

Islamic Society of North America
 ISNA East Zone Conference
 May 24 – 26, 2008
 Sheraton Baltimore City Center
 101 West Fayette Street
 Baltimore, Maryland

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR FAITH

Registration Begins at 9:00 AM

Saturday, May 24, 2008

Room

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Opening Session

International Ballroom ABC

This session will introduce attendees to the conference as well as to the many national Muslim organizations working to establish justice and peace through education and outreach programs in the United States.

Moderator: Sami Catovic

Speakers: ADAMS, MANA, CCMO, CAIR, MPAC, MSA, MYNA, ICNA, MAS Freedom Foundation, & ISB

11:30AM – 1:00 PM

Main Session 1A

International Ballroom ABC

TITLE: Reinvigorating our Masjid

Description: The Masjid is the pulse of every community. In recent times that pulse has become weaker. This session will examine how we can kick start our Masajid and take them to the next level.

Moderator: Sami Catovic

Speakers: Altaf Husain, Johari Abdul-Malik, Zaid Shakir

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Dhuhr Prayer/Lunch

2:30-3:45 PM

Parallel Sessions

| Session # | Session Title/Speakers | Room |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ISNA 2A | <p>TOPIC: Prophet Muhammad (SAW): Mercy to Mankind</p> <p>Description: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is described in the Quran as "A mercy to the worlds". How does that mercy translate into our daily lives?</p> <p>Moderator: Ashraf Hassan</p> <p>Speakers: Hisham Mahmood, Aamir Sheikh, Moutasem Atiya, Aisha Grey Henry</p> | International Ballroom ABC |
| ISNA 2B | <p>TOPIC: Family Foundations</p> <p>Description: Families are the building block of every society. How do we ensure building these strong foundations in an ever changing world?</p> <p>Moderator: Madiha Tahseen</p> <p>Speakers: Abdallah Rothman, Darryl Wainwright, Fatima Mirza</p> | International Ballroom D |

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| ISNA 2C | <p>TOPIC: 20,000 Dialogues Description: A nationwide dialogue project using films about Muslims to spark dialogue amongst people of different faiths to build understanding of Islam and Muslims Speakers: Rabiah Ahmed</p> | Carroll |
| ISNA 2E | <p>TOPIC: Civic Engagement and the Reality of Social Circumstance: Making the Impact that Matters Moderator: Abdullah Shafi Speakers: Asma Hanif, Miles Davis, Saafir Rabb</p> | International Ballroom E |
| MSA 1 | <p>TOPIC: The Relentless Pursuit of Perfection: Following the Prophetic Model Description: The life history of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is rich with examples of the perfection of character in all that he did. The followers of the Prophet are commanded by Allah to seek his example in order to strive to be among the most excellent in character, nature, and person. How can we use the life of the Prophet (pbuh) as well as the actions of his companions as examples for ourselves in this day and age and begin to follow in his footsteps? "Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah." (33:21) Speakers:</p> | Calvert, Radisson Hotel |
| MYNA 1 | <p>TOPIC: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT Description: Being a Muslim American can be tough, but being a Muslim American teen is even tougher. For the very first time, you have to make many choices concerning culture, and everything that comes with it: character, relationships, the works. You might not be sure whether or not to go to a school dance, if you should date, what's "cool" and what's not, or even what clothes are appropriate to wear. Drawing the line between culture and religion can be confusing, frustrating, and you may feel alone, but with a little guidance, you'll learn the "Rules of Engagement". Speaker: Iyad Alnachef, Zaki Barzinji</p> | Versailles, Radisson Hotel |

4:00 -5:30 PM

Main Session 3A

International Ballroom D

Topics: Political Activism: Muslim Americans forging ahead
Description: 100 Senators, 435 Congressman and only 2 are Muslim. Where is the voice of American Muslims in American Politics?
Moderator: Faisal Abdur Rahman
Speakers: Rizwan Jaka, Aisha Al-Adawiya, Delegate Saqib Ali

4:00 -5:30 PM

MSA Session 2

International Ballroom E

Topics: Unity Beyond the University: Getting Involved in your Local Masjid

Description: At many Masjids across America, there is an empty void of active Muslim youth taking part in their local communities. Many Muslim students who are active in their MSA's don't always know how to carry that same enthusiasm and activism into their local communities. How can our skills gained through MSA experiences help us in bringing our communities outside of the university alive?

