In the name of Allah, the most Compassionate, the ever Merciful



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 9 September 2023 | Safar/Rabi ul Awal 1445

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided..."(Aal 'Imran, 3:103)



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"The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever." [Bukhari]

## Sunday School 2023 Register NOW!

### September 10th, 2023 - June 9th, 2024 For Students ages 5-17

Promoting a strong sense of Islamic identity

More on page 2

## 2023 Thanksgiving Umrah

## **Register** Now

More on page 7



#### Friday, September 15th After Asr

Bring your family and friends to spend an evening with your community!



#### Holding Muslim Women in Esteem

Remember how you felt as a child when you were jumping rope, playing tag with friends, riding your...



#### Register Early for the 2023 - 2024 Preschool Program

The preschool program is a weekly program, Tuesday through Thursday, and will begin on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023**, in sha Allah.



Mustapha Elturk Ameer

IONA Masjid Community Advisory Board

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### Announcements

### Reserve a spot for your child(ren). Register Early. 2023 - 2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins on **September 10, 2023** in sha Allah and ends on June 9, 2024. We are accepting students ages 5 to 17 (limited space available).

Tuition and Fees: \$450 per child per year plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee. \$675 for two siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee. \$950 for three siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

#### School hours are from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Subjects Taught: Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies (Hadith, Sirah, etc.)

**Dress code**: Proper Islamic dress is required for both boys and girls Girls must wear a navy Jilbab and a white scarf and boys must wear navy pants (blue jeans allowed) and white shirts or T-shirts. No shorts allowed.

To apply, please visit ionamasjid.org and click on Education tab and follow the link to Sunday School.

For more information, please contact the principal, Sr. Souad, at 248-872-2169.

#### **REGISTER ONLINE at IONAMASJID.ORG**

### 2023 - 2024 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The preschool program is a weekly program, Tuesday through Thursday, and will begin on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023,** in sha Allah.

The tuition per child is \$250 per month.

Sr. Souad Soubra, the Sunday and Summer School Principal, has designed a wonderful program for preschoolers. The curriculum includes Personal Development, Literacy Skills, Numbers and Math, and Art in addition to learning Islamic manners, dua's, Memorizing Qur'an, and Arabic. The preschool is the first step to schooling and our goal is to build confidence in the students, get them acquainted with the educational environment, teach them good manners, and help them develop the concepts of sharing and charity. Students will receive a certificate at the end of the year marking their first memorable school year.

Children ages 3 to 5 from all cultures are welcome The preschool program is from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM,

Tuesday through Thursday, and the tuition per child is **\$250** with a discount for siblings. For more information, please contact **Sr. Souad** at **248-872-2169**.

The school will, in sha Allah, start on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023** and end on **Thursday, May 30, 2024**. IONA is committed to helping the community with their educational needs. Let us help you develop your child right from the start.

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### SCAN ME

By giving your generous contribution to IONA masjid, you can empower the heart of our community, fostering

spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and a place of solace for all. Together, let's build a stronger foundation of faith and service. Donate to the masjid today and make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

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### **SYNOPSIS OF AMEER MUSTAPHA'S FRIDAY KHUTBAH** The Significance of the Hijrah - Part 2

The implicit faith in the Creator that the Prophet (SAW) and his companions possessed and the intense desire to please Him caused them to heed Allah's command to march and migrate to Yathrib, a city 200 miles north Mecca, to establish a community where God's rule would reign supreme. The city's name was changed to al-Madinah, "The City". Today we refer to it as al-Madinah al-Munawwarah, The City of Lights, or the Illuminated City.

