

Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy and *Nawae Zafar* is a monthly bilingual newsletter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of New York. For further information contact:
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بَيْتُ الْوَحْدِ الْعَمِيرِ

Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy

RAJAB—SHA'BAN 1437 AH

MAY 2016

Upcoming Events

May 8th: Regional Ansarullah Ijtema
May 8th: Lajna & MKA Meetings
May 14th–10th: Humanity First Awareness
May 15th: Education Day
May 21st– May 22nd: Lajna Regional Ijtema
May 28th: Khilafat Day @ 4:50 PM

- ♦ Tahir Academy every Saturday 9:30 AM–1:30 PM
- ♦ Dars every Wednesday after Maghrib
- ♦ Book Review every Friday after Maghrib



Mr Amir Safeer, head of the team comprising of Review of Religion visited New York City. Nabeel Munir Sahib showed them around the United Nations and later in the afternoon, they visited Columbia University. Mr Safeer, along with Asad Bajwa Sahib met with the Columbia University's Journalism and Religion Department Head

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For the program at Bait-uz-Zafar, the Masjid was packed leaving a lasting impression. Mr. Safeer shared different aspects of the Review of Religions Magazine, the blessings of Khliafat on the magazine and historical milestones from its initial phase to digital media concept era.

The team recognized the large attendance, good food, but bad audio video. Members, men and women, young and old made a impression. The program was very informative and inspirational.

Tabligh

April 3, 2016 - By the Grace of Allah the Exalted Bait-uz-Zafar hosted a major interfaith conference moderated by a liberal Muslim scholar on Islam - Imam Shamsi Ali. The conference was initiated by recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a moment of silence for the victims of the Brussels and Lahore attacks and proceeded to the main event, speeches by our panel of special guests.

Speakers and Highlights from the event:

David Weprin [New York State Assembly] - Mr. Weprin noted his pride in representing the Ahmadiyya community due to this community's constant struggle in the battle of goodness.

Barry Grodenchik [NYC Council Member, 23rd District] - Mr. Grodenchik praised the community for its peacefulness and efforts in the universe of peace.

Ari L. Goldman [Dean & Professor - Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University & NY Times Journalist] writer New York Times Journalist] - Mr. Goldman exclaimed every religion is inherently peace loving drenched in goodness and shares the same source - God Almighty. It is the fault of man to misinterpret/misrepresent the true and pure religious teachings with evil interpretations and divide people. Mr. Goldman noted his long history with the jamaat and states the real Islam is Ahmadiyya as its teachings are blooming goodness.

Rabbi Bob Kaplan [Director of the Center for Community Leadership at JCRC] - Rabbi Kaplan expressed his pride of our community. He noted terrorists are in essence illiterate and blind to the true teachings of religion, hence the adoption of youth in these terror networks as they are most easily misled with false ideologies and haven't yet developed a solid understanding of religion on their own. Rabbi Kaplan also emphasised the need for various symposiums such as these and others targeting the youth specifically. It's important to reach out and educate our children in all matters of goodness before they're misled by terror organizations.

Richard De Sena [President Universal Peace Federation, USA] - He said he invited Ahmadis because he vouches for their love of peace. States - References all the Holy Scriptures that there are no evidence any violence propagated in these books by God.

Imam Shamsi Ali [Islamic Scholar] - Imam Shamsi Ali noted unfortunately the worst attack is on Islam itself more so than any other religion of the time, hence every Islamic nation is by default in grave danger. He proceeded to claim if the world doesn't attempt to understand the true Islam, it is our responsibility to make clear their misunderstandings and spread this message across the globe. He concluded by praising the Ahmadi Community for its efforts in organizing events of this nature and symposiums for love & peace.

Sara Patel [Avon Representative] - Miss Patel, representing Hinduism spoke on her views on all religions noting even the oldest religion has no share of terrorism within. She vouchsafed the unanimity of the forums theme - peace, love and promoted the need of these interfaith events.

The Tabligh department humbly gives special thanks to all 107 attendees of the event, the Ziafat team for their hard work in preparing a delicious feast for all; Qaid sahib and Majlis Khuaddam-ul-Ahamdiyya for their all their help in making this event possible and Audio/Video team for preserving these memories, lastly a very special thanks to our beloved and highly respected Imam Azhar Hanif sahib. who eloquently addressed the conference's objective, noting this was but one of many events to similar nature to come (Insh'Allah) and should be viewed as the opening of new doors and sealing the age of hate. Imam sahib., explained the opening verses of the Holy Quran making clear Islam is a religion of love, peace, respect, harmony and above all - worship of the One true God. Imam sahib reminded us of Phoenix anti-Muslim protestor who found peace with Islam after being invited into the Mosque, noting our responsibility to love our enemies and invite them in our houses.

