

RAMADAN

APRIL 2 - MAY 2



M. HASNA MAZNAZI AND SANA MUTTALIB

M. Hasna Maznazi (right) and Sana Muttalib (left) made history in 2015 when they established the first women-only mosque in the U.S., known as The Women's Mosque of America. The place of worship, located in downtown Los Angeles, grew from Maznazi's childhood dream of opening her own mosque. Bolstered by their faith and the egalitarian teachings of the Qur'an, Maznazi and Muttalib set out to make a space that "isn't meant as an alternative to local mosques but as a complementary place where woman can begin to feel empowered." Their goal was to create a place where women feel comfortable and to which male-led mosques can reach out when determining how to best address the needs of congregants equally. Today, The Women's Mosque of America hosts programs focused on community health, intra-faith community building and Islamic scholarship, as well as offers co-ed classes.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is the most sacred time of the year for the 1.8 billion Muslims around the world. The month-long event is marked by the sighting of the new crescent moon and is recognized as a time of self-reflection and piety. Because the Islamic calendar is based on the lunar calendar, major holidays move eleven days earlier each year. The month of Ramadan is determined by a moon sighting committee in Saudi Arabia, who marks the start of the month the day after the committee has spotted the new crescent moon.

The month of Ramadan is a time of spiritual growth. Muslims seek to build a stronger connection with Allah by engaging in selfless acts, praying more, giving to charity and fasting between sunrise and sunset, among other actions. The pre-dawn breakfast of *suhour* takes place just before the first prayer of the day, after which one must fast until the evening meal of *iftar*, which takes place after the sunset prayer. Dates are consumed during *suhour* and *iftar* in honor of the Prophet Muhammad, who broke his fast by consuming dates and water.

(Excerpt from nationalgeographic.com, Biographical information from abcnews.go.com and nbcnews.com, Photo from abcnews.go.com)



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

**FOR MORE ON THE HERITAGE CALENDAR
COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE FOR
EDI AND UNIVERSITY STAFF ADVISORY
COUNCIL, VISIT:**