" In truth, they were youths who believed in their Lord and we increased them in guidance. We gave strength to their hearts. Behold, they stood up and said: 'Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and of the earth: never shall we call upon any god other than Him, if we did, we should indeed have uttered an enormity.'" (18: 13-14)

Speakers: Zaid Shakir

4:00-5:30 PM

MYNA Session 2

Pratt AB

Topic: Open Spaces

You have secrets. Everybody does. But would you ever share them? That time you were offered a drink at a party and you couldn't resist. Or the time your parents caught you on the phone with your secret significant other and they don't know you're still together. Or how about that time you thought you might share your secrets with a Muslim friend of yours, but ended up being judged and looked down upon. You've listened to the lectures, heard the speakers, now it's time for YOU to get YOUR SAY. Speak whatever's on your mind. Come to the MYNA booth to make your own topic, or simply show up to the session and see what everyone else is talking about. Express yourself in a free and comfortable atmosphere. This is your space.

Speakers: YOU!

5:30-6:00 PM

Asr

Liberty AB

6:00 – 8:15 PM

ISNA Celebration Banquet Dinner International Ballroom ABC

Topic: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR FAITH

Speakers: Seyyed Hossein Nasr, John Esposito, Ingrid Mattson

8:15-8:45 PM

Maghrib Prayer

Liberty AB

9:00 – 10:45 PM

Main Session 4A

International Ballroom ABC

Topic: Muhammad (alayhis Salam) – The Perfect Balance

Moderator: Sami Catovic

Description: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was perfectly balanced in all facets of his life. How do we embody that balance in an unbalanced world?

Speakers: Mohamed Magid Ali, Muhammad Ninowy, Ingrid Mattson, Zaid Shakir

10:45 PM

Isha Prayer

Liberty AB

11:00 PM

Qiyam al-lail --

Hammad Hai

Liberty AB

Registration Begins at 8:30AM

Sunday, May 25, 2008

Room

5:00 AM Fajr Prayer & Khatira by Imam Mohamed Magid **Liberty AB**

10:00 – 11:30 AM **Main Session 5A International Ballroom ABC**

TOPIC: Serving Allah by Serving Humanity

Description: All too often, community service is oftentimes overlooked as a “volunteer” activity, instead a core central doctrine of the Islamic message, as understood by our beloved Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wasallam) and his followers. God commands us time and time again in the Quran to care of the needy and indigent in society. In the spirit of serving humanity, this session will explore the ways in which we Muslim organizations (masajid, schools, dawah organizations, etc.) can put together programs and mobilization for Local, National, and International Humanitarian Relief and Empowerment in light of the examples set forth by our beloved Messenger (sall Allahu alayhi wasallam).

Moderator: Naeem Muhammad

Speakers: Louay Safi, Aisha Al-Adawiya, Sayyid M. Syeed

10:00 – 11:30 AM **MSA Session 3 Calvert, Radisson Hotel**

Topic: Strengthen our Foundation: Going Back to the Quran

Description: "An ayah a day keeps Shaitan away!" Jokes aside, building a connection to the Quran is one of the most basic tools in building our Iman.. As Muslim youth today, how do we change our lives through the Quran to find the secret of the Sahabah's success?

