



A YEAR IN
REVIEW

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Cultivate





IN A WORD



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

Friends, family, brothers and sisters,
with your support Sacred Roots continued
to grow from our origins in April of 2020
through the end of 2021 despite a variety of
twists and turns. That is a testament to the
power and sincerity of the people that make
Sacred Roots possible—you. Thank you.

Over the past year our team continued to
produce both virtual and in-person programs
to further build communal bonds and
deepen our knowledge of our tradition.

As the year passed, the Board of Directors
began to focus on securing a brick-and-
mortar space and building the framework
required to sustain Sacred Roots through
the years.



As a result, you will
find in the pages
that follow, images
of our new home in
the historic Pilsen
neighborhood in
Chicago at **1758 West
21st Place**. This has
been many months
in the making with
many hands involved.
Finally our home is
soon to open
its doors.





In the coming year, we hope to meet each and every one of you and bridge relationships between all of our attendees as we continue to assist in building a stronger Muslim ecosystem in Chicago and beyond.

You will also see an illustration of the organizational structure of Sacred Roots in the “In Fellowship” section.

You will find the names of the wonderful volunteers who make our programming possible and who will steer the direction of Sacred Roots in its formative years.

We have together laid the foundations for our collective 2022. And, interlocked as a family, we can fulfill our vision of growing a home for Muslims and the spiritually curious.

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.



August Potluck Picnic



CORE PRINCIPLES



The Chicago Lakefront

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



ROLES

The Community makes Sacred Roots. In 2021, the Board of Directors set out to build the institutional framework (through strategic task forces and committees) required to grow and expand Sacred Roots beyond its virtual beginnings to its local presence amidst the Chicago soil. Below, meet the wonderful people who have sacrificed their time and shared their experiences and expertise to make Sacred Roots flourish. In 2022 you are sure to meet them in our spaces - local and otherwise. Please pray for their success!

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.

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

President and Resident Scholar

Shaykh Trenton Carl

Shaykh Trent helps lead the committees through strategy formation 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.



COMMITTEES

Chicago Task Force

was created prior to the formation of the Sacred Roots Committees to develop plans for the design of the Sacred Roots space. It will remain active until its dissolution upon completion of the space. These individuals have played an important role in shaping the tone and atmosphere of Sacred Roots' community space.

- Ali Khan
- Asad Jafri
- Aqil Hussain
- Azeeza Hasan
- Ebrahim B.
- Fatimah Bagheri
- Hadiel Mohilldean
- Samaneh Ghassemi
- Sana Rizvi

The Program Committee

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

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

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

- Amirah Nelson (NC)
- Hanadi Badaoui (MI)
- Raazia Zehra (TX)



COMMITTEES

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)
- A Growing Volunteer List

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)

COMMITTEES BEING CULTIVATED

Service and Outreach Committee identifies and cultivates relationships with key Chicagoland services institutions in the spirit of better contributing to the well being of our local community.

Fundraising Committee leads the effort to strategize, engage, and update our community to ensure the mission and vision of Sacred Roots is properly funded.



THE SACRED ROOTS STUDENT COLLECTIVE

Part of the motivation to establish Sacred Roots was recognizing that there exists a population of Muslim students across the city who do not currently have a space to call home for several reasons:

- a) the distance from suburban community centers
- b) the varied levels of inclusivity (or perception thereof) of university spaces
- c) the shortage of Muslim spaces in the city that cater to student life.

The Sacred Roots Student Collective (SRSC) is meant to help bridge this gap by giving students a platform and agency to foster a community of Muslim peers.

Over time, we'd like to see the SRSC build out campus-specific groups who gather and lead programs at their respective schools and a pan-campus community that converges at Sacred Roots for student-led programs. We also hope to see the SRSC engage with their peers who work in MSA's and other Muslim Student organizations across the city.



MEET THE SRSC BOARD



The SRSC 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
- Fizza Arif
- Hiba Rizvi
- Sakina Ghatalah
- Zahra Nabavi





SRSC 2021-2022 BOARD

Fizza Arif

*Illinois Institute of Technology
Data Analytics and
Management
Fifth-year Coterminial*

