



Mhrm. 09, 1445 AH

Keeping the Community Aware Since 2005

Vol. 17/ #30

Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Freedom

A Regional Project for the Near East and North Africa

Buffalo, NY - Monday, July 24th, 2023: Western New York Muslims had the distinct honor of hosting a delegation as part of the esteemed International Visitor Leadership Program, organized by the **U.S. Department of State** in conjunction with the International Institute of Buffalo with an objective to focus on **Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Freedom** - A Regional Project for the Near East and North Africa.

The visit commenced with a tour of **Masjid An-Noor**, for which the Islamic Society of Niagara Frontier's cooperation was invaluable.

The delegation, consisting of distinguished individuals from various regions, engaged in an open discussion about the moral and philosophical foundations of religious life in the United States. The discourse delved into the historical origins of religious freedom and the impact of immigration on religious practices in America.

The delegates who participated in this enriching experience were as follows:

- Ms. Taghreed Ali Abdulla Hashem ALAWI, Deputy Board Chairman, Al-Marsd for Human Rights Society, Bahrain
- Ms. Sara Ahmed Allam Mohammed Shaltout, Media Advisor, Anglican Church of Egypt
- Mr. Naief Abo Sharkeia, Senior Advisor, Kelman Institute for Conflict Transformation, Israel

Human Rights in Libya

- Ms. Zohra Rehilil, Director and Curator, Moroccan Jewish Museum, Morocco
- Mr. Ahmed AL MAAMARI, Supervisor over (Islamic) Quran schools, Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, Oman
- Mr. Loay Ahmed Amin Mahmoud Al Shareef, Strategic Engineer, Siraj Research & Studies, UAE



Following the discussion, the delegates had the opportunity to experience South-Asian cuisine at lunch, generously donated by **Apna Dera Restaurant** and hosted by Faizan Haq, Founding President, and Farina Mirza, Executive Director of WNYMuslims. The conversation then continued, focusing on the impact of religion on political life in the United States and the rationale behind the separation of religion and state. The visit culminated with an engaging Q&A session, allowing for further exploration of various topics and cultural perspectives.

WNYMuslims expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the International Institute of Buffalo for their collaboration and the opportunity to host this enlightening event. We hope for continued support in future endeavors, fostering greater understanding and friendship between regions and cultures.

The occasion exemplified the essence of the International Visitor Leadership Program, promoting cross-cultural dialogue and laying the groundwork for enduring global connections. The experience left an indelible mark on both hosts and delegates, emphasizing the importance of intercultural exchange in cultivating a harmonious and interconnected world.



Commemorating a Day of Significance

Ashura is an important day of commemoration observed by Muslims, particularly by Shia Muslim community, worldwide. Falling on the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, Ashura holds immense historical, religious, and cultural significance. It is a day of mourning, remembrance, and reflection, commemorating events that have shaped the course of Islamic history and principles. Let us delve into the importance of Ashura and the lessons it imparts.

The roots of Ashura trace back to early Islamic history, particularly the year 61 AH (after Hijra) when Imam Hussein ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and his followers faced a tragic battle against the oppressive forces of the Umayyad caliph, Yazid I, in the desert of Karbala, Iraq. The battle ended with the martyrdom of Imam Hussein and his companions, a significant event that underscores themes of sacrifice, righteousness, and resistance against tyranny.

The significance of Ashura lies in the lessons it teaches humanity. Imam Hussein's unwavering commitment to justice and refusal to submit to injustice and oppression serve as an eternal reminder of the importance of standing up for truth, even in the face of adversity. His sacrifice and that of his loyal followers demonstrate the courage and resilience required to uphold principles and moral values, irrespective of the consequences. It also embodies the spirit of unity and compassion among Muslims and serves as a reminder of the importance of community. On this day, Muslims come together to recite prayers, and remember the events of Karbala. This collective remembrance fosters a sense of empathy and solidarity, promoting the values of love, harmony, and understanding among people. It's time for Muslims to reflect on their own actions, conduct, and choices. The introspective nature of Ashura allows individuals to assess their lives, seek forgiveness for past mistakes, and strive for self-improvement and righteousness. In addition to mourning, another essential aspect of Ashura is giving to those in need. Muslims are encouraged to engage in acts of charity and perform good deeds on this day, symbolizing the importance of helping others and serving the community. Through such actions, Ashura fosters a culture of generosity and compassion.

