



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ISGVF Connections – July 2016 Edition

السَّلَامَةُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

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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Upcoming activities

Friday August 05, 2016 - 8:00 PM

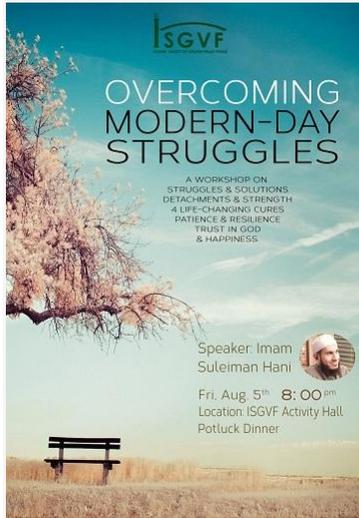
Imam Suleiman Hani visiting ISGVF on Friday August 05, 2016. He is a Muslim lecturer and author hailing from Michigan, USA. He will have workshop "Overcoming Modern-Day Struggles". Workshop is about overcoming pain, hardships, challenges, and

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

Imam Dr. Ahmad Abdallah started recitation of Quran on July 29. Insha'Allah, he will continue this on a daily basis during Fajr and Isha Prayers. This will be followed by about 5 minutes of Tafseer for the recited ayaat. Imam will continue this daily until Quran completion. Please join both prayers to listen full Quran.

struggles of every type.



Weekly Activities

Monday and Thursday:

Hifz (Quran Memorization) Classes every Monday and Thursday in School Bldg. from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

Tuesday and Wednesday:

Quran Learning (Reading) Classes every Tuesday and Wednesday in School Bldg. from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

Friday:

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

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

Food Distribution

Iqamah Timing **IQAMAH TIMES**

August 2016

DATES	FAJR* (AM)	ZUHR (PM)	ASR (PM)	MAGHREB (PM)	ISHA (PM)
07/31 – 08/06	5:15*	1:30	6:30	5 Min. After Sunset	10:00
08/07 – 08/13	5:15*	1:30	6:15	5 Min. After Sunset	09:45
08/14 – 08/20	5:30*	1:30	6:15	5 Min. After Sunset	09:45
08/21 – 08/27	5:30*	1:30	6:15	5 Min. After Sunset	09:30
08/28 – 09/03	5:45*	1:30	6:00	5 Min. After Sunset	09:15

* Fajr Iqamah on Weekends – 30 Min. before Sunrise

1 st Jumma Salah	1 - 1:30 PM
2 nd Jumma Salah	2 - 2:30 PM

ISGVF Updates

ISGVF welcomes new Imam, Dr. Ahmad Abadalla

We are very excited to introduce Dr Ahmad Abadalla who joined as ISGVF Imam on JULY 14th, Alhamdulillah. Imam Ahamad is a Hafiz-e-Quran who graduated from Al-Azhr University. He also completed his PhD in Islamic Studies from Indiana. Before coming to ISGVF, he was an Imam at Walnut Creek, California since 2014. We pray to Allah (SWT) that our community benefits largely from his great knowledge and experience, Aameen! Once again, please welcome Imam Ahamad and his entire family to our community. He can be reached directly for any questions at imam@isgvf.com.

ISGVF Hifz (Quran Memorization) and Quran Learning (Reading) Programs

The mission of ISGVF is to seek the pleasure of Allah (SWT) by preparing the students to become Hafez-e-Quran and knowledge who would become the future flag-bearers of Islam and achieve success in this life and in the Hereafter.



“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.

Adopt-A-Highway Event:

Alhamdulillah, it was a second quarterly event of the program. About thirty volunteers have participated for this event on Sunday, Jul 24th starting at 6:30 AM. Despite a slight hot morning, volunteers turned up on time and carried out this task with great enthusiasm. The trash was collected using trash sticks with gloves provided by ISGVF. It was almost the same amount as last time. We had both the genders participating in the event and a lot of young volunteers who helped clean around the Masjid premises. PennDot was informed to collect the pile of bags left near the Post office on Lancaster Ave.

- To facilitate memorization of the whole Quran with Tajweed (rules of correct recitation)
- To prepare Huffaz who can lead congregational prayers
- To provide quality Islamic education
- To preserve the Muslim identity of the student and cultivate in them a love for Islam
- To provide an enriched and healthy social and educational environment
- To motivate our students to strive for excellence and reach their full potential
- To encourage cooperation between the home, school and community

Ramadan Events Updates

Alhamdulillah, this Ramadan, ISGVF was buzzing with lots of activities.

- Taraweeh prayers were led by Hafiz Mubeen Khan, Hafiz Usman Baqai and Hafiz Usama Baqai. We thank them for their dedication and commitment during this entire month. May Allah (SWT) reward them and their families and bless them for their efforts, Ameen!
- Frequent community Iftars were held every week.
- Khatm-e-Quran was held on Sunday, July 3rd. After Taraweeh prayers, Hafiz Usama performed dua. The evening was wrapped up by snacks and sweets that the community members enjoyed.



It was an opportunity to cleanse our Takabbur (Arrogance) from our hearts for the sake of Allah SWT. May Allah (SWT) accept, forgive and reward the best to all volunteers who participated in the event in the best possible way, Aameen!. We look forward to your participation for the next time. Insha'Allah, the next Adopt-A-Highway event is scheduled on October 23rd, 2016. JazakAllah Khair.

