

2025



# Community Newsletter

January 2025 - March 2025

Islamic Society of Baltimore

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Islamic Society of Baltimore  
**isb.org**

“None of you will enter Paradise until you have faith (īmān), and none of you will have faith (īmān) until you love one another.

Shall I not tell you of something which, if you do it, you will love one another?

Spread the salām among yourselves.”

**PROPHET MUHAMMAD** ﷺ

SOURCE: SAHIH MUSLIM









# Table of Contents

- 06 | Our Community successfully raised funds for Al-Rahmah School**
- 07 | ISB Staff & Council participate in team building**
- 08 | ISB releases new merchandise**
- 09 | ISB recognizes that Black history is Muslim history**
- 10 | Muslim Businesses and Non-Profits were supported at ISB bazaar**
- 11 | Ramadan Open House welcomes non-Muslim guests to the masjid!**
- 12 | Tai Chi program hosted by Golden Age Village continues growing**
- 13 | ISB Outreach team attended GBMC Iftar and taught medical staff about Ramadan**
- 14 | MD Governor and Elected officials join ISB for Iftar**
- 15 | Tree saplings distributed to community members**
- 16 | Ramadan classes helped prepare New Muslims**
- 17 | Exciting Musallah renovation coming soon**
- 18 | Community supports our masjid at the My Home Benefit Iftar**
- 19 | ISB finally acquires neighboring property after decades of patience**
- 20 | Our masjid's playground got a major upgrade!**
- 21 | ISB had worship, community events, and more this Ramadan**
- 22 | Eid prayer successfully welcomed thousands**
- 23 | Save the Date! General Body Meeting**
- 24 | ISB Council-Elect**
- 25 | Testimonials**
- 26 | Meet the ISB Council**





## Our Community successfully raised funds for Al-Rahmah School

JANUARY 2025

This year's Al-Rahmah Benefit Dinner was a wonderful success, alhamdulillah!

The community came together for our youngest community members, with a packed house present to support Al-Rahmah School, and Al-Rahmah Nursery.

JazakAllah Khairun to everyone who attended, and to everyone who gave generously to support the education of the next generation of leaders.



To our generous donors, may Allah (SWT) give you the reward of Sadaqa Jariya. Your donations will support our children's education and growth for years to come, inshaAllah.

Thank you for the hard-working volunteers, staff, teachers, and students whose efforts allowed this event to be possible.

Thank you to our Barakah Bistro team, who prepared a delicious dinner, dessert, and appetizers.

This Benefit Dinner was more than an effort to raise funds for our children and their future: It was a time to celebrate our Muslim students, to recognize our growth, and to be grateful for our beautiful community here.

Alhamdulillah for everything!



## ISB Staff & Council participate in team building

JANUARY 2025

The ISB Staff and Council members joined a connection-centric team building session hosted by Forerunners!

Forerunners is a Muslim org that leads the global movement of leaders and entrepreneurs who, driven by a higher purpose, transform industries, uplift communities, and build a just, connected, and flourishing world.



This engaging session fostered connection while building leadership skills and cooperation skills. We are grateful to everyone who attended!





## ISB releases new merchandise

FEBRUARY 2025

ISB announced what may become a new community tradition- Hoodies and long sleeve shirts available in several brand-new designs!



Community members were invited to become a part of our One Ummah campaign - and whether they're in Baltimore or in Boston, enjoy this cool new Islamic attire.





## ISB recognizes that Black history is Muslim history

FEBRUARY 2025

Black history is Muslim history - and that's why our American Muslim Heroes event with guest speaker Imam Aqil Ingram explored the stories of Black Muslim historical figures from the early history of the United States.

This was an opportunity for community members to explore the enormous contributions of the African American (Black) community, who shaped American history as well as the growth of Islam in America.



Our speakers also reminded us that Islam and the Black community go hand-in-hand since the beginning of human history - since the days of the Prophets and of the Seerah - tying many of Islam's greats to their often-overlooked roots.

