



MUSLIM JOURNAL CORPORATE

SETTLES IN AT "AL HAQQ" – HOME OF "THE TRUTH"



(R-L) Masjid Al Haqq Resident Imam Abdul Kareem Muhammad, Newark's Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Editor Ayesha K. Mustafaa, Imam Rashad Ali and Donna Ali of New Medinah, Miss., and Joan Najeeullah of Plainfield, N.J.

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Office of the
MAYOR
City of Newark, New Jersey

Proclamation

AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA
June 11, 2022

WHEREAS: AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA was born in Mississippi. Her parents were active in the Civil Rights era. She gained a Bachelor's Degree from Bucknell University in Psychology and Political Science and a Master's in Journalism from Columbia College of Chicago. She converted to Islam and moved to Chicago in 1975; and

WHEREAS: AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA worked with the Prison Dawah teaching Islam to the incarcerated population, the administrative offices of two Muslim schools, and as editor of the Muslim Journal. She also hosted radio shows, spoke at interfaith events, and taught journalism at Tougaloo College as an assistant professor; and

WHEREAS: AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA became the third female editor of the Muslim Journal in 1989, taking the reins of the first and longest-serving Muslim-American publication in the nation, serving in that role ever since. The newspaper enjoys readership across the United States and many Muslim nations across the world. The newspaper is now moving its headquarters to Newark; and

WHEREAS: AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA is one of America's great journalists, heading the Muslim Journal for 17 years. She is also a great educator, activist, and advocate for human rights. She is a leader and exemplar, and we are delighted to welcome her and the Muslim Journal to our transformation and her leadership to our efforts; and

WHEREAS: As Mayor of Newark, I salute AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA, as she is honored at the Muslim Journal's 60th anniversary celebrations being held at the Newark Cityplex 12 theater today, thank her for her service to faith and nation, and wish her joy and success in her future endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAS J. BARAKA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, do hereby recognize:

AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA

and I urge all residents, employees, and visitors in the City of Newark to join me in this special tribute to AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA.

SIGNED:
RAS J. BARAKA, MAYOR

Proclamation issued by Mayor Ras J. Baraka

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3010

June 14, 2022

Ms. Joan Najeeullah,
Program Coordinator
Muslim Journal
227 E. 1st Street
Chicago, IL 60617

Dear Ms. Najeeullah,

I was honored to be invited to the Muslim Journal's landmark event celebrating 60 Years of outstanding Muslim American Journalism on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

I acknowledge the deep roots of the African American Muslim heritage in New Jersey, as well as its positive contribution to the enrichment of the state's urban culture. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Muslim American community in Newark took the initiative to provide food assistance and are well regarded as active and constructive members of our New Jersey community. Sister-Editor Ayesha K. Mustafaa, a scholar, journalist, and humanitarian, is a spokeswoman for this community and a role model for young Muslim American women across the United States. Being named Muslim Woman of the Year by the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed is an testament to her accomplishments. I extend my sincere congratulations to Ayesha Mustafaa for having received a proclamation from Mayor Baraka at the event.

Your invitation to this esteemed event reminds me of the words spoken by Malala Yousafzai at the United Nations, "Our words can change the world because we are all together." The Muslim Journal Newspaper exemplifies the best of Muslim American journalism across the United States, and I take great pride in the decision to move its headquarters to Newark, New Jersey.

I admire the efforts by the Muslim Journal to organize this celebratory event to promote Muslim American Journalism, and to recognize the contributions made by Sister-Editor Mustafaa.

Again, thank you for the invitation. I hope all attendees, supporters, and members of the community had a safe and enjoyable time at the event.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Welcome letter sent to Muslim Journal from Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr.

Bilalian News

To 400,000 citizens

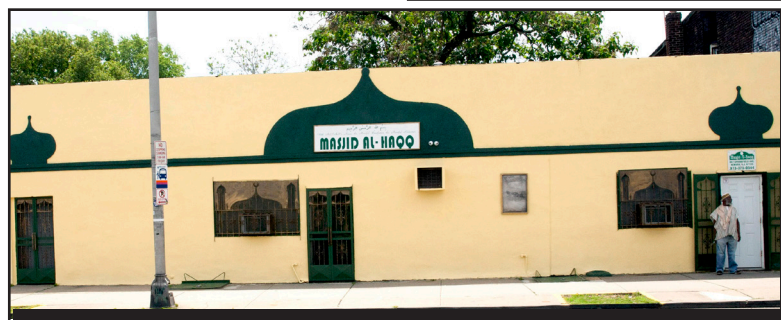
NEWARK IS NO JOKE

Pages 4, 5 and 6

W.D. MUHAMMAD
Pages 15, 16 and 17

"DIZZY" GILLESPIE
Pages 9 and 10

The 1977 cover of the Bilalian News, one of the predecessors to Muslim Journal says it all!



