

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful



Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy

A monthly newsletter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Queens, New York

“It is part of the excellence of a person’s Islam that he should eschew that which is of no benefit to him” (Tirmidhi)

Upcoming Events

Dars with Imam Sahib every Saturday during Ramadan

- ❖ First day of Ramadan: May 6th, 2019
- ❖ Tarawee Prayer will start after Isha on May 5th
- ❖ Tahir Academy **EVERY** Saturday **11:00 AM** for Ramadan
- ❖ Coffee, Cake, and True Islam **EVERY** Thursday at 7:30 PM
- ❖ Auxiliary Meetings on **First Sunday of every month**

Prayer Timings

May 2019

Days	Fajr	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
6-10	5:00	1:15	6:00	8:05	9:15
11-17	4:55	1:15	6:00	8:10	9:15
18-24	4:45	1:15	6:00	8:15	9:25
25-30	4:40	1:15	6:00	8:20	9:35

Quotes of the Month

Holy Qur’an

O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous.

[2:184]

From the saying of the Holy Prophet^{sa}

Abu Musa Ash’ari relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: Allah will continue to hold out His hand at night so that he who has sinned during the day might repent, and to hold out His hand during the day so that he who has sinned at night might repent, till the sun should rise from the west.

[Muslim]



“Follow not the world, but let the world follow you”

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V

An Excerpt from the Muslim Sunrise

Muslim Sunrise, Fall 2018

“In Islam, prayer is one of the foremost pillars of faith. The Holy Qur’an states: “Recite that which has been revealed to thee of the Book and observe Prayer. Surely, Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil, and remembrance of Allah indeed is the greatest virtue. And Allah knows what you do.” This verse contains three key commandments, that is, preaching and reading of the Qur’an, observance of Prayer and the remembrance of Allah. The purpose of all three is to help deliver man from the bondage of sin and to help him to rise morally and spiritually



which is the supreme objective of all Divine Books. Islam teaches that prayer is the most direct way to communicate our needs to the Creator because, in Islam, God is a living God. Islam lays down conditions for that state when the heart is filled with awe of God and the very soul of the person offering the prayer is drawn to God in complete submission and utter humility. When a person attains this state, he may be assured that the door to acceptance of prayer is opened.”

“A Week in Islamabad”

An Excerpt from the Abid Khan Sahib’s Diaries

For many years I have had the privilege to report to Huzoor^{aa} on a daily basis and so when it became clear that Huzoor^{aa} was moving to Islamabad, I wondered if I would still have the same blessed opportunity. Personally, I do not have a great interest or understanding of poetry, but a few weeks prior to the move, I wished to express my own personal emotions to Huzoor^{aa} and so I penned a few verses. A person who knows poetry would certainly deem them to be inadequate and extremely amateurish. I was not expecting any reply but a few days later, I received a letter from Huzoor^{aa} in which he said he had read the poem. Even though I had not mentioned my routine of Mulaqat, Huzoor^{aa} responded in a way that illustrated how he understood the personal fears I had felt. With his own blessed hand, Huzoor^{aa} wrote: “Whether I am in Islamabad or London, your routine will remain the same that you will report to me daily.”

Anyway, as I sat outside Huzoor^{aa}’s new office in Islamabad for the very first time, late afternoon on 16 April 2019, I felt even more nervous than normal. At 6.15pm, Private Secretary, Munir Javed Sahib told me that Huzoor^{aa} was ready to see me. I took a long deep breath and entered through his office door. Huzoor^{aa} was working at his desk but, as I entered, he looked up at me and smiled. It was a very welcoming and kindly smile.

Huzoor^{aa} looked radiant, immaculate and graceful. He was wearing shalwar kameez and an achkan coat and had removed his paghri (turban). Huzoor^{aa}'s office was larger than his previous one. It was significantly longer and somewhat wider. It was not yet fully set up. Whilst some books were placed on the shelves behind Huzoor^{aa}, other shelves remained still empty. To the side there was a long cabinet in which many of the artefacts and photos that Huzoor^{aa} kept at Masjid Fazl had been placed. Instead of carpet, the flooring was tiled. One thing remained the same – the contents of Huzoor^{aa}'s desk. It remained filled with the same files that Huzoor^{aa} would work through on a daily basis at Masjid Fazl. Throughout the process of moving, Huzoor^{aa}'s work continued unaffected. I walked carefully and slowly towards Huzoor^{aa}'s desk because I did not want to accidentally knock anything and also because I wanted to absorb every possible second of being in Huzoor^{aa}'s new office. As I sat down at Huzoor^{aa}'s desk, I was greeted again by Huzoor^{aa}'s beautiful smile and words that filled my heart with joy.

