

THE RAMADAN STAR NEWS SPECIAL EDITION

AL IHSAN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Editor-in-Chief: Selma Abazid

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THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF RAMADAN

Islamic Corner

Compiled by: Zackari Salti

Prophet Muhammed once said,
 "مَنْ قَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ
 مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ"

"Whoever prayed at night the whole month of Ramadan out of sincere Faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven."

This means that if you pray Taraweeh every night of Ramadan than all your sins from the past will be erased from your book. This is only if you go to the masjid with the intention of this beautiful gift from Allah. Inshallah, you will come to the masjid for Taraweeh.

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This issue was brought to you by:

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 Naji Abuirmeleh
 Daoud Aburoumi
 Noah Ahmed
 Omar Alomari
 Saif Mohammed
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#1

What is the purpose of fasting?
 One of the purposes of Ramadan is to teach a Muslim self-control. When you are fasting you can't eat or drink. If a Muslim does this they will have a higher chance of not doing anything haram. For example, a person that doesn't drink for 16 hours, they can more easily resist alcohol.

#2

Do shots break your fast?
 Shots do not break your fast if it doesn't reach your stomach it will not break your fast. If the shot gives you nutrition or can satisfy your stomach it will break you fast.

#3

When should a child start fasting?
 Kids should start learning to fast when they are at the age of 7. They do not need to fast the full year, but they should still be encouraged by the parents. At the age of 10, they should fast for the entire month of Ramadan or as much as they are able to.

#4

What if you have an illness that if you don't eat it can be harmful to your health?
 First of all, if you are fasting and it is harmful to your health it is haram. Also, if you are not fasting because of your health you should feed a needy person for each day. The needy person must be a Muslim. If you know someone that is needy then give them dinner. If you know 30 people who are needy you can invite them to your house all at once for iftar then it will count as you fasted thirty days. If you do not know anybody that is poor you can search up the state dinner cost and that is how much you can pay.

DM Ramadan Crafts

Compiled by: Selma Abazid

Craft Paper Mat-

You Will Need:

- Foam Half Sheets
- Yarn, Hole Puncher
- Stickers, Sequin, Markers

Steps:

1. Tell your kid to punch ten holes at the bottom of the foam sheet.
2. It's here where kids will attach the yarn tassel.
3. Now tell him/her to make two holes at the top of the foam sheet.
4. Now allow your kid to decorate the mat anyway he/she likes.
5. Cut 10, 6 to 7-inch strips from the rug tassels and tie at the bottom of the mat.
6. Cut a piece of ribbon or yarn, double the width of the foam sheet.
7. Now tie the yarn or ribbon to the top of the mat.
8. Allow your kid to hang it wherever he desires.

**Decoupage Jar-**

You will need:

- Glass or plastic jar with lid. Tissue Paper in Various Colors. Glue,
- Water, Foam Brush

Steps:

1. Combine 2 tablespoons of glue with two tablespoons of water.
2. Cut out or tear the tissue paper pieces in various colors.
3. The pieces should be a little more 2 to 3 inches in size.
3. Apply a thin coating of glue on the jar using the brush or finger.
4. Now tell your child to stick the torn pieces of tissues onto the glue.
5. Tell him that he has to cover the entire surface with the tissue paper.
6. Again, apply a thin layer of glue and stick the pieces of tissue paper.
7. Repeat the method once again.
5. Lastly, apply a thin layer of glue to seal it. Leave it to dry completely.
6. Once the jars have dried, put a candle or LED light inside the jar and place in the garden.

**Paper Ka'abah-**

You Will Need:

- A square box, Black Paint, Newspaper and Paper Mache Paste,
- Gold Tape, or Gold Paint. Glue

Steps:

1. Apply paper Mache paste on the box and leave it to dry.
2. If you don't have paper Mache paste, then cut out strips of newspaper.
3. Cover the box with the paper strips.
3. Tell your kid to paint the box with black paint. Apply several coats if required.
4. Now tell your kid to decorate the Kaaba with the golden tape or paint.

**Crescent Moon Magnet-**

You Will Need:

- Felt in two colors, Needle, Embroidery Thread
- Stuffing, Magnet, Scissors, Pins

Steps:

1. Download and print out the crescent moon and star template from the internet.
2. Pin the template to the green, felt and cut out two pieces of the moon.
3. Pin the star template to the yellow felt and cut out a piece.
4. Stitch the two green crescent moon pieces to each other, leaving one corner.
5. Put the stuffing and the magnet in the middle section of the moon and sew it all the way round.
6. Sew the star to one end of the moon. The magnet is ready.



Muna Jamal

By: Daoud Aburoumi

Muna Jamal is on the board of Ibn Sina Clinic which opened its doors at the beginning of this year in March. Ibn Sina clinic started with a group of individuals that put in sincere effort to start it up. "They wanted to help people that don't have insurance or people that have insurance but can't afford it," stated Muna Jamal. Ibn Sina Clinic provides free health care for all community members, not just Muslims. Currently, at Ibn Sina Clinic, there are about 20 Volunteers.

