

Lajna Matters

A Publication of
Lajna Imaillah
&
Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya USA

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Oct 15th 2009 - Jan 15th 2010

Special Features

- *The Glorious Qur'an*
- *Correspondence*
- *Message from Sadr Lajna*
- *Majlis-e-Shura Guidelines*
- *Youth Matters*
- *Tarbiyyat Matters*
- *Tabligh Matters*
- *Lajna Highlights*
- *Nasirat Highlights*
- *Announcements*
- *Mark Your Calendars*



Holy Qur'an

And it is by the great mercy of Allah that thou art kind towards them, and if thou hadst been rough and hard-hearted, they would surely have dispersed from around thee. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult them in matters of administration; and when thou art determined, then put thy trust in Allah. Surely, Allah loves those who put their trust in Him. (3:160)

Hadith

The Holy Prophet^{saw} said that a person whom Allah has appointed guardian over a people and he does not discharge his duties fully with respect to those people, then on his death

Allah will make him ineligible to enter paradise. The Holy Prophet^{saw} said that every one of you is a guardian over someone, you will be answerable about the people you are appointed guardian over. The Holy Prophet^{saw} has stated that try to save a Muslim from punishment. It is better for the Imam to make an error and forgive than for the Imam to make mistake and punish.

Writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Ensure that there is not any sort of impurity, derision and mockery in your gatherings. Walk on the earth good-heartedly, genially and righteously. Remember that each evil

is not worth contending with therefore it is essential that you inculcate the habit of forgiveness and pardon for most of the time. Employ patience and forbearance and do not assault another in an unwarranted way and contain your strong emotions. If there is a discussion or a religious dialogue, conduct it with gentle speech and in a civilized manner. If someone behaves ignorantly, pay your regards and promptly leave such an assembly. You shall be identified by observance of five daily prayers and your moral demeanor. One who has propensity towards iniquity cannot stay firm on this advice.

MESSAGE FROM SADR LAJNA, USA

Dr. Shanaz Butt

Message

We are witnessing a world where Peace, Equality and Justice have been severely challenged. As we struggle to make sense of the world today, we explain the suffering, violence and injustice around us as a lack of understanding & practice of Islam. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that the only way to find complete serenity and peace in this confusing and violent world is to worship Allah alone. Because when we are at peace with Allah, we find ourselves to be at peace with our surroundings. One of the basic steps towards finding peace is to become more truthful. You will notice that when you become true to yourself, you become true to your children, husband, relatives and the community around you. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV^{ra} has said that if we become truthful, we will become identified with godly people because the attribute of truth is in itself a godly character. Since truthfulness is a universally shared experience between people of all religions, we can all play an important role in bringing peace to this world through our honest and just behavior.

National Correspondence



Letters from the Office of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}

July 27, 2009

I have received and read your activity report for the month of April 2009, a letter dated 26th June 2009 regarding issues concerning Lajna & Youth as well your condolence letter dated 26th June 2009, Jazakamullah.

Thank you for your comforting words at the passing away of Sahibzadi Amatul Qayyum Begum Sahiba, *Inna lillah wa inna elahay rajeoon*. The loss is indeed deep but we accept Allah the Almighty's will with our heads and souls bowed. May Allah the Compassionate and All-Forgiving be pleased with her and unite her with the noble and eminent ancestors in the bliss of heaven. Her devotion to the Jamaat and loyalty to the Khilafat was intense, and she served the Jamaat with commitment. May Allah accept her humble services and sacrifices and bless her with His pleasure. May Allah comfort the hearts that grieve, with His affection.

I pray that you are able to successfully implement the suggestions concerning the young in educating them in the proper Islamic dress code and lifestyle. With reference to your monthly

activity report it is noted that work of some of the shobas for example Health & Fitness, Trade & Industry and Nau Moybayeens is not included, as all shobas are equally important, please give regular update on these shobas as well. Please convey my Salaam to all Nasirat and Lajna members in USA.

August 26, 2009

I have received and read your report for the month of May 2009, Jazakamullah. I am please to note that steady work is being carried out in all the shobas, and by the grace of Allah four bai'ats were achieved during the month. May Allah grant you many more future successes and that they may contribute to the prosperity of the Jamaat, Insha Allah.

September 28, 2009

I have received and read your letter dated 10th July 2009 and your report for the month of June 2009, Jazakamullah. Your report for the month of June 2009 outlines concisely the activities undertaken by Lajna and Nasirat during this period. It is pleasing to see that Lajna have

responded well to the criticism made in the letter dated 27th July 2009 and have made the necessary changes to the reports to demonstrate activities from all shobas. It is also pleasing to see that Lajna have obtained two new baits during this month. May Allah reward you for your dedication and shower you with His abundant blessings, Insha Allah.

