

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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Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy

RAMADAN / SHAWWAL 1435 AH

AUGUST 2014

Eid Mubarak!

NY Metro celebrates Eid-ul-Fitr in Bait-uz-Zafar

August 3rd—Sunday—Ansar, Lajna
Auxiliary meeting at 10:00am.

August 10th—Sunday—Khuddam
General meeting at 12:00pm.

August 10th—Sunday—Education day,
starts off networking, lunch and namaz,
program starts after Zhur prayers. All
students and parents welcomed.

August 15 -17 -Fri-sun Jalsa Salana USA

August 22 -24 Fri-Sunday- Regional
Tarbiyyat Fitness camp - boys & girls ages
10-18. Breakfast at 9:00am, classes start at
9:30am-6:00pm including time for games.

August 29 -31 -Fri-sun Jalsa Salana UK.

August 31- Sunday 8:00am International
Bai'at All members requested to attend.
Breakfast served.

Return Address:

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By the grace of God, Eid-ul Fitr was celebrated on Tuesday, July 29th at Masjid Bait-ul-Zafar in Queens, NY. The Eid Namaz (Prayer), which began at 10:15 AM, was led by Respected Imam Daud Hanif Sahib, Naib Amir, AMC, USA and Missionary New York Metro Region. The attendance at this blessed and auspicious occasion was a record 1700, men, women, and children from all five Boroughs of NY, viz. Brooklyn, Staten Island, Bronx, Manhattan & Queens, as well as the Long Island Jama'at. After the Eid Namaz, Respected Imam Saheb gave the Eid Sermon in which he beautifully explained the objective of Ramadhan, which was purification of self, warding off evil and gaining nearness to God, and proclaiming the greatness of God for His having guided us by revealing the Quran to Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) in this blessed month. After the Eid Sermon, Imam Saheb led us in silent prayers and then wished the whole congregation a very Happy Eid Mubarak.

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The members then greeted one another with “Eid Mubarak” and enjoyed a variety of snacks, tea, cold drinks and sweets. It was a very jubilant occasion with members meeting and greeting one another.

Everybody enjoyed the perfect weather conditions and excellent arrangements which were organized by the Queens and Brooklyn Ziafat Teams, along with the help of Khuddam-ul Ahmadiyya of Brooklyn/Staten Island and Queens Jama'ats. Please remember them in your prayers for all the time and effort they put in organizing this important event.

By: Rafi Ahmed, Brooklyn/Staten Island

Ramadan Report:

This year's Ramadan started on June 30th with the Tarawih prayers led by various members of the Jama'at for few days. Hafiz Saleem Toure came in from France on July 4th, to lead the tarawih prayers with one full sapara (one part) daily. Dars ul Quran took place on a daily and weekly basis.

IFTAR: Iftar was served by the Ziafat department lead by Naeem Sharif sahib. Each Halqa provided for the weekend iftar, while the weekday iftars were provided for by individual contributions.

ITIKAF: Twenty one members of the jama'at participated in this year's Itikaf, 12 females and 9 males. Food was delivered for participants by families who volunteered to prepare the food. Daily Iftar and Tarawih attendance was about one hundred, and weekend participants were two hundred. Many non – Ahmadi also attended Iftar and Tarawih including Palestinian and Arab families throughout the month of Ramadan.

Jumat-ul-Widah was led by Imam Daud Hanif sahib, with about 500 participants. The end of Ramadan prayer was also led by Imam Daud Hanif sahib.

