



WELCOME TO OUR 3rd Newsletter

We have a new Logo!



OUR TEAM

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News from The Community

For the first time in the history of our community, ten youths participated in ICNA's 50th Convention. ICNA- Islamic Circle of North America is the largest Muslim gathering in America. Under this year's theme, Standing Strong: An Identity Rooted in Faith, the Muslim conference was a weekend-long gathering from May 24-26 at Baltimore Convention Center. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in workshops and sessions led by Muslim scholars in important topics such as mental health, and personal development. In addition to workshops, and lectures, attendees enjoyed the cultural bazaar and halal food. We encourage families and youth to attend next year.



In this edition you will find:

Recap of our Ramadan and Eid celebrations, Interview with a Muslim professional, & Articles featuring Young Muslim group leaders.

Ramadan Reflections



Youth activities

Ramadan 2025 was also marked by a surge in youth activities, ranging from bonfires to lectures at two in the morning for qiyam and eating suhoor with friends. Notable to mention is also the respective girls' and boys' youth group's bake sales, which, in addition to being the first in this new masjid's history, also served to raise hundreds of dollars towards youth funds and masjid endeavors. Alhamdulillah for this rizq and blessing from Allah!



Taraweeh Prayers

What lies at the heart of this year's taraweehs, however, extends beyond the traditional nightly prayers. With the incorporation of a variety of imams, Muslim attendants enjoyed a range of voices, surahs, and backgrounds throughout this holy month. The prayers were led by Abu Bakr Younes, Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, Ahmed Aldawoodi, Sheik Abdelaziz, Suhaib Aljubori and Ezatullah Silab.

Food



Ramadan is incomplete without mention of food, and what is the best meal if not iftar? This Ramadan saw a copious amount of food on the table, including during weekly VMCF potlucks, meals prepared for volunteers during the masjid renovation period, and interfaith gatherings. With almost all families in the community making meals to share generously both during the start of dawn and at the end of it, bellies and hearts were filled—as well as the basement fridge. Special thanks to volunteers who served around 800 people and volunteers who helped organizing, coordinating and cleaning for the daily iftar.

Quran Competition

During the final ten days of Ramadan, which are the holiest of the month, participants ranging from third graders to teenagers competed in VMCF's seventh annual Quran competition. With a total of fifty participants competing within ten different levels of memorization—with the first level comprising five short surahs and the last covering all of Surat Al-Baqarah and Al-Imran—this year's results were one to remember. Twenty-three winners emerged, ranking in first, second, and third place, making families proud and marking new heights of Quranic knowledge, alhamdulillah! Others to thank for this wonderful yearly event include the competition coordinators, brother Ahmed Saleh this year and brother Emad Abdul-Rasool the previous few; the volunteers, sister Shino Mirrawli and brother Mohamed Malik; the four judges, which consist of sister Hala Youssef, sister Sundus Arafat, brother Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, and brother Abu Bakr Younis; as well as brother Jalal Maqableh and his sister Najla Dames, who began the initiative in 2018 with the intention of honoring late Hajji Awad Dames. An additional thanks goes out to the community that helped finance the competition by donating over \$2800 this year, alhamdulillah!



Eid Alfitr

Eid is always the happiest time of the year for Muslims all over, and the Muslims of VMCF were no exception! This year, the community celebrated Eid by praying the special Eid prayer at Harrisonburg high school, exchanging gifts and greetings, and eating together at Oakdale Park, which has never been used for Eid before, provided the perfect spot for an evening of fun, complete with many shelters, a soccer field, and a playground for the kids. Families across Harrisonburg enjoyed the night, and Eid of 2025 was certainly one to remember, alhamdulillah.



Muslim Professionals in the Valley: A Spotlight Series

THIS ESSAY IS PART OF A SERIES ON MUSLIM PROFESSIONALS AND BUSINESSES IN THE VALLEY. EACH ISSUE, WE WILL HIGHLIGHT ONE INDIVIDUAL'S JOURNEY AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Dr. Mohamed Selim, founder of Skyline Dental Arts in Harrisonburg, Virginia, has built a dental practice grounded in compassion, expertise, and community connection. After earning his dentistry degrees from Cairo University, including a master's in endodontics, and later his DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) from the University of Maryland, Dr. Selim continued to grow his skills in cosmetic and implant dentistry, always focusing on patient-centered care. For Dr. Selim, dentistry is more than a profession, it's a way to blend science, art, and service. "I love helping people restore their confidence through their smiles while improving their overall health," he shares. This passion inspired him to create Skyline Dental Arts, a welcoming space where



Photo of Dr. Mohamed Selim

families in the Valley can receive accessible, compassionate, and educational dental care. When asked about advice for Muslim youth pursuing their careers and studies, Dr. Selim says, "Stay grounded in your values, be patient with your journey, and never underestimate the power of discipline and dua. Choose a path that aligns with your passion, and don't be afraid to aim high-your identity as a Muslim is a strength, not a limitation." Dr. Selim believes that true excellence begins with intention. Whether treating a patient or leading his team, he strives to embody integrity, compassion, and professionalism, ensuring every person who visits his clinic feels cared for and respected.

