



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY



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MAY 2024/1445 (AH)

E-NEWSLETTER VOL.2 NO.17

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



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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 April 9, 2024, marked the first day of the Islamic lunar month of Shawwaal 1445.*






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TOWN HALL @ MAKKAH MASJID MAY 19TH

Please join us for our third town hall of 2024. Many topics will be breached in an effort to spark conversation that can lead to specific action. *InshaaAllah*, the style of the town hall will be open dialogue between the audience and the majlis. An agenda, survey, as well as light refreshments will be available for attendees.







THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY
PRESENTS OUR 3RD
TOWN HALL
THE STATE OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

TOPICS ON THE TABLE TO BE DISCUSSED:
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE; MUSLIM UNITY;
SPIRITUALITY; ISLAMIC AWARENESS FOR THE
YOUTH; POLITICS; VIOLENCE;
FOSTERCARE/ADOPTION; EDUCATION; SECURITY; & MORE

WHEN: SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024
LOCATION: MAKKAH MASJID
1319 W. SUSQUEHANNA AVE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19122
TIME: 1PM TO 4PM
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

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WWW.PHILLYMAJLIS.COM



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SPECIAL THANKS

Sister [Fatimah Ahmed](#) has recently stepped down from her position as the chair of the Majlis' sister's committee, as she has been in the trenches educating and organizing Muslims in Philadelphia and Chester, PA., for decades. We would like to thank her for all her years of service to the Muslim community at large, always trying to find a way to move the needle

in the right direction. Fortunately, she'll still be around as an advisor for whomever seeks her assistance.

May Allah (swt) continue to bless sister Fatimah and her family. May He make her example a guide. And may He reward her immensely for all her hard work, whether it was recognized by people or not. Aameen!



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INTERVIEW W/ SHEIKH ANAS MUHAIMIN

In this interview, we spoke with Imam Anas Muhaimin of The Sheikh Nafea Muhaimin Qur'aan Academy and Masjid Quba, in West Philadelphia. We talked about his history with the Qur'aan and more. Let's take a little time out of our schedules and listen to this dialogue, that will hopefully encourage all of us to make the Qur'aan at the core of everything we do.

To listen to the full interview, please click on the link below:

<https://www.phillymajlis.com/files>



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AVOIDING UNNECESSARY VIOLENCE: RECITING THE QUR'AAN¹

Violence is part of the human experience on earth. Whether familial, community, regional, or violence on the international stage. It's a fact that we'll experience it first hand, or know someone who as, if we live long enough. This life has toil, confusion, violence, hatred, and more. But at the same time, love, respect, honor, and decency. Because violence is part of our experience doesn't mean we should embrace it or give in to it. It just means that there's a stark difference between this life (*dunyaa*) and the afterlife (*aakhirah*), whereas with the next life is littered with comfort. As Muslims, we are taught to want the best of both experiences, so there's not an either or. Moreover, we must believe that we need the former in order to get to the latter. There's no other way around it.

All the external and violent phenomena we see from humans are the results of internal disorder. In other words, whatever is going on inside of us

¹ We say 'unnecessary' to leave room for legitimate self-defense, as it's part of our Islamic tradition and something innate for humans to physically protect themselves and their family, in a reasonable way.



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usually shows. Be it hatred, jealousy, envy, negative thoughts, etc. In essence, the diseases of the heart are at the root of many of our problems as humans and they sometimes manifest themselves in violent ways.

So how can reciting the Qur'aan make an impact with regards to violence in our communities? First, we have to accept that the Qur'aan is from Allah (swt), and that he would never leave us without guidance. This guidance is made available in the Qur'aan and life of Prophet Muhammad (saws).

Secondly, we have to read the Qur'aan attempting to be guided, while avoiding any legal judgments, unless we have the requisite knowledge to do such. And we need to read it often, not just during Ramadhaan. Thirdly, we need to practice *tadabbur* or reflecting deeply over what we've read. Lastly, and very difficult at times, we need to implement what we've read and pondered of the Qur'aan, to the best of our ability.

Part of our nature is to be pleased by certain sounds, as it is understood that our ears and hearts are susceptible to captivation. Hearing the Qur'aan and

reflecting on its rhythm and meanings should move us towards being better humans.

Unnecessary violence always starts with individual decisions that are subsequently acted out. If we can do the previously mentioned regularly, while never letting go of the rope when we err, our families, communities, and countries can be less violent. It starts, or continues, with each one of us deciding to sincerely and consistently turn to Allah (swt). Therefore, the Qur'aan's role is significant. If we don't turn to the One who made us, knows us intimately, and has given us specific guidelines on how to comport ourselves. Then who and/or what's leading us?



