



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

MAY 2025/1446 (AH) E-NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.29



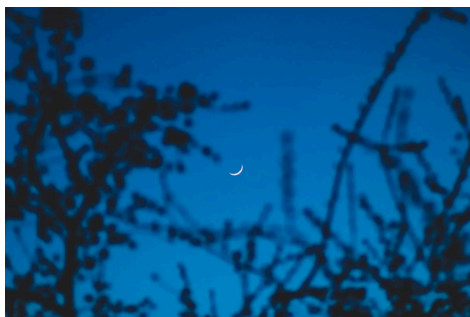
ABOUT THE MAJLIS

In 1990 a group of Philadelphia Area imams and other community stakeholders started the Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley, to perform the prophetic sunnah of *shura* (consultation). It's organized as an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit in the state of Pennsylvania. 'Majlis Ash-Shura' can be translated to mean the consultative body, council, or meeting. Aside from being a consultative body, the Majlis attempts to facilitate Muslims fulfilling their obligations and share best

practices for the area's Masjids. From sighting every lunar month beginning to intervening in conflicts, to organizing visitors for the sick Muslims in facilities, the Majlis has performed an array of services. We invite all Muslims to sincerely work in whatever capacity they can, with their respective talent, expertise, and/or interest.



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HILAAL (CRESCENT MOON/START OF A LUNAR MONTH)

In accordance with the *sunnah* of naked-eye sighting of the *hilaal* (or a lunar month expiring due to having 30 days) and the *fard kifaayah* (communal obligation) of keeping track of time, *as per the Majlis' moon sighting committee, the hilal (new moon) was sighted after sunset April 28, 2025. Therefore, the daylight hours of Tuesday, April 29, 2025 was the 1st of Dhul-Qa'dah 1446.*

MAJLIS MAY MEETING

On May 4, 2025 we held our monthly executive and general meeting at Masjid Muhammad's Islamic Center in Atlantic City, NJ. City Councilman of A.C., Kaleem Shabazz of the 3rd Ward, attended and gave some valuable encouragement on being civically engaged. Masjid reps and/or office holders from Baltimore (MD), Vineland (NJ), and Pittsburgh (PA), were in attendance as well.





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**MASJID AS SABR
& CAMP B.A.A.Y.M
PRESENTS
ALL GIRLS SLEEPOVER**



**AGES 6-16
\$30 PER PERSON**

WHEN: MAY 10- 11

DROP OFF AFTER ASR SALAH

**WHERE: 6106 LANSDOWNE AVE
PHILA PA 19151**

**WHAT TO BRING: A SLEEPING BAG WITH
ATTACHED PILLOW
(DO NOT BRING INDIVIDUAL PILLOWS OR
BLANKETS)
CHANGE OF CLOTHES
TOOTHBRUSH & TOOTHPASTE
NO TECHNOLOGY OR MUST TURN IT IN.**

**WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED?
ISLAMIC TRIVIA
HALAQAH TALEEM CIRCLE
SISTERLY ACTIVITIES
DINNER, BREAKFAST AND SNACKS
HENNAH
JOURNALING AND SHARE OUT
SALAH
ARTISTIC CRAFTS
WHAT IF ROLE PLAY
PRIZES AND MORE**





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Skills, Trades,

Session 3 - 2nd District & Allied Health



Mayor's Office of
Muslim Engagement
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Facilitated by:

Mayor's Commission on Muslim Engagement

Looking for a career-paying skill?

Come learn about:

- Carpentry, Masonry, Behavioral Technician, Dental Technician and many more...
- Open to everyone!

Have a program you want to showcase?

Contact us to set up a table to recruit participants!

Session 3: 2nd Council District

Masjid Ar-Rahman

2611 S. 78th Street

May 16, 2025, 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Remaining Sessions:

June: 13th and 27th

RSVP

<https://forms.office.com/g/HFn2aDp607>

Quaiser Abdullah: muslim.engage@phila.gov 215.625.9782 | @quaisher.muslimengage







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Join us for a special training and strategy session designed for masjid leadership across Philadelphia! This event will equip masjids with the tools to formalize community development efforts, strengthen nonprofit governance, and access city partnerships and funding opportunities.

Seminar **Strengthening Masjids:** CDC Formation & Nonprofit Readiness

Program Includes:

- ✓ What is a CDC & Why It Matters
- ✓ Nonprofit 101: Structure, Boards & Compliance
- ✓ Grant Readiness & Fundraising Tools
- ✓ City Resources & Partnership Pathways
- ✓ Panel: Lessons from Masjids Doing the Work

REGISTER NOW!