Allah (SWT) in His infinite mercy responded to the cry of the believers who were being tormented day in and day out during the Meccan period at the hands of the Pagan Quraish and others, "Their Lord has answered them: 'I will not allow the deeds of any one of you to be lost, whether you are male or female, each is like the other [in rewards]. I will certainly wipe out the bad deeds of those who emigrated and were driven out of their homes, who suffered harm for My cause, who fought and were killed. I will certainly admit them to Gardens graced with flowing streams, as a reward from God: the best reward is with God."(Aal 'Imran, 3:195)

On his way to Medina, the Prophet established the first Masjid at Quba where Muslims could freely worship Allah alone without fear of any persecution.

The first thing that happened on the Prophet's arrival at Medina was that the enmity between the two feuding tribes of Aws and Khazraj came to an end. Allah (SWT) fostered brotherhood between them. They came to be known as the Ansar or helpers. Allah (SWT) mentions this phenomenon in the following Qur'anic ayah, "... Remember Allah's favor upon you, when you were enemies and then He brought your hearts together and you became brothers by His grace; And you were at the brink of the pit of fire and He saved you from it- thus Allah expounds His signs to you so that you may be (rightly) guided." (Aal 'Imran, 3:103)

Four things of great significance occurred after migration:

1) Construction of the first Islamic Center: Upon arrival at Medina, the Prophet (SAW) laid the foundation of the first Islamic Center, the Prophet's Mosque - a Masjid cum school which catered to both the worshipping and learning needs of the believers. Many great companions were graduates of this school. The Prophet's Masjid served as a community center where the entire affairs of the Muslim community were handled.

2) Consolidation of the Muslim Ummah: The hijrah underscored the importance of community, solidarity, and brotherhood in Islam. It helped solidify the bonds among Muslims and laid the foundation for a unified community known as the Ummah. The Prophet (SAW) created a strong feeling of fraternity between the Ansar and the Muhajirun (emigrants), which went a long way to unite and strengthen the Muslim community of Medina. The Ansar demonstrated a unique self-sacrificing spirit when they welcomed their Meccan brothers with open arms and cheerfully shared their wealth and possessions with them just for the sake of Allah (SWT). This spirit of unity and cooperation became a fundamental principle in Islam, emphasizing the value of helping and protecting one another and played a crucial role in the subsequent victories and successes of the early Muslim community.

3) Establishment of the first Islamic state: The hijrah marked the establishment of the first Islamic state in Medina. Muhammad (SAW) made peaceful and alliance pacts and covenants with many tribes and communities among them the Jews. This ensured the safety and security of Medina against foreign aggression as all parties to the alliance, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, whether hostile or friendly to each other were legally and morally bound to stand against their common enemy. The Prophet (SAW) played a pivotal role in forging a community of Muslims, forming a social and political structure based on Islamic principles.

4) Preservation and spread of Islam: The migration to Medina provided a safer environment for the Prophet and his followers to practice and propagate Islam. The Muslim community in Medina grew rapidly, and the city became a center of Islamic learning and governance. This migration allowed Islam to flourish and spread beyond Mecca, ultimately leading to its expansion across the Arabian Peninsula and beyond.

The Prophet (SAW) was constrained to engage in wars against the leaders of the disbelievers of Mecca. With the help of Allah (SWT), within a few years, the Prophet (SAW) and his companions were successful in obliterating all forms of kufr (disbelief) and shirk (polytheism). The Prophet (SAW) along with his companions peacefully marched toward Mecca where he entered it victoriously cleansing the most sacred house from idols and other objects of worship. He restored the sanctity of al-Masjid al-Haram to its original state.



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Saturday by appointment

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### SISTERS CORNER HOLDING MULSIM WOMEN IN ESTEEM



Islam improves and enhances the culture within a nation and improves the lives of citizens, especially the women. Islam brings balance and order to societies. In the history of humankind, there is a tendency toward unfairness and subjugation of women. In Islam, we know this is wrong.

Many cultures do not value the lives of women. Historical misconceptions and superstitions may paint women as witches or creatures that are not equal or as capable as men in spiritual matters and belief. Many cultures view women as expendable to society or exploit women and take away their rights to have any assets or self-determination. Islam takes away those injustices.

