

Sakinah Ziyadah Ali

- 08:59:24:23 [Eric Darling]: All right. Got it. Thank you. Thanks, Luciana. Alright, I think we are ready, Tom, when you are.
- 08:59:38:06 [Tom Kohler]: Alright, great. Good morning.
- 08:59:40:23 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Good morning.
- 08:59:42:11 [Tom Kohler]: It is, thank you for being with
- 08:59:43:19 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Us. Thank you all for inviting us.
- 08:59:45:23 [Tom Kohler]: Very kind. I'm gonna begin to ask you a few questions.
- 08:59:49:20 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay.
- 08:59:50:11 [Tom Kohler]: And the first couple three questions are very just kind of straightforward and then we'll get into conversation.
- 08:59:56:13 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay.
- 08:59:57:10 [Tom Kohler]: My first question is if you would give us your full name.
- 09:00:01:04 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay.
- 09:00:01:15 [Tom Kohler]: And if you would also spell it for us, please.
- 09:00:04:00 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay. My name is Sakinah Ziyadah Ali. The first name is Sakinah, S-A-K-I-N-A-H. The middle name is Z-I-Y-A-D-A-H. The last name is Ali, A-L-I.
- 09:00:18:23 [Tom Kohler]: And then could you tell us what your preferred pronoun is?
- 09:00:23:13 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Just Sakinah... just...
- 09:00:26:16 [Tom Kohler]: Probably she or her?
- 09:00:27:08 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah. Just.
- 09:00:28:02 [Tom Kohler]: I'm guessing.
- 09:00:28:12 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah. Yes, she, yes.
- 09:00:31:02 [Tom Kohler]: Great. And then were you born in Savannah?
- 09:00:33:19 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: I was not born in Savannah. I was born in Sylvania, Georgia, but I was raised here in Savannah.

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- 09:00:40:11 [Tom Kohler]: And then do you, where did you go to school? And I mean, all that when you were growing up here?
- 09:00:46:10 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Went to the local schools here. Oh God, you kind of taken me back quite a many years here. Elementary school here. Well, preschool elementary, Anderson Street School when it was a school at that time. Hubert, Wilder, Myers, Savannah High. Graduated from Richard Arnold High School. Yeah.
- 09:01:11:02 [Tom Kohler]: And then could you tell us a little bit about the mosque and, and how you, how you came to, to your faith?
- 09:01:20:10 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: I came to my faith of Al Islam through studying and questions as a youth. You know, growing up as I was born, raised in the Christian Church. So we, you know, definitely went to church every, pretty much every Sunday. And as I continued to get older, there were certain questions that I had about certain things that were presented. And at that point, being young, it was just accept what was there. As I continued to get older. And so I had those questions and presented those
- 09:01:53:13 questions to the leaders of the church. I was not quite satisfied. So around the age of 16, 17, I just started searching, looking for, looking for those answers. So I did kind of just go to different churches. It was Holiness churches, Pentecostal churches, just different churches, religious organizations. Some, it was an... Organization, I can't quite remember. It
- 09:02:23:13 said, Just Believe, I think it was at the time that had a slogan and even looked into there and eventually came into Al Islam. So, yeah.
- 09:02:34:23 [Tom Kohler]: And then where, where is where, where is the mosque? Where, where's your physical location?
- 09:02:39:12 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Oh, physical location is 117 East 34th Street. We are between Abercorn and Drayton.
- 09:02:46:12 [Tom Kohler]: How long have y'all been there, roughly?
- 09:02:47:23 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: We have been in that current location since 1974, if I'm not mistaken. Okay.
- 09:02:56:16 [Tom Kohler]: And then, in broad terms, how big is the congregation membership and, and what's kind of the rhythm of life there?
- 09:03:07:06 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: On paper, we, and I'm certain all churches can say on paper, we have maybe over 200 members on a regular congregational meeting that we have, which is our Friday prayers. We could say anywhere between 50 to 75 persons may come out. Anything else? Yeah.