Masjid Al Haqq (The Truth) at 687 Springfield Avenue, in Newark 07103, serves as anchor for Muslim Journal in a city where it is proclaimed, "There is a Muslim in every household."

By Ayesha K. Mustafaa
Editor

NEWARK, N.J. – It's official. The weekend of June 11-12, 2022, the MUSLIM JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE CONCERT and close of the first 90-day drive hosted by Masjid Al-Haqq, 687 Springfield Avenue of Newark (07103) culminated with an affirmation of a new corporate home and a new board of directors for Muslim Journal.

The highly successful Concert was held Sat., June 11, 12 pm to 4 pm eastern time at the Cityplex 12 Shaq's Theater, Mistress of Ceremony Mrs. Khadijah Shar-

if-Drinkard, a City proclamation presented by Mayor Ras J. Baraka, entertainment featuring P.Genz, new artist Seventeen, Children of Adam Band, the R&B Group The Silver Stars, testimonials and supporters. The program coordinator was Sis. Joan Najeeullah.

As the legacy newspaper celebrates 60 years of weekly publication – 1961 Muhammad Speaks through 2021 Muslim Journal – has survived the two-plus years of the COVID pandemic, the Signs from Allah have reflected that

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MUSLIM SISTER HOLDS HISTORIC CENTRAL ILLINOIS NATURAL HAIR AND LOC CONFERENCE



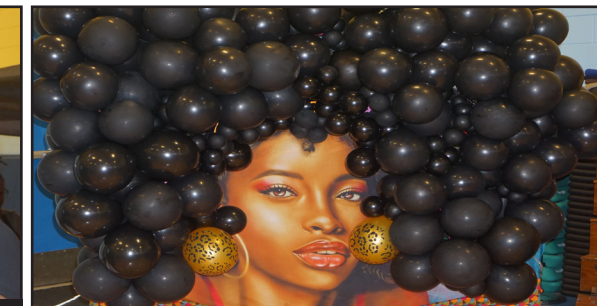
(L-R) Aishah Bilal-Ali and Awardee Audurone "Lacy" Simmons.



(L-R) Devonne Bilal, Serenity Abrams, Aishah Bilal-Ali, Melanie Bilal



(L-R) Angella Lewis, Cassandra Duckworth, Authrine "T.K." Singleton.



Balloons by 'Balloons2blessu'



By **Melanie and Devonne Bilal**

PEORIA, III. – Aishah Bilal-Ali, Certified Trichologist and Owner of Hairadox Hair Care Center, held the first Central Illinois Natural Hair and Loc Conference on May 14, 2022, at the historic George Washington Carver Community Center in Peoria.

Hairadox is a service-disabled veteran-owned business that celebrates and embraces natural hair and self-care. As Aishah explained during the Conference, "Our hair is appropriate, it IS enough and not performing self-care hurts us generationally."

Putting her words to action, she decided she wanted people to connect with each other as a community to share resources and information. The conference included industry and educational professionals, such as:

Angella Lewis, Mistress of Ceremonies and Clinical Counselor specializing in racial trauma;

Authrine "T.K." Singleton, guest speaker and owner of Master's Touch Salon in Bloomington;

Keynote Speaker Dr. Jessie Dixon-Montgomery, Associate Professor at Illinois Wesleyan University;

Serenity Abrams, Master Loctician, guest speaker and Aishah's daughter; and

Cassandra Duckworth, corporate executive and planning team member.

The Conference also included music, awardee, gift giveaways, selfie stations, hair show, hair

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Insurance and Money Matters

A MUSLIM'S OPINION ON ROE VS WADE



By **Amira Wazeer**

The Supreme Court ruling to ban abortions took Americans aback in many walks of life and has affected all of us, especially Muslims.

Reactions ranging from Howard Stern threatening to run for President to overturn the decision, CVS and Rite Aid limiting purchases of emergency contraception, Tech companies contemplating surrendering abortion-related data and companies agreeing to provide healthcare reimbursement and support for those wishing to travel for an abortion.

I was shocked to read that transgendered men are concerned as well, as they are still able to conceive and bear babies. From the absurd to those truly concerned about needing medically necessary abortions due to serious illnesses and genetic concerns, the uproar is loud and real.