By: Abdul Ghafoor

On Sunday, April 24th, 2016, the Lajna membership of the Queens Jamaat held an Interfaith at Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque. The theme for the event was “Sisters in Faith: United We Stand.” This women-only event focused on the unity of women from different faith backgrounds uniting under their shared femininity. Panel members such as Bishop Kirkland, Rev. Chloe Breyer, Remi Alapo, Bushra Butt, and Arti Sood gave brief speeches focusing on the role of women in their respective faiths and the importance of women in religion. The dialogue was led by moderator Farah Ahmed, and there were refreshments after, when audience members were able to speak personally with the speakers.

By: Amatul Hayee Marium

Community Center Interfaith

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, around twenty five members of the Kew Gardens Community Center visited Bait uz Zafar Mosque in Hollis, Queens. The group arrived at 10 am and was received with a warm welcome at the front gates of Bait uz Zafar Mosque.

The Women’s Auxiliary crafted a brief informative program preceded by the adhan (call for prayer) and its translation. The program began with a recitation of the Holy Quran by Khooshnoor Paracha and translated by Mahaam Ahmad. The program entailed a short introduction to Islam, the hallmark beliefs and duties of a Muslim, by Sadia Choudhury. Farah Ahmad spoke about the functions of our Mosque and the activities conducted in the building; she elaborated on the duties of a Muslim, explained the importance of ablution and prayer and she demonstrated salat. The presentation concluded with the mention of the True Islam Campaign and instructions on how to endorse. Finally, the floor was open to a lively question answer session.

Some of the questions asked were regarding the status of women in Islam, purdah, certain prayer postures, the difference between Sunni’s, Shias, Sufis and Ahmadis. Some other questions were: what does the Ahmadi community do regarding women’s rights in foreign countries and intra-faith disagreements. Also, a few questions were raised regarding Khilafat and the Promised Messiah as.

The President of the women’s auxiliary, Queens Chapter, Asifa Mahmood and Farah Ahmad were on the forefront of the question answer session and with the grace of God, all questions were addressed by the time the event concluded.

We wrapped up the program with refreshments where we had the opportunity to speak with our guests’ one on one. The members of the Kew Gardens Community were overjoyed for attending the event.

A guest in the name of Joyce Berger shared that she believes interfaith dialogue is incredibly important. She mentioned that the gathering exceeded her expectations. Ms. Berger extended an invitation to members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for upcoming events.

Another guest, John Batista explained how initially he was afraid to walk into a mosque and that he was incredibly grateful that he attended. He said his eyes were opened and that he is no longer afraid. He was overwhelmed and happy that he attended. Mr. Batista requested that we keep him in mind for future events.

Some guests requested English copies of the Holy Quran and books on Khilafat.

Overall the program was a great privilege for the members of the Ahmaddiyya Auxiliary. May God Almighty grant us endless opportunities to successfully host guests of the Promised Messiah as. Amin!

National Majlis-e-Shura

By: Sadia Choudhury

This year the New York delegation comprised of president Nazir Ayaz Sahib, Ahmad Mubarak, Shueb Abukalam and Bilal Ahmad, who had the opportunity to attend National Majlis-e-Shura on April, 22nd - 24th. Our representatives participated in committees of Tabligh, Tarbiyyat, General, Rishta Nata and Finance and took part in the National Aamilah Elections. Subcommittee members also gave their thoughts and opinions on the floor in front of the entire Shura body.

It was pleasure meeting member brothers from all over the country. The arrangements for Ziafat and meeting hall were excellent, Alhamdolillah. After submitting the proposals and recommendations to Hadhur (aba), the committee will implement Hadhur’s approved proposals at all levels throughout the year, InshAllah.

Lajna Report

The Lajna Meeting began with Tilawat by Amatul Hayee Marium. Following, a Hadith was recited by Afeefa Ahmad before we began the pledge. Afterwards, Sharjila Ahmed recited a Nazm, following the Taleem Program.

Alina Ahmad and Mawaish started the program, speaking about the "Points of Constitution". They explained the basic rules and regulations which Ahmadi women should follow both inside and outside the mosque. Asifa Mahmood, Queens Sadr, then spoke of the duties of a Sadr Sahiba, explaining her own role within the Jamaat and the reasons behind the action of the Sadr.