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- 09:03:33:00 [Tom Kohler]: And then are Friday prayers the one time a week that people gather?
- 09:03:39:15 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yes. As a congregation? Yes. Yes. We do have our five daily prayers that we do offer at the Masjid. Persons can come in during those times to perform their prayers if they like. But on Friday we have our standard congregational prayer that's kind of mandatory for all, at least all Muslim males.
- 09:04:01:00 [Tom Kohler]: And then what sort of, are there ways that the mosque, people that are involved in the mosque, are there ways that you interact with the larger community and have interacted with the larger community over these decades?
- 09:04:16:14 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yes, yes, yes. Even the, this institution that we are sitting in right now is one of those places that we've interacted with on more than one occasions. There have, you know, the colleges - local and some nationally, Georgia Southern, so many institutions, some of the high schools that we have been a part of, programs, the colleges, we've been a part of the pro, you know, programs
- 09:04:47:18 that they've offered, interfaith programs, or religious dialogue. So, yeah. So,
- 09:04:56:07 [Tom Kohler]: And your husband who passed away would've been the, at least to my experience, was sort of the face of the mosque for many, many years. And so it sounds like what you're saying is he wound up on stage Yes. Many times representing the faith Yes. With other clergy leaders and that sort of thing?
- 09:05:15:16 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yes, yes, yes, yes.
- 09:05:17:10 [Tom Kohler]: What about in the neighbor? I'd just be curious. In the neighborhood, you've been there for a long time.
- 09:05:22:03 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yes, yes.
- 09:05:23:00 [Tom Kohler]: Have there been connections that you've made in the neighborhood with other people?
- 09:05:26:11 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: There are
- 09:05:27:01 [Tom Kohler]: People who come to you and ask for help,
- 09:05:29:12 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Right? Yes. So there's, you know, the church across the way from us. There's also there, what, what was a abortion clinic actually across the street from us. And we did try to establish and did, I think, establish a relationship with them, letting them know what our views were on the subject. And we ended up having a very good relationship with them as well. And then other persons, because we do live in our block, is mostly a business block. There are some residential

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- 09:06:03:19 now that's there, but it's predominantly a, a, a business block. But we do service the persons beyond that as well in the community. Yeah.
- 09:06:16:02 [Tom Kohler]: Have there been particular themes I, I guess I would say, or there been particular themes that over the years, it seems like the mosque or people in the mosque have been particularly drawn to, one example might be prison ministry or another example might be food security or whatever. How does that work? In, in, within the mosques?
- 09:06:41:16 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay. Both of those we have with our prison services from my husband, Imam Majid Ali. He also was also involved with the prison services going down to Reidsville, Georgia. The detention centers here, the Coastal Correctional Institution here in Savannah in our present Imam, Imam Ibrahim Abdu Malik, he also serves now at the detention center. So we have been continuously keeping that process going. Trying to
- 09:07:18:00 just share, I think more so with persons who are there of the Islamic faith and others, you know, because we do have persons that are interested. So yes, we do have that. And then on the food security side, we have established a food bag giveaway that we do twice a month. So we service persons in the community. There's no requirement for them. We don't, you
- 09:07:49:06 know, they don't have to attend the services. We don't ask any questions. We just, you know, ask that they be respectful when they come. I mean, they don't have to come inside, but just be respectful to the surroundings and to others. So we've been doing that now since about 2001. Our prison ministry has been going since about, since 1976, 1970, 76, pardon me.
- 09:08:15:19 76, 78, around that time. Yeah.
- 09:08:19:16 [Tom Kohler]: So it was coming up on half a century.
- 09:08:21:23 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah, yeah, yeah,
- 09:08:22:21 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah. Are there other things like this that look just over time, the mosque is just part of the way you live your lives?
- 09:08:32:20 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah, I mean we've been, like I said, involved in def... definitely different programs. We've been called on to address certain issues when they come up. When we have major catastrophes in our society, we have organizations, we have news people to contact us because they want to get either our perspective or just, you know, get our views.
- 09:09:04:06 [Tom Kohler]: And then I want to go back a little bit back toward the personal now if I may, and just ask how, how would you describe the way that your personal faith has changed you as a human being?