Huzoor^{aa} said: “You are the person who is having the very first official meeting (Mulaqat) with me in this office.” As I heard these words, I felt extremely humbled and privileged. Overjoyed and emotional. I felt a shiver run down my spine. It was a moment I will never forget. For as long as I live, I will feel fortunate to have been the first person to have had a meeting with Khalifatul Masih in his office at Islamabad, Alhamdulillah. Perhaps sensing the fact that I was becoming emotional, Huzoor^{aa} changed the subject and asked me how long it had taken me to get to Islamabad. I told him it had taken one hour, as there had been a road diversion that had delayed my journey by about fifteen minutes. In reply, Huzoor^{aa} said: “That is not much!” In my heart of hearts, I had hoped Huzoor^{aa} would take pity on me! Instead, Huzoor^{aa} made it clear that a one hour commute was nothing for a Waqf-e-Zindighi. It was also an example of the way Huzoor^{aa} does Tarbiyyat and keeps a person grounded.

Queens Chapter News

Caribbean Desk & Bangla Desk Meetings

A Monthly Discussion

Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque hosted its monthly Bangla and Caribbean Desk meeting on April 20th, 2019. The meeting began with the Tilawat and was presided by Sadr Sahib. National Bangla desk in-charge, Mirza Ghulam Rabbi Sahib joined via conference call from California, and delivered a short speech. Stories from both Rana Bakhtiar Sahib and Sameer Rahaman Sahib on their journey to Ahmadiyyat were shared. The meeting was concluded with remarks by Sadr Sahib, Abdul Ghafoor Sahib and silent prayer.

Queens Chapter Announcements

Death

We are sad to announce the demise of Respected Naseem Ahmed Bajwa Sahib of Queens, New York Jama'at; He passed away on Tuesday, April 16 2019 at the age of 67 Years. Inna nillahe wainna ilaehe rajeun

Atfal/Khuddam/Ansar News

Meeting Held on First Sunday of the Month

Regional MAA Ijtema

A Yearly Tradition

With the Khuddam Ijtema being a beaming success, the Atfal were looking forward to theirs. But, like the Khuddam Ijtema, bad weather may have “dampened their spirits,” as the forecast was for heavy rain. Despite this, the local Long Island Qaid and host, Abraheem Ahmad Sahib, booked a bounce house and planned for outdoor sports in a local park.

About forty Atfal from the Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island arrived at Bait-ul-Huda Mosque in Amityville, Long Island on April 28. Regional Qaid, Aslam Mohamed Sahib made a surprise appearance driving all the way from the National Shura in Silver Spring, Maryland. After a brief opening session, the Atfal proceeded to James Caples Memorial Park, where they formed teams to play basketball and soccer. Despite a few raindrops, the Atfal were eager to continue to play. But when it went from a sprinkle to showers, the games were stopped and the Atfal were driven back to the mosque. Some grabbed refreshments and had a second go at breakfast, while most were hungry to do the inflatable obstacle course.

Finally, after almost an hour of horseplay, the Atfal were escorted back inside the mosque for Zuhr and Asr prayers. Then they were treated to a special lunch – chicken and lamb gyro with rice and all the fixings!

After their fill of fun and food came time for the Taleem competitions. And the Atfal were ready for business! They were all were divided into their groups by their respective ages (Sitara, Hilal, Qamar and Badar). Every single Tifl participated in the competitions without quarrel.

Zulfikar Sikder, Serving as Nazm Atfal

Regional MKA Ijtema

A Yearly Tradition

It was a dark, rainy evening on April 12 when a handful of Khuddam were setting up tents, lighting bonfires, and buying food and other provisions in preparation of the Regional Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Ijtema set to take place in Baiting Hollow Scout Camp in Calverton, Suffolk County. Despite the gloomy forecast, the few Khuddam worked tirelessly that night, led by Regional Qaid Khuddam, Aslam Mohamed Sahib. The next morning, they would be flooded with arrivals from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Long Island, Middletown, and Queens.

By the time the rain declined, and the sun finally started to shine, over eighty Khuddam and some Atfal had arrived. They were all treated to breakfast by Nazm Ziafat, Rizwan Hamid Sahib. The opening ceremony commenced after Maulana Mahmood Kauser Sahib reached the camp. He explained from the outset that this was not going to be a typical Ijtema. The Khuddam were advised to “leave their comfort zones” and adapt to their environments.

Groups were formed according to the color of the wristbands they wore. Each team would be allotted points for competitions and activities performed and won. With newfound enthusiasm, Khuddam “vied with each other in good deeds” by competing in all activities to maximize points for their groups.

After a rigorous hike around the camp grounds led by Mohammad Sehhar Sahib, the groups were treated to refreshments. Lunch was provided by a local pizzeria specializing in chicken parmesan and hypoallergenic pizzas. After lunch, the Khuddam trekked to the outdoor amphitheater for Taleem competitions. During the competition, in which everyone participated, they were treated to chocolate cake. With the conclusion of the Taleem competitions, the Khuddam returned to the outdoor marquees for Zuhr and Asr prayers. Then they had sports, namely, football and cricket on site.

As the sun began to set, Imam Sahib arranged the tables to have the Khuddam sit together to have a Tarbiyyat discussion. During the session, the Khuddam were served dinner from a local delicacy – Kentucky Fried Chicken! After having their fill (and then some), the Khuddam returned to the marquees for Margrib and Isha prayers. In the interest of time, Imam Sahib officially concluded the Ijtema to allow the Khuddam to leave early to pick up their families from the Lajna Ijtema that was concurrently taking place in Bait-uz-Zafar. In the closing session, the winners of the competitions were announced, and trophies were awarded to the Majlis with the most group points and to the ABL champion team.