#### **Believers:**

The Quran teaches humankind that both men and women are capable and expected to submit to Allah and that they work together towards that goal.

"The believers, both men and women, are allies of one another. They enjoin good, forbid evil, establish Prayer, pay Zakah, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Surely Allah will show mercy to them. Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise" (9:7).

#### Right To Live:

Women's life is valuable and substantial, as the Quran forbade female infanticide (practiced in pre-Islamic Arabia and in other parts of the world) and teaches the disbeliever that such actions are sinful.

"And when the female infant buried alive is asked for what sin was she killed" (81: 8-9).

#### Preserve And Protect Wealth:

The Quran teaches us that women, especially orphans or women under the care of others due to diminished resources, will retain the wealth and property owed to them. In fact, it is an obligation to bestow it upon them. Wealth lends to status and self-determination which is often challenged in many cultures.

"...and for the women a portion of what is left by parents and near relatives what is little of it or much, a portion obligatory" (4:7).

#### Not Deliberately Impoverished Or Slandered:

In the Quran Allah instructs us that women are not thrown out of marriages on a whim and then forced to leave penniless or with their wealth taken from them. That wealth is not just financial, but the affluence of a good name and reputation which allows them to live peacefully and respectfully in the society.

"...then do not take away from it anything. Would you take it by slander and a sin open?" (4:20)

#### No Forced Marriages Or Prostitution:

Again, the Quran ensures that women are not exploited and used by evil men in society. Men are explicitly warned not to force women into marriage or take advantage of and misuse vulnerable women in the society. In the Mercy that only comes from Allah, He teaches us that if a woman finds herself in this predicament, that the sin belongs to the oppressor, not she who is oppressed and thus Allah will forgive and be merciful towards her.

O you who have believed, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion" (4:19).

"...Do not force your slave girls into prostitution for your own worldly gains while they wish to remain chaste. And if someone coerces them, then after such a coercion Allah is certainly All-Forgiving, Most Merciful to them" (24: 33)

In fact, the Quran orders that women should be given a gift upon marriage and treated kindly. If the marriage does not work out and the couple divorces, she must be treated with justice and fairness.

"And give the women [upon marriage] their [bridal] gifts graciously" (4:4).

And live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them – perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good" (4:19).

And when you divorce the women and they reach their term of their waiting period then retain them in a fair manner or release them in a fair manner

And do not retain them with the intention to hurt them... (2:231)

With the knowledge and guidance from the Holy Quran, it is a wonder that many Muslim majority societies have seen a decline in the rights and respect of women. The greatest disparity has been between the norms of the Prophetic period and those of subsequent ages.

Prophetic society lacked the rigid divisions of social space that became characteristic of many Islamic societies later in history. Also, in the Prophetic age when Islam was blossoming, due to the nature and guidance of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, society was deliberately moving away from patriarchal oppressive norms which gave women greater freedom and allowed them a conspicuous role within the matrix of social and civic life.

Muslim women during the Prophet's age were quite amazing. They were full sisters in faith with the men, working both in and outside the home and integrated in the society socially and politically serving in a multitude of roles. Foster Parent: Umm Ayman or Umm Barakah, radi Allahu anha (may Allah be pleased with her)

Archivist: Hafsah bint Umar (ra) memorized and kept the only written copy of the Quran that we use today.

Business woman: Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (ra)

Social Worker and Benefactor: Zaynab bint Khuzama (ra), also known as Mother of the Poor

Public Administrator: Ash Shifa bint Abdullah (ra) – administrator in Madinah and later head of Health and Safety in Basra, Iraq

Market Inspector: Samra bint Nuhayk al Asadiyya (ra)

Soldier: Nusaybah bint Ka'ab (ra) – defended the Prophet at Battle of Uhud

Scholar: Rabi'ah bint Muawwad (ra) – scholar of fiqh, taught the scholars of Madinah

Muhaddithat - Umm Atiyyah (ra) - narrated many hadith

Martyrs: Sumayyah bint Khayyā (ra) - the first martyr in Islam

Although we have the experiences of these Muslim women and countless others, many Islamic societies have fallen away from respect and care for Muslim women because of tribalism, political and economic strife, corruption, ignorance, colonialism and misinterpretation of Islamic principles. Let us return to the guidance from the Quran.