VMCF Leaders

Naweed Yarzada's approach to faith, leadership, and community is both inspiring and practical, especially for young Muslims searching for identity and belonging. As a leader within the Muslim Student Association (MSA) at James Madison University, Naweed shares his thoughts on how faith can guide us, how inclusion can bring us together, and how leadership is really about serving others.

He stresses that everything we do, whether organizing an event, leading a group, or serving the community, should be driven by the intention to please Allah. "Always keep Allah at the forefront of your efforts," he says. Keeping taqwa, or God consciousness, in mind helps keep our actions sincere and grounded. It's what guides us through the highs and the lows. Even when things don't go exactly as planned, if your purpose is rooted in faith, the results will be blessed.

Inclusion is something Naweed and the MSA take very seriously. They make sure their events reflect the rich diversity of the Muslim community. Whether that be the variety of food at their banquets or the makeup of their leadership board, they intentionally include people from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. This way, every Muslim student feels seen, respected, and truly welcome.

When it comes to leadership, Naweed offers advice that feels refreshingly humble. He encourages young Muslims to seek the pleasure of Allah before worrying about what people think. "Leadership isn't about being in the spotlight; it's about serving others for something greater than yourself," he explains. Staying humble, being patient, and regularly renewing your intentions are necessary. When your goal is sincere, respect and blessings naturally follow.

Ultimately, Naweed sees the MSA as a place where students can balance their faith and worldly responsibilities. It's a space where they can deepen their Islamic knowledge, build spiritual habits, and develop important skills like teamwork, event planning, and public speaking.

Looking ahead, he is excited about the possibilities for collaboration between the MSA and the Valley Muslim Community Foundation. "We are strongest when we come together for a common goal," he emphasized.



VMCF Leaders: Sabrina Abdulla Interview On VMCF Youth Group

In a world where identity and faith often intersect with societal expectations, Sabrina Abdulla stands as a source of inspiration for young Muslim women. As an active member and leader within the Young Muslims group, Sabrina's journey is a testament to resilience, authenticity, and the power of a faithful community. In this heartfelt interview, she opens up about the challenges she faced, the moments that have impacted her, and her hopes for the future of Muslim youth.

Sabrina candidly shares the pressures she's encountered as a Muslim woman striving to meet communal expectations. "Some major challenges I have faced as a Muslim woman in today's society is the constant pressure to be a perfect Muslimah," she reflects. She explains how many people, both consciously and subconsciously, assume that visible acts of faith; like wearing the hijab or attending Jummah prayers, mean one cannot make mistakes.

But Sabrina found solace and strength in her faith. "I learned to overcome this by realizing Allah does not demand perfection from us," she says, referencing a verse from Surah An-Nisa:

"And it is Allah's Will to lighten your burdens, for humankind was created weak." This reminder allowed her to embrace her humanity and approach her faith with compassion and understanding.



Sabrina Abdulla's journey with the Young Muslims group reflects her deep commitment to faith, sisterhood, and community. One of her most meaningful memories came after leading her first halaqas, when she struggled with imposter syndrome. "I did not believe I was qualified to teach others about Islam," she recalls. But a simple conversation changed her perspective. A fellow member told her how impactful the discussions had been, reminding Sabrina that anyone can spread good through sincerity and effort.

To Sabrina, sisterhood means showing up for one another. "It's recognizing the absence of your sisters and checking in on them," she says. "It is our duty to ensure the Muslim ummah remains united and preserved!"

Looking ahead, she is passionate about expanding Young Muslims' reach. "I would love to take Young Muslims on field trips to visit various mosques such as the beautiful Diyanet Center in Maryland, and the ADAMS Center in Sterling, VA," she shares. She believes these trips will build knowledge, connection, and a strong sense of community.

To young Muslim girls, she offers clear guidance: "Be careful with the information you learn online. Always check the authenticity of hadith, and when in doubt, go to the Quran and tafsir." She also reminds them, "It's okay for your iman to be shaky at times—what matters is that you return to Allah." She finds hope in a hadith: "Were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you..."

Sabrina believes the wider Muslim community can support youth by making dua for them and participating in events like potlucks and fundraisers. Her story is a testament to the power of faith, sisterhood, and genuine leadership.