Congratulations are due to Lajna Imaillah USA for fulfilling the remainder of their pledge towards the construction of a Lajna Hall in Qadian. After submitting a partial payment of \$50,000 earlier this year, it is pleasing to hear that Lajna members were able to continue donating their money in order to reach the initial pledge made. May Allah bless Lajna Imaillah USA for their devotion and enthusiasm towards the Jamaat.

Regarding the incident concerning Amtul Hafeez Syed, it is inspiring and heart-warming to hear of such dedication from a Lajna member. May Allah bless Amtul Sahiba abundantly for her sacrifices, Ameen.

Please convey my salaams to all the Nasirat and Lajna in the USA.

Letters from Ameer Jamaat USA, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar

September 6, 2009

Huzoor has pointed out that children are being sent to Non-Ahmadi Qaries for learning Qur'an, which entails a risk of anti-Ahmadi opinions being fed to the susceptibility of children. It is essential that parents and especially mothers should take the initiative to have it done within the Jamaat structure to avoid misgivings. This will also augment their over all orientation and beliefs of Ahmadiyyat.

Jamaat Ahmadiyya USA has coordinated an internet training course for this. It should be utilized, along with direct instructions by the Ahmadis as are knowledgeable.

Where parents do not know the correct recitation, have their children learn the correct recitation from the Qirat Classes and at the same time they should learn it themselves.

The Secretary Sahib Waqfe Arzi and Talimul Quran Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor sahib is actively developing programs to enhance the teaching of Qur'an in all ways, including Qir'at.

One of the newer features can be a program of paid learning, where for a cost a child can be given a half hour one - on - one session over the internet from a Qari sahib who would be an Ahmadi conducting the program from Qadian or Rabwah. Please inform him of the demand for such a service so he can

then gauge the feasibility of this method of learning. May Allah Guide us to a path pleasing to Him, and to fulfill the wishes Khalifatul Masih, Ameen.

September 8, 2009

The matter of Zabeeha and the regular supermarket meat is to be explained to the families once again, that it is acceptable to use supermarket meat and Allah's name be pronounced at the time of consumption.

The supermarket meat as a rule is USDA inspected and thus hygienic. The slaughter is such as to drain blood in an efficient and thorough manner. Individuals have the right to not consume any meat (or food) that they find improper, and they have the right to impose on themselves such restrictions as to use only 'Zabeeha' in food prepared by themselves.

Individuals have the right to not eat meat which they feel is not 'Zabeeha' at home and if so at Masjid, if they have such feelings. However, they have no right to take the food in their plates and then discard it in the trash can because it is 'not Zabeeha'. Kindly advise and announce this to your Jamaat, and explain it to the individuals who have shown concerns. May Allah Guide all Ahmadies to His ways, Ameen.

National Matters



Instructions for Majlis-e-Shura

On March 12, 2004, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}, delivered a sermon, in which he said that the members of the Shura should always keep in view the priceless guidelines given to the Jamaat by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{rz}:

- ☆ Take part in the Shura for the sake of Allah alone.
- ☆ Offer your opinions for Allah's sake.
- ☆ Cleanse your hearts of all personal prejudices.
- ☆ Keep praying to Allah during the Shura.
- ☆ Never insist that your opinion should be accepted.
- ☆ Listen carefully to what others have to say, their views could also be useful.
- ☆ Do not agree with someone just because he is close to you.
- ☆ Your opinion should be independent.
- ☆ Never hesitate to accept the truth.
- ☆ Do not form opinions in a hurry.
- ☆ Offer opinions on the basis of facts, not feelings.
- ☆ Say only that which profits the faith.
- ☆ Do not unnecessarily start arguing about trivial matters.
- ☆ Everything you do and every suggestion you give should be for Allah alone.
- ☆ Always pray to Allah for help and succor.



Approval Letter from Huzoor^{aba} Majlis-e-Shura Proposals

October 13, 2009

Dear Sadr Sahiba Lajna Imaillah USA,
The agenda submitted by your good self for the forthcoming Majlis-e-Shura of Lajna Imaillah USA is approved. You may proceed with discussion of the proposals and later submit the Shura's deliberation with your recommendations.

May Allah affirm the session of Majlis-e-Shura as blessed for Lajna Imaillah USA, Ameen

Yours Sincerely,
Mirza Masroor Ahmad
Khalifatul Masih V

Message from Tehrik-e-Jadid Secretary

The Tehrik-e-Jadid year ends October 31st, 2009 and I would like to thank all the local Sadrs and Tehrik-e-Jadid secretaries for all their efforts in obtaining 100% collection. May Allah reward them abundantly, Ameen.

