



Islamic Society of Baltimore

Community Newsletter

October 2023 - December 2023



Islamic Society of Baltimore
isb.org

"The relationship of the believer with another believer is like (the bricks of) a building, each strengthens the other."

PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ

SOURCE: AL-BUKHARI AND MUSLIM



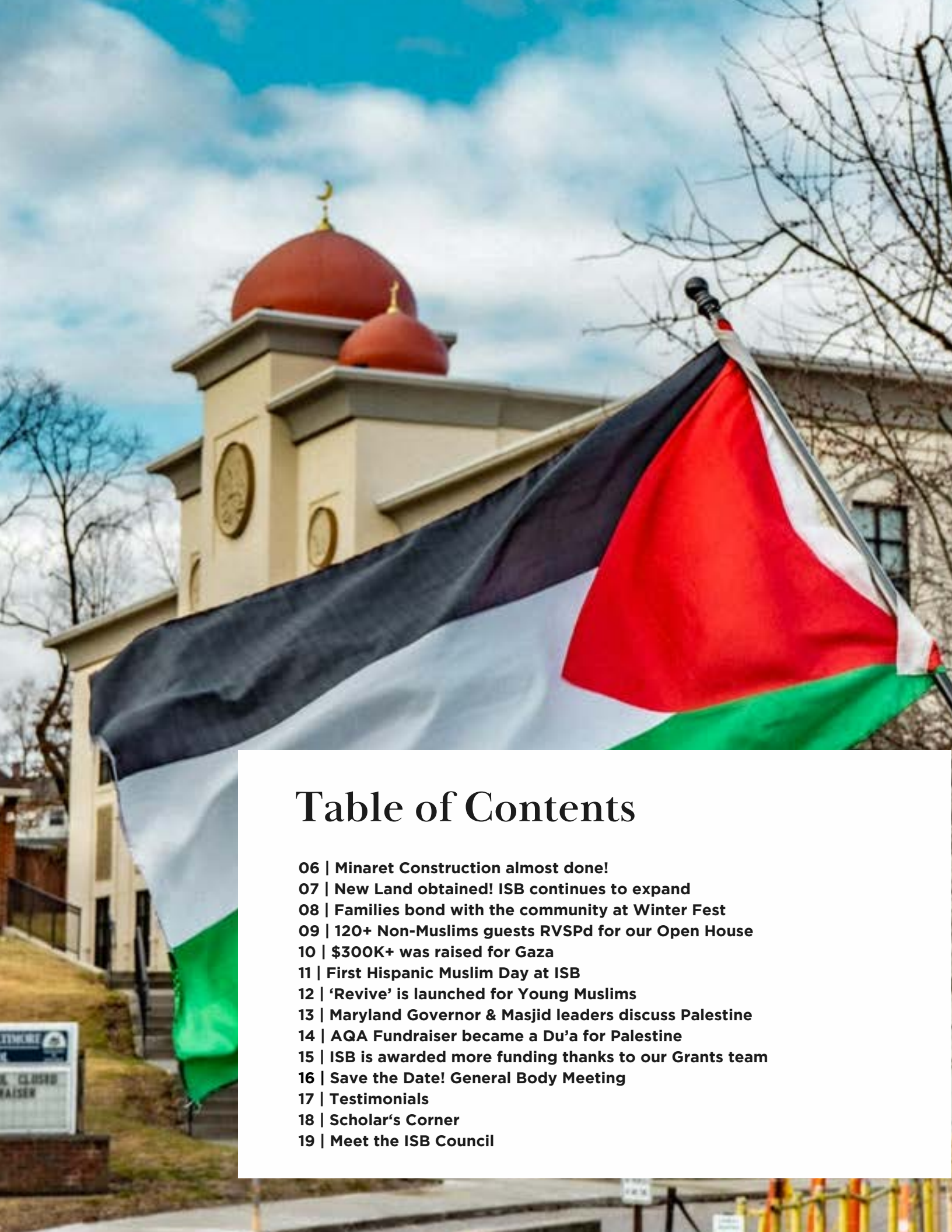


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Minaret Construction almost done!

DECEMBER 2023

“Right now we have the framing going on, and you can see it’s starting to take shape. We’re hopefully wrapping up in the next two months or so,” said Br. Adam, project manager for Boulevard Contractors and former ARS graduate and AQA student.

“It’s going! Right now they’re doing framing, it’s a lot of intricate work, but we’re looking to move along and get this done before Ramadan, inshaAllah,”

As “Allah is beautiful and loves beauty” (Muslim) we’re excited for this minaret to beautify our home and finally have the silhouette of our masjid match the Islamic Society of Baltimore logo!