With the close of the Ijtema, those who remained relaxed and roasted s’mores on the bonfire. They shared stories and had an informal question and answer session with Imam Sahib.

Zulfikar Sikder, Serving as Nazm-e-Ala

Ahmadiyya Basketball League

A new Initiative for the Youth of New York

By the grace of Allah, the second season of the Ahmadiyya Basketball League kicked off in December 2018. Imam Mahmood Kauser Sahib kicked off the first session with silent prayer went over some of the changes for the new season. Over 40 Khuddam and several guests across the New York Metro area participated in this season, with four teams along Jamaat lines. This season there were 9 regular games followed by the playoffs. Two significant enhancements were made to the league: professional referees were hired to officiate each game, and statistics were tracked by stat keepers and uploaded to a website so players were able to see each players points, rebounds, assists, blocks, steals, shooting %, 3 point %, and FT% along with team schedules. This greatly enhanced the league, and gave it a professional feeling. Most importantly, after each game congregational prayers were held.

The championship title this season was won again by the Long Island, who completed a perfect season. After the playoffs, we held an All-Star game along with a 3 point contest and a skills contest. Inshallah we look forward to next season with even more participants and even more enhancements. We would like to thank Imam Mahmood Kauser Sahib for his support with getting the league started along with Regional Qaid Sahib NY Metro.

Local Ansar Ijtema

A Yearly Tradition

By the grace of Allah, the Ansar held their local ijtema on April 7th, 2019 in Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque. The ijtema began at 11:00 am, and there were 45 Ansar. Many participated in both the knowledge-based competitions, and sports competitions. There was also a game of jeopardy, which brought out friendly competition, while also increasing our knowledge on many topics. A unique aspect of this ijtema was that a Nazm competition was

added as it was requested by the Ansar.

It was a beautiful addition, with many participants. For the sports competition, there was a game of musical chairs which released the Ansar's



inner child. The ijtema came to an end with closing remarks by Imam Kauser Sahib. It was a very exciting ijtema, but more importantly it was a great opportunity to spend time with our brothers, in the house of Allah.

Lajna/Nasirat News

Meeting Held on First Sunday of the Month

Lajna Local Ijtema

A Yearly Tradition

On Sunday April 7th 2019, the Queens Lajna held their annual local ijtema in Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque. As tradition follows, the day began with a hearty breakfast, followed by an opening session with Tilawat, Hadith, and the Lajna pledge. There were knowledge-based competitions which covered Quran recitation, Quran memorization, poem, English speech, and Urdu speech. There were also arts and crafts competitions, cooking/baking competitions, and a written English poetry competition.

Lajna Regional Ijtema

A Personal Reflection

On Saturday, April 13 I had the pleasure of attending the Northeast Regional Lajna Ijtema at Bait-ul-Zafar mosque. The ijtema had the theme of "Our Living God", which was seen throughout the duration of the competitions and presentations. I enjoyed listening to my talented sisters compete in tilawat, Hifz-e-Quran,

and poem competitions. At the Meena Bazaar, we were able to enjoy treats such as pizza, kashmiri chai, gol gappay, and candy. Afterwards, we learned how to stretch in the health and fitness activity and played a fun game of musical chairs. My favorite part was tasting the banana bread and ras malai which were entered in the cooking and baking competitions. Alhamdulillah, I was able to enjoy a day of learning and growing with my sisters from all across New York.

Amatul Hayee Marium

Nasirat Regional Ijtema

A Personal Reflection

On Saturday April 13, 2019, I attended the regional Nasirat ijtema which was held in Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque. After breakfast and registration, the Nasirat and Lajna were gathered together in the Men's Prayer Hall. We played a few icebreakers together, and then the Nasirat left. We went upstairs, and started the competitions for speech, nazm, recitation of the Holy Quran, and memorization of the Holy Quran. Being in the 13-14 age group, the competitions passed by quickly as only the 1st place winners from the local ijtema competed. I personally liked it this way because even though less Nasirat competed, we had enough time and energy after the competitions. In the kindergarten room, where we waited for the other age groups to finish, we played logic puzzle games. Later on, the Nasirat went to the gym where everyone participated in the sports competitions. Each group had their own competition, for example the 13-14 group had an obstacle course, which was extremely fun! Furthermore, after the sports competitions, we had a game of dodgeball which created some friendly competition! Everyone was enjoying themselves greatly, but soon it was time to return back to the Mosque. After a small break, the Nasirat went to the Lajna Hall and played a game of Jeopardy, which was both exhilarating and knowledgeable. There were a few other games, and even a little exercise to keep us fresh, as it was a long day. The day ended with presentations by Queens, Long Island, Brooklyn, and Bronx chapters. Before the day was fully over, the Nasirat returned to the Lajna for a joint closing session which included the prize distribution. This was a very enjoyable ijtema which allowed us to have a day with our sisters. May Allah continue to strengthen our bond with the jamaat!

Maahida Bajwa

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