Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
(Islamic Religious Council of Singapore)

HARMONY CENTRE & AN-NAHDHAH

# HARMONY CENTRE & AN-NAHDHAH MOSQUE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

# COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET



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# FOREWORD

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, and warmest greetings and blessings to all.

As Harmony Centre marks its twentieth anniversary, I find myself thinking less about the programmes and milestones and more about the people who made them possible. For twenty years, the Centre has welcomed people to learn about Islam and the Singapore Muslim community, ask questions, and understand one another better. But buildings and programmes do not create understanding on their own.

**People do.**

I am deeply grateful to the leaders who came before me, to MUIS for its steadfast support, and to our staff, past and present, whose dedication has sustained the Centre through the years. To our docent volunteers, thank you for being the face and voice of Harmony Centre for so many visitors. Your warmth, patience and generosity have turned visits into meaningful encounters.

I am equally thankful to our faith leaders, religious organisations, academics and scholars, community partners and friends who have journeyed with us. Many of our strongest relationships began simply — through a visit, a conversation, a shared meal, or an invitation into one another's communities. Over time, these moments became friendships built on trust.

As Head of Harmony Centre today, I feel privileged to inherit this legacy and conscious that it belongs to many people.

To everyone who has served, supported, partnered with and believed in the Centre over these twenty years: thank you for bringing us this far.

May we carry the same spirit of friendship, humility and openness into our next chapter.

**Muhammad Nasir Johari**
**Head, Harmony Centre**

# FOREWORD

## Honouring Our Legacy, Inspiring Our Future

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Alhamdulillah. As Masjid An-Nahdhah commemorates its 20th Anniversary, we give our deepest gratitude to Allah SWT for His countless blessings, guidance and mercy throughout this remarkable journey.

Twenty years is not simply a measure of time. It represents a journey of faith, sacrifice, service and community — a journey made possible by generations of people who believe deeply in the important role of the mosque in shaping the religious life of our community.

A mosque is more than a place where we gather for prayers. It is where faith is nurtured, knowledge is shared, values are cultivated and relationships are strengthened. It is where individuals find spiritual guidance, families grow together in faith, and communities discover a shared sense of belonging and purpose.

At Masjid An-Nahdhah, this has guided our aspiration to nurture Confident Muslims, Resilient Families and an Empowered Community — Muslims who are grounded in their faith and able to navigate an evolving world with confidence; families strengthened by Islamic values, love and mutual support; and a community empowered to contribute meaningfully to the common good.

## A Legacy Built Together

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we remember with gratitude those who laid the foundations upon which we stand today.

To our past and present Mosque Management Board members, thank you for carrying the amanah of leadership and stewardship. Every generation has contributed its ideas, energy and dedication, building upon the efforts of those who came before and preparing the way for those who will follow.

To our staff and volunteers, you are the heartbeat of our mosque. Your dedication — often quietly given and unseen — has enabled Masjid An-Nahdhah to touch many lives over the past two decades.

Our service is anchored by our #masjidKITA values — Khidmah, Itqan, Ta'awun and Amanah.

Khidmah reminds us that we are here to serve.

Itqan inspires us to pursue excellence in all that we do.

Ta'awun reminds us that greater impact is achieved when we collaborate and support one another.

Amanah keeps us conscious of the trust and responsibility entrusted to us.

These are more than words. They are values we seek to embed in our actions, decisions and interactions — shaping how we serve our congregants, work with our partners and care for one another.

To our congregants, donors, stakeholders and community partners, our heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering trust, generosity and partnership. You have journeyed alongside us, supported our aspirations and enabled us to extend our service beyond the walls of the mosque.

Our achievements over these 20 years belong not to any one individual or group.

They belong to all of us.

## Looking Ahead with Purpose

While this anniversary invites us to look back with gratitude, it also calls upon us to look forward with renewed purpose.

As the needs of our community evolve, Masjid An-Nahdhah must continue to be a mosque that is relevant, welcoming and forward-looking, while remaining firmly rooted in our Islamic faith and values.

