

NEWSLETTER :: Thursday, December 1st, 2016 / 2 Rabi Al Awwal 1438 A.H.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**ISGVF Connections – November 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)

**In This Connection**

1. ISGVF Updates
2. Weekly Events
3. November Month Event
4. ISGVF Reflection

**Weekly Activities**

**Monday and Thursday:**

Hifz (Quran Memorization) Classes every Monday and Thursday in School Bldg. from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

**Wednesday:**

Quran Learning (Reading) Classes every Wednesday in School Bldg. from 5:30 PM to 7:30 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.

**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.

**IQAMAH TIMES**

December 2016

DATES	FAJR* (AM)	ZUHR** (PM)	ASR (PM)	MAGHREB (PM)	ISHA (PM)
11/27 – 12/03	6:00*	12:30**	3:30	5 Min. After Sunset	8:00
12/04 – 12/10	6:15*	12:30**	3:30	5 Min. After Sunset	8:00
12/11 – 12/17	6:15*	12:30**	3:30	5 Min. After Sunset	8:00
12/18 – 12/24	6:30*	12:30**	3:30	5 Min. After Sunset	8:00
12/25 – 12/31	6:30*	12:30**	3:30	5 Min. After Sunset	8:00

\* 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

**ISGVF Updates**

**ISGVF Annual General Body Meeting & Elections**

Annual General Body meeting of the Society was held on Sunday, December 4, 2016. The agenda were included for the society's annual reports and other items as necessary. The elections of new

## November Month Events

### Seminar

Dr. Shabbir Amanullah hosted a program at ISGVF on Managing 21st century issues, Alhamdulillah this was well attended and informative program.



### SAT Exam Preparation

Alhamdulillah, ISGVF has successfully arranged SAT exam prep & review sessions for high school students in partnership with Zakat foundation of America, total 9 students attended and benefited from the program

### Food Distribution

**Norristown, November 19, 2016**

Alhamdulillah ISGVF has distributed food among the 15 needy families in Norristown community

officers of the Society for 2017 was held following the GB meeting. The new officers were elected for the following positions:

Member, Board of Trustees ... 6 year term, 2017-22

**Br. Murat Odemis**

### Executive Council Positions:

For 1 year term 2017

President .....**Br. Ejaz Khan**

Vice President.....**Sr. Andrea Matter**

Secretary .....**Br. Abdul Hai Shaik**

Treasurer .....**Br. Hamid Rafiq**

### Quranic Arabic Class

ISGVF Weekend School is pleased to announce the start of Quranic Arabic Class (**18+ years only**). All interested community members should fill out registration form [Click to download form](#) and send to [weekendschool@isgvf.com](mailto:weekendschool@isgvf.com) or handover in person to school admin office by **December 04, 2016**.

Insha'Allah classes will begin in the **second week of December 2016**. We request you to kindly read and familiarized with the procedures and guidelines for this class noted in the form.

Please feel free to contact us for any further comments, questions, or concerns in regards to this new class.

### The New Administration and What it Means to You

In response to the alarming rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes and rhetoric in the past year, and especially after the election, CAIR-Philadelphia and Emerge USA are hosting a community town hall meeting on **Friday, December 16th, at 6:30 pm**, at Villanova Masjid (Foundation for Islamic Education) - 1860 Montgomery Ave, Villanova PA.

### Donations By Self Service Credit / Debit card Machine at ISGVF

Make your donation through credit or debit card at ISGVF Alahmdolillah, now community can make donations via self-service credit /debit card machine installed in the main building's lobby.

Those who would like to make additional Year-End donations to take advantage of tax deductions to the extent law allows. Please take this opportunity and make donations.

### Adopt A Highway

Insha'Allah, next Adopt A Highway cleaning event is scheduled on Sunday December 11, 2016, program will start at 7:50 AM which is an hour after the Fajr prayer Insha'Allah. Volunteers are expected to be at the masjid by 7:30 AM for information and supplies pickup including pick sticks, vest, gloves etc.

Community members, friends and families and Islamic School children from grade 7 and above with parents are invited to

## ISGVF Food Distribution

The Food Distribution Program that provides food to low-income households. ISGVF will distribute food every Wednesday between 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm, Insha'Allah.



Your donation are important to support the program.

