Suspension of Jummah and Programs at MCA and Noor Masjid

Asalaamu 'Alaikum MCA patrons,
In accordance with recommendations from our County Public Health Department, the MCA will be taking precautionary measures for the safety and health of our community. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this time and will keep you informed as the situation evolves.

Effective immediately:

Friday prayers will be suspended starting Friday, March 13th until further notice.
We will be working on finding alternative options and notify you accordingly InshaAllah

All schools will refrain from in-person classes and try to provide online-based instruction wherever possible.
Parents will be sent details of this from their respective schools.

All public and private events are canceled
Until further notice, we will not be holding any events at the MCA.

All halaqas, classes, and programs are canceled
We plan to continue ongoing programs virtually where possible.
The decision to suspend these programs (particularly Friday prayers) was made after long and extensive deliberation and in consultation with various health officials and shuyookh. In an effort to be proactive in preventing potential harm, we are currently suspending all programs listed above. We are committed to closely monitoring status updates from local and state agencies in order to make the best decisions moving forward, and will communicate any changes to you via email, and on our website.

We ask Allah to protect us all and forgive us for any shortcomings. Please continue to make du'a and also be vigilant about best health practices to protect yourself and others.

Sincerely,
MCA Joint Board

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Newsletter
Published Weekly by the Muslim Community Association of San Francisco Bay Area

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AL-QURAN

"Indeed, we offered the Trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man [undertook to] bear it. Indeed, he was unjust and ignorant.” (33:72) [It was] so that Allah may punish the hypocrite men and hypocrite women and the men and women who associate others with Him and that Allah may accept repentance from the believing men and believing women. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful.

Surah Al-Ahzab :33:72-73

HADITH

It was narrated that Suwaid bin Ghafalah said: “I went out with Zaid bin Suhan and Salman bin Rabi'ah, and when we were at 'Udhaib, I found a whip. They said to me: 'Throw it away,' but I refused. When we came to Al-Madinah I went to Ubayy bin Ka'b and told him about that. He said: 'You did the right thing. I found one hundred dinar that had been lost at the time of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), and I asked him about it. He said, 'Announce it for a year.' So I Announced it, and I did not find anyone who recognized it. He said: ‘Remember the features of its bag and strap, and how many it contains, then announce it for a year. If someone comes who describes it with those features, (give it to him), otherwise it is like your own property.’”

Sunan Ibn Majah,
Vol. 3, Book 18, Hadith 2602

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Join the MCA Mailing List and Stay Connected

www.mcabayarea.org/newsletter
Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be a top health priority around the world. The health and wellbeing of all who visit MCA is a top priority. We would like to remind everyone everyday preventive actions as recommended by the CDC

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.
CDC does not recommend that people who are well, wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
Face Masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a healthcare facility).

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

The MCA leadership is staying up to date on the cases of COVID-19 within Santa Clara County and remains diligent in taking any preventative measures deemed necessary by the county. To help keep our community safe and healthy we ask that you also:

Please do not come to the masjid if you have any flu-like symptoms.
This is applicable to both children and adults.

Additionally, if you are at the masjid and begin to experience any coughing, sneezing, etc. please make sure to leave the area and avoid close contact with others.
As Muslims, we are firm in the belief that everything happens with Allah’s will, and alongside that belief, we also have an obligation to take care of ourselves and others. Please be vigilant in making sure you are not putting yourself or anyone else in potential harm. We can do this of course by increasing our worship and du’a, but also in earnestly following the recommendations provided by the CDC. Please share this knowledge with your family, friends, and especially your children.
We appreciate your cooperation and understanding and we ask Allah to protect us and bless us with the best of health and faith.