We aspire to further strengthen our role as a centre for English-based Islamic learning, providing accessible and meaningful opportunities for Muslims from diverse backgrounds to learn, understand and live their faith with confidence.

At the same time, our responsibility extends beyond the Muslim community. In our diverse Singapore society, we will continue to strengthen our interfaith and social cohesion efforts, building meaningful relationships with our neighbours, community organisations and partners across different faiths and backgrounds.

Through greater understanding, mutual respect and collaboration, we hope to contribute towards a society where our diversity strengthens rather than divides us.

As we embark on the next chapter of Masjid An-Nahdhah, let us continue to serve with Khidmah, pursue excellence with Itqan, strengthen one another through Ta'awun, and uphold our Amanah with sincerity and humility.

May Allah SWT accept every contribution and sacrifice that has shaped Masjid An-Nahdhah over the past 20 years. May He reward those who came before us, bless those who continue to serve today, and guide the generations who will carry this amanah into the future.

### Honouring Our Legacy. Inspiring Our Future. Together.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

**Ustaz Mohammad Fairuz Shah Bin Sudiman**
**Chairman, An-Nahdhah Mosque**

# Our Benefactors / Esteemed Community Partners



# Our Benefactors / Esteemed Community Partners

- Masjid Abdul Aleem Siddique
- Masjid Abdul Gafoor
- Masjid Al-Falah
- Masjid Al-Huda
- Masjid Al-Iman
- Masjid Alkaff Upper Serangoon
- Masjid Al-Taqua
- Masjid An-Nur
- Masjid Assyafaah
- Masjid Assyakirin
- Masjid Darul Ghufran
- Masjid Darul Makmur
- Masjid Haji Mohd Salleh (Geylang)
- Masjid Hajjah Fatimah
- Masjid Hasanah
- Masjid Kampong Delta
- Masjid Khalid
- Masjid Maarof
- Masjid Moulana Mohamed Ali
- Masjid Omar Kampong Melaka
- Masjid Omar Salmah
- Masjid Petempatan Melayu Sembawang
- Masjid Yusof Ishak
- Eskimo Travel
- Hui Hui Cultural Association Singapore Ltd
- Mr Khalid Shukur Bakri
- Mr Ridzwan Abu Bakar

# Our People, Our Passion

*A collection of stories, photographs and reflections from those who have been part of Harmony Centre & An-Nahdhah Mosque's journey.*





## Mdm Hairani Joshi
### Harmony Centre Gallery Curator

Among my fondest memories was the privilege of working with Allahyarham Mufti Syed Isa Semait and Encik Alami Musa to bring the gallery to life — from sourcing historic treasures from Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams, to juxtaposing them with objects from the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia and contemporary pieces found in Singapore.

Twenty years on, I hope Harmony Centre continues to do what it set out to do so beautifully: use the power of objects and stories to build understanding between faiths, and to remind us of what we share as Singaporeans.



# Ustaz Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan
## Former Deputy Mufti

We did not build monuments. We planted trees of trust, so that our children may rest in their shade.

When I look back on these twenty years, it is not the accolades I remember first, nor the ceremonies, nor even the buildings and milestones we marked with such pride. What stays with me, what I carry closest to my heart, is the friendship. Real friendship, patiently built, between faith leaders and communities who chose, year after year, to sit together, to listen, to disagree without breaking, and somehow to grow closer for having disagreed.

That friendship never stayed within the borders of this little island. It reached beyond our shores, to touch hearts across the world. We opened our doors, and friends came from every corner, of different faiths, different tongues, different histories, and every visit taught us something new about ourselves, and about one another. Our differences, I have come to believe, were never obstacles to be overcome. They were doorways into a deeper, shared humanity. And each time we walked through one, we found new reason to lift our hands in gratitude to the Creator.

To know that our hearts had become one, that if one of us was hurt, all of us felt it, is among the greatest blessings I have known. I will carry it, and miss it, for the rest of my days. The years I spent directing the Harmony Centre and overseeing interfaith relations, building trust with faith leaders I have come to call my brothers and sisters in humanity, remain my life's deepest satisfaction. Welcoming leaders and communities from around the world only deepened this gratitude, and taught me something I hope everyone will hold on to: we are not merely a small island, a little red dot. We are a people of big hearts, with a clear vision to serve humanity.

