



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

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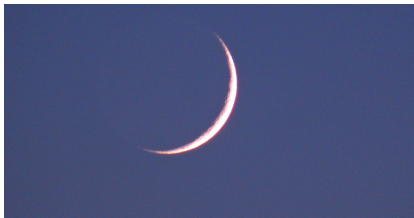
ABOUT THE MAJLIS

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



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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, sunset Tuesday December 31, 2024 and the daylight hours of Wednesday, January 1, 2025 marked the first day of the 7th lunar month of Rajab 446 AH.*



IMAM FARID @ AICP

To listen to Imam Farid, President of the Majlis Ash-Shura, speak at the Association of Islamic Charitable Projects (AICP) of Philadelphia, please go to our YouTube page:

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



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PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Try to follow me on this! There was a Muslim group who organized themselves around abandoning Joe Biden. President Biden got out of the race for Vice President Kamala Harris; thus, the group called for abandoning Harris. There was another Muslim group who encouraged Muslims to write-in on their ballot the term: uncommitted. We found out that they were being funded to some degree by a Democratic group. There was yet another group of Muslims encouraging everyone to vote the Green Party Presidential candidate Jill Stein. As an added

bonus her running mate was professor Butch Ware, who's clearly Muslim. Then we had other Muslim organizations supporting Kamala and some endorsing Trump. To make it more confusing, some of the groups attempted to use the same tactic of the uncommitted group in down ballot elections. Meaning, if you didn't know of a good viable candidate to vote for, they encouraged you to write-in 'uncommitted.'

Did you take all that in? We've shown in the November 2024 election that we're just not ready to be on the same page (let alone the same paragraph, sentence, or word) nationally from a political standpoint. That's not necessarily a bad or evil thing however. Because of our extremely diverse backgrounds and current circumstances, it will be hard for Muslims to vote as a unified group in the foreseeable future, absent some type of national emergency (*Allahu 'alam*).

What was alarming is that too many Muslim leaders voiced their heartfelt and oftentimes warranted feelings in public through various platforms, including social media, **while** dogging other Muslims who had a different political position than them. Which created (or exacerbated) an atmosphere of enmity, dislike, disrespect, and palin-o



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hate. This is why many of our shuyukh and/or Imams in the United States who've been around for a long time, tended to avoid public endorsements on a national level. It can get really sticky backing any candidate, and then pushing fellow Muslims to do the same. So should Muslim leaders publicly endorse national candidates? I don't know. But the public discourse, by those in leadership should be honest, well-intentioned, strategic, and have the ability of providing calmness, not unnecessary agitation against other Muslims who endorse differently. Hopefully in future elections, our leadership will focus more on speaking to other leaders privately rather than using public platforms (e.g., social media). Remember, we're still Muslims.

*May Allah (swt) guide us to that which is right.
Aameen*



COMPETITION

In the beginning of surah *Al-takaathur*, Allah (swt) says: *You are distracted by mutual competition in amassing (worldly benefits).*

Prophet Muhammad (saws) is reported to have said:

By Allah! I am not afraid that you will become poor, but I am afraid that worldly wealth will be given to you in abundance as it was given to those (nations) before you, and you will start competing with each



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*other for it as the previous nations competed for it, and then it will divert you (from good) as it diverted them.*¹

Umar (ra) was known to have competed against Abu Bakr (ra). But it was a competition for rewards in the *aakhirah* (afterlife). And there are more such examples amongst the *sahaabah* (ra) (companions of Prophet Muhammad (saws)). We can call that type of competition invigorating and necessary for any community of Muslims. As it can propel community-members to work hard with the right intentions and sincerity.

Our current condition calls for us to be more appropriately competitive, and dramatically less competitive for all the wrong reasons. Because baseless competition is rooted in materialism. Meaning, people compete for things, not good deeds that will benefit us in the afterlife.

Some of the markers of unnecessary and inappropriate competition are: lack of sharing of ideas, services, or physical assets; strong feelings of dislike towards one another; low or missing desire to work together; and so forth.

How can we be more Islamically competitive? Share more with other Muslims, when and if necessary for the greater good. Find ways to sincerely work with others, and don't emotionally dwell on people's faults. Understand that negotiating is vital to any group effort (e.g., family, business, non-profit, etc.), as no one person can get everything they want.

¹ Sahih Al-Bukhari



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SPIRITUAL ILLUSTRATION

Prophet Muhammad (saws) is reported to have said: *Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim.* (Sunan Ibn Maajah)

May Allah (swt) reward all the seekers of beneficial knowledge, those who teach it, and those who practice it to the best of their ability.

Allahumma aameen!



BILL 9495

Bill 9495 is cited as the “*Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.*” This Bill, amongst other things, proposes to remove the tax-exempt status of organizations who are deemed to have provided material support or resources to a terrorist organization. Keep a couple of points in mind: there’s an ‘*opportunity to cure*’ period in



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which an organization can refute such claims, which is 90 days from the initial notice sent to the organization being accused of such support; 3 years prior to the Secretary's (of the Department of State) notice is what's looked at when determining whether an organization provided material support or resources to a terrorist organization.