For broader public health information related to COVID-19, please also refer to these resources:

World Health Organization
Center for Disease Control
County of Santa Clara
**Journey through the Quran**

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**GRANADA ISLAMIC SCHOOL**

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**2020 GIS Board Election Announcement**

The GIS Board Election will be held on March 13th and 14th. Followings are some important dates:

- **Nomination Deadline:** Saturday February 29th at 9:00PM
- **Candidate Forum:** Friday 6th of March from 6:30PM to 9:00PM at Maryam Hall, MCA
- **Election:**
  - Friday March 13th at Maryam Hall, MCA – 2:30pm to 3:30pm, and 6:45pm to 9:00pm
  - Saturday, March 14th at Maryam Hall, MCA – 10:30am to 11:30am

Please visit the MCA website for details and nomination forms
In the ninth year of the Hijrah, an ‘Arab king made the first positive moves to Islam after years of feeling hatred for it. He drew closer to faith (iman) after opposing and combating it. And he finally pledged allegiance to the Prophet (saw) after his adamant refusal to do so.

He was ‘Adiy, son of the famous Hatim at-Ta’iy who was known far and wide for his chivalry and fabulous generosity. ‘Adiy (ra) inherited the domain of his father and was confirmed in the position by the Ta’iy people. Part of his strength lay in the fact that a quarter of any amount they obtained as booty from raiding expeditions had to be given to him.

When the Prophet (saw) announced openly his call to guidance and truth and Arabs from one region after another accepted his teachings, ‘Adiy (ra) saw in his mission a threat to his position and leadership. Although he did not know the Prophet (saw) personally, and had never seen him, he developed strong feelings of enmity towards him. He remained antagonistic to Islam for several years until at last, Allah (swt) opened his heart to the religion.

The way in which ‘Adiy (ra) became a Muslim is a remarkable story and he is perhaps the best person to relate it. He said:

There was no man among the Arabs who detested Allah’s Messenger (saw) more than I, when I heard about him. I was then a man of status and nobility. I was a Christian. From my people I took a fourth of their booty, as was the practice of other ‘Arab kings.

When I heard of the Messenger of Allah (saw) I hated him. When his mission grew in strength and when his power increased and his armies and expeditionary forces dominated east and west of the land of Arabs, I said to a servant of mine who looked after my camels:

“Get ready a fat camel for me which is easy to ride and tether is close to me. If you hear of an army or an expeditionary force of Muhammad coming towards the land, let me know.”

One evening, my servant came to me and said:

“Ya Mawlaya! What you intended to do on the approach of Muhammad’s cavalry to you land, do it now.”

“Why? May your mother lose you!”

“I have seen scouts searching close to the habitations. I asked about them and was told that they belonged to the army of Muhammad,” he said.

“Bring the camel that I had ordered you to get ready,” I said to him. I got up then and there, summoned my household (including) my children and ordered them to evacuate the land we loved. We headed in the direction of Syria to join people of our own faith among the Christians and settle among them.

We left in too much haste for me to gather together our entire household. When I took stock of our situation, I discovered that part of my family was missing. I had left my own sister in our Najd homelands together with the rest of the Ta’iy people. I did not have any means to return to her. So I went on with those who were with me until I reached Syria and took up residence there among people of my own religion. As for my sister, what I feared for her happened.

News reached me while I was in Syria that the forces of Muhammad (saw) entered our habitations and took my sister together with a number of other captives to Yathrib. There she was placed with other captives in a compound near the door of the Masjid.

The Prophet (saw) passed by her. She stood up before him and said:

“Ya Rasulullah! My father is dead and my guardian is not here. Be gracious to me and Allah will be gracious to you.”

“And who is your guardian?” asked the Prophet (saw).

“‘Adiy ibn Hatim,” she said.

“The one who fled from Allah and his Prophet?” he asked. He then left her and walked on.

On the following day, the same thing happened. She spoke to him just as she did the day before and he replied in the same manner. The next day, the same thing happened and she despaired of getting any concession from him for he did not say anything. Then a man from behind him indicated that she should stand up and talk to him. She therefore stood up and said:

“O Messenger of Allah! My father is dead and my guardian is absent. Be gracious to me and Allah will be gracious to you.”