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- 09:09:20:21 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: I would say overall it's made me a better human being. I mean, I was relatively young, so not had a lot of world experience. And then I think too, because of my upbringing was raised in the a Christian home with morals, values, respect. So I think it is enhanced those qualities that were there. And then also to keep me from
- 09:09:58:18 going in a direction that would've been probably destructive or not productive for me. So, yeah,
- 09:10:07:01 [Tom Kohler]: You know, as you look back at your upbringing, so that is a Christian, and then you had questions and you began to explore and you found the faith. I would be curious, as you think, what are the common threads though between Christianity and your faith? What are the common, what are the common connectors?
- 09:10:29:03 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: That we all believe in God. That we all want to have paradise. We all want, you know, to go to paradise. That we believe in a supreme being that we want to be good human beings, decent human beings. And I think those, you know, those are the fundamentals, you know, of just worshiping that we all, you know, want, want to be able to
- 09:10:59:06 worship God, you know.
- 09:11:04:02 [Tom Kohler]: Does the faith, do you proselytize, how, how do people come to the faith?
- 09:11:09:21 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: We, I guess we call, we do what we call da'wah work, which is spreading the word like the prison ministry. That's a call, a da'wah effort. Getting the word out to persons. Anytime that we are invited to places, I guess this would be somewhat da'wah, maybe. We get invited to schools, private schools, public schools, colleges. So all of
- 09:11:43:04 that helps get the word out. We do get involved with some of the civic events, you know, set up tables so the persons can be aware of any of the events that we have, Juneteenth, MLK, and the likes. So we set up tables and persons come by and ask questions. We invite them to come by if they like. And then just persons who are Muslims themselves tend to invite
- 09:12:14:03 persons in. So, yeah.
- 09:12:18:08 [Tom Kohler]: In your experience, what, what has been the time when, as a, a faith, as a group of people in the faith you felt the least encouraged in Savannah? Or maybe felt maybe even threatened? Or has that never really been a...
- 09:12:42:07 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: For me personally, I'll have to say I haven't, I mean, in spite of some things that have gone on, I've never felt frightened or afraid or threatened to be who I am, to display who I am. You know? And there have been,

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you know, in... Incidents, but nothing that has shaken me to the point that I, you know, thought... felt fearful. Yeah.

- 09:13:12:22 [Tom Kohler]: And then are you, are you now invited to, I mean, it is my understanding, there are several interfaith, interfaith groups that are organized ministerially. Are you involved in some of those groups? I mean, like, do you know Rabbi Haas?
- 09:13:28:13 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Oh, who does not know Rabbi Haas? (laughs) Yes, yes, yes. One of the programs, and unfortunately, hopefully we can re... get it back again, was our Weekend of Twinning. It started out as a Weekend of Twinning. And please, I can't remember the rabbis, the person that initiated it, but this was something that we did initially with the,
- 09:13:59:22 the synagogue. And then my husband felt that, that not only should we have the synagogue involved, should it just be the two faiths? 'cause that's what it started out as. But to incorporate the Christian faith as well. So we kind of renamed it through Weekend of Tripling. So we had both, all three faiths come together. And there were other faiths that did come into as well. But the three main faiths would come together for a weekend that
- 09:14:29:03 normally that Friday, well, we started Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. And at one point we did go around to each other faith institution and visit and had a lecture just kind of get to know each other. And we would do it, done that for several years. Several years. And unfortunately with COVID, it kind of knocked a lot of things off. So we are hoping that maybe we can kind of get back into that. 'cause it was a very, well, it was always well
- 09:14:56:22 attended either through the, to the masjid to the synagogue.
- 09:15:03:06 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Billy Hester's church as well, I think participated. So, yeah. So it was a very, very good,
- 09:15:11:04 [Tom Kohler]: And this went on for like two years or 15 years, or?
- 09:15:13:17 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: This went on, oh God, that's where I should have looked at my notes more than two years. See, I'm gonna say at least maybe seven, I'm gonna say seven to eight years at least. I could be wrong, could have been more. But yeah, at least seven to eight years. Yeah. That this went on.
- 09:15:39:03 [Tom Kohler]: Well, just to say it, one of the nice things is, is we're talking in decades.
- 09:15:42:09 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay. (laughs)
- 09:15:42:22 [Tom Kohler]: Right. I mean, which is nice. I mean, I mean, we're talking about, I mean, yeah. Doing anything for 10 years.

