



ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER VALLEY FORGE

NEWSLETTER :: Tuesday, March, 1st, 2016 / 21 Jumada Al-Akhir 1437 A.H.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ISGVF Connections – February 2016 Edition

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

All praise and thanks are due to Allah (SWT) for His Mercy and endless Blessing. We pray that ISGVF Connections always finds you and your family in the best of health and Imaan, (Ameen)

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Weekly Activities

Monday:

Arabic/Qur'an learning session held by Tarik Salim every Monday in School Bldg. from 8:15 PM to 9:30 PM after Isha Prayer.

Wednesday:

Sisters meet in School Bldg. for

Pray daily at masjid



Make your intention and plan to pray daily at masjid at least one Salah in congregation. If you are already praying one Salah a day in congregation plan to do it two and so on We pray to Allah

Halaqa. Interest Sister may stop by on Wednesdays to meet sisters and get additional information or send an email to ISGVF_Council@yahoo.com.

Friday:

Friday Halaqa held after Isha prayer. Different topics of interest are covered by different speakers every week. Halaqa ends with potluck snacks and tea.

Saturday & Sunday :

8:30 AM to 2 PM weekend Islamic School

Visit our website at <http://www.isgvf.com/> for an updated list of all events and activities.

Weekend School Updates



ISGVF Weekend School Quran competition is coming up in April, Insha'Allah. Surahs for each level have been communicated and the list is posted in the school building. Additional details will be communicated closer to competition event.

Watch out for regular updates on the Weekend School Calendar on the Society's Website for upcoming class schedule and School events.

(SWT) to reward us all for good intentions and frequently visiting His house.

Iqamah Timing

DATES	FAJR* (AM)	ZUHR** (PM)	ASR (PM)	MAGHREB (PM)	ISHA (PM)
02/28 – 03/05	6:00*	12:30**	4:30	5 Min. After Sunset	8:00
03/06 – 03/12	5:30*	12:30**	4:30	5 Min. After Sunset	8:00
03/13 – 03/19	6:15*	1:30	5:45	5 Min. After Sunset	9:00
03/20 – 03/26	6:15*	1:30	5:45	5 Min. After Sunset	9:00
03/27 – 04/02	6:00*	1:30	5:45	5 Min. After Sunset	9:00

* Fajr Iqamah on Weekends – 30 Min. before Sunrise

1st Jumma Salah 12:30 - 1 PM

** Zuhr Iqamah on Weekends – 1:30 PM

2nd Jumma Salah 1:30 - 2 PM

ISGVF UPDATES

Under Repair/Construction

The Main Building front steps are under repairs. When accessing the building, proceed with caution, especially in icy and snowy weather. The repairs are planned to be completed as soon as freezing weather breaks by Spring, Insha'Allah.

2015 Donation Receipt letter

Donation receipt letters for the year 2015 was mail out to the members and donors of the community by the first week of February. If you don't receive the letter, inform us by sending an email to isgvf_council@yahoo.com.

Deadline to purchase discounted Burial Package Extended

Reminder: ISGVF is pleased to announce that the deadline for burial package purchase has been extended until April 30, 2016. With continuously increasing burial costs, ISGVF has negotiated an option to purchase complete burial packages at a substantial discount of more than 70% off the retail price with Valley Forge Memorial Gardens in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The cost of one package is \$2,500 payable in two (2) years. The burial Package includes the following:

- A cemetery plot located in the Islamic Garden
- Interment service (opening and closing of grave)

Food Distribution



"The Food Distribution Program" is an ISGVF program that provides food to low-income households. ISGVF will distribute food every Wednesday between 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm, Insha'Allah. For the program, we rely on the generosity of the community to donate canned food, packed food, Halal meats, rice, flour, oil, etc. Drop your food donations every day during Isha Salah or on Friday Jumma Salah. Visit ISGVF website for additional details. Kindly inform ISGVF if you know of a family in need or direct them to ISGVF food pantry.

IQRA Institute's Next Course



IQRA Institute will be hosting its next course entitled "Mothers of the Believers" by Imam Kamil Mufti (IL). This event will be held on Saturday, March 26 at Masjid Al Madinah (Upper Darby) from 7:30 P.M.10:00 P.M. This event is free of charge.

CAIR-Philadelphia's Tenth Anniversary Banquet



CAIR-Philadelphia will be holding

- Bottomless concrete or similar grave liner
- Monday thru Saturday Burial
- Guaranteed discount for optional extras (e.g. headstones)

This discount is available only until 04/30/2016. This cost will increase to \$3,500 from 05/01/2016.

Valley Forge Memorial Gardens is part of Dignity Memorial, one of North America's largest and most trusted funeral providers.

Additional details are provided on www.ISGVF.com. Interested families should complete the form provided on the website and follow the instructions listed. Mail the completed form with the check to ISGVF, P.O. Box 2261, Southeastern, PA 19399-2261 or use on-line forms to submit.

Adopt A-Highway



Alhamdulillah, PennDOT has accepted ISGVF application to Adopt-A-Highway. Our organization has adopted the road in front of ISGVF (about 1.9 miles stretch of the road from Route 30 to Route 202). ISGVF administration want to thank Sunday School Principal, Br. Mukarram, for all his efforts and persistence in completing the process with PennDoT.

As we have completed the task of securing the Agreement from PennDOT the next steps are of implementation. We need dedicated volunteer team and a coordinator. ISGVF volunteers will be responsible for litter pick-up according to the following schedule in 2016 (pick up could be either Saturday or Sunday).

its 10th annual Banquet on Saturday, March 12th at the Springfield Country Club in Delaware County. Please attend this event and support the valuable services CAIR provides to our community.

