

Council on American-Islamic Relations-Newsletter

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PEARLS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

The Prophet PBUH once said, "Should you wish to act, ponder well the consequences. If good, carry on; if not, desist." Ibn al-Mubarak.

The Prophet PBUH once said, "Practice Humility until no one oppresses or belittles another." Muslim

CAIR-PA MUSLIMS ANXIOUS TO FILL EMPTY SEATS ON CITY COUNCIL
BY ALIYA Z. KHABIR

City Hall- As American Muslims make history in U.S Congress and other elections wins all over the country, Philadelphia continues to add to its list of Muslim public officials.

Sheriff Street, son of current Philadelphia Mayor John Street, has expressed interest at an occupied council at large seat.

Street is an Associate with the law firm of Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP where he has worked in the Government Assisted/Affordable Housing Practice Group. In addition to affordable housing work, Mr. Street's practice currently includes working with the Real Estate and Government Relations practices at WolfBlock. He is currently a member of the American, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and National Bar Associations as well as a member of the Philadelphia Barristers Association, for which he served as a board member in 2002.

Mr. Street is a member of the 251st graduating class of Central High School where he served as president of the student body. He graduated *cum laude* from Morehouse College with a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. At Morehouse, Mr. Street served as President of the Student Senate and was an Academic All-American track and field athlete. In 1999, Mr. Street graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he served as president of the Penn Law Democrats. In July of 2000, he was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar.

Competition will be tough. He faces Marc Stier of Neighborhood Networks and Derek Green, chief legislative aide to Councilwoman Marian Tasco. Many think Street may be in for an easy win because of his obvious

name recognition. However, street is no stranger to the fickle Philadelphia election process. He's leaving no stone unturned, raising money and building a war chest that would put Bush himself to shame.

Hamzaa Yusef, professionally known as Mr. Curtis Jones, Jr. may face Councilwoman Carol Ann Campbell in the 4th District election. The district area Yusef seeks to represent covers the West Philadelphia to Roxborough. Yusef is currently president of the Philadelphia Commercial Development Corporation.

A member of the Mayor John F. Street's Administration, Mr. Jones has served in city government throughout the past seven mayoral administrations. A noted expert on community-based economic development, Yusef has served in various public and private sector positions for more than a decade.

Appointed in 1987 by Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode, Mr. Jones served as Deputy Director of Finance and Staff Director of the Minority Business Enterprise Council. Under his leadership, minorities, women, and disabled business entities received more than \$583,000,000 in municipal contract opportunities.

Yusef has completed course study in Boston University's ACCA program. He has a Master's Degree in Contract Compliance from the University of Alabama. In addition, he attended the University of Pennsylvania's Fels School of Government. Neither candidate has officially announced their candidacy, however both are expected to make announcements by the end of the year.

CAIR-PHILLY- HAJJ'S UNIVERSAL CONCEPTS FOR ALL MANKIND

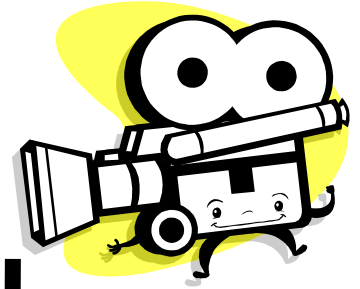
As the yearly epic journey of a lifetime is about to begin, let us reflect on the enormity of the very simple and basic concepts that are forever imbedded in the Hajj- or the yearly pilgrimage to Makkah.

Tolerance- During the Hajj a Muslim must subscribe to the state of Ihram, or the state of sacredness in which a Muslim performs hajj. In this state the person must restrain their temper and anger at all costs- they cannot even kill an annoying bug buzzing around their head intentionally.

Equality- During the Hajj a Muslim is required to wear the most simple of clothing: Men wear 2 simple unsewn pieces of white cloth wrapped around their bodies and women wear their simplest clothes. This required simplicity reminds us all that whether pauper or prince, engineer or street person- all people are equal in the eyes of God.

Religion does not value one person over another for any other reason but the strength of their faith. If everyone were able to implement these 2 simple values in their everyday life, imagine tranquility of life.