Reema Hasan

By: Daoud Aburoumi

Reema Hasan is the founder of the Give Organization. She established the organization with a group of her friends with the will of Allah. Give donates to various groups around the world who are in need. "Most of the donations go to refugees from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Bosnia, Somalia, and many other countries," stated Reema Hasan. Every Sunday of the month, people from the community drop off donations for their collection program. The Give organization also accepts monetary donations in order to provide necessary items.

Basheer Jones

By: Omar Alomari

Basheer Jones was born in Brooklyn, New York on October 25, 1984. Later on, he moved to Cleveland Ohio. He graduated Cum Laude from the Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 2006 with a degree in African American Studies. Basheer also became the youngest news talk radio show host at radio one. He published his first book called "I'll speak for change". Basheer is also the founder of the Basheer Jones foundation and a member of the NAACP which is an organization to better the lives of African Americans.

TOP
INSPIRATIONAL
MUSLIMS OF
CLEVELAND

Written By: 8th and 9th grade boys and
Mrs. Faten

Edited By: Selma Abazid

Ameena Yasin

By: Saif Mohammed

Sister Ameena Yasin was born in New York with her ancestry being Palestinian. She is the oldest of eight kids and was raised in an Islamic household. Sr. Ameena lived in New York until she was seven years old and later moved to Ohio when her parents decided to live a slower paced suburban life away from the hustle and bustle of the city life. Sr. Ameena got married when she was 16 years old in 1998 before the start of her senior year in high school and has since had six children.

In between getting married and having children, Sr. Ameena graduated from North Olmsted High School and began college at Tri-c wanting to pursue a degree in psychology. However, this changed when the 9/11 terrorist attack took place. Although Sr. Ameena's parents did their best to instill Islam in her she still wondered why Muslims would commit such a horrible act and if their justifications were really Islamic. This led Sr. Ameena to switch paths and study Islamic Studies in the state of Virginia. She has been studying Islam ever since and hopes to one day write a book that will educate others on Islam.

Sr. Ameena serves on the administration for the Islamic Center of Cleveland and is a member of the Women's committee. She volunteers at various community events and helps out the local Muslim community in general. Sr. Ameena is involved with many programs such as The food pantry, a clothing charity, a clean water charity, and the local women's shelter. Sr. Ameena's motivation for helping others in the community is the end goal of attaining Allah's (SWT) love, mercy, and pleasure. Thank you Sr. Ameena Yasin for being such a prominent Muslim figure in our community.

Steve Sosebee

By: Noah Ahmed

Steve Sosebee is the president and CEO of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, or PCRF for short. The PCRF is a non-profit organization with its main goal being to help give children in Palestinian territories free medical care. His career began back in 1990, as a Journalist in Palestine at the time; he brought two injured Palestinian children home with him to Akron, Ohio for free medical care. From there, he felt the need to help more of those children-so he continued on that path. Later in 1993, he married Huda al Masry, a Palestinian woman who helped him with his cause and helped Steve build the PCRF. However, Huda later passed away from cancer, but he continued to bring more and more children to the U.S. and continued the PCRF. Sosebee says, "...we are working hard to continue to make this organization the best and more efficient one in the world."

TOP INSPIRATIONAL MUSLIMS OF CLEVELAND

Written By: 8th and 9th grade boys,
Mrs. Faten and Mrs. Emily
Edited By: Selma Abazid

Julia Shearson

By: Noah Ahmed

Julia A. Shearson is the current executive director of Cair-Ohio, in Cleveland. As a convert to Islam, she mainly works for civil rights, Islamophobia, racial under profiling, and other causes. Her main goal is to negate any Islamic stereotypes and bring people of all faiths together. Representing Islam in Cleveland, Shearson is awarded and acclaimed because of her work for peace. Before joining CAIR, Julia had taught for over 10 years at multiple colleges, but also worked in interfaith and cross-cultural areas. Today, she continues to defend and ensure the justice of Muslims in Cleveland. "I try to live my life so that when I go to sleep at night after a long day at work that I know I have done all I can to make my corner of the world just a little bit better and brighter.

I also try to stay positive even in the face of difficult challenges, because I know that everything that happens is a test from God and that there is a divine purpose for every life."

How to get your child excited for Ramadan

By: Omar Alomari

With all the hyped-up holidays kids witness around them, it's difficult to get them excited to give up drink and food for an entire month for our holiday. Ramadan is not as much as a celebration but rather a celebration of the renewal of your connection with the Almighty. Trying to explain this to little ones can be difficult but there are a number of ways to get them excited for Ramadan and here's how: Something parents can try to cheer their children up are, decorate your house and have your kids decorate as they would like. Have a reward sheet if they fast (meaning everyday they fast they get a small reward) or anything relatively similar. Tell them about the amazing stories and history behind Islam and fasting. Let them decide what to eat for iftar and even take your kids to the masjid. There are so many different ways to get your kids to enjoy fasting you just have to go out and look for them.