This minaret continues the age-old tradition of adorning a masjid with a minaret, marking the building as a House of Allah and honoring the tradition of when the *adhan* was once called from the top of a tower, calling people to pray.

Now, ISB joins this tradition set by beautiful masaajid throughout time, and will be visible recognizable as masjid from the street, through the trees, and throughout the neighborhood.

May Allah (SWT) make our new minaret a means of dawah and a point of confidence for Muslims, and may Allah reward you, our community, for making the transformation of ISB- your home- possible over the years, by the will of Allah (SWT).



New Land obtained! ISB continues to expand

DECEMBER 2023

Land obtained! Alhamdulillah, 6615 and 6613-A are now part of the ISB campus. You, our community, came through by the will of Allah (SWT) and met the fundraising goal, allowing us to purchase this new property just in time.

With this land, we are securing the future of our community and ensuring that one day, this land can fulfill the potential to be the home of something vital -- From great programs, activities, functions, schools, clinics, senior's facilities, and much more.

We pray that Allah (SWT) blesses and rewards all of you who donated and helped make this future happen, and that Allah (SWT) makes this purchase a means of good for our community.

Thank you for taking care of ISB- your children's home, your grandchildren's home, and your home.



Families bond with the community at Winter Fest

DECEMBER 2023

The warmth of community brought us together during these frigid days at the recent Community Winter Fest hosted by Al-Rahmah School and open to all!



From free cotton candy to laughs on bouncy houses to plenty of shopping options, there was fun for the whole family with some well-known food vendors, 22 bazaar vendors, entertainment, kids' activities, a photobooth, and more.

"I like being a part of a masjid that has events like these that make us feel welcome," said an event attendee, "I'm glad I don't have to wait for Ramadan to have fun with my friends and family and be around the community."

The event was free, but we thank our community members who donated upon entry to support Al-Rahmah School!



120+ Non-Muslims guests RVSPd for our Open House

DECEMBER 2023

Islamophobia is rising, but 124 non-Muslims RSVPd for our Visit a Mosque Day *mashaAllah*, and at least 4 people took their *Shahada* after attending!

At this exciting Open House, dozens of visitors took a tour of the masjid, joined a Q&A session with scholars and converts to Islam, observed Muslims praying, and learned about Islam and Muslims at a variety of informational booths.

From the opportunity to do an Islamic Trivia challenge, a boutique for women to try on hijab and learn about modesty in Islam, free henna, to information about Palestine, Quran, calligraphy, and much more - guests enjoyed education, food, and the ability to meet the Muslim community.

"Amazing community, so informative. I felt so welcomed, I loved it." said one attendee.

"This confirmed my belief that Muslims are the most welcoming people to exist," said another guest, who went on to take her Shahada at the event.



May Allah (SWT) allow events like this to show the best of the Muslim community, and introduce our neighbors to the truth about Islam. We thank Allah (SWT) for the opportunity to be a conduit in sharing His deen to the world, during a time where the tide is turning and Americans are discovering how beautiful Islam truly is.



\$300K+ was raised for Gaza

DECEMBER 2023

The community came together for Palestine at a Benefit Dinner for Gaza, where we raised thousands together through Human Appeal, a nonprofit org that has been working on the ground in Palestine for the past 30+ years *mashaAllah*.

Our masjid venue was filled to the brim with brothers and sisters who listened to inspirational talks by Sh. Yasir Qadhi and Sr. Dalia Mogahed, who spoke about how here in America, we have been, and continue to have the chance to, make a huge difference.

With this fire in our hearts, we made *du'a*, gave generously, and bonded as community members, strengthening our community in order to strengthen the communities in Gaza.

Thank you to everyone who attended and who donated to help Palestine. We have been waiting for a credible, tangible way to provide relief, and *alhamdulillah*, Human Appeal has been working to provide food, water, hygiene kits, shelter, medicine, and fuel to hospitals in Gaza. They made the most of the temporary ceasefire to get as much aid to Gaza as possible, and are continuing their efforts as the situation gets even more dire.

We as Muslims will never give up on Palestine. May Allah (SWT) reward all of your efforts, and give you the strength to continue to make change.



First Hispanic Muslim Day at ISB

NOVEMBER 2023

Alhamdulillah, we were grateful to host our first Hispanic Muslim Day at ISB, where the entire community was invited to learn about Hispanic/Latino Muslim History, hear the stories of Hispanic converts, and bond with each other.

