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



IONA MASJID **COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

August 2021 Dhul Hijjah 1442 - Muharram 144

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- Synopsis: The Migration
- (hijrah) of the Prophet...... 3 Sisters Corner: When Being
- Unapologetically Muslim..... 4 Kids Corner: Chaos in a Restaurant...... 5
- Prayer Times:8

From His Glorious Book

"Verily, the number of months (in a year), so was it ordained by Allah on the Day when He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are scared." [At- Tawbah, 9:36]

From the Tradition of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

"Time has completed a cycle and assumed the form of the day when Allah created the heavens and the earth. The year contains twelve months of which four are sacred, three of them consecutive, viz. Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhul-Hijjah and Muharram and also Rajab of Mudar which comes between Jumadah and Sha'ban."

[Abu Dawud]

SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNING SEPTEMBER 12TH 2021 - 2020

SEE PAGE 2

IONA Center

encourages you to continue supporting the Center during the pandemic by donating to the

Masjid Budget



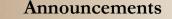
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM for 2021/2022 is back **Starting** Tuesday, September 14th

Volume 15, No 8

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Join us Live for both Virtual Friday Sermons 12:10 & 1:30 PM







Mustapha Elturk Ameer

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IONA is pleased to resume the Sunday School for 2021/2022 school year.

2021 - 2022 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins on **September 12**, 2021 and ends on **June 5**, 2022. We are accepting students ages 5 to 13 (limited space available).

Tuition and Fees:
\$400 per child per year plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
\$650 for two siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
\$900 for three siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
\$chool 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.

We are BACK

IONA is pleased to announce its **PRESCHOOL PROGRAM** for 2021/2022

The preschool program is a weekly program, Tuesday through Thursday, and will begin on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in sha Allah. The tuition per child is \$200 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 \$200 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 14, 2021 and end on Thursday, May 26, 2022. IONA is committed to helping the community with their educational needs. Let us help you develop your child right from the start.

REGISTER ONLINE at IONAMASJID.ORG

August 2021

Dhul Hijjah 1442 - Muharram 1443

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New Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 12 pm to 7 pm Friday - 1 pm to 7 pm Sunday - 2 pm to 6 pm (Closed on Wednesdays and Saturdays) Located at IONA Center, 28630 Ryan Rd., Warren 586-558-6900 ionabookstore.com bookstore@ionaonline.org

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The Migration (hijrah) of the Prophet (SAW): Lessons Learned

he Islamic lunar calendar also known as the Hijri calendar begins on a day corresponding with the first day of Muharram and was based on the Hijrah or migration of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. Every Islamic New Year is reminiscent of this very significant occasion in the history of Islam, which brought in its wake an end to tyranny, persecution, discrimination, pain and grief of the believers in Mecca and ushered in a new era of freedom, fraternity, equality, and justice in Medina. Indeed, the Hijrah was the beginning of a new phase in the life of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his companions.

The first phase of the Prophetic mission known as the Meccan period lasted for thirteen years (610-622) and the second phase which began with the Hijrah and is called the Medinan period lasted for ten years (622-632). The Hijrah from Mecca to Medina was led by the prophet (SAW) under a divine command and was mandatory upon all Muslims unlike the optional migration of a few companions to Abyssinia in the early days of the Prophet's mission.

This mission had begun with the first revelation to the Prophet (SAW) in the cave of Hira located at the peak of Jabal al-Noor. It was a simple command to "read" (*iqra*") and hence began the journey, which along its way transformed his companions into beacons, illuminated with the light of Iman, and led to the establishment of Islam as a concrete historical reality.

This was the fruit of the Iman that had been instilled in the minds and hearts of the believers during the Meccan period. Their *tarbiyah* (training) and their tazkiyah (purification) at the hands of the Prophet (SAW), the adversities endured by them in the path of Allah (SWT) and their lifeexperiences during the Prophetic era had made for them the hitherto metaphysical and eschatological concepts of the unseen, the life hereafter and the retribution on the Day of Judgment as something not only comprehensible but also real. They could not help but cry out: *Our Lord! We have heard someone calling* us to faith- "Believe in your Lord"- and we have believed. Our Lord! Forgive us our sins, wipe out our bad deeds, and grant that we join the righteous when we die. Our Lord! Bestow upon us all that You have promised us through Your messengers- do not humiliate us on the Day of

Resurrection- You never break Your promise (Aal-Imran, 3:193-194).