**BRIDGES TV- THE AMERICAN MUSLIM CABLE NETWORK
SEEKS STAFF FOR PHILADELPHIA AREA.**



Bridges TV is the nationwide network Bridges TV generally works with people that focuses on American Muslims who have their own video equipment- and greater communication between something that can at least capture good the West and the Middle East. pictures and audio. The stories would appear on Bridges News, Talking Points and TV is looking for someone who could a longer format show called "Profiles in Philadelphia area. At present, no one is covering this area and many great and Interested parties can e-mail important stories for the audience is news@bridgestv.com or they can call 716- being missed out. 662-1115.

**FEATURED LOCAL MASJID: MASJID TAHA
BY ALIYA Z. KHABIR**

Masjid Taha opened in August 1999. Tending to the spiritual needs of Muslim families in the Frankford and Northeast Philadelphia, Taha is open for all five salats and Jumah. The growing ummah at Taha is lead by Imam Yusef A. Jamal-Addin, a 25 year veteran of the tri-state Muslim community. Taha is represented by Jamal-Addin as a member of the M ajlis Ashura of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. He also serves at the Chair of the M ajlis Dawah committee. Masjid Taha sponsors seminars, lectures, interfaith dialogs and adult education classes. Celebrating its 7 years of activity, Taha recently held its first formal banquet at the Regal Ballroom on Oxford Avenue in the lower Northeast Philadelphia. It was a wonderful evening, with Muslims from all masajids attending

Masjid Taha is located below the El train, 4665 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19124.

"Bridges TV is looking for someone who could be a photojournalist in the Philadelphia area.

ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE LOCAL AREA:

State Governor: Ed Rendell	7th Congressional (District includes parts of Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties)	15th Congressional (District includes parts of Berks, Lehigh and Montgomery counties)
US Senator: Bob Casey jr.	Joe Sestak	Charles Dent
1st Congressional (District includes parts of Delaware and Philadelphia counties)	8th Congressional (District includes parts of Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties)	16th Congressional (District includes parts of Berks and Chester counties)
Bob Brady	Patrick Murphy	Joseph Pitts
2nd Congressional (District includes parts of Montgomery and Philadelphia counties)	13th Congressional (District includes parts of Montgomery and Philadelphia counties)	17th Congressional (District is in Berks County)
Chakka Fattah	Allyson Schwartz	Tim Holden
6th Congressional (District includes parts of Berks, Chester, Lehigh and Montgomery counties)		
Jim Gerlach		

MUSLIMS ON THE AIRWAVES!!!!

Time:

Time: Every Saturday from 12:00-2:00PM

Every Saturday from 4-5PM

Station: WHAT-AM-1340

Station: WURD 900 AM

Schedule: Youth show-First Saturday of the month

Show Title:
"Living Islam"

Sister's Broadcast-Every 4th Saturday of the Month

All Hosts Show-Every 5th Saturday (If there is a 5th Saturday)

You can listen online at www.what1340i.com.**UPCOMING CAIR-PHILLYEVENTS:**

Cair-Philly-Know your rights seminar

January 7th, 2006 @ 1PM-

Masjidullah 7700 Ogontz Ave,
Philadelphia, PAJanuary 14th, 2006@1PM- Masjid Muhammed,
Philadelphia PA

Conducted by attorney John Vandenberg. Topics to include understanding ones rights in the work-place, at school and in society. Join us for 2 events:



All of the following events will take pace at: Desi Village Resturant, 145 South Gulph Rd., King of Prussia, PA .All events are at 12PM.

RSVP :(mazharrishi@yahoo.com) or call 302-593-9072

Jan.14th, 2007 Dr. Muqtedar Khan, Assist Prof. Political Science, U of DE & Fellow Brookings Institution.

Dr. Muqtedar Khan is a fellow at Brookings Institution and teaches political Science at the University of Delaware. He is an American Muslim originally from Hyderabad, India. Dr. Khan's first lecture will be on "Key challenges American Muslims face in post 9/11 era". Please click below to see his website and his accomplishments

<http://www.ijitihad.org/MuqtedarKhan.htm>

Feb.11th, 2007 Dr. Alan Garfield, Professor of Law, Widener University, DE & Board Member ACLU, Delaware

Dr. Alan Garfield is a Professor of Constitutional Law at Widener University. He is friend of American Muslims and will present a lecture of the "Role of Judges in protecting civil liberties". Please click on the URL below to see Dr. Garfield's resume.

http://www.law.widener.edu/faculty/de_garfield/bio.shtml

March 11th, 2007 12:00 Dr. Muqtedar Khan, Assist Prof. Political Science, U of DE & Fellow Brookings Institution

Dr. Muqtedar Khan will deliver his second thought provoking lecture on "American Muslims: what is the future".

