

Ramadan
Mubarak

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MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THE MESSAGE

Ramaḍān is the month in which the Qur ān was revealed as a guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the standard (to distinguish between right and wrong).

[AL-BAQARAH 2:185]

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۗ
وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ
وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَيْتُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Assalamu-Alaikoum and Ramadan Mubarak,

I hope this message finds you in good health and Imaan. MCC held its General Body Meeting in January, and I thank Sr. Saba Khan for leading the meeting and the Executives for attending and answering questions, Br. Kashif and Basheeruddin Uncle for presenting the finance reports, and Akhter Bhai and Sr. Enisa for managing logistics. In February, the Board elected three Directors at Large, Sr. Tina Ayyad, Br. Jemal Ibrahim, and Br. Asrar Ahmed. They also approved the following committee chairs and co-chairs: Sr. Wendy Walsh & Shakira Bijapuri (Nominations), Br. Asrar Ahmed & Dr. Omar Masihuddin (By-Laws), Br. Jemal Ibrahim & Sr. Naeema Ahmed (Elections), and Br. Tariq Malhance & Br. Tariq Puthawala (Endowment).

MCC has been helping our community prepare for Ramadan with enriching programs. The Religious Affairs Committee organized a *Tarawih Preparation Seminar* for Hufadh, a *Ramadan Prep Series*, a *Zakah Seminar*, and *Connecting Hearts with the Quran*. The MCC & MEC Special Events Committees are managing logistics for Iftar, Tarawih, parking, security, and babysitting, while the Green Team is working with them to incorporate eco-friendly products, reusable water containers, and proper food waste disposal.

The Youth Committee hosted *Stories & Snacks* and *Ramadan Delights: Kids in the Kitchen* for children under 10, along with *Girl Talk: A Coming of Age Seminar* and *Ramadan Ready* for middle schoolers. They partnered with the Counseling Committee and Project Taqwa for *The Impact of Trauma on the Believer*. The MCC Women's Committee presented a *Youth Mentorship Workshop* on self-awareness, *A Conversation on Early Black American Muslims*, and a *Crafty Countdown to Ramadan Series*. The MEC Women's Committee held *Enlighten Your Hearts This Ramadan* and an Urdu lecture on *Nurturing Your Soul*.

The Dawah Committee hosted a *Welcome Ramadan* event for reverts and a *Meet & Greet* for families with special needs. The Adult Education Committee scheduled a *Healthy Healing Empowering Minds* online, while the Security Committee presented *Know Your Rights*, covering interactions with law enforcement, workplace rights, and travel considerations.

The Rehab & Welfare Committee will distribute daily iftars and run an Eid Toy Drive for the underprivileged. **I encourage everyone to support these efforts and sponsor MCC iftars, which serve over 700 people daily. You can also become an MCC Ansar during Ramadan for just \$3 a day or \$90 a month and receive an exclusive MCC silver coin from our souvenir collection - a timeless keepsake to show our appreciation for your support!** Lastly, the MCC Interfaith Committee is co-hosting a Muslim-Catholic Iftar with CIOGC and the Archdiocese of Chicago on March 4.

As I complete my final year as President, I am grateful to continue working alongside returning Executive officers Sr. Saba Khan (VP), Br. Kashif Puthawala (Treasurer), and Br. Akhter Sadiq (Secretary). Please pray for us as we continue to serve MCC for the sake of Allah (swt). May He guide us on the right path, Ameen.

Masood Bijapuri, MCC President

LESS WASTE, MORE BARAKAH

Give Yourself a Ramadan Reset!

As we strive for the blessings of Ramadan, it is also a time to reflect on both our spirituality and consumption. Ramadan teaches us to live in moderation, yet extravagant iftars, food waste, and excessive Eid shopping contradict its spirit of gratitude and simplicity. This Ramadan, let's also fast from overconsumption.



Feast Mindfully!

"Eat and drink, but do not waste extravagantly. Indeed, He does not like the wasteful." (Qur'an 7:31)

Let's shift towards mindful choices:

- Make a shopping list and only buy what's needed.
- Plan meals wisely to prevent leftovers from going to waste.
- Do not over-purchase party food, and donate any extras.
- Use reusable water bottles, plates, and utensils.

Celebrate Sustainably!

Let's gift with purpose:

- Create eco-friendly decor.
- Choose sustainable Eid gifts like handmade crafts instead of plastic and single-use items.
- Give the gift of "experiences" – spend quality time together, plan a special outing, or plant trees in their name.

Eid should be a celebration of gratitude for experiencing another Ramadan, not an event of excess. By choosing simplicity, we protect our health and our planet's health, honor the spirit of Ramadan, and set an example for future generations. Let's make this Ramadan and Eid green, holistic, and truly meaningful.

