

2026



Community Newsletter

September 2026

Islamic Society of Baltimore

6631 Johnnycake Road, Baltimore, MD 21244 | (410) 747-4869 | isb.org



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	ISB Hosts Baltimore County Executive Candidate Forum
07	Volunteers Honored at Special Appreciation Lunch
08	Brothers Badminton Club continues to thrive
09	Community Comes Together for ISB's first Yard Sale
10	Empowering Youth Through Practical Life Skills 101
11	ISB Funeral Team Hosts Janazah Workshop at ICNA Convention
12	Muslim MMA Fighter visits ISB
13	Al-Rahmah students learned how to plant trees
14	Eid al-Adha is celebrated at ISB
15	Community Runs Together at 2nd Annual ISB 5K
16	Al-Rahmah School Fundraising Dinner Reaches Goal
17	Celebrating Graduations at Al-Rahmah School
18	2nd Floor Bathroom Renovations begin at ISB
19	Installation of 400 Solar Panels have begun
20	Career Fair brings Local & National Employers to ISB
21	Sh. Yasir Birjas visits Revive for marriage workshop
22	36 Hifdh Graduates of Qur'an Academy
23	Welcoming our new Principal of Al-Rahmah, Sr. Hagar Aboubakr!
24	Golden Age Village Hosts Annual Community Cookout
25	Bidding Farewell to Our Beloved Shaykh Yaseen
26	Testimonials
27	Meet the ISB Council





ISB Hosts Baltimore County Executive Candidate Forum

APRIL 2026

In partnership with the Baltimore County Muslim Council, ISB hosted a Candidate Forum for the Baltimore County Executive race. Candidates Mansour Shams, Nick Stewart, Kimberley Stansbury, Izzy Patoka, Julian Jones, and Pat Young addressed local residents on critical issues.



Discussions covered community engagement, government transparency, Security Square Mall redevelopment, school system oversight, halal food options, official Eid holiday recognition, and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Moderator Sharif Silmi urged attendees to register before the June 23rd primary election. Alhamdulillah for this opportunity to promote civic engagement and hold future leaders accountable. May Allah (SWT) guide our leaders toward justice, and guide the community to get involved civically.



Volunteers Honored at Special Appreciation Lunch

APRIL 2026

Our successful Ramadan nights, iftars, parking, and Eid celebrations were all thanks to our incredible volunteers.

To celebrate, Executive Director Br. Yehia and his team hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at Tribo's Peri-Peri, owned by a local Muslim brother.

Volunteers enjoyed a delicious buffet, received gifts, and earned well-deserved awards for managing everything from childcare to late-night chai.

Alhamdulillah for our selfless team. May Allah (SWT) reward them abundantly!



Brothers Badminton Club continues to thrive

APRIL 2026

The Badminton Club continues to bring fitness and brotherhood to the gymnasium with regular pickup games and fast-paced doubles matches.

These sessions began after brothers organized their passion of playing together, and started a fantastic way to stay active as they age, build friendships with those in our masjid community, and do it all while having a fun time.

May Allah (SWT) accept their intentions, preserve these initiatives, & grant our community the ability to do more, especially for our community's social and physical health.



Community Comes Together for ISB's first Yard Sale

APRIL 2026

Alhamdulillah, ISB recently hosted its very first Community Yard Sale right in the parking lot.

Local community members gathered to clear out their homes and offer a wide variety of treasures to neighbors and friends.

Attendees browsed through tables filled with clothing, shoes, children's toys, furniture, books, kitchen appliances, electronics, and beautiful cultural wear.

Following the response to this first gathering, ISB looks forward to building on this success, taking community feedback, and hosting even bigger and better yard sales in the future. Alhumdulillah, events like these happen with the continued involvement and support of the ISB community.



Empowering Youth Through Practical Life Skills 101

MAY 2026

Alhamdulillah, ISB and ISB Youth hosted a four-part "Life Skills 101" series, empowering young Muslims ages 13 to 20 with real-world knowledge.

Led by Br. Mikail Ocasio and dedicated volunteers, young brothers and sisters gained hands-on experience in essential life skills—from power tools and wood-cutting to checking car oil, changing tires, knot-tying, and basic emergency care.

The successful program helped youth build confidence, practical skills, and strong peer connections. Given the turn out and response, ISB looks forward to hosting more sessions. May Allah (SWT) reward our instructors, volunteers, and youth for pursuing knowledge that serves our community.



ISB Funeral Team Hosts Janazah Workshop at ICNA Convention

MAY 2026

Alhamdulillah, ISB's volunteer funeral service leaders, Br. Hasan Shah and Sr. Nasreen Rahman, brought their expertise to Baltimore City for a special workshop at the ICNA Convention.