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- 09:15:48:07 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah.
- 09:15:48:16 [Tom Kohler]: That involves cooperation is to be admired. Let me ask individually, in, in among membership, are there individual members that, that for whatever reasons, seem to be exemplary with regard to how they face out into the community and in terms of the way they contribute to community life, either through volunteer work or through civic work, or possibly even political work?
- 09:16:20:00 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah, we have. So some persons that are involved politic politically, maybe not in a big, big way, but maybe that really stands out and persons that do civic work. Yeah. So we do have those individuals. Yeah.
- 09:16:45:04 [Tom Kohler]: How would you describe a mutual friend of ours, Lester Johnson, who is an assistant city attorney? I mean, how would you describe the role he plays with regard to his faith and in the larger community?
- 09:16:59:15 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Very crucial. I mean, he's very vital, you know, part that, he's that bridge, you know, that we definitely can cross and rely on because he knows persons in the different religious organizations, different religious, social committees, social aspects, and the government as well. So he's a very vital part of that, bridging that
- 09:17:31:04 and bringing in information to us and getting and keeping us involved as well in the outer community.
- 09:17:38:07 [Mickey Youmans]: Can I say, just for a second, that was wonderful, but could, could you start out and just say Lester Johnson and so we know somebody else knows who you're talking about?
- 09:17:50:15 [Tom Kohler]: Yes. Yeah. Okay. So you'll just say, well, Lester Johnson is, and then just go,
- 09:17:55:06 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay. Okay. Okay. So Lester Johnson is a very, a vital part of our community, very vital part of our community. He's a bridge for our social, social events, religious events, political events. He keeps us in the loop, he keeps us in the know of what's going on, helping us keep involved in things, hence this event here, this program, to
- 09:18:33:15 keep us abreast of what's going on. So yeah, he's very, very vital.
- 09:18:38:17 [Tom Kohler]: And then are there other people who, within the congregation, that have certain connections to other parts of the community that really act as those bridges, for example? Possibly,
- 09:18:50:05 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yes. We have Lynn Thompson Hill. She's very vital. She works on several committees at our masjid and she's also a bridge, she's a community activist in her neighborhood in the community, and she keeps us abreast, keeps us informed of things that's going on. Then we also have our Imam,

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Imam Ibrahim Abdul Malik, even though he has to travel from Hilton Head, South Carolina, bless his heart, he does come over

09:19:22:13 to service the prison system here. And he al he's also involved in what's going on in the community. So he keeps us abreast as well. Yeah.

09:19:32:18 [Tom Kohler]: Do you have people that are connected to the medical community here?

09:19:36:10 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: We do have some persons that are connected to the medical community here that do help us and assist us with, you know, getting us information. We don't have as many doctors in our community as we used to have, but we do have some nurses in other persons who work in the medical field.

09:19:59:02 [Tom Kohler]: And then, let me go back to the personal a little bit. You know, if I may as, as you sort of look at yourself as a member of the congregation, I mean, how, how, how do you see yourself as a member of this congregation? What role do you play?

09:20:24:04 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: A member, a servant of God? I try to stay involved in activities that's going on. I also try to help keep the community... community abreast of things that's going on as well. Currently, we are attending or do attend the SEMA/FEMA workshops for religious preparedness on different themes that they have. I tend to attend

09:20:59:12 those events, pass information on to the community. So I try to stay involved in, I think I'm pretty well involved in the community. Yeah, that's all.

09:21:10:05 [Tom Kohler]: Now I don't know about, I'm not, I'm just, I'm fishing here little bit. Okay. But when I was growing up at Mickve Israel Temple, there were always one or two women that were unofficially the mothers of everyone.

09:21:22:10 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Uh huh.

09:21:24:00 [Tom Kohler]: For all the kids, they were the mothers. Is there someone like that at the mosque who really is officially or unofficially like the mother?

09:21:33:03 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Oh God,

09:21:40:01 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: I dunno. Oh God. I, I may call you back and take this out. I would say I tend to try to keep abreast of things that's going on and get information out. I serve on several committees. At

09:22:13:03 the masjid. I serve on the board, the administrative board. So I do have a say in certain things that goes, go on at, our mosque. So I don't, I don't know the term mother figure. I don't, I don't know if I want to use that term or not, but I'll say that in order in, in a way to just be connected

