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CONNECTING HEARTS

SUMMER

OUR SUMMER SPECIAL

Welcome to Evergreen's 12th publication! Read ahead to stay tuned on our jamaat's current events and initiatives!

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SUMMER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 FROM AMILSAHEB'S DESK

4 HUMANS OF SAUGA (INTERVIEW)

7 UMOOR SPOTLIGHT: SEHAT

9 ASHARA PREPARATIONS

10 TOLOBA: ONE KHIDMAT AT A TIME

11 SHABAB: MOHARRAM IN KHIDMAT

12 BGI: IN SERVICE OF HUSSAIN (A.S.)

13 HUMOUR: FROM JUICE BOXES TO DORM KEYS

14 RISING STARS OF MISSISSAUGA JAMAAT

15 RECIPE: KINDA LIKE KATCHUMBER

FROM AMILSAHEB'S DESK

"The Most Valuable of Treasures is Hearts Filled with Love"
Amir-ul-Mumineen AS

For ages, the human spirit has been magnetized by the allure of treasure—golden idols, ancient jewels, and fortunes buried beneath layers of time. History reads like an epic tale, where valiant explorers dared to chase maps marked with Xs, fueled by a dream of prosperity and conquest. Lands were charted, trade routes carved, and empires shaped, often on the backs of those obsessed with the glint of precious metals and the echo of power.

Some searched for mythical realms like El Dorado or Atlantis, driven by fables whispered across generations. Others, wielding might instead of myth, pillaged kingdoms and plundered wealth to elevate their own prestige. These treasures—hoarded, guarded, and flaunted—were tokens of dominance.

But in the quiet corners of this world, there are those few who stumble upon something infinitely richer.

They find treasures not locked away in chests, but beating in the hearts of others—unconditional love, unwavering loyalty, compassion that shines brighter than any gem. These hearts filled with love cannot be stolen or traded; they are given freely, and when accepted, they transform lives more deeply than any material fortune could. A mother's embrace, a friend's understanding, a partner's devotion—these are riches no map can lead to, yet they remain the most enduring legacy one can carry.

We count ourselves among the lucky few—because during four unforgettable years in Mississauga, we discovered exactly that, treasures in the warmth and friendships of the souls we met. The love shared in those moments became our most precious keepsake, far outweighing any possession. We will always cherish this treasure that has definitely enriched our lives in many ways and will remain indebted to Maula TUS for blessing us with the opportunity of doing khidmat in Mississauga.

Abde Syedna TUS wa Amatehi
Behlah and Rashida

INTERVIEW

FEATURING SH. DR. MUSTAFA ABDULHUSEIN

INTERVIEWED BY MUSTAFA BHAI KUBBAWALA

Dr. Mustafa Bhai, you truly need no introduction. Your family was among the very first mumin families to make Canada home. Can you take us back to those early days and share one of your most cherished memories from that time?

"My father, Sh. Hassanali Abdulhusein, brought his 5 children with my Grandmother to Canada in early 1970's from Tanzania, with the help from my Sh.Abdulhusein Kakaji, who came initially in 1968. I remember my father, mother and kakaji working very hard. My siblings and I felt we needed to help, so for my part, I started working at the age of 10 as a paper-boy. With the help of my brother Yusuf, we delivered 100 Toronto Star newspapers daily, rain/snow or shine, for 5 years without fail. I began school in Grade 1 in Toronto, then moved to Brampton, where I have lived since Grade 2. I have many cherished memories from my early elementary days. The best memories were during the many stays of Mukasir Saheb, Shz. Malik-ul-Ashtar Saheb DM at our home. On one precious occasion, I remember Syedi Saheb doing heartfelt Arzi to Maula RA from the old rotary home phone, "Maula jaldi padaro Canada, mumineen nu dil tuti jasai, Maula jaldi padaro!" Almost the following week, Burhanuddin Maula's RA first Safar Mubarak to North America occurred. Maula RA arrived initially to Chicago and then to Toronto in 1978. Sleeping on the makeshift bed beside my brother Yusuf in the rear of my Uncle's hatchback (yes, seatbelts were not mandatory in simpler times), looking up at the stars in the night sky from the rear windshield on my way to Chicago to see Maula RA radiance for the first time, was one of my most exciting and memorable trips of my young life. I had the naseeb of being close to Maula RA daily during Maula RA's 1978 safar mubarak."