One day, I will return to my Lord, the Creator. And when I stand before Him, I pray to testify that the faith leaders and I gave our best to express our gratitude by honouring this relationship, rooting it deeply, and leaving it behind as a gift for the generations who come after us.

So let us plant this tree together. Its roots sunk firmly into the universal principles and values that all of us share. Let our children see its fruit, taste its sweetness, and be moved, as we were moved, to plant trees of their own, trees whose roots run just as deep, so that this gift of harmony never stops growing. The friendship we planted has taken root. Now it is yours to water, protect, and pass on.



## Hj Zainul Abidin Ibrahim
### Former Director of Harmony Centre

I was the director overseeing Harmony Centre for about 7 years working with heads of Harmony Centre including Capt Haniff, Ustaz Mohd Ali Atan and Ustaz Fazalee Jaafar.

In that time, I also performed docent duties for a diverse group of visitors. I also represented Harmony Centre & MUIS on overseas visits to Australia, Antwerp, Berlin, Doha and Indonesia to share Singapore's model of religious harmony.

I am deeply grateful and have been truly enriched by being part of the journey of building bridges of understanding, trust and peaceful living through my 7-year stint overseeing the Harmony Centre.

The work of the Harmony Centre is even more critical and acutely relevant today in a world where forces that seek to divide are growing bolder and unchallenged. March on to strengthen the bonds of humanity and be a force for good.

# Our People, Our Passion



## Mr Afdzal Ibrahim
### Former Executive of Harmony Centre

People are the very foundation of the Harmony Centre at An-Nahdhah Mosque. Together, our visionary leaders, dedicated staff, vibrant faith communities, and tireless volunteers have built this institution into an icon of interfaith relations, both at home and abroad. While there are countless beautiful moments to choose from, my greatest joy has been the lasting friendships formed along the way. Working hand in hand to co-create a peaceful world has been a profound blessing, and the bonds we share remain our most treasured gift.

As we celebrate 20 years of shared journeys and lasting friendships, I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who made the Harmony Centre at An-Nahdhah Mosque a beacon of unity. May the next chapter bring even greater collaboration, deeper understanding, and an ever-growing family of peacebuilders. Happy 20th Anniversary!

# Mdm Tengku Suhailah
## Former Executive of Harmony Centre




I was 20 years younger when I first became involved with Harmony Centre, fresh out of university and just finding my feet in the working world. Looking back, I realise that I grew alongside Harmony Centre and MUIS, both personally and professionally.

Those early years were a real eye-opener. One of my fondest memories was developing the Developing Conversation Circles together with Guat Kwee See. I was also involved in initiatives such as the Building Bridges Programme, the Abdul Aleem Siddiqui Memorial Lecture series, and later the revamp of the exhibits into Harmony Centre 2.0.

Through these experiences, I learnt about the nuances of different faiths, how people believe, how they experience spirituality, and how faith shapes the way they make sense of life. I also learnt that there is not always one simple answer when responding to questions about faith. Different individuals, even within the same faith tradition, may understand and express their faith differently. That taught me to listen carefully, appreciate different perspectives and respond with greater sensitivity.

Parallel to my work, I was also growing through different stages of life, from a young woman fresh out of university to becoming a wife and mother. As my own life experiences deepened, so did the way I engaged in interfaith conversations. In 2018, for example, I had the opportunity to speak at an interreligious panel on birth, sharing the Islamic perspective alongside people of other faiths.

Harmony Centre was also very much about the people. I grew alongside colleagues such as Capt Haniff, Afdzal, Liyana, Ust Ali, Ust Fazalee, Zaleka and Zainul Abidin, and docents such as Kak Rose, Ramilah, Norliana Hamber, Faqeehah and Saiful, among many others. Somewhere along the way, I made real friends too.