*"I enjoy reading, binge
watching, and playing Tennis"*



SRSC 2021-2022 BOARD

Amir Fakhari

*North Park University
Exercise Science - Kinesiology
Third-year*

*"I am very big on promoting
positive mental health and
suicide prevention."*



SRSC 2021-2022 BOARD

Sakina Chatalah

*UIC
Political Science
Third Year*

*"I have a fish named Jonah
Ali."*



SRSC 2021-2022 BOARD

Hiba Rizvi

*Loyola University
Biology
First-year*

*"I can say the alphabet
backwards really fast"*



SRSC 2021-2022 BOARD

Zahra Nabavi

*UIC
Pre-Neuroscience
First-year*

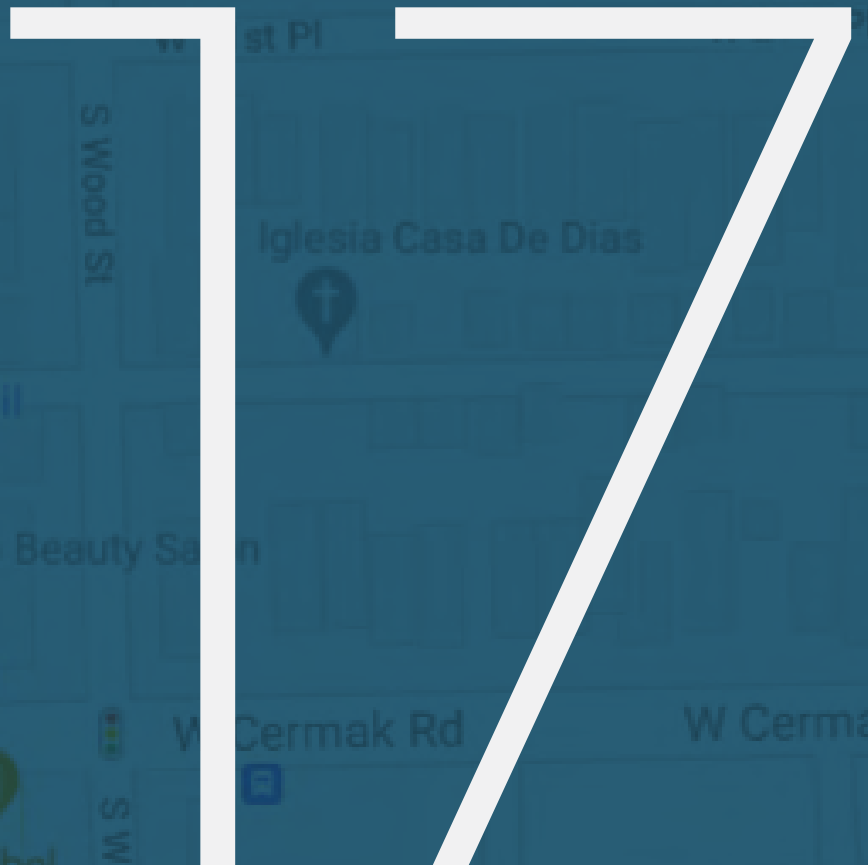
*"I have a sassy green cheek
conure named Zaitun."*





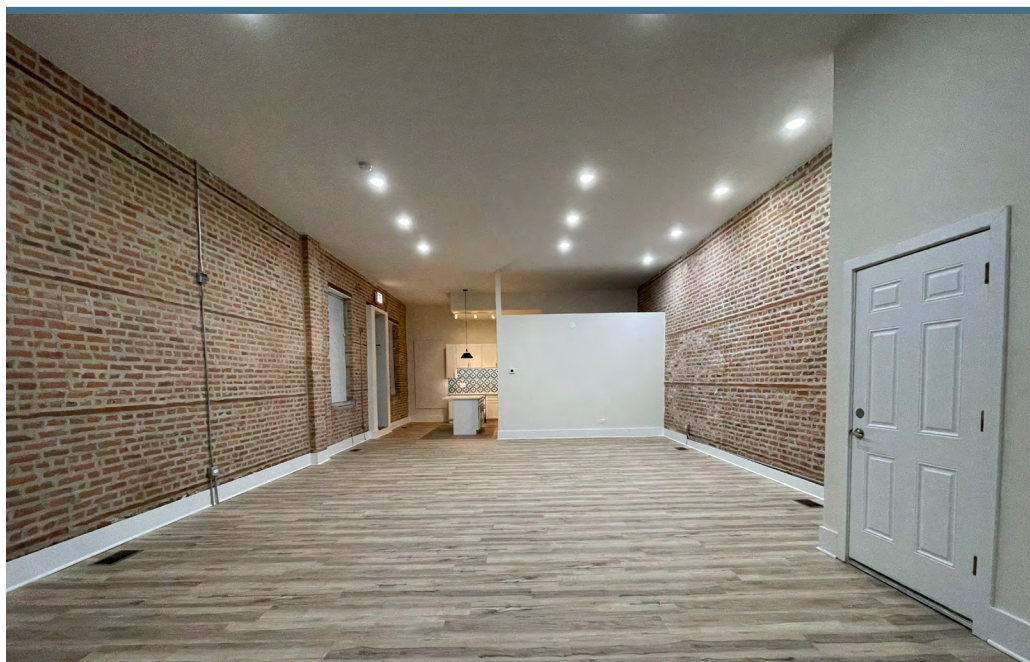
IN SANCTUARY

1756 W 21st Pl,
Chicago, IL 60608

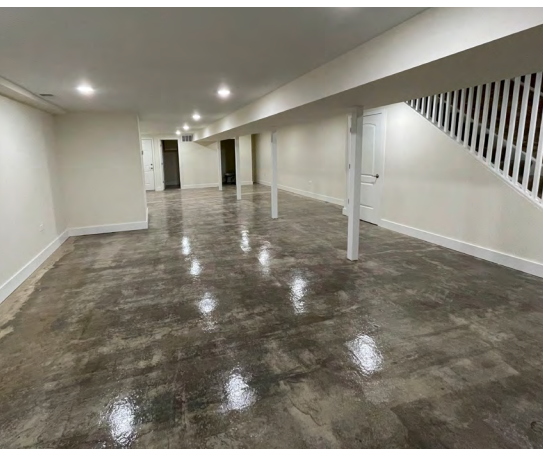


We are blessed to announce that Sacred Roots now has a physical home in the city: 1758 West 21st Place in the heart of Pilsen.