Jalsa Salana USA 2014

This year's Jalsa Salana will again be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, in Harrisburg, PA. Dates: Friday, August 15 - Sunday, August 17

Accommodation Information

Below is the full list of hotels near the Jalsa site with negotiated rates. Some of the discounted rates will expire very soon. Therefore, please make your hotel reservation as soon as possible. For any questions, contact Nazim Accommodation at accommodation@jalsasalana.us

Online Registration will close on Monday, August 11th. For questions, please contact Nazim Registration at registration@jalsasalana.us

Volunteer Registration

Jalsa Salana is an annual success due to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. Please register to volunteer this year below, or by contacting Nazim Hazri Nigrani at volunteers@jalsasalana.us

Contact Information:

Nazim Information: information@jalsasalana.us

Nazim Registration: registration@jalsasalana.us

Nazim Hazri Nigrani: volunteers@jalsasalana.us

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Alhamdulillah, during the month of Ramadan, our Jamaat was given many opportunities to do Tabligh and hold Tabligh events. We started our events on June 22, where a bookstall was arranged in Harlem. The bookstall was up and running for 6 hours and sold many books, some of which included: The Holy Quran, Jesus in India, Salat book, Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge & Truth, CD's of the Holy Quran and many other small books. We also distributed 200 free copies of "Review of Religions" to all those people that came to visit our bookstall as well as 100 copies of our Ramadan, Sehri and Iftar calendar, to all the Muslims that visited our stall.

On June 27, we received an invitation to attend an interfaith program which was held at the United Nations, on behalf of their Islamic organization; our Jamaat was invited to represent the religion of Islam. In this program, there were 37 dignitaries from multiple religious communities who attended the event and were introduced to Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya and our efforts to spread The message of peace throughout the world. At the end of the program, each attendee was gifted two books: 'Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam' and 'Review of Religion - Syria in Crisis.'

On June 28, we distributed over 1,500 copies of the Ramadan Calendar in 14 large shopping centers in the Jamaica area. This year, we were given the opportunity to put over 700 copies of our Ramadan Calendar in local public libraries.

Under the guidance of the 'Muslims for Loyalty' scheme, this year, we held two separate events to celebrate Independence Day - one in our Mosque and one in a local public park. In the Mosque, we had some guests attend from Churches and other large organizations, whereas in the park, we had a greater number of guests. All the guests were served refreshments (at both locations) and were given 'Muslims for Loyalty' flyers. Our Jamaat members decorated the Mosque with lights, banners and the American flag as well as made goody-bags which we're distributed to the children.

On July 15, a group of 7 religious community leaders (Rabbis, Priests, etc.) were invited to the Mosque for Iftar. During the Iftar, we discussed the philosophy behind fasting from both, Jewish and Muslim, perspectives. The guests were very impressed with our Islamic philosophies of fasting but as the Iftar came to a conclusion, we realized that many of the philosophies behind fasting were shared in both religions.

On July 16, the Jamaat was invited to an Iftar dinner at Noor-ul-Islam Academy in Richmond Hill. Two Lajna members, two Ansar and one Khadim attended this event. Our Jamaat was introduced in a very respectable manner and we were also given the opportunity to distribute our Jamaat introduction card which says, 'Muslims who believe in the Messiah.'

On July 20, the Queens borough President, Honorable Melinda Katz was invited for Iftar at the Mosque. She came to meet and interact with our Lajna members and address any questions or concerns that the members may have. Lajna was given full responsibility of her hospitality.

Many other non-Ahmadi guests were also attending our daily Iftar's that we were holding in the Mosque and each guest was very well taken care of.

By: Abdul Ghafoor sahib

Visitors to Bait-uz-Zafar during Ramadan

- Several Non Ahmadies attended Ramadan activities at Bait-uz-Zafar and also contributed towards Iftar.
- Jewish Group attended Iftar on the day of their day of fasting that fell during Ramadan. The group discussed the concept of Fasting in Islam and Judaism. They observed Maghrib prayers while they said their prayers. A special arrangement was made for them to breakfast with koshered snacks which they very much appreciated.
- Borough President Joined Jama'at ladies for Iftar: The Borough president along with Sister Nasreen Ginai, the Hempstead town clerk joined Lajna for Iftar.
- Deputy Ambassador of Mali visited Bait-uz-Zafar: The ambassador joined Jama'at dignitaries for Iftar dinner and joined us for Maghrib Prayers. We had two French speaking members, one Mahmood Daniel and Hafiz Saleem Toure who discussed our Humanity first and Jama'at activities around the world and in Mali. Imam Daud hanif sahib along with others were present. Our PR secretary Asad Bajwa was on hand to receive the guest.