“I have agreed,” he said. Turning to those about him, he instructed:

“Let her go for her father loved noble ways, and Allah (swt) loves them.”

“I want to join my family in Syria,” she said.

“But don’t leave in a hurry,” said the Prophet (saw), “until you find someone you can trust from you people who could accompany you to Syria. If you find a trustworthy person, let me know.”

When the Prophet (saw) left, she asked about the man who had suggested that she speak to the Prophet (saw) and was told that he was ‘Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra). She stayed in Yathrib until a group arrived among whom was someone she could trust. So she went to the Prophet (saw) and said:

“O Messenger of Allah! A group of my people have come to me and among them is one I can trust who could take me to my family.”

The Prophet (saw) gave her fine clothes and an adequate sum of money. He also gave her a camel and she left with the group.

Thereafter, we followed her progress gradually and waited for her return. We could hardly believe what was heard about Muhammad’s generosity towards her in spite of my attitude to him. By Allah, I am a leader of my people. When I beheld a woman in her hawdaj coming towards us, I said:

“The daughter of Hatim! It’s she! It’s she!”
When she stood before us, she snapped sharply at me and said:

"The one who severs the tie of kinship is a wrongdoer. You took your family and your children and left the rest of your relations and those whom you ought to have protected."

"Yes, my sister," I said, "don't say anything but good." I tried to pacify her until she was satisfied. She told me what had happened to her and it was as I had heard. Then I asked her, for she was an intelligent and judicious person:

"What do you think of the mission of his man (meaning Muhammad-saw)?"

"I think, by Allah, that you should join him quickly," she said. "If he is a Prophet, the one who hastens towards him would enjoy his grace. And if he is a king, you would not be disgraced in his sight while you are as you are."

I immediately prepared myself for travel and set off to meet the Prophet (saw) in Madinah without any security and without any letter. I had heard that he had said: "I certainly wish that Allah will place the hand of 'Adiy in my hand."

I went up to him. He was in the Masjid. I greeted him and he said:

"Who is this man?"

"'Adiy ibn Hatim," I said. He stood up for me, took me by the hand and set off towards his home.

By Allah, as he was walking with me towards his house, a weak old woman met him. With her was a young child. She stopped him and began talking to him about a problem. I was standing (all the while). I said to myself:

"By God, this is no king."

He then took me by the hand and went with me until we reached home. There, he got a leather cushion filled with palm fiber, gave it to me and said:

"Sit on this!"

I felt embarrassed before him and said:

"Rather, you sit on it."

"No, you," he said.

I deferred and sat on it. The Prophet (saw) sat on the floor because there was no other cushion. I said to myself:

"By God, this is not the manner of a king!"

He then turned to me and said:

"Yes, 'Adiy ibn Hatim! Haven't you been a "Rukusi" professing a religion between Christianity and Sabeanism?"

"Yes," I replied.

"Did you not operate among your people on the principle of exacting from them a fourth, taking from them what your religion does not allow you?"

"Yes," I said, and I knew from that that he was a Prophet sent (by Allah). Then he said to me:

"Perhaps, O 'Adiy, the only thing that prevents you from entering this religion is what you see of the destitution of the Muslims and their poverty. By Allah, the time is near when wealth would flow among them until no one could be found to take it."

"Perhaps, O 'Adiy, the only thing that prevents you from entering this religion is what you see of the small number of Muslims and their numerous foe. By Allah, the time is near when you would hear of the woman setting out from Qadisiyah on her camel until she reaches the house, not fearing anyone except Allah (swt)."

"Perhaps what prevents you from entering this religion is that you only see that sovereignty and power rest in the hands of those who are not Muslims. By Allah, you will soon hear of the white palaces of the land of Babylon opening up for them and the treasures of Chosroes, the son of Hormuz, fall to their lot."

"The treasure of Chosroes, the son of Hormuz?" I asked (incredulously).