I would like to remind you that the annual report is due before November 15th, 2009. Please make every effort to send your report in time. I would also encourage you to begin taking pledges for the new year of Tehrik-e-Jadid as soon as it begins, Jazakallah.

Secretary Tehrik-e-Jadid—Aziza Rahman

Message from Waqf-e-Jadid Secretary

The Waqf-e-Jadid year ends December 31st, 2009. As the fiscal year is coming to a close we encourage our membership for 100% participation from Lajna and Nasirat in this blessed scheme. May Allah abundantly bless your efforts and sacrifices, Ameen. For any questions or concerns, please contact Shazia Sohail at Waqfejadid@lajnausa.net.

Please Note: The forms provided in the National Program Booklet (NPB) are incorrect. Please visit the Lajna website to download proper forms, Jazakamullah.

Secretary Waqf-e-Jadid—Shazia Sohail



Youth Matters



“Youth Matters” is dedicated to addressing frequently asked questions (FAQs) by the Youth. We hope that this feature will aid in improving our understanding about Islamic etiquette, Islamic dress code and other issues related to Islamic life style. Please email your questions to youth@lajnausa.net.

Q. What does Islam say about the role of human passion and desire?

A. “I believe in Islam as it does not seek to crush my natural desires but guides them along right channels. It does not, by altogether crushing my desires, reduce me to a stone; nor does it, by leaving them uncontrolled and unrestrained, reduce me to an animal, but, like an expert irrigation engineer who harnesses uncontrolled waters and makes them run into irrigation channels, thereby bringing prosperity to waste areas, it converts my natural desires by proper control and guidance into high moral qualities.”

It does not say to me: God has given you a loving heart but forbids you to select a life companion, or that He has endowed you with the sense of taste and the capacity to appreciate good food, but has forbidden you to eat such food. On the contrary, it teaches me to love in a pure and proper way which would ensure through my progeny the perpetuation of all my good resolves. It permits me to use good food, but within proper limits, lest I should eat my fill and my neighbor should go hungry. By thus converting my natural desires into high moral qualities, it satisfies my humanity.”

(Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad from “Why I Believe in Islam”)

Q. What should we look for when choosing a *Rishta*?



A. In selecting a life partner, it is necessary to pray to God to seek guidance from Him and follow the footsteps and guidance of the Messenger of Allāh (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him). We should consider compatibility (Kufw).

In selecting a life partner compatibility is one of the most important factors. It is called Kufw in Ḥadīth: Wankiḥul-akfā’, that is, and marry your equal. (Ibn Mājah, Abwābun-Nikāḥ, Bābul-Akfā’) In connection with compatibility, there are many things to be considered, but religion and spiritual status should be first. Consideration is given to social and economic position and worldly means of livelihood. In the same way, family background, education, age and health status are also considered. In the selection of a partner for life, piety and righteousness must be given priority over all other qualities. As it is mentioned in the following Ḥadīth: “A woman is married for four things: her wealth, her family status, her beauty and her religion. So, you should marry a religious woman, otherwise you will be of the losers.” (Bukhārī, Kitābun-Nikāḥ) The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) has further elucidated on this issue in the following Ḥadīth: “Surely, the whole world is a provision, and there is no greater provision of the world than a pious woman.” (Ibn Mājah, Abwābun-Nikāḥ) So, according to the Islāmic traditions and saying of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him), piety and righteousness top the list of priorities in selecting a partner.

(“Islamic Teachings on Ideal Family Life”)



Tarbiyyat Matters



Message from National Tarbiyyat Secretary

I hope all are well and thoroughly renewed from fasting through the blessed month of Ramadhan and focusing more thoroughly on **Taqwa** and **Salat**. Now from October to December we will be moving on to our next quarter's program: **Be True to your self**, with special regard to **Modesty and Hayaa**. I hope we can approach this subject taking the benefit of our improved practice of **Taqwa, Salat and Ramadhan**

We will be looking again at Huzoor's Address to Lajna Germany on **Hayaa**, 8/23/08 (Note: Khutba is provided in the workbook). Please read the khutba in the workbook and then discuss questions from page 103 in your Majlis, or explore the subject through workshop or other interactive methods in your meetings.

