

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## ISGVF Connections – January 2016 Edition

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

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

### In This Connection:

- *ISGVF Updates*
- *Weekend School Updates*
- *On-going activities*
- *Community News*
- *Reflections: The Beauty of Snow by Mustafa Polat*

### ISGVF Updates

#### *2015 Donation Receipt letter*

Look out for the donation receipt letters for the year 2015 that ISGVF plans to mail out to the members and donors of the community by the first week of February. If you don't receive the letter by the 2nd week of February, inform us by sending an email to [isgvf\\_council@yahoo.com](mailto:isgvf_council@yahoo.com).

ISGVF Executive Council and Board members would like to thank everyone for their support in meeting the ISGVF expenses and helping in maintaining the facility to better serve the community. May Allah (SWT) reward everyone in this life and Hereafter, *Ameen!*

#### *Deadline to purchase discounted Burial Package Extended*

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)
- 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](http://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.

#### *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*.

#### *Iqamah Timing*

<i>Dates</i>	<i>*Fajr (AM)</i>	<i>**Zuhr (PM)</i>	<i>Asr (PM)</i>	<i>Maghreb Sun Set</i>	<i>Isha (PM)</i>
<i>01/31- 02/06</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>+5 minute</i>	<i>8:00</i>
<i>02/07- 02/13</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>+5 minute</i>	<i>8:00</i>
<i>02/14- 02/20</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>+5 minute</i>	<i>8:00</i>
<i>02/21 - 02/27</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>+5 minute</i>	<i>8:00</i>
<i>02/28 - 03/05</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>+5 minute</i>	<i>8:00</i>



## ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER VALLEY FORGE

958 Valley Forge Road, Devon, PA 19333  
(610) 688-2209 [ISGVF\\_council@yahoo.com](mailto:ISGVF_council@yahoo.com)

Monday, February, 1st, 2016 / 22 Rabi-ul-Thani 1437 A.H.

- \* Fajr Iqamah on Weekends – 30 Min. before Sunrise
- \*\* Zuhr Iqamah on Weekends – 1:30 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Jumma Salah: 12:30 - 1 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jumma Salah: 1:30 - 2 PM

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

### 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.

### On-going activities

#### *Weekly Qur'an Halaqa by Dr. Safi*

The Qur'an Halaqa class is taking a short break. We will inform you when it resumes. Stay tuned.

#### *Food Pantry*

“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.

### *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 Halaqa. Interest Sister may stop by on Wednesdays to meet sisters and get additional information or send an e-mail to ISGVF\_Coucil@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:** 8:30 AM to 2 PM weekend Islamic School

**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.

### Community News

#### *Obituary*

- Brother Usman Ali's father, Syed Ataullah Khan passed away in Toronto.
- Sr. Zabannisah, who is the sister of Sr Mona Azam, passed away in Pakistan.
- Also, Mohammad Saeed Uppal, elder brother of Br. Farooq Azam's passed away in Pakistan.

May Allah (SWT) grant them Jannat-ul-Fridous and give their families patience and strength to bear this great loss, *Ameen!*

#### *IQRA Institute's Next Course*

IQRA Institute in conjunction with ICNA will be hosting its next course entitled “Secrets of the Soul: Understanding yourself through the Eyes of the Qur'an by Ustadh Mohammad Elshinawy. This event will be held on Friday, February 12, 2016 at The Foundation for Islamic Education from 7:30 P.M.-10:00 P.M. This event is free of charge.



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### *CAIR-Philadelphia's Tenth Anniversary Banquet*

CAIR-Philadelphia will be holding its 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ***ISGVF REFLECTIONS***

### **Beauty of the Snow**

We humans tend to interpret and make sense of things around us solely in relation to us and our benefit. If something beneficial for us, then it is good and if something harmful for us, then it is bad. That is what we perceive of things. We take things at its face value and judge them in that way. When fire burns our finger we think how bad and harmful fire is, but we don't think that the same fire cooks our food or warms up our houses in the winter. The same way, when Allah (SWT) brings the beautiful snow and rain in the winter, we only focus on the conceivable harms that may occur as a result of snow or rain. We focus so much on the possible harms just so we can avoid them as a precautionary action. However, that focus takes us away from the real, the necessary focus which is the Qur'anic focus. Allah says,

*"And We have sent down rain from the sky in a measured amount and settled it in the earth. And indeed, We are Able to take it away."* (23:18)

We should try to contemplate more on its source; Allah (SWT). We should ask ourselves how and why Allah is sending this snow, what are the consequences of snow besides it covering my parking lot and making me spend time outside in the cold, shoveling. If we can look closely, we can see the order, the balance and the measures in its snowing. Do we know

that all snowflakes are different than each other? Looking at the beauty of the crystals of those snowflakes and the differences of their shapes, we can recognize the power of Allah (SWT) and His beauty. When a Muslim looks at the rain and snow, he should see that within them lie so many benefits and wisdoms as numerous as the raindrop or snowflakes.

Those sweet, delicate and blessed drops are moreover created in so beautiful and ordered a fashion, that particularly the rain sent in the summertime, is dispatched and caused to fall with such balance and regularity that not even stormy winds that cause large objects to collide can destroy its equilibrium and order; the drops do not collide with each other or merge in such fashion as to become harmful masses of water. Water, composed of two simple elements like hydrogen and oxygen, is employed in hundreds of thousands of other wise, purposeful tasks and arts, particularly in animate beings; although it is itself inanimate and unconscious. Rain which is then the very embodiment of Divine Mercy, which is so essential for the existence and continuation of life can only be manufactured in the unseen treasury of mercy of One Most Compassionate and Merciful, and on its descent expounds in physical form the verse:

*And He it is Who sends down rain after men have despaired, and thus spreads out His Mercy (42:28)*

May Allah (SWT) show us the beauty that is inside of everything He creates, *Ameen!*

- **Mustafa Polat**

جزاك الله خيرا

*ISGVF Executive Council*