Ashura holds deep significance for Muslims around the world as a day of remembrance and self-reflection. It stands as a symbol of resistance against injustice, an embodiment of sacrifice and resilience, and a reminder of the importance of unity, compassion, and charity. As Muslims commemorate this day, they carry forward the teachings of Imam Hussein and seek to uphold the values of justice, righteousness, and love in their lives. Beyond its religious and historical context, Ashura's universal lessons have the potential to inspire people of all backgrounds to strive for a better, more just world.

Sunday, Aug 13th

Live concert with entertainment

Free health screenings, kid activities, vendors, food & more!



For more details please click on the thumbnail.

Employment Opportunities



Paid Internship



Now Hiring

For more details please click on the thumbnails.

Collaborative Projects/ Resources



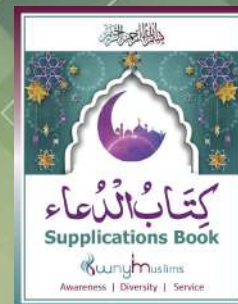
Mister Dee's Apna Dera Resturant



OTFS is Hiring



Dawn Martial Arts and Fitness Center



Kitab-ud-Dua

For more details please click on the thumbnails.

Events Coverage



**Fundraising
Gala Dinner**



**Chaand
Raat Event
Coverage Eid ul-
Fitr 2023**



**Pakistan
Independence Day**

For more details please click on the thumbnails.

[MORE EVENTS](#)

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Mosques @ WNY



Islamic Society of Niagara Frontier



Masjid An-Noor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jumu'ah Salat

First Salah Khutbah @ 1:35 PM & Iqama' @ 2:00 PM

Second Salah Khutbah @ 2:40 PM & Iqama' @ 3:00 PM

Events & Programs Details



Camp Noor 2023
July 10- Aug 11



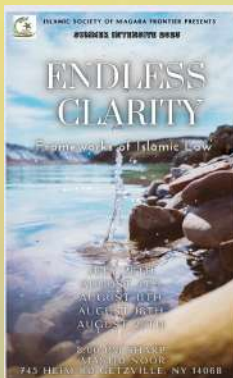
Male Counselors Needed



Camp Noor Needs Volunteers



Camp Noor Bake Shop



ISNF Summer Intensive Course
July 28th 8:00 pm

[Get Directions](#)

[\(716\) 568-1013](tel:(716)568-1013)

[EVENTS' DETAILS](#)

Masjid Taqwa ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jumu'ah Salat

Khutbah @ 1:25 PM & Iqama' @ 1:50 PM

[Get Directions](#)

imamattaqwa@isnf.org



Muslim Society of Buffalo Jami Masjid

716-300-5040

Jumu'ah Salat

1st- 1:25 pm & 2nd- 1:50 pm

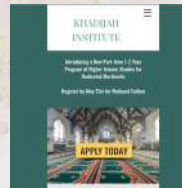
Events & Programs Details



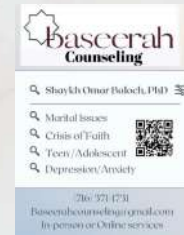
Family Night!
July, 29th



Ta'leem Daily Evening Schedule



Khadijah Institute



Baseerah Counseling
ing
(716) 371-1731
or email



Micro Madrasa Kids' Classes



Jami Masjid Programs

[MORE DETAILS](#)

[Get Directions](#)



Jaffarya Center of Niagara Frontier

716-689-3120

Jumu'ah Prayer

Khutbah: 1:15 pm & Prayer: 1: 45 pm



10th Muharram

28th July, 2023-

Friday, schedule

[Get Directions](#)



CONTACT US

Mailing Address: P. O. Box #656
Williamsville NY 14231
Email : wnym@wnymuslims.org
Call Us : (716) 923-4386

ABOUT US

WNYMuslims is a Non-profit 501(c)(3) community organization, diligent with covering events, sending weekly e-newsletters, and creating short videos.



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