



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

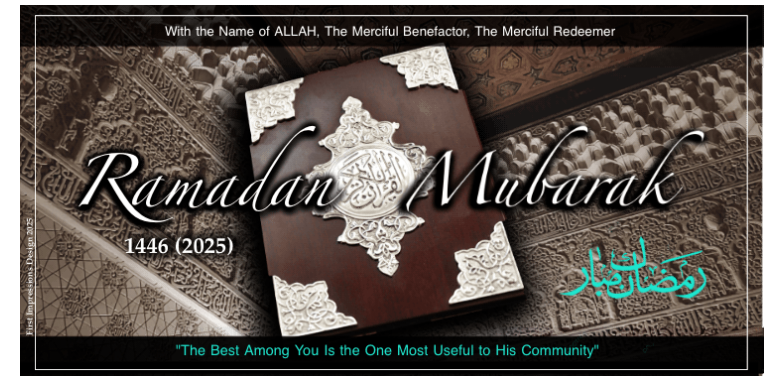
MARCH 2025/1446 (AH) E-NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.27



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*



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(communal obligation) of keeping track of time, *as per the Majlis' moon sighting committee, sunset on February 28, 2025 marked the first day of the lunar month of Ramadan 1446 AH. Therefore, we began the fast on Saturday March 1, 2025.*



SISTER FATIMAH AHMAD

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Surely we come from Allah, and to Him is our return

In February, Allah (swt) called back our sister Fatimah Ahmad (r), one of the pillars in the Philadelphia Area community. A teacher and mentor to many youth. In addition she was the chair of the Majlis sister's committee for years.



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May Allah grant her *'aafiyah* (well being) in the afterlife.
May He forgive all of her sins
May He allow her to enter *jannah* (paradise)
Aameen, aameen, aameen!



ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

In February, Mediation Based on Islamic Principles, LLC (a conflict resolution company), organized an essay contest for highschoolers. The essay question was: *How did you help resolve conflict in your school, family, and/or neighborhood?*



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Nyasia Williams, 14 years old, of Belmont Charter High School (Philadelphia) placed #1 in the contest, winning \$100. Humdulillah! May Allah (swt) give her *tawfeeq* (divine success) in all that she does. Nyasia's essay is below unedited in its entirety (except for being italicized) and with her permission.

The Misunderstanding

It all started on a seemingly ordinary school day when I was in school in my class when my friend texted me that she was going to come to school late, so I replied with an "ok". When class was over she finally comes to school almost 30 minutes later and she looked mad. I walked to her and we both said, "hi" and we walked to class together talking about why she was so mad. But as we were walking to class, she bumped into a girl because we were talking and not paying attention to our surroundings. My friend said, "sorry" but she didn't turn around and say it to her face, so the other girl either didn't hear her or she thought it was disrespectful that she didn't turn to say it to her face. So the girl had pushed her and said, "well you are excused". I

was so confused on why she pushed her. Then my friend said, "don't touch me again". They were going back and forth for a while. I told my friend, "we will be late to class". As we were walking away, the girl was still talking and I told her to "leave it alone". After that situation, school ended and we talked about everything over the phone. I told her, "go to school tomorrow and tell her that you said sorry and how you didn't know if she heard you". The next day came and my friend was going to apologize to her but she changed her mind and said, "no, why am I apologizing again if she didn't hear me". I told her, "well, she didn't hear you so you have to tell her that you did apologize, you just don't hear me". The girl she bumped into walked passed her with a stank face like she was disgusted of her. Once again, my friend started getting smart at her saying mean things and they started arguing. I had to step in and say, "yesterday when y'all bumped into each other, she did apologize, you just didn't hear her. The girl said, "oh well I didn't hear her and if I didn't, she never said it again". Then my friend said, "well you pushed me and I felt that was disrespectful, that's why I didn't say sorry again". Our conversation went on for a while until the bell rung, so the girl asked her "so we



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cool“? My friend said, “yeah, sorry again for the misunderstanding”.
We all left moving on about the situation.