My hope is that Harmony Centre and An-Nahdhah Mosque will continue to be a space where people can meet, discuss difficult questions and thoughts openly, learn from one another, and build genuine friendships across faiths for many more years to come. ❤




# Mr Mohamed Imran Mohamed Taib

## Former Executive of Harmony Centre

Harmony Centre was like my second home back then. We were a trailblazer. We brought together heads, hearts, and minds in interfaith work.

Among some memorable initiatives that I personally felt proud of were the Interfaith Specialist Course and the introduction of the World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration. We were also actively producing interfaith content through publications based on the flagship Abdul Aleem Siddiqui Memorial Lecture Series and the Building Bridges Programme.

More importantly, we built strong interfaith partnerships across all levels: leadership, practitioners and institutions. Harmony Centre is not just a place to visit; it is a hub for those who were looking for open and inclusive engagements and dialogues on faiths in Singapore. My hope is for Harmony Centre to continue building on its past legacy and work with a wide spectrum of partners in today's vibrant interfaith scene in Singapore.

Harmony Centre is the pride of the Singapore Muslim Community as a contributor to social cohesion within our religiously and culturally diverse landscape.

I wish Harmony Centre the best in its new and future endeavours!




# Prof. Reuven Firestone

## Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam; Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, USA and Affiliate Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California, USA

It has been a hectic time, but my tardiness does not reflect my feelings toward MUIS, the Harmony Centre, and an-Nahdhah Mosque. I have observed how these have brought so many disparate people together in true love and caring to show the world that it is really possible for people of difference to retain their unique differences yet share the common joy of being human – together.

As the world seems increasingly siloed and aggressive toward one another, I have found only a few oases where people, despite the tensions and difficulties, bad days and upset stomachs, continue without interruption to strive to instill harmony between people of difference. This is one of those rare jewels.

But more than the institutions that have been constructed, it is the people who founded these institutions to whom I owe my greatest thanks, and those who have come after to continue the vision and push forward despite it all. To all of you, thank you, and much love from far away.



## Prof. Heidi Hadsell

### President Emeritus, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace; Chair, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, United Presbyterian Church, USA

I send my warm greetings and heartfelt best wishes to MUIS, Harmony Centre and An-Nahdhah Mosque as the Centre and Mosque celebrate their 20th anniversary.

I am grateful to MUIS and Harmony Centre for their care and attention to the members of their communities who studied at Hartford Seminary or taught at Hartford Seminary, in its well-known graduate program on Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations. The cooperation with MUIS was critically important in achieving the strength and excellence of the program and also in the success of many of the students in the program.

There is too much to say, but in short, what I remember most and cherish most is the strength and joy of our personal and institutional cooperation, and our friendships. These were for me not only a gift to the students in the program and our institutions but also precious gifts to many of the individuals involved, such as myself. I cherish these memories and inter-religious partnerships and friendships and I always will.



## MDM RAMILAH TOHID
### Longest-Serving Docent of Harmony Centre

Harmony Centre and An-Nahdhah Mosque have truly been my second home since my retirement. Joining in 2006 under Captain Haniff gave me the opportunity to engage with people of all backgrounds, learn about different faiths, and serve the community daily.

Following the loss in 2014 of my late husband, who was the pillar of my strength, I paused participation in Harmony Centre's activities until I was nominated by Ustaz Fazalee in 2015 to represent our community at an interfaith convention in Toowoomba, Queensland. It reopened my heart and brought me back to continue my journey in Harmony Centre.

As we look ahead to the next chapter, my advice and wish for the upcoming generation of docents and volunteers is to always serve with an open mind, an open heart, and complete sincerity. Do not be selective in who you welcome or engage with; do everything with honesty and genuine passion for sharing and connecting with others. May Harmony Centre and An-Nahdhah Mosque continue to be the platform for understanding, unity, and warmth for many years to come.



## Ustaz Muslim Amad
### Docent of Harmony Centre

My passion for interfaith work has grown through good interactions with Harmony Centre (HA). HA gives me lots of opportunities to interact with people of other faiths who share similar sparks of curiosity and respect.

Throughout being a volunteer in HA, I appreciate all the initiatives! Lectures, training sessions, focused group discussions, programmes and attending events of other faiths through HA. Not forgetting Masjid An-Nahdhah with its replica of Masjidil Haram made available in Singapore...inside the mosque!