"Allah will elevate some nations through this book and degrade others with it"

[Muslim] The Messenger (saw) said "Learn the Qur'an and recite it, because the example of one who learns the Qur'an, reads it and recites it in Tahajjud is like an open bag full of musk, the fragrance whereof spreads over the entire place, and a person who has learnt the Qur'an but sleeps while the Qur'an is in his heart, is like a bag of musk but with its mouth closed" [Tirmidhi, Nisaa'i, Ibn Majah, Ibn Hibban]

Speakers: Imam Javed, Hisham Mahmood

11:45-1:00 PM **Parallel Sessions**

| Session # | Session Title/Speakers | Room |
|------------------|--|--|
| ISNA 6A | <p>TOPIC: Building Entrepreneurial Spirit</p> <p>Description: As the Dot Com Era turned into the Dot-Downturn Era, many analysts were asking about the effectiveness of starting businesses from scratch. However, Islam has seen a rich tradition of business-minded Muslims from its inception (after all, the Prophet sall Allahu alayhi wasallam was a merchant). This session will explore the considerations that a Muslim should have when starting their own business enterprise in an ever-changing techno-centric society.</p> <p>Moderator: Madiha Tahseen</p> <p>Speakers: Suhail Farooqi, Miles Davis, Yaqub Mirza</p> | <p>International Ballroom D</p> |

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| ISNA 6B | <p>TOPIC: Strengthening Interfaith Partnership</p> <p>Description: Building strategic alliances with various interfaith organizations is one of the most effective ways to gain visibility in one's local and national communities as well as sway public opinion on issues of importance to people of faith. This session will describe some of the best practices in establishing such alliances within the interfaith communities.</p> <p>Moderator: Attaullah Khan</p> <p>Speakers: Maqbool Patel, Aisha Gray Henry, Sayyid Mohammad Syeed</p> | International Ballroom ABC |
| ISNA 6C | <p>TOPIC: Shaykh Google, A Reliable Source?</p> <p>Description: With the upsurge in Internet usage, people are turning to the World Wide Web to get <i>fatwas</i> online for religious matters. How does one decipher whether or not the online resources are reliable? Will online <i>fatwa</i>-shopping have an effect on traditional scholarship (or vice-versa)?</p> <p>Moderator: Moutasem Atiya</p> <p>Speakers: Imam Javed, Muneer Fareed, Mohammad Ninowy</p> | Carroll |
| ISNA 6D | <p>Topic: Africa: Malaria No More</p> <p>Description: Muslim Americans are answering the call to help eradicate Malaria from Africa. There is an urgent need to engage individuals, organizations and corporations to help Africa fight the disease.</p> <p>Speaker: Aisha AlAdawiya</p> | POE |
| ISNA 6E | <p>TOPIC: Role of Fiqh in our everyday live</p> <p>Every day Muslims encounter situations in which Fiqh applies. Most of the time we don't know what the proper rulings are and we act in accordance to what we "THINK" is right. This session will examine the importance of knowing Fiqh. Open question and answer session.</p> <p>Moderator: Hassan Hammad</p> <p>Speakers: Adam Shaikh, Zainab Alwani</p> | International E |
| ISNA 6F | <p>TOPIC: Fostering Tolerance in our Communities</p> <p>Description: Allah describes us in the Quran as "One Nation". This lecture will examine the ways that we can develop Intra-Religious tolerance within our communities and overlook our differences.</p> <p>Moderator: Ahsun Dasti</p> <p>Speakers: Jafer Zadeh, Daoud Nassimi, Bassam Sayad</p> | Carroll |
| MSA 4 | <p>Topic: Daily Dose of Dawah: Islam through your Actions</p> <p>Description: We often forget that our actions speak</p> | Calvert, Radisson Hotel |

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| | <p>louder than any speech ever can. How we carry ourselves, how we speak, how we react and even how we drive all aspects of our daily lives that we can use as a means of dawah. Learn how to be effective da'ees through your every day actions instead of a dawah event a semester.</p> <p>"Who is better in speech Than one who calls (men) To Allah, works righteousness, And says, "I am of those Who bow in Islam"?" (Fussilat-41: 33)</p> <p>Speakers: Younus Mirza, Mehdi Bray</p> | |
| MYNA 3 | <p>TOPIC: <u>HALAL.COM</u></p> <p>Description: With the creation of the Internet, a whole new world has been opened up to Muslim youth. This world can be fun, exciting, and useful, but it can also be addictive, wasteful, and we may find ourselves doing things we know we should not be. We as a youth frequently use sites such as Facebook, Myspace, Youtube, and Live Journal, but are we using them safely and in accordance to our religion? Is it okay to upload our pictures, music, videos, and contact information online? And could the time we spend online be used for better purposes? How can the internet be used in a way that is most beneficial to us? Maybe sometimes seeing "The page cannot be displayed" is all for the better.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> | Versailles, Radisson Hotel |