Black History Month may have passed, but we pray that our Ummah recognizes and celebrates the fact that Black history is Muslim history year-round.



## Muslim Businesses and Non-Profits were supported at ISB bazaar

FEBRUARY 2025

Supporting Muslim small businesses. Gathering together as a community. Coming to shop, but staying to pray. Preparing for Ramadan with your loved ones.

Alhamdulillah, the week before Ramadan, we came together at an exciting event - our Pre-Ramadan Bazaar sponsored by Human Appeal USA and the Ramadan vibes truly returned to the masjid.

Coming together like this reminds of us the unity that goes into fostering a Prophetic community, inshaAllah.

We loved spending Ramadan with you - and now we are grateful to look forward to another year recognizing this blessed month together.

Alhamdulillah for this wonderful community!





## Ramadan Open House welcomes non-Muslim guests to the masjid!

MARCH 2025

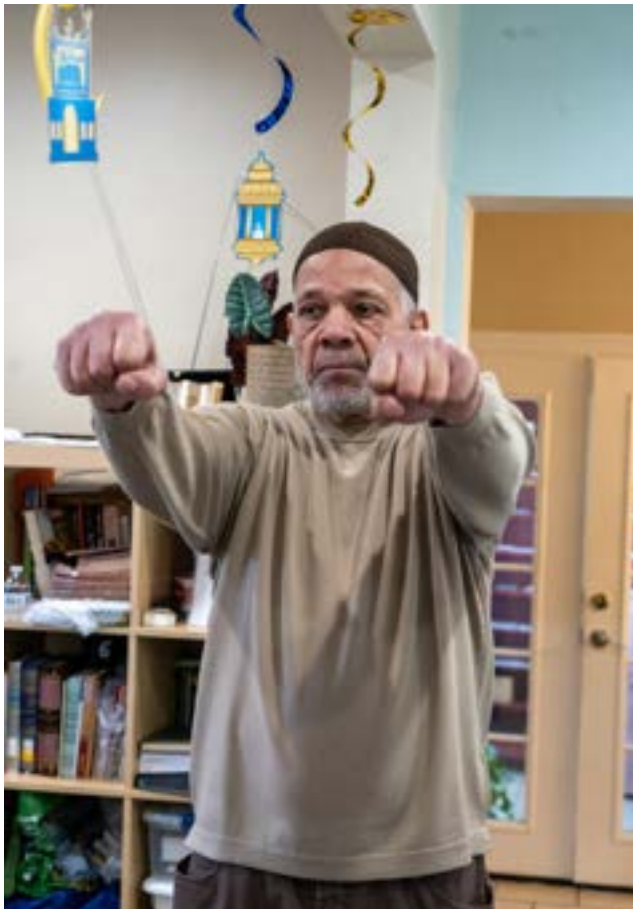
Record-breaking attendance for our Ramadan Open House, where non-Muslim neighbors experienced Ramadan at the masjid!

Dozens of visitors visited the masjid and were led on a tour, 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.

Guests were able to come and see a beautiful, welcoming community thanks to your support of ISB Outreach, which also regularly hosts tours of the masjid for interfaith and school groups throughout the year.

Our Open Houses have become a tradition here at ISB, which happen several times a year and have become a platform for those interested in learning about Islam and Muslims to have a welcoming opportunity to do so.



## Tai Chi program hosted by Golden Age Village continues growing

MARCH 2025

MashaAllah, our Tai Chi program hosted by ISB Golden Age Village is one of ISB's most successful recurring programs.



Every Monday, Muslim elders gather for Tai Chia and Qigong exercises led with seniors in mind.

This is an opportunity to encourage physical fitness, flexibility, as well as stress relief using the timeless wisdoms of these low-impact art forms.

After each session, seniors have the opportunity to socialize and connect with each other.