And I appreciate all partners from the grassroots to the leaders of all 10 faiths through the Inter-Religious Organisation. This effort will always continue as long as we have the spark and plant the interest in every person we meet along the way of life. 😊



# Cikgu Thahirrudin S. Kadarisman
## Docent of Harmony Centre

My journey as a docent at Harmony Centre began with the blessing of Ustaz Md Ali Atan, whom I met in Jeddah while serving as Head of the Singapore Haj Delegation in 2014. I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve in this meaningful role.

Harmony Centre has given me the joy of continuing to teach about Islam after my retirement, engaging students and adults from different countries, races and backgrounds. Each encounter is an opportunity to share, to learn from one another and to nurture greater understanding.

What I cherish just as much is the privilege of working alongside people whose sincerity and dedication I deeply admire, especially the asatizah, for whom I have immense respect. Their commitment has made my time at the Centre all the more meaningful.

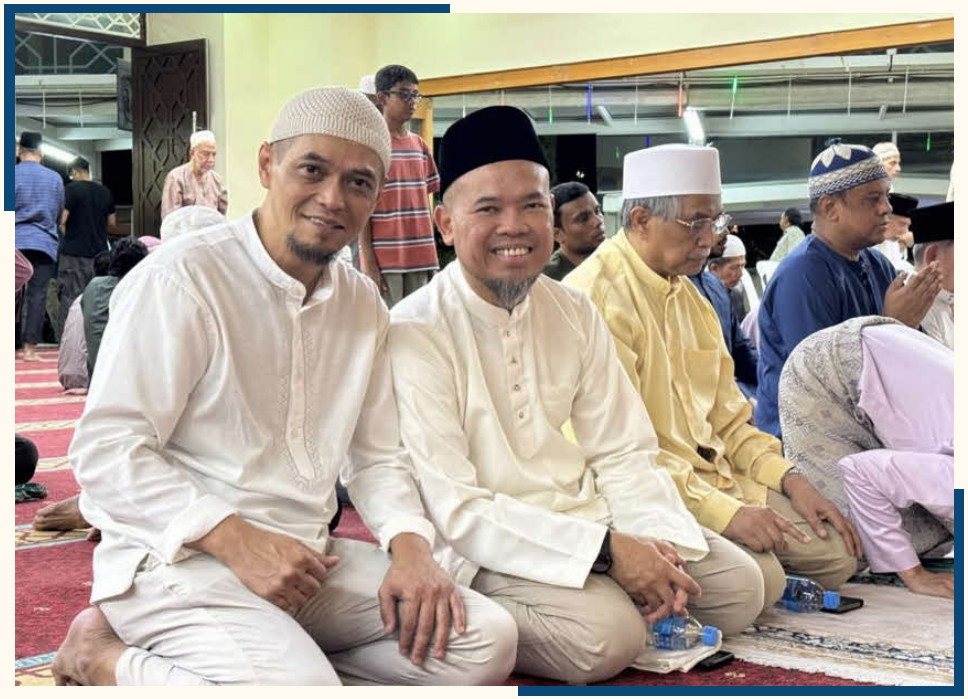
On this special anniversary, I extend my warmest wishes to Harmony Centre and everyone connected with its work. May the Centre continue to bring people together, deepen understanding and inspire friendship for many years to come.

# Our People, Our Passion




## Mr Zulhaqem Zulkifli
### Docent of Harmony Centre

May Harmony Centre continue to be a light and blessing for Singaporeans and humanity, in the present and future.



## Mr Sulaiman Yusop
### An-Nahdhah Mosque Volunteer

From a young age, I have held on to teachings of Prophet s.a.w, which remind us that those who love and remain connected to the mosque will be under Allah's shade on the Day of Judgement. It has strengthened my commitment to serving the mosque and its community.

To me, a mosque is more than a place of worship. It is a place that nurtures the heart, teaches us patience, and brings people together through kindness, care and love for one another.