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Dhuhr Prayer/Lunch

Liberty AB

1:30 – 5:30 PM

MATRIMONIAL SESSION

Pratt AB

SPECIAL REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Speaker: Imam Mohamed Magid, ISNA Vice President and Imam of ADAMS Center

Moderators: Abrar Ansari, Vaseem Fatima, and Amaarah DeCuir of Companionships

Single Men & Single Women Only! Let us introduce you to other Muslim singles who are actively seeking marriage. An exciting interactive program.

2:00 – 2:45 PM

MSA Executive Roundtable

Calvert, Radisson Hotel

Are you an active member of your MSA? Come meet area MSA leaders to network and learn how to improve your MSA.

Facilitators: Sr. Asma Mirza, President of MSA National

Speakers: You!

2:30 – 3:45 PM

MYNA Alumni Reunion

Versailles, Radisson Hotel

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Main Session 5

International Ballroom ABC

Topic: From It We Came, To It We Return

Description: Even the Earth has rights upon us, and as society becomes increasingly “stuff”-oriented and wasteful, Muslims must stop and reflect on what their roles are in protecting the environment for future generations. Should Muslims be concerned with protecting the environment and if so, then what can they do to ensure that their progeny live in a world that has *not* been destroyed by the excesses of a wasteful generation?

Moderator: Patricia Anton

Speakers: Sanjana Ahmad, Muneer Fareed, Sulayman Nyang

2:45 – 4:00 PM

MSA Session 5

International Ballroom E

Topic: **Strengthening our Foundation: Awareness of Islamic Etiquette**

Description: Healthy relationships are the foundation upon which strong Muslim communities are built. Good character, dealing justly with each other, and beautiful manners should be the hallmark of the Muslim community. Although in today's society these important attributes are often ignored, it is important for Muslim students to understand, internalize, and adopt proper standards of Islamic etiquette. Abu Huraira, r.a., said that the Prophet of Allah, saaws, said, "If one has good manners, one may attain the same level of merit as those who spend their nights in prayer." (Bukhari's Book of Manners # 285, Hakim, and Abu Dawud). Abu Darda' reported that the Prophet of Allah, upon him be peace, said, "Nothing is weightier on the Scale of Deeds than one's good manners." (Bukhari's Book of Manners #271, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi, Ahmad).

Moderator: Patricia Anton

Speakers: Asma Hanif, Mohammad Ninowy

4:15-5:30 PM

Parallel Sessions

| Session # | Session Title/Speakers | Room |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ISNA 7A | <p>TOPIC: Bridging the Cultural and Generational Gap</p> <p>Description: The session examines the current cultural and generational gap existent between the Muslim pioneers who have established an impressive numbers of mosques throughout the country, and who continue to lead the Islamic centers in many communities, and the new generation of American born and raised Muslims who face difficulties in integrating to the mosque. The session provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the root causes of the problem and suggest ways and means to rectify it.</p> <p>Speakers: Asma Mirza, Assad Akhtar, Amira Hossain</p> <p>Moderator: Louay Safi</p> | International Ballroom D |
| ISNA 7B | <p>TOPIC: Seek Help in Patience and in Prayer</p> <p>Description: Often times trials are seen as difficulties without purpose, this session will examine how tribulations are a means to draw closer to Lord. Drawing from the examples of the Prophets given in the Quran as well as the example of our Beloved Messenger (sall Allahu alayhi wasallam) and the pious followers after him, this session will discuss the best manners in which we can deal with the various trials and tribulations that we will inevitably face in our lives.</p> | International Ballroom ABC |