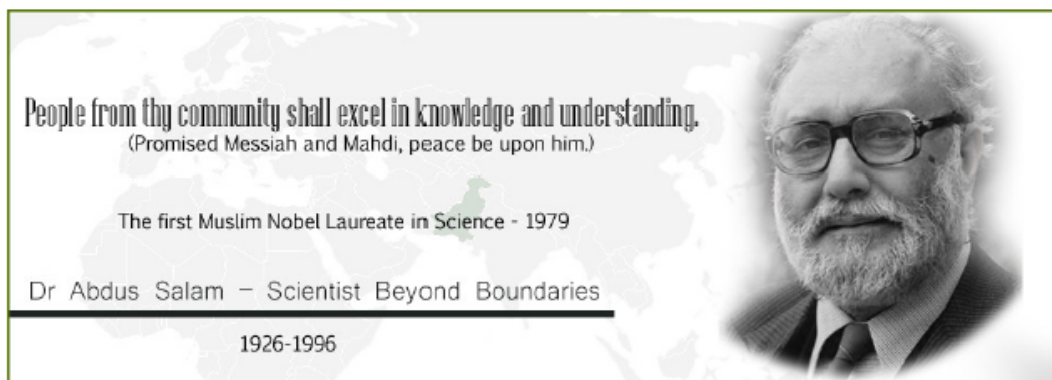
Hulqa changes:

- The Astoria Hulqa has been merged with Elmhurst due to considerable drop in membership.
- The Richmond Hulqa has been merged with Bait-uz-Zafar because of drop in male membership.
- The Bait-uz-Zafar hulqa being the largest will be split into Bait-uz-Zafar and South Queens.
- The Remaining Hulqas, Howard Beach, Flushing and Bayside remain as is.

Abdus Salam Science Fair at the 2014 Jalsa Salana USA

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Instructions and some cool tips



Who can submit a poster?

A male of any age and or any academic level. This includes elementary school all the way up to a full professor. We want you. So go for it.

Do I need to register?

Yes, please register so we can best prepare for your poster and send you further details as they emerge. It should take you about 5 minutes. Go to

www.muslimscientists.org

Where do I bring my poster?

Men's Jalsa Gah, exact location to be announced by email.

Formal walk through on Sat. Aug. 16th, 2014, 2-4 PM

Any guidelines for my poster?

Posters should not exceed 4 feet by 8 feet in total dimension and should be free standing using a trifold. Small-scale props are permitted, but they should not contain any hazardous material. Posters should preferably reference the Holy Quran in some shape or form.

What if I have even more questions?

Good question. Please email or call Dr. Karim Sharif at karimasharif@gmail.com or (646) 379-9204.

The Progress Muslim group joined us for Iftar Dinner:

About 15 members of the group attended Iftar dinner at Bait-uz-Zafar and discussed matters of concern in Islamic world.

Iftar Invitations:

- The Mayor of New York city invited us for Iftar at the official residence of the Mayor, The Gracie Mansion. The Jama'at was represented by our PR secretary Asad Bajwa.
- The Borough president of Queens invited us for the Ramadan celebrations and at this occasion our young girls recited Qasida. Several members of the Jama'at were present headed by Asad Bajwa.
- Tabligh Secretary Abdul Ghafoor sahib attended interfaith Iftar dinner by a Muslim community.
- Tabligh secretary Abdul Ghafoor along with Nazir Ayaz attended a function of multi dominations celebrating Ramadan and distributed Review of religion and gave out to selected dignitaries Teachings and Philosophy of Islam.

Tehrik-e-Jadid

May Allah reward all those who make their payments in the month of Ramadan and before. There were (109) names sent Huzoor (aba) for prayers, for those who were unable to make their payments have until October 25th 2014 to complete your pledges so your name can be added to the final list.