Our location is conveniently located near several modes of public transportation, as well as 290 and 90. We are located less than 10 minutes from UIC and 15 minutes to the heart of The Loop.

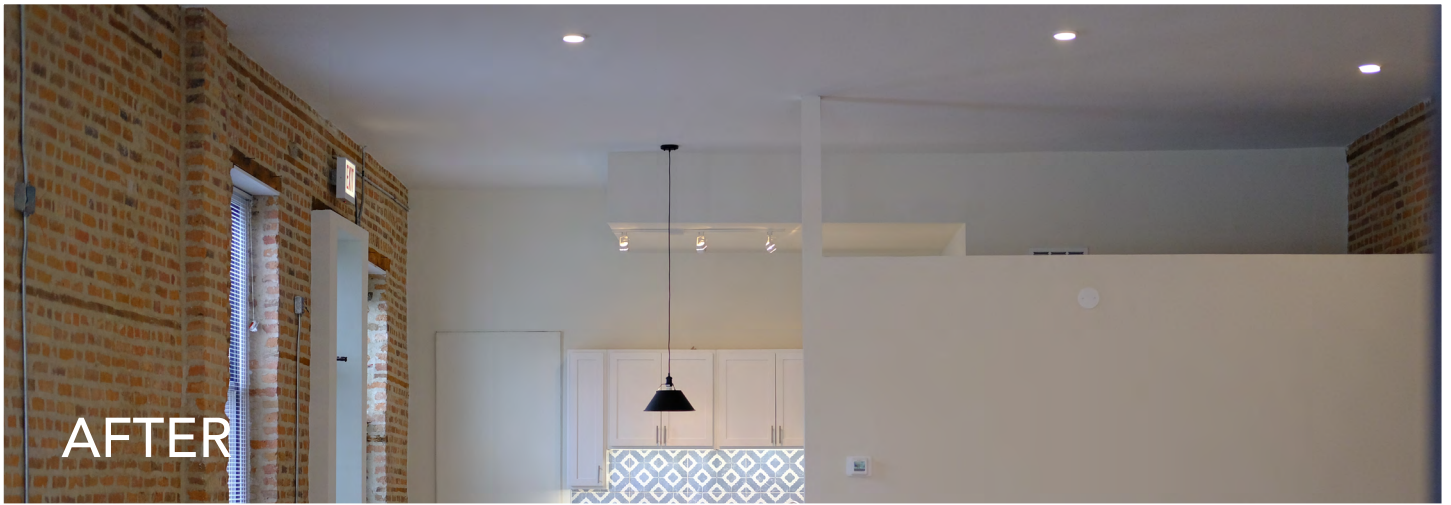


Located on the Lower West Side of Chicago, Pilsen extends from the Chicago River to the city's old railroads. The neighborhood is rich with diversity and culture. Pilsen is known for its murals that scale buildings and concrete walls, representing the struggles of the communities who have lived here for generations.