Starting a new life in a new country is never easy. What were some of the biggest challenges you faced while settling down in Canada?

"I came to Canada in the early 1970's. I only spoke Lisan-ul-Dawat and Swahili. Learning English from ABCs & forgetting my Swahili, growing up with 3rd & 4th generation Canadians of only English/Scottish ancestry in school/neighbourhoods was quite challenging. The whole society geared to make sure you fit in with everyone. There remained tremendous bias, ridicule and bullying chipping away at your identity. The shinny glitter of a free/open society attracting the young mind. My parents felt the best way to make me strong to face these issues, was to establish a home based Madresah with the few other Mumin families, the parents teaching their children in rotation. There was no formal Madresah until 1980. My father registered me in competitive ice hockey, where I excelled, my speed & size helping win 6 championship seasons over 11 seasons. While studying in high school/University, I worked doing car oil changes at Canadian Tire, riding my bike 5miles away. My parents kept me grounded by always teaching me of our Dawat roots, speaking Lisan-ul-Dawat at home at all times, instilling in me pride of being a Mumin and our crucial link to Maula. These were essential to keeping me steadfast and able to keep an even keel against the tides that tried so hard to sweep one away."

INTERVIEW

FEATURING SH. DR. MUSTAFA ABDULHUSEIN

You're not only a respected figure in our Jamaat but also a practicing physician. Can you tell us a bit about your journey—what inspired you to pursue medicine and how you got to where you are today?

"The journey to becoming a medical doctor is a long tough road with many challenges, hurdles and exams. I always excelled at school, being proficient at multiplication by age of 5, and learning how to use my photographic memory (given to me by Maula RA doa). I have always been close to my Kakaji, Sh. Dr. Abbas Abdulhusein, from whom I gained inspiration to become a doctor. As many young children, I had made up my mind that I wanted to be a doctor. I attended school in Canada from Grade 1-13. For the next 13 years of education, I went to University of Toronto, achieving double Honour BSc in Human Physiology and Human Biology. I then completed my MSc in Electro-Human Physiology/Molecular Biology. During my University years, I really solidified my Niyat of doing Khidmaat to Maula, and the best way I could achieve that was by becoming a doctor.It was very hard securing a medical school spot in Canada, even with an MSc, so I left to pursue Medical school in the Caribbean for 2 years (AUC). I went to Ireland for my 3rd year and then Detroit for my 4th and final year. Only with Maula's doa, was I accepted in Michigan, USA, to a Residency post in Internal Medicine for my 1st year, and completed Family Medicine for my 2nd & 3rd year. I returned back to Canada after my residency in the US, immediately opening my own practice, first in Saint John, NB, and after when I returned to Brampton, ON."

Everyone holds fond memories of Burhanuddin Maula (RA), and we're always eager to hear more. Could you share a personal experience with Maula during one of his visits to Canada—something close to your heart, perhaps even a moment few people know about?