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EMAIL SCAMS

The electronic age has its advantages. Expectedly, there are some concerns though. Cybersecurity awareness is now a staple for most large and medium size companies, and virtually every government.

In 2022, 75% of organizations experienced types of cyber attacks.² With regards to phishing (a type of email cyber attack), Microsoft, Yahoo, and Google were the most targeted in the same year.³ Therefore, everyone is dealing with this concern. Recently, actors have tried to use the Majlis and its volunteers. One real example should suffice, the actors sent an email to someone within the Majlis requesting money for something apparently beneficial. Interestingly, the email address attempted to be very similar to some of our enterprise email accounts. And further, they posed as the President of the Majlis, with his identical real name and title. To be clear, this wasn't a hack, which is when bad actors gain access to an email

² <https://www.statista.com/topics/8385/phishing/#statisticChapter>

³ Ibid.



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account (in this instance). But there were multiple scams attempting to gain assets.

Be judicious opening and responding to emails. The Majlis' email addresses are posted in this newsletter and website, for people to verify the sender. And if someone is asking you specifically for money, saying they're the Majlis, it's more than likely a scam. Why? If we ask the general public for money via emails, it would be a campaign, with all the particulars. Never just a random asking of money for gift cards, sadaqah, etc., by an official within the Majlis.



WHO AM I?

(the answer and response to the following question will be in June's edition, inshaaAllah)

One time, Allah (swt) sent the salaams (greetings of peace) to me and I did not return them! Who am I?



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THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA IN ACTION

(below is a partial list of the actions of the Majlis within the last few years)

- The moon sighting committee continues to track the moon every month for over three decades
 - We've 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 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
 - We obtained a corporate office in 2023



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- 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 partnered with CAIR to have a medical professional for their 2024 banquet in Springfield, Pa
 - We hosted two town halls in 2024 (Philly Masjid & Masjid Muhammad)
- 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

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts

TELEGRAM POLL



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

In light of the recent shooting at the Eid in west Philadelphia, which best describes your reaction(s) (you can choose multiple responses)?

- A. *Unfortunate things are going to happen at public events, it’s the qadr of Allah - 33%*
- B. *Subhaanallah, no one died! Let’s look at the positives - 33%*
- C. *Now i’m a little nervous or weary about going to some public events - 33%*



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- D. We need more protection at Islamic events - 33%*
- E. I had a feeling something like this was going to happen! - 22%*
- F. Just a sad state of affairs we're in. - 66%*
- G. I hope everyone gets the assistance they need. - 44%*
- H. How are we going to address or continue to address gun violence and our youth? - 55%*



<https://t.me/phillymajlis>

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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DU 'AA FOR THE ILL & 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.

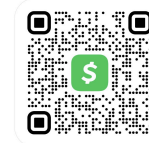
*May Allah remedy the affairs of the Muslims, may Allah turn away the evil of the harmful.
Aameen, Aameen, Aameen*

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. We have a general account and one specifically for the Eid. *Shukran, Jazaakullah!*

Cashtag: \$MajlisAshShuraa

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



Majlis Ash Shuraa
Scan to pay \$MajlisAshShuraa

Cashtag:\$MajlisEidCommittee

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



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COMMITTEE INFORMATION - If you are interested in assisting the Majlis in its efforts, please contact one of the committee heads from the following, to see how you can help.

Amir/President

Imam Farid Rasool - president@phillymajlis.com

Secretary

Brother Bashir - secretary@phillymajlis.com

Da'wah/Vice President

Imam Yusuf Jamaladdin - dawah@phillymajlis.com

Finance /Treasurer

Imam Nadir Asadi - finance@phillymajlis.com

Youth & Education

Imam Khalil Abdul-Salam - khalilsalaam99@gmail.com

Security

Brother Malik Abdul-Salam

Moonsighting

Imam Yahya Abdul-Latif - abdullatifyahya@yahoo.com

Islamic Pastoral Care

Brother Amin Abdul-Aziz - 215.783.9649

Education

Dr. Leo Shoatz - education@phillymajlis.com

Civic Engagement

Imam Suetwedien Muhammad - civic@phillymajlis.com

Eid

Imam Jerry Williford - eid@phillymajlis.com



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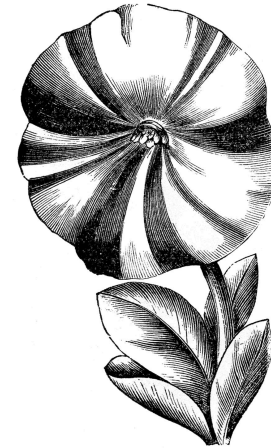
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Communications Assistant

Imam Idris Abdul-Zahir - idriss.abdulzahir@gmail.com

Economic Development

Brother Rafiq Diya Al Fareed - economic@phillymajlis.com





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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

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.