With 250+ attendees, Muslims with Hispanic/Latino heritage were able to spend time with each other, and community members of other backgrounds were able to learn more

about how Hispanic/Latino culture and Islam go hand-in-hand, with engaging speakers, inspirational stories, and a delve into Islamic history.

Guests also shared delicious food from various cultures and built positive connections to our masjid.

May Allah (SWT) bless our beautiful, diverse, historic Ummah.



‘Revive’ is launched for young Muslims ages 18-30

NOVEMBER 2023

ISB’s new weekly program, Revive, is geared to towards young adults who are seeking that need for connection to the community, connection to Islamic scholarship, and the spiritual boost needed to get by.

With pleasant socialization with friends after the talk, and hearts becoming attached to the masjid as we gathered together for some specialty coffee, the long line was worth the wait!

“I love Revive because the halaqas are really accessible to people of any Islamic knowledge level,” said an attendee, “I invited my friend and she really loves it, too. It’s a great place to make friends with other young adults.”

With Shaykh Muhammad at the helm, Revive has successfully launched their first complete topic series as well as a community bonfire, and continue to have food and coffee vendors for attendees.



“Revive is a great place to make friends,” said a regular attendee, “I always invite my friends who are new converts to Islam to come to Revive, because I know that they will feel welcome, and that the knowledge is presented in a way that is accessible to those who don’t speak Arabic or know a lot of Islamic terminology yet.”

May Allah (SWT) always bring our community together like this.



Maryland Governor & Masjid leaders discuss Palestine

OCTOBER 2023

Maryland Governor Wes Moore, as well as Lt. Governor Aruna Miller and team, visited Islamic Society of Baltimore and met with masjid leadership from across the state, as well as with students, all of whom shared their first-hand perspective on what's going on in Palestine as Governor Moore and his team listened intently. They were joined by Pat Young, County Council member, as well as County Executive "Johnny O" Olszewski.

We directly discussed the damage caused by one-sided media, humanitarian concerns, safety concerns for the Muslim and for the Palestinian community, employment and school retaliation, and the lives of innocents impacted both here and abroad. We highlighted the need to prioritize funding education and community development here in the state of Maryland and the USA, vs endlessly funding wars abroad.

Partnering with Imams and Leaders from masaajid across Maryland including Masjid Ul Haqq, Masjid Al-Ihsan, Dar Al-Taqwa, and Muslim Family Center, Palestinians from the community also gave accounts of what's going on in their homeland, and the ISB leadership shared detailed information about the tragedy in Gaza and the years of recurring struggle throughout Palestine.

Alhamdulillah, a united message centered around humanitarian and safety concerns for our brothers and sisters here in the USA and in Palestine was delivered by Muslims- brothers and sisters, young and old, from all backgrounds.

It was made clear that the lives and safety of innocents - regardless of nationality and location - is a concern for all Muslims, not just Palestinians and Arabs.

We at ISB truly appreciate the kind of leadership that genuinely takes the time to listen to feedback - directly from its constituents. Through dialogue like this, we hope to create change in the future.



AQA Fundraiser became a Du'a for Palestine

OCTOBER 2023

Thank you to our community, who came together to make dua for Palestine and complete 12 readings of the Quran together for our brothers and sisters who are suffering, at the recent Al-Rahmah Quran Academy (AQA) fundraiser, the 'Night of Divine Inspiration.'

What would usually be a fundraiser for the Al-Rahmah Quran Academy and ISB Services was pivoted due to current events, and you came out in the hundreds to show your support and call out to Allah (SWT) on behalf of those overseas.

SubhanAllah, despite the fact that we focused on Palestine instead of on our masjid, you also still showed your support and gave generously, understanding that it is through your support that ISB is able to continue to offer the services that you know and love. May Allah (SWT) reward you with the reward of *sadaqa jariya*.

Let's keep coming together as a community. We must remember Palestine. We must remember Palestine here in Maryland. We must remember as a whole country. We must remember as an Ummah. And we must remember as an entire world.

This is a global cause, and you, as such a diverse community, prove it to be true. Whether you're praying, calling your representatives, rallying, or sharing online - may Allah (SWT) accept.

Islamic Society of Baltimore stands with our community. Islamic Society of Baltimore stands with truth. Islamic Society of Baltimore stands with Palestine.

ISB is awarded more funding thanks to our Grants team

JANUARY 2024

ISB was awarded the **2023 Towson University Alumni Association Community Grant** which funded a new patient examination table for our Health Clinic. It was awarded by TU Scholarships and Grants Committee at Towson University.