Having led ISB's body washing (Ghusl) team and community trainings for years, they guided attendees through Islamic fiqh, step-by-step practical procedures, and maintaining a calm mindset in high-stress situations.

Using a model mannequin and towels, they provided hands-on demonstrations of the washing process. May Allah (SWT) reward Br. Hasan, Sr. Nasreen, and our funeral team for their continued work and sharing this vital knowledge for the community at large.



Muslim MMA Fighter visits ISB

MAY 2026

Muslim athlete Abdul-Kareem Al-Selwady visited our masjid in collaboration with ISB Youth Group! A Palestinian MMA fighter, Br. Abdul-Kareem came and spoke to our youth and other attendees, and shared his story as well as led a session for guests to be introduced to mixed martial arts techniques through a live training workshop.

Exploring his inspiration regarding being a Muslim athlete and the wisdom he has picked up on his journey, it was clear that his perseverance and commitment to positive representation goes beyond simply mastering fighting techniques, mashaAllah.

Alhamdulillah, this was an excellent way for Muslims to get in-touch with the Sunnah of maintaining fitness and to learn from such an inspirational man.

May Allah (SWT) bless Br. Abdul-Kareem in his journey and reward him for his positive intentions. We look forward to seeing how far he goes!



Al-Rahmah students learned how to plant trees

MAY 2026

The masjid just got a little greener. Islamic school kids learned how to plant trees when our Al-Rahmah School Students had the opportunity to work with The National Wildlife Foundation's Adelaide Phillips and Marcus Tuah. They patiently engaged with the youth and coordinated deliveries of trees, mulch, tools, and materials; site prep to measure and flag where each tree goes; watering, digging, planting demos for the students; and more.

This allowed our young Muslims to get an opportunity to work with nature hands-on and contribute to making their masjid a greener place.



The Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Mini Grant Program offers funding to support the capstone project that all Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps members must complete during their corps year.

The trees came from Musser Forests, and all the trees that were planted were generously gifted from the Baltimore Tree Trust.

Sometimes becoming a future leader starts with planting a single tree. That's why every year, we have our Benefit Dinner to support our students and the education that builds them.



Eid al-Adha is celebrated at ISB

MAY 2026

Eid al-Adha, rain our shine, was a beautiful time - thank you to everyone who made this day special, mashaAllah.

From our dedicated volunteers and staff who were able to adapt to weather and location changes...

To the families, friends, and community members coming together, greeting each other fondly, taking pictures, and making memories...

To our Scholars leading Eid Salah and giving inspirational khutbahs...

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, perhaps for the first time or the first time in a long time - 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, inshaAllah.

And thank you to those who spent these blessed 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah with us, whether on site at the masjid or by donating generously. May Allah (SWT) reward you.



Community Runs Together at 2nd Annual ISB 5K

MAY 2026

ISB and MAP (Muslim Athletics Program) held its 2nd Annual 5K Eid Run & Walk, bringing together families, youth, and community members of all ages to stay active and follow the Sunnah of physical fitness.

Participants who had been training for weeks hit the pavement alongside local government representatives and police officers, who joined in to share encouraging words, assist along the route, and be side by side with local residents.

Following last year's successful effort to raise funds for new athletic fields on ISB's extended land, this year's proceeds directly support the renovation of ISB's Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

May Allah (SWT) reward every runner, walker, officer, and volunteer who stepped up to make this day a success, and may He bless our community with continued healthy practices at a communal level.



Al-Rahmah School Fundraising Dinner Reaches Goal

MAY 2026

Al-Rahmah School hosted their annual fundraiser, organized by the dedicated team of teachers and staff. The community successfully reached their goal of \$250,000.

Students performed and while guests were given dinner provided by ISB's cafe. The funding goes to support the continued development of the Al-Rahmah School and Nursery, providing students with new tools and opportunities, as well as maintaining current students and staff infrastructure.

This could not have been done without the mercy of Allah (SWT) and the continuous support of the community and donors as well as volunteers and staff.



Celebrating Graduations at Al-Rahmah School

JUNE 2026

When children are brought into your life, you realize that you have the incredible opportunity to shape and nurture a new generation.

With our community's continuous support, Al-Rahmah school, nursery, and Sunday School celebrated the exceptional achievements of our elementary and middle school students.

May Allah (SWT) allow these children to maintain this positive connection with the deen and with learning about Allah (SWT)'s creation.

Special shoutout to the teachers who set up the beautiful backdrop and decorations.



2nd Floor Bathroom Renovations begin at ISB

JUNE 2026

Alhamdulillah, thanks to the generous support of our community, construction has officially begun on our second-floor bathrooms!

This major project will significantly expand the capacity of both the men's and women's facilities while improving privacy and optimizing walkway traffic outside the restrooms.