- Jazakallah, Nasir Bacchus

Tarbiyyat:

It was pleasant sight to see so many members come for daily congregation prayers particularly for the evening prayers and even better came along with their loved ones. The challenge is will this trend continue after the Ramadan or the four walls of Bait-uz-Zafar yearn for members to come and fill the rows and enjoy many folds reward by saying prayer in congregation. Is it too much to expect!

Please follow salat timings as in the Jama'at calendar with Isha an hour after Maghrib.

Finance:

Alhamdulillah with the grace of Allah, New York Jama'at exceeded in all three categories, Wasiyyat, Chanda Aam and Jalsa Salana. May Allah bless and reward the sacrifices of all contributors. Let us work to contribute according to prescribed rate and pay our contributions on regular basis.

Our Waqf-e-Nau meeting began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Hammad Bajwa, who recited Surah Al-Baqarah verses 184-185. This was followed by Tashif Ahmed, who recited a Hadith titled, "The Reward of Fasting" from Bukhari. The Nasirat and Atfal Tirana was recited by Muqet Ahmed. Since Ramadan was only a few days away, the theme of our meeting was Ramadan. All of the speeches and presentations were regarding the month of Ramadan.

Our first speaker was Zara Mahmood, who read excerpts from Malfoozat, regarding the importance of Ramadan in Urdu as well as English. Our second speaker was Kamaal Ahmad who made a speech on the blessings and importance of Ramadan, where he explained the basic concepts and etiquette's of Ramadan and fasting. Next, Farhan Ahmad gave a speech on the importance and blessings of Itikaaf. He emphasized on increasing your spirituality during Ramadan and attaining nearness to Allah, especially in the last Ashra of Ramadan which is known as "Itikaaf." Next, Qaasid Bajwa made a speech on Lailat-ul-Qadr. In his speech, he brought up Quranic verses and other Islamic references that explained the importance of this night in detail. The Waqf-e-Nau secretary concluded the meeting by informing everyone that this would be the last meeting until September. He advised everybody, especially the Waqf-e-Nau children, to spend their summer vacation in the remembrance of Allah. He emphasized the importance of observing all five daily prayers and reading the Holy Quran daily with translation so we can understand the message of Allah. Especially in the upcoming month of Ramadan, we should spend as much time possible in the remembrance of Allah and in developing a close relationship with our beloved God. There were 17 Waqf-e-Nau boys and 6 Waqf-e-Nau girls in attendance, along with 23 parents and 15 non-Waqf-e-Nau. The meeting concluded with a Barbecue, prepared by the Ziafat team, and Zuhra and Asr Prayers.

Report by: Amatul Hayee Mariam, Bariah Ahmad

My First Itikaf Experience

My name is Kawser Ahmed, and I'm a member of Queens majlis. This year, I had the opportunity to sit in Itikaf, by the grace of Allah. Sitting in Itikaf has completely changed my way of thinking in life. What is better than getting closer to God and making a friendship and a very close relationship with him? In my perspective, I don't think there is anything better than this in this materialistic world that we live in. I can only say that the past 10 days, were the best 10 days of my life.

My dear brothers and sisters please pray for me so that I can sit in itikaf again next year to get Allah's blessings. Please remember our brother's, sister's, and their families who are in great danger, and also pray that we can make the world a better place.

Manhattan Halqa Report

During the month of Ramadan, the Manhattan Hulqa convened for the iftar traditionally hosted by Ijaz Malik-sahib on 18 July. Participants included Imam-sahib and Sadr-sahib Nazir Ayaz as well as a large turnout of Manhattanites and their families and other guests. Members enjoyed both a delicious dinner, and the spiritual benefit of congregational prayers led by Imam-sahib.

Following congregational Maghrib prayers, Imam-sahib addressed a brief *dars* to attendees and spoke about the requirement and possibilities of Manhattan having its own Tabligh center and mosque. To that effect, Imam-sahib made his own pledge of \$200 dollars towards the new Manhattan Center fund. In the course of the evening, two pledges of \$11,000 were recorded, followed by one over \$5,000.