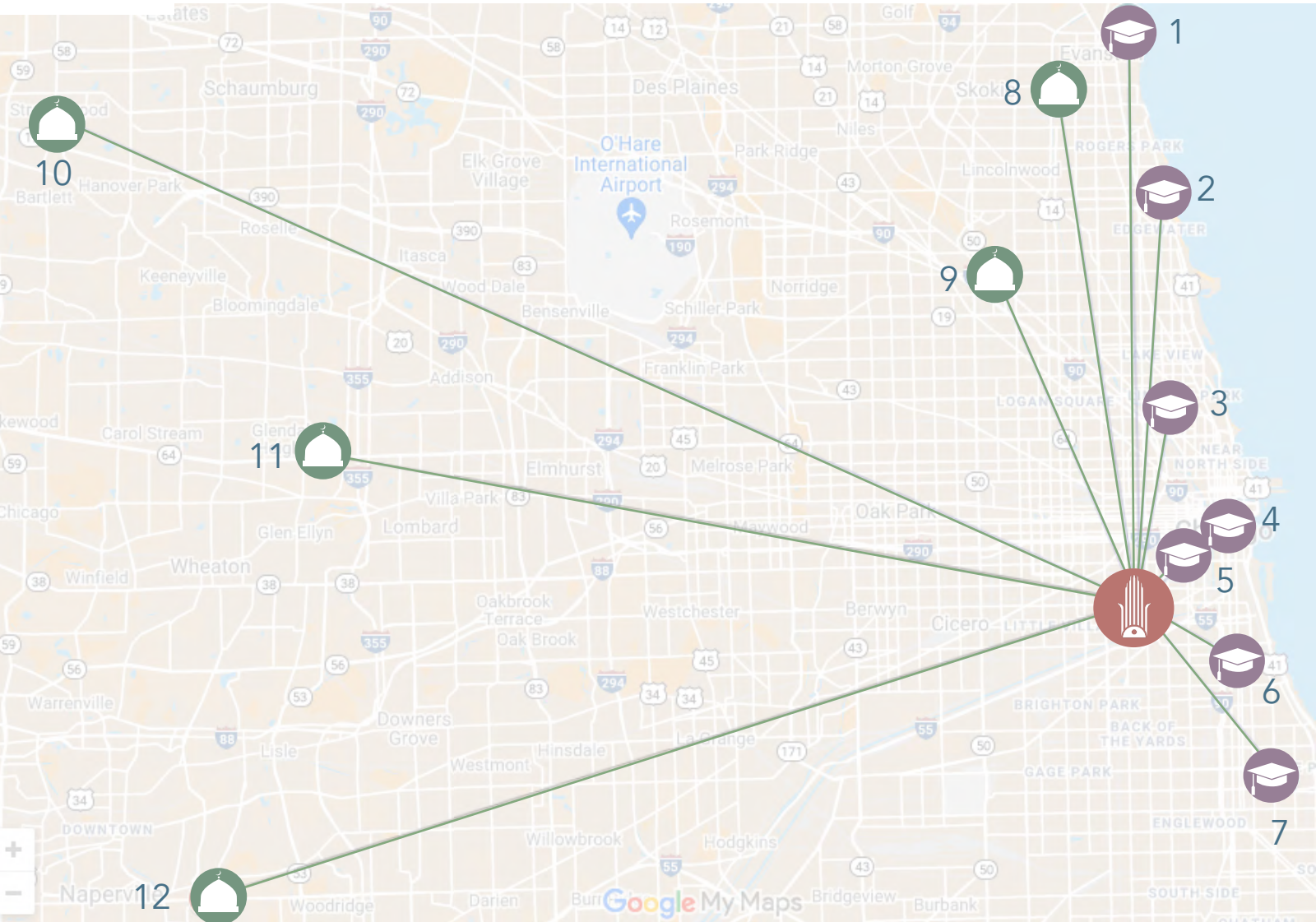


For decades, Pilsen has been home to activists and organizers for labor, environmental, and immigration reforms. We are proud to join this community as a home for the spiritually curious and look forward to welcoming you into our space in 2022.





INSTITUTIONAL ECOSYSTEM



Sacred Roots Muslim
Community



1. Northwestern University
2. Loyola University
3. DePaul University
4. DePaul Loop Campus
5. University of Illinois
6. Illinois Institute of Technology
7. University of Chicago