## ISB Outreach team attended GBMC Iftar and taught medical staff about Ramadan

MARCH 2025

GBMC (Greater Baltimore Medical Center) invited representatives from ISB Outreach

to attend an iftar hosted for their medical staff and lead talks introducing Ramadan and fasting to the GBMC team.

Muslims and non-Muslims alike shared an iftar meal after sessions explored what Ramadan is, why Muslims fast, and what medical professionals may need to be aware of when treating a patient during the month of Ramadan.

This is the third time that ISB Outreach has been invited to GBMC in the past two years, and the team was grateful to participate in another wholesome and genuine event, mashaAllah.



## MD Governor and Elected officials join ISB for Iftar

MARCH 2025

"We [Muslims] are what makes this country the land of the free and the home of the brave. Why? Because we also believe in freedom of speech, and we are those who are brave enough to say Free Palestine," ISB President Hasan Hammad said.

Governor Wes Moore and the elected officials heard from local leadership of Masjid communities, as well as an MSA student who spoke on the injustices happening on campus.



Dr. Farhan Abdul Aziz also sent a virtual message with updates on the dire situation in Gaza.

It was an evening of unity, community, and sharing our beliefs as Muslims with local leadership.





## Tree saplings distributed to community members

MARCH 2025

Taking care of our planet is a part of our deen, and planting a tree is one way to do that!

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources as well as the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake came to Jum'ah prayer at ISB recently and passed out small tree saplings to our community members for free.



This initiative will help make Maryland a little greener, as the state of Maryland is pursuing the goal of planting 5 million trees across our state by the year 2031.

The 5 Million Tree Initiative came with a historic investment in tree planting programs for all Marylanders, and each ISB community member who took home a sapling and planted it has helped contribute to this beautiful goal, mashaAllah.



## Ramadan classes helped prepare New Muslims

MARCH 2024

Our Clean Slates program has done everything possible to make Ramadan an amazing experience for new Muslims.

We hosted a Ramadan 101 class, covering details of this blessed month prior to its start. Resident Scholar, Shaykh Yaseen Shaikh, answered Islamic questions and several longtime convert Muslims shared their experiences from their early Ramadan days.

Alhamdulillah, this was one of our ongoing free Foundations of Islam for Muslim Converts classes. This year, we have been meeting in person at the masjid as well as virtually for these classes, covering everything a new Muslim needs to know in these early moments of their Islamic journey.



We offer Converts' Iftar Dinners, where new Muslims gather with longtime converts to spend iftar together at the masjid, engaging in fulfilling discussion together.

And our Clean Slates group chat is always there to help new Muslims make connections, have questions answered by Islamic scholars, and integrate into our community.

When you support ISB, you support these efforts to make our masjid a home for our newest community members.





## Exciting Musallah renovation coming soon

MARCH 2024

Musallah renovation is planned to begin soon! Thanks to your generous donations in previous years, we found a wonderful contractor to make this project a reality at long last.

The beautiful rendering picture and the new wooden motif to be seen on-site are a sneak preview of what's to come.

A refreshed, beautiful musallah in both the brothers' and sisters' prayer areas - featuring an exciting highlight element: New bookcases for Qurans and other Islamic material.

We can't wait to see how peaceful the musallah will feel after these renovations, and it's all thanks to your generous donations, by the Will of Allah (SWT).

You've done a wonderful job taking care of ISB, your home masjid, in the past.

Your donations contribute not just to the more visible elements of renovations or purchases, but also to daily masjid upkeep and the amazing events we have on site. Allah (SWT) has willed that it's through your donations that the lights stay on at the masjid, keeping it a home to all for years to come, inshaAllah.



# Community supports our masjid at the My Home Benefit Iftar

MARCH 2024

Thank you to everyone who attended the My Home Benefit Iftar here at ISB! It was so beautiful seeing you, our community, come together in support of this masjid we all call our home.

We want to thank you for your generous donations that allow ISB to keep its doors open, keep running, and keep expanding to accommodate our growing needs.

