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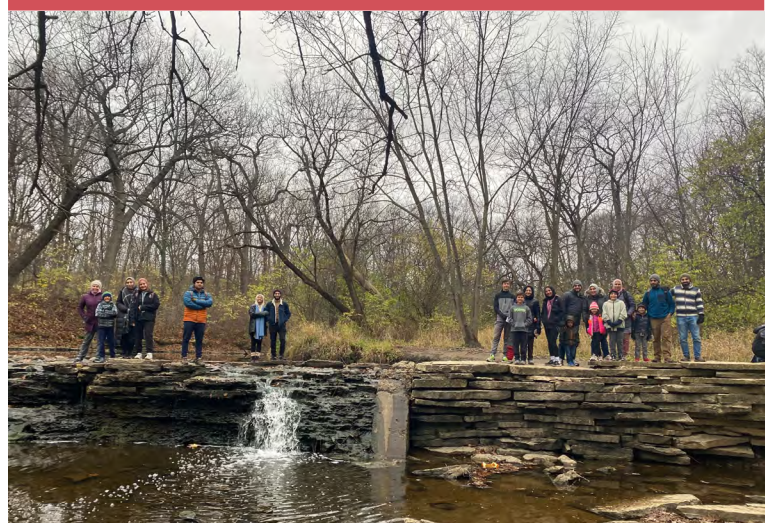
IN A
WORD



We begin by the Name of
God, the Compassionate and
Merciful

2022 marked the full emergence of the Sacred Roots Muslim Community from the cocoon of *the virtual* into the fuller daylight of *the Real*. The opening of our community center in Chicago, IL's Pilsen neighborhood laid the groundwork for a flowering of the budding friendships that were established in the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.

The concentric circles of community worked in harmony to bring a new breeze of God-centric events to the Chicagoland area. The Board of Directors worked diligently to set the stage for the community center to open and set the tone for our vision:



Waterfall Glenfall Hike

to be a home for Muslims and the spiritually curious. The various committees—both local and national—creatively cultivated the seed of that vision into events to serve our community socially, devotionally, and intellectually. The bedrock of our community—all of you aligned toward a God-centric lifestyle—breathed life into the organization through your voluntarism, fresh ideas, and—most importantly—your beautiful presence.





You will find in the following pages a brief snapshot of the adventure we collectively undertook in 2022. What is not captured here are the bonds of love that were forged beyond the four walls of Sacred Roots: the many hangouts, dinners, phone calls, and informal study circles that emerged from the exchange of numbers and meeting of hearts at Sacred Roots events.

We thank God for the opportunity to know you all through this work and we thank you for your continued support of Sacred Roots.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Trent Carl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

With prayers for you
and yours,

Trenton Carl

Sacred Roots' Co-Founder
& Resident Scholar





IN THEORY



VISION

To be a home for Muslims and the spiritually curious

“So orient yourself to the religion as one inclined to the Truth - the Divine nature with which God created humanity.”
— The Qur’an,
Surat al-Rum 30:30

MISSION

Sacred Roots works to nourish a community of Muslims rooted in the teachings of the Prophet (s) and his Family (‘a). We connect people of various backgrounds and experiences and together explore the spiritual and intellectual heritage of Islam through acts of devotion, study, and service.



Apple Picking at Radtke Orchards



CORE PRINCIPLES



Devotion

To foster an atmosphere that embodies commitment to Islamic conduct, etiquette, and decorum

Diversity

To create a culture that fosters meaningful and lasting connections between individuals from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences

A Spirit of Openness

To cultivate an environment that is open to all Muslims, people of other faith traditions, and people without affiliation with a faith tradition

Study

To preserve and navigate the Islamic tradition as lived by the Prophet and his Family

Community Engagement

To engage the needs of our local community





IN FELLOWSHIP



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



SACRED
ROOTS

ROLES

The Board of Directors

is composed of the founding members and initial steering committee. This team ensures the organization stays true to its founding mission and vision.