Please support the contests’ sponsors:

The Education Committee of the Majlis Ash-Shura

Contact: education@phillymajlis.com

Spring Gourmet: Homestyle Desserts



Contact: <https://www.instagram.com/springgourmetinc/?hl=en>

Islamic Heritage Foundation



Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/islamicheritagefoundation/>

Mediation BIP, LLC



"A Conflict Avoidance & Resolution Company"

Contact: www.mediationbip.com / mediationbip@gmail.com



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Masjid As-Sabiqun's
Institute of Islamic Studies
Presents

MUSLIM MARKETPLACE DAY No Entry Fee!

Come Shop & Support Muslim Businesses! **Friday April 11th**

- * Halal Food
- * Apparel
- * Books/Stationary
- * Jewelry
- * Henna/Face Painting
- * Desserts/Drinks
- * Body Care/Butters

10-6pm

VENDING SPACE AVAILABLE
Purchase Space Here

1105 Concord Avenue
Chester, PA 19013
Masjid As-Sabiqun

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

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
OFFICE OF THE CLERK



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Muslim eDirectory
ONLINE MUSLIM BUSINESS DIRECTORY

A New Way to find Muslim Businesses & Events in Philadelphia / New Jersey

100% Free Access

Restaurants / Child Care Services / Contractors / Doctors / Lawyers
Vendors / Non-Profits Org / Mental Health Services / Accountants
Clothing / Accessories / Book Stores / Salons / Bakeries
Funeral Homes / Retail Stores / Meat Markets & much more

muslimedirectory.com

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	Masjidullah 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



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PAUSING IN SALAH

Prayer has a few rules or guidelines that help us gain or maintain concentration, as the prayer is a deeply spiritual experience. We don't want to appear as if we're not engaged in communication with Allah (swt), which begets a level of focus and seriousness. Some of the

guidelines/requirements are that we say certain phrases, bow, stand, and prostrate, amongst other things.

One such requirement that can be easily overlooked, is the concept and action of pausing (*mutmainnah*) in the appropriate positions. For instance, when we go into *rukoo'* or the bowing position, even though we may be able to utter certain phrases pretty fast (because of repetition), it's easy to omit pausing for a moment to say certain phrases. Rather than saying them on the way down or not saying them at all! When pausing is performed appropriately, it allows for the body parts to settle into the position desired, making for a more unruffled and calm spiritual experience. If not performed properly, the prayer can look and feel rushed, haphazard, with no sense of focus.



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WHO AM I?

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?

Hafsah bint Sireen (r)

Hafsah's mother and father were Safiyyah and Sireen respectively, may Allah (swt) be pleased with these two companions of the Prophet (saws). It was said that 18 veterans of the battle of Badr, attended their wedding. And that Hafsah mother's (Safiyyah) janazah was one of the largest. Hafsah's mother studied under Abu Bakr (ra) and after he passed, Aishah (ra). Hafsah went on to learn the Qur'aan by the age of 10 and master the other modes of recitation at 12. She studied under Anas ibn Malik & Umm Atiyyah (r). Her brother is no other than Muhammad ibn Sireen (r), one of the great taabi'een scholars, along with Hafsah (r).



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INTERESTING STAT

With federal workers being targeted by the Trump administration, it's interesting to note that according to Pew, 18.6% of federal employees are black, while the black population in the U.S. make-up 12.8%.¹

1

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/01/07/what-the-data-says-about-federal-workers/>



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
- 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
 - 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.



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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 (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

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

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts



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TELEGRAM POLL



In February, the Majlis' Telegram group was asked a question. Below is the question along with their **anonymous** responses:

During the month of Ramadhan what are you intending to focus on for your spiritual health?

- A. *Avoiding unnecessary conversations* - 18%
- B. *Completing the fast to the best of my ability* - 9%
- C. *Avoiding entertainment* - 0%
- D. *Giving more financial sadaqah* - 0%
- E. *Praying more at night* - 9%
- F. *Controlling my anger, avoiding conflict, and mending bad relationships* - 9%
- G. *A combination of the above* - 37%

H. *All the above* - 9%

I. *None of the above* - 9%

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.



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<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.



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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.

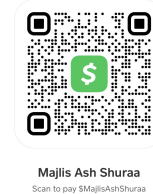
*May Allah remedy the affairs of the Muslims, may Allah turn away the evil of the harmful.
Aameen, Aameen, Aameen*

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.