

2026



Community Newsletter

January 2026

Islamic Society of Baltimore



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



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Welcoming new Resident Scholar, Shaykh Zaki Ali

OCTOBER 2025

Introducing our new Resident Scholar, Shaykh Zaki Ali! As our beloved Shaykh Muhammad Ahmed will be moving away to further his studies, he's leaving behind some big shoes to fill when it comes to the Youth and Young Professionals services he's led and developed over the years.

Alhamdulillah, Sh. Zaki is ready to take on the role of Youth Director and Resident Scholar, bringing his unique experiences to the ISB community with big plans and Islamic knowledge.

Sh. Zaki finished memorizing the Qur'an at the age of nine and has led Taraweeh prayers across the country for the past 13 years. He graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with a Bachelor's in Psychology and completed a Bachelor's in Shariah from the Islamic University of Madinah. He also holds ijāzāt (certifications) in Qur'an and other Islamic sciences.

He's had extensive conversations with Sh. Muhammad in order to be able to continue ISB's vision for the Youth and Young Professionals' services, and has some exciting new ideas as well - we can't wait to see how he implements them, inshaAllah!

May Allah (SWT) bless Sh. Zaki on his new journey here at ISB. Keep him in your duas, and come meet him at the Night of Divine Inspiration on October 25th, where he will be reciting as well as greeting the community iA



Golden Age Village is celebrated by Baltimore County

OCTOBER 2025

The Baltimore County Department of Aging celebrated the six Villages started in our County over the past year. There is a lot to be celebrated and recognized in building connections within a community to support older adults.

County Executive Katherine Klausmeier sent citations to each village leader that were presented by BCDA Deputy Director Michelle Mills and Division Chief Eram Abbasi.





Community raises funds at Night of Divine Inspiration

OCTOBER 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended the Night of Divine Inspiration and who gave generously whether in person or from afar. This was a beautiful night of Quran, community, and positive intentions, and we truly cannot offer the religious and community services that we have here at ISB without your support - by the Will of Allah (SWT). May Allah (SWT) reward you generously.

Alhamdulillah, one of the stand-out elements of this year's event was the ways in which our team of volunteers, under the guidance of our Executive Director Br. Yehia Hassanein and the Al-Rahmah Quran Academy Board, took this Benefit Dinner to the next level, mashaAllah.



The team raised the level of what has always been a Benefit Dinner with beautiful intentions, upping the standards based on you, our community's, suggestions and feedback.

Together, we heard community updates from our scholars and Council members, listened to beautiful Quran Recitation, and participated in the Barakah of a shared meal together. We gave generously and contributed to the legacy of our Muslim community for years to come. And we showed yet again that we as Muslims always take care of our masjid; our home.

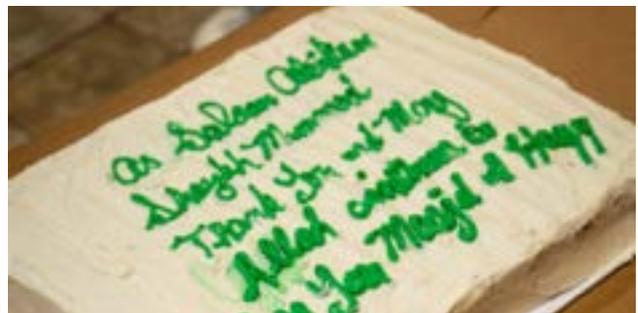
It truly was a Night of Divine Inspiration.



A farewell to Sh. Muhammad Ahmed, from Masjid Ul Haqq

OCTOBER 2025

After years of giving his time to the community, Shaykh Muhammad led his last class at Masjid Ul Haqq. Many know him as a Resident Scholar at ISB, but some aren't aware that he's also been leading classes and salah at Masjid Ul Haqq since he joined the ISB team, as one of the ways the ISB community steps in to support our sibling masjid in Baltimore city.



As he leaves the community to further his studies, we celebrate Sh. Muhammad's time and commitment with cake, hugs, and a certificate presented by Br. Musa. May Allah (SWT) reward Sh. Muhammad for his efforts here and reward him for his efforts to continue to seek knowledge for His sake.

We welcome ISB's new Resident Scholar Shaykh Zaki Ali to continue the classes at Masjid Ul Haqq, and we pray Allah accepts from all of us.