<https://forms.office.com/g/YV3a3fGx7Z>

Mayor's Office of
Muslim Engagement
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Saturday, May 17, 2025
9:30am - 12:30pm

4431 Walnut Street (AICP)
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Department of
Commerce
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Quaiser Abdullah - muslim.engage@phila.gov - 215.823.9782 - @quaizer_muslimengage

In the name of ALLAH, the Most Gracious Most Merciful

MAJLIS ASH-SHURA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

• **FUNDRAISER** •
\$25.00 per person to Bowl

Bowling Shoes & Refreshments included in price.

Post Eid Celebration
FIRST ANNUAL

Bowling Party

SATURDAY JUNE 28, 2025
4pm • 7pm



445.220.0598

economic@phillymajlis.com

V&S Bowling Alley • 7232 Elmwood Avenue • Phila.
26 Lanes Available 5 Bowlers per Lane



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Masjid As-Sabiqun's
Institute of Islamic Studies
Presents

MUSLIM MARKETPLACE DAY No Entry Fee!

Come Shop & Support Muslim Businesses! **Saturday June 29th**
12pm-6pm

- * Apparel
- * Home-wares
- * Books/Stationary
- * Jewelry
- * Hennah/Face Painting
- * Desserts/Specialty Drinks
- * Body Care/Butters
- * Halal Food

30+ Vendors!

1105 Concord Avenue
Chester, PA 19013-Masjid As-Sabiqun
Vending Price \$50
Registration Required

LIMITED VENDING SPACE AVAILABLE

Vending Registration Link:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/eed66a87-c788-4baf-9f17-9887536859d8>

Contact for more information & vending
(484) 625-9737
iischesterpa@gmail.com



PRIMARY ELECTIONS FOR THE TRI-STATE AREA

New Jersey

Deadline to register to vote: May 20, 2025

Date to vote in-person: June 10, 2025

Key election(s): Governor of NJ and General Assembly



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Pennsylvania

Deadline to register to vote: May 5, 2025

Date to vote in-person: May 20, 2025

Key election(s): District Attorney for Philadelphia; Courts; Mayor of Harrisburg and Pittsburgh; and more

Key ballot measures to vote simply yes or no: can the City of Pittsburgh privatize their water and sewer systems; can the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter (Philly's municipal constitution) be amended to add an independent Philadelphia Prison Community Oversight

Delaware

Deadline to register to vote: registration is not necessary to vote for the School Board in Delaware

Date to vote in-person: May 13, 2025

Key election: School Board



SPIRITUAL ILLUSTRATION: TAQWA

The Arabic word *taqwa* can be defined as God-consciousness. Moreover, it's an appropriate balance between having fear of Allah's



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just wrath and hope in Allah's pleasure. Its root is *waqaya*, which means to protect, to ward off, to take as a shield, etc.

The spiritual illustration shows a young man with the Quran in front of him, pointing to a mouse and saying, "that's *taqwa*!" The idea is that mice are so afraid that their own actions will cause their demise, that they're very cautious and conscious of their movement. Any moment they can be devoured by something or someone. As we're told to do *nazar*, which in this context is constant observance of our surroundings for benefit, let us be like mice and be mindful of our own actions that can cause us physical, financial, and spiritual harm.



ANTI-SEMITISM

It's mentioned in surah al-Baqarah, verse 187: *...Let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression.* Oppressors take rights away. They can be Muslim or non-Muslim. And of course, their oppression can be exacted on any type of people. In general, any type



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of harm perpetrated against humans outside of self-defense or a legitimate government response (e.g., just war, *qisaas* (retribution) by an Islamic government, etc.) is antithetical to Islam. Therefore, whether a person is Jewish, Muslim, or is an atheist, they should be protected from harm. Moreover, people should feel the utmost safety around Muslims.

With that being said, language is important, as well as narratives.

Anti-semitism can be defined as *“a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*¹ This working definition is non-legal and somewhat vague and misleading, which was adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2016, which America is a part of. IHRA probably shouldn't have used the term antisemitism to ward-off harm done against Jews.

¹ <https://www.state.gov/defining-antisemitism/>

Why? Because the term encompasses those with a semitic background. If we were to say that you can only be Semitic if your genealogy has an unbroken chain going back to Prophet Musa (Moses) (alayhi salaam). Can anyone claim that legitimately? To say that the actors Harrison Ford and Natalie Portman have a direct line to Prophet Musa (as) is dubious at best, and more akin to being silly. In fact, Judaism used to be a proselytizing religion. Meaning, those of the Jewish faith used to seek converts. However, after some Europeans took Judaism as a faith, you needed a Jewish mother to claim being Jewish.

If we were to say that being Semitic is only in relation to fluently speaking a Semitic language, then it's interesting to note that Arabic is the most widely spoken Semitic language in the world.