8. Ahlul Bait Center
9. Masom
10. Baitul Ilm Academy
11. Islamic Education Center
12. Irshad Learning Center

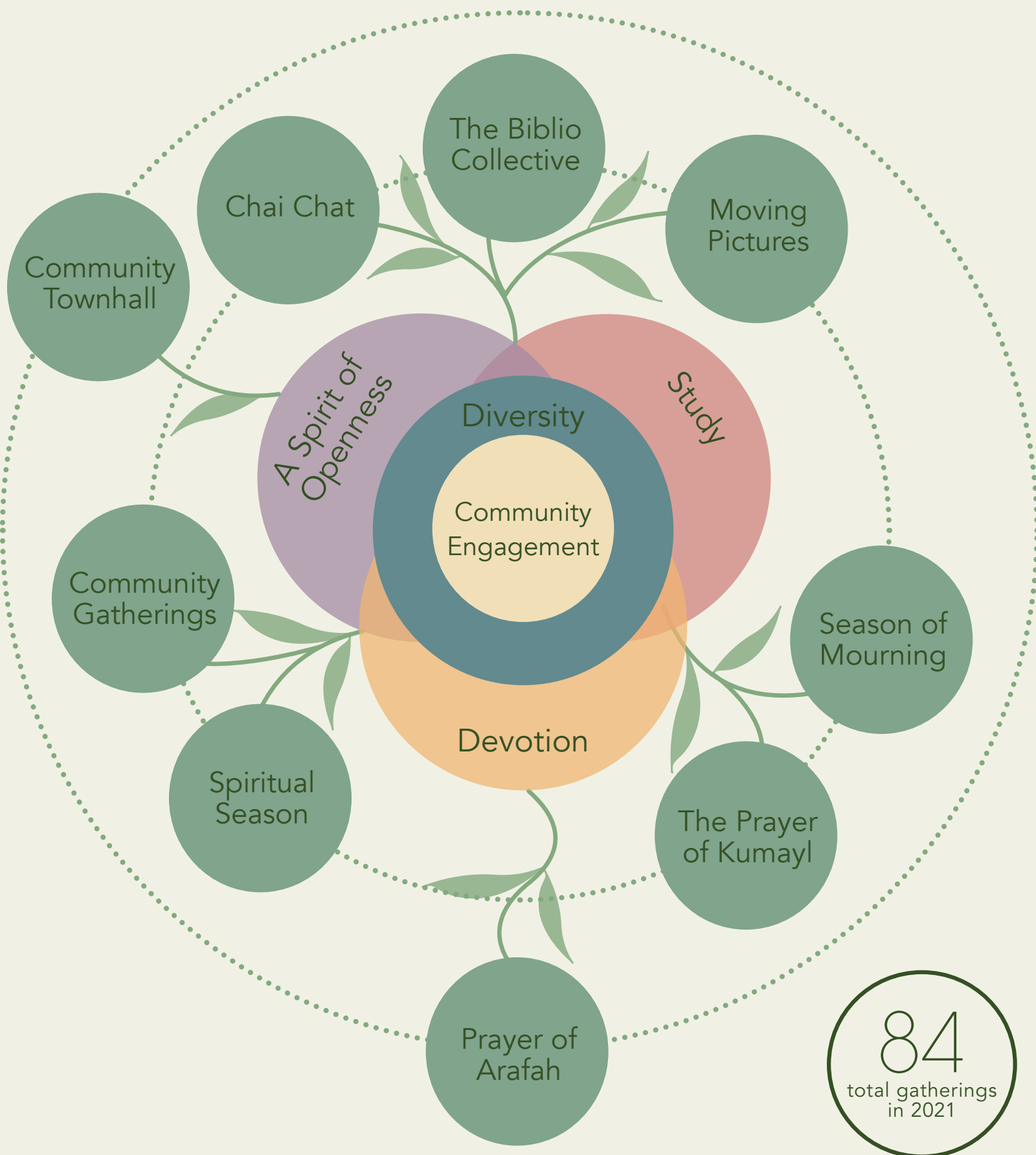




IN ACTION

21

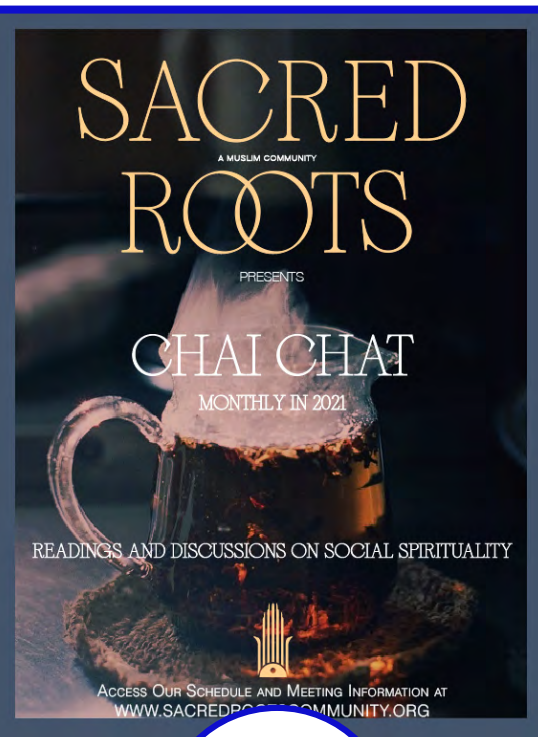
PRINCIPLES IN ACTION



MAINSTAYS

Chai Chat

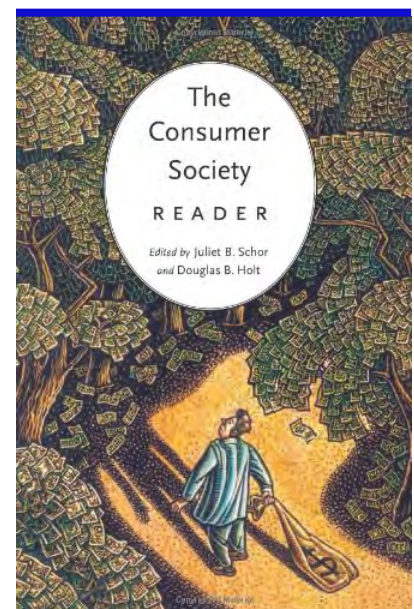
- ❖ An **open space** to activate creative thinking and learn from each other's individual experiences
- ❖ We leverage **collective learning** by inviting community members to lead
- ❖ Topics explored include:
 - Can Zoom Save the American Family?
 - Muslims Are Not a Race
 - The Punishment Bureaucracy: How to Think About "Criminal Justice Reform"
 - Voluntary Simplicity and the New Global Challenge
 - Radical Amazement



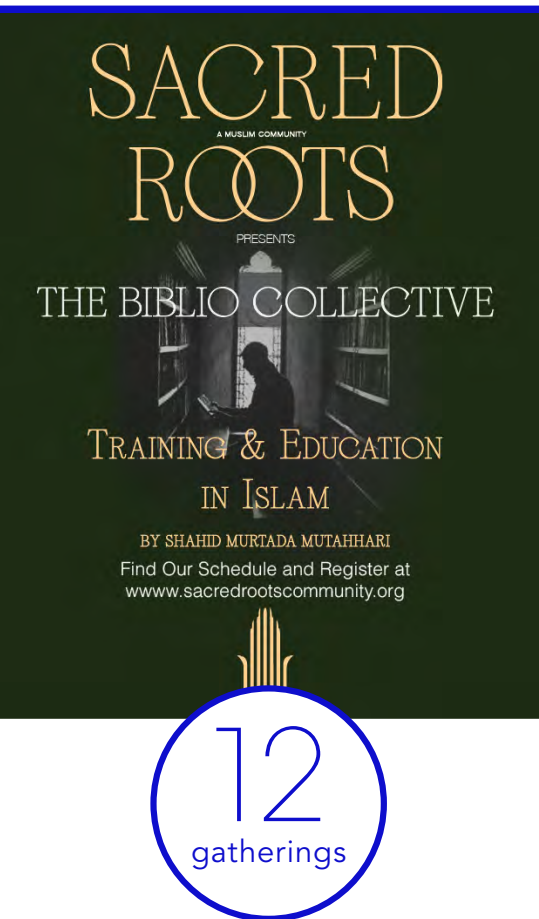
5

gatherings

"True growth... is the ability of a society to transfer increasing amounts of energy and attention from the material side of life to the nonmaterial side and thereby to advance its culture, capacity for compassion, sense of community, and strength of democracy."
- Voluntary Simplicity