An-Nahdhah means "the awakening" or "the rising". Over the past 20 years, I have seen An-Nahdhah Mosque grow and flourish as a place that brings people together and serves the community.

May An-Nahdhah Mosque continue to rise, grow and flourish in the hearts of its congregation and the wider community, guided by those who are willing to lead, serve and make a difference.

20 years of rising, 20 years of flourishing, and many more years of serving the community.

# Our People, Our Passion





## Ms Zahrina binte Zakaria
### An-Nahdhah Mosque Youth

My fondest memory is meeting the people who have shaped me into a better version of myself throughout the different stages of my life. From when I was 8 yrs old in 2011, attending aLIVE weekend madrasah during my primary school days, to 16 yrs old in 2019, when I first joined Munawwarin Youth as its youngest member, and now at 23 yrs old, serving as one of the senior members while completing my university journey.

Looking back, I realise that An-Nahdhah has been more than just a mosque to me. It has been a place where I met people who guided me, inspired me, and grew alongside me through the years. Many of the people I have met and memories I have made here have played a part in shaping who I am today.

May Allah reward every soul who has contributed to making the mosque what it is today, and bless every effort, big or small, that has gone into building this community. May Allah continue to let An-Nahdhah Mosque flourish as a place that holds beautiful memories for many others, just as it has held so many meaningful memories for me.

May it continue to be a place where generations grow, friendships are formed, and hearts find their way closer to Allah. ❤

# Our People, Our Passion



## Mr Afiq Bin Zulfa
### An-Nahdhah Mosque Youth

My fondest memory is volunteering at the mosque for korban in 2019!

I wish for An-Nahdhah to continue to be a place where its people grow and thrive as a community. As we juggle different commitments, I hope we find ourselves always coming back to An-Nahdhah.



## Mr Abdul Matin Bin Mustafa
### An-Nahdhah Mosque Youth

This photo was taken back in 2021, the year when I officially joined An-Nahdhah Mosque, Munawwarin Youth Exco.

Before I joined Munawwarin Youth Exco, I participated in their event back in 2018/2019. From there on it grew on me not only because of the event but also the community in the youth and the mosque.

This is such a wonderful experience getting to know others from different backgrounds and also interacting with all the different age groups.

# Our People, Our Passion



## Ms Marjani Iman
### An-Nahdhah Mosque Youth

Personally, An-Nahdhah was where Munawwarin became my first group of masjid friends. When I first stepped in, I only knew Ustaz Luqman, and I remember wondering whether I would really be able to mingle and connect with the other masjid youths.

Looking back now, Alhamdulillah, it is heartwarming to see how much that has changed. From knowing just one person to becoming part of the community and building friendships along the way, it has been a journey I'm truly grateful for.

Some of my fondest memories will always be the simple ones — Ramadan preparations, Friday prayers, Raya celebrations, and spending time together as Munawwarin Youth. These moments may seem ordinary, but they are the memories that made An-Nahdhah feel like more than just a mosque to me.

My wish for An-Nahdhah is that it will always remain a place where people come, feel welcomed, build connections, and leave with good memories.

Personally, my journey with Munawwarin Youth has been a meaningful one, and I hope to continue being part of this community for many more years, inshaAllah. There will always be challenges along the way, but I hope that whatever we face, we continue to find ways to overcome them, learn from them, and become better together.

May An-Nahdhah continue to be a place that brings people together, generation after generation, and may the next 20 years be filled with even more meaningful memories, service and barakah. ❤



## Ms Dilshath Begam
### An-Nahdhah Mosque Staff

As I reminisce about the years of service in the mosque, my heart is filled with gratitude. What began as a professional journey soon became a deeply meaningful part of my life.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to work with dedicated leaders, supportive colleagues, and committed volunteers, all united by a common purpose: serving Allah and the community. The lessons learned, friendships formed, and memories created will always remain close to my heart.

I am grateful for every opportunity to contribute, learn, and grow. The mosque has taught me the value of sincerity, patience, teamwork, and service.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this remarkable journey. May Allah continue to bless our mosque, guide our efforts, and accept our deeds.

*"The best of people are those who are most beneficial to others."*