Huzoor^{aba} has given us some clear guidelines in this Khutba on Hayaa, which we should take seriously to heart. For Purdah and Hayaa to be a way of life, every Ahmadi woman and girl must take the time to debate the matter with her own self. Each of us should realize that we have taken a pledge at the hand of the Imam of the Age and now it is up to us to live up to that pledge. This is the stage of struggle (Jihad). I hope this khutba will give everyone the chance to strengthen our resolve. Once we make the decision to observe Purdah in this way, it becomes easy – we do not look back. Our hearts and minds are convinced. May Allah enable us all to do it, Ameen. Some helpful goals to monitor our progress would be:

1. Establish a practice of minimum Purdah at least (refer to page 107).
2. Aim for consistency. In the Address to Lajna UK 2009, Huzoor^{aba} said, 'Purdah is not just for when you come to see the Khalifa of the time or when you go to the Mosque'. Observe Purdah everywhere, make it your way of life.
3. Use the Internet wisely. When we realize the purpose of Purdah we would not want to display ourselves or our personal information on social websites. Nor would we spend our time viewing indecent material online.

Over the next six months we will also be looking at the book *The Blessings of Prayer* by the Promised Messiah^{as}. It may be this powerful book will help us improve our practice of Purdah, Insha Allah. May Allah bless all your endeavors and your attention to Tarbiyyat in this next quarter. Be sure to report your activities on Hayaa from October to December, and email to me any 'good news' on the subject, Jazakamullah.

Message from National Tabligh Secretary

Guests at Tabligh Programs & Small Towns

Our beloved Huzoor^{aba} has sent a request to Ameer USA which was conveyed to all Missionaries, Jamaat Auxiliary Heads and the Jamaat Tabligh Secretary USA stating in general for us to be more explicit in monitoring and reporting guest attendance at our Tabligh programs and to increase our Tabligh efforts in small towns.

Reporting

For the new Lajna fiscal year starting October 2009, in the highlight section for Tabligh, please indicate:

- Total # of Tabligh functions held in the past year to date (YTD)
- Total # of guests
- Total # of new guests

Tabligh in Small Towns

Report the following in the Tabligh highlight section:

- What is the extent of Tabligh in small towns and what can be done to enhance Tabligh?
- Please indicate if your Majlis is located in a small town
- Determine how many of your Lajna members live in a small town
- Majaalis should identify public events occurring in small towns and make self visible: introduce self/AMC & create contacts through 1:1 contacts and attending or participating in the public events
- Invite social groups from the small towns to a Lajna event as participant or speaker
- Provide volunteer service to the small town as needed
- Send a Lajna newsletter/flyer or books to their library, or public announcement boards in stores, etc.

Tabligh Highlights



A seminar entitled “Wives of Prophet Muhammad” was held on September 27th from 1-4 PM at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo. Approximately 110 people attended, out of which 51 were Non-Ahmadi guests. A survey was completed at the end of the event which provided valuable feedback. Guests were allowed to choose a book of their choice to take back with them. 10 copies of the Holy Qur’an, 23 copies of the *Philosophy of the Teaching of Islam* by Hazrat Masih Maud^{as}, and 18 copies of *Muhammad, A Life of a Prophet* by Karen Armstrong and 10 copies of *Radicalization of Muslims* by Arif Humayun were distributed as gifts. WBFO Radio Station interviewed Sadr Lajna Buffalo, Tahmina Rehman regarding this 1st Annual Women’s Seminar and two TV channels aired parts of the seminar during the same evening.

Muslim women discuss true meaning of Islam *Gathering examines misconceptions*

By Deidre Williams

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Updated: September 28, 2009

What is the meaning of jihad? What is shariah?

How many wives did the Muslim Prophet Muhammad have, and was he married to them simultaneously?

Such topics were discussed Sunday at a women’s-only seminar sponsored by the Women’s Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community’s Buffalo chapter. About 100 women, mostly Muslim, attended the event in the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

The seminar was partly in response to the case of Aasiya Zubair Hassan, a Muslim wife and mother who was beheaded Feb. 12, allegedly by her Pakistan-born husband and business partner in their Orchard Park television studio.

“The crime was labeled as an honor killing. We want people to know there is no place for honor killing in Islam,” said Tahmina Rehman, seminar organizer and president of the organization’s Buffalo chapter.

Shanaz Butt, moderator for the event as well as acting dean for research and graduate studies and a pharmacology professor at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, said misconceptions about Islam include the idea of jihad, which is often associated with the military, violence and bloodshed.

But lost in translation is the true meaning of the word, which is to strive or to make an effort, Butt said.

“A student trying to pass an exam is a jihadist. A mother raising her children is a jihadist. The people in the seminar are all jihadists because we are striving,” she added.

Often Islam is portrayed as a backward and barbaric, viewing women as weak and submissive to a religion that oppresses them, said the speakers.

They acknowledged that some Muslim women are not treated well, but said that should not be blamed on Islamic religious law, or shariah.

The problem is those who misinterpret the teachings to suit their own agendas.