Tarbiyah – Team Building and Leadership Program for youth

The program has started effective July 10th on each Sunday at 5:00 PM. It's a free pilot program during Summer at ISGVF. Youth have been doing activities and learning for an hour in the Masjid and then transported to the park. They were playing with the help of Soccer and Basketball coaches. Girls have been playing different games of their choice including Badminton, Ring ball etc. A Tennis coach is scheduled during the first weekend of August for Girls. The program is still being developed to the best. Well known speakers and best coaches have been supporting. Inviting more support and participation from



- During the last ten days of Ramadan, a few community members participated in I'tekaaf at ISGVF, Alhamdulillah. We would like to congratulate them and may Allah (SWT) accept their ibaadah and sincere efforts, Aameen!

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us in the various events held during this blessed month. May Allah (SWT) reward us all for these efforts, Ameen!

Eid-ul-Fitr!



Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated at ISGVF on Wednesday July 6th. Five salats were conducted starting at 6:30 AM and each one was well attended. At the end of every salat, breakfast was served at the Wilson Farm Park and the entire community exchanged pleasantries and greeted each other. On behalf of the ISGVF Board and Executive Council, we hope you had a wonderful Eid. We pray that Allah (SWT) accept all of our Ibadah from Ramadan, and help us continue in our good actions, Ameen!

ISGVF Picnic - Save the Date

ISGVF picnic is being planned this year Insha'Allah on Saturday, October 1st at Wilson Farm Park's Picnic Pavilion.

parents and youth as it is planned for the full year on a weekend day insha'Allah.

Brother Mohammad Elshinawy, Author of Muslimmatters online magazine, much involved in the Islamic affairs from Allentown, PA is scheduled to talk on 'Muslim Identity' on August 21st at 5:00 PM for youth and parents at ISGVF Main Activity Hall. Please join.

The Tarbiyah program is to develop creative thinking, responsibility, competence, confidence, connections, character and caring based on Islamic background and the teachings of Prophet Muhammed (PBUH). Youth and parents of students in Grade 8 and above are encouraged to register as the registrations are open still. For registration, please contact brother Zakir Syed, email: zakirsyed2016@gmail.com

Contact Us

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Please save the date as we work through all the details that will be communicated soon.

Hajj travel

If you or anyone you know is intending to go for Hajj this year insha'Allah, please let us know. You can send an email to council@isgvf.com. May Allah (SWT) make it easy for all.

ISGVF Reflections

Pre-Hajj preparations



Due to the importance of Hajj, preparations for it should not be taken lightly. Besides planning the actual logistics of the trip, the Muslim needs to prepare Islamically, physically, mentally, and financially for this great act of worship. Islamically, one of the most important preparations for this journey is acquiring the necessary knowledge for performing the rituals of Hajj and 'Umrah correctly and in accordance to the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH). This means studying and learning about Islam, acquiring a high degree of Eemaan (faith) in order to deal with the emotional and physical demands of Hajj, and learning correctly the actual religious rituals and requirements from the beginning to the end of Hajj and 'Umrah. Studying and learning about the Hajj can be accomplished in a variety of fashions, from reading books on the subject or using computer programs which utilize a multimedia format, to actually taking classes offered by Islamic centers on the rituals of Hajj and 'Umrah. Furthermore, many travel groups that specialize in Hajj and 'Umrah trips offer Hajj preparation classes as well as scholars and students of knowledge that help those going for Hajj perform the rituals of Hajj and 'Umrah correctly.

In addition, it is important to mention that spiritually preparing for Hajj and 'Umrah is also a lesson on how to follow the footsteps of the Prophet (PBUH) who taught the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them – a lesson that can be transformed into other acts of worship. Preparing for Hajj is a spiritual experience with a period of self-reflection and a lesson in piety and humility. The pilgrim must focus on his sole intention of performing Hajj. That it is solely for the pleasure of Allah (SWT) and in accordance to His Commandment regarding this act of worship. The believer also needs to resolve any conflicts or differences between him and others and seek forgiveness for any acts of transgression. This stage of preparation should take place



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long before the actual departure for Hajj.

Other preparations that should be planned long before the actual trip are financial in nature. Simply, going to Hajj costs money. Furthermore the pilgrim must pay off any old debts (this includes any type of loans), household bills, and leave enough money to pay any living expenses likely that other members of his family not making Hajj might need. Finally it is important to complete one's will (wasiyyah) before departing on Hajj.

Another important step in preparing for Hajj is the need to prepare physically for the event. Not only is Hajj a spiritual event, it also requires a lot of physical stamina from the participant. Hajj is not a picnic! Completing the rites of Hajj includes a lot of walking, mixing with many people, living in high temperatures (during summer), and exerting a great deal of effort. Another important step in preparing physically for Hajj is to make sure you are medically fit for the trip. Individuals with chronic health issues need to see their primary care physician in order to discuss any medical risks that need to be addressed prior to their Hajj experience.

Another recommendation is that these individuals also travel with a healthy caretaker in case any problems might arise during the actual Hajj. In addition, pilgrims must have the necessary vaccinations required by the Saudi Government for cholera and meningococcal meningitis. Because of these issues, it is also important to emphasize that one should complete Hajj and 'Umrah as soon as one is able to both physically and financially. Some people wait until they are old to go for Hajj. This is wrong and makes Hajj more difficult than necessary for the participant and in many cases for his traveling companions. Performing Hajj as soon as possible corresponds to the Hadeeth narrated by Abdullaah Ibn Abbaas, may Allah be pleased with him, who said: "The Prophet (PBUH) said: *'He who intended to perform Hajj should hasten to do so.'*" [Abu Daawood]

The last pre-logistic preparation centers on preparing mentally for Hajj. This includes learning and accepting that the Hajj experience includes frustration, intense desert heat (during summer), and various differences in culture and food. The pilgrim can expect to stand in long lines, be shoved and pushed by others while completing the necessary rituals, and be in an uncomfortable close proximity to members of the opposite gender. One purpose of Hajj is for the individual to be tested. The individual will be tested on physical, emotional, and spiritual levels.