- Shaykh Trenton Carl
- Ahmed Saheb
- Ali Khan
- Nour Abdul-Razzak
- Saif Kazim

President and Resident Scholar Shaykh Trenton Carl

Shaykh Trent helps lead the committees through strategy execution while ensuring that Sacred Roots is meeting its stated mission and values on a day-to-day basis. In addition, he serves as spiritual advisor and plays an educational role, locally and nationally to our wider Sacred Roots community.

The Program Committee

is responsible for creatively brainstorming, planning and managing Sacred Roots programs that meet and address the community needs.

- Sana Rizvi (Chair)
- Ali Khan
- Asad Ali Jafri
- Asad Ali Kalyan
- Azeeza Hasan
- Maryam Razvi-Rajek
- Saeeda Kalyan
- Samaneh Ghassemi

In addition, we have a **Virtual Programming Sub-Committee** to help make sure we maintain our links with our national community.

- Amirah Abulughod (VA)
- Amirah Nelson (MI)
- Hanadi Badaoui (MI)
- Raazia Zehra (TX)



ROLES

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for creating a warm, inclusive and caring atmosphere that helps create a space conducive for our community to learn and grow.

- Ebrahim B. (Chair)
- Aqil Hussain
- Fatima Bagheri

The Communications

Committee helps keep the community engaged and aware of all the great programming and activities that we have planned throughout the year across all key online and offline forms of communications.

- Eman Abdul-Razzak (Chair)

The Sacred Roots Students Collective is the driving force behind the various student-led programming both on campus and at the Sacred Roots community center.

- Shaykh Trenton Carl (Chaplain)
- Kawthar Alzurufi (Co-Chair)
- Kazim Ali (Co-Chair)
- Amir Fakhari
- Hiba Rizvi
- Mohammad Aun
- Sakina Ghatalah
- Zahra Nabavi