Hulqa Nigran Ehsan Bouillon is recording the pledges and can be contacted at markusbouillon@gmail.com or +917-689-2846 for further information and to record pledges. When payment is made, members are requested to indicate "Manhattan Center" to ensure funds are contributed to this purpose.

The Manhattan Hulqa also hosted the Jama'at iftari at Bait-uz-Zafar on 19 July, with some members of the Hulqa providing hands-on support in the kitchen and throughout the evening.

By: Ehsan Bouillon

1. Mosque represents the House of God in Mecca about which God says: "Purify My House for those who perform the circuit and for those who remain therein for devotion and those who bow down and fall prostrate in Prayer.' So mosque should always be kept clean and pure for the worshipers. Thus cleaning of mosque and its surroundings is a directive of God and a very meritorious task while littering or spitting in the mosque, on its walls, stairs, elevators or parlors is loathsome and prohibited.
2. One should go to the mosque with a clean body, clothes and pure mind. Performing Wudu (ablution) at home or in the mosque facility before the prayers is obligatory and use of perfume is recommended. The Holy Prophet (saw) has prohibited eating of such food as would produce offensive odors like raw onion and garlic, etc before going to the mosque.
3. One should go to the mosque with dignity keeping normal pace. Do not run or jostle.
4. Upon entering the mosque recite the following prayer *quietly*.

"Bismillahissalato Wassalamo Ala Rasoolillahi.

Allahummaghfir li Zonubi Waftah li Abwaaba Rahmatika".

In the name of Allah I enter. Peace & Blessings be upon the Prophet of Allah. O Allah! Forgive me my sins and open the doors of Your mercy upon me).

5. Entering the prayer hall with shoes/footwear can add dirt to the carpet/mats, and is against the norms. It should not be done.
6. After entering the mosque, one should offer two Nafl as Tahayyatul-Masjid before seating oneself on the floor carpet etc. provided time is available before the congregation.
7. After the Nafl/Sunnah while waiting for the congregational Salaat to begin, the remaining time should be spent in the remembrance of Allah and by invoking Dorud upon the Holy Prophet (SAW)
8. Seating in the mosque should begin from the first row sitting as close to the Imam as possible. In case the first row is full sit quietly in the second, and so on.
9. Every row begins exactly from behind the Imam and spreads on both sides keeping Imam always in the center of the row. Stand shoulder to shoulder leaving no gap between two people and Keep the rows always straight.
10. Gaps in the rows must be filled by person(s) nearest to them. Do not jump over others' shoulders to fill the gap.
11. Passing in front of a worshiper without respecting the line of demarcation is prohibited. In the absence of a line of demarcation, however, leave enough room for prostration of the worshiper and pass beyond that.
12. Religious talks, speeches, meetings & discussions concerning the community or of national interest are permissible in the mosque provided that they do not disturb the worshipers.
13. One should not stand with arms on one's back. To sit in flocks, leaning against walls or spreading out legs while sitting in the mosque is not allowed. Off course the sick & the disabled are allowed to sit as is possible for them.
14. Announcement for articles lost outside the mosque is not permissible to be made in the mosque. Talking about trade, business and the like are also prohibited inside the mosque during Salat (prayer) times.
15. Placing of carved images or hanging of curtains portraying images or photos is not permissible in the mosque.
16. To talk while others are still engaged in Sunnah or Nawafil is not permissible. Likewise making noise or behaving in a manner as may distract or disturb the worshipers is not permitted in the mosque.
17. Ladies accompanying babies and infants should remain in the room allocated for the purpose. Young children should not be left unattended at any time by respective guardians for reasons of safety and security as well as to ensure smooth and quiet act of worship.
18. After completion of the obligatory prayers *Tasbihaat* should be offered i.e. one should quietly utter 'Subhanallah', 'Alhamdolillah and 'Allaho-Akbar' 33 times each and it should be concluded with 'La Ilaha illallah'. The remaining Sunnah/Nafl should then be offered.
19. Conversation, after completion of obligatory Prayers and Sunnahs, is permitted. Language media should be understood by all present. Worshipers should introduce themselves to others to increase circle of acquaintance and brotherhood, especially with new faces. Be cheerful and extend cordial welcome to strengthen mutual relationships. Ladies should adopt a similar approach in their section to enlarge and strengthen sisterhood especially with the new comers.
20. Upon leaving the mosque following prayer should be offered quietly.