“They use different interpretations; hence, we see acts of terrorism conducted in the name of Islam. Some use it to condone beating of wives,” said Saliha Malik, a professor at Brown University, who converted to Islam in 1987.

Muhammad’s relationships with his 12 wives, the speakers said, show him as a role model for treating a wife.

Even though the prophet had many spouses, he was in a monogamous marriage for 25 years with his first wife, Khadija.

He became polygamous after she died, Malik said, but not to satisfy his physical appetites.

His marriages were examples of how a man should treat his wife, said Nusrat Rashid, a Philadelphia attorney and guest speaker.

In addition, she said, Muhammad united various Islamic tribes through his marriages, and he demonstrated compassion, fairness and justice to women.

His 11 other wives included elderly widows, two war widows, a non-Arab slave, a Jewish widow who converted to Islam and a widow with small children.

“Muhammad never beat his wives. He didn’t yell at them. If they were angry with him, he played aloof and stayed away from them for a short while,” said Malik, who referred to specific verses in the Quran to prove the points.

According to the text, Malik said, wives were created for husbands to find peace of mind in them and that it is unlawful to “inherit women against their will,” or to detain them wrongfully.

“There are so many inaccuracies,” Rehman said. “We’re trying to teach and clear up misconceptions and trying to get people to understand that Islam is about peace and love, not oppression and depression.”

dswilliams@buffnews.com

Lajna Highlights

Lajna Highlights April — June 2009

Meetings

Tajnid as of June 2009:	3,927
Total number of meetings held:	278
Average attendance:	42%
Total number of Halqa meetings:	226
Monthly reports received:	99%

Tabligh

of Bai'ats obtained: 12 Alhamdulillah!

Merced	8
Virginia South	1
York/Harrisburg	1
Oakland	1
Boston	1

Outreach (Number of People/Guests)

People under one-to-one Tabligh:	907/month
Needy served outside the Jamaat:	1,637/month
Lajna served:	525/month

Average percentage of members active in

Daa'e Ilallah Committee:	505/month
Khidmat-e-Khalq:	1,046/month
Listening to Khutba/MTA:	52%
Learning Qur'an Nazira:	24%

Correction—Quarterly Recognition of Lajna Majaalis (January—March 2009)

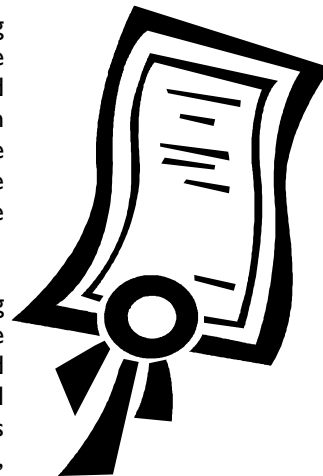
- ☞ **Most Improved:** Majaalis being recognized for significant improvement in submitting timely reports, improvement in reporting, following the program and standing out in at least one area throughout the quarter:



Merced, Potomac, Philadelphia, New Orleans

Quarterly Recognition of Lajna Majaalis (April—June 2009)

The National Reporting department is recognizing some Majaalis, who have performed very well in various areas from April – June 2009. The assessment is based on the information submitted in the Lajna monthly reports.



- ☞ **Talim:** Majaalis being recognized for following the program, covering assigned workbook questions and Ahadith, covering modules and related activities, holding many workshops and discussions to cover the syllabus and significant number of its members involved in Qur'an Nazira: **Cypress Houston, Baltimore, Houston North, LA West, VA Central, Houston South, VA South, Central NJ, VA North, Detroit**
- ☞ **Tarbiyyat:** Majaalis being recognized for covering all assigned sermons and additional sermons, having significant number of its members attending meetings and listening to Friday sermons, holding many workshops and discussions to cover the syllabus and special directives such as *Hayya*, Attendance, Internet Issues, Jalsa Etiquette etc.: **Orlando, Cypress Houston, Chicago East, Oshkosh, NJ North, Alabama/Tennessee, LA East, Baltimore, VA Central, Queens**
- ☞ **Tabligh:** Majaalis being recognized for conducting members' training workshops, attending interfaith events, hosting luncheons and gatherings at the mosque or at home and having a good number of its members involved in Tabligh: **Cypress Houston, NJ North, LA East, LA Inland Empire, York/Harrisburg, Oakland, Houston North, VA South, RTNC, Zion**
- ☞ **Khidmat-e-Khalq:** Majaalis being recognized for conducting members' training and sharing resources, serving and supporting hundreds of people and charitable organizations inside and outside of Jamaat: **Cypress Houston, Queens, VA Central, St. Paul, Bronx, VA South, NJ North, Oakland, Orlando, RTNC**
- ☞ **Most Improved:** Majaalis being recognized for standing out in at least one area throughout the quarter: **St. Paul, Houston N, LA Inland, Merced, Oakland, VA North**
- ☞ **Attendance greater than 50%:** **Washington DC, Central NJ, Bay Point, LA East, Cypress Houston, Baltimore, Las Vegas, Kansas, LA West, Laurel**
- ☞ **Greater than 90% listened to Huzoor's^{aba} Friday Sermons:** **New Orleans, Central NJ, Orlando, Willingboro, Charlotte, Oshkosh**

