



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

FEBRUARY 2025/1446 (AH) E-NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.26



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.



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 daylight hours of Friday, January 31, 2025 marked the first day of the lunar month of Sha'baan 1446 AH. The previous month of Rajab had 30 days.*



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INTERVIEW KEYNA DRINKS OF S.W.O.J.A.

Please listen to our interview with Keyna Drinks, the founder and president of Still Waiting On Justice Advocates (S.W.O.J.A.), a local non-profit which assists grieving families in navigating cold cases.

Go to our YouTube page @: <http://www.youtube.com/@MajlisDelVal>



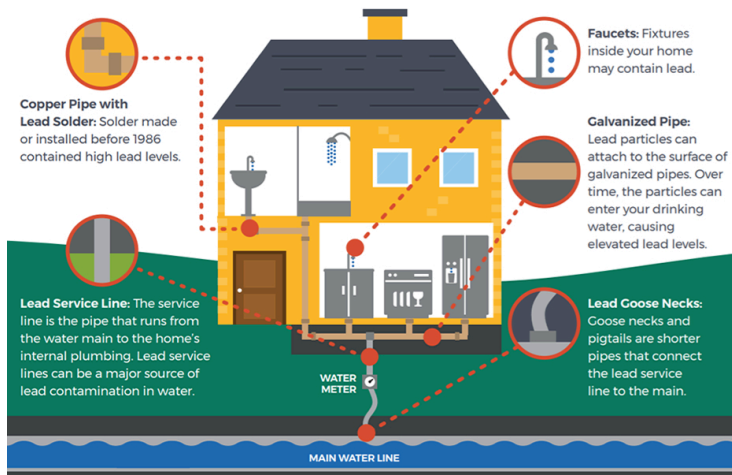
DRINKING WATER SAFETY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gives critical information concerning our residential water service lines and lead, an extremely harmful chemical. There are some simple ways to assess whether your service line pipes, which carry your water from outside your home, are made of lead, copper, etc. To learn more, simply go to:



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<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0>



IMMIGRATION RIGHTS 101

Congressman Dwight Evans published some important information on knowing your rights as they pertain to immigration and interacting with governmental officials. The image to the right can be useful for individuals, families, and Masjid officials.



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Know Your Rights

Immigration Rights & Resources 101*

1: You do not have to open the door
ICE **does not** have the right to enter your home without a valid warrant signed by a judge with your specific and correct name and address on it.

You can ask for their identification through a window, and you have the right to ask for an explanation as to why they are at your home.

2: You do not have to answer any questions
The 5th Amendment gives you the right to remain silent. You **do not** have to answer any questions about your immigration status, place of birth, or criminal history.

3: You do not have to sign anything
You **do not have** to sign any documents without speaking to an attorney.

4: You have the right to speak with an attorney
You **have the right** to speak to a lawyer *and* the right to make a phone call. If you are detained, ICE does not provide attorneys, so try to consult one in advance.

5: Take Action
If an ICE officer is violating your rights (or you witness this occurring), record their badge number and patrol car. Take pictures if needed.

Stay informed so you can assert your rights confidently, no matter the situation!

Be Prepared!

- Identify trusted immigration legal services providers in your area.
- Compile and memorize emergency contact information consisting of family members, lawyers, etc.
- Create a folder of critical documents and let a trusted individual be aware of its location
- Make a family plan. Identify an emergency caretaker for your children.

If you are looking for additional resources or guidance, feel free to contact my office:

☎ (215) 276-0340
✉ evans.house.gov

*Legal Disclaimer: This document is for general informational purposes only. Its contents are not legal advice. If you need legal advice, please contact an attorney.

CONGRESSMAN
DWIGHT EVANS
U.S. House of Representatives

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL
MEDIATION BASED ON ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES, LLC

ESSAY CONTEST

ESSAY QUESTION: HOW DID YOU HELP RESOLVE CONFLICT IN YOUR SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND/OR NEIGHBORHOOD?