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| | <p>Moderator: Fatima Mirza Speakers: Ibrahim Buker, Zainab Alwani, Muhammad Ninowy</p> | |
| ISNA 7C | <p>TOPIC: Building our Communities, Brick by Brick Description: There is much wisdom in the old adage “It takes a village to raise a child.” However, the question inevitably arises – how do you build that village? This session will explore some of the best practices in building effective community organizations and close-knit societies. Moderator: Zahir Rahman Speakers: Nasrin Rahman, Anwer Hasan, Iqbal Unus Sulayman Nyang</p> | Carroll |
| MSA 7 | <p>TOPIC: Singlehood: Making the Best of Waiting Description: Muslim youth spend a lot of time dreaming and waiting for the right person to show up. Society puts a lot of pressure on people to find the right person, to get married young and then to live happily ever after. So, what if this process is taking longer than you expected? Instead of wasting many hours, days and even years trying to find this person, how can we productively use this time to better ourselves? You'll find the right person when Allah SWT wants you to, but take advantage of the time you have and make the best of your self. Ibn Abbas narrated that Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said:"There are two blessings which many people lose: (They are) health and free time for doing good." (Bukhari 8/421). Speakers: Imam Magid</p> | International Ballroom E |
| MYNA 4 | <p>TOPIC: Turning the Tables “You just don’t know what it’s like!” Sound like a familiar response to nearly everything your parents say these days? Parents: tired of trying to decipher every word that comes out your teen’s mouth, and feeling caught in a constant guessing game? At Turn the Tables, panels of teens and parents go head to head in a workshop setting, to frankly discuss the issues and challenges each face, and to attempt to reach some common ground. Speaker: Panels of Youth and Adults</p> | Pratt AB |

5:30-7:00 PM

Dinner/Asr

Liberty AB

5:30-6:00 PM

MSA – ISNA Networking Session International Ballroom ABC

Are you a recent college graduate or professional? Come network with other professionals following a panel discussion about connecting professionals to the masjid.

7:15-8:30 PM

Parallel Sessions

| Session # | Session Title/Speakers | Room |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ISNA 8A | <p>TOPIC: Leading by Example Description: Some scholars have mentioned that the best dawah is not that which you preach from your tongues but that which manifests itself in your actions. If we are to be the leaders in society (both within and outside the Muslim communities) we must be willing to lead others by our own examples. Inevitably, this means that we must hold ourselves to a much higher standard than we hold others. Moderator: Ashraf Hasan Speakers: Louay Safi, Bassam Sayad, Iqbal Unus</p> | International Ballroom D |
| ISNA 8B | <p>TOPIC: The Spiritual Compass of Our Hearts Description: Allah says in the Quran “On that Day, neither their wealth nor their children will benefit them; [the only] thing that will benefit them is a sound heart.” How does a Muslim live his life with a “sound heart”? What are the signs of a “sound heart” and how can one attain it. This session will explore routine exercises that Muslims can do to keep themselves connected to Allah at all times throughout their lives. Moderator: Zahir Rahman Speakers: Sahamuddeen Harun, Abu Omar Kabirudeen, Johari Abdul-Malik</p> | International Ballroom ABC |
| ISNA 8C | <p>TOPIC: Strengthening our Marriages Description: Due to our hectic lifestyles, it is all-too-often that days and perhaps weeks go and there is no serious conversation taking place between spouses. Unfortunately, as a result, nearly 1/3 of Muslim marriages fail in the West. How can Muslim couples strengthen the most important bond of all – the bond between themselves – to solidify the foundations for healthy, productive families? This session will explore some of the practical steps that Muslims can take to ensure healthy, long-lasting marriages. Moderator: Ahsun Dasti Speakers: Imam Khalil, Amaara DeCuir , Faizul Khan</p> | Carroll |
| ISNA 8D | <p>TOPIC: Planned Charitable Giving Estate Planning: Securing Your Future. Estate Planning is deeply routed in the traditions of Islam. This panel discussion will bring together legal aspects of estate planning as well as the Shariah component. Experts in both the fields, Estate Planning</p> | POE |