🌱 **Eco-Challenge: Host a zero-waste iftar! Share your journey to inspire others, email: holisticgreenteam@gmail.com.**

By Dr. Sam & Sema Bawamia

THE YOUTH'S HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION OF RAMADAN

In collaboration with Ta'leef, the Youth of MCC wrapped up January with another installment of Coffee Conversations. This bimonthly event helps college students and young professionals strengthen their relationship with Allah SWT. Hosted at Complimentary Cafe in downtown Skokie, this installment on "Planting Seeds for Ramadan" was led by Ta'leef advisor, Mike Sweis, and convert care coordinator, Dr. Will Caldwell.

Unlike its usual lecture-style format, this session was more interactive. Participants passed the microphone around, sharing their thoughts and anticipation for Ramadan. This exchange provided insight and guidance on how individuals prepared for the blessed month. As a result, the room filled with warmth as brothers and sisters reflected on Ramadan as an opportunity to strengthen their relationship with Allah, improve their deen, and build a stronger sense of community.

Many revert brothers and sisters attended, with some preparing for their first Ramadan! All participants left with a renewed sense of optimism and belonging, knowing they are not alone in whatever challenges they may encounter.

By Zahid Khan



MCC'S COMMITMENT TO REVERT EDUCATION



The MCC Women's Committee completed its first 13-week New Muslim Course! Led by Br. AbdulKareem, this class brought together a diverse group of brothers and sisters – some embraced Islam over 30 years ago, others accepted it just before the course began, and even some non-Muslims were eager to learn.

Throughout the course, we studied essential topics of our deen, gaining foundational knowledge and a strong sense of community. We completed *A Comprehensive Guide for the New Muslim* by Anwar Wright, which covers the core elements of faith, worship, and daily practice. Wright clearly explains the pillars of Islam, prayer, purification, and Islamic etiquette while emphasizing the importance of learning from authentic sources to develop a strong foundation in belief and practice. The book also offers practical advice to help new Muslims confidently integrate Islamic teachings into their lives.

One of the most heartwarming moments of our journey came during our final session when Sister Danely, who had consistently attended since day one, embraced Islam after completing the course. May Allah keep her and all our new Muslim brothers and sisters steadfast on this beautiful path!

Given the success and impact of this program, the MCC Women's Committee is excited to make this an annual course to continue serving and supporting our revert community. May Allah bless everyone who participated, and we look forward to welcoming more students in the future!

By Jazmin Cervantes

INTERFAITH STORYTIME: BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH BOOKS



On February 1, 2025, the MCC Interfaith Committee collaborated with Tzedek Chicago (a local Jewish organization) and Lake Street Church Evanston to host "Worldwide Storytime: Expressions of Faith and Kindness" at the Morton Grove Public Library. This event aimed to strengthen unity and understanding among parents and their children ages 4 to 8, not just for our community today but for future generations also. Participants explored faiths worldwide by discovering similarities and differences through interactive activities, including book readings, craft activities, and snacks!

The event drew a strong turnout, with participants from all faiths expressing the need and desire for more gatherings like this. The kids excitedly discussed the featured books, *The Together Tree* by Aisha Saeed and *Hats of Faith* by Medeia Cohan, and learned greetings from different faiths. As they sat and played together, their parents learned more about each other's beliefs and lives.

Inshallah, this is the beginning of many beautiful friendships and events between our neighboring faith communities. For more information, email us at mccinterfaithteam@gmail.com.

By Bazigha Khan



MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER
4380 N. ELSTON AVE.
CHICAGO, IL 60641
WWW.MCCCHICAGO.ORG

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We'd love to hear your thoughts

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

publications@mccchicago.org
Faizah Syed, Chair
Amani Laliwala, Co-Chair

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

membership@mccchicago.org
amuhsin@mccchicago.org

PROPER DISPOSAL OF ISLAMIC PAPERS

Burning, shredding, or wrapping and burying where no one walks

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REVERT EDUCATION INTERFAITH STORYTIME

MCC WISHES CHICAGO A BLESSED RAMADAN!

رمضان مبارك
(Arabic)

রমজান মোবারক
(Bengali)

Ramazan Šerif Mubarek Olsun
(Bosnian)

斋月快乐
(Chinese)

HAPPY RAMADAN
(English)

ماه رمضان مبارك
(Farsi)

Maligayang Ramadan
(Filipino)

Joyeux Ramadan
(French)

Froher Ramadan
(German)

સુખદ રમદાન
(Gujarati)

रमज़ान मुबारक
(Hindi)

SELAMAT MENUNAIKAN IBADAH PUASA
(Indonesian)

Auguri Di Buon Ramadan
(Italian)

Ramazan Piroz Be
(Kurdish)

Рамазан маарек болсун
(Kyrgyz)

Selamat Berpuasa
(Malaysian)

روژه مبارك شه
(Pashto)

Szczęśliwego Ramadanu
(Polish)

Счастливого Рамадана
(Russian)

Ramadan Barakaysan
(Somali)

Feliz Ramadán
(Spanish)

Ramazan Ayiniz Mubarek Olsun
(Turkish)

رمضان مبارك
(Urdu)

Ramazon O'yi Muborak Bo'lsin
(Uzbek)