New Property Acquired on Johnnycake Road

NOVEMBER 2025

We closed on the new property! Alhamdulillah, our community came together and by the will of Allah (SWT), raised \$460,000 in time to secure the property located along Johnnycake Rd.

May Allah (SWT) reward everyone who decided to dream big and donate to make this purchase happen in time for the abrupt deadline.

Obtaining this property means that ISB now owns the houses/lots on either side of the rear exit, in addition to our other properties in the area - with plenty of potential for our future growth and brimming with possibilities!

The other properties that were purchased over the past several years are being rented out by Islamic Society of Baltimore, bringing in funds that help keep our masjid running until our community chooses to use those properties for our future growth.

We are blessed to have secured these properties for the future of our community. May Allah (SWT) put barakah into their current and future usage, and reward everyone who contributed with the reward of sadaqa jariya for years to come!



Seniors gather to create Islamic art

NOVEMBER 2025

ISB Golden Age Village held a class called “Islamic Art for Seniors” led by Zaina Mahroof, with a wonderful opportunity for seniors to be creative and bond together through art.

Seniors came together for a peaceful, hands-on session exploring Islamic art in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Light refreshments were provided, and new guests as well as longstanding Golden Age Village members found friendly faces and a time to to unwind, create, and connect.

MashaAllah, may Allah (SWT) put Barakah in everything that Golden Age Village does!





Young Adults celebrate 2 years of Revive

NOVEMBER 2025

Two years of growth for our program for young adult Muslims Revive’s 2 year-anniversary marked a beautiful milestone for our community, celebrating community, education, and the beauty of young adult Muslims coming together every Thursday for the sake of Allah (SWT).

While we celebrated with a special Halaqa, vendors on site, and time to connect with friends old and new, we also bid farewell to our former Resident Scholar, Shakyh Muhammad Ahmed. We gave him goodbye gifts and thanked him for his time being a leading force behind Revive, making us all feel welcome, sharing beautiful gems, and fostering lasting memories.

We keep Sh. Muhammad in our duas as he travels overseas to further his studies!

Alhamdulillah for these past 2 years. We can’t wait to see where Revive takes us in the next 2 years inshaAllah!



Introducing our new Nursery Director, Sr. Maggie Macklin

NOVEMBER 2025

Introducing our new Nursery Director, Sr. Maggie Macklin, and giving a fond farewell to Dr. Madiha Talat, our former Nursery Director!

MashaAllah. Sr. Maggie holds a Masters’ Degree in Teaching and a Masters’ Degree in Applied Sociology as well as a BA in Sociology. Serving as a teacher for over 15 years around the world, she has taught in seven different countries including Kurdistan and Saudi Arabia!

Now, Sr. Maggie brings her experience and passion to our youngest community members through the Al-Rahmah Nursery right here at ISB.

“I look forward to working directly toward developing our littlest (and most adorable Masha’Allah) Muslims to become the next generation of scholars, leaders, and change makers,” said Sr. Maggie.

We thank Dr. Madiha for her service to our community. Her expertise and passion for the education of Nursery-age children has made a difference in many young lives, and we keep her in our duas as she moves on to her next journey in life!

May Allah (SWT) reward Dr. Madiha for all of her efforts and positive intentions, and may Allah (SWT) bless Sr. Maggie and the Al-Rahmah Nursery under her guidance and leadership!



First Fall Festival creates memories for families

NOVEMBER 2025

Our masjid hosted our first annual Fall Festival, bringing together community members of all ages for a beautiful day of games, activities, a fall market, food and drink vendors, and connection.

This was a beautiful day of making memories at the masjid and bonding with our neighbors and community members.

Thank you to everyone who organized and attended our ISB community Fall Festival! By the Will of Allah (SWT) we couldn't have events like this without you.

We look forward to many more community events like this inshaAllah.



Volunteers pack food for neighbors with Human Appeal USA

NOVEMBER 2025

We Muslims love volunteering and being giving: It's a part of our Deen. That's why Muslim volunteers packed and distributed food boxes for Americans in our communities who may be in need.

After the recent government shutdown, many Americans struggled buying groceries because of SNAP benefits not being filled, or due to being furloughed. This added to the already struggling members of our local communities who are in a place where they can't afford groceries for themselves and their families.

In a collaboration with Human Appeal USA, for the last 3 weekends in November, volunteers met at our masjid and packed and then distributed boxes filled with food.