Nasirat Matters



Nasirat Highlights April — June 2009



- ✿ # of Majaalis active in publication: 12
- ✿ # of Majaalis active in Khidmat-e-Khalq: 32
- ✿ # of Majaalis that participated in Jamaat Functions: 35

Tabligh Activities this Quarter

- ⊙ Jalsa Seerat-un-Nabi
- ⊙ Mothers in Scriptures
- ⊙ How to do Tabligh!
- ⊙ Similarities between Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} and Hazrat Promised Messiah^{as}
- ⊙ Wudhu, Salat and Holy Qur'an
- ⊙ Worship and Prophets
- ⊙ Interfaith Tea Party
- ⊙ Religious Tolerance
- ⊙ Islamic values about "Mothers Day"

Stars of the Quarter

Small: Orlando

Medium: Bay Point, Cypress Houston, Houston North

Large: Brooklyn, LA Inland Empire, North Jersey, Central Virginia



Most Improved Majaalis

Small: Columbus

Medium: Boston, Bronx, Houston South,

Large: Queens, Philadelphia



Holy Qur'an Completions

Sabeeha Mian	Boston
Mehwish Fatima	Bronx
Samina Ahmad	Brooklyn
Sobia Bashir	Brooklyn
Uzma Nadeem	Brooklyn
Hiba-tun-Noor	Brooklyn
Aafia Awan	Columbus
Summer Asad	Columbus
Farah Awan	Hartford
Kashifa Ibrahim	Houston North
Qafia Tahir	LA East
Tooba Ahmad	LA East
Maryam Bajwa	Pittsburgh
Zaineb Sohail	Silicon Valley
Ghazal Ahmed	Virginia South
Ayesha Salik	Virginia South
Abia Virk	Virginia South

Qaida Completions

Aleeza Zaeem	Oakland
Rukhsaba Zaman	Queens
Maahum Zaheer	Silicon Valley

**Nasirat Secretaries,
Don't forget the Nasirat report is due
by the 10th of every month on the new
reporting form to
nasiratreports@lajnausa.net.**

Nasirat Matters



Al-Hilal Presents... My Health

All over the world... Young people are not getting enough exercise or eating a healthy diet. How do you stay healthy and fit? What are your favorite healthy foods to eat? What would you plant in a garden and why?

We encourage Atfal and Nasirat to write about what Islam says regarding good health & share ways to improve health, at home, school, their local mosques and overall community. Please send submission to thealhilal@yahoo.com no later than December 1st, 2009. As always we welcome original artwork, poetry, short stories and adult submission written with a young audience in mind.

AL HILAL WINTER 2009 PRESENTS:

My Health

All over the world, young people are not getting enough exercise or eating a healthy diet.

How do you stay healthy and fit? What are your favorite healthy foods to eat? What would you plant in a garden and why?

We encourage Atfal and Nasirat to write about what Islam says regarding good health & share ways to improve health, at home, school, their local mosques and overall community.

Submissions to thealhilal@yahoo.com no later than December 1, 2009.

As always we welcome original artwork, poetry, short stories and adult submissions written with a young audience in mind.

Sleep!

If you're like most kids (big yawn), you'd like to get some more sleep. Oh, you know that drowsy morning feeling. You're all snuggly warm in your bed and in comes your mom, saying it's time to get up for school. Your head feels like it's full of wet sand and you beg for another 5 minutes. Then you fall dead asleep again and you hear your mom yelling, "Get up! You're going to be late!"

It is hard getting much sleep every night, especially when so much competes for your time. There are after-school activities, like sports, homework, chores you need to do around the house, and that great show on TV you just don't want to miss. Any one or all of those can keep you from getting to bed on time.