Courtesy of: Soundvision.com

### Kids Corner

## The Ability to Eat

Last Friday (April 9, 2004), we had the opportunity to visit a sick brother in a Hospital in East York, Canada. This brother had an infection in his stomach which caused it to explode. As a result, the doctors had to remove half of his stomach through an operation. For seven days, he is unable to eat or drink anything. Nutrients are being provided to him by using specialized methods. During our visit, we told him to be patient and pray to Allah for quick recovery. At one point, the brother made a very important statement. He said, "Now I have understood that if Allah doesn't want, we cannot eat even one grain of rice."

Being able to eat and drink is a great blessing of Allah. How costly and difficult it is to digest one meal without having a stomach! We should thank Allah again and again for letting us digest many meals without having to go through these difficulties.

Courtesy of: islamcan.com

### The Significance of the Hijrah - Part 2 (cont'd)

This victory of Mecca was achieved without spilling blood and the Prophet (SAW), again in keeping with his usual benevolence declared a general amnesty, even for those disbelievers who had crossed limits in their persecution and opposition of the believers.

Two months prior to his demise in 632 CE, the Prophet (SAW) performed Hajj in which he delivered his famous farewell sermon. He admonished the believers to be good to one another, "O People, ... hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord;" to be kind to women, "O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. .... Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers;" to avoid usury, "Allah has forbidden you to take usury, therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequality. Allah has judged that there shall be no interest;" to eliminate prejudices of ethnicity and tribalism; "O People, All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action;" and to be alert of the accursed Satan, "Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will be able to lead you astray in big things so beware of following him in small things."

On this occasion, Allah (SWT) signaled His pleasure to the Prophet (SAW) and to the community of believers by revealing what is believed to be the last revealed ayah of the Qur'an: *"This day I have perfected your faith (deen) for you, completed My favor upon you, and pleased with al-Islam as your deen (way of life)." (al-Ma'idah, 5:3)* The last words revealed to the Prophet (SAW) were quite soothing and comforting. Shortly after that the Prophet (SAW) fell ill and died in 632 AD.

With the Prophet's death the brightest stage of al-Madinah's life ended. Medina became the Capital of the newborn Islamic State and the center of the prophetic directions for the Muslim community.

The trials and tribulations of the believers in the Meccan period and their sincere commitment to struggle in the path of Allah (SWT) eventually resulted in the creation of a social order based on fairness and justice. This social order and stability were not restricted to Mecca and Medina rather it spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. The first converts to Islam who strove in the path of Allah begged for Allah's grace and were granted such blessing. *"Verily, those who have believed, and those who emigrated and struggled in the way of Allah, it is they who may hope for Allah's mercy.* 

#### And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful." [al-Baqarah, 2:218]

It is essential that the immigrant Muslims live the spirit of the Muhajirun and Ansar in Medina. Immigrant Muslims (muhajirun) and the indigenous African Americans (ansar) are summoned to create the same bond of brotherhood and sisterhood.

As Muslims, regardless of our race, origin, or sect, we must be united and not divided serving Allah's cause. The adage, "United we stand, divided we fall," rings true.

Let us turn our masajid into centers of learning as the Prophet (SAW) did. Such centers of learning will unify, energize, community members to practice and preach Islam, a sincere struggle in the path of Allah (SWT) seeking His pleasure and grace.