RULES:

- MUST BE IN HIGH SCHOOL
- ESSAY MUST BE BETWEEN 400 & 450 WORDS
- SENT VIA EMAIL AS A PDF ATTACHMENT
- NAME, AGE, AND SCHOOL INCLUDED IN EMAIL (NO NAMES ON THE ATTACHED ESSAYS).
- HOMESCHOOLERS ARE WELCOME
- ESSAY MUST BE THE ORIGINAL WORK OF CONTESTANT

SEND ESSAYS TO:
MEDIATIONBIP@GMAIL.COM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 20, 2025

CONTEST AWARDS

1ST PLACE - \$100
2ND PLACE - \$75
3RD PLACE - \$50
4TH PLACE - FREE BOOK: SEX EDUCATION IN ISLAM

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED MARCH 2025

SPONSORED BY

SPRING GOURMET INC. - ISLAMIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION - EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA - MEDIATION BIP, LLC



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State Senator SHARIF STREET
in partnership with
PHILABUNDANCE Driving hunger from our community
 & Office of Muslim Engagement | City of Philadelphia

Driving Hunger Away During Ramadan

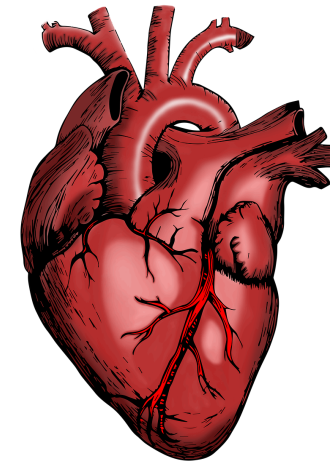
DATES & LOCATIONS – 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday, February 28	Philadelphia Masjid • 4700 Wyalusing Avenue
Saturday, March 1	Norris Homes • 2009 N. 11th Street
Sunday, March 2	Marion B. Tasco Arms • 1300 Lindley Avenue
Monday, March 3	PASSi • 6926 Old York Road
Tuesday, March 4	Richard Wright School • 2201 N. 28th Street
Wednesday, March 5	Opportunities Tower I and II • 1717-1727 W. Hunting Park Avenue
Thursday, March 6	Feltonville Recreation Center • 221 E. Wyoming
Friday, March 7	Masjidulillah Center for Human Excellence • 7401 Limekiln Pike
Saturday, March 8	NewCourtland Apartments at Allegheny • 1900 W. Allegheny Avenue
Sunday, March 9	Gladys B. Jacobs Manor • 1100 Fairmount Avenue
Monday, March 10	Ascension Manor • 911 N. Franklin Street
Tuesday, March 11	Paul L. Dunbar School • 1750 N. 12th Street
Wednesday, March 12	Martha A. Lang Cyber Village • 973 N. 7th Street
Thursday, March 13	Nicetown Courts • 4340 Germantown Avenue
Friday, March 14	ICPIC New Africa Center • 4243 Lancaster Avenue
Saturday, March 15	Guild House East • 711 Spring Garden Street
Sunday, March 16	Susquehanna Village • 1421 W. Susquehanna Avenue
Monday, March 17	Beckett Life Center • 1410 N. 16th Street
Tuesday, March 18	Germantown House • 5457 Wayne Avenue
Wednesday, March 19	Harrison Senior Towers • 1350 N. 10th Street
Thursday, March 20	Warnock Village • 2862 Germantown Avenue
Friday, March 21	Masjid Muhammad • 414 E. Penn Street
Saturday, March 22	Yorktown Arms • 1300 W. Jefferson Street
Sunday, March 23	Philip Murray House • 6300 Old York Road
Monday, March 24	MLK Older Adult Center • 2100 W. Cecil B. Moore Avenue
Tuesday, March 25	Nellie Reynolds Senior Building • 2653 Glenwood Avenue
Wednesday, March 26	John C. Anderson Apartments • 251 S. 13th Street
Thursday, March 27	AFCOM • 2432 W. Lehigh Avenue
Friday, March 28	Masjid Mujahideen • 413 S 60th Street
Saturday, March 29	Philadelphia Masjid • 4700 Wyalusing Avenue

Register at: SenatorSharifStreet.com/Register

Call (215) 227-6161 for more information
SenatorSharifStreet.com

@SenSharifStreet



A DISEASE OF THE HEART

Fulaan (so and so) has a nice car, beautiful home, and has been studying Islam for many years, *hamdulillah*. One person sees that and really wants the same without Fulaan's apparent blessings being



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diminished. However, another person wants the same thing, but with Fulaan's apparent blessings being diminished. The former person's thoughts are what some scholars call *ghibtah*. A type of good envy where one is happy for others apparent success. They actually enjoy seeing others doing well within the *sharee'ah*, And they would like to receive such as well. The latter person's mindset is *hasad*, which is one of the diseases of the heart. A person who thinks this way would like for Fulaan to lose in some form or fashion, big or small. He may even want to be the cause of such loss! The first can be termed good envy, while the second can be called bad envy.