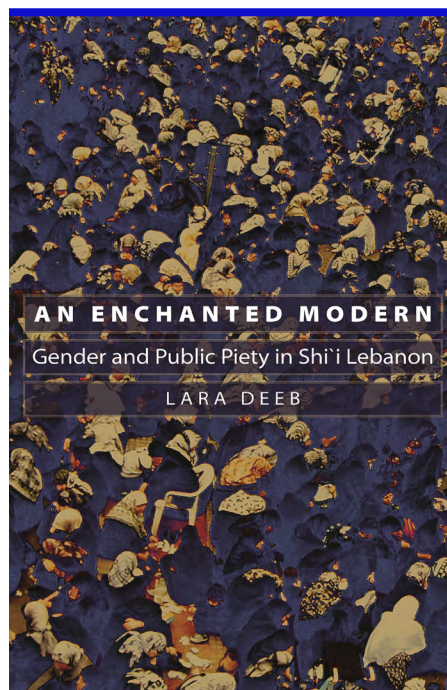


MAINSTAYS



The Biblio Collective

- ❖ A discussion-based book club that typically meets every other week
- ❖ We read, discussed, and critically analyzed two books in 2021
 - Training and Education in Islam by Shahid Murtada Mutahhari
 - An Enchanted Modern - Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon by Lara Deeb
- ❖ We will continue reading An Enchanted Modern in 2022



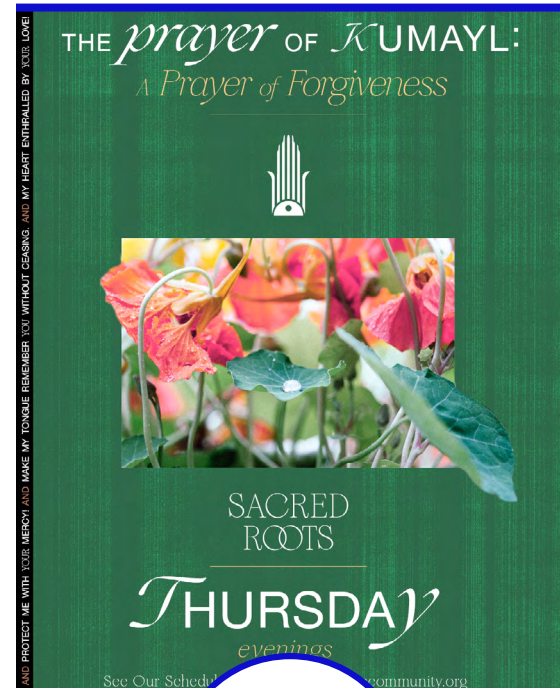
"Pious Shi'i Muslims' fraught relationship to the West was also confounded by consumer desires for western products, capitalist business practices, and technology. Yet in none of these areas was desire unambivalent."
- An Enchanted Modern



MAINSTAYS

The Prayer of Kumayl

- ❖ The Prayer of Kumayl: A Prayer for Forgiveness is a program designed to link us to the depth and meanings of the prayer of Imam 'Ali ('a)
- ❖ We facilitate our community's comprehension of the prayer through a reading of an eloquent English translation and a series of brief reflections linking the meanings of the prayer with their corresponding concepts in the Qur'an



اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ بِرَحْمَتِكَ الَّتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ

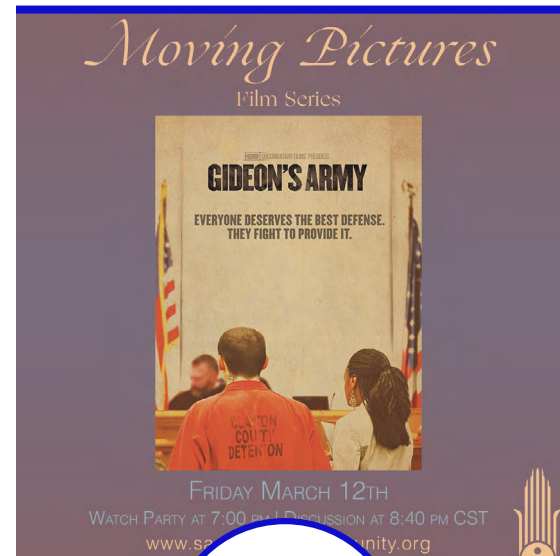
Oh God, I ask You by Your mercy, which *embraces*
all things;