## Contact Us

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

(610) 688-2209 (tel.)  
[council@isgvf.com](mailto:council@isgvf.com)

 [Facebook](#)

 [twitter](#)

visit: [WWW.ISGVF.COM](http://WWW.ISGVF.COM)

participate in this event irrespective of the religion and gender. There will be daycare volunteers available to take care of small children during the event. For signup, please contact the ISGVF coordinator, Br Murat Odemis at [muratli@hotmail.com](mailto:muratli@hotmail.com)

## ISGVF Reflection

### Our Prophet and His Sunnah

Our Prophet and His Sunnah We are celebrating these days a precious occasion that is dear to every Muslim's heart. It is the birth anniversary of our guide and light for mankind, our Master and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This is a time to remember our prophet, to reflect upon the beauty of his character, the mercy that Allah sent to whole universe through him. He brought us a message of pure guidance that is so precious that nothing could be sufficient to express our indebtedness to him. Allah the Almighty says, **"O People of the Scripture, there has come to you Our Messenger making clear to you much of what you used to conceal of the Scripture and overlooking much. There has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book."** (Al Ma'ida: 15). Through the guidance he brought to whole mankind, millions upon millions of people received happiness in this world and will receive an eternal happiness in the hereafter. What a beautiful message he brought, what an unending source of light he emanates. Indeed, the Exalted is He, the Most High, sent His Messenger Muhammad (PBUH) to replace darkness of the earth with light and guide the people after they have gone astray. His birth and message were a mercy for humanity.

The Exalted Allah says, **"And we have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds."** (Al Anbiyaa: 107). That is: the Almighty Allah sent His Messenger Muhammad with a mission of mercy for all mankind; believers and disbelievers alike. Those who believed, they were guided by Allah through His Messenger, and those who did not were invited by the Messenger to follow the righteous path. When the latter didn't respond, the Messenger never supplicated to Allah to punish them, nor did he curse them despite all the bad treatment and harm he received from them. Instead, he used to say, **"O Lord! Forgive my people as they do not know."**

Thus, by sending the Messenger (PBUH) Allah had conferred a great favor and abundant bounties upon mankind. The Messenger (PBUH) adopted tenderness and wisdom in calling people for good conduct. For the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) being a mercy to mankind, for the good character that he brought, for the love and compassion he had for us, we also love him. The sahaba loved him so much to the point where they would sacrifice their lives without hesitating. We also love him so much and we remember him in his birthday. However, the manifestation of this love is possible through the practicing of his sunnah. Allah says, **"Says, [O Muhammad], "If you should love Allah, then follow me,**

**[so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.”(Al-Imran: 31)** By following all such good conducts, one will, certainly, achieve happiness and live in welfare. Reporting on this matter, it was narrated that when Jaafar bin Abu Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, explained to Al Najashi the teachings of Islam that the Prophet (PBUH) decreed, he said, **“(the Prophet) ordered us to speak the truth, fulfill the trust, maintain the bond of kinship, keep good neighborly relationship, leave off the things prohibited by Allah and ward off blood shedding. He prohibited us from doing the evil actions, eating up the property of an orphan and wrongly accusing the chaste women. He also commanded us to worship Allah and associate not any partner with Him, establish prayer, pay Zakat and fast (Ramadan).”**

Not only did the Prophet decree such gracious principles, but he also set for us a good example for adhering to them. His praiseworthy merits were mentioned in the Holy Quran in a sign of appreciation to his attributes and as an evidence of his great character. The Most Exalted says, **“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.” (Al Qalam: 4).** As such, the Messenger of Allah was the best of people in terms of ethics, and the most noble of them in terms of actions. For example, it was narrated that whereupon the Prophet (PBUH) was asked to invoke curse upon the disbelievers, he said, “I have not been sent as the invoker of course, but I have been sent as mercy.” The lesson that we can draw from this Hadith is that we need to treat others in tenderness, address them with the best of words and help them with their affairs.

Yes, to adhere to the Prophet’s (PBUH) practices is certainly highly commendable and worthwhile, and is even more so when innovations are rife. To comply with them in even a small matter of behavior, particularly when the Prophet’s (PBUH) community is corrupted, signifies a powerful belief and fear of Allah. And to follow the practices recalls the Noble Messenger (PBUH) directly, and such remembering is transformed into realization of the divine presence. The moment they are observed in even the least significant dealings, in the conduct of Eating, drinking or sleeping, such habitual, natural acts become acts of worship in compliance with the Sunnah. For the person thinks of following Allah’s Messenger (PBUH) and conceives of his actions as conduct of the Sunnah. Then he recalls that the Messenger (PBUH) brought the Sunnah, and then his heart turns to Almighty Allah, the True Lawgiver, and he gains a sort of awareness of the divine presence and a sense of worship.

That is said, we beseech Allah, the Most Gracious, to confer His blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his family and all his companions. May Allah fill our hearts with the love of His noble Messenger and guide us to follow his Sunna.

- **Mustafa Polat**