After reading the June 27 article titled Foster Care May Be Another Victim of the Supreme Court Ruling on Roe v. Wade by "Stranger Care"

author Sarah Sentilles on some of the unintended consequences of the decision on abortion rights, I was led to pray, research and ponder on what this meant for us as Muslims and believers.

My search led me to Foster Care in Islam – Muslim Foster Care Association website. I know we have an obligation to care for the orphans and the needy amongst us and I give charity accordingly, but this paragraph brought insight into my world about "foster care":

"... It has also been related in books of prophetic history [sīrah] that there was a period of time when the Quraysh suffered severe economic difficulties, including drought and hunger, and Abu Ṭālib, the uncle of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), had a lot of dependents under his care.

"Seeing this, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) went to his other uncle, Ṭabbās (may Allah be pleased with him), who was one of the richer members of Banū Hāshim, and requested him to assist in easing the burden on Abu Ṭālib.

"He (peace and blessings be upon him) suggested that each

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Muslim Family Life

“Muslims Fulfill Their Covenant with Allah SwT”

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Muslim children learn to recite Al-Fatiha very early and those who accept to follow the religion of Islam learn Al Fatiha straight-away.

When we recite Al-Fatiha we pray, “Guide us to the Straight Path. The Path of those You have blessed not those who have earned wrath on themselves and not those who have gone astray” (Al Fatiha verses 6-7)

We plead for guidance to the Straight Path, and Light of Guidance is revealed for all who seek to know. Now, we must study to learn and follow what Allah SwT wants from us.

Straight Path is revealed for all who seek to know and follow. And if we do not know the commands of Allah, our Lord of all

the worlds, we do not know how we are guided to fulfill our Covenant.

“Glorifies Allah, whatever in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And He is the All Mighty, the All Wise. O you who believe, why say you what not you do? Great is hatred with Allah that you say what not do you.” (The Glorious Qur’an 61:1-3)

To fulfill our Covenant, we must strive to grow in knowledge and the motivation to obey. And with the Pleasure of Allah the Merciful Lord and Master of the Day of Judgement in focus, we must struggle to do nothing except follow the Straight Path.

Yes, we all are going to make mistakes because we are human and to make mistakes is a stage of learning. Allah SwT welcomes those who turn to Him seeking to

correct their ways. And must be patient with our own learning stage and with the learning process of others and advise each other to firmly follow the Straight Path.

“Say, “O My servants those who have transgressed against themselves, do not despair of Allah’s Mercy. Indeed, Allah forgives all the sins. Indeed, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.” (The Qur’an 39:53)

Remind yourself throughout every day be conscious of the Signs of Allah SwT in nature, His Books and His Prophets. To be mindful of our Covenant with Allah SwT is our only true protection. Satan has promised to mislead humanity, he said - “And I will surely mislead them and surely arouse desires in them, and surely I will order...”

(The Qur’an 4:119)

But Allah SwT has made the Path of Goodness clear to all who open their hearts and minds to receive the eternal guidance of our Almighty Lord for success in this world and the world to come.

“And when We took your covenant, and We raised over you the mount, hold what We have given you with firmness and remember what in it that you may do all things in the righteous manner.” (The Qur’an 2:63)

References:

<https://www.islaam.net/islamic-belief/allahs-covenant-with-adam/>

<https://www.missionislam.com/discover/believeitornot.htm>

<https://www.islaam.net/purification-of-the-soul/taqwa-one-of-our-provisions-for-striving-to-achieve-allahs-pleasure/>

<https://www.muslimink.com/islam/faith/taqwa/>

(WELCOME! Alhamdulillah, this column was established by Imam W.D. Mohammed for

sharing questions, comments and concerns on personal, family, or community issues to receive answers from the guidance of the Glorious Qur’an and the Sunnah, life examples from Prophet Muhammad (saws). Please send your questions, comments and/or concerns to: quranandsunnahanswers@gmail.com.)

MUSLIM SISTER HOLDS HISTORIC CENTRAL ILLINOIS NATURAL HAIR AND LOC CONFERENCE

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demonstrations and a vendor pop-up shop.

Aishah and Angella held the attention of the conference attendees easily by encouraging connection and audience participation. Aishah said, “People have gotten away from hair care and focus more on styling the hair.”

She advised attendees that their stylists should get to know their lifestyle and habits, because the things clients do (i.e. poor eating habits, fad diets, illness, incorrect product selection and use) costs them through hair breakage and hair loss.