Please contact # 302-593-9072 if you have any questions or suggestions.

CAIR-Philly Offers Ten-part Course on Islam

December 19, 2006 - January 18, 2007

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6:30 - 8:30PM

Place: The Foundation for Islamic Education; 1860 Montgomery Ave; Villanova, PA

Beginning December 19, the Philadelphia office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Philly) will offer a ten-part course on Islam, called "Understanding Islam & Muslims through History and Jurisprudence," at the Foundation for Islamic Education.

AN URGENT APEAL TO ALL IN THE DELAWARE VALLEY

If we look at recent events throughout the country we can see a clear pattern of insensitivity and ignorance being leveled against Islam and Muslims.

In a November column, In today's Philadelphia Daily News, commentator Michael Smerconish - radio host at 1210 WPHT the Big Talker - wrote the following disturbing commentary. In it, he describes passages from fiction author Nelson Demille's new book, "Wild Fire." The author states: "In 'Wild Fire,' I pose that we have something very similar to MAD. Meaning, that if a nuclear bomb went off in America, the presumption of guilt against Islamic terrorists would be very strong; we wouldn't need the proof, we'd never have the proof. We would automatically launch against the nation of Islam, specifically against the cities of Mecca and Medina, and other places like Damascus where we don't care for the government, and this would be a deterrent against a nuclear bomb going off in America." CAIR-Philly sent an immediate action alert to our members and mobilized a letter writing campaign of which at least 2 were published in response.

The Maryland and Virginia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MD/VA) today called on Muslims and other people of conscience in Northern Virginia to contact GOP Reps. Frank Wolf and Tom Davis and urge them to repudiate recent anti-Muslim remarks by Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA).

CAIR-MD/VA says Northern Virginia has a large population of Muslim voters who are concerned about a recent letter Goode sent to constituents slamming the planned use of a Quran for the ceremonial swearing-in of Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress. (No religious texts of any kind are used for the official swearing-in ceremony.)

"I do not subscribe to using the Koran in any way," wrote Goode. "The Muslim Representative from Minnesota was elected by the voters of that district and if American citizens don't wake up and adopt the Virgil Goode position on immigration there will likely be many more Muslims elected to office and demanding the use of the Koran."

Goode also decried the growth of the American Muslim community. He wrote, "I fear that in the next century we will have many more Muslims in the United States if we do not adopt the strict immigration policies that I believe are to preserve the values and beliefs traditional to the United States of America." (Keith Ellison has traced his family's roots in America to the year 1742.)

A number of Democratic leaders have repudiated Goode's

A number of Democratic leaders have repudiated Goode's Islamophobic remarks. But aside from mild rebukes from Sen. John W. Warner (R-VA) and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), GOP officials have remained silent on the issue.

The White House said "no judgments have been made" as to whether President Bush will condemn Goode's comments or those of Dennis Prager, a presidential appointee to the governing board of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum who sparked the Quran oath controversy.

These are just 2 recent examples of the unadulterated attacks on Muslims and Islam in the public arena. CAIR-Philly is committed to working with and in the community to enhancing the understanding about Islam so situations such as these never occur. To support:

- Through continued support of CAIR-Philly your efforts and dollar will go towards:
- Educational outreach programs and seminars to be held in local night school's, churches, synagogues, colleges, etc.
- Expand our civil rights seminar program to reach more Masajid
- Hire more paid staff to tackle the enormous task of Media management, community outreach and relations

CAIR-Philly is specifically reaching out to families and individuals who are blessed with the ability to donate \$100 per month on an automatic checking account withdrawal process. Without these critically needed funds situations and incidents like listed above can and will go unchallenged.

Be a champion.

Sign up today.

Please contact Finance Committee Chair Ribhi Shawar at rshawar@comcast.net.



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