MAINSTAYS

Moving Pictures

- ❖ The Moving Pictures Film Club was developed to offer our community opportunities to view films that examine issues pertinent to our community
- ❖ In 2021, we watched and discussed
 - [Gideon's Army | Watch Party and Discussion](#) - Three young, idealistic Public Defenders in the Deep South struggle against long hours, low pay, and staggering case loads to ensure justice is served for America's forgotten poor
 - [Century of the Self - Episode 1 "Happiness Machines" & Century of the Self - Episodes 2-4](#) - The Century of the Self tells the untold and sometimes controversial story of the growth of the mass-consumer society. How was the all-consuming self created and in whose interests?
 - [Dirty Wars](#) - Investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill's film chronicles the undeclared "shadow wars" fought across the globe in the name of American national security—and the highly secretive agencies who fight them



MAINSTAYS

The Sacred Roots Student Collective

- ❖ Our student-led programming got off to a fast start in November - executing 4 programs in two months. We look forward to what the students have in store for 2022
- ❖ The 2021 programs included:
 - Chicago Student Social
 - SRSC Chai Chat: Islam and Film
 - SRSC Chai Chat: Gender Roles in Islam
 - Sacred Roots Ice Skating Social



SEASONAL

SACRED ROOTS

THE 15TH OF SHA'BAN: THE CYCLE OF GUIDANCE
Sun. March 28th, 8:00 pm CDT

SR COMMUNITY TOWN HALL AND 1st ANNIVERSARY
Fri. April 2nd, 7:30 pm CDT

STRUCTURAL VIRTUE AND STRUCTURAL VICE
Mon. April 5th, 7:30 pm CDT

SUSTAINED PHYSICAL HEALTH AND THE MONTH OF
RAMADAN WITH NOSHEEN HAYAT (MPH, RDN)
Sat. April 10th, 7:30 pm CDT

ON THE PATH TO
Mercy

3
gatherings

PREPARING SPIRITUALLY FOR THE MONTH OF RAMADAN
EDROOTSCOMMUNITY.ORG

On the Path to Mercy: Sha'ban Series

- ❖ 15th of Sha'ban: The Cycle of Guidance and Reading the Prayer of Kumayl
- ❖ On the Path to Mercy: Structural Virtue and Structural Vice
- ❖ On the Path to Mercy: Sustained Physical Health and the Month of Ramadan with Nosheen Hayat (MPH, RDN)

The Month of Ramadan

- ❖ Commencing with Praise: Dua al-Iftitah
- ❖ Society of the Spiritual Lecture Series:
 - The Material World
 - The Theology of Consumerism
 - Silence and Darkness
 - Communal Felicity
- ❖ The Night of Ordainment
- ❖ Shahr Ramadan meet ups
 - Iftar at Ping Tom Memorial Park
 - Dessert Meet-up at La Michoacana
 - Ramadan Hike at Bullfrog Lake Trail
 - Valley of Peace Cemetery Visit

Ramadan
The Month of Mercy

SOCIETY OF THE SPIRITUAL
LECTURE SERIES

MONDAYS | 9:30 PM CENTRAL

Mon. April 19th
The Material World

Mon. April 26th
The Theology of Consumerism

Mon. May 3rd
Silence and Darkness

Mon. May 10th
Communal Felicity

15
gatherings

WWW.SOCIETY.ORG



SEASONAL

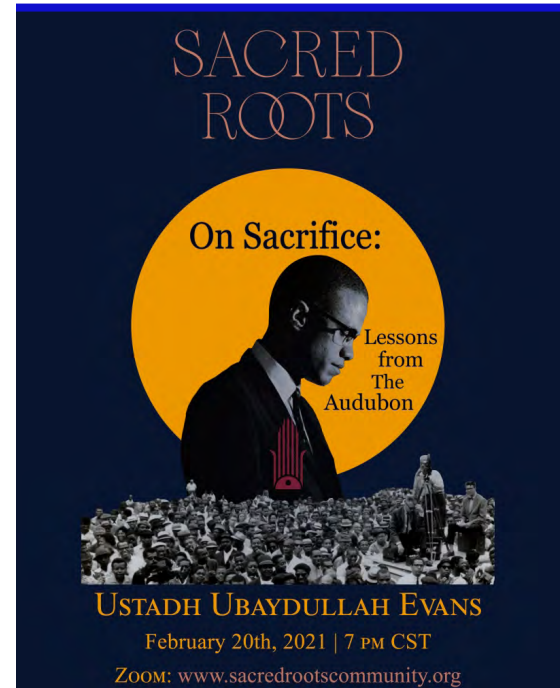
The Season of Mourning

- ❖ **Karbala: Knowledge and Sacrifice** The series explored a selection of Islamic values and aspirations that are essential for cultivating the personality traits of a disciple of the Truth and a disciple of al-Husayn.
- ❖ Each night, we set the tone with English lamentation poetry recited by poets from across the country
- ❖ Release of presentation '*Ashura and the Qur'an Embodied: A Retelling of the Tragedy*' that wove Qur'anic verses into the narrative of the uprising and martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson
- ❖ We gathered to commemorate 'Arba'in with a program entitled - **A Conversation on Community, Love, and Divine Struggle**



SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ **On Sacrifice: Lessons from The Audubon** with Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans. We commemorated the life and martyrdom of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz—Malcolm X. For many of us, sacrifice is a concept rooted in stories of old in far-off places. However, **Malcolm X's path is a contemporary story that inspires us to struggle for Truth and Justice in the here-and-now**