"Burhanuddin Maula RA visited Canada many times. He absolutely loved Niagara Falls, marvelling about where all the immense amount of water thundering over every second endlessly came from. I have had incredible Sharaf on many occasions with Burhanuddin Maula RA. In 1990, (1411H), Burhanuddin Maula RA utaro was at my sister Umema Sh.Dr. Amir Mewa home. One night, my Banevi, Sh.Dr.Amir bhai and Janab Sh.Ismail bhai were returning back with Maula RA to the utaro. I was waiting outside and did not have the keys. The utaro and outside premises were completely dark. Both my Banevi & Sh.Ismail bhai ran inside to prepare for Maula RA arrival, leaving me alone with Maula RA. I opened the car door and Maula RA gave me an amazing smile. During the Sharaf of Talaki, as Maula RA was walking towards the entrance, I did heartfelt Arzi to Maula RA for his Raza and Doa that I wished to pursue medicine and was having a very difficult time getting admission to medical school in Canada. Maula RA suddenly stopped walking, looked at me intensely, squeezing my hand so tightly for at least 15seconds, then he relaxed and radiantly smiled again at me, farmayu, "Raza ane Doa Che, Doctor". After that day (my photographic memory granted by Maula RA starts from this point), all my roads opened up, and I achieved one step after another in leaps and bounds, Maula RA giving me the power of the water of the Falls."

INTERVIEW

FEATURING SH. DR. MUSTAFA ABDULHUSEIN

Mubarak on the Sharaf of doing Masjid Khidmaat recently! That's a true blessing. Would you be open to sharing a particularly memorable or meaningful experience from that khidmaat?

"The incredible Sharaf of Maula RA and Maula TUS giving the Misal of the Bait-ul-Salah construction to my father, Sh. Hassanali, myself and my brother Yusuf Abdulhusein, is truly a dream achieved, from words spoken of conviction. In 2005, during the initial acquisition of land for the Masjid, Janab Juzer Bhaisaheb Zakavi asked me to contribute towards the land for the Masjid, at which time I told him, "Mai to Masjid Banavis!", and I happily contributed towards the land purchase. Later, when Janab Huzefa Bhaisaheb Mustansir was in the early stages of the planning and coordination of the Masjid project, we were out for a ride late at night in my car. At this time, he suddenly asked me if I would build the Masjid. I immediately said to him, "absolutely, I will, I always had the niyat to do this". Then he asked me how I would contribute such a large sum and khidmaat, at which point, I picked up my house keys, attached to my car key FOB, and gave it to him and told him, "my entire house and also all my income yearly for the entire time for the years Masjid remains under construction". Huzefa bhaisaheb tried to counsel me, told me I had just started my career and having a lot of family responsibilities. However, I was set on this endeavour and was waiting for this opportunity, as I know the benefit of building the Masjid for Allah T'allah. As witness to this fact, I share with you, it has been truly inexplicable where the funds came from and how I achieved this monumental undertaking. Gaining Maula TUS khushi and the barakaat from building the Masjid remains everlasting and complete. Inshallah, may we all soon have the Sharaf of welcoming Maula TUS to Mississauga doing tremendous open hearted Khidmaat, gaining Maula TUS khushi and nazaraat, giving us much barakaat and doa that will last for generations to come, Ameen.

UMOOR SEHAT

WRITTEN BY: DR. JUZER BHAI JAFFERJI

Health is one of the most valuable blessings, as expressed in the well-known saying: "Health is wealth." A clean environment is crucial for maintaining physical health, which in turn contributes to mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Umoor Sehat plays a vital role in promoting and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through four key pillars:

AN INTEGRAL PART OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

We have been actively involved in numerous health camps and awareness campaigns. Every Ramadan, we conduct Health Camps to educate Mumineen about:

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Dental care
- Mental health
- Healthy diet and exercise
- Physiotherapy

We are fortunate that Umoor Sehet Mississauga includes professionals with specialties in various fields, which makes our programs both successful and informative. Our health initiatives run throughout the year, with our most recent camp taking place just a few months ago.

Core Responsibilities of Umoor Sehet:

1. Maintain cleanliness in homes and masjids.
2. Encourage environmental stewardship by planting trees and greenery
3. Provide indoor and outdoor sports facilities and raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity.
4. Organize medical camps during various *mawaqeet* to serve the health needs of Mumineen.

UMOOR SEHAT

WRITTEN BY: DR. JUZER BHAI JAFFERJI

Women's Health Initatives:

Last year, we have launched a special focus on women's health. We host 1-hour webinars on a range of women's health topics using an online platform, enabling broader access and engagement.