The believers' intense and deep rooted Iman made them withstand all forms of persecution, hardship and torture meted out to them by the arch enemies of Islam including Abu Jahal and the Prophet's own uncle Abu Lahab who vented their wrath against them just for proclaiming the true testimony of faith and living by it. Bilal, Ammar, Yasir, Sumaiyya among other companions of the Prophet (SAW) were brutally tortured and some of them were actually slaughtered. The noble Prophet was subjected to verbal abuse and constant harassment and many intrigues and murderous plots were hatched against him. His agony reached a climax when he was not only chased out from the city of al-Taif near Mecca where he had gone to convey Allah's message to its inhabitants, but even stones were pelted at him. But the Prophet's mercy, kindness and magnanimity knew no bounds. When asked by the angel of mountains if he may cause the mountains surrounding al-Taif to move in and crush its dwellers as they had tortured and abused Allah's messenger, his spontaneous response was that they should be left safe as their progeny and future generations perhaps would heed to the message brought by him and worship the one and only true God.

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, and ordered them to migrate to Medina, a city about 200 miles north of Mecca. The Qur'an says, "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."'(Al-Imran, 3:195)

During the thirteen years in Mecca, the Prophet's mission was focused toward inculcating three basic doctrinal beliefs in the hearts of the believers: (a) faith in Allah (SWT), (b) faith in the institution of prophethood, and (c) faith in the hereafter. These three cardinal articles of faith revolve around two-thirds of the Qur'anic text revealed during the Meccan period.



IONA

"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)



Continues on page 6

IONA

Sisters Corner



Repentance Revitalization of Faith Renewal of Covenant

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When Being Unapologetically Muslim is Hard, Turn to Allah (S)

It's not easy living life as strong, visibly Muslim, multi-hyphenated women. In a recent conversation I had with my friend and fellow Haute Hijab blog writer Layla Abdullah-Poulos, we agreed that the decision to wear hijab and continue wearing hijab feeds into our safety as we live our lives in the United States (and in many places around the world).

All this month and continuing on into the spring, we've been talking about the idea that "this is what America looks like" – a nation of vast and various communities, which includes Muslim women working in all facets of life and doing all kinds of things for the betterment of our own lives and for society at large.

We interviewed powerful Muslim women, shared narratives, encouraged you to consider what your "power hijab" is and lean into your visibleness as a covered Muslim woman. We asked you to share with us in our social media channels about what "power hijab" means to you – what are those hijabs that make you feel strong and confident?

But we also need to acknowledge that it becomes exhausting at times to focus so much on our visibility and our hijab, to be about empowerment all the time (a topic we hope to explore more later). In a recent piece for This Magazine, Sidrah Ahmad Chan writes about how she is exhausted by constantly having to portray her powerful self when she walks out the door and the expectations of representation thrust upon her:

"I am tired of it." My stereotype-busting-Muslim-girl PR job started in 1995. My first day of Grade 6 was also my first day wearing hijab to school, and I was the only kid in my central Toronto elementary school who did so at the time. When I walked into the classroom with my head covered that day, my teacher asked me to stand up and explain my hijab to the rest of the class. I remember sweating as I described the meaning of hijab to my classmates to the best of my 12-year-old ability, trying to ensure that they all understood that wearing hijab was my choice – that I was empowered. By that age, I knew all too well the stereotypes that circulated about Muslims: that we were terrorists, that we were backwards, and – the gendered stereotype most relevant to me – that Muslim women and girls were oppressed, helpless, victims."

She is right. It is exhausting, and asking ourselves to be powerful all the time isn't useful when we also must acknowledge that we also may be messy, confused, struggling and need to retreat at times.

It's important to acknowledge this and allow ourselves whatever we need by means of self care, worship and the privacy to take that rest, that breather we need. I struggle to lean into my worship, to make time for it and Allah (S), and yet that is what I believe can best serve so many of us when being a Muslim woman in American becomes too much.

Recently one of my other friends and fellow HH blog writer Danah Shuli wrote about being our best self inside and out, which includes our appearance, for the sake of Islam. I think a lot of us strive to do that when we leave our homes. I propose we bring our best selves to our worship and prayer as well. (Maybe you are already doing that!)

Do you have a power hijab for prayer? One in which you feel beautiful, comfortable, clean and presentable for your worship of Allah? For me it's a maxi Woven, which covers up all of me in an elegant and simple manner. I always tell my kids to bring their best selves to prayer, and that's a lesson I need to follow myself.

We're playing the long game here, as the primary election season heats up and anti-Muslim rhetoric will grow once again. I pray for all our protection and hope all of you take whatever time you need for yourself, whenever you need it, and turn to Allah (S)

Courtesy of: https://www.hautehijab.com/



Kids Corner

CHAOS IN A RESTAURANT

A son took his old father to a restaurant for an evening dinner. Father being very old and weak, while eating, dropped food on his shirt and trousers. Other diners watched him in disgust while his son was calm.

