding hand in all of my planning and decisions.

Thus far, I took it upon myself to introduce myself and get situated in at MCC. I gave multiple khutbahs at the masjid, the MCC Academy as well as guest appearances at both Niles West and North High schools' Muslim Student Association clubs. I also met with key individuals who currently are serving the youth and senior populations of MCC to get a better feel as to where we excel and where we have room to improve as a community. The youth just had their first event in a lock in where Ustaadh Nouman Ali Khan came to give a talk. Over ninety boys and girls attended the talk and stayed the entire night to participate in activities which were supervised by adults. I ask that we as a community make duaa that Allah guide us in our future endeavors. My office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-6:30 PM and on Saturdays from 12:00-7:00 PM, I am also available by appointment on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. You may contact me by email at [Mohsin.yasc@mccacademy.org](mailto:Mohsin.yasc@mccacademy.org) or by phone (847) 450-7896. Jazakumullahu Khairan,

Mohsin Isbaq, MCC Youth & Senior Program Coordinator

## MCC Thanks the City for Condemning Anti-Muslim Hate Speech

MCC President Dr. M. Sarwar Nasir was invited to speak in favor of the resolutions that Alderman Waguespack (32nd Ward) introduced to the City of Chicago Human Relations Committee in City Hall. The resolution (R2016-877) called for condemnation of all hateful speeches and violent actions directed  
(Continued on column 2)



Dr. M. Sarwar Nasir speaking in press conference at City Hall of Chicago (Courtesy of CIOGC)

towards Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants and people of color. President Dr. Nasir, along with MCC Imam Nazim Mangera, board member Tariq Malhance and community member, Sadia Sindu represented MCC at the City Hall. Dr. Nasir spoke at the press conferences. Following is the transcript that President read and presented to the Committee for reference.

*"On behalf of the Muslim Community Center, I Dr. Mohammad Sarwar Nasir, President of MCC want to thank you for inviting me and my team and giving us the opportunity to speak. We are especially thankful to you during these times since many of our centers in different cities are getting threatening and hate-filled letters from the supporters of President elect. So far Islamic centers in states of California, Rhode Island, Michigan, Indiana, Colorado and Georgia have gotten these hate filled letters.*

*I am glad that many of the Chicagoans have recognized, that Muslims are the fabric of this community. We are educators, doctors, engineers, scientists, service workers and philanthropists. We work in government, hospitals, health departments, universities, plants and various industries. Muslims have been in America since slavery and have built our bridges, railroad system, roads and have contributors since the beginning of America.*

*We collaborate with other people of diverse background to make this community a better place. Our mosque, Muslim Community Center is a safe place and we welcome everyone to visit our mosque. Every year we have an open Mosque day where we invite all our neighbors to visit us, ask questions and see what we do at our centers. This year we had a Chicago Open house in collaboration with Chicago Architecture Foundation where more than 300 people of other faiths and background visited us. We heavily interact and collaborate with people of other faiths, communities and races for various programs. We help the needy and have various programs to help communities at large and we want to move forward to help others as well. We are thankful to you for approving this resolutions (R2016-877). Muslim Community is proud to be Chicagoans and we appreciate from the bottom of our heart for these resolutions."*

Dr. Mohammad Sarwar Nasir, President

P.S. In case of any hate crime, we ask that in addition to 911 immediately, report the incident to the Cook County Sheriff's hotline.

## Part-time Office/ Building Coordinator Position Available

The Muslim Community Center is looking for a part time (20-30 hours per week) need based Office/Building Coordinator position for its centers, MEC, Morton Grove and MCC, Elston facilities. Candidates should email their cover letter and resume to [mcccoordinator786@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator786@gmail.com). No phone calls please.

### Responsibilities

The responsibilities for the Office/Building Coordinator include but not limited to:

- Perform all the clerical and administrative responsibilities assigned by the executives on an as need basis. This also include coordinating, arranging and covering various programs at both centers, writing notes during executive or board meetings.
- Answer phone enquiries, complaints and transfer to respective people.
- Use a range of office software, (i.e., email, spreadsheets and databases), communicating with various committees, departments, schools and councils.
- Maintain the office calendar, updating it with key events; weddings, funerals and ensuring that all the office staff is up to speed on office events.
- Create, manage and oversee office filing system – both electronically and hard copies.
- Establish procedures for record keeping. Ensure data security, integrity and confidentiality.
- Coordinate ordering office materials, documents and maintaining all office assets.
- Occasionally need to perform the Muslim call to prayer (Azan). Make sure azan is called on time and all the arrangements for prayers, Juma, Ramadan and other programs are in place.
- In coordination with building committees of both centers, make sure building is in good shape, clean and up to the codes.
- Keep President and Secretary informed on any matter related to the organization. Help committees in completing their tasks.

### Qualifications

- Proficient in using Microsoft Office suite and eagerness to learn new software programs as needed. Good written and verbal communication skills
- Minimum of High School Education, advanced degree preferred
- Ability to remain calm, patient and efficient during stressful situations.
- Excellent organizational and multitasking abilities
- Ability to prepare reports, business correspondence and establish procedures.
- Accounting experience a plus.