Ideally, we should never in essence wonder or question why Allah (swt) gave someone something, and even worse, think that Allah (swt) erred in giving someone something beneficial. One of the ways to mitigate this disease is to do something good for the person you envy. For instance, make *du'aa* for them, buy them something useful, etc.

May Allah (swt) protect us from covetousness and thinking bad of Him (swt).

Allahumma aameen



WHO AM I?

January 2025 Who am I?:

*I had a very close relationship with my mother.
My father passed away when I was an infant.
I married the granddaughter of 'Uthmaan ibn 'Affan (ra).
It was said that I had photographic memory.
Who am I? Imam Shaafi'i (r),*



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His name was Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Idris. He was one the great tabi-tabi'een scholars. His father passed away when he was very young. In addition to memorizing the Qur'aan and studying with Bedouins, he also memorized the entire Muwatta of Imam Malik. It is mentioned that his wife's name was Hamidah bint Naafi. And as the same with the other 3 great Imams in Islamic history, Imam Shaafi'i had an excellent and very close relationship with his mother. He studied under Imam Malik and Muhammad Ash-shaybaani. He also shared much information with Imam Ahmed ibn Hanbal.

February's Who am I:

Multiple *sahabah*, who participated in the battle of Badr, attended my parents wedding.

At least one of my brothers was a well-known scholar.

People knew me to be a scholar in Islamic law and hadith.

I mastered all the *qiraa-aat* (modes of reciting the Qur'aan) by the age of 12.

Who am I?

InshaaAllah, the answer will be given in the March '25 edition.



INTERESTING STATS

During the recent fires in California, there were approximately **783 incarcerated firefighters working for roughly \$5 a day**. Some of the prisoners may get days taken off their sentence, due to time worked as a firefighter.¹

1

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/la-wildfires-prisoner-firefighter-program-criticism-rcna187436>



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THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA IN ACTION

(below is a partial list of the actions of the Majlis)

On-going

- The moon sighting committee continues to track the moon every month for over three decades

- We've consistently hosted general monthly meetings for the public for over 30 years, and we continue to do such the first Sunday of every month
 - Publishing of a monthly e-newsletter

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



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2023

- We obtained a corporate office
- We interviewed 8 influential community members
 - 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.
- In November, we held a meeting and brainstorming session in conjunction with the Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Muslim



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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.

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts

TELEGRAM POLL



In January, the Majlis' Telegram group was asked two questions. Below are the questions along with their **anonymous** responses:

As our residential drinking water is crucial, do you have a filter that prohibits lead and other harmful substances in your drinking water?

- A. *I don't know! I never thought about harmful stuff being in my home's tap* - 0%
- B. *Yes* - 42%
- C. *No* - 57%



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Why join us on the Telegram app (very similar to whatsapp)?

- It's free!
- You'll receive timely information concerning moonsighting
- You'll be able to participate in our anonymous polls or quizzes
- It's another way to receive the monthly newsletter

How to join? Download the Telegram app for free, then search '**philly majlis**,' click on our group (Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley), then click 'apply to join group.' Very soon, one of the administrators will add you to the group, *insha Allah*. You can click on the link below, or scan the QR code, and follow the steps.



<https://t.me/phillymajlis>



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.



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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.

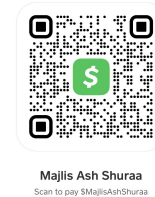
*May Allah remedy the affairs of the Muslims, may Allah turn away the evil of the harmful.
Aameen, Aameen, Aameen*

HOW TO 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)





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MAJLIS COMMITTEES - Below is a list of most of our committees, if interested in assisting, please contact us at info@phillymajlis.com :

Security
Sisters
Da'wah
Civic Engagement
Moonsighting
Education
Islamic Pastoral Care
Economic Development

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
1515 Market street, suite 1200 - PMB #736 Philadelphia, PA 19102

Phone: 267.961.6116

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.

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