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- 09:22:48:01 and involved and getting information out, I would say I'm one of those persons, I'll put it like that. Maybe one of those persons, I'll just say 1, 1, 1 person. So I don't know if that answers your question or not, but, okay.
- 09:23:03:01 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah,
- 09:23:15:06 [Tom Kohler]: You had mentioned CEMA, you know, FEMA, I mean, are there times congregationally in times of emergency or times of urgency? Are there times when the mosque has had to respond that maybe individual people or individual families
- 09:23:31:21 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Thus far? We have not, like I said, our food bag that we do, we are a emergency agency, so if persons need something in the emergency situation, we will assist. But we are thankful that thus far we have not had to, you know, serve in a capacity of saying shelter any, any, any facility or being in, in terms of that. Yeah.
- 09:24:03:11 [Tom Kohler]: And then let me ask, as you look back into your, again, into your own faith is, are there, is there a particular moment that, that led you into, into, into the direction that you've, you've moved?
- 09:24:25:15 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: It was a process. It was a process. So nothing, I think nothing, no, just particular moment. It was a process, was a learning process, a studying process. I mentioned I had, when I was younger searching, I did attend like the, at the time, the temple, when it was under the Nation of Islam, attended the temple just to see what it was like. But nothing, you know, came of that at that point. So, but it was a
- 09:25:00:03 continuation. It was just a learning process and learning that this is where I was supposed to be. So, yeah.
- 09:25:12:03 [Eric Darling]: Tom, if I may, I had a quick question. I used to work at Cable Seven when it was Cablevision of Savannah. I remember your husband had a program there that he did for quite some time.
- 09:25:22:10 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah.
- 09:25:23:20 [Eric Darling]: That to me always was, it stood out as sort of a community outreach effort. I, I would like it if you could sort of walk us through that and, and other things I may, we may not be familiar with about your husband's legacy in the, in the mosque. I think he sort of was the driving force, right? For so many years. Yes. Yeah.
- 09:25:44:13 [Tom Kohler]: And you can start out with my husband so we
- 09:25:46:13 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Can Okay.
- 09:25:47:14 [Eric Darling]: Yeah. But of course tell Tom not, not me.

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- 09:25:50:14 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah. Okay. So my husband Imam Majid Faheem Ali, who was the Imam at Masjid Jihad for right at 40 years, or a little bit over 40 years, had many programs, initiatives that he was a part of throughout the community. One that comes to mind was the, what we call
- 09:26:21:17 CRAID, which was a Committee to Remove all Racial Images from Divine, from worship. So this was an initiative that was done to get churches just to see, and other religious organizations to see that they didn't need to have a image to worship, that they didn't need that in their churches. So this was, you know, that was something that was initiated here in Savannah.
- 09:26:54:08 Initiative to rid the streets of crime. That was, and I can't remember the acronym for it or whether or not they had an acronym for it, but we had brothers in the community that would go out in crime-ridden areas and, you know, talk about the crime and letting persons know that they should put down the guns and the fighting and the stealing and all the things that were going on. There were de... several television stations, radio
- 09:27:23:11 stations, the late Ben Tucker was a part of that. He saw it what was going on and took, you know, took light to it and made sure that the word got out. There's some other television stations, WTOC, WJCL, WSAV, the names of the persons I can't remember right now.
- 09:27:45:22 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: And then there was the somewhat more of a religious outpouring or outreach of the program, Rebirth... called Rebirth of America. It was a radio program and a television program on Cable Seven here in Savannah for many, many, many, many years. Every Saturday evening, my husband, Imam Majid Faheem Ali would present to the community, different
- 09:28:19:19 views, different aspects of the religion, social ills that we're dealing with, he would address on that program. And it was a great means of, I know we talked about Da'wah, that was a form of da'wah because that was on cable and persons would come up to him, any and everywhere, no matter where we were. Persons would come up, young and old, teenagers... Race the racial
- 09:28:48:18 line that didn't matter would come up to him because they would see him and something that he said would resonate with him. And so this was a form of da'wah. And this went on for many, many years. And even to this day, persons still remember that program that we, you know, had on cable seven and also was a part of the WTOC radio station with Mr. Ben Tucker as well.
- 09:29:17:06 Yeah, yeah.
- 09:29:20:15 [Tom Kohler]: That's a great memory.
- 09:29:21:18 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah,