Allah (SWT) has willed that it is through YOUR support that the mission of furthering a Prophetic Community is even possible. With our larger ask this year with the goal of also obtaining the property available next door, so many people rose to the occasion and understood how vital their donations are in securing our future.



InshaAllah, Allah will reward you not just for the money that you gave, but for the good that it does for each heart who you have helped by supporting the masjid and in turn, supporting the community for years to come.

From those who give every year, to those who gave for the first time, we are so grateful for each one of you. Whether you donated 5 dollars or 5,000 dollars, you are the backbone of our future, inshaAllah.

Jazakumullahu Khairan to everyone.

By the will of Allah, you truly take care of your home.





## ISB finally acquires neighboring property after decades of patience

MARCH 2025

Alhamdulillah, the closing has completed and ISB has officially purchased the property that is next to door to us!

Several former presidents of ISB as well as other leadership and community members were in attendance, grateful to be present for this historic moment that so many community members made dua for over the years.

Thank you to everyone who donated, and who truly dreamed big about the future of our masjid.

May Allah (SWT) reward everyone who donated with the reward of Sadaqa Jariya.





## Our masjid's playground got a major upgrade!

MARCH 2025

Our masjid's playground just got a major upgrade!

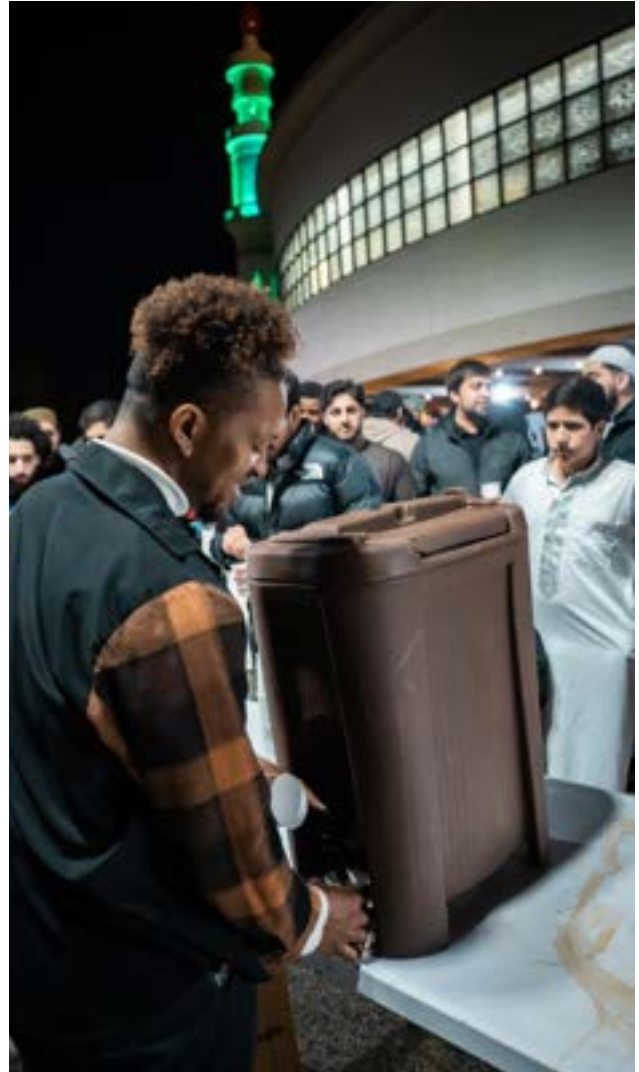
Alhamdulillah, the playground now features a NEW fence— bringing both safety and beauty to the space where our children play. This project wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of our incredible community.

We look forward to continuing to develop our playground and surrounding Al-Rahmah Park, making it a place for our youth and their families to connect to the masjid for years to come.

Your support, by the will of Allah (SWT), continues to make ISB a safer and more welcoming place for all.

See our Executive Director, Br. Yehia, proudly sharing this exciting improvement, and the final look! It's a simple yet powerful reminder of how every contribution—big or small—enhances our home. May Allah (SWT) bless our community for their ongoing care.