These boxes held groceries including chicken and other meat, fresh veggies and fruits including necessities such as onions, carrots, tomatoes, and bananas; meal staples including pastas, rice, potatoes, and peanut butter, and canned items including corn, green beans, beans, tomato paste, and tuna.

Remaining boxes were then distributed to our partner community in Baltimore City, at Masjid Ul Haqq.

This could not have been possible with donations from our community sponsoring these blessing boxes and the volunteers that stepped up and helped the surrounding communities in need.

We plan to continue to partner with Human Appeal USA for more efforts to give back to our local community, inshaAllah.



Fathers and sons visit cemetery as a field trip with Sunday School

DECEMBER 2025

Muslim fathers and sons bonded through a unique Sunday School visit to Kings Memorial Cemetery.

Our Prophet (SAW), said, “Remember often the destroyer of pleasures: death.” (Tirmidhi)

Visiting a cemetery gives Muslims a chance to reflect on life and its inevitable end. As they walked between graves, they were able to ponder those who have already passed- those with similar goals, those with money and those without, those young and those old.

Led by Br. Hasan Shah, the father-son duos were guided to walk throughout the cemetery and make dua for the deceased, while also recording the deceased’s names, Date of Birth, and Date of Death.

This allowed them to realize, in real-time, that everyone’s lifespan is decreed for them. Some pass in their 20s. Some in their 90s. And every age in-between.

This powerful activity was a special opportunity for fathers and sons to discuss deep topics together and reflect together in a way some may not have before, and explore an important part of being Muslim.

May Allah (SWT) reward the young boys of today and bless their parents. May Allah (SWT) allow bonds rooted in Deen to lay the foundations for a strong Ummah in the future.



Youth Group's bonfire brings community together

DECEMBER 2025

Our masjid's Community Bonfire hosted by ISB Youth Group is one of the longest-running traditions here at ISB. Open to the entire community of all ages, it's always an unforgettable evening of community, Islamic inspiration, food trucks, and of course, s'mores.

With guest speaker Ustadh Moutasem Atiya, ISB's own Imam Ismet Akcin, and our last event with Sh. Muhammad Ahmed before he left to study abroad, the clear autumn night and the crackling of the fire was a beautiful environment to be inspired by the wisdom of our Deen.

Then, we connected with friends old and new, enjoyed food on site from Sugarhouse Cafe, Smash Lab Burgers and Shakes, and Mediterranean Halal Grill (Gyro Guy), and roasted halal marshmallows for s'mores.

May Allah (SWT) always allows our community to come together for His sake like this!



Christian high schoolers visit ISB & interact with Muslims

DECEMBER 2025

“What do Muslims believe about..?” asked curious high school students who visited our masjid.

The next generation of young Americans have the opportunity to interact with the Muslim community when high school students of other faith backgrounds are regularly welcomed to ISB.

This is a way to increase the next generation of Americans’ understanding of Islam, and inshaAllah, decrease Islamophobia now and in the future - featuring a tour of the masjid, the opportunity to ask questions to Islamic scholars, and to experience the Jummah khutbah (Friday sermon).

High schoolers from schools around Maryland, including St. Ignatius Loyola Academy and St. Vincent Pallotti High School (pictures in this post), spent time with Shaykh Yaseen and Shaykh Muhammad as well as members of our Outreach team, for a positive experience at the masjid.

The majority of these high schoolers were visiting the masjid for the very first time, and asked questions earnestly and curiously.

May Allah (SWT) soften the hearts of our future generations, and increase understanding between Muslims and our neighbors.



ISB Badminton Team wins top 3 in regional Tournament

DECEMBER 2025

Did you know our masjid has a badminton club?! Alhamdulillah, the ISB Badminton Club Team won 3rd place in a regional Muslim Badminton Tournament this past weekend. They earned top 3 out of 14 masaajid participating in the tournament.



More importantly, this tournament was a beautiful opportunity to bond as adult Muslim brothers as well as to build connections with other neighboring masaajid from the DMV area.

It's activities like this that allow communities to build bonds that last a lifetime, inshaAllah.



ISB releases new community-themed calendar for 2026

DECEMBER 2025

We compiled photos of our beautiful masjid to make a special community-themed calendar for 2026. Stay up to date on important Islamic dates and major community events while repping your home masjid with the 2026 Islamic Society of Baltimore Calendar. Every calendar also helps support the growth of your ISB community, inshaAllah.