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- 09:29:24:12 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah. Are there other things you would like to make sure that we know about you, about the faith? About the way the faith is engaged in this community?
- 09:29:39:02 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: The, we are constantly, our community is constantly involved in, there's a organization through Healthy Savannah called the Faith and Health Coalition, and we are a member of that. We are also members of the Congregation and Service, which is an organization that do, does community work. And we've been members of that since about 2008
- 09:30:16:17 maybe. Yeah, 2008. And this is a community organization that goes out in the community that does community work, and of all faiths. So we come together twice a year and actually we have a program session that's coming up in a couple of weeks, and we go out to different, different places, person's, homes, the community, any place that needs help with assistance
- 09:30:46:09 with, you know, painting, cleaning, just to, you know, and, and it's just so much more because we also get together, we are different faiths coming together, many, many faiths coming together and working together.
- 09:31:02:22 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: And this is being seen out in the community. So it's, and it's not necessarily about da'wah, but it's, you know, because we are learning about other faiths as well, and, you know, we should not be amiss, that we are not, we are not beyond, you know, learning about other faiths. So when we come together, we are all learning, you know, we are taking away something from each other. And this is something that we are proud that we are doing. We are also involved with, or have been part of the, I think it was called the Downtown Thanksgiving program
- 09:31:40:01 that's held every year. So we've been a part of that for many, many, many years as well. There have been occasions that we've done the, our Imams, my husband included, has done the inauguration for the mayors and the city, city councilmen graduations at Savannah State University. So we, we tend
- 09:32:09:13 to, you know, be out there and being involved in interfaith dialogue with churches and organizations as well. Yeah.
- 09:32:20:01 [Tom Kohler]: Well it, it, it sounds like the, the, your interfaith involvement and involvement in the community is just so woven in to the experience of the mosques over these decades that it's, I mean, I can imagine it's almost hard to even pull it out and think about it. Right?
- 09:32:42:20 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: You know, it is. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.
- 09:32:45:16 [Tom Kohler]: It's, it it's just part of this how we are.
- 09:32:49:05 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yes.

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- 09:32:50:03 [Tom Kohler]: Part of what we do.
- 09:32:51:04 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: It is, it is. It is. It is. It is. And like I said, just the, the number of churches that we have a relationship with and, you know, it's just, you know, phenomenal. So yeah, we're thankful and the synagogues as well, so, yeah. Yeah.
- 09:33:09:07 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah. Let me check with these guys. And they, they kind of have my back on questions, right. And that sort of thing. Are there things you want to try to get at? Not,
- 09:33:17:19 [Eric Darling]: I guess the, I would just sort of like to hear your perspective maybe on how Savannah at-large responds to, you're in a minority faith in Savannah and how the community at-large had... receives that and what you think the, the challenges and also how the city, you know, might have some unique fabric that holds it together in a way that
- 09:33:48:19 you think, you know, your mosque plays a role in that, but also how they perceive you. Right. So sort of stepping into the shoes outside of the mosque and what that might be from that perspective, I guess sort of just your, your take on Savannah as a religious faith universe, if you will.
- 09:34:07:17 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: I think overall, it's embracing,
- 09:34:11:14 [Eric Darling]: If you don't mind, start it with, bring Savannah into the answer.
- 09:34:14:19 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Okay. Sorry. That's okay. Overall, I think the Savannah community is embracing of the Islamic faith. I think it's getting, you know, better at anything that we do. It's, that's new, you know, we are kind of somewhat reluctant at times to accept. But I think that the more persons learn about the faith in Savannah, then they're more accepting. I'm trying to remember some of the other questions he has. Some
- 09:34:51:13 of the challenges I think is from person's own perceptions that they may perceive that we are trying to change them, but that's, you know, that's not what we are doing or trying to do. Some of the religious leaders in Savannah may have that perception. So we do get that sometime that, you
- 09:35:20:03 know, and we are, you know, we are fine with that. We are not trying to change anyone's religion. We are trying to dialogue. And when we do that, then when we do have, when we are able to sit down and have that dialogue, I think we all come away with a better understanding and a better respect for each other. So yeah.
- 09:35:43:17 [Eric Darling]: Beautiful. Thank you.
- 09:35:44:16 [Tom Kohler]: Good. Well thank you.
- 09:35:47:08 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: You're welcome.

Sakinah Ziyadah Ali

09:35:48:11 [Tom Kohler]: And I'm sorry you were nervous.

09:35:50:00 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Yes.

09:35:51:22 [Mickey Youmans]: You were great. Do you wanna clap the same with the right thing?

09:35:57:12 [Eric Darling]: No, we don't need it. It's fine.

09:36:00:23 [Tom Kohler]: I think word for word that was, is really just right. I mean, we've had people here with lots of words, but you know, word for word. Well, thank you. Really.

09:36:16:20 [Sakinah Ziyadah Ali]: Well, thank you all. Appreciate it. Appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you.

09:36:20:07 [Tom Kohler]: I know you were a little nervous. Yeah.