ISB was awarded the **2023 Aging in Place Program Grant** which funded the construction of an accessible ramp for the Activity Center that hosts the Golden Age Village program. This grant program is an initiative of the Maryland Department of Aging.

ISB was awarded the **Maryland Connected Communities Grant Program (MD-GAP)** which funded the broadband connection to the Activity Center. This grant program is an initiative of the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Thank you to our grants team and to our funders!

Grants Team:

- Madiha Patel - Head of Grants
- Saadia Shabbir - Grants Assistant
- Haajra Ahmed - Grants Assistant

Questions? Concerns? Know of a Grant Opportunity? Contact us at Grants@isb.org





ISB Council shares updates

OCTOBER 2023

Community members attended ISB’s general body meeting where updates and future plans were discussed by the ISB council. Finances, profits, and losses were discussed with clear transparency. Feedback and suggestions were noted so that we as a masjid can better serve the needs of our community.

Save the Date! General Body Meeting

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our semi-annual General Body Meeting, scheduled for **April 28th at 11:30am**. Learn updates, and give your feedback! Your participation and input are essential when it comes to building our community’s future, inshaAllah.

***Note:** GBM is being moved from scheduled time (March 24) due to Ramadan & for ease of community participation and availability.*



Testimonials

"I invited my friend and she really loves it, too. It's a great place to make friends with other young adults."

- Attendee of ISB's Revive weekly program for Age 18-30

"A lot of questions that I've been asking like not out loud, but just in my mind, have been answered without me needing to ask them."

- Age 13 Girl of ISB's Afterschool Academy

"This confirmed my belief that Muslims are the most welcoming people to exist."

- Attendee of ISB's Open House, who went on to take her Shahada at the event

"I'm Catholic but I love this community event idea because it really shows the beauty and the dignity of Islam. God bless your entire congregation!"

- Commenter on ISB's Open House event

"Thank you again for all you do. Truly meant everything I said about the impact your work has. Not only would it encourage someone to join ISB but it's an invitation to Islam anywhere in the world with every post. So so grateful to have met you!"

- Woman from Boston, MA who traveled to ISB and took her Shahada

Scholar's Corner

Assalamu Alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu,

It is commonly acknowledged that youth are an integral part of our Ummah. However, it is imperative to question what our communities are actively doing to uplift and educate them.

Alhamdulillah, we have recently initiated a Youth Group for Middle School and High School students, aiming to foster companionship and provide regular reminders.

This was done in large by my team. The idea is to build a positive connection with the masjid, and alhamdulillah, now most Friday nights witness the masjid filled with youth running around with laughter and joy! No longer hesitant to engage in activities like soccer in front of the masjid or worry about the elder telling them to stop, youth find it something they want to come to, rather than being forced to attend.

My heart yearned to create something like this for college students and young adults as well. I believe it's crucial for people of all ages to attend a weekly Islamic class, lecture, or gathering aside from Jummah.

So, we launched "Revive" as a response to the needs of many young adults seeking a space for socializing, networking, building connections, and spiritual growth. Each session of Revive introduces new topics and relevant discussions, allowing attendees to practically implement the teachings. We recently completed our first series titled: "7 Under His Shade" which was a hit with our attendees.

Observing the radiant faces of Revive attendees fills me with hope for the Ummah. Despite the enticing distractions of life, over 150 young adults willingly commit to being in the masjid on a weekly basis. If this isn't an achievement, I don't know what is.

I humbly request you to continue making dua for the success of these programs and to allow our platforms to revive the upcoming generations of this Ummah as devoted servants of Allah. We make dua that they adorn themselves with the character and drive of The Prophet of Allah (Peace be upon him).

Muhammad Ahmed

Resident Scholar and Youth Director

Meet the ISB Council

2023-2025 Term



Hasan Hammad
President



Faizan Mahmoodi
Vice President



Rehan Alavi
General Secretary
HR/Communications



Abdullah Shafi
Qur'an Academy
& Youth



Shaista Mohammad
Secretary of
Events Management



Najla Abdur-Rahman
Secretary of Education
& Health Clinic



Aljaz Hasan
Treasurer



Sharif Silmi
Property Management
& Cafe



Umar Saleem
Secretary of
General Services

“We are always ready to serve you,
our community.”



Jazakumullahu Khairan for your continuous support. It's donors like you that help make this possible! May Allah reward you and continue to bless you and your family.