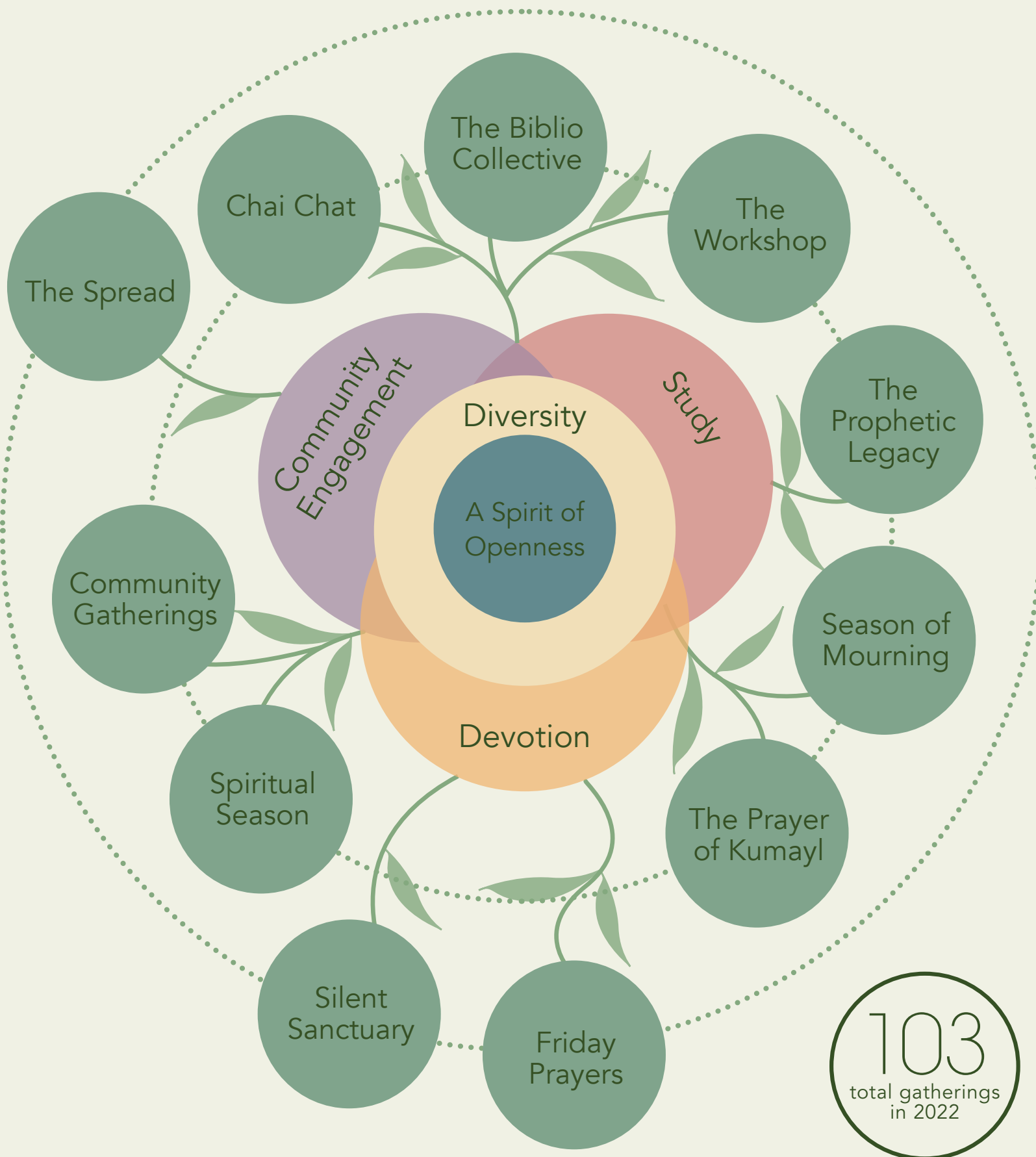




IN
ACTION



PRINCIPLES IN ACTION





DEVOTION

Together we foster an atmosphere that embodies commitment to Islamic conduct, etiquette, and to travel the spiritual path

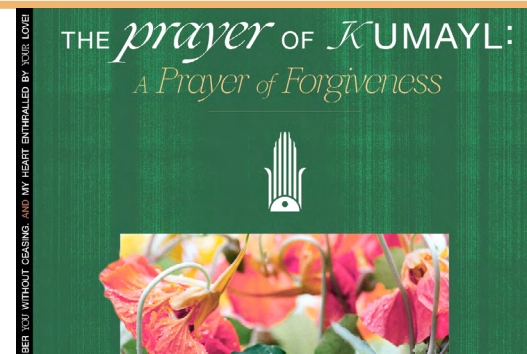
The Night of Ordainment

We gathered for a brief lecture and a selection of the prayers and rites of the Night of Ordainment (Laylat al-Qadr) in English.

Ramadan
The Month of Mercy
The Nights of Ordainment

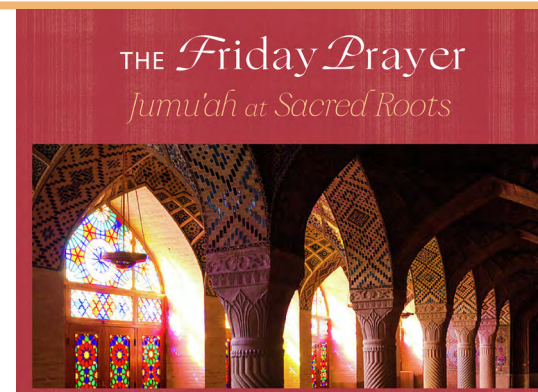
Prayer of Kumayl

Twice monthly we read the Prayer of Kumayl in English translation to link us to the depth of meaning of the prayer attributed to Imam 'Ali ('a) followed by refreshments and communal reflection on the du'a.



Friday Prayer

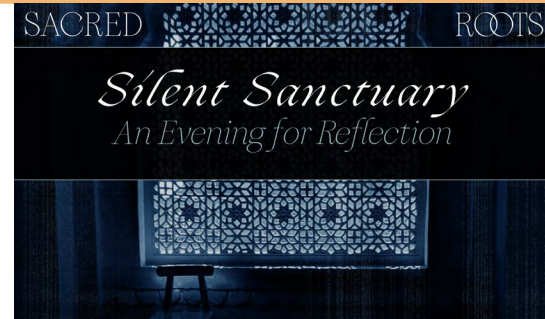
We gathered weekly for the Friday Prayer. Its two sermons are meant to inspire the audience to strengthen their steps toward God and a dignified life. The sermons are followed by a communal prayer to tie the hearts of the community together in worship. We followed prayer with refreshments and lunch.