Next, Farah Ahmed talked about the duties of Secretary Tarbiyyat (her role in the Jamaat). She reminded the Lajna that if any of the youth are traveling astray, it is her duty to point out the wrong and guide them to the right. If the Secretary Tarbiyyat believes that one is negatively affecting the whole, it is her duty to stop the spread of negativity and remind one what is right and what is wrong. Afterwards, Farah Ahmed ended the Taleem Program and began the Tarbiyyat Program in which she focused on the 6th Condition of Ba'it. The 6th Condition states that all Ahmadi must practice what they preach and refrain from harmful ideas, such as lustful inclinations and adultery. This Condition reminds us to maintain our modesty and do good in the name of Allah.

The following program, Benefits of Exercise, was hosted by Sadaf Latif. She spoke of various problems that occur within our bodies after the consumption of large amounts of unhealthy food. She also explained resolutions to these problems, including different exercises which we should try out daily. The next program was about Financial Sacrifices, led by Farkhanda Ahmad. She spoke of her own personal experiences when making financial sacrifices. And encouraged us to pay our dues, being that Allah will provide us with 700 times more blessings.

The Lajna Meeting was concluded with announcements (regarding upcoming Interfaith events) and silent prayer led by Asifa Mahmood Sahiba.

By: Faiza Bajwa

Ameen Ceremony

Throughout the years, 'Ameen' ceremonies have been held by families to acknowledge their child's achievement of finishing the Holy Qur'an, for the first time. These ceremonies were practiced by the Promised Messiah not only to celebrate, but to provide a form of encouragement. For the same reasons, the USA Jamaat annually holds these ceremonies during Jalsa Salana.

Alhamdulillah, the Department of Taleemul Qur'an and Waqf-e-Ardhi will once again be responsible to conduct the Ameen Ceremony, during Jalsa Salana 2016, Insha'Allah. The Department's number one duty will be to ensure that the children who are allowed to participate in the Ameen Ceremony are able to recite the Holy Qur'an correctly. This will be to observe the respect of the Holy Qur'an. To ensure this objective, the Department has established the following rules, and humbly asks parents for their full cooperation. It is mandatory to register your child using the link given below. Only requests submitted through the following link will be accepted.

Ameen Registration will close at end of day April 30th, 2016. Names will not be accepted after the deadline has passed.

The Department will assign mentors/teachers to the registered children. By May 15th, 2016 assigned mentors/teachers will contact parents to listen to the recitation of the registered children. Mentors will schedule mandatory practice time for each child.

It is the parents' responsibility to make sure their child has completed the first recitation of the Holy Qur'an by June 25th, 2016. The mentor/teacher will only help in correcting the pronunciation by reviewing basic rules and listening to short portions. The mentor/teacher will decide by June 20th, 2016 whether the child is ready for Ameen Ceremony or not and will inform parents accordingly.

Again the above rules have been established for the purpose of guarding the sanctity of the Holy Qur'an. Parents are humbly requested to cooperate with the Department and pray for the success of the Ameen Ceremony.

***For more information about Ameen Ceremony, please contact
Naimah Ahmad***

Ameen Ceremony Coordinator

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This month instead of regular majlis monthly meeting local ijtema for majlis Ansarulla NY was held on Sunday April 3, 2016 at Bait-uz-Zafar. The ijtema started with the registration and breakfast and then opening session was chaired by Nazim M. Arshad Janjua sahib who was also sadr sahib representative, the session started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Mohammad Afzal sahib, Ansar Pledge by Zaeem sahib.

The opening address by nazim sahib reminded the present majlis members about the importance of this kind of gathering and presented the importance of the gathering like this; Nazim sahib also reminded to improve on the attendance and suggested that we should let those members who are not present know that they are missing the importance of this blessing. The opening session concluded with the silent prayers and start of the educational competitions. Naeem Mansoor sahib conducted the educational competition with the judges being, Arshad janjua sahib and Mubarak jamil sahib. Members competed in Tilawat of holy Quran from the prescribed verses from the ijtema syllabus and impromptu speech.

The next item of the program after the competition was Talqeen amal presentation which was to discuss the monthly tarbiyyat topic "Cleaning our inner selves" by Nazim sahib and Muhammad Belal Ahmed sahib, while discussing the tarbiyyat exercise they also involved the member present in the discussion as it became interactive with the majlis members about the topic, after that Attah Alahassan sahib presented the health discussion about Obesity, Nazim sahib reminded us majlis goals for this year and prepare ourselves for both regional ijtema in May and national Ijtema in September, how we can improve the majlis position in the national standing, he also took questions from audience and responded to their concerns. This session concluded with the group photograph taken for the ijtema attendee followed by the salat Zuhr and delicious lunch cooked by Nasar Ahmed sahib and his team.

After lunch a brief sports session was conducted Naeem Mansoor sahib as there was another interfaith meeting was schedule in the mosque and we had to vacate the premises. Competition was held in a game of Darts and most of the members from the majlis participated in the events.