"Yes, the treasure of Chosroes, the son of Hormuz," he said.

Thereupon, I professed the testimony of truth, and declared my acceptance of Islam.

One report says that when 'Adiy (ra) saw the simplicity of the Prophet's life-style, he said to him:

"I testify that you do not seek high office in this world nor corruption," and he announced his acceptance of Islam. Some people observed the Prophet's treatment of 'Adiy (ra) and said to him:

"O Prophet of Allah! We have seen you do something that you have not done to any other."

"Yes," replied the Prophet (saw). "This is a man of stature among his people. If such a person should come to you, treat him honorably."

'Adiy ibn Hatim (ra) lived for a long time. He later said:

"Two of the things (that the Prophet spoke of) came to pass and there remained a third. By Allah, it would certainly come to pass.

"I have seen the woman leaving Qadisiyah on her camel fearing nothing until she arrived at this house (of the Prophet in Madinah).

"I myself was in the vanguard of the cavalry that descended on the treasures of Chosroes and took them. And I swear by Allah that the third event will be realized."

Through the will of Allah, the third statement of the Prophet (saw) came to pass during the time of the devout and ascetic Khalifah, 'Umar ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Wealth flowed among the Muslims so much so that when the town-criers called on people throughout the Muslim domain to come and collect Zakat, no one was found in need to respond.
Spring 2020 Courses (Saturdays, Jan 25 – Apr 18)

- Competitive Math (Math Kangaroo) – Jan 25 – Mar 14, Gr 1-12, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Project-Based Machine Learning - Feb 1 – Apr 18, Gr 9-12, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Students should have prior knowledge of programming and calculus skills)
- Project-Based Programming in Python – Feb 1 – Apr 18, Gr 6-12, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (Students should have a basic understanding of programming)
- Physics/Math Tutoring & Math Crash Courses – Feb 1 – Apr 18, Gr 6-12, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Community service volunteer hours for high school students

There is a minimal course fee. Payment can be made onsite by check. Contact stem@mcabayarea.org for questions/details or visit the website at https://www.mcabayarea.org/component/content/article/1010 for questions/details.

Registration can be done onsite on the first day of class.
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Job Title: Web Master and Graphic Designer
Position – Part Time, Flexible Schedule
Location – Remote/Work from home
Scope of Position: MCA is a non-profit religious organization servicing the needs of the Muslim community since 1981 and has 2 facilities in Santa Clara. This person will be responsible for managing MCA’s website and other communication medium.

Responsibilities:
The job responsibilities are included, but not limited to, as follows:
- Develop promotional materials for various MCA Committees upon request. Promotional materials may include: Flyers, posters, postcards, banners, tickets & brochures for print and for the web as needed.
- Collaborate harmoniously with multiple committees in MCA to meet their design requirement, incorporate their feedbacks and meet the deadlines.
- Responsible for managing all contents of the website, different events and ads on the main page, calendar of events and committee’s web pages according to their needs.
- Responsible for uploading content on all social media outlets daily.
- Manage the resizing of ads for multiple outlets and transform into emails as needed.
- Responsible for creating payment and registration pages as needed by committees and providing complete registration lists upon request.
- Send out weekly and on demand emails to the subscribed members with info and events happening at MCA.
- Manage customer inquiries about online ads and costs.
- Flexibility with designing materials and providing edits on a short notice.

Skills and Experience:
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- Must have strong writing & grammar skills.
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- Knowledge of Photography and photo editing.
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- Proficiency with MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook).
- Demonstrated CSS, HTML, and JavaScript skills.
- Must be able to handle confidential information.

To Apply – Please send your resume to HR@mcabayarea.org
On Saturday, February 8, 2020, members of the MCA Sustainability Committee participated in a “Climate Change Education Day” hosted by the Evergreen Islamic Center (EIC) in San José, California. The event created a welcome exchange between the Muslim community, city officials, and other organizations and businesses, with all participants making a unified call to action on climate change.