DEVOTION

Silent Sanctuary

We came together to escape from the bustling of daily life and our habitual desire to tether ourselves to the internet through an evening of intentional silence.

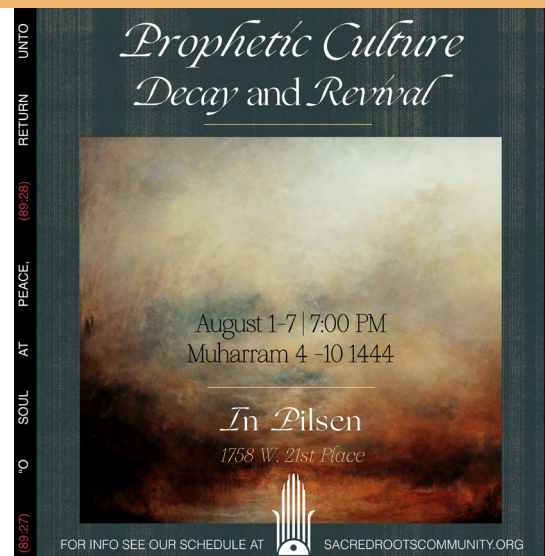


Prophetic Culture: Decay and Revival

Recounting the heroic tragedy of Karbala provides the Muslim community and all people of conscience a platform for exploring how we can actualize moral and Islamic ideals in our society today.

After each lecture, English mourning poetry was recited to connect our hearts to the stories of the martyrs and spurn us to social transformation.

We also made space for community-led reflections on various Karbala-related themes before finishing the evening in communal prayer.



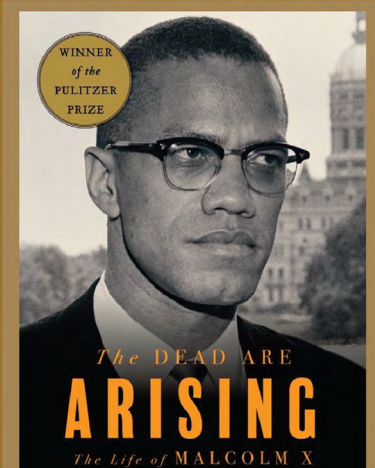
Community member reciting lamentation poetry



STUDY

Together we preserve and navigate the Islamic tradition as lived by the Prophet and his Family

The Biblio Collective



The Biblio Collective

A book club to actively learn and to share ideas with one another

We read, discussed, and critically analyzed two books in 2022

- An Enchanted Modern - Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon by Lara Deeb
- The Dead are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X by Les Payne

CHAI CHAT

Serial Podcast:
The Trojan Horse Affair



VIRTUAL CONVERSATION:

Chai Chat

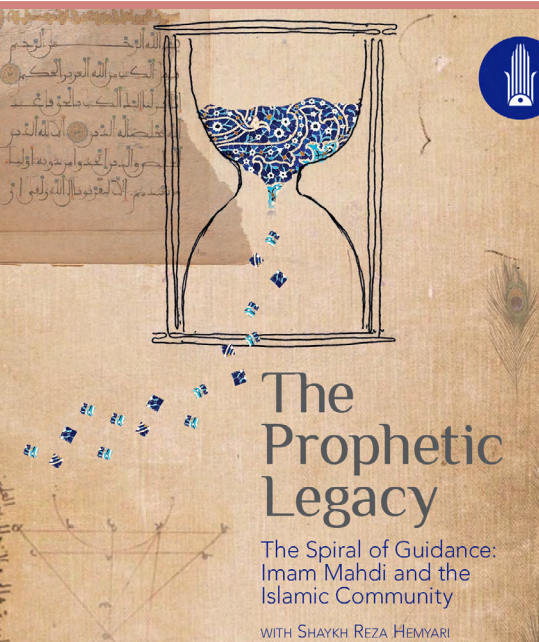
An interactive gathering where we explore current social concerns and other issues that affect our spiritual and communal cultivation