She dubbed herself the “scalp whisperer” and said, “I ain’t afraid of your hair! I WANT to do your hair.” Aishah said she received inspiration to write and read the following poem, especially for the occasion:

THE APOLOGY

By Aishah Bilal-Ali

I owe you an apology!
I mistreated you.
I constantly disrespected you.
And I overlooked your needs.
I neglected you.
I left you unattended to.
And made you do things you were not meant to do.
I ignored what you were telling me.
I never made you a priority.
I listened to everyone else.
I didn’t let you be yourself.
Some days I just couldn’t deal with you.
Many time I just hid you away.
There was no way you could shine.

I wouldn’t let you be great.

I was supposed to protect you

But what I really learned was to neglect you.

I sought to control you and pushed you

until burn out.

I pressed you and scolded you,

until you just fell out.

Now, I’ve lost more of you than ever.

The relationship we were supposed to have,

I did sever.

I’m so sorry!

Only now do I realize what I have in you.

What you stand for and the power you hold.

God gave you to me and made you perfect.

Just for me and no other.

So, I’m begging you to give me another chance.

A chance to do right by you

A chance to give you the time, energy and effort you deserve every day.

I will be true to you and provide what you need

I will water you like the true flower that you are

I will feed you only of the sweetest nectar

I will honor and respect your naturally delicate nature

And approach you with loving care

I will no longer have a love/hate relationship with you,

Only a LOVE relationship with my

NATURAL HAIR.

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Aishah discussed the State of

Illinois’ passing of the “CROWN Act” or ‘Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair’ legislation. Illinois joins 16 other states passing this legislation.

She said, “We should not need permission to wear our hair naturally because that’s the hair we’ve been given. Workplaces should open themselves up to people being themselves, bringing their flair and uniqueness to the business. It makes for a better work environment.”

Salon owner Authrine “T.K.” Singleton offered that she sees the kids that enter her salon as an investment and as an opportunity to plant seeds every time they enter her salon. She said it’s important for them to feel loved as she does their hair.

She uses words like “handsome,” “courageous” and “beautiful” while caring for and styling youth’s hair. Her goal is to instill confidence, self-love, tradition, patience, self-worth and humility, among other things.

Authrine explains, “We have ‘good’ hair when we have healthy hair.” One last bit of advice, she said, is to detangle with conditioner before shampooing a child’s hair.

Master Loctician and Salon owner Serenity Abrams advised clients to do their research and know their hair because it helps her to give them a meaningful consultation. Ask your Loctician questions, she explained and described the hair loc experience as a spiritual journey where one learns patience.

Serenity cautioned attendees about using too many different products, “use the right products for your hair, simplest is

the best.”

Keynote Speaker Dr. Jessie Dixon-Montgomery presented a slideshow titled, “The Root of It All: Blackness, Hair & Self-Care.” She explained the dilemma: “The aesthetic value assigned to hair texture is projected to one’s character” and asked attendees how many heard comments about “good” or “bad” hair and how did it make them feel?

She further explained we have not been educated on the proper hair care for our hair texture. Jessie explained how natural hair was viewed as our ‘crown’ prior to the middle passage. She said Mohammed Mbodj of Senegal said, “The hair is the most elevated point of your body, which means it is the closest to the divine.”

Our hairstyles, she said, represented our identity before the middle passage and indicated our civil status, wealth, kinship, religion and rank in the community. She described how slave masters shaved the hair or covered the hair of the enslaved men, women and children to erase the culture and hide the beauty.

They even enacted something called The Tignon Law prohibiting African women from wearing their hair uncovered in public, because their beauty was seen as a threat to privileged white women.

Jessie said, “The things we tell ourselves are incredibly damaging to our mental and physical health. Since colonization in the Americas, we have been battling notions of self-worth based on Eurocen-

tric versus African aesthetics.

“It is a thin line when discussing the altered states of our hair, so we can wear our hair in many different styles or altered textures but what is most important is to understand the reasons why we do it and overcome racist ideologies that dictate our beauty and worth.”

An achievement award was presented to Audurone “Lacy” Simmons of Woodruff Career and Technical Center, the only current Hair Braiding Instructor in Peoria. Ms. Simmons stated that she has been teaching for 11 years and has never received recognition in her role.

The award presentation brought the awardee and conference attendees to tears.

Aishah Bilal-Ali is also a Cosmetologist and educator who offers hair care products, online and in-person classes (Hairadox.com) and provides in-depth consultations on hair loss and scalp disorders.

THE POOR PEOPLES CAMPAIGN: A Declaration, Announcement, Beginning, Moving

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She also spoke on if she felt she was continuing the work of Dr. King. She responded, “Absolutely. The Civil Rights Movement never ended, and here we are today as an expression of that. An expression of lots of different movements coming together.”