A captivating presentation by the EIC Youth group set the tone of the event. They explained how the global climate crisis we face is due to our own destructive behavior. They presented shocking facts on carbon dioxide emissions and urged everyone to play their part in reducing their carbon footprint. For example, an individual household can help by switching to LED lightbulbs, lowering water heater temperature, replacing one meat-based meal with a plant-based meal, carpooling, reducing consumption, repairing what isn’t working and recycling what cannot be used.

Other guests at the event represented local organizations and county government, including Rev. Susan Hendershot, President of the Interfaith Light and Power organization, which provides a religious response to global warming. Another speaker, Dave Cortese, Santa Clara County Board Supervisor has been a longtime supporter of energy efficiency, clean air and renewable energy. He mentioned San José’s ‘Green Action’ program as an example of how local governments can proactively adhere to eco-friendly guidelines.

The Sustainability Committee also engaged visitors using educational posters and a live demonstration of their recycling program by using a fun game to teach people how to sort out confusing items. They emphasized that although single-use water bottles may seem convenient when you are on the go, they have a lasting negative effect on the environment, even after recycling. Thus, reusable water bottles (which MCA offers for sale!) are a better option. They also explained the importance of composting. Why should we compost? The regular disposal of food and similar waste into landfills releases methane when these products are suffocated under non-biodegradable materials, such as plastic. The poisonous release of methane along with other heat-trapping GHG’s contributes to global warming. Thus, it remains important for us to dispose of all waste materials in their appropriate bin.

Other volunteer-based organizations active at the fair included Youth Climate Action, and Mothers Out Front (an organization who advises local government on how to support environmentally-friendly practices). Others present also included utility providers and vendors such as Soleeva Solutions, providers of smarter renewable energy systems.

The Sustainability Committee members learned from the EIC management that, similar to MCA and MCC East Bay, EIC has also implemented a sustainability initiative. EIC’s Board has spearheaded this effort and their congregation, particularly their youth, are actively involved in educating their community. EIC’s current measures to reach their target of Net-Zero energy and Zero Waste include practices such as efficient heating and cooling, LED lighting and waste management. Planned future upgrades include rooftop solar installations, electric car charging stations and drought-tolerant landscaping and smart irrigation.

The Climate Education Day event was not just a single-day endeavor; rather, it created an opportunity for continued discussions around sustainability and how we can all take responsibility to protect the environment.

Allah tells us in the Quran: “You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah.” (3:110)

We invite you to volunteer with the MCA Sustainability Committee to support our work and to learn about and participate in similar events in the future.
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MCA Newsletter is a great way to connect with the Muslim Community and Businesses of the SFO Bay Area.

13. Al-Musawwir
The One who forms His creatures in different pictures.
The Fashoner
The Organizer, the Designer

“And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke Him by them.” [Quran 7:180]
One Million Trees Project
Plant Fruit & Nut Trees as Sadaqah Jariah!

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, “If any Muslim plants any plant and a human being or an animal eats of it, he will be rewarded as if he had given that much in charity.”
(Sahih Bukhari Vol. 8, Number 41)

Alhamdulillah, this year Hidaya Foundation began distributing various fruit and nut trees for benefit of families in need as part of our One Million Trees Project. Different types of trees distributed so far include: persimmon, apricot, cherry, fig, peach, plum, pomegranate, loquat, lemon, guava, walnut, and almond.

Join us in this effort of bringing great benefit to people and the environment by contributing towards the One Million Trees project.

Just $1 per seedling!

The Benefits of Trees
- Produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide
- Help keep the air clean
- An effective sound barrier
- Provide shade and cool
- Reduce wind speeds
- Reduce soil erosion and conserve rain water
- Beautify land and increase property values
- Help purify land from harmful chemicals (trees absorb pollutants and reduce levels as timber is harvested)
- Provide sanctuary for wildlife
- Assist in economic development (timber, fruit, leaves)