

## MEC Weekend Retreat 2024

Day One

Friday, October 11, 2024

Time	Topic	Speaker	Descriptions
6:45pm	Introduction/Welcome		
7:00pm	Toxic Masculinity: Islamic Ideology or Liberal Libel (Brothers Only - Masjid)	Mufti Mohammed Wahaaj	Various movements are continuously popping up, and even more movements are developing to respond to them. All of these sit on extreme ends of the spectrum. It isn't surprising that Muslim men are confused about what is expected of them as a man. This session will highlight what true masculinity is according to the Qur'an and Sunnah, as well as identify what is faulty within the existing ideologies.
7:00pm	Feminism: Warped Womanhood or Divine Doctrine (Sisters Only - Banquet Hall)	Shaykha Rukayat Yakub	Various movements are continuously popping up, and even more movements are developing to respond to them. All of these sit on extreme ends of the spectrum. It isn't surprising that Muslim women are confused about what is expected of them as a woman. This session will highlight what true femininity is according to the Qur'an and Sunnah, as well as identify what is faulty within the existing ideologies.
8:00pm	Isha		
8:30pm	Making a House a Home	Shaykh Akef Habbal	The terms for "house" in Arabic vary. Dar refers to a place from which you come and go. Bayt refers to a place where you spend the night. Maskan refers to a place of peace and tranquility. This session aims to take a residence as a place merely of stay to become a

			home and a place where hearts can heal, souls can strengthen, and growth can occur.
8:30pm	Stories and Snacks (Youth - Location: Banquet Hall)	Sa'ad Quadri	This session is a continuation of our children's community program where kids 10 and under will sit for a story, do an activity, and have a snack.
9:30pm	Q/A & Refreshments	Visiting Scholars	

Day Two  
Saturday, October 12, 2024

Time	Topic	Speaker	
6:00am	Fajr/Breakfast/Brother hood	Hafiz Ikhlas Ansari	
12:00pm	Stalwarts of Submission (Sisters-Only - Banquet Hall)	Alima Sakina Syeda	This will be the second of a series of women-only lectures -- and the first in the "Stalwart" series -- which aims to remind women that they are first Allah's servant before anything else. More often than not, society grants value to women based on their children, their spouse, or other external variables. However, a woman like a man is Allah's servant. Women of the past have shown themselves to be role models in their submission to Allah. This session will highlight such examples from not only the Companions, but also throughout Islamic history that excelled in submission and spirituality.
1:00pm	Dhuhr Preparation		
1:10pm	Dhuhr		

1:45pm	Introduction/Welcome		
2:00pm	Shattered Glass	Imam Azfar Uddin	<p>One reason as to why earthquakes are so frightening is because we have come to depend on the earth and know it will never give out. When the floor goes out from beneath us we feel like our world has been turned upside down. Similarly, those closest to us are our rock and foundation. If we are betrayed by them, we also feel our world has been turned upside down. It is hard to recover from betrayal. This session will focus on understanding the severity of betrayal, along with what betrayal is. This session will also focus on regaining the trust of those whom we may have betrayed, as well as learning to trust again after being betrayed.</p>
2:45pm	Stretch Break		
2:55pm	The New Outlaws	Shaykh Hassan Aly	<p>Marriage is rarely ever the union of two people. Rather, it is of two families. It is hard enough to try to learn to live with one new person, but to now have an entire family and extended family to interact with can be stressful. This session will focus on how to properly deal with inlaws, including their rights over us. More than rights, this lecture will focus on how we can leverage our in-laws to be a method to strengthen our marriage and family. Along with in-laws, the lecture should also speak about extended family in the same</p>

			light.
3:45pm	Refreshments		
4:00pm	Islamic Schools or Islamic Homes?	Habeeb Quadri	Islamic schools are very important. Living in a non-Muslim land, Islamic schools have become a source of development and knowledge for our children. However, not everyone has the ability to attend Islamic schools. This session will focus on the importance of Islamic schools in the community, including full-time, part-time, weekend, and evening ( <i>maktab</i> ) programs. This talk will also delve into the need to make Islamic development and education a key part of the home, so the family can grow together in character, service, and devotion.
4:45pm	Asr Preparation		
5:00pm	Asr		
5:15pm	Spiritual Serenity: Attaining a Tranquil Heart (Urdu Lecture - Masjid)	Maulana Aziz Ahmed	The Prophet has told us that in the body there is a piece of flesh that if it is sound the body is sound, and if it is corrupted the body is corrupted. This piece of flesh, the heart, dictates how we will behave in this world and more importantly in the hereafter. This session will focus on how to attain a tranquil and purified heart.
5:15pm	Stalwarts of Service (Sisters-Only - Banquet Hall)	Alimah Hamnah Siddiqui	This will be the third of a series of women-only lectures -- and the second in the "Stalwart" series -- which aims

			to remind women that they are first Allah's servant before anything else. More often than not, society grants value to women based on their children, their spouse, or other external variables. However, a woman like a man is Allah's servant. Women of the past have shown themselves to be role models in their service to the din, be it through their financing the construction of institutions of worship and knowledge or through their writings and teachings. This session will highlight such examples from not only the Companions, but also throughout Islamic history that excelled in service to the din.
6:00pm	Maghrib Preparation		
6:12pm	Maghrib		
6:45pm	I Found the One (Youth - Location: Banquet Hall)	Maulana Abdur Rahsid Khan	It is hard to find "the one" today. In the past, couples may have been content with arranged marriages, but today many find it unacceptable. As a result, they go on the search to find that perfect person, forgetting that perfection is only for Paradise. This session will address the importance of finding a suitable partner, while highlighting what should be looked for in a spouse. This session will also address what to avoid in a partner and some of the warning signs in a potential suitor. Finally, this talk will also have to delve into the proper methods by which a person can search for a spouse while gaining the pleasure of their Lord.