Bismillahissalato Wassalamo Ala Rasoolillahi.

Allahummaghfir li Zonubi Waftah li Abwaaba Fadhlika.

(In the name of Allah I enter here. Peace & Blessings be upon the Prophet of Allah. O Allah! Forgive me my sins and open the doors of Your bounties upon me).

Additional Etiquettes for Jumu'ah Friday Prayers

1. Taking bath before the Jumu'a prayers is a tradition of the Holy Prophet (saw) and he has also emphasized it greatly.
2. Arriving at the mosque early is much more blessed than coming late. The Holy Prophet (saw) said, "He who arrives at the mosque for Jumu'a in the earliest hour earns reward equivalent to the sacrifice of a camel; the one coming next earns the reward of slaughtering a cow; after that of a goat; after that of a hen, and after that of an egg." (*Al Bukhari and Muslim*)
3. Scholars and learned people should sit closest to the Imam.
4. Sermon of the Imam on Jumma is a part of prayers therefore, observe complete silence, listen to the sermon attentively and act upon any advice rendered therein consciously.
5. Talking during the sermons is strictly prohibited. Even asking someone to stay quiet is not allowed. It should be done only with a quiet gesture.
6. Disturbance in the mosque in any way is prohibited. These days Cellular/mobile Phones have become a source of disturbance. They should be put off before entering the mosque hall. They should not be even on vibrators mode because in some cases it may jump to sound mode and become nuisance for the owners and certainly will be very annoying to some worshippers. It definitely interferes with & spoils the concentration in the prayer.
- 7- Those who forget to turn off their phone before entering the mosque hall and it starts ringing when they are in prayer alone or in congregation, it should be shut down immediately. Shutting it down does not spoil one's prayer while not doing so does spoil it. Same is the case of a baby who starts crying and is uncontrollable. In such case the guardian/parent should stop their prayer and take the child out of the prayer hall and have him calm down and then resume their prayer service provided the child permits her/ him to do so. Otherwise offer prayer later on.
8. A space vacated by someone temporarily, for some urgent need, but has the intention to return should not be occupied by others hastily.
- 9- Every one should remember that the time spent in the mosque while observing etiquettes is rewarded and counted as spent in the worship.

Side events at Jalsa Salana USA:

- The medical doctors Association to hold elections.
- The Dr. Salaam science completion. Those interested may take their project for display and it will be evaluated.
- Rishta Nata department will hold event for those interested in rishtas for their relations.
- Humanity First USA will have special booth celebrating 10th year anniversary.

Watch for other events:

- Make yourself available for Volunteer service at the Jalsa, Ladies contact sadr Lajna, for Review of religion desk, contact Faiza Bajwa, for Zaifath contact Mohammad Ahmad Chaudhry, for Kaqmate Kalqa contact Qaid Rana sahib.

Do not Dump past issues at Bait-uz-Zafar:

Please do not drop off past issues of Jama'at magazines at Bait-uz-Zafar. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Ameen:

The following had their Ameen during Ramadan. May Allah bless them and their parents. May they always look for guidance in the Quran as they move on.

- * Nida Ahmad, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mukthar Ahmad.
- * Ishal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tahir Bhatti
- * Aayan, son of Mr and Mrs. Mohammad Saqib
- * Mabroor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mahmood Bhutta.
- * Waleed, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rashid Nasir.

Haqiqa:

-Mr. and Mrs. Ali Bajwa had the Haqiqa of their son during one Iftar dinner at Bait-u-Zafar. May Allah bless them and their son.

Marriage:

Nikah of Faridah Ahmad daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iqbal Ahmad was announced in Philadelphia with Mr. Bashir. Congratulations.