The Bill passed the U.S. House November 21, 2024, and was received in the U.S. Senate in December 2024.

While the Bill is still being reviewed by the Senate, people can contact their two U.S. Senators to express their thoughts on the Bill. However, it would be a good idea to read the Bill before contacting anyone:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/9495/text>



Attendance for this event is chiefly Educators, educational support staff, security personnel, and other community stakeholders, who are NOT MUSLIMS. We also invite Muslim students and their parents or guardians (who may or may not be Muslim) to attend this event. If



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you are one of those types of people, please let us know your interest in attending this event by emailing us at: education@phillymajlis.com

Our pre-Ramadan Teach-and Reach is an interactive event, has very limited space, and is only open to confirmed guests. There are still opportunities to be a sponsor. If interested, please contact the above email.



RAJAB 1446

The 7th Islamic month is called *Rajab*, meaning ‘respect’ or ‘awe.’ Rajab is one of the four sacred months, the others being: Dhul-Qi’dah, Dhul-Hijjah, and Muharram. The sacred months are a good time to avoid conflict and increase our good deeds. Let’s make the best of this sacred month by reconciling our differences with family, friends, neighbors, classmates, teammates, co-workers, etc.



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“O Allah! Make the months of Rajab and Sha’ban blessed for us, and let us reach the month of Ramadaan”²



WHO AM I?

December’s Who am I?

I helped some of the as-haab (companions of Prophet Muhammad (saws)) in settling in an area foreign to them.

It was said that a light emanated from my grave after my death.

I was the only child to my parents.

Prophet Muhammad (saws) led my janazah prayer after I passed away.

Who am I?

² Narrated by Ahmad.



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The answer is As-hamah (R) the Abyssinian ruler during the time of Prophet Muahmmad (saws). He was known as the Negus or Najaashi, but keep in mind, that's a title, not a proper name. He allowed some of the sahaabah to safely live in his kingdom. He eventually embraced Islam. And it was said that a light was seen from his grave upon burial. Prophet Muhammad (saws) performed salaatul ghaa-ib (the janazah prayer in absentee). Meaning, the Prophet (saws) was not present with the deceased body of Ashamah (as there are some shar'i (legal) rules pertaining to such), but he performed the prayer as normal. He acted as the wakeel (agent) of Prophet Muhammad (saws) for the latter's marriage to Umm Habibah (ra). He has the curious case of corresponding with Prophet Muhammad (saws) via letters, but according to some opinions, not being considered a sahaabi (companion) because he technically never was in the physical presence of Prophet Muhammad (saws). Worst case he's considered to be amongst the taabi'een (followers). He was the vessel that convinced 'Amr ibn Al 'Aas to go to Prophet Muhammad (saws) to embrace Islam. He did, and 'Amr ended-up being one of the main cogs in Palestine and Egypt being under the banner of Islam. Therefore, in a

roundabout way, As-hamah was a huge reason for later conquests of the Muslims.

January 2025 Who am I?:

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

InshaaAllah, the answer will be given in the February '25 edition of the e-newsletter.



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INTERESTING STATS

According to Pew Research:

The most active 25% of U.S. adult TikTok users produce 98% of public content.³

3

https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/12/20/8-facts-about-americans-and-tiktok/sr_24-12-20_tiktok-facts_5/



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



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- 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 in 2022
- We revamped our website in 2022
- The Eid committee hosted a fundraiser for the Eid at Kingsessing Rec center in 2022
- We started a Telegram (social media) group, which is open to any Muslim, in 2022
- The Da'wah committee partnered with Masjid Al-Madinah (in Upper Darby, Pa) for a joint event in 2022
- 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 in 2022
- We condensed the length of our monthly general meetings in 2022

2023

- We obtained a corporate office in 2023
- We interviewed 8 influential community members in 2023
- We started a monthly e-newsletter in 2023
- The Education committee hosted our 1st Islamic School Fair & Expo @ The Philly School District in 2023
- We started an Economic Development Committee in 2023
- We helped to sponsor the Halal Food Festival in Phoenixville, Pa in 2023
- We published a book in 2023 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.



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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 in 2024 (Philly Masjid, Masjid Muhammad, & Makkah Masjid), in order to hear public concerns and to solicit sincere assistance
 - We started a YouTube page in 2024
- In 2024, 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 2024. The video is available on our YouTube page
 - July 2024 we started a new Facebook page
 - In August 2024, we hosted a zoom presentation on *Volunteering with Ihsaan (Proficiency)*, which was recorded and is available on YouTube
- In September 2024, 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 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*

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts



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TELEGRAM POLL



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

Of the following, which should the Majlis focus on in 2025?

- A. Matrimonial services and support for Muslims that are married - 53%
- B. Muslim youth services/programs - 61%
- C. Muslim senior services/programs - 38%
- D. Adult education - 53%
- E. None of the above - 7%
- F. I'm not sure - 0%

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>



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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

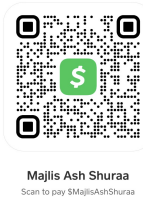


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HOW TO SUPPORT THE MAJLIS?

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)



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



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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).

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

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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



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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.