JUMMAH PRAYERS

Etiquette for Attendees

At ISGVF, Before the Khutbah

1. *Time* - Arrive early and on time
2. *Parking* - Park in the designated places.
3. *Shoes* - Place your shoes in the shoe rack.
4. *Quiet* - Remain quiet at all times.
5. *Azan* - Quietly repeat the words of the muezzan to earn the same reward.
6. *Recite Quran* - It is recommended to recite Surah Al Kahaf before Khutbah.
7. *Cell phones* - Silence all cell phones

During Khutbah

1. *Attendance* - It is obligatory. Reflect, introspect and listen - do not engage in talking or greeting one another
2. *Reading Quran* - do not read Quran; instead, listen to Khutbah.
3. *Seating* - fill all the gaps
4. *Small children* - ISGVF provides a separate room for mothers with young children.

During the Salah

Imam - following instructions; fill all the gaps

After the Salah

1. *Announcements* - allow 60 seconds to listen important community announcements to stay informed.
2. *Donations* - place your generous donations in the donation box

All litter pickup schedule starts one hour after sunrise to avoid heavy traffic on the road.

1. **April 23 or 24**
2. **July 23 or 24**
3. **Oct. 22 or 23**
4. **Dec. 10 or 11**

PenDoT will put two signs on each end of the road indicating the Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge has adopted the road. ISGVF will be responsible for the beautification by planting flowers such as Tulips and/or other flower around ISGVF road signs.

All the community members and especially weekend school students (Middle/High school sessions) will be encouraged to volunteer for this project along with their parents.



Daylight Savings Time Starts March 13th, 2016

Please note that Daylight Savings Time will start on Sunday, March 13th, 2016 at 2:00 am and we will be moving our clocks forward by one hour. As a result, beginning on Friday, March 18th, the schedule for **Jummuah Prayer** will be as follows –

First Khutba: 1:00PM to 1:30PM
Second Khutba: 2:00PM to 2:30PM

Community News

Obituary

Brother Ismail's mother, passed away in Hyderabad, India. May Allah (SWT) grant them Jannat-ul-Fridous and give their families patience and strength to *bear this great loss, Ameen!*

SNOW DAY



Contact Us

**ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF
GREATER VALLEY FORGE**
958 Valley Forge Road,
Devon, PA 19333.

(610) 688-2209 (tel.)
ISGVF_council@yahoo.com

visit: WWW.ISGVF.COM

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Click below link for Donation:

ISGVF Reflections THE MASJID



Allah (S.W.T) says: ***And the places of worship (or the mosques) are only for Allah, so pray not unto anyone along with Allah.***

The Mosque is by far the single most important community institution in the Muslim life. From the time of prophet Mohammed (S.A.A.W.S) and throughout the centuries thereafter, the mosque has played a pivotal role in bringing up Muslims and Believers who understood the message of Islam and served to propagate it throughout the world.

There are guidance's and manners that we need to observe when visiting the Mosque; we will review 12 of these inshaAllah:

1- Cleaning and purifying ourselves and wearing our best clothes and putting cologne on (for men).
Allah (S.W.T) says: ***O Children of Adam! Look to your adornment (or decoration or embellishment) at every place of worship***

2- Cleaning the Mosque, it is not fitting for clean people to go to a dirty Mosque. It is also not fitting for our houses to be clean and for the Mosque to be dirty. We need to treat the Mosque in just the same way we treat our houses, in fact, we need to treat the Mosque better because the Mosques are the houses of Allah (S.W.T). Cleaning the Mosque is not the responsibility of the Mosque officials, it is everyone's responsibility.

3- Because the Mosque is the house of Allah (S.W.T), we have to display our best behavior before we even get to it, we cannot be rushing people or cutting other drivers off or not observing traffic signs or parking in non-designated spots or using the handicapped spot without authorization or running to the Mosque or blocking the doors. We have to remember that we are going to the house of Allah (S.W.T) and therefore we need to behave accordingly.

4- Avoiding eating foods that emit odors,
The prophet (S.A.A.W.S) says: ***He who eats garlic and onion and leek, should not approach our mosque for the angels are harmed by the same things as the children of Adam.***
It is always a good idea to brush our teeth before coming to the mosque and also to use the tooth stick (Al Miswak) as the prophet (S.A.A.W.S) used to do.

DONATE TO ISGVF

5- Entering the Mosque with the right foot and saying the supplication that the prophet (S.A.A.W.S) taught us:

***O Allah, praise prophet Mohammed
O Allah, open for me the gates of your mercy***
Also, exiting the mosque with our left foot and saying:
O Allah, I ask you to give me from your grace

6- Praying two rakas when entering the Mosque.

7- Making it to the first row without stepping over or bothering anyone.

8- Organizing and straightening the rows and closing the gaps.

The prophet (S.A.A.W.S) says:

Straighten your rows, or Allah would create dissension amongst you

The best way to accomplish this is for the sides of the row to align with the middle using the person who is behind the Imam as a reference. This is something that we need to pay more attention to.

9- Refraining from engaging in worldly matters such as selling merchandise inside the Mosque or calling out lost items or talking about or conducting business.

10- Controlling children and keeping them in check. The Mosque is not the place for horseplay and wrestling matches, there are designated places for sports and recreational activities. Children need to be with their parents and be taught to sit down and be silent and listen attentively and learn as much as they can.

11- Listening attentively to the khatib or speaker and not engaging in any distractions.

12- Getting the most out of our visit by learning what is being taught and applying it immediately thereafter. Our religion is a practical one, it is not one that we practice in the Mosque and completely forget about as soon as we leave.

We ask Allah (S.W.T) to make us of those who follow his book and the guidance of his messenger Mohammed (S.A.A.W.S), we ask Allah (S.W.T) to make us of those who observe good manners when going to the Mosque and at all times.

- By Br. Nizar Yaghi