Maybe one of the reasons some try to monopolize the term, could be to validate itself through language, to the ancient people of Palestine, in order to justify its claims of original land ownership.



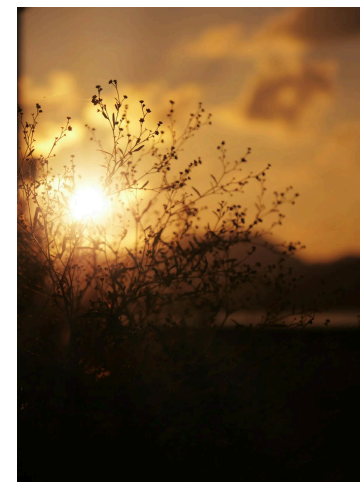
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So whether we're speaking of a pure lineage or language, the term Semitism cannot be limited to those who call themselves Jewish. If there's another term that can be exclusive for Jewish people, that should be presented to the public for clarity. Of course, it doesn't matter whether we call harm to innocent Jewish people antisemitism or something else, it's wrong. This just speaks to the idea that words have meanings, and the monopolizing of terms after they've been defined more broadly is disingenuous and inaccurate to say the least.

Earlier this year, the Justice Department formulated a multi-agency Task Force to combat Anti-Semitism.² Will the agencies reprimand or prosecute institutions (private or public), department heads, individual citizens, businesses, and more, if they are practicing antisemitic and illegal acts against Arabs, Ethiopians, Eritreans, Sudanese, and Jewish people? And for that matter, any person who speaks Arabic?

2

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-formation-task-force-combat-anti-semitism>



ABDUL-MUQEET LEWIS (R)

In April, our brother, Keith 'Abdul-Muqeet' Lewis returned to Allah (swt). A tireless worker within the community. May Allah (swt) bless him with a spacious grave and well-being in the afterlife. And may He (swt) make things easy on brother Abdul-Muqeet's family. Aameen!



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THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA IN ACTION
(below is a partial list of the actions of the Majlis)

2022

- We revamped our by-laws
- We revamped our website
- The Eid committee hosted a fundraiser for the Eid at Kingsessing Rec center
- We started a Telegram (social media) group, which is open to any Muslim
- The Da'wah committee partnered with Masjid Al-Madinah (in Upper Darby, Pa) for a joint event
- We collaborated with Black Muslim Men United for a Better Philadelphia, rallying and marching in the northwest section of Philadelphia, along with local police, calling for action against gun violence
- We condensed the length of our monthly general meetings

2023

- We obtained a corporate office
- We interviewed 8 influential community members



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- We started a monthly e-newsletter
- The Education committee hosted our 1st Islamic School Fair & Expo @ The Philly School District
 - We started an Economic Development Committee
 - We helped to sponsor the first Halal Food Festival in Phoenixville, Pa
- We published a book titled: “*Sex Education in Islam*,” available on Amazon
- We interviewed all the viable candidates for Philly Mayor in 2023, firmly requesting an Office of Islamic Affairs, which in 2024 came into fruition partly due to our efforts
- The Majlis’ Economic Development Committee started to solicit current and/or future community projects with a commercial component and that are serious, in-order to enable the Muslim-community to invest collectively and benefit collectively in a sustainable and beneficial project.

2024

- We partnered with CAIR to have a medical professional, in case of an emergency, for their 2024 banquet in Springfield, Pa
- We hosted three town halls (Philly Masjid, Masjid Muhammad, & Makkah Masjid), in order to hear public concerns and to solicit sincere assistance
 - We started a YouTube page
- The Majlis’ Economic Development Committee researched and presented the Israeli-owned date (the fruit) companies
- The Education committee hosted our 2nd Islamic School Fair & Expo @ The Philly School District in July. The video is available on our YouTube page
 - In July, we started a new Facebook page
- In August, we hosted a zoom presentation on *Volunteering with Ihsaan (Proficiency)*, which was recorded and is available on YouTube
- In September, we interviewed sister Najah Siddiq, one of the founders and organizers of the Philly Halal Food Festival.