6:45pm	Hardships after the Honeymoon (Adults - Location: Masjid)	Mufti Wahaaj Mohammed	Marriage is wonderful at the outset. However, as with all interaction with human beings, marriage also comes with its ups and downs. The highs can be great, but the lows can be devastating. However, marriage was never meant to be only the honeymoon phase. The Prophet (s) himself had disagreements with his wives. Yet, in the end they always returned back to the description from the Qur'an – a source of tranquility. This session will identify how to navigate some of the hardships that come with marriage and how to establish a beautiful relationship.
7:45pm	Isha Preparation		
8:00pm	Isha		
8:30pm	Sacred Solace: Strengthening Souls	Mufti Wahaaj Mohammed	In today's day war, financial crisis, and a variety of other situations have led to broken hearts. To heal our hearts Allah has provided – amongst many things – prayer, dhikr, and good company. This lecture will also provide steps to identify what methods the great scholars of the past have given us to heal our hearts and subsequently heal our ailing families and communities. This session will also bring forth how we can strengthen our spiritual selves to serve our Creator, our community, and our families.

			This strength is meant to be a foundation upon which others can stabilize themselves and grow.
8:30pm	Stories and Snacks (Youth - Location: Banquet Hall)	Sa'ad Quadri	This session is a continuation of our children's community program where kids 10 and under will sit for a story, do an activity, and have a snack.
9:30pm	Q/A & Refreshments	Mufti Mohammed Wahaaj	

Day Three  
Sunday, October 13, 2024

6:00am	Fajr/Community Breakfast	Dr. Ikhlas Ansari	
9:00am	Closing Du`a	Maulana Abulfattah Muniruzzaman	

Speaker Bios:

**Mufti Wahaajuddin Mohammed**

Wahaajuddin Mohammed who is also Imam of Tawheed Center was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and completed the memorization of the Quran at the Islamic Institute of Elgin (Illinois) in 2003. He then moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he began the formal study of the Islamic sciences and completed his Bachelor's in Management from Georgia Tech University in 2010. He briefly served as the Head of Quranic Studies at the Good Tree Academy in Dallas, Texas before relocating to Farmington Hills, Michigan in September of 2012, where he has since served as the Tawheed Center community. In 2018, he completed the Shahaadtul 'Alimiyyah program at the Masjid Madinatul Ilm in Canton, Michigan, receiving formal authorization ('ijaaza) in the major books of Hadith and Islamic sciences, and received a separate formal authorization in the ten modes of Quranic recitation. He continues to serve the Tawheed Center and greater Detroit community by teaching, leading and speaking throughout the area.

**Shaykh Hassan Aly**

Shaykh Hassan Mostafa Aly has long served as an imam in and outside of the Chicagoland area. He is a graduate of the prestigious Al-Azhar University of Cairo, Egypt in Islamic Studies and Sharia. He has a "sanad / ijazah" linked to Prophet Muhammad in Quran and Hadith. He has held the position of Imam and served as the director of religious affairs in many Islamic centers and has taught at Islamic schools in Egypt and the USA. He is also the author of many articles published in newspapers and websites. Shaykh

Hassan Aly is the recipient of the Best Religious Speech award from Al-Azhar University Cairo in 2002. He has hosted many Islamic radio shows in the US. Currently, he is a Ph.D candidate in Theology.

### **Imam Azfar Uddin**

Shaykh Azfar Uddin graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Benedictine University. His degree is in Education with a minor in History. Shaykh Azfar graduated from Benedictine with distinction, maintaining high honors throughout his academic career. He is currently writing his thesis on "How Imams can survive and possibly thrive while working in the masjid." He completed his memorization of the Quran at the age of 12. He returned to the Institute of Islamic Education to pursue his goal in becoming an Islamic scholar and completed the 'Alimiyyah Program which is a five-year, post-secondary program designed to train its students in the classical foundation of the Islamic sciences. He completed the last two years of the 'Alim program including the Dawrah al-Hadith year from Darul Uloom Online. He is currently obtaining a Masters in Islamic Theology from American Islāmic College. He has written research papers on "The ethics of playing sports", "The misconceptions of Sufism", "Is the prohibition of music in Islam a blanket statement for all types of music and songs during all situations?", "Is the law of apostasy one of the non-negotiable aspects of Islamic law" and more. Meanwhile, he has taught 'Aqidah, Fiqh, Sīrah, and Arabic to Middle school and High school students. Shaykh Azfar has been awarded many awards for his leadership qualities, excellence in teaching, and his service to the community. In addition to delivering enlightening lectures at various mosques, high schools and universities, Shaykh Azfar is the CEO of Concise Advice, a YouTube channel geared towards teaching different aspects of Islam consisting of Muslim scholars, students of knowledge, doctors, lawyers and Muslim professionals. Shaykh Azfar Uddin is the Imām and Resident Scholar at Islamic Foundation North.