Topics explored include:

- The Trojan Horse Affair podcast
- Lamentation Poetry from The Revolution of Imam al-Husayn



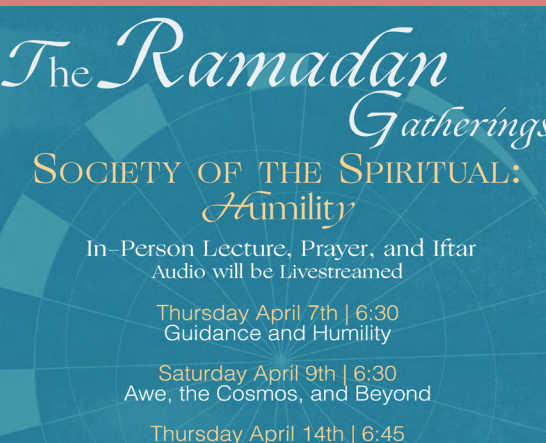
STUDY



The Prophetic Legacy

A series of reflections focused on the lives and spiritual wisdom of the Prophet (s) and his purified Family ('a)

- The Spiral of Guidance: Imam Mahdi and the Islamic Community by Shaykh Reza Hemyari
- Planting Goodness: The Prophetic Mission and Environmental Justice with Chicago Muslims Green Team



The Ramadan Gatherings: Society of the Spiritual: Humility

The series explored the role of humility in living harmonious personal and social lives here and hereafter based on the teachings of the Qur'an and the way of the Prophet Muhammad (s) and his Family ('a).



STUDY



The Workshop

A series of skill sharing workshops offered virtually

In 2022, we learned the following skills

- Bake Along led by Hanadi Badaoui -
- Connecting with Husain through our Pain and Poetry led by Kalyan Ali Balaven (Professor ALI)
- Intro to Gardening led by Summar Saad
- Adulting with Money led by Hadera Lowrance
- The Art of Islamic Geometry led by Eman Hijazi

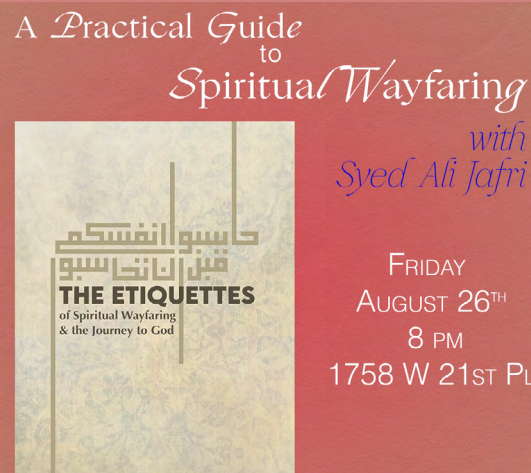


The Intersection of Faith, Food, and Justice - A Community Brunch and Conversation
Presentations and discussion around food in relation to self-worth, culture, and community.

- On Material Diet Cultures and Holistic Wellness by Nosheen Hayat
- On Justice, Nutrition Inequity, and Policy Interventions by Shamar Hemphill
- On Food, Morality, and Culture Building by Shaykh Trenton Carl