## ISB had worship, community events, and more this Ramadan

MARCH 2025

From nightly Taraweeh to daily iftar, unique activities, and so much more, every Ramadan is beautiful here at ISB. Shoutout to our staff and volunteers, who helped keep things running

smoothly every day of Ramadan.

Daily Salah, iftar every night, Taraweeh, Salatut Tasbih, Qiyam prayers, free chai, and so much more made Ramadan a beautiful time for the community to come together with the intention of striving for the Sake of Allah (SWT).

By the will of Allah (SWT), you, our community, is what makes Ramadan at ISB so special.

Thank you for spending Ramadan with the Islamic Society of Baltimore- we look forward to next year on the return of this most blessed month!



## Eid prayer successfully welcomed thousands

MARCH 2025

Eid ul-Fitr marked the end to a beautiful Ramadan- But one example of many when it comes to the beauty to be found in our community, year-round.

With what may have been the most-attended Eid salah in years, thank you to everyone who made this day so heartwarming.

To community members, families, and friends who attended salah, greeted each other, took photos together, and were a Prophetic example of being welcoming and unified...



To the volunteers and staff who kept things organized and made Eid go smoothly after their hard work all Ramadan...

To the attendees of the brunch specifically for converts/reverts to ensure that there was company on a day when some may not have Muslim friends or family to spend the day with-

By the will of Allah (SWT), it is your presence that makes Eid at the masjid, Eid at the masjid. To those who came for Eid ul-Fitr- we hope that you find the masjid to be a place that you want to frequent throughout the year, because ISB is our home, and ISB is your home.

And to those who follow us from other places or who haven't visited us yet- You are always invited to, and always welcome at, the Islamic Society of Baltimore.





## Save the Date! General Body Meeting

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our semi-annual General Body Meeting, scheduled for **April 20th, 2025 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.

Based on the number of available ISB Council seats and the candidates who submitted nominations, the following individuals have been officially elected as the ISB Council-Elect for the upcoming term, from June 2025 to May 2028:



**Hasan Hammad**



**Faizan Mahmoodi**



**Mikail Ocasio**



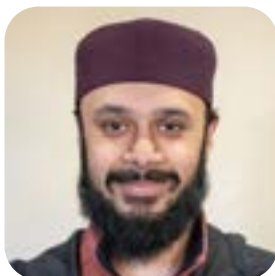
**Eram Abbasi**



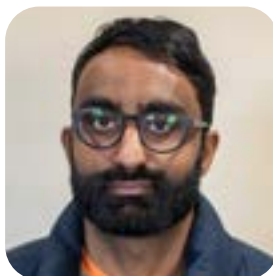
**Wajiha Farooqi**



**Umar Maharoor**



**Umar Saleem**



**Jamal Ali**



**Adam Butt**

Visit **[isb.org/bios](https://isb.org/bios)** - to read the biographies for each candidate as submitted by each candidate's nominator.

We will formally introduce the ISB Council-Elect during the upcoming **General Body Meeting on Sunday, April 20th.**



# Testimonials

**"Have always loved your passion and determination you're spreading towards the Ummah. You are amongst my greatest inspiration on IG. Jazakallahu Khair."**

- Anonymous, Instagram Message

**"I recently came to know about this page, and you guys are doing a great job mashaAllah. Truly inspiring."**

- Anonymous, Instagram Message

**"Today was truly beautiful."**

- Tee\_dot\_ referring to Eid at the Masjid

**"Eid prayer at Islamic Society of Baltimore was amazing! Everything was so well-organized, and the crowd made it feel super joyful."**

- Takweenqueen

**"I feel like Baltimore has one of the strongest Muslim communities in America."**

- Shels

# 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**  
Health Clinic  
& Golden Age



**Mikail Ocasio**  
Secretary of Education



**Thomas Shaw**  
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.*