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| | and law, will be on hand to answer your questions. Speakers: Rehan Dawer, M. Yaqub Mirza Moderator: Leslie Belfguira | |
| MSA 7 | TOPIC: Preparing for Ramadan: Getting a Head Start Description: The countdown has begun...or has it? With the blessed month of Ramadan right around the corner, what have we done to start preparing for it? The companions of the Prophet (S) began preparing for the next Ramadan as soon as Ramadan ended. Let's begin now, embracing this time to purify our hearts to achieve the best of this special month. "O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed upon those before you in order that you may attain taqwa." [Qur'an al-Baqarah 2:183]. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Fasting is a shield with which the servant protects himself from the Fire." (Hasan: Ahmad, authenticated by al-Albani in Saheeh ut-Targheeb). Speakers: Sr. Asma Hanif, Imam Javed | International Ballroom E |
| MYNA 5 | TOPIC: Yes, We Can. Ever feel like you're not doing enough in your community to help others? We all want to "increase the peace" but wearing tie-dye shirts with sayings on them like "Stop World Hunger!" doesn't always make us feel like we're really making a difference to better someone's life. There is so much we can do to help people all over the world; all we need is a boost to get started. Can we do it? Yes, we can. Speaker: Asma Mirza | Pratt AB |

8:30-9 PM

Maghrib

Liberty AB

9:00-10:15 PM

Main Session 9A

International Ballroom ABC

TOPIC: Perfecting the Inward to Change the Outward

Description: Allah says that he does not "change the condition of people until they change what is in themselves." In order for us to be effective da'iees (callers to Allah), Muslims must constantly take a "muhaasibah" (an accounting) of their deeds and misdeeds. We must become people of noble character for indeed the Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wasallam) said that "I have only come but to perfect noble character."

Moderator: Br. Ashraf Hassan

Speakers: Imam Javed, Zainab Alwani, Mohamed Magid

9:00-10:15 PM

MSA Session 8

International Ballroom E

TOPIC: Turning the Focus: Strengthening the Ummah through Personal Growth

Description: How many times have you attended a halaqah on strengthening the ummah, say 10...20...30 times? And how much change have we seen? What we fail to realize is that while we are

waiting for change to come about, we can bring this change by working on ourselves. Often times, we forget that the strength for change comes from within each and every one of us. By working on ourselves first, can we begin to work on the ummah.

Moderator:

Speakers: Tarif Shraim, Muneer Fareed

9:00-10:15 PM

MYNA Session 6

LIFE: MULTIPLE CHOICE

Pratt AB

Description: This multiple choice test will decide what kind of person you will become. There are an infinite number of questions. Penalty for a wrong answer varies with each question. Ready? Okay, begin. Question 1: What will you wear today? Question 2: To have breakfast, or to not have breakfast? If yes, what will you eat? Question 3: Will you accept the Prom invitation? We often find ourselves making some pretty difficult choices, some which could conflict with our Islamic beliefs and affect our lives if we accept, but ruin our relationships if we do not. In situations like this, we may think “Why me?” Test-prep is now enrolling.

Speaker: Younus Mirza

10:15-11:00 PM

Entertainment ---

International Ballroom ABC

Native Deen, Khalil, Hammad Hai, Hakim, Ali & Ammar Charaf,
20,000 Dialogues Production Showcase

11:00 PM

Isha

Liberty AB

Monday, May 26, 2008

Room

5:00 AM

Fajr Prayer and Khatira

Liberty AB

11:00 – 1:00 PM

Main Session 10A

International Ballroom ABC

TOPIC: ISNA & You Working Together!

Organizers: Ahsun Dasti, Mostafiz Chowdhury

Participants: MinHaj Hasan, Maqbool Patel, Iqbal Younas, Adam Shaikh, Zahid Khan, Bassam Sayad, Imam Johari, Sahumuddeen Harun, Johari Abdul-Malik, Asma Hanif, Faisal Khan, CAIR, ISNA, Imam Javed, Rafi Uddin Ahmed, Imam Mohammad Magid, MCC representative, Rizwan Jaka, MAS, MSA, MYNA, IIT

1:00 PM

Concluding Remarks – Wrap Up

1:30 PM

Dhuhr

Liberty AB