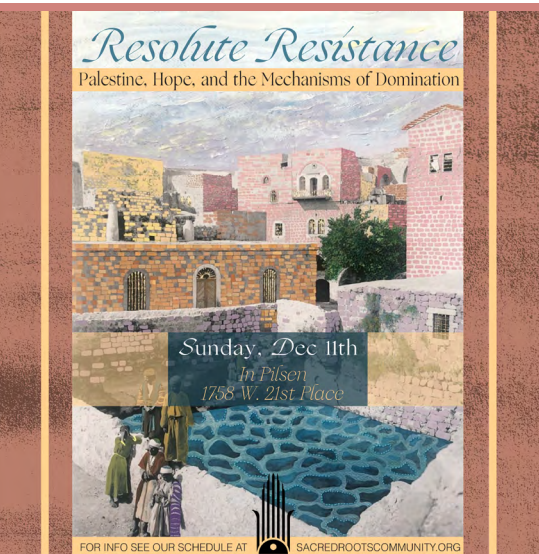


STUDY



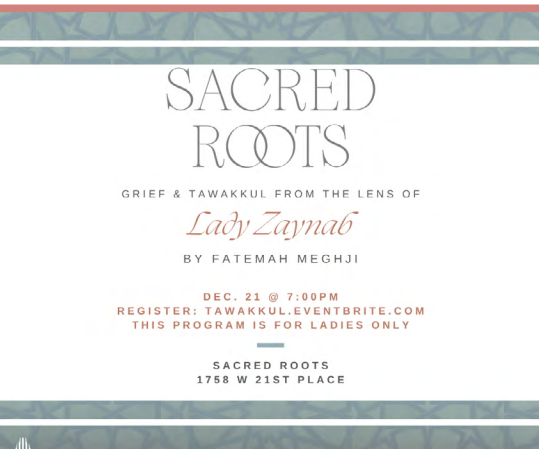
A Practical Guide to Spiritual Wayfaring with Syed Ali Jafri

We were blessed to have the translator of the book *The Etiquettes of Spiritual Wayfaring and the Journey to God*, Syed Ali Jafri, join us to present an overview of its contents and to reflect on why building spiritual power is important today.



Resolute Resistance: Palestine, Hope, and the Mechanisms of Domination

Shirien D. led us in a discussion on the current state of activism for justice in Palestine. We explored issues including the origins of the colonization of Palestine, the mechanisms that sustain Israel's domination, and the ways that Palestinians and people of conscience can stand for liberation.

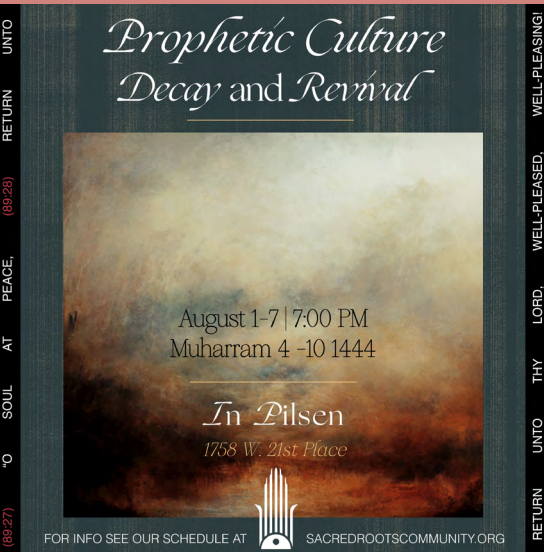


Grief and Tawakkul from the Lens of Lady Zainab (a)

Ustadhah Fatemah Meghji led a women's workshop on balancing trials and grief through reliance on God (tawakkul) using Sayyidah Zaynab (a) as a case-study for spiritual strength.



STUDY



Prophetic Culture: Decay and Revival

Muharram's lecture series, "Prophetic Culture: Decay and Revival," explored three major themes:

Prophetic Culture: the social institutions, norms, and values that the Prophet Muhammad (s) established to shape the early Muslim community

Decay: how Prophetic Culture eroded until the stand of Imam Husayn ('a)

Revival: how our community can renew and re-shape Prophetic Culture in our society today

In addition to the lectures and epitaphs honoring the legacy of Imam Husayn ('a), our Muharram gatherings were

- intellectually deepened by community discussions on the topics each night
- emotionally heightened by the English lamentation poetry of outstanding artists from Chicago and Washington D.C.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Together we seek to recognize and engage the needs of our local community

The Month of Ramadan Food Drive

We gathered food items during the month of Ramadan to contribute to Casa Catalina Food Pantry to help alleviate food insecurity for our neighbors.