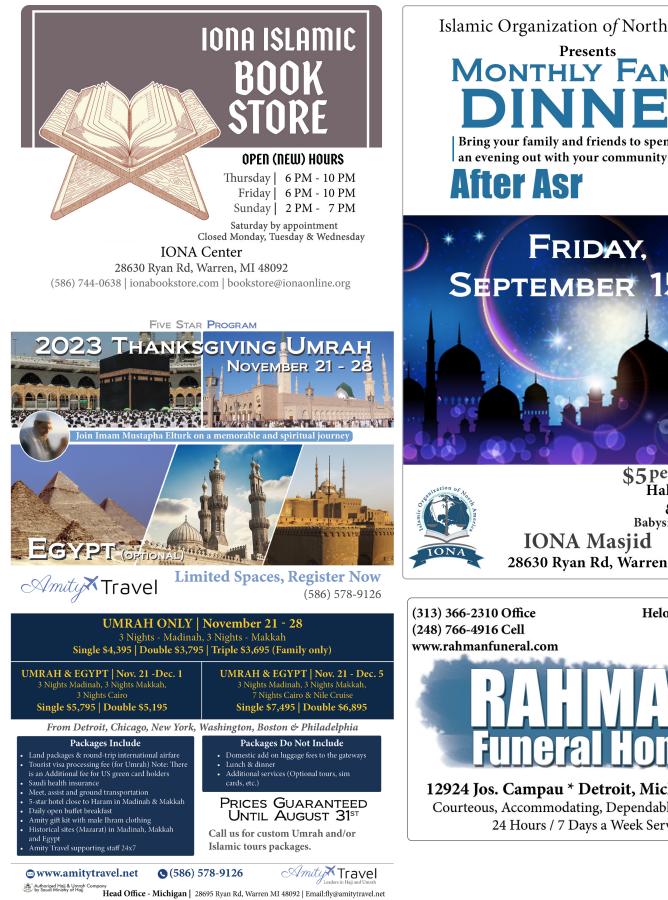
Let us engage the community and work with whoever likes to work with us on issues of social justice. Let us commit ourselves to follow the spirit of the divine revelation and methodology of the Prophet (SAW) of repelling evil with good. *"Good and evil cannot be equal. Repel evil with what is better, and your enemy will become as close as an old and valued friend."* (*Fussilat, 41:34*)

Following the Qur'an and Sunnah, the Islamic Organization of North America (IONA), was successful in turning the adversaries of the Muslim Community to becoming good friends. The opponents of the Muslim community in the city of Warren, Michigan, who were vehemently opposed to the establishment of the IONA masjid and Learning Center, have become good friends.

The tireless work of the IONA leadership working with other clergy in the city among other community leaders were able to influence the Mayor and city officials to put an end to discrimination and prejudice. The City Council of Warren passed a resolution, "Upholding the American Core Values of Freedom, Equality, and Justice" - those inherent qualities that do not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, nationality, ethnicity, language, and gender.

Indeed, we have the perfect model in our Prophet (SAW), "Indeed, the Messenger of Allah is an excellent model for one whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and remember Him often." (Al-Ahzab, 33:21)

### Advertisements



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## MONTHLY FAMILY Bring your family and friends to spend an evening out with your community!



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### **SEPTEMBER 2023** IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqamah Timings