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- In November, we held a meeting and brainstorming session in conjunction with the Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Muslim Engagement at City Hall. Attempting to connect many of the Muslim leaders in Philadelphia
- In December, the Women's Committee of the Majlis held a Sister's Circle via phone conference, in order to help create more unity within the Muslim community
 - Imam Farid Rasool, President of the Majlis, gave a talk at AICP in Philadelphia, during their winter *Dawrah*

2025

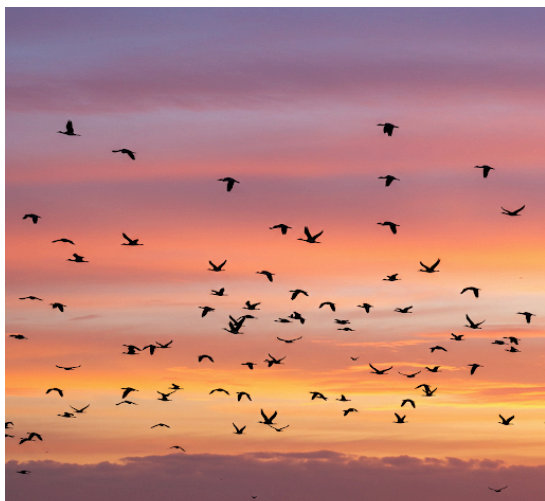
- In January, the education committee hosted their 2nd annual Ramadan and Beyond event. Assisting educators and admins on handling pertinent concerns as they relate to Muslim students.
- In February, the Majlis' Education committee co-sponsored an essay contest

- In March, the Education Committee hosted an *iftar* (fast breaking) in the banquet hall of Masjid Hidayah in Philadelphia. Targeting those directly involved in education.
- In March, the Majlis purchased a full page ad congratulating The International League of Muslim Women
- In March, we changed our address to 4414 Germantown Ave., 3rd flr, suite C Phila., PA 19140
- In March, the Majlis entered a coalition with Universal Muslim Business Association & Nicetown Community Development Corporation

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts



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DU 'AA FOR THE ILL, OPPRESSED, & RECENTLY DECEASED

Please don't forget our brothers and sisters who are going through tribulations (*masaaib*), whether with their health, wealth, familial relationships, physical security, death of a loved one, and so on.

May Allah give those whom He recently called back, jannatul firdaus.

May Allah bless the sick amongst us with well being ('aafiyah) in this life and the next. May Allah ease their suffering, and grant them healing (shifaa) with a speedy recovery. May their sickness/illness be an expiation (kaffaarah) for their sins.

May Allah give relief to all people who are suffering under unjust rulers, governments, or any oppressive entity.

May Allah remedy the affairs of the Muslims, may Allah turn away the evil of the harmful.

Aameen, Aameen, Aameen



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HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE MAJLIS?

For those interested in financially supporting the Majlis' efforts, no matter the amount you can afford, you can send it thru cashapp. *Shukran, Jazaakullah!* Nonetheless, please make *du'aa* for all those working to please Allah (swt).

Cashtag: \$MajlisAshShuraa
[https://cash.app/\\$MajlisAshShuraa](https://cash.app/$MajlisAshShuraa)



Majlis Ash Shuraa
Scan to pay \$MajlisAshShuraa

SUBMITTING CONTENT

If you are interested in adding to the Majlis' newsletter, please be aware of the following rules:

- A. All content must be submitted by the 15th of every month. For instance, if you would like for your submission to be in February's edition, submit content by January 15th.
- B. All content is subject to grammatical and punctual editing. As well as apparent accuracy and suitability for The Majlis' mission & objectives. Further, we reserve the right to postpone your submission for a future edition.
- C. All information should be cited appropriately.
- D. Keep in mind that The Majlis Ash-Shura is rooted in the people of the sunnah and the community (*Ahlus-Sunnah wal-jamaa'ah*). Therefore, we will not showcase any messages rooted in any other religious affiliation, or messages overtly or covertly disparaging the Qur'an, any of the Prophets & Messengers, or any of the Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with them).



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NEWSLETTER INQUIRIES, CORRECTIONS, AND SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO EITHER:

Yasir Uqdah: news@phillymajlis.com

or

Maryam Woods: maryam.s.woods@gmail.com

MAJLIS CONTACT INFORMATION

Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley
4414 Germantown Ave., 3rd flr - Suite C Philadelphia PA 19140
(445) 220-0598

Website: www.phillymajlis.com

Email: info@phillymajlis.com

How to stay in touch with The Majlis?

Subscribe to this newsletter by going to our website and submitting your email address and name. You can also join us in-person at our next general monthly meeting, All this information can be found on

our website mentioned above. And don't forget to follow us on
Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563258563617>

And check out our Youtube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MajlisDelVal>

PHILADELPHIA MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MUSLIM ENGAGEMENT (OME)

Stay in contact with the OME. The office's main objective is to assist in providing needed resources to the greater Muslim community in Philadelphia.

Contact: Dr. Quaiser Abdullah Ph.D (Director)

email: muslim.engage@phila.gov

Address: City Hall 112, Philadelphia, PA 19107

The views and opinions expressed throughout this newsletter are not necessarily the views and/or opinions of the entire Majlis Ash-Shura, its members, or affiliates.



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Any quotes from the Quran or Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) are paraphrased in the English translation. Not to be confused with expert translations or explanations.