FOOD DRIVE

Please help contribute to Casa Catalina Food Pantry by donating food this Ramadan

Suggested donation items:

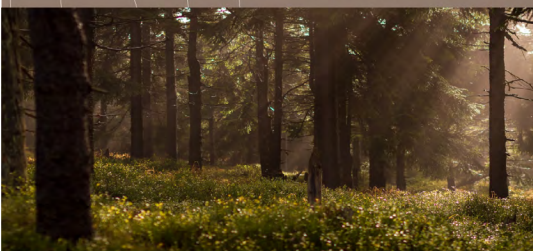
- Canned soup, beans, pasta sauce, tuna, vegetables, applesauce
- Dried goods (pasta, oatmeal, rice, cereal, flour)
- Peanut butter, granola bars and other nonperishable items

We will be collecting items:

**Friday April 22nd,
Sunday April 24th,
Thursday April 28th,
and Friday April 29th
at Sacred Roots
Address: 1758 W 21st Pl.,**

The Prophetic Legacy: Planting Goodness II: Tree Planting Training

We were trained by Raed Mansour, Director of Environmental Innovation at the Chicago Department of Public Health. He led us on a walk through the neighborhood to show us how to identify areas that could be good candidates for more tree cover.



SACRED ROOTS

Planting Goodness
Part 2
Tree Planting Training

Join us for a training with Raed Mansour, Director of Environmental Innovation at the Chicago Department of Public Health.

The training will cover how to use Chicago's 3-1-1 app to request the city to plant trees in areas of the city with too few trees. Planting more trees leads to better.

Who is Hussain Winter Care Packs

Sacred Roots and Who is Hussain teamed up to pack 140 winter-care packages for local homeless shelters.



WINTER CARE PACKS

PACKING & DISTRIBUTION

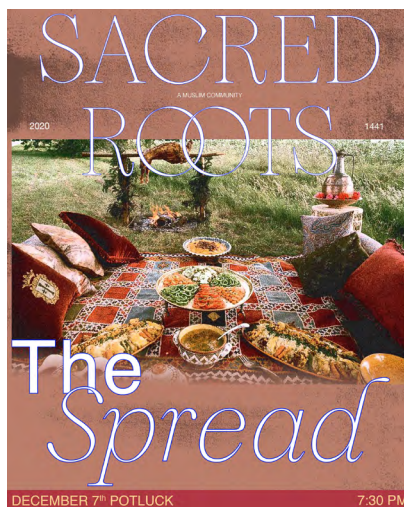
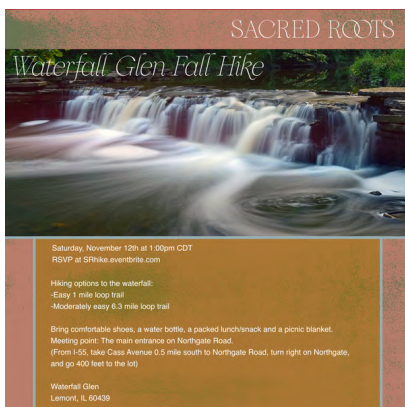
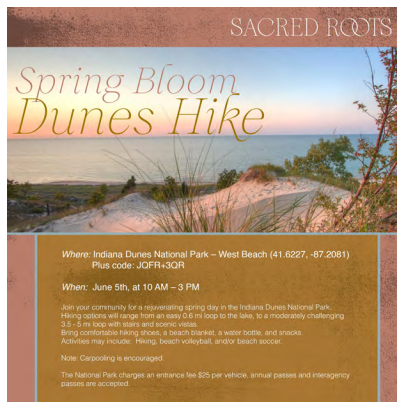
**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 19TH, 2022
12 PM**