Please note that the second-floor bathrooms are currently closed during construction, though the second-floor entrance remains open. Attendees are kindly asked to make wudu before arriving or utilize the first-floor facilities. We deeply appreciate your patience and ongoing support as we continue upgrading our home masjid to better serve everyone.



Installation of 400 Solar Panels have begun

JUNE 2026

Big news: ISB is going solar powered! Remember Project Noor? The installation of over 400 solar panels have begun! From on top of our office to on our masjid roof, these solar panels will power the masjid and reduce our electricity bill by at least 75%.

Not only is this an amazing opportunity to go green and reduce our carbon footprint - this installation will be the environmental equivalent of planting thousands of trees.

Also it will lessen our annual spending when it comes to keeping the lights on, so that your future donations to the masjid can be better allocated to other programs and services for the whole community, inshaAllah.

InshaAllah, we will make ISB a model of environmental responsibility - one panel at a time. We're purchasing the solar panels outright, no lease involved - and any unused energy goes back into the grid, which will allow ISB to have credits on our BGE bills as well.

Thank you for being a part of Project Noor. Learn more at isb.org/noor



Career Fair brings Local & National Employers to ISB

JUNE 2026

Muslims - the job market is tough, but if we come together as a community, we can make things easier for one another inshaAllah.

This was the thought process behind our recent Career Fair, where a variety of different employers and organizations set up booths at our masjid - and those interested in changing careers, searching for a new job, or looking to network could meet with employers face to face.

With keynote speakers and experts from different industries present throughout the day sharing insights and advice for different career pathways, opportunities for resume reviews and professional headshots, and vendors on site, approximately 200 guests were able to have access to opportunities like this.

Alhamdulillah, it's events like these that allow us to support each other.

Thank you to our partners who helped make this event possible - inshaAllah, this will be one of many more to come!



Sh. Yasir Birjas visits Revive for marriage workshop

JUNE 2026

Understanding marriage as a young Muslim shouldn't be awkward: It's a part of our Deen. Sh. Yasir Birjas, fondly nicknamed "The Love Shaykh" visited Revive (our programs for young adult Muslims) in collaboration with Syrian-Forum USA for The Marriage Mindset: Building the Right Mindset for Marriage.



Alongside our own Sh. Zaki Ali, Youth Director and Resident Scholar, Sh. Yasir explored how - from choosing the right partner, to being married for many years - we can build the right mindset for marriage, creating a union of love and mercy built on lasting foundations.

Attendees were able to ask questions anonymously, and explore misconceptions about marriage, frequently asked questions, and learn what the Quran and Sunnah says about marriage; exploring how understanding this is a part of Islam.

With vendors on site and a comfortable environment, this session was a great way to tackle one of the most pressing conversations of today. Revive also meets weekly for ages 18-30, offering different series' and themes that attendees can join in anytime. For those interested in getting married, we recommend visiting inpairs.io/isb to look into matchmaking, or visiting DMV Marriage Bureau Events inshaAllah.



36 Hifdh Graduates of Qur'an Academy

JULY 2026

We are excited to share with the community the news of the Al-Rahmah Quran Academy Hifdh Graduation!

Congratulations to our 36 students who have completed the Quran by memory or they've completed different disciplines related to the Quran.

Allah (SWT) has chosen these graduates to be a part of a sacred legacy of perserving the Quran, by His Grace and Mercy.

InshaAllah, these impressive students will continue to engage with the Quran not only by having memorized the words, but by exploring the beautiful meaning within our sacred book.

May Allah (SWT) reward these wonderful students, their families for encouraging them to be a part of the Hifdh Program, and all of the amazing teachers at the Al-Rahmah Quran Academy who dedicate their lives to teaching the Book of Allah.



Welcoming our new Principal of Al-Rahmah School, Sr. Hagar Aboubakr!

JULY 2026

Welcoming our new Principal of Al-Rahmah School, Sr. Hagar Aboubakr! We asked her to introduce herself to the community:

“My name is Hagar Aboubakr and I’m so excited to join the ISB community as Al-Rahmah School Principal this year.

I have over 20 years of experience in education; I have worked in multiple Islamic schools over the course of my career.

I have worked in multiple capacities as an educator - I have worked with homeschooling families, I have worked as a teacher, I have worked as a program coordinator, a team lead, and as Head of School.

I currently hold Teacher’s Certification in the State of Maryland. I also have a Bachelor’s Degree in English, a Master’s Degree in Education, and I am currently pursuing a Master’s in Education Leadership at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

One of my favorite things about working in the field of education is supporting all members of the school community.

That includes students and supporting them in the classroom and supporting their learning and their growth, supporting teachers in their capacity building and their pedagogical practices in the classroom, and supporting parents and understanding how they can support their children in their schooling experiences.

Coming into the ISB community I am so excited to bring my knowledge, my skillset, my expertise, and hopefully to make an impact here at Al-Rahmah School. I’m looking forward to working with the students, the parents, and the teachers this upcoming school year.”