After he finished eating, his son who was not at all embarrassed, quietly took him to the washroom, wiped the food particles, removed the stains, combed his hair and fitted his spectacles firmly. When they came out, the entire restaurant was watching them in dead silence, not able to grasp how someone could embarrass themselves publicly like that. The son settled the bill and started walking out with his father.

At that time, an old man amongst the diners called out to the son and asked him, "Don't you think you have left something behind?".

The son replied, "No sir, I haven't".

The old man retorted, "Yes, you have! You left a lesson for every son and hope for every father".

The restaurant went silent.

One of the biggest honors that exist, is able to take care of those older adults who ever cared for us too. Our parents, and all those elderly who sacrificed their lives, with all of his time, money and effort by us, deserve our utmost respect.

If you also feel respect for older adults, share this story with all your friends.

Source: Excerpt from a speech of Shaikh Zulfiqar - sacredlearning.com

 $Courtesy \ of: https://islamcan.com/islamic-stories/chaos-in-a-restaurant.shtml$



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The implicit faith in the Creator that the Prophet (SAW) and his companions possessed and the intense desire to please Him caused them to march to Medina to establish a community where God's rule would reign supreme. 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 or intimidation.

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 ayah, "... Remember God's favor to you: you were enemies and then He brought your hearts together and you became brothers by His grace; you were about to fall into a pit of Fire and He saved you from it- in this way God makes His revelations clear to you so that you may be rightly guided" (Al-Imran, 3:103)

Three things of great significance occurred at Medina: First, the Prophet 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. Second, the fraternity between the Ansar and the Muhajirun (emigrants) that was established went a long way to unite and strengthen the Muslim community of Medina. The Ansars 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). Third, the Prophet (SAW) executed alliance pacts with different tribes and communities including 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) was constrained to engage in defensive wars when the aggressive pagan Quraish along with their allies invaded Medina. With the help of Allah (SWT), within a few years, the Prophet and his companions emerged successful and this success culminated when the Prophet (SAW) along with his companions marched towards Mecca and restored the sanctity of the sacred Ka'ba by cleansing it from idols and other objects of worship. This victory of Mecca was achieved without spilling blood and the Prophet, 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. Among many advices, he admonished the believers to be good to one another, to be kind to women, to avoid usury, to eliminate prejudices of ethnicity and tribalism, and to be alert of the accursed satan. 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 verse of the Qur'an: *Today I have perfected for*

you your faith, and have completed My favor upon you, and am well-pleased with Islam as your din (system of life), (Al-Ma'idah, 5:3). Medina became the capital of the new born Islamic State.

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 was not restricted to Mecca and Medina rather it spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula and beyond.

The life and struggle of the Prophet (SAW) in the pursuit of Justice serve as an example to the ummah. Following in the footsteps of the Prophet (SAW) and noble companions, the immigrants (*muhajirun*) to America are urged to create the same bond of brotherhood and sisterhood with the native (*ansar*) population of this land such as the African-American brothers and sisters among others. We have to be united and not divided.

The Prophet (SAW) advocated to turn our masajid into centers of learning. Such centers of learning will unify, energize and rejuvenate the students of knowledge to struggle in the path of Allah (SWT), and to practice and preach Islam not for material gains but to seek Allah's pleasure. We also need to engage the community and work with people of conscience on issues of social justice. Finally, we have to come to terms with our opponents and repel evil with good. Allah (SWT) says, "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)

The IONA Center tries to work on the same methodology and spirit of repelling evil with good. This is evidenced by the fact that our one time opponents, who were vehemently opposed to the establishment of our Center in Warren, Michigan, have become our dear friends. By the grace of Allah, and the tireless work of 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. In 2010, the City Council of Warren unanimously 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), "The Messenger of Allah is an excellent model for those of you whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and remember Him often." (Al-Ahzab, 33:21)



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Steve Musrapha Elfurk



IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqama Timings for August 2021