**SACRED ROOTS COMMUNITY
1758 W 21ST PL.
CHICAGO IL, 60608**



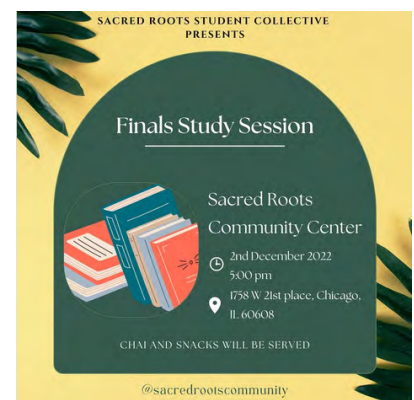
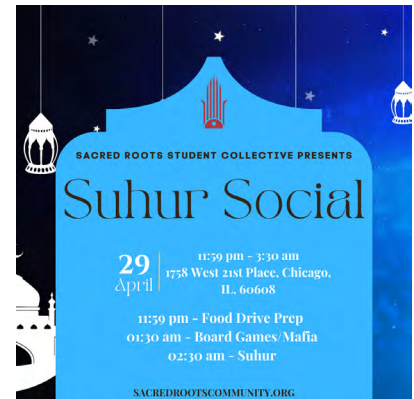
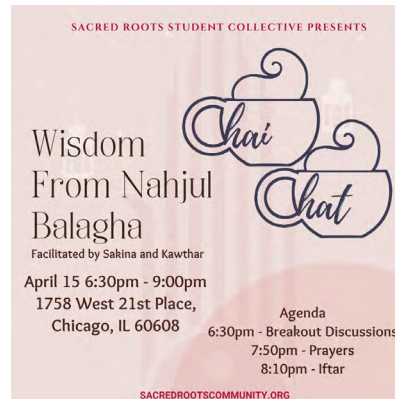
SPIRIT OF OPENNESS

Together we create a culture that fosters meaningful and lasting connections between individuals from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences



SACRED ROOTS STUDENT COLLECTIVE EVENTS

The Sacred Roots Student Collective (SRSC) is a student-led branch of Sacred Roots that aims to provide college and university students with opportunities to explore the spiritual heritage of Islam and to build a community of Muslim students in the Chicagoland area.



STUDENT COLLECTIVE EVENTS





IN
FISCAL
TERMS



Average
Donation
\$297

Total 2022
Donations

\$150,329

Total Number
of Donations
507

2022 EXPENSES

Wages
\$67,000

Total 2022
Realized Expenses

\$172,226

Program
Operations
cost
\$100,513

Furnishing
& Art

Programming
Costs

Renovations

Rent &
Utilities

Wages

Audio/ Video
Costs

2023 PROJECTED EXPENSE CATEGORIES

RENOVATION PLAN



A FINAL WORD

2023 is set to be a year of growth. This year we plan to execute on the following goals:

- ❖ A **renovation** of our physical space with new carpeting on both floors, an expanded kitchen, improved lighting, and general beautification
- ❖ The purchase of quality **A/V equipment and furniture** to make our space useable for both the local and virtual audience
- ❖ The **creative expansion** of the programming ethos we established in 2022 as illustrated in the previous pages
- ❖ A **Convert Retreat** hosted locally at Sacred Roots
- ❖ The purchase of devotional and intellectual books for an **accessible library**

Sacred Roots is fostered by the prayers, moral support, and financial support of our community.

As such, we kindly ask that you consider financially supporting Sacred Roots. Your generous donations allow us to effectively meet our community's growing needs and enhance the potential of the Chicago Muslim ecosystem!

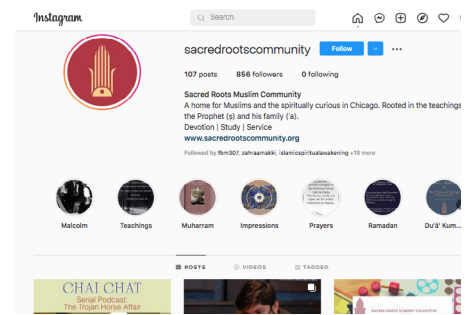
With prayers,

The Sacred Roots Team



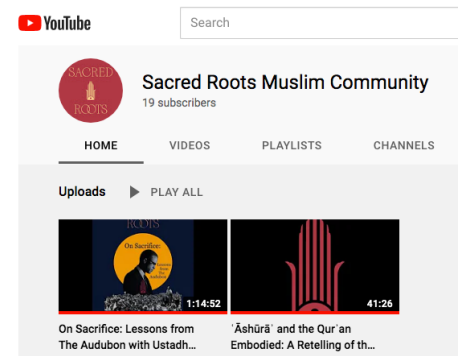
STAY CONNECTED

Click on the images to join us on our online platforms



Our Website: Find our event calendar and prayer times, support our work, sign up for our mailing list, and more

Our Instagram:
@sacredrootscommunity



Our Facebook:
Sacred Roots Muslim Community

Our YouTube:
Sacred Roots Muslim Community