The final session was chaired by Nazim sahib and started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and prize distribution was presented by M Arshad Janjua sahib Nazim NY region and assisted by Mahmaood A Bhutta sahib Zaeem NY majlis. After prize distribution Nazim sahib made the closing remarks and thanks everyone for the participation and reminded everyone that he expect to see us all at the regional Ijtema in May and at national ijtema in September. The session concluded with the silent prayers. Total attendees for New York local ijtema were 55 members.

Competition results:**Recitation of Holy Quran:**

1st: Mohammad Afzal
2nd: Mahmood Bhutta
3rd: Naeem Mansoor

Impromptu Speech:

1st: Muhammad Belal Ahmad
2nd: Attah Alahassan
3rd: Naeem Mansoor & Abdul Ghafoor

Darts:

1st: Nasar Ahmad
2nd: Muhammad Belal Ahmad
3rd: Anees Anjum

The statements have mailed to you and it is 6 weeks to end the fiscal year and please pay the past due. Kindly complete your budget in time manner. May Allah reward and bless you all.

The mosque committee visited Bait-ul-Zafar. The members pledge mosque fund for two years (April 2016 – April 2018). Also it is time to pay off the loan for the guest house. May Allah reward your sacrifices.

Marriages

The Nikah of Aizaz Awan to Nohreen Khalid was announced

Congratulations! May Allah bless them and grant them eternal happiness. Ameen

Births

Farida Bashir, daughter of Mr. Iqbal Ahmad and Mrs. Farkhanda Ahmad was blessed with a baby boy.

Congratulations! May Allah bless them and grant them eternal happiness. Ameen

Obituary:

Late Zakia Mahmood Begum Sahiba was born in Bihar province of India in 1929. She was the daughter of Ismail Malik and Mehmoona Khatoon of Patna (Bhagalpur), India. Her father was the son of Dr. Karam Elahi, a companion of the Promised Messiah (as). Her father, Late Muhammad Ismail Malik, was Director of Animal Husbandry (veterinary) for Province of Bihar.

Late Zakia Mahmood was an outstanding student and secured first position in matriculate examinations and did her Bachelor of Arts from Patna University. She received the Gold Medal for her academic achievements. She was married to Seth Ghulam Mahmood, son of Hazrat Seth Muhammad Ghaus of Hyderabad Decan. She was a librarian professional at Stony Brook University.

In 1987, she was appointed Sadr Lajna Imaillah for the New York Jama'at. She served two terms as local Sadr. During that time, she also served as Nazima-e-Ala for Jalsa Salana for two years. For the Jama'at Centenary Jubilee in 1989, she pledged to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra) to raise \$30,000, which he recognized in his speech at Jalsa Salana USA. The \$30,000 was raised and donated completely by Lajna Imaillah New York. \$30,000 in 1989 was considered a very large amount and it was raised in three months.

She also served as Regional Sadr Lajna Imaillah for the Northeast Region as well as National Publications Secretary. She also managed the Bookstall at Jalsa Salana. She became a widow in 1984 and continued her professional work as well as Jama'at work single-handedly. Her home was over 40 miles away from the masjid, yet she would drive by herself for Jama'at work multiple times during the week.

She was always particular in observing Salat and keeping fasts. Her home served as a Jumma Center for several years for the members of Long Island. She is survived by two daughters, Takia Mahmood and Salma Bashiruddin. Her younger daughter, Salma Bashiruddin, is married to Dr. Bashiruddin, who is the grandson of Hazrat Zulfikar Ali Khan Gohar (ra) and Hazrat Seth Muhammad Ghaus (ra). She had two grandchildren, Sarah and Adam. Sarah is beginning her medical residency at Brown University.

Mohammad Sharif Sahib was born on April 11, 1931 in Amritsar, India and settled in New York in 1976 at the age of 40. He passed away on April 25, 2016 at 3 am in Rabwah, Pakistan at the age of 85. He is succeeded by 6 sons and 3 daughters. His eldest son is Tariq Mahmood Javaid who is the Afsar Khazana of Pakistan who was appointed by Khalifatul Masih Waqt. His youngest son is Tahir Mahmood who is an active member of the Queens Jamaat. One of his other son, Hafiz Nasir Mahmood, is a Hafiz-e-Quran. Furthermore, Mohammad Sharif has 31 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Of these descendants, seven are waqf-e-nau. He was the personal body guard of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra) Kumrul- Ambiah (Moon of the Prophet)

أنا لله و أنا اليه راجعون

Inna lillahi wa inna ilahi raji'un

May Allah The Almighty elevate the status of the deceased in paradise and grant Patience to their family members to bear their loss. May Allah grant all the deceased a high status in Paradise. Ameen.