Future Plans:

Organize a Cricket Tournament and launch the first Umoor Sehet Sports Competition for North America. We are actively working towards making these exciting initiatives a reality.

Sports – Building Unity and Strength

Sports are a powerful way to bring the community together. For the past two years, we have successfully organized Table Tennis tournaments at our Anjuman-e-Fakhri Complex, with excellent participation and positive feedback. Weekly Friday night sessions are also held to help Mumineen Bhaiyo improve their skills. In addition, we collaborate with other santhas such as Shabab for cycling activities and Tolaba for cardio fitness sessions.

Special Acknowledgments to Shz. Hussein Bhaisaheb DM for his active involvement and guidance in improving the overall health and well-being of Mumineen.
Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Aamil Saab and Bhabhi Saab for their continuous support and for being actively involved in our initiatives.

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ASHARA PREPARATIONS

TAZEEN

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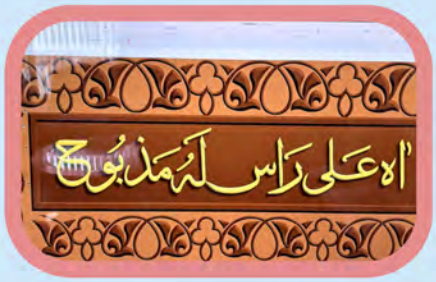

ONE KHIDMAT AT A TIME

TOLOBA MISSISSAUGA

WRITTEN BY: MUSTAFA KUBBAWALA & ABBAS AKBAR

Over the past few months, Toloba Mississauga has led impactful initiatives to empower and uplift the local mumineen youth & the broader community.

1 THE FIT COLLECTIVE

focused on building healthier habits by encouraging youth to engage in regular physical activity through guided group workouts. It promoted not just fitness, but discipline, camaraderie, and a sense of achievement.

2 CONNECT 2.0

brought together nearly 100 professionals and students for a dynamic networking event, featuring career guidance, inspiring discussions, and a standout session on emotional intelligence—fostering growth through meaningful connections.

3 ASHARA ASSISTANCE

Toloba members offered wheelchair assistance at the Mississauga masjid, ensuring ease for Mumineen attending the waaz and majalis.

MOHARRAM IN KHIDMAT

SHABAB MISSISSAUGA

WRITTEN BY: MOHAMMED DIVASALI & ABBAS AKBAR

With the azeem barakat of Ashara Mubaraka 1447H and the irshaad of Aqa Maula (TUS), Shabab-ul-Eidiz-Zahabi, Mississauga undertook multiple khidmats with dedication.

These included supporting Minhat Talimiyah in Mississauga and in Chennai, Indore, and Bangalore; arranging transportation for Mumineen; organizing and serving niyaz; preparing and delivering meals for those unable to attend Masjid; and managing sehori and iftar distribution during Ashura. All efforts were carried out with utmost ikhlaas and nizaam.

IN SERVICE OF HUSSAIN (A.S.)

BGI MISSISSAUGA. MOHARRAM 1447 H.

WRITTEN BY: HASAN DOULATGANJWALA & ABBAS AKBAR

During the baraka-filled days of Ashara Mubaraka 1447H, Burhani Guards International – Mississauga served with heartfelt devotion, fulfilling their khidmat not as duty but as a privilege.

From organizing seating and managing traffic, to distributing Sabeel, supporting masjid cleanliness, assisting with kitchen logistics, and ensuring smooth registration, every act was performed with the niyat of earning Maula TUS's khushi and dua.

FROM JUICE BOXES TO DORM KEYS

WRITTEN BY: M. HUNAID BHAI VAHANVATY

It's early July in Mississauga. The biryani is still warm, the backyard is recovering from yet another "quick BBQ" that turned into a full-blown fun fair, and your newly graduated child is passed out until the afternoon like it's an Olympic sport.

Technically, summer has just begun. But if your kid is heading to university this fall, you know this isn't just any summer. This is The Last Summer. The farewell tour. An emotional rollercoaster with pit stops at Costco, HomeSense, and Canadian Tire.