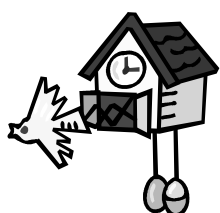
Only 32% of the kids polled get the recommended amount of sleep for 9 to 12 year-olds. The ideal amount is 9 1/2 to 10 1/2 hours each night. Now that you know your target sleep amount, how do you get it? If you do a little math, you can figure out when your bedtime should be if you want to get at least 8 1/2 hours of sleep. Start at your bedtime and count the hours until the time you usually wake up. For instance, if you usually go to bed at 10:30 and wake up at 6, that's only 7 1/2 hours of sleep — an hour less than the ideal amount. How important is that hour? Just imagine how great you'd feel if you rolled over on a school morning, looked at the clock, and saw you could sleep another whole hour. Sweet!

http://kidshealth.org/kid/talk/kidssay/poll_sleep.html

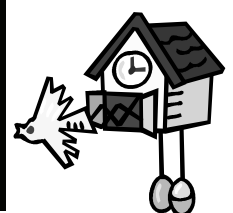
Cuckoo Clocks—Logic Puzzle

Three members of the Boston Horology Society have just returned from a holiday in Switzerland where they each purchased a handmade cuckoo clock. Can you work out where each person bought their clock, the name of the clockmaker and how much each clock cost, \$100, \$120, \$150?

1. Gloria Greene didn't buy the cheapest clock and it wasn't the one manufactured by Franz Geisser.
2. The clock bought in Geneva was manufactured by Hans Bruckner and was cheaper than the one bought by Wilbur Watson.
3. Trudie Tipler didn't buy her cuckoo clock in Zurich.
4. The most expensive clock was purchased in Zermatt but wasn't the one manufactured by Herman Finkel.



Name	Place	Clockmaker	Cost



Local Matters



Ayesha Magazine

Our 2009 Winter Issue of Ayesha Magazine is dedicated to Sahibzadi Amtul Qayyum Sahiba

We are seeking articles which will be dedicated to: "**Sahibzadi Amtul Qayyum Sahiba**". Please send your personal recollections, historical information, and photos (in Purdah only) regarding her life. We will try to make special arrangements for material that needs to be translated. Please forward material ASAP, Jazak Allah.

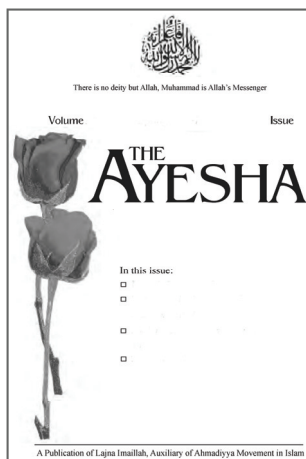
Ruqaiya Asad—Editor Ayesha Magazine

8721 Doctor Baxter Road

Frederick, MD 21701

Ayesha@lajnausa.net

Jazak Allah for your contributions!



A Lajna Member Meets Vice President Biden

By the grace of Allah, Farzana Safiullah was invited to a reception at the Vice President's residence to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act on September 29, 2009, Washington DC. She was chosen among 120 guests from throughout the country for her work with Lajna Imaillah and with other Muslim Domestic Violence Organizations. She met with Joe Biden and gave him a copy of *The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam*. Farzana was also able to meet Anthony Brown, Lt. Governor of Maryland, Attorney General Eric Holder, Al Franken (Senator Minnesota) and Reverend Marie Fortune (Director of the Faith & Trust Institute). She handed out copies of *The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam* to them as well. Alhamdulillah she had a productive visit.

Silicon Valley Majlis helps Charities Refugee Program

For the last two years, Silicon Valley Lajna have been involved with Catholic Charities Refugee Programme in San Jose, California. They have donated kitchen items, clothes, shoes, furniture and some non-perishable food items for the Bhutanese Refugees and others. Recently, Silicon Valley Lajna had the chance to welcome a refugee from Ceylon, Colombo. The Lajna showed their hospitality and love to her. The Lajna were very excited and enthusiastic about helping this lady and invited her to spend the day with them. While getting acquainted they found out that she was an Ahmadi sister, Alhamdulillah. It was an emotional moment for all as they witnessed Allah's way of miracles and were united. The Catholic Charities are affiliated with UNHRC (United Nation Human Rights Commission) and with IOM (International Organization for Migration).

Zion City Festival of Miracles

Five Lajna members were able to attend the Zion City Festival of Miracles public event. A booth was set up displaying general information and literature on Islam, women in Islam and nutrition. 4,000 people attended the affair and 750 Muslim Sunrise magazines were personally distributed along with other Islamic literature. Many people were able to sign the guest book to attend an AMC event. One on one Tabligh also occurred and people were observed reading AMC literature, Alhamdulillah.