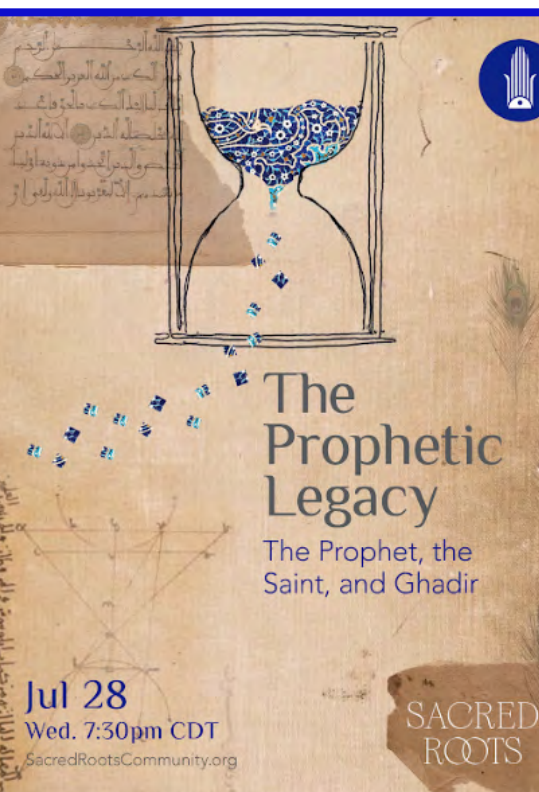
- ❖ **Sacred Roots Community Town Hall and 1st Anniversary.** The night belonged to our community: we gathered to listen to what our community would like to see Sacred Roots do over the short and long-term



SPECIAL EVENTS

"O God,
this is the Day of 'Arafah,
a day which You made
noble, gave honour,
and magnified.
Within it You spread
Your mercy, showed
kindness through Your
pardon, and made
plentiful Your giving,
and by it You have
been bounteous
toward Your servants."

- ❖ The Prayer of 'Arafah of Ali ibn. Husayn ('a): A Reading in English. We gathered to mark the Day of 'Arafah with a reading of the translation of Imam Ali ibn Husayn Zayn al-Abideen's Prayer for the Day of 'Arafah—a prayer of great spiritual insight and moral lessons



- ❖ The Prophetic Legacy: The Prophet, the Saint, and Ghadir. We celebrated the Day of Ghadir with the first session in our new series, The Prophetic Legacy. "The Prophet, the Saint, and Ghadir" was a reflection on the relationship between prophecy, imamah, and Tradition through a celebration of the relationship between the Prophet Muhammad (s) and his spiritual brother, Imam 'Ali ('a)



IN PERSON EVENTS





IN
FISCAL
TERMS

33

Average
Donation
\$328

Total 2021
Donations

\$183,622

Total Number
of Donations
560

2021 EXPENSES

Wages
\$48,000

Total 2021
Realized Expenses
\$54,805

Program
Operations
cost
\$6,805

2022 PROJECTED EXPENSES

Furnishing
& Art

Programming
costs

2022 Projected
Expenses
\$160,000

Rent &
Utilities

Wages

Audio/
Video
Costs

As we enter 2022, the Sacred Roots Team is focused on shifting our work from primarily being a virtual community to setting its foundation in the city of Chicago. We have many exciting goals for 2022 including, but not limited to:

- ❖ **Furnishing Our Home:** Now that we renovated our home we are working to furnish it for comfort, beautify it with art, and to make it operational with quality A/V and kitchen equipment
- ❖ **Frequent In-Person Gatherings:** Friday prayers, programs honoring the lives of the Prophet and his family ('a), workshops, communal du'a, and a variety of social activities
- ❖ **Continued Support of our Convert Community Members**
- ❖ **Continued Support of The Sacred Roots Student Collective**

Sacred Roots operates off of the prayers, moral support, and wisdom of our growing community.

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

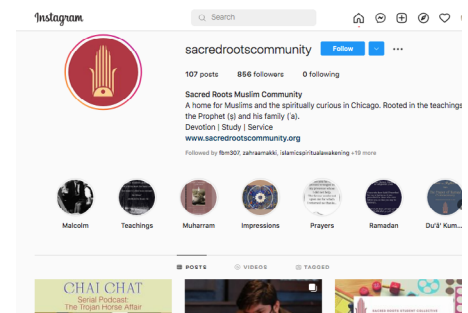
With prayers,

The Sacred Roots Team



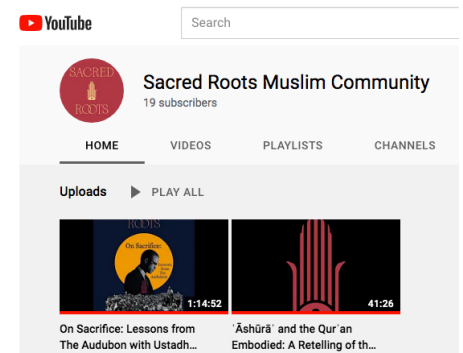
STAY CONNECTED

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