You can order yours online for delivery or pickup at isb.org/calendar inshaAllah!

Each ISB member will be mailed a complimentary ISB calendar. Additional calendars may be ordered for \$10. Shipping cost is \$3.

If you have any questions or issues with your order, please contact office@isb.org



New Qur'an Night program brings renowned Reciters to ISB

JANUARY 2026

The beginning of every month starts off with a night to connect with the Book of Allah (SWT), and engage in an evening of reflection and healing as we listen to beautiful Quran recitation with our newly introduced monthly Quran Nights here at ISB.

January started with special guest reciters Dr. Ahmed Nuaina and Qari Ahmed Elzaree in addition to our own Sh. Ismet Akcin and Sh. Yaseen Shaikh, and we came together for an evening of reflection and spiritual restoration through the words of Allah (SWT). As verses of the Quran were recited, brief tafsir allowed us to unpack the meanings and healing messages within.

We look forward to continuing our Quran Nights on the first Friday of every month unless otherwise specified, inshaAllah.



Spelling Bee winners are awarded by Al-Rahmah School

JANUARY 2026

Congratulations to our outstanding students and everyone who participated in the Al-Rahmah School 2026 Spelling Bee.

Masha’Allah, a huge round of applause for Ameerah and Omar for winning first and second place, respectively. Masha’Allah, they did an amazing job!

Al-Rahmah School would also like to recognize and appreciate all of our other students who participated. All 14 students demonstrated courage, dedication, and hard work, and every participant was truly a winner.



This success would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts of our teachers who prepared, mentored, and supported the students throughout this journey.

A special thank you and recognition to Sr. Lina, Sr. Sadia, Sr. Naveed, Sr. Donna, and Sr. Nadia for their hands-on support in setting up and running the event from early morning through the late afternoon.

May Allah reward you all abundantly for your dedication and teamwork. It is efforts like these that make our school events meaningful, beautiful, and memorable. Masha’Allah, it was heartwarming to see the joy and excitement from our parents and students.

Insha’Allah, Ameerah and Omar will be moving forward to the next level beyond the school competition, representing Al-Rahmah with excellence.

Please keep all of our students in your du’as as we continue to celebrate their growth and achievements.

Imam's Corner



Question:
 What do you think youth are most hungry for?

Shaykh Zaki Ali:
 "I'd say number one is definitely community. That's the thing that young people are always searching for.
 If you don't offer community at a masjid, they're going to get community elsewhere."
 "We have to teach young people their religion. We have to take pride in our religion, and pride in your religion can only come from knowing your religion."

Question:
 So do you like Baltimore better than Dallas?

Shaykh Zaki Ali:
 "I'd say I love the masjid."
 "I'm someone that's traveled across America. I've talked in a lot of different places, and I'm coming from Dallas, you know, I say '*Dallas Shareef*', the hub of the Muslims.
 And I and I still chose Baltimore because I've never seen a community like this masjid in terms of the activities, the the diversity as well, and it's the most active masjid I've ever seen."

Testimonials

**Amazing program! So proud of Golden Age Village and its coordinator!
ISB is trailblazing in its efforts to reach all audiences MashAllah.**

Zubair Ansari, on Golden Age Village

Congratulations to the [Badminton] team. I have fond memories of playing badminton when the current Golden Age group under the leadership of Brs. Tufail Chaudhry, Hakeem Siddiqui, Riaz Ahmad, Soofi Saheb, late Br. Mufti Saheb and Br. Akram & others started it in 2005/2006.

Mohammed Khadeer

What a wonderful initiative! It's heartening to see efforts being made to promote interfaith understanding and bridge the gap between different communities. The visit by high school students to the masjid is a great example of how open dialogue and cultural exchange can help break down stereotypes and foster greater empathy.

Dawood Sharif, on Christian High schoolers visiting

Reflecting on life and the hereafter, a great way for fathers and sons to bond over their faith.

Halima Obaapa, on Fathers and Sons Visiting Cemetery

Volunteering is a huge part of many communities and it looks like this effort brought so much joy and support to those in need, mashallah! May Allah reward all the volunteers for their efforts.

Abdulquddus Peerzade, on Human Appeal Packing & Distribution

Meet the ISB Council

2025-2028 Term



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“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.