DAT	ſΈ	Fajr	Iqama	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqama	Asr (S)*	Asr (H)*	Iqama	Maghrib	Azan	Isha	Iqama
Sun	1	4:41	5:45	6:24	1:43	2:00	5:36	6:43	6:50	8:55	9:00	10:05	10:15
Mon	2	4:43	5:45	6:25	1:43	2:00	5:36	6:43	6:50	8:54	8:59	10:03	10:15
Tue	3	4:44	5:45	6:26	1:43	2:00	5:35	6:42	6:50	8:53	8:58	10:02	10:15
Wed	4	4:45	5:45	6:27	1:43	2:00	5:35	6:41	6:50	8:52	8:57	10:00	10:15
Thu	5	4:47	5:45	6:28	1:43	2:00	5:34	6:40	6:50	8:50	8:55	9:59	10:15
Fri	6	4:48	5:45	6:29	1:43	2:00	5:34	6:39	6:50	8:49	8:54	9:57	10:15
Sat	7	4:49	5:45	6:30	1:43	2:00	5:33	6:39	6:50	8:48	8:53	9:56	10:15
Sun	8	4:50	5:45	6:31	1:43	2:00	5:33	6:38	6:50	8:47	8:52	9:55	10:15
Mon	9	4:52	5:45	6:32	1:43	2:00	5:32	6:37	6:50	8:45	8:50	9:54	10:15
Tue	10	4:53	5:45	6:33	1:43	2:00	5:32	6:36	6:50	8:44	8:49	9:52	10:15
Wed	11	4:54	5:45	6:34	1:42	2:00	5:31	6:35	6:50	8:43	8:48	9:51	10:15
Thu	12	4:56	5:45	6:36	1:42	2:00	5:30	6:34	6:50	8:41	8:46	9:50	10:15
Fri	13	4:57	5:45	6:37	1:42	2:00	5:30	6:33	6:50	8:40	8:45	9:49	10:15
Sat	14	4:58	5:45	6:38	1:42	2:00	5:29	6:32	6:50	8:38	8:43	9:48	10:15
Sun	15	5:00	5:45	6:39	1:42	2:00	5:29	6:31	6:50	8:37	8:42	9:46	10:15
Mon	16	5:01	6:00	6:40	1:42	2:00	5:28	6:30	6:40	8:35	8:40	9:45	10:00
Tue	17	5:02	6:00	6:41	1:41	2:00	5:27	6:29	6:40	8:34	8:39	9:44	10:00
Wed	18	5:03	6:00	6:42	1:41	2:00	5:26	6:28	6:40	8:32	8:37	9:42	10:00
Thu	19	5:05	6:00	6:43	1:41	2:00	5:26	6:27	6:40	8:31	8:36	9:41	10:00
Fri	20	5:06	6:00	6:44	1:41	2:00	5:25	6:26	6:40	8:29	8:34	9:40	10:00
Sat	21	5:07	6:00	6:45	1:40	2:00	5:24	6:25	6:40	8:28	8:33	9:38	10:00
Sun	22	5:09	6:00	6:46	1:40	2:00	5:23	6:24	6:40	8:26	8:31	9:37	10:00
Mon	23	5:10	6:00	6:47	1:40	2:00	5:22	6:23	6:40	8:25	8:30	9:36	10:00
Tue	24	5:11	6:00	6:48	1:40	2:00	5:22	6:22	6:40	8:23	8:28	9:34	10:00
Wed	25	5:13	6:00	6:49	1:39	2:00	5:21	6:21	6:40	8:21	8:26	9:33	10:00
Thu	26	5:14	6:00	6:50	1:39	2:00	5:20	6:19	6:40	8:20	8:25	9:31	10:00
Fri	27	5:15	6:00	6:52	1:39	2:00	5:19	6:18	6:30	8:18	8:23	9:30	9:45
Sat	28	5:17	6:00	6:53	1:39	2:00	5:18	6:17	6:30	8:16	8:21	9:28	9:45
Sun	29	5:18	6:00	6:54	1:38	2:00	5:17	6:16	6:30	8:15	8:20	9:27	9:45
Mon	30	5:19	6:00	6:55	1:38	2:00	5:16	6:14	6:30	8:13	8:18	9:26	9:45
Tue	31	5:20	6:00	6:56	1:38	2:00	5:15	6:13	6:30	8:11	8:16	9:24	9:45
Wed	1	5:22	6:15	6:57	1:37	2:00	5:14	6:12	6:30	8:10	8:15	9:23	9:45

* S =Shafi'i, H = Hanafi

Join us LIVE on YouTube for Friday Sermons at 12:10 PM and 1:30 PM



IONA's objective is to help the Muslims of North America understand and fulfill their divinely ordained obligations, in order to please Allah (SWT) and thereby achieve success and salvation in the Hereafter. The aim is to seek the forgiveness and mercy of Allah (SWT) in the hereafter.

On the basis of the best scholarly understandings of the *Qur'an* and the *Sunnah* IONA has recognized that our divinely ordained obligations are as follows:

- (1) the cultivation of a strong and authentic faith;
- (2) the loving and sincere obedience to the will of Allah (SWT);

(3) calling all of humankind towards Islam in the most beautiful and convincing way; and,

(4) engaging in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.