It started the day the acceptance letter came. So many du'as, so many sajdahs. You made mithai. You proudly shared the news in the family WhatsApp group with every cousin from Bombay to Scarborough.

But now you're staring at the "What to Bring to University" list like it's a scavenger hunt designed by IKEA and your worst fears.

- Twin XL bedsheets? Check.
- Milk frother? Apparently a must.
- 57 highlighters in 12 colours? Sure.
- Emotional readiness? Still loading...

Your living room looks like Dollarama and Costco got into a turf war. There are duffel bags, suitcases, and one suspicious box labeled "misc." They swear they'll wake up for Fajr (you raise an eyebrow). They promise to call every day (you raise both). You nod, smile, and quietly map the route for a potential emergency road trip. You know... just in case.

You try to stay cool. But deep down, you're still thinking about the 11th grader who couldn't wake up without three alarms and a lecture. And now they're going to live alone? You're also Googling halal shawarma near campus—just for research purposes, obviously.

Then comes Move-In Day. The car is packed like the day you first landed in Canada. Du'as printed, snacks packed, enough wipes to clean a stadium. You unload. You arrange. You quietly sneak frozen samosas into the mini-freezer.

And then... it's time.

You hug them like you're letting go of a vital organ. You whisper, "Beta, call me if you need anything. Or if you don't. Or just... call."

Then, like any good dad, you lighten the moment:

"Also, never trust a roommate who puts ketchup on biryani."

RISING STARS OF MISSISSAUGA JAMAAT

WRITTEN BY: TASNEEM RAKLA-ANASWALA

Name: Taher Gunnar Lowcock
Age: 12
School: Great Lakes Public School
Family: Indian & Canadian
Favourite food: Burger
Best vacation destination: Costa Rica
Sports: Plays Baseball for the Brampton royals U12 AA
Plays hockey for the Heartland Dragons U13 A
Favourite Athlete: Carey Price

Athletic accomplishments:
Won - Bronze North Peel Physical Education Association for Softball for Great Lakes Public School
Won - Silver North Peel Physical Education Association in Hockey for Great Lakes Public School
Esso Hall of Fame Award for Most Improved Player

Hobbies: Playing Sports
Future goals: To win a provincial championship

KINDA LIKE KATCHUMBER

WRITTEN BY: TASNEEM BEN RAKLA-ANASWALA

Oh the heat! I know it's summer and yes, its a reprieve from the long, never-ending winter we endured well into March - but this is Canada! This past month, whether you were in Chennai, Colombo or Mississauga, the torturous heat was all the same! But let's be real, this is global warming and climate change pleading with us to make a change! But you're here for the recipes, not a lesson in your ethical responsibility to the environment, so let's proceed!

Yes, the heat is very much here, and yes on every occasion we meet, someone mentions the heat. If we as Canadians don't talk about the weather at least at some point in our everyday conversation, then that conversation is incomplete. But nevertheless, one good thing the heat does bring is the perfect temperature to enjoy cold refreshing dishes bursting with flavour, while regulating our inner body temperatures. Or more specifically, the gorgeous, crunchy and juicy watermelon feta salad, which to be honest is really just a fancy Katchumber, no?

It's got crunch, colour, the perfect touch of acidity and saltiness, with the nuanced sweetness of the watermelon that just brings it all together! Its such a simple combination and there are a million variations, but if you're looking to take a bright salad that pleases the masses to your next BBQ this summer, look no further!

Ingredients:

- 2ish pound seedless watermelon, cut into cubes
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- Large handful of fresh mint, roughly chopped
- ½ - ¾ cup crumbled feta

Method:

1. Cut the watermelon, onions and mint. Mix into a large bowl.
2. In a jar combine vinegar, oil, salt and pepper, to create the dressing.
3. Pour dressing over salad and spread feta evenly over top as well.
4. Mix everything well and serve!

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