May Allah (SWT) reward Sr. Hagar Aboubakr and put Barakah into her work as she comes in to serve our Al-Rahmah community. We look forward to the upcoming school year inshaAllah!



Golden Age Village Hosts Annual Community Cookout

JULY 2026

Community elders, neighbors, and local leaders gathered together for their annual cookout at ISB, along with representatives from Baltimore County.

Guests who have been part of ISB since it's first bricks were laid, enjoyed a wonderful day filled with delicious BBQ, and decades of continued fellowship. Beyond fun gatherings, the Golden Age Activity Center serves as a vital community hub established by ISB to combat isolation, foster social connection, and support independent, dignified living for our beloved seniors.

We encourage all community elders to join in and take advantage of the wonderful programs hosted at the Golden Age Activity Center. May Allah (SWT) reward everyone who contributed to making this event a success, and may He continue to bless, protect, and preserve our elders.



Bidding Farewell to Our Beloved Shaykh Yaseen

JULY 2026

Our Farewell Program for Sh. Yaseen Shaikh was a beautiful time for our community to come together and wish him well and commemorate his years of dedication to ISB, as he steps away from his role as Resident Scholar.

With farewell remarks by Sh. Yaseen himself, to heartfelt speeches, to the unity of everyone coming together to wish our beloved scholar well, thank you to everyone who came together for this special day.

As Sh. Yaseen said in his Khutbah earlier in the day, "The mission of Allah is not about one or two people. It is always going to be about Allah, it's Allah's mission. This masjid has been here for over 50 years. This masjid existed without me. This masjid will exist without me in the future. This masjid does not need any one individual- the work of Allah is not dependant on one individual, we are blessed that Allah (SWT) has allowed us to be a part of this masjid, to be a part of this mission, to be a part of a legacy that goes back to Sayyida Rasool Allah (SAW)."

May Allah (SWT) reward Sh. Yaseen for all of his sincere service to the masjid, and continue to reward him as he continues to the next phases of his journey inshaAllah

Testimonials

“Alhamdulillah he’s one of the coolest and down to earth shaykh[s] I’ve met in my life and one of the most humbling individual person of knowledge I’ve met.

Going to Umrah with him made me even change my perspective on representation of ISB. I honestly couldn’t imagine doing another spiritual journey with someone else besides my family.”

Olushola Abdullah-Aleem, on Shaykh Yaseen’s Farewell

“My family and I will miss his inspirational intellect, knowledge, friendship and contributions.”

Mohammed A Khadeer, on Shaykh Yaseen’s Farewell

“Through attending conferences, workshops, lectures, Jumuah led by him I feel like I know him personally (and I don’t). That is a testament to the weight of impact he and his way of teaching knowledge had on me. I pray the best for him and his family in this life and the hereafter. I will miss just knowing he was there providing a safe place to land.”

Sybil Imani, on Shaykh Yaseen’s Farewell

“I am saddened to hear that Shaykh Yaseen is leaving, but I pray that wherever he goes to - that it brings blessings and rewards to him and his family. I’ll miss listening to his lectures and khutbahs. He was one of the best, mashallah.”

Rawnak Choudhury, on Shaykh Yaseen’s Farewell

“Thank you for everything, Sh. Yaseen. In 2023 during an Open House at ISB, the first person to come talk to me was Brother Yaseen. May Allah bless you and your family in your next chapter.”

Ifraim Majano, on Shaykh Yaseen’s Farewell

Meet the ISB Council

2025-2028 Term



Hasan Hammad
President
hasan.hammad@isb.org



Faizan Mahmoodi
Vice President
faizan@isb.org



Mikail Ocasio
**Secretary of Property
Management Services**
mikail.ocasio@isb.org



Eram Abbasi
Secretary of Education
eram.abbasi@isb.org



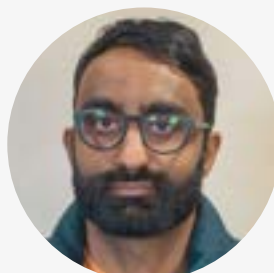
Wajiha Farooqi
Treasurer
wajiha.farooqi@isb.org



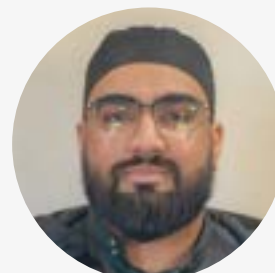
Umar Maharoor
Secretary of Religious Affairs
umar.maharoor@isb.org



Umar Saleem
General Secretary
umar.saleem@isb.org



Jamal Ali
**Secretary of Member
Services**
jamal.ali@isb.org



Adam Butt
**Secretary of General
Services**
adam.butt@isb.org

**“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.