Ramadan Rants

Compiled By: Noah Ahmed

- "Don't eat...you're fasting"
- "It's more than food people"
- "Koofy Gang"
- "It'll be done in no time, wait what time is it?"
- "7alo ya 7alo Ramadan Kareem ya 7alo"
- "I'm not ready for it"
- "Ramadan Kareem!"
- "Is it just me, or does it seem like food is everywhere?"

TIPS AND TRICKS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR RAMDAN

By: Faten Husni Odeh

#1

Plan, Plan, Plan! If you don't plan ahead *BEFORE* Ramadan starts...you've potentially already lost out on making the most out of this holy month. In other words, make your *Niyyah* (your intention).

#2

Make your daily schedule for each day. For example:
3:15am: wake up before fajr to read your Quran & pray your tahajjud,
4:00am: Make your suhoor and eat.
4:30am: Get ready for salat al fajr and make your way to the masjid.
5:30am: Go back to sleep
Basically... make your schedule for the entire day.

#3

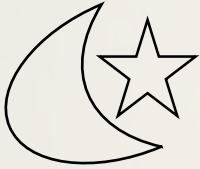
GOALS: Make personal goals that will help you become closer to Allah SWT and post them somewhere you will see them every day. For example, if praying your sunnahs for every salah has been difficult for you, make praying Sunnah with your fards your goal. Or if you want to start dressing more modestly, make your goal that you start wearing more loose clothing. One of the ways you know if your fasting has been accepted is if you continue to do these good deeds even after Ramadan is over.

#4

Follow an Islamic series on YouTube or a podcast by a credible Muslim Sheikh for example Omar Suleiman, or Noman Ali Khan

#5

It's not about the FOOD. Remember it's about getting closer to Allah SWT and increasing your spirituality. A lot of times we get caught up with what we're going to eat, grocery shopping, looking at recipes and etc. STOP yourself from this wasteful habit. Increase your acts of ibadah when you start thinking of the foods you're going to break your fast with.



Community Iftars

By: Emily Hill

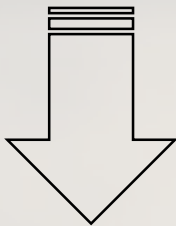
As we are all well informed by now of the bounties Ramadan has in store for us, there are still many more doors of opportunities available to pile up those hasanat.

Breaking your fast with your fasting brother and sister in Islam with a meal or dish you have provided, has rewards which could add to your scale of deeds. The Prophet, peace be upon him, said, *"Whoever gives iftar to one who is fasting will have a reward like his, without that detracting from the reward of the fasting person in the slightest."* (Sahih Jam'i)

So many Masajid in and around Cleveland host potluck iftars during the holy month of Ramadan. Not only will you get the thawab for providing a meal for the fasting ones, you will also receive a chance to experience flavors from the diverse cultures our Muslim communities have to offer.

Hop around the masjid, break your fast with your fellow Muslims, and pray side by side to demonstrate the unity we have within our ummah.

May Allah accept our fasting and good deeds during the holiest of months.



Masajid which host potluck iftars during Ramadan:

ICC - Saturday and Sunday

MACE - Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Solon Masjid (CVIC) - Every day

Uqba - Saturday and Sunday

Virtuous Sunnan to Practice in the Month of Ramadan

By: Naji Abuirmeileh

The month of **Ramadan** is a month of virtue and blessings. Aside from the obligation of **Fasting**, there are many **Sunnan** (the plural of Sunnah) to apply during one's Ramadan routine. Therefore, applying them would lead to great rewards in the **Dunya** and most importantly The Hereafter. Please consider practicing these **Sunnan**:

- Frequently reading and reciting the **Quran** with humble submission and contemplation.
- Frequently remembering **Allah Almighty**.
- Hastening **Iftar** (the meal with which one breaks his **fast**).
- Breaking one's **Fast** with an odd number of ripe, fresh dates, if not, then dry dates, if not, then with water
- Having **Suhoor** (predawn meal) and delaying it until directly before the **Azan-Al-Fajr**.
- Offering **Iftar** to **Fasting** Muslims.
- Observing **I'tikaaf** (religious seclusion in the **Masjid**) in the last ten days.
- Performing **Qiyam** (night prayers) in the nights of **Ramadan**, especially during the last 10 days and nights in Ramadan to attain **Laylat Al Qader** (The night of Decree).

**All of these were derived from Saheeh Al Bukhari and Muslim*

Ramadan Recipes

Katayef

Dough

1 cup of Flour, 1 cup of water, and a dash of salt

Filling:

1 cup of chopped walnuts

¼ cup of sugar, ¼ cup of coconut, dash of cinnamon

Syrup:

1 cup of water, 1 cup of sugar

4 drops of lemon juice

dash of cinnamon