Mark your Calendars



Department	National Officer	Deadlines
Tehrik-e-Jadid Annual Report	Aziza Rahman— Tehrikejadid@lajnausa.net	November 15th
Waqf-e-Jadid Annual Report	Shazia Sohail— Waqfejadid@lajnausa.net	January 15th
Eid-ul-Adha		November 27th
Lajna Monthly Reports	Sendreports@lajnausa.net & Regional Presidents	10 th of the following month
Nasirat Monthly Reports	Nasiratreporting@lajnausa.net & Regional Presidents	10 th of the following month

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ☞ Respected Huzoor^{aba} & family
- ☞ Respected Ameer Sahib & family
- ☞ Family of Sister Ameena Parker
- ☞ Family of Sister Faiza Malik
- ☞ Sister Jamila Hamid & family
- ☞ Sister Sadia Basit & family
- ☞ Sister Aneesa Nuruddin & family
- ☞ Sister Najmi Azam & family
- ☞ Sister Roohul Amin & family
- ☞ Sister Latifa Ilyas
- ☞ Sister Fatimah Mahmood
- ☞ Sister Nycemah Yaqub
- ☞ Sister Aliya Shaheed
- ☞ Sister Salma Ghani
- ☞ Sister Ameena Afzal
- ☞ Sister Anjum Qureshi's family
- ☞ Sister Rifat Wali & family

Children's Khidmat-e-Khalq Eid Gift Fund Collection

It is most heartening to report that this year our children have collected a total of \$ 20,000.00. We pray that these humble gifts from our children will add some more joy and comfort for families, Insha Allah. May Allah reward all of you for your generosity, Ameen.

Congratulations!

- ☞ Khalida Bakr (Zion) graduated high school
- ☞ Sadaf Ahmad (Zion) graduated with a Bachelors degree in Biology
- ☞ Sister Amina Bhatti (Potomac) was blessed with a daughter

EDITOR'S DESK

Lajna Matters has enjoyed almost 8 years of publication. It has become a regular quarterly publication and has evolved through many changes based on the needs of the time. Masha Allah, due to the amazing growth we have seen within Lajna Imaillah-USA, we have tried to come up with more efficient ways to provide you with a snapshot of what is happening around the country. We hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter. Your feedback and input is greatly appreciated.

The Lajna Matters team would like to thank all those who have sent timely announcements for this issue. We look forward to **your contributions and feedback** for the January 2010 issue by **December 10th, 2009** to lajnamatters@lajnausa.net.

Editors: **Asma Siddiqui, Samrah Ahmad**

Managing Editor: **Dr. Shanaz Butt**

Publisher: **Fazl-e-Umar Press**

Chauncey, OH



Lajna Matters is a quarterly publication and is mailed to all regular chanda-paying members. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please contact:

Lajnamatters@lajnausa.net and cc:
Tajnid@lajnausa.net

The editorial board reserves the right to use their discretion in editing & publishing any information.

We humbly request your prayers, Jazakamullah.



Lajna Matters

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necessarily the views of
The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community*

"I will give precedence to my faith above all worldly objects"

Death of the Piglet

One person cannot fully experience the emotions and feelings of another person. If someone's chicken dies, he is pained more than he would be on hearing about the death of another's son. In truth, most people copy the pain of another person while showing their support for him. They do not have the same pain in them. When they see that person, they make a sad face and utter a few words of support while their hearts are empty of the feelings of sadness. On the contrary, even if an insignificant thing of theirs is lost, they cannot bear the loss.

There is a well-known story that tells of a cleaning lady who cleaned the house of the king. Once, as she walked out of the house, she leaned against a wall in the entrance and started crying. She cried with such depth that the gatekeepers thought that someone had died in the house of the king. On this thought, without understanding the situation, they also started lamenting. They leaned against the wall and started weeping so that no one would think that they were insensitive. Seeing them, others also started crying, then more joined in, so much so that the matter reached the court.

Since the courtiers were ordered to wear black at a death in the king's house, they ran to their homes and put on black clothes. When they returned, they sat with their heads hanging down, and held a handkerchief over their eyes so that they looked like they were crying.

The chief vizier was a little wiser. He came into the court without black clothes and asked the person sitting next to him what had happened. The man said that he did not know, but the person next to him might, and how, on seeing him in mourning clothes, he also had put on mourning clothes and had come there, assuming that there was a misfortune in the king's house. When the next person was asked, he referred to the one next to him. The second one referred to the third and the third to the fourth. The matter reached the gatekeepers. They referred to the cleaning lady.

When they called her to ask, she said that every thing was fine in the castle. "I had a piglet, and it died this morning," she explained, "It was the time of my cleaning shift so I suppressed my sorrow and came to the castle in a hurry. But as soon as I came out of the castle, I could not bear it any more and I started crying in the entrance."

The crying of the cleaning lady was real. The piglet was hers and she felt genuine sorrow for its death. However, the tears of the gatekeepers and the courtiers were artificial.