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Dat		Fajr				Iqamah					Iqamah		Iqamah
Fri	1	5:22	6:15	6:57	1:37	2:00	5:14	6:11	6:30	8:10	8:15	9:19	9:45
Sat	2	5:24	6:15	6:58	1:37	2:00	5:13	6:10	6:30	8:08	8:13	9:18	9:45
Sun	3	5:25	6:15	6:59	1:37	2:00	5:12	6:08	6:30	8:06	8:11	9:16	9:45
Mon	4	5:26	6:15	7:00	1:36	2:00	5:11	6:07	6:30	8:05	8:10	9:15	9:45
Tue	5	5:27	6:15	7:01	1:36	2:00	5:10	6:06	6:30	8:03	8:08	9:13	9:45
Wed	6	5:29	6:15	7:02	1:36	2:00	5:08	6:04	6:15	8:01	8:06	9:12	9:30
Thu	7	5:30	6:15	7:03	1:35	2:00	5:07	6:03	6:15	7:59	8:04	9:10	9:30
Fri	8	5:31	6:15	7:04	1:35	2:00	5:06	6:02	6:15	7:58	8:03	9:09	9:30
Sat	9	5:33	6:15	7:06	1:35	2:00	5:05	6:00	6:15	7:56	8:01	9:07	9:30
Sun	10	5:34	6:15	7:07	1:34	2:00	5:04	5:59	6:15	7:54	7:59	9:05	9:30
Mon	11	5:35	6:15	7:08	1:34	2:00	5:03	5:57	6:15	7:52	7:57	9:04	9:30
Tue	12	5:36	6:15	7:09	1:33	2:00	5:02	5:56	6:15	7:51	7:56	9:02	9:30
Wed	13	5:38	6:15	7:10	1:33	2:00	5:01	5:54	6:15	7:49	7:54	9:01	9:30
Thu	14	5:39	6:15	7:11	1:33	2:00	5:00	5:53	6:15	7:47	7:52	8:59	9:30
Fri	15	5:40	6:15	7:12	1:32	2:00	4:58	5:52	6:15	7:45	7:50	8:58	9:30
Sat	16	5:42	6:15	7:13	1:32	2:00	4:57	5:50	6:15	7:43	7:48	8:56	9:30
Sun	17	5:43	6:30	7:14	1:32	2:00	4:56	5:49	6:00	7:42	7:47	8:54	9:15
Mon	18	5:44	6:30	7:15	1:31	2:00	4:55	5:47	6:00	7:40	7:45	8:53	9:15
Tue	19	5:45	6:30	7:16	1:31	2:00	4:54	5:46	6:00	7:38	7:43	8:51	9:15
Wed	20	5:47	6:30	7:17	1:31	2:00	4:52	5:44	6:00	7:36	7:41	8:50	9:15
Thu	21	5:48	6:30	7:18	1:30	2:00	4:51	5:43	6:00	7:35	7:40	8:48	9:15
Fri	22	5:49	6:30	7:19	1:30	2:00	4:50	5:41	6:00	7:33	7:38	8:46	9:15
Sat	23	5:50	6:30	7:20	1:30	2:00	4:49	5:40	6:00	7:31	7:36	8:45	9:15
Sun	24	5:51	6:30	7:22	1:29	2:00	4:47	5:38	6:00	7:29	7:34	8:43	9:15
Mon	25	5:52	6:30	7:23	1:29	2:00	4:46	5:37	6:00	7:27	7:33	8:42	9:15
Tue	26	5:53	6:30	7:24	1:29	2:00	4:45	5:35	6:00	7:26	7:31	8:40	9:15
Wed	27	5:54	<b>6:45</b>	7:25	1:28	2:00	4:44	5:34	5:45	7:24	7:29	8:39	9:00
Thu	28	5:55	6:45	7:26	1:28	2:00	4:42	5:32	5:45	7:22	7:27	8:37	9:00
Fri	29	5:56	6:45	7:27	1:28	2:00	4:41	5:30	5:45	7:20	7:25	8:35	9:00
Sat	30	5:57	6:45	7:28	1:27	2:00	4:40	5:29	5:45	7:19	7:24	8:34	9:00
Sun	1	5:58	6:45	7:29	1:27	2:00	4:39	5:27	5:45	7:17	7:22	8:32	8:45

\* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | **Athan is 10 minutes** before Iqamah except for Maghrib First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:20 PM



IONA aims at transforming its members and surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members seek His mercy and grace in this life and in the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercise in worship of the Creator, God most glorified. The strength of their belief in God almighty gives them the courage to promote good and forbid evil, and to engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.



SCAN ME Please continue supporting your center. Scan the QR code to donate

IONA center is always in need of funds in order to keep the